

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Mitigation Specialists Offer Advice On Building Storm Resistant Homes In St. John And St. Croix

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Free advice is available to Virgin Islands survivors who are cleaning up and rebuilding after hurricanes Irma and Maria, including techniques to lessen damage to homes, businesses and property in the event of future storms, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Thursday.

Hazard Mitigation Specialists from FEMA will be available at two locations in the coming days to answer questions on stronger building practices. Rebuilding or repairing a home after a disaster can be a daunting task, but with the right information homeowners can build safer, smarter and stronger against disasters.

FEMA representatives will be at the following locations:

- **St. John**
 - Dec. 16 – 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Starfish Market Complex 2nd floor, in Cruz Bay
- **St. Croix**
 - Dec. 19 – 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Cost-U-Less, in Estate Sion Farm

Specialists will be on hand to offer home improvement tips along with proven methods to prevent or reduce damage from future disasters as well as offer techniques to build more hazard-resistant homes.

Information will be provided on cleaning up mold and mildew after a storm as well as tips on how to protect your home against strong winds by securing roofs and siding using special hardware connectors and brackets. FEMA encourages those affected by the storms to stop by and learn more about how to prepare for and help prevent damage to your home before a disaster.

Announcements on FEMA Hazard Mitigation events in St. Thomas will be made at a later date.