

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VI Red Cross Seeking Volunteers to Serve Community as Hurricane Season Enters Peak

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The American Red Cross of the Virgin Islands has announced that it's seeking volunteers to assist during this year's active hurricane season and amid the Covid-19 pandemic. "As we enter the peak months for development, [the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's] updated August forecast calls for up to 25 named storms and has the potential to be one of the busiest on record," the Red Cross said.

Red Cross USVI Executive Director, John Duck, said "In light of the record pace of storms we are seeing in the Atlantic, the Red Cross is asking Islanders to be ready to help our community. The pandemic will make it challenging for disaster workers from the mainland and other U.S. territories to travel here. Local volunteers provide critical, on the

ground relief, and are the first line of support in any disaster.”

Shelter Workers May Be Needed during the Pandemic

Territory officials are encouraging all islanders to have plans to shelter-in-place, when possible. For larger-scale disasters, where this is not safe, the Red Cross said it will work with the Dept. of Human Services to provide safe places to stay. If congregate shelters are opened, the Red Cross said it will need local volunteers willing to support these efforts.

Health Services Support Needed

Due to health concerns associated with COVID-19, there is also a special need for registered nurses (RNs) and other medical professionals with active, current and unencumbered licenses, Red Cross USVI said. Should congregate shelters open, disaster health volunteers would be needed to help screen and assess people’s health.

How to Volunteer

If you are interested in helping Red Cross USVI provide service to the community, go [here](#) or contact Red Cross's area offices at 340-778-5104 serving St. Croix and 340-774-0375 serving St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island districts.

All volunteers are required to complete an application, pass a background check, and take a short series of virtual trainings in order to follow COVID-19 protocols, Red Cross USVI said. "In the end, we simply ask that you serve with a kind heart," said the organization