



VITEMA VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. Virgin Islands Test of the Emergency Alert System



On October 17, at 9 a.m. the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will conduct a LIVE Test of the territory's Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) capabilities, which includes the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The test will signal the start of the Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill in the territory.

The EAS and WEA test messages will state: "This is a test of the U.S. Virgin Islands Tsunami Warning System. No Action is required."

The test will last approximately three minutes. All WEA and EAS messages will be issued to radio, television and cable, and on mobile phones throughout the territory. Due to the tsunami sirens throughout the territory being inoperable, there will be no tsunami sirens used during the exercise.

Once the EAS and WES messages are received, VITEMA is encouraging all Great ShakeOut Drill participants to:

- Rehearse earthquake response procedures - **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!), take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops (about 45 seconds).
- All participants will then evacuate to a "safe zone" and conduct 100% accountability of personnel.

In preparation for the event:

- Visit www.shakeout.org to register participation and for more information on how you can prepare for earthquakes.
- Create, review and discuss evacuation plans for your home, school, business, agency or department.

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