

**STATUS UPDATE FROM FEMA**  
**FEMA and Federal Partners Continue to Support Life-Saving and Life-Sustaining Efforts**

[U.S. Virgin Islands Hurricane Irma \(DR-4355\)](#)

- The top priority of the federal government continues to be protecting the lives and safety of those impacted by Hurricane Irma.
- Search and rescue efforts continue in the U.S. Virgin Islands and mainland, with 127 lives /53 pets saved by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). The USCG is also coordinating with cruise ships and interagency partners to continue evacuating U.S. tourists from St. Thomas.
- Three FEMA Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) task forces and agency partners continue search and rescue operations on St. John and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, having completed targeted searches of more than 2,000 structures on the islands.
- If you evacuated and are returning home, make sure local officials have deemed the area safe for return. Avoid downed power or utility lines; they may be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.
- Survivors should expect and prepare for significant, ongoing impacts, and disruptions to daily activities, and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous. There is a lot of work being done, but we know the recovery will be challenging, and the help of the whole community is required.
- One of the largest power restoration efforts is underway with more than 50,000 personnel activated through mutual aid agreements across the nation to support millions of residences without power. The Department of Energy (DOE) is working closely with FEMA, tribal, territorial, state and local officials to support the electric industry as they begin the process of power restoration.

**HAZARDS REMAIN - *Continue listening to your local officials on conditions in your community.***

- Do not drive through standing water on the road.
- Listen to your local officials for safety, shelter and other information.
- If you had to leave your home due to storm damage, wait for local officials to say it's safe to return.
- Check your home for damage before you re-enter. There may be a gas leak or downed electric lines in or near your home. Do not enter if it isn't safe.

- Check for animals that may have made their way into your home.

## FEDERAL FAMILY RESPONSE

### *FEMA and Federal Family Actions*

- More than 38,000 federal personnel are working in support of preparedness and response to Hurricane Irma, including more than 2,000 FEMA staff. Additional staff continues to deploy.

### *Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands*

- As of September 12, more than 3,600 liters of water were transferred to Puerto Rico at the request of the Commonwealth. In addition, more 582,000 meals, 270,000 liters of water, 13,000 sheeting covers, 150 rolls of blue tarps, 13 infant/ toddler kits, and one generator were transferred to St. Thomas and St. John.
- More than 1,200 households have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and more than 220 households have applied across designated areas in Puerto Rico. FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) may provide financial assistance and direct services for losses caused by the disaster that are not covered by insurance or another source.
- Three FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams are conducting search and rescue operations in St. Thomas and St. John. Search operations are complete on Culebra and Vieques in Puerto Rico.
- Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) personnel are deployed to support communication needs, and the FEMA National Radio System is operable in St. John and St. Thomas to help provide essential emergency communication.
- Any tourists requiring transport off St. Thomas and St. John should contact the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism at (340) 772-0357 or visit <http://www.usviupdate.com/> for additional information.
- The U.S. Department of State is coordinating evacuation assistance with the Department of Defense for Americans on St. Martin. They continue to advise U.S. citizens to shelter in place at a secure location until they have specific and confirmed departure plans.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has three medical teams are providing care at a hospital emergency department on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and are helping evacuate dialysis patients. HHS Secretary Tom Price, M.D., signed [public health emergencies declarations](#) for Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has made subsequent waivers available.

- The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is conducting search and rescue operations in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, USCG is conducting damage assessment overflights and port reconstitution efforts are underway.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Temporary Roofing Planning and Response Team (PRT) is on the ground in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The PRT conducted an assessment of high priority critical facilities in St. Thomas.
- U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) is providing search and rescue capabilities to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to assist with lifesaving and life-sustaining efforts. The USS Wasp located near the USVI is conducting medical evacuations for critical care patients from St. Thomas to St. Croix and performing damage assessments in support of the local government.