

WSVI-WZVI-Quarterly Issues and Problems Report
From October 1, 2017-December 31, 2017

Tropical weather for 2017 impacts the Virgin Islands and WSVI-TV continues to provide local news even after its broadcast operations are impacted.

Two major Hurricanes struck the WSVI community during the quarter. The first was Hurricane Irma. Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful and catastrophic Cape Verde-type hurricane, the strongest observed in the Atlantic since Wilma in 2005 in terms of maximum sustained winds. It was the first Category 5 hurricane to strike the Leeward Islands on record, followed by Hurricane Maria only two weeks later.

Hurricane Maria was regarded as the worst natural disaster on record in Dominica and caused a major humanitarian crisis in the Virgin Islands, as well as being the tenth-most intense Atlantic hurricane on record. The thirteenth named storm, seventh hurricane, fourth major hurricane, and the second Category 5 hurricane of the unusually active 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, Maria caused catastrophic damage across the Northeastern Caribbean, compounding recovery efforts in the already struck areas of the Leeward Islands, who were still recovering from hurricanes Irma and Jose just two weeks prior.

Originating from a tropical wave, Maria developed into a tropical storm on September 16 east of the Lesser Antilles. Remarkably favorable environmental conditions enabled the cyclone to undergo explosive intensification as it approached the Lesser Antilles. The system reached Category 5 strength on September 18 as it made landfall in Dominica, resulting in catastrophic damage across the entire island. Thereafter Maria reached its peak over the eastern Caribbean with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph making it the tenth-most intense Atlantic hurricane on record.

WSVI-TV AND WZVI-TV licensed to Alpha Broadcasting Corporation were impacted by two back-to-back Category 5 hurricanes in the third quarter of 2017. As a result of Hurricane Irma, WZVI-TV in St. Thomas were forced to cease operations as of September 8, 2017. WSVI-TV in St. Croix was able to remain operational throughout this storm but was knocked off the air with severe damage after the second hurricane on September 20, 2017. WSVI and WZVI both sought Special Temporary Authority to remain silent while the television stations are being rebuilt along with the necessary infrastructure to resume operations. Therefore for the period of this report, both stations remain off the air.

As of October 10, at least 88 people are known to have been killed by the hurricane: Including 1 in the United States Virgin Islands. Maria wrought catastrophic damage to the entirety of Dominica, which suffered an island-wide communication blackout.

While WSVI-TV's on air operations were impacted by the storms, WSVI-TV continued broadcasting weather updates and local news via the internet and its social media outlets and is planning on returning to cable TV in October as it works to restore operations. The programming has also including daily briefings by the local Government and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

WSVI TV began extensive hourly updates on the tropical weather conditions of the Caribbean in Q1 2017. These reports were carried in Spanish and English with open captions for the hearing impair and using Charts from the National Weather Service in San Juan Puerto Rico. These programs were also broadcast on WSVI-TV's Facebook page and regular updates on rip currents and tides as well as a Marine Forecast were reported.



WSVI-TV and The Virgin Islands Police Department work together to reduce Crime in the Virgin Islands

WSVI highlighted crime reports from the public information officer of the VI Police Department. At the conclusion of each of the reports, we have conveyed the Virgin Islands Police Departments requests for the help of the Public to bring the perpetrator of this crime to justice. We have advised the public you have any information pertaining to this incident please notify Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-tips.

The anonymous tip service, Crime Stoppers USVI, helped officials put a dent in crime and rewarded people who supplied information to help solve cases while protecting their identity, board members learned at a meeting Monday.

At its annual meeting, the board reiterated that Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit anonymous tip line for residents of the territory and visitors to submit tips regarding criminal activity. Residents with information about a crime can phone the service at 1-800-222-8477, or go online at www.crimestoppersvi.org, to report it.

The service keeps the caller's name secret and pays rewards for tips that help solve a crime or bring a criminal to justice.

According to Glenn Dratte, the V.I. Police Department's public information officer, Crime Stoppers USVI paid residents about \$17,000 during 2016.

Channel 8 broadcast daily updates from the public information office of the Virgin Islands Police Department forecast on their territory wide crackdown on illegal weapons and fugitives conducted by the Criminal Investigation Bureau and Special Operation Bureau conducted called "Operation Clean Sweep" .

WSVI-TV continues to carry the crime stopper initiative in its news.

CHANNEL 8 REMAINS OPERATIONAL ON INTERNET THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.

Channel 8 maintained contact with its viewers in the Virgin Islands and outside the territory through social media and online via its website at www.wsvi.tv.