

Disaster Recovery Centers for Hurricane Survivors Top 10,000 Visitors

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ST. CROIX, Virgin Islands — Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) across the U.S. Virgin Islands have reached a milestone, topping 10,000 visits in the few weeks since the first one opened on October 8.

Nine recovery centers are now open on St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas to help homeowners, renters and small-business owners register for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), check on the status of their applications and get questions answered about the assistance available as a result of the major disaster declarations for hurricanes Irma and Maria.

“We track the number of visits to the recovery centers so we can tell whether these resources are of use to survivors,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Office William Vogel. “This milestone means that more than 10,000 times a Virgin Islander has gotten one-on-one help from our recovery experts.”

Ongoing connectivity challenges across the islands have made the recovery centers an especially valuable source of information and assistance for survivors, since they cannot easily make calls or log on to online resources, Vogel said.

Specialists from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration are available seven days a week at DRCs across the territory. Most DRCs are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except at St. Peter’s church in St. Croix, which is open Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. due to morning services, and the Rotary Club West location in St. Croix, which is closed certain Sundays due to events at the location.

The deadline to register with FEMA for assistance has been extended to December 18 for both disasters, but survivors are strongly encouraged to register as soon as possible so their needs can be assessed and the appropriate assistance provided.

St. Croix DRCs are at:



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- Christiansted at the Old Post Office Building at Church and Company streets
- Christiansted at Fire Captain Rencelliar I. Gibbs Fire Station at Parcel #1, Estate Cotton Valley, East End
- Christiansted at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 38-44 Castle Coakley
- Frederiksted at the Rotary Club West, 40 KA-KD Estate LaGrange

St. Thomas DRCs are at:

- Charlotte Amalie at Tutu Park Mall, 4605 Tutu Park Mall, Suite 233
- Charlotte Amalie at the New Hotel Company Omar Brown Fire Station, Conference Room #108, 100A Ross Taarenberg
- Estate Bordeaux at the Bordeaux Farmers Market, 109 East Bordeaux

St. John DRCs are at:

- Coral Bay at the Town & Country Building, 8-1 Estate Emmaus
- Cruz Bay at U.S. Virgin Islands Legislature, St. John Annex, 1D Cruz Bay

Survivors with connectivity may register with FEMA for assistance at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster-assistance), or by calling 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.

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.



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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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