

The Virgin Islands Consortium

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Awards Nearly \$5 Million For Development Of Charles A. "Tappy" Seales/Grove Place Fire Station

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ST. CROIX -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded nearly \$5 million in funding to the territory to retrofit the Charles A. "Tappy" Seales (Grove Place) Fire Station.

The fire station, which handles about 35 to 40 percent of service calls on St. Croix, sustained significant damage from Hurricane Maria when severe winds and rain breached the facilities.

This grant will fund the retrofit and upgrade of the fire station and its components to ensure operational capacity and continuity of services, FEMA said. The fire station's structures will be wind retrofitted, enabling the structure to withstand hurricane wind speeds of more than 180 mph.

The retrofit will include safe room construction, allowing the facility to continue to function as a coordination point during emergency response operations. Once the work is underway on this critical facility, it is estimated to take up to three years to complete.

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