

Third Disaster Recovery Center Opens in St. Croix for Hurricane Survivors

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ST. CROIX, Virgin Islands — A third Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) opened today in St. Croix to provide information and help for survivors of hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Like all DRCs in the Virgin Islands, the new center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily until further notice. It is located at:

- Fire Captain Rencelliar I. Gibbs Fire Station at Parcel #1, Estate Cotton Valley, East End, Christiansted.

Disaster Recovery Centers offer one-on-one support to homeowners, renters and small-business owners as a result of the major disaster declarations stemming from the hurricanes.

Recovery specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to help survivors register for assistance, provide information on the federal aid that is available, and answer questions.

The other two recovery centers in St. Croix have logged nearly 2,750 visits since the first one opened on October 8. Those DRCs are at:

- Rotary Club West, 40 KA-KD Estate LaGrange, Frederiksted, and
- The Old Post Office Building at Church and Company streets, Christiansted.

St. Croix was designated for Individual Assistance under the major disaster declaration for Hurricane Maria. However, survivors of Hurricane Irma may also get their questions answered at any of the island's three recovery centers.

Survivors with connectivity may register with FEMA for assistance at DisasterAssistance.gov, or by calling 800-621-3362. Individuals who have a



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speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 800-462-7585 directly. Those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS) may call 800-621-3362.

These toll-free telephone numbers operate from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. (local time) seven days a week. Operators are standing by to assist survivors in multiple languages.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (voice, 711/VRS - Video Relay Service) (TTY: 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Following major disasters, the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the primary source of Federal funds for long-term recovery assistance. This assistance is in the form of low-interest loans and is available to non-farm businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, as well as homeowners and renters with property damaged by the disaster.

For official information on the recovery effort following the hurricanes, please visit www.informusvi.com or www.usviupdate.com. Follow us on social media at twitter.com/femaregion2 and www.facebook.com/FEMAUSVirginIslands

To donate or volunteer, contact the voluntary or charitable organization of your choice through the National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters (NVOAD) at www.nvoad.org. For those who wish to help, cash donations offer voluntary agencies the most flexibility in obtaining the most-needed resources and pumps money into the local economy to help businesses recover. The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands also has the "Fund for the Virgin Islands" at www.USVIrecovery.org.



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