

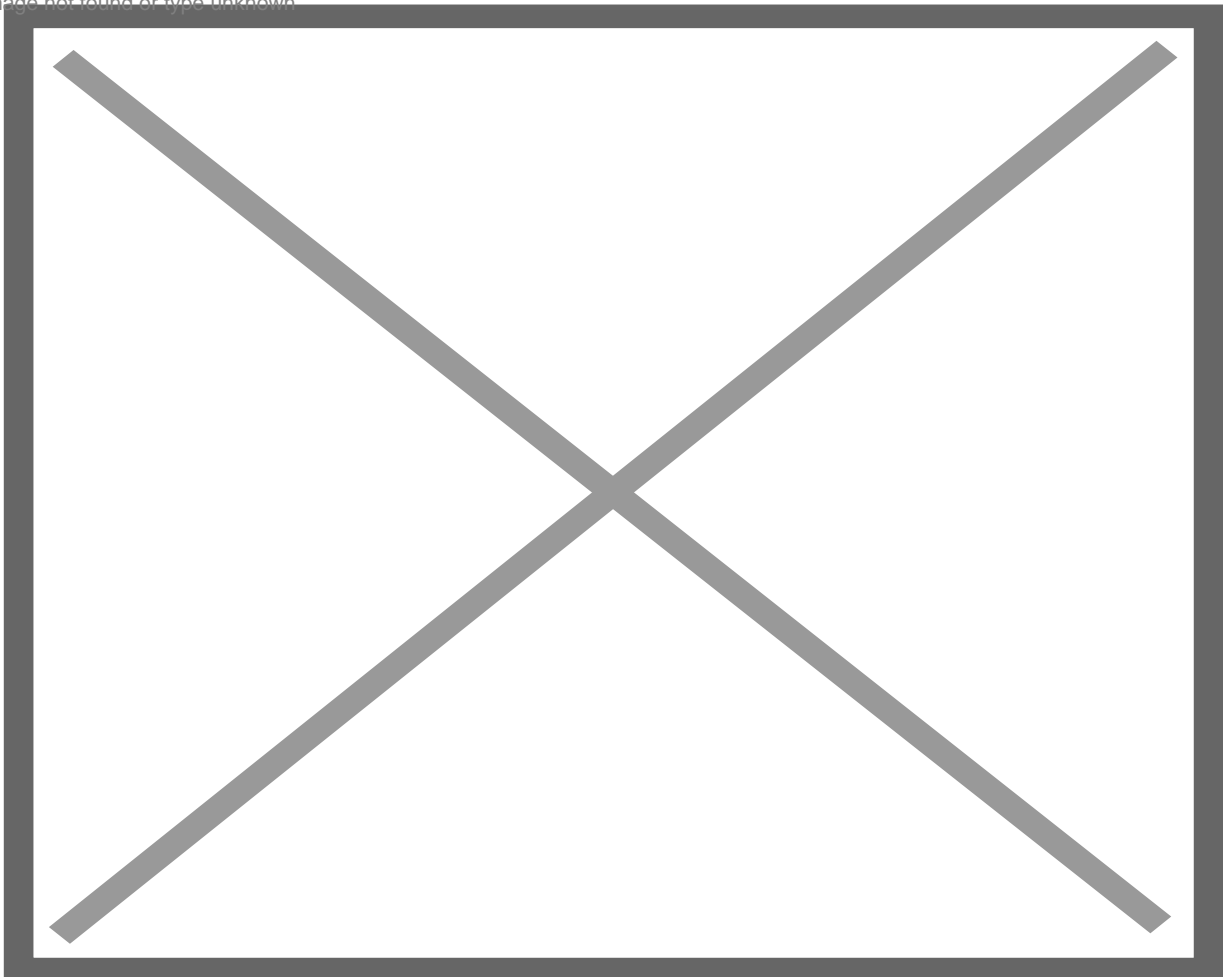
## Public Urged to Avoid Watergut and King Cross Streets Following Sewage Spill in St. Croix

DOH warns of health risks following a sewage spill caused by the LBJ Pump Station malfunction. Residents and visitors are advised to avoid the contaminated area, with public health officials closely monitoring the situation

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Raw sewage from a manhole near the intersection Watergut and King Cross streets.

The V.I. Department of Health has issued an urgent advisory for the public to steer clear of Watergut and King Cross streets following a sewage spill in the area. The spill was caused by the LBJ Pump Station going offline, resulting in an overflow from a manhole near the intersection of the two streets, according to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority.

DOH emphasized the serious health risks associated with exposure to raw sewage. Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion warned that contact with sewage can lead to several health issues, including gastrointestinal infections, skin rashes, and respiratory problems. “Contaminated water may also carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can spread illness through direct contact or ingestion,” she stated.

In response to the spill, the health department has provided the following recommendations for public safety:

- Avoid driving, walking, or playing in sewage-contaminated areas or any flooded zones nearby.
- Thoroughly wash hands and flush eyes if there is any potential exposure to sewage or contaminated water.
- Keep pets away from the affected areas, as they may also be at risk of illness.

DOH said WMA is actively working to resolve the situation and will issue updates as repairs progress. In the meantime, DOH says it will continue to monitor the spill to ensure public safety and minimize health risks.