

Caribbean Regional Response Team, Spring Meeting

Disaster Preparedness – Category 3 Hurricane or Above



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Agenda

- Assumptions
- Facts
- Coordinating Agency - VITEMA
- Environmental Concerns
- Potential Mission Assignments
- Q&A



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Assumptions

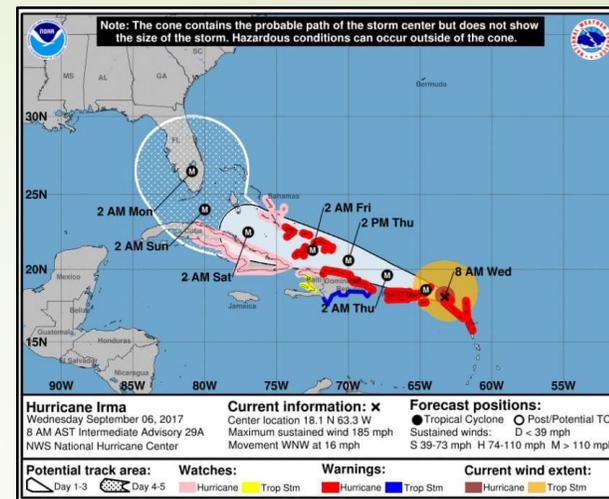
- ▶ Emergency power
- ▶ Emergency communication
- ▶ Linked to FEMA IMAT – unity of effort
- ▶ Limited POV / Rentals
- ▶ Curfew for local population
- ▶ Social media – negatively focused
- ▶ Tourist / Visitor anxiety is high
- ▶ Elected officials are supporters and want to assist
- ▶ Cash only environment



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Facts

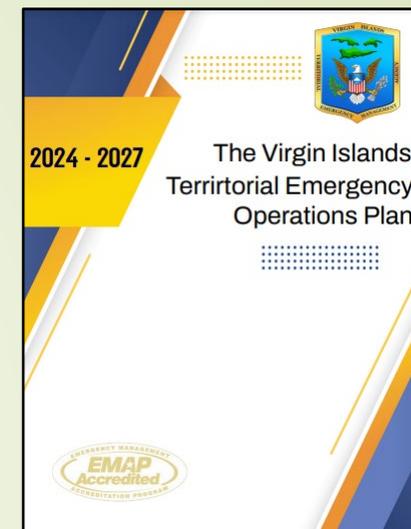
- ▶ Time and Distance for response efforts are our greatest challenges
- ▶ Local National Guard is quickly overwhelmed
- ▶ Local Law Enforcement is quickly overwhelmed
- ▶ Local Hospitals are quickly overwhelmed
- ▶ Local Emergency Management is quickly overwhelmed
- ▶ Local Agencies are “victims” of the disaster too
- ▶ Local Hotels are limited in occupancy or closed
- ▶ No organic rotary or fixed military aircraft
- ▶ Very limited government owned marine vessels (VIPD, VIFEMS, DPNR, VITRAN)
- ▶ Requirements will change over time – be prepared
- ▶ Tourists are stranded
- ▶ Cyril E. King Airport (STT) – 7,000 ft runway (2,500 feet is extended / filled over the water)
- ▶ Henry E. Rohlsen Airport (STX) – 10,000 ft runway



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Coordinating Agency - VITEMA

- ▶ Emergency Operations Centers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John
 - ▶ Capacity STT (30), STX (30), STJ (15)
- ▶ Joint Priorities and Objectives
- ▶ 24-hour Incident Action Plan Period
- ▶ Rhythm with Planning-P initially, then Operational-O
- ▶ EMAC – National Guard and Other State Capabilities (e.g. medical teams, IMAT)
- ▶ Tailor Mission Assignments to Forces Available
- ▶ Review Objectives against defined end-state
- ▶ Media Relations are just as important as Mission Assignments
- ▶ Close Coordination with FEMA for Operations and Logistics needs
- ▶ Close Coordination with Private Sector
- ▶ Daily Briefs with Governor and FEMA Regional Administrator
- ▶ Identify Requirements Early
- ▶ Track Funding
- ▶ Include Safety In All Missions



Environmental Concerns

- Impact to public health
- Industrial level environmental incident
- Due to lack of power and generators – wastewater contamination
- Storage tanks – hazardous material release
- Sunken / Washed Up on Shore Marine vessels – fuel and soil spills
- Vegetation debris – temporary storage
- Vegetation debris – final disposition
- Marine vessel salvage operations – disposal
- Generators – long term use
- Limited capacity – need to develop federal request for assistance
- Due to time it takes to open seaport and airports - slow response to contain and cleanup
- Public lack of environmental concerns (need to get the messages out early)



Potential Mission Assignments

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- ▶ Emergency Support Function 10 – Oil and Hazardous Material
- ▶ FEMA Community Lifeline – Hazardous Materials (Facilities, HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants)
- ▶ VITEMA / FEMA : Liaison at all EOCs, EMAC coordination, generator and fuel support
- ▶ Police: Traffic Control Points, Force Protection (road crews – WAPA, DPW, BIT)
- ▶ Human Services: Shelter Support, Commodities Distribution Support
- ▶ Fire and EMS: Urban Search and Rescue, Health and Welfare Checks, Hazardous Material
- ▶ Property and Procurement: Fuel distribution, Contract Management
- ▶ Public Works: Route Clearance
- ▶ Port Authority: Airport Opening, Seaport Opening, Debris Removal
- ▶ Bureau of Information Technology: Contingency Communications, Fuel distribution
- ▶ Health: Patient Movement and Evacuation, MEDEVAC
- ▶ Waste Management: Debris Removal



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