



USVI Tsunami Preparedness Week & Caribe Wave 16

FACT SHEET

USVI TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS WEEK, MARCH 13 – 19, 2016

- This year the US Virgin Islands will mark Tsunami Preparedness Week March 13 – 19, 2016. VITEMA will use this opportunity to raise awareness of the tsunami risk to the USVI and the need for everyone to be prepared. During the USVI Tsunami Preparedness Week, VITEMA will participate in the CARIBE WAVE 16, a Caribbean region tsunami response exercise.

CARIBE WAVE 16, MARCH 17, 2016

- On Thursday, March 17, the US Virgin Islands will join other Caribbean islands for a regional tsunami response exercise titled **CARIBE WAVE 16**. The exercise simulates an 8.4 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Venezuela, which generates a tsunami and triggers a tsunami warning for the region. The exercise is designed to evaluate local tsunami response plans, increase tsunami preparedness, and improve coordination throughout the region. For more information visit caribewave.info.
- As part of the regional exercise, VITEMA will test the Tsunami Warning Siren System on St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John. Sirens are set to activate at approximately **10:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 17**. Anyone standing outdoors and within a mile of a siren should hear the alert tone and voice messages.
- VITEMA's 911 Emergency Communications Centers will also practice its emergency call-down protocol as part of the exercise.
- VITEMA has also partnered with other government entities to conduct evacuation drills:
 - Legislature of the US Virgin Islands
 - VI WAPA
 - Department of Education:
 - Ulla Muller Elementary School, St. Thomas
 - Juanita Gardine Elementary School, St. Croix
 - Julius E. Sprauve School, St. John

TSUNAMI WALK

- VITEMA is also encouraging coastal communities, organizations, groups and businesses in the inundation zone to hold a *Tsunami Walk* during Tsunami Preparedness Week, which is walking from the Tsunami Hazard Zone to a safe area.
- A *Tsunami Walk* helps individuals become familiar with the evacuation route so that when there is a real emergency, the response is more manageable.
- Several hotels will conduct Tsunami Walks including The Westin on St. John, and the Palms at Pelican Cove, the Divi Carina Bay Resort and Cottages by the Sea.

REGISTER

Everyone is being encouraged to register their participation at TsunamiZone.org.

TsunamiZone.org is a website sponsored and organized by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP), the US Geological Survey, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, — and supported by FEMA.

The site was developed to encourage and provide resources for tsunami preparedness. It also tracks participation of tsunami awareness events across the US and its territories.

(Site provides information in Spanish.)

SIREN LOCATIONS

St. Thomas: Cyril E. King Airport, Crown Bay, Griffith Park, Magen's Bay Beach, Mandela Circle, Long Bay, Enid Baa Library, Coki Point Beach, Frydenhoj, Red Hook

St. Croix: Cramer's Park, Divi Carina Bay, DC Canegata Ball Park, Government Parking Lot-Christiansted, Estate Sion Farm, Williams Delight, La Vallee, Government Parking Lot-Frederiksted, Fisher Street-Frederiksted, Sprat Hall-Frederiksted

St. John: Coral Bay, Cruz Bay