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## President Biden Approves Disaster Declaration for U.S. Virgin Islands in Wake of TS Ernesto

**FEMA to coordinate relief efforts and provide resources to mitigate impacts across the territory, with Christopher W. Allen leading federal recovery operations**

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The V.I. Dept. of Public Works performed road cleanup in Barren Spot, seen above, and elsewhere following Ernesto's passage. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced on Monday that federal disaster assistance is available to the U.S. Virgin Islands to supplement response efforts due to emergency conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Ernesto, beginning Aug. 13, 2024, and continuing.

President Joseph Biden's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population and to provide appropriate assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health and safety and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe. This assistance is for the islands of St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas and Water Island.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize and provide, at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency.

Emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, under the public assistance program, will be provided at 75% federal funding.

Christopher W. Allen has been named Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

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