



VITEMA VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2025

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VITEMA to Host TEXT-TO-911 Focus Groups for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) will be hosting special focus groups on the TEXT-TO-911 service specifically for members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. These sessions aim to gather valuable feedback and ensure the service effectively meets the needs of all Virgin Islands residents.

Following yesterday evening's focus group event on St. Croix, VITEMA is continuing these important sessions on St. Thomas and St. John.

Focus Group Schedule:

St. Thomas

Date: Tonight
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: VITEMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

St. John

Date: Tomorrow (Wednesday)
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: St. John Rescue

Who Should Attend:

- Deaf and hard of hearing community members
- Family members of deaf and hard of hearing individuals
- Service providers who work with the deaf and hard of hearing community
- Anyone interested in emergency services accessibility

TEXT-TO-911 is a critical service that allows individuals to send text messages to reach 911 emergency call takers from their mobile phones. This service is especially vital for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities.

To RSVP or for more information, please email jlisa.martinez@vitema.vi.gov.

VITEMA is committed to ensuring all Virgin Islands residents have equal access to emergency services regardless of ability.

VITEMA is the sole Virgin Islands government agency designated to supervise, administer, and coordinate all-hazards response and recovery operations. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state, and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses-

VITEMA ensures the Territory's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and building the capacity to recover.

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