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Bovoni Landfill Fire Prompts Community Alert; Bryan Visits Injured Firefighter

Community Center / **Published On July 07, 2023 04:24 PM /**

Staff Consortium **July 07, 2023**

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The Bovoni Landfill on Friday, July 7 2023. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM

ST. THOMAS — An ongoing fire incident at the Bovoni Landfill has prompted the V.I. Fire and Emergency Medical Services (VIFEMS) to issue an urgent community alert. Residents and businesses in proximity to the landfill are being informed about the potential release of hazardous smoke and airborne particles.

VIFEMS provided several guidelines aimed at safeguarding respiratory health for all residents and businesses near the affected site:

- **Limit Outdoor Activities:** Residents, particularly those with respiratory issues, young children, and older adults, are strongly advised to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities until further notice. Minimizing exposure to smoke and airborne particles is key to maintaining good respiratory health.
- **Close Windows and Doors:** To prevent the intrusion of smoke and pollutants, VIFEMS urges that windows and doors of homes, offices, and other establishments in the affected area remain shut. The use of air conditioning units or air purifiers equipped with HEPA filters, where available, is recommended to maintain indoor air quality.
- **Avoid Physical Exertion:** Engaging in strenuous activities can lead to increased inhalation of pollutants. Avoiding rigorous exercise or any activity causing heavy breathing, particularly outdoors, is strongly suggested.
- **Use Respiratory Protection:** In situations where venturing outdoors is necessary, the use of N95 or P100 respirator masks is recommended. These masks provide effective filtration of fine particles from the air, adding a layer of protection against harmful substances present in the smoke.

VIFEMS reassured the community that authorities and emergency response teams are working tirelessly to contain the fire and mitigate its impact. Cooperation with local authorities and assisting neighbors in need is strongly encouraged.

In related news, Governor Albert Bryan paid a visit to Schneider Regional Medical Center today to see Firefighter Jerrel Brown, one of two firefighters [injured during an early morning fire on Thursday](#) at Vester Gade 6-D and Gamble Gade No. 31 in St. Thomas. The other injured firefighter, Melanesia Hendrickson, has since been discharged.

"I'm happy to say that Firefighter Brown is resting comfortably," said Governor Bryan. "Saying 'thank you' hardly seemed to be enough as I saw him in his hospital bed. I want to let Firefighters Brown and Hendrickson know that their service is highly valued."

The governor lauded the bravery of Firefighters Brown, Hendrickson, and the 25 other fire and EMS staffers who battled the Vester Gade blaze. He acknowledged their daily commitment to the Virgin Islands community, saying, "God bless these heroes, and may their health be fully restored in short order."