

Help Is Available after Disaster Recovery Centers Close

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ST. CROIX, Virgin Islands—Disaster Recovery Centers have closed, but Virgin Islanders who have questions for FEMA can find answers with a phone call or a few mouse clicks.

Survivors can call FEMA toll free at **800-621-3362**. Individuals who have a 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. The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice. Survivors can also check on their applications online at DisasterAssistance.gov. It is helpful to have your FEMA registration number handy when contacting FEMA.

For questions about low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses, the U.S. Small Business Administration customer service number is 800-659-2955. The SBA has two Business Recovery Centers open to assist businesses, homeowners and renters with their SBA loan applications. The two SBA BRCs are located on St. Thomas and St. Croix at these addresses:

- 8000 Nisky Center, Suite 720, Charlotte Amalie
- 4100 Sion Farm Shopping Center, Suite 16, Christiansted
- Hours for both centers: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

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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.

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*To donate or volunteer, contact the voluntary or charitable organization of your choice through the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (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.*

