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VITEMA Urges Residents to Prepare Now for Active 2025 Hurricane Season

With NOAA forecasting up to 19 named storms and 5 major hurricanes, VITEMA urges Virgin Islanders to prepare now by building emergency kits, fueling up, and registering for Alert VI, emphasizing early action as the key to safety.

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Storm damage in St. Thomas during the passage of Hurricane Irma in 2017. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM.

As the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season officially begins, the V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency is calling on all residents to make immediate preparations. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is forecasting an above-normal season, with an

estimated 13 to 19 named storms, 6 to 10 of which could develop into hurricanes, including up to 5 major hurricanes.

“This forecast demands serious preparation from every household in our territory,” said VITEMA Director Daryl Jaschen. “We have enhanced warning systems this year that can provide up to 72 hours advance notice, but that extra time only helps if we’re ready to act.”

VITEMA is encouraging every household to take key steps now to ensure readiness before any storms threaten the islands. The agency recommends having:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least seven days
- Non-perishable food supplies for a minimum of one week
- Cash in small bills, in the event that power outages disrupt electronic payment systems
- Fuel for both vehicles and generators, and to fill up early
- Safe generator practices, including never operating indoors and placing generators at least 20 feet from buildings
- An emergency kit, including flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered radio, medications, and basic first aid supplies
- A family communication plan, including a designated out-of-territory contact

All residents are urged to enroll in Alert VI, the territory’s official emergency notification platform. This system provides real-time alerts on storm activity, evacuation orders, and other urgent public safety information. Registration is available online at [VITEMA.VI.GOV](https://vitema.vi.gov).

This year, VITEMA is deploying improved forecasting tools, including better tracking graphics and enhanced Spanish-language information, to ensure critical updates are accessible to all residents.

In addition, VITEMA plans to host community preparedness workshops and share information on assistance programs for residents who need help preparing. Maps outlining evacuation zones, shelter locations, and preparedness guides are also available on the agency’s website.

Assistant Director Ovid Williams echoed the urgency of acting early. “The time to prepare is now—not when a storm threatens,” he said. “Together, we can ensure our community is ready for whatever this season brings.”