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DLCA Warns Against Price Gouging as Tropical Storm Ernesto Approaches

Virgin Islands businesses urged to secure properties and adhere to price regulations; residents advised to stock up on essentials and stay informed through official channels

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The V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs has issued a notice advising residents and businesses to take necessary precautions as Tropical Storm Ernesto approaches the region. DLCA said it is closely monitoring the storm and coordinating with local authorities to ensure the safety and preparedness of the community.

As part of the preparations, the agency is urging businesses to secure their properties, including removing or securing outdoor signs, furniture, and other items that could become hazardous in high winds. The department also advises consumers to stock up on essential supplies such as

water, non-perishable food, medications, and emergency kits.

Additionally, DLCA is reminding retailers of the territory's price gouging laws, which prohibit businesses from raising prices on essential goods and services during a declared state of emergency. The department said it will be conducting inspections to ensure compliance and will take action against any violations.

The agency said it continues to work with other government arms to coordinate efforts and provide support to the community as Tropical Storm Ernesto approaches.

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