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Significant Fire at Bovoni Landfill Prompts School Closure and Public Safety Advisory

Community Center / **Published On September 14, 2023 10:26 AM /**

Staff Consortium **September 14, 2023**

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Smoke from the Bovoni Landfill billowed, darkening the sky and leading to disruptions, including education at the Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School.

ST. THOMAS — A major fire broke out at the Bovoni Landfill early Thursday morning, leading to an immediate closure of the facility and the nearby Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School, and closure of the school itself as well. Local authorities have mobilized all available firefighting resources and issued a series of public safety advisories.

Upon discovery of the fire, all V.I. Fire and Emergency Medical Services crews, along with off-duty personnel, were rapidly mobilized to the scene. "

Authorities have issued a smoke advisory to protect the health and safety of nearby residents and businesses. The public is advised to adhere to the following precautions:

- **Avoid the Bovoni Area:** Residents are urged to stay clear of the landfill and its immediate surroundings to reduce exposure to smoke and potential hazards.
- **Stay Indoors:** Those living or working near the landfill should remain indoors, keep all windows and doors closed, and minimize outdoor activities.
- **Protect Vulnerable Individuals:** Extra precautions are recommended for people with respiratory conditions, children, seniors, and those with pre-existing health issues. Temporary relocation is advised.
- **Vehicle Precautions:** If driving is unavoidable, keep car windows up and vents closed to minimize smoke exposure. Follow all traffic instructions provided by authorities.
- **Assist Neighbors:** Community members are encouraged to check on neighbors who may have difficulty evacuating or require additional assistance.

School Closure and Transport Restrictions

The V.I. Department of Education announced the closure of Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School for the day due to the fire. In addition, no trucks or vehicles are allowed at the Bovoni Landfill, which remains closed until further notice.

Location of the Fire

The fire originated in the green waste area near the entrance to the landfill, according to the V.I. Waste Management Authority. Local fire departments are on site, working in conjunction with the authority to extinguish the blaze.

As the situation unfolds, updates and further guidance will be issued to the public.