

The Virgin Islands Consortium

FEMA Supporting Virgin Islands With Eligible Debris Removal Costs; Waste Management Asks Residents To Sort Waste Being Placed On Side Of Roads

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has advised homeowners who are cleaning up and removing household debris after the Hurricane Irma disaster to heed instructions from their territorial waste management authority, the federal agency announced Saturday morning.

The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (W.M.A.) on Thursday requested the community's support in sorting waste that is being placed on the side of the roads. According to W.M.A., waste must be separated by green waste (trees, branches, grass

and cuttings), construction and debris materials, and metals. Electronic waste such as computers, televisions and radios should not be disposed of.

W.M.A. also advised residents on St. Thomas that the recently closed Cancryn Bin Site is now open for the disposal of household waste only.

As a result of the major disaster declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands, FEMA will provide supplemental funding to W.M.A. for costs to remove eligible household debris that is moved to public rights of way, but residents should follow W.M.A.'s guidance.

"Removing a substantial amount of household debris helps eliminate a safety and health hazard for residents," said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer William Vogel. "We are committed to doing what we can to help survivors recover and get back to normal as soon as possible."