

WSVI-WZVI-Quarterly Issues and Problems Report
From July 1 2013-September 30 2013

According to the Virgin Islands Police Departments Office of Highway Safety, the Virgin Islands is beset by an upsurge in drunk driving incidents. Recently, the Chief Justice of the territorial Supreme Court in the Virgin Islands was arrested for driving while intoxicated. The problems spans across society. The Highway Safety Department has stepped up DUI patrols and asked Channel 8 to assist in educating the public that they are coming after drunk drivers.

Channel 8 developed the campaign and worked with its own producers and independent producers to create a public service campaign. The announcements were entitled "3 O'clock Road Block"

A story board is attached that illustrates how the PSA's were put together

This commercial will employ actual video shot of a VI field sobriety unit at work using Virgin Islands re-enactors

Announcer: (to the background of the 'Blue Danube' Waltz)
It's becoming the hottest after party in the VI. To get an invite just mix (photo #1) with (photo#2) and (photo#3)



Announcer

They even do a new dance called the "Three O'clock Roadblock"



You put your right foot in...



You take your right foot out...



You do the hookie pookie and turn it all about..



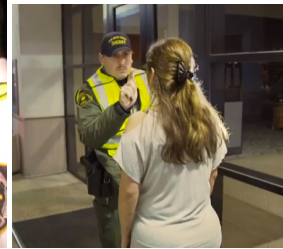
...Take your partner and doe see doe



Touch your nose...Count to ten



Step right back and do it all again...



Announcer: Isn't this one after party you can skip? Don't drink...and drive.
This message from the VI Office of Highway Safety

A second PSA entitled "I Went To A Party" examined the issue of teen drinking and driving

Announcer:

A reporter was at the scene as a 16-year-old girl lay dying from her injuries in a car crash hit by a drunk driver. Based on her final words, that reporter wrote this poem as a tribute to a life cut short.

(Interspersed with photos and video of young Virgin Island re-enactors of a crash scene and a silhouette of a Virgin Islands Girl in the shadow reading the following poem.)

I went to a party, Mom,
I remembered what you said.
You told me not to drink, Mom,
So I drank Sprite instead.

I really felt proud inside, Mom,
The way you said I would.
I didn't drink and drive, Mom,
Even though the others said I should.

I started to drive away, Mom,
But as I pulled out into the road,
The other car didn't see me, Mom,
And hit me like a load.



There is blood all around me, Mom,
And most of it is mine.
I hear the medic say, Mom,
I'll die in a short time.

I just wanted to tell you, Mom,
I swear I didn't drink.
It was the others, Mom.
The others didn't think.

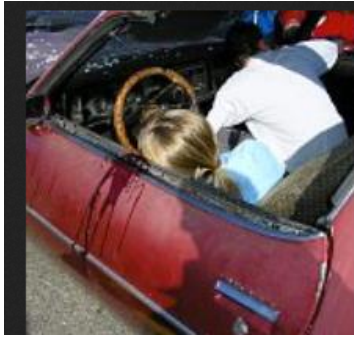
He was probably at the same party as I.
The only difference is, he drank
And I will die.



The guy who hit me is walking, Mom,
And I don't think it's fair.
I'm lying here dying
And all he can do is stare.

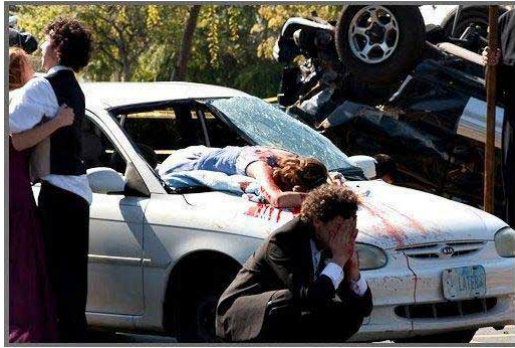
Tell my brother not to cry, Mom.
Tell Daddy to be brave.
And when I go to heaven, Mom,
Put "Daddy's Girl" on my grave.

Someone should have told him, Mom,
Not to drink and drive.
If only they had told him, Mom,
I would still be alive.



My breath is getting shorter, Mom.
I'm becoming very scared.
Please don't cry for me, Mom.
When I needed you,
you were always there.

I have one last question, Mom.
Before I say good-bye.
I didn't drink and drive,
So why am I the one who will die



Announcer:

Don't drink and drive This message brought to you by the VI Office of Highway Safety through funds provided by the National Transportation Highway Safety Agency

Major Storms Threaten the Virgin Islands

The Emergency Management Director tells the public to watch broadcasts for updates. Channel 8 adds weather forecasts throughout the period.

The National Hurricane Center placed the Virgin Islands under a Tropical Storm Watch as Chantal continues to churn its way across the Atlantic. A tropical storm watch means that tropical storm conditions could be experienced in the region in the next 48 hours.

"We urge the public to take steps now to ensure they are ready in the event the Territory is impacted by Tropical Storm Chantal," said VITEMA Director Elton Lewis. "Make sure your preparedness includes assembling an emergency supply kit stocked with at least three days' worth of essential items and a plan to contact and communicate with family. Special consideration should be given to young children, the elderly and pets."

"Everyone should also monitor local radio and TV broadcasts for weather updates on Tropical Storm Chantal and for directions from local emergency management officials," Lewis said.

By 5PM, the center of Tropical Storm Chantal was located near latitude 11.8 degrees north, longitude 53.9 degrees west, about 839 miles east southeast of the Virgin Islands,. The storm is moving west-northwest near 26 miles per hour with maximum sustained winds near 45 miles per hour with higher gusts. Tropical storm

force winds extend outward up to 60 miles from the center. Some strengthening is forecast during the next few days.

On its present track, Tropical Storm Chantal will make its closest point of approach to the Virgin Islands at about midnight on Tuesday, passing approximately 130 miles south-southwest of St. Croix. Chantal is expected to be a tropical storm with winds to 65 miles per hour near the center when it passes to the south of the Virgin Islands.

The center of Chantal should reach the Lesser Antilles on Tuesday morning, move into the Eastern Caribbean Sea later on Tuesday and be near Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic on Wednesday.

Chantal is expected to produce rain accumulations of 2 to 4 inches over the Leeward and Windward Islands, with maximum amounts of 6 inches possible. The storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 1 to 3 feet above normal tide levels in the Leeward and Windward Islands and Puerto Rico. Near the coast the surge will be accompanied by dangerous waves.

According to the National Hurricane Center, a tropical storm warning has been issued for Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Puerto Rico.

A tropical storm watch is in effect for the US Virgin Islands, Vieques and Culebra are also under tropical storm watch, along with the southern coast of Dominican Republic, from Cabo Engano to the border with Haiti.

A tropical storm warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area within 24 hours. A tropical storm watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible somewhere in the watch area within 24 to 36 hours.

Natural Disaster Warning

Background

Residents may notice new blue and white tsunami warning signs springing up in low-lying areas during the next few days.

The V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency began posting the signs Tuesday around King Airport, Lindbergh Bay, Brewer's Bay, Nisky and Ulla Muller Elementary School. In the coming week, signs will be installed along various coastline areas on St. Thomas, including downtown Charlotte Amalie, and then move to the island of St. John.

The signs are another step toward becoming "TsunamiReady," a status that could result in federal funding for tsunami equipment maintenance and education programs, according to VITEMA.

The reflective signs say either "tsunami evacuation route" or "tsunami hazard zone in case of earthquake, go to high ground or inland."

The goal of the All-Hazards Warning System is to provide immediate notification to the Islands' citizens and visitors should an emergency situation. The system will feature tone and voice messages, that will provide a tone to gain the attention of listeners, then play a voice message that will inform the public of the situation present. Messages that will be on the system include; Tsunami Warning, Hurricane Warning, Flash Flood Warning, Curfew Notification, a Test Message, and a Hazardous Material Message.

The project will include the installation of 10 units, which will be placed throughout the three islands. The initial approach has been to place units where they can notify the most people. Four units will be installed in St. Thomas near the airport, Griffith Park, Yacht Haven, and Red Hook Marina. Two units will be installed in both Christiansted, and Frederiksted on St. Croix, and St. John will have a unit near the Guy Benjamin School, and in the Cruzan Bay area.

On the evacuation route signs, VITEMA will affix an arrow pointing in the direction of the closest high ground. For example, an evacuation route sign at the airport will point to the V.I. Port Authority building, which sits high up on a hill above Lindbergh Bay.

Tsunamis can arrive just minutes after an earthquake, and most people in densely populated areas - such as Lindbergh Bay, which has three hotels and an airport in the vicinity - will not have time to travel very far to get to higher ground.

Bronx Communications has been hired to install the signs throughout St. Thomas and St. John.

Universal is the contractor selected to install the signs on St. Croix, VITEMA Director Elton Lewis said. Lewis said he is meeting with the St. Croix contractor next week to nail down a time frame for installation, but it should be within the next several weeks.

"Implementing this project is a milestone not only for VITEMA but for the Virgin Islands," Lewis said in a prepared statement. "For the past few years, the agency has been working diligently through outreach and training to raise awareness about tsunamis and about how to be ready. We know it's not a matter of if it will happen, but when."

Ten tsunami sirens were installed territory wide in June 2011, but a glitch forced the system to become largely inoperable one year later. The problem was fixed in October 2012.

On St. Croix, the sirens are at D.C. Canegata Ballpark; the government parking lot in Christiansted; the government parking lot in Frederiksted near the Legislature; and on Emancipation Drive at the other end of Frederiksted town.

On St. Thomas, the four existing sirens are at Emile Griffith Ballpark, Yacht Haven, Red Hook Marina and King Airport. On St. John, Cruz Bay and Coral Bay are the two siren sites.

VITEMA plans to install about 11 more sirens this summer, according to Lewis. The manufacturer will be in the territory soon to discuss the final installation plan and conduct site visits, he said.

The sirens and the signs are part of the territory's efforts to reach "TsunamiReady" status with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service. Lewis said achieving TsunamiReady status could open up the territory to funding to continue the tsunami public education programs and conduct regular maintenance on the sirens and signs.

VITEMA has been working closely with the National Weather Service's Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program to ensure the territory meets the program requirements.

"Tsunami warning signs are a critical component of the USVI Tsunami Warning System," Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program manager Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade said. "By placing these signs, the USVI joins coastal communities around the world helping to save the local residents and visitors by providing vital awareness information. With this step, the USVI is a step closer to being TsunamiReady."

VITEMA already has met several requirements, including the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center, the ability to receive a National Weather Service tsunami warning multiple ways and to disseminate a tsunami warning, and the development of a tsunami hazard plan.

Lewis said he will soon get a first look at the tsunami evacuation maps being developed, another requirement.

Once the signs are installed, the final requirement is to conduct a public education campaign, which already has begun.

"I think right now we're probably at 99.9 percent," Lewis said.

NOAA inspectors could be in the territory within the next month to determine whether the TsunamiReady status can be given to the Virgin Islands, Lewis said.

All Hazards Expo

To heighten awareness about being ready for disasters, the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency is holding the 2013 Annual All Hazards Preparedness Expo on all three islands beginning Thursday.

The theme of the 2013 expo is "Commit to Prepare for all Hazards," which is a call to action for everyone to take steps to prepare their families, homes and businesses now – before disaster strikes. The Virgin Islands is vulnerable not only to tropical storms and hurricanes, but also to no-notice events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires and man-made disasters.

"The annual expo is designed to provide a single venue for the community to access all of the information they need to prepare for and survive hazards – from what essential items they should stock to how to better protect their property," said Elton Lewis, VITEMA director, in a statement from the agency.

"This is also an opportunity for everyone to see our first responders – who are vital in any disaster response – perform a number of rescue demonstrations. We encourage everyone to come out," Lewis said.

The expo brings together government departments and agencies, nongovernment organizations and local businesses that will provide the community with information on how to better prepare for, survive and recover from disaster.

Channel 8 Assists

The public education campaign for the Tsunami warning system has been aired extensively on Channel 8 television. Announcements in English and Spanish have been aired on Television throughout the quarter. News Channel 8 has also aired numerous interviews with officials of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency.

Channel 8 donated its production staff and extensive airtime to promote the Management agencies All Hazards Preparedness Expo. The expo was designed to give the public a first hand working knowledge of how to prepare for hazards.

The Script of the spot was voiced by Channel 8's CEO, aired 60 times and reads as follows;

VITEMA DIRECTOR ELTON LEWIS announces

the Virgin Islands Emergency management Agencies all Hazards preparedness expo coming to you.

A DISASTER CAN STRIKE AT ANY TIME AND WITHOUT WARNING. IT'S IMPORTANT YOU KNOW HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND PROPERTY.

While government will bring all of its resources to bear, our resiliency Virgin Islands will depend on how well we prepare as a community – individuals, families and businesses. The Expo will feature local and federal government agencies, voluntary organizations and local businesses that provide services and products and how we prepare for emergencies. Together

On St. Thomas MAY 16TH, FROM 2 TO 8 P.M. AT TUTU PARK MALL; On St. John FRIDAY, MAY 17TH, FROM TEN A.M. TO 3 P.M. AT CRUZ BAY, AND on St Croix SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, 10 TO 3 PM, AT BUDDHOE PARK IN FREDERIKSTED

This is a family friendly expo-activities for all. Its time to come together.

Impact of Crime in the Community

Background

All government agencies in the Virgin Islands have identified crime and its impact on the populace to be a major problem in the Virgin Islands. In a story carried on Channel 8 news, Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr. noted that victims of crime and crisis and their loved ones often face serious financial, physical, emotional and psychological losses and violent crime seems to be more brutal due to the proliferation of weapons, the increase in drug-related activity and the breakup of family and community life.

“The aftermath of criminal violence may cause additional losses to victims due to inappropriate treatment by social and governmental institutions and certain groups such as victims of hate crimes, partner abuse victims, chronically mentally ill victims, homeless victims, elderly victims, child victims, surviving loved ones of homicide victims, victims of drunk driving crashes, sexual assault victims, catastrophic physical injury victims, burglary victims, gay and lesbian victims, victims of gang violence, victims who are poor are too often least served in many of our communities,” de Jongh said, adding that there are still too few services for victims and too little attention to establishing their rights.

Additionally, the governor pointed out that thousands of our fellow citizens in their work and their volunteer activities are seeking to provide needed help to victims of crime and crises and “many victims and survivors of crime have demonstrated extraordinary courage and strength as they have sought to help themselves, their loved ones and others.” He said such victims, survivors, and victim advocates should be supported in their work to ensure a better life for us all. “Such victims, survivors and advocates want nothing more than the end of criminal violence in our society as expressed in the theme, “Justice for Victims; Justice for All.”

Channel 8 Assists

In cooperation with the Virgin Islands Police Department, WSVI-TV began airing promotional advertising alerting the public to availability of help to crime victims in the territory. The Program features a hotline for people to call and get financial and other types of support from community groups and organizations such as the following

Kidscope, Inc.

1826 Kongens Gade, St. Thomas, vi, 00802

(340) 714-1012

Expertise in : Child Physical Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse, Non-Violent Crimes
Services: Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims, Criminal Justice Support
Advocacy, Crisis Counseling, Emergency Financial Assistance, Follow-up Contact,
Group Therapy, Information And Referral , Therapy

Women's Coalition of St. Croix

P.O. Box 222734, St. Croix, vi, 00822

(340) 773-9272

Expertise in : Adult Sexual Assault, Adults Molested As Children, Assault, Child
Physical Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, DUI/DWI Crashes, Elder
Abuse, Non-Violent Crimes, Robbery, Survivors Of Homicide
Services: Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims, Criminal Justice Support
Advocacy, Crisis Counseling, Crisis Hotline Counseling, Emergency Financial
Assistance, Emergency Legal Advocacy, Follow-up Contact, Group Therapy,
Information And Referral , Personal Advocacy, Shelter/Safe House, Telephone
Contacts , Therapy

Womens Coalition of St. Croix

P.O. Box 222734 Christiansted, St. Croix, vi, 00822

(340) 773-9272

Legal Services of the Virgin Islands

3017 Orange Grove, St. Croix, vi, 00820

(340) 774-8593

Expertise in : Domestic Violence

Services: Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims

Family Resource Center

2317 Commandant Gade 16B, St. Thomas, VI, vi, 00802

(340) 776-3966

Expertise in : Adult Sexual Assault, Adults Molested As Children, Assault, Child
Physical Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, DUI/DWI Crashes, Elder
Abuse, Non-Violent Crimes, Robbery, Survivors Of Homicide
Services: Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims, Criminal Justice Support
Advocacy, Crisis Counseling, Crisis Hotline Counseling, Follow-up Contact, Group

Therapy, Information And Referral , Personal Advocacy, Shelter/Safe House,
Telephone Contacts , Therapy

2013 Hurricane season

The 2013 Atlantic hurricane season is an event in the annual cycle of tropical cyclone formation. The season officially started on June 1 and will end on November 30. These dates conventionally delimit the period of each year when most tropical cyclones form in the Atlantic basin.

Mid-season outlooks

On June 3, Colorado State University released its updated hurricane season forecast, with 18 named storms, 9 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes, and an ACE index of 165 units. The organization stated that an El Niño was not likely to hinder Atlantic tropical cyclone activity, and sea surface temperatures were expected to be favorable for the development of such. CSU stated there was a 72% chance of at least one major hurricane impacting any stretch of coastline on the United States, a 48% chance of at least one major hurricane striking the United States East Coast, and a 47% chance of at least one major hurricane striking the United States Gulf Coast; these values are much above the averages of 52%, 31%, and 30%, respectively

The Virgin Islands are located more than 1,000 miles from the U.S. mainland so planning must ensure that additional resources are stockpiled until federal help can be deployed. For instance, close to 100% of food, medication, and fuel are imported through ports. A catastrophic disaster that destroys the territory's ports would severely hinder the territory's ability to import essential goods. According to the CIA World Factbook (2006), most of the territory's piers will not withstand seismic activity and are susceptible to damage by tsunamis or tidal surges. The FEMA Disaster Management Guide-U.S. Virgin Islands (2004) states that the almost total reliance on imported food indicates that the territory's ports must resume normal operations within 1-2 weeks after a disaster before the goods that are on hand are depleted. Walters asserts that disaster-planning measures must ensure that the island territory is able to be self-sufficient for at least 7 days after the impact of any disaster.

Ways in which WSVI TV Addressed the problems described above

Every year Channel 8 puts out hurricane maps all across the US Virgin Islands. Being directly in the storm path, everyone becomes interested in watching the weather and getting prepared. For the past 3 years, I have been happy to be involved with getting this important information to the public... But is it a lot of information, so

organizing it well and making it easy to read is the key. Channel 8 issued 3,000 of these maps.

Channel 8 works with Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA). VITEMA, the territorial agency with primary responsibility for ensuring the territory's resilience to disasters. VITEMA's staff of professional planners, communications specialists, logicians, operations managers and support personnel is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management in many ways through the season to prepare for Hurricanes and the floods that follow.

By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits and businesses- VITEMA ensures the Territory's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and building the capacity to recover.

Channel 8 directly coordinates daily broadcasts with the management of VITEMA during the approach of a storm to put out concise and credible information. The Channel 8 Hurricane tracking maps are a tool to assist in this effort. The back of the maps contain a wide array of information about local agencies and services available to viewers in preparing for, securing their safety during and after the impact of the hurricanes.

Channel 8 airs a locally produced weather forecast four times each weekday with particular emphasis on tracking developing weather systems in the Atlantic. During the Hurricane season from June through November, additional reports are added as needed. A minimum of 300 minutes of airtime is devoted to such on air forecasts during this quarter.

Channel 8 also regularly covers the missions and presence of the Air Force Reserve Command's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron deployed to their detachment in St. Croix recently to fly training missions over the Caribbean in preparation for the hurricane season. During the approach of a storm Channel 8 coordinates with the Public Information Officer of the command to provide daily updates on the local news when the crews are flying missing.

Unit Airmen are part of the 403rd Wing located at Keesler AFB, Miss., and are the only Department of Defense unit currently authorized to fly into tropical storms and hurricanes to collect critical data.

From May through Nov. 30 each year, the Hurricane Hunters will be honing their skills in special WC-130J Hercules aircraft, ready to fly when called upon by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The Reserve squadron has 20 aircrews, but its composition is unusual for a Reserve unit. Fifty-nine unit members hold air reserve technician positions, civilian employees in the Air Force Reserve, which allows the fast reaction time. The rest of the squadron is made up of Air Force reservists.

The Hurricane Hunters provide surveillance of tropical disturbances and hurricanes in the western Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and eastern Pacific for the National Hurricane Center.

We also covered the impact of this federal presence on the economy and recruiting efforts for the Air National Guard. At least 200 minutes of airtime in local news and local community announcements were connected with the presence of the hurricane hunters.