



Virgin Islands Hurricane Tracking Map

VITEMA: VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

St. Croix 340-773-2244 St. John 340-776-2244 St. Thomas 340-774-2244
www.VITEMA.VI.GOV



Remember:
Preparedness is 

V.I. COORDINATES
Coordinates for the
Major U.S. Virgin Islands
St. Thomas --- 18.3N 65W
St. John --- 18.2N 64.5W
St. Croix --- 17.7N 64.8W

STORM CLASSIFICATIONS

By international agreement, tropical cyclone is the general term for all cyclone circulations originating over tropical waters. Classified by form and intensity as follows:

Tropical Disturbance: A moving area of thunderstorms in the Tropics that maintains its identity for 24-hours or more. A common phenomenon in the Tropics.

Tropical Depression: Rotary circulation at surface, highest constant wind speed 38 miles per hour (33 knots).

Tropical Storm: Distinct rotary circulation, constant wind speed of 39-73 miles per hour or more.

Hurricane: Pronounced rotary circulation, constant wind speed of 74 miles per hour (64 knots) or more.

Small Craft Cautionary Statements: When a tropical cyclone threatens a coastal area, small craft operators are advised to remain in port or not venture into the open sea.

TRACKING TERMINOLOGY

Gale Warnings may be issued when winds of 39-54 miles per hour (34-47 knots) are expected.

Storm Warnings may be issued when winds of 55-73 miles per hour (48-63 knots) are expected. If a hurricane is expected to strike a coastal area, gale of storm warnings will not usually precede hurricane warnings.

A **Hurricane Warning** is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include winds of 74 miles per hour (64 knots) and/or dangerously high tides and waves. Actions for protection of life and property should begin immediately when the warning is issued.

Flash Flood Watch means a flash flood is possible in the area; stay alert.

Flash Flood Warning means a flash flood is imminent, take immediate action.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS			
USVI Police/Fire/Ambulance	911	WAPA	St. Croix (340) 773-2250
Red Cross	St. Croix (340) 778-5104	WAPA	St. John (340) 776-6446
Red Cross	St. Thomas (340) 774-0375	WAPA	St. Thomas (340) 774-3552
BVI Police/Fire/Ambulance	999	BVI Weather	(284) 469-9000
BVI	(284) 494-3497		

2023 HURRICANE NAMES		
Arlene	Harold	Ophelia
Bret	Idalia	Philippe
Cindy	Jose	Rina
Don	Katia	Sean
Emily	Lee	Tammy
Franklin	Margot	Vince
Gert	Nigel	Whitney

2024 HURRICANE NAMES		
Alberto	Helene	Oscar
Beryl	Isaac	Patty
Chris	Joyce	Rafael
Debby	Kirk	Sara
Ernesto	Leslie	Tony
Francine	Milton	Valerie
Gordon	Nadine	William

Introduction

A **tsunami** consists of a series of ocean or sea waves that can be generated by an earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide or meteorite impact.

In deep water, the tsunami can travel as fast as 500 miles per hour, equivalent to the speed of a commercial jet. Near the shore, however, a tsunami slows down, the distance between its waves decreases and the waves height increases.

The tsunami can arrive within minutes, but waves and strong currents may affect the coastal zones for hours. The wave height could be tens of feet destroying everything along its path, when flooding and when receding.

To define the **evacuation zone** for the USVI an 82 ft (25 meters) elevation profile was used; it was reached within 2 miles of the coast, another factor considered. The evacuation criteria was based on historical events, tsunami modeling results from Puerto Rico, the BVI, and the US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program guidelines.

Significant Tsunamis in US Virgin Islands and NE Caribbean*				
Year	Earthquake Magnitude	Epicenter	Most Severe Impact	Maximum Water Height (feet)
1755	~ 8.8	Offshore Portugal	Saba	21
1867	7.5	US Virgin Islands	USVI	60 (USVI)
1918	7.3	Mona Canyon	Western PR	20
1946	7.8	Dominican Republic	NE DR	16

For Your Safety Remain Alert to:

- ✦ Natural tsunami signs: a very strong or long earthquake and/or an abrupt sea level change.
- ✦ Tsunami alert messages issued by the US National Weather Service Tsunami Warning Centers and the Puerto Rico Seismic Network.
- ✦ Evacuation orders issued by the USVI Government through VITEMA

Be Tsunami Ready™

- ✦ Have an **emergency backpack** on hand.
- ✦ Study the evacuation map and identify the **evacuation zone, evacuation routes, assembly points**  and high ground.
- ✦ When a **tsunami message** is issued, cooperate and follow all instructions from emegency management authorities.

* NOAA National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Tsunami Data Base (2013)

Puerto Rico and VI Tsunami Alert Messages/ Mensajes de Alerta de Tsunami para Puerto Rico e IV



A Warning is issued when an **inundating wave is possible. A full evacuation is suggested.** Get out of the evacuation zone or up a sturdy building as quickly as possible. This message will be updated, stay alert for further official information.

Un aviso de tsunami se emite cuando **hay la posibilidad de olas que inunden. Se recomienda un desalojo completo. Desaloje a pie y salga de la zona de desalojo o súbase en un edificio en el menor tiempo posible. Este mensaje será actualizado, esté pendiente a información oficial.**

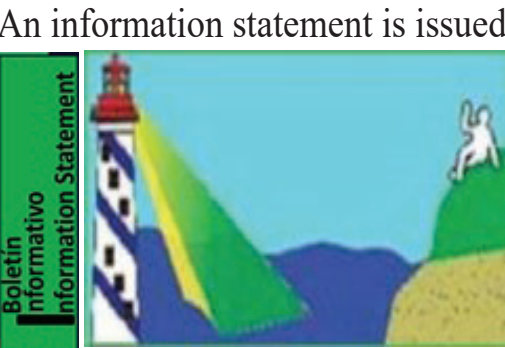


An Advisory is issued when **strong currents are likely,** but no tsunami inundation is expected. **Stay away from the shore.** This message will be updated, stay alert for further official information.

Una advertencia se emite cuando **hay probabilidad de corrientes fuertes. Se recomienda alejarse de la costa. Este mensaje será actualizado, esté pendiente a información oficial.**



A Watch is issued when **an event has occurred, but the danger level is not yet known.** This message will be updated, stay alert for further official information. *Una vigilancia se emite cuando ha ocurrido un evento y no se ha determinado el nivel de impacto. Este mensaje será actualizado, esté pendiente a información oficial.*



An information statement is issued when an earthquake has occurred and **at most there could be minor waves.** No action is suggested. *Un boletín informativo se emite cuando ha ocurrido un evento sísmico pero a lo mucho podrían haber olas menores. No se recomienda ninguna acción.*

Once the Tsunami Warning Center believes that the threat of a tsunami has ended, it will issue a cancellation. Nevertheless, if evacuation orders were issued, only return to the evacuated area if the designated authorities have declared it is safe to do so.

Una vez que el Centro de Alerta de Tsunami entienda que ha terminado la peligrosidad asociada con el tsunami, emitirá una cancelación. Sin embargo, si una orden de desalojo fue emitida, solo debe regresar al área desalojada una vez las autoridades competentes hayan declarado que es seguro hacerlo.

Siren Site Locations

ST. THOMAS

Cyril E. King Airport, Crown Bay, Griffith Park, Magen’s Bay Beach, Long Bay, Enid Baa Library, Fort Christian, Coki Point Beach, Frydenhoj, Red Hook, Addelita, Cancryn School, Compass Point, Frenchtown, Bolongo Bay, Bordeaux, Dorothea, Catherine Berge, Lililendahl & Marienhoj, Schneider Regional Medical Center, WAPA Subbase

ST. CROIX

Cramer’s Park, Divi Carina Bay, D.C. Canegata Ball Park, C’sted Government Parking Lot, Sion Farm , Williams Delight, La Vallee, F’sted Government Parking Lot, Fisher Street - F’sted, Sprat Hall - F’sted, Stoney Ground , La Grande Princesse, Richmond, Southgate, Cane Bay, Whim Ballpark, Cotton Valley

ST. JOHN

Cruz Bay, Coral Bay, Roman Hill Road , Frank Bay, Hansen Bay, Francis Bay, Calabash Housing Community

WATER ISLAND

Catchment Hill Road

Sirens are set up and positioned for people that are outside. They are not meant to be heard inside buildings.

Save Lives, NOT possessions!

Most tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. During the earthquake find the safest place: **drop, cover and hold.** When the shaking ends, move away, out of the tsunami evaluation zone. **The tsunami could arrive in just minutes!**

¡Salvemos Vidas, lo material NO cuenta!

La mayoría de los tsunamis son generados por terremotos. Durante el terremoto busque el legar más segura: **agáchese, cébrase y sujétese.** Una vez termine el movimiento fuerte, si está en la zona de desalojo por tsunami, sálgase lo antes posible. **El tsunami podrfa llegar en cuistión de minutos!**

Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency Agencia Territorial para el Manefo de Emergencia de las Islas. Virgenes (VITEMA)

(340) 773-2244 (St. Croix), (340) 776-2244 (St. John), (340) 774-2244 (St. Thomas) <https://www.vitema.vi.gov>

National Weather Service - NOAA
Servico Nacional de Meterologia - NOAA
Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico (787) 832-4040 ext. 5787
San Juan Forecast Office (787) 253-4586
National Tsunami Warning enter, Alaska (905) 745-4212
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Hawaii (808) 689-8207 <http://tsunami.gov>

Puerto Rico Seismic Nework (UPRM)
Red Sismica de puerto Rico (UPRM)
(787) 833-8433; 265-5452 <http://redsismica.uprm.edu>



Introducción

Un **tsunami** consiste de una serie de olas que pueden ser generadas por un terremoto, erupción volcánica, deslizamiento o impacto de cuerpos celestes (meteoritos).

Los tsunamis pueden viajar a unas 500 millas por hora en aguas profundas, lo que equivale a la velocidad de un jet comercial. Sin embargo, al acercarse a la costa, disminuye su velocidad y la distancia entre sus olas, mientras aumenta su altura.

El tsunami puede llegar en minutos, pero sus olas y corrientes fuertes pueden afectar zonas costaneras por horas. La altura de las olas puede ser de decenas de pies, arrasando con todo lo que encuentran a su paso ya sea cuando inundan o retroceden.

Para definir la zona de desalojo se utilizó una elevación de 82 pies (25 metros) lo que se alcanzó a menos de 2 millas de la costa. Este criterio de desalojo está basado en eventos históricos, resultados de modelaje de tsunamis en Puerto Rico e Islas Vírgenes Británicas y las guías del Programa Nacional de Peligro y Mitigación de Tsunamis.

Tsunamis Significativos en las Islas Virgenes y NE Caribe*				
Año	Magnitud Terremoto	Epicentro	Impacto más Severo	Altura Max. (pies)
1755	~ 8.8	Costa fuera Portugal	Saba	21
1867	7.5	USVI	USVI	60
1918	7.3	Cañón de Mona	Oeste de PR	20
1946	7.8	Rep. Dominicana	NE RD	16

Por Su Seguridad Preste Atención a:

- ✦ Señales naturales de alerta: un terremoto fuerte o de larga duración y/o cambio repentino del nivel del mar.
- ✦ Mensajes de alerta emitidos por los Centros de Alerta de Tsunamis del Servicio Nacional de Meteorología de los EEUU y la Red Sísmica de Puerto Rico.
- ✦ Ordenes de desalojo emitidos por el Gobierno de USVI a través de VITEMA.

Esté Tsunami Ready™

- ✦ Tenga a mano su **mochila de seguridad.**
- ✦ Estudie el mapa de desalojo e identifique: **zona de desalojo, rutas de desalojo, puntos de asamblea**  y lugares altos.
- ✦ Cuando se emita un **mensaje de tsunami**, coopere y siga las instrucciones de las autoridades de manejo de emergencias.

* NOAA National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Tsunami Data Base (2013)