



VITEMA VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

8221 NISKY, ST. THOMAS, VI 00802
TEL. (340) 774-2244 FAX (340) 714-4470

2164 KING CROSS ST., CHRISTIANSTED, VI 00820
TEL. (340) 773-2244 FAX (340) 778-8980

6 SUSANNABERG, ST. JOHN, VI 00830
TEL. (340) 776-6444 FAX (340) 779-4266

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2019

Press Contact:

Garry Green

(340) 713-6803

www.vitema.vi.gov

garry.green@vitema.vi.gov

Evacuation Shelters Opening Territory wide

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands – In preparation for Tropical Storm Dorian, the Department of Human Services, Department of Health and the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) have coordinated plans to open evacuation shelters throughout the territory for residents who cannot shelter in place. The evacuation shelter at Mars Hill Frederiksted has been open to residents since 9 p.m. last evening. All additional evacuation shelters will be open at 9 a.m. today.

This is a time to be close to friends and family. If you feel your home is not safe during heavy rains and the tropical storm winds of Dorian, the following evacuation shelter locations will provide a safe place to stay for residents, including those with special medical needs:

St. Croix

- Mars Hill Headstart, Frederiksted
- University of the Virgin Islands Great hall

St. Thomas

- Knud Hansen Complex

St. John

- Julius E. Sprauve School

The Department of Human Services advises residents to bring items to the evacuation shelter that could keep them comfortable for a short-term stay. Below are a few things residents should pack in their go-bags for the evacuation shelter:

- *Chairs*
- *Snacks, nonperishable canned or packaged food.*
- *Medications, nebulizers, eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, dentures, any medical equipment*
- *Two extra changes of clothes and footwear*
- *Pillows/cots/blankets/sleeping bags*
- *Toiletries – sanitizer, toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary items.*
- *Important papers – ID, proof of residency and insurance papers.*
- *Cash in case your debit or credit card is not working.*
- *Entertaining items – books, magazines, puzzles, games, toys for children*
- *Baby food and diapers if you have young children*
- *Miscellaneous items such as a battery-powered radio, earbuds, flashlight, and cellphone charger.*

###