



FEMA

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News Release

January 8 Deadline for Survivors to Register for FEMA and SBA Assistance Approaching

ST. CROIX, Virgin Islands – Survivors affected by hurricanes Irma and Maria are encouraged to register before the **January 8, 2018** deadline with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster assistance.

FEMA assistance may include grants to help homeowners pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs and serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance.

Survivors may also be eligible for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) which offers assistance to homeowners, renters and businesses after a disaster. **January 8, 2018** is also the physical damage deadline to submit the SBA disaster loan application.

“We want survivors to receive all the assistance they are eligible for,” said Federal Coordinating Officer William Vogel. “Assistance is not available unless you register.”

Now that connectivity is returning to the territory, survivors can register at DisasterAssistance.gov 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. For information on SBA loans call 800-659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Survivors who are deaf or hard of hearing may call TTY 800-877-8339.

Those without connectivity can visit one of the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) located throughout the islands. DRC specialists can provide face-to-face information about disaster assistance and help with registration. SBA staff are also available to assist with completing and submitting SBA disaster loan applications. DRC’s are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- St. John Locations
 - Cruz Bay at the U.S. Virgin Islands Legislature, St. John Annex, 1D Cruz Bay
 - Coral Bay at the Town & Country Building, 8-1 Estate Emmaus
- St. Croix Locations
 - Christiansted at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 38-44 Castle Coakley
 - Frederiksted at the Rotary Club West, 40 KA-KD Estate LaGrange
 - Christiansted at the Old Post Office Building at Church and Company streets

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- St. Thomas Locations
 - Charlotte Amalie at the former Scotiabank, 81 CC&DD Kronsprindsens Gade
 - Charlotte Amalie at Tutu Park Mall, 4605 Tutu Park Mall, Suite 233

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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.*