



VITEMA VIRGIN ISLANDS TERRITORIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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April 1, 2011

For Immediate Release

Draft Updated Territorial Hazard Mitigation Plan Available for Comment at VITEMA.gov

The Virgin Islands Territory Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) has posted a draft of the Territory's Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan on its website at <http://vitema.gov/mitigation/index.html> and is encouraging concerned citizens to provide input.

The purpose of the Territory's Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify activities that can be undertaken by both the government and the private sector to reduce property damage caused by a series of hazards that include floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. While these hazards are acts of nature, the impacts on residents, public facilities, businesses, and private property can be diminished through hazard mitigation planning.

This territory-wide planning effort is being directed by VITEMA and is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The planning activities have been coordinated through a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee created by VITEMA and the Technical Support to VITEMA has been provided by a consultant team headed by the Council for Information and Planning Alternatives (CIPA).

The public and territorial agencies were instrumental in providing input for the development of this Plan. The completion of this Plan, along with the solicited public input, will ensure that the USVI government maintains its eligibility for future FEMA funding, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and competitive grants awarded under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.

"VITEMA is embracing a planning approach that involves community participation and input at all stages of the planning process," by posting the Plan on its website, said Jonetta Darden, Deputy Director for Grants Management who is also the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.

Please submit comments to Jonetta Darden, State Hazard Mitigation Officer via e-mail to jonetta.darden@vitema.vi.gov or fax to 340- 715-6847, so that the plan can be finalized April 15, 2011.

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January 28, 2011

For Immediate Release

VITEMA TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETINGS TERRITORYWIDE ON HAZARD MITIGATION

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) is updating its State Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify activities that can be undertaken by both the government and the private sector to reduce property damage caused by hurricanes, floods and earthquakes.

As part of the process, VITEMA is holding town hall meetings territorywide to engage the community and provide residents with an opportunity to express their concerns and become actively involved the development of mitigation strategies focused on reducing or eliminating long-term risks to people and property. The meetings are scheduled for the month of February at the following locations:

Feb. 2 – St. John, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Julius Sprauve School Auditorium.

Feb. 3 – St. Croix, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Curriculum Center, Kingshill.

Feb. 4 – St. Thomas, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Charlotte Amalie High School Auditorium

“We’re seeking public input, ideas, and recommendations for potential hazard mitigation projects,” said Jonetta Darden, Deputy Director for Grants Management. “A fundamental component of VITEMA’s planning approach is community participation.”

Experiences in the Virgin Islands have shown that increasing costs associated with disasters are related to the intersection of the built environment (location of residences, businesses, and, infrastructure) with hazard prone or susceptible areas, Darden stated.

For more information please contact VITEMA’s Grants Management Division at 340-774-2244.

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Town hall meetings on State Hazard Mitigation Plan

DAILY NEWS STAFF)

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The V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency is updating its State Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify things the government and the private sector can do to reduce property damage caused by hurricanes, floods and earthquakes.

As part of the process, VTEMA will be holding town hall meetings to provide residents with an opportunity to express their concerns and help develop strategies to reduce or eliminate long-term risks.

"We're seeking public input, ideas, and recommendations for potential hazard mitigation projects," Jonetta Darden, Deputy Director for Grants Management, said in a news release. "A fundamental component of VTEMA's planning approach is community participation."

The meetings are:

St. John - Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Julius Sprauve School Auditorium.

St. Croix - Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Curriculum Center, Kingshill.

St. Thomas - Friday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Charlotte Amalie High School Auditorium.

Recent experience in the territory has shown that the costs associated with disasters are rising, Darden said. High costs are related to the combination of structures and infrastructure with hazard-prone areas, Darden said.

For more information contact VTEMA at 774-2244.

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