

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VITEMA Says CARIBE WAVE 2019 And Live Test Of Territory's Emergency Notification Systems Was Successful

VIC News / **Published On March 16, 2019 10:48 AM /**

Staff **March 16, 2019**



The U.S. Virgin Islands' participation in the CARIBE WAVE 2019 Tsunami Warning Exercise, was successful, the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency announced Friday.

The exercise consisted of a live test of the territory's Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) capabilities. The live test of the EAS and WEA confirmed that VITEMA will be able to deliver mass emergency notifications to U.S. Virgin Islands residents via radio, television, mobile devices, landline, email and social media

outlets, according to the release.

According to TsunamiZone.org, more than 2,000 U.S. Virgin Islanders registered their participation in the CARIBE WAVE tsunami exercise. No incidents or injuries related to the exercise were reported to the 911 Emergency Call Centers territory-wide. The CARIBE WAVE Tsunami Warning Exercise provided an opportunity for U.S. Virgin Islanders to build resilience by exercising emergency communications, reviewing tsunami response procedures and promoting tsunami preparedness throughout the territory, the release said.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) server, WEA and EAS tests were successful. All major cellular carriers in the territory received and broadcasted the WEA. Additionally, the EAS delivery report showed a status code "EAS 500" which means the alert to EAS was a success.

"Tsunami preparedness in the territory must continue to be an ongoing process," said Acting VITEMA Director Denise Lewis. "VITEMA will continue to work towards accomplishing its mission, which is to save lives and protect the property of the territory's population from threats and risks from natural and man-made hazards. Through planning, coordinating, training and exercising, we will ensure our territory remains prepared and resilient."

Visit the VITEMA website at vitema.vi.gov to complete a brief survey on the live EAS and WEA tests. The survey will be available until midnight on March 23rd and will provide VITEMA with additional data on the live EAS and WEA tests.

To sign up for emergency, weather related, public safety and service disruption alerts in the U.S. Vi...