



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

USVI TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS WEEK

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

The United States Virgin Islands is one of the world's most seismically active regions, experiencing more than 1,000 tremors annually.

Virgin Islanders remember that in 1867 a major earthquake generated a local tsunami that reached the shores of our islands within 10 minutes and 30 lives were lost. In the late 1860s most laborers worked at plantations inland. In contrast, today our coastline is home to hundreds of businesses, schools, residences and also three cruise ship ports, container ports and a major utility.

Approximately 25,000 residents and visitors can fill USVI coastal areas on any given day for work, school or recreation.

Enhancing territory's readiness posture through planning, training and exercising for catastrophic earthquakes and tsunamis is a critical and essential component of the Territory's preparedness efforts.

Through Territorial and federal funding the government of the Virgin Islands has raised awareness of tsunami preparedness, through: the Territorial Tsunami Warning Siren System to provide timely notification to communities near the coastline; Tsunami Hazard and Evacuation Zone signage to inform and guide those on the coastline to safety; and the USVI Tsunami Evacuation Maps as a preparedness and planning tools.

Through a collaborative program, Territorial and federal officials worked collaboratively to earn "Tsunami Ready" status for communities across the Territory, which is a NOAA program that promotes tsunami hazard preparedness and community awareness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Kenneth E. Mapp, Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 13 - 19, 2016, as *USVI Tsunami Preparedness Week* in the Virgin Islands, and I encourage all citizens, especially those living and working along the Territory's coastlines, to prepare for tsunami hazards, and educate themselves on the appropriate response to a tsunami warning.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin this 10th day of March, 2016. A.D.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Mapp", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor

ATTEST: A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "O. Potter", written over a horizontal line.

Osbert E. Potter
Lieutenant Governor