Alert / Warning

Safety - Weather... 8/28/2010 – 8:50 p.m.

This is an ACTUAL WEATHER ALERT...Issued By: VITEMA

Affected Jurisdictions: Virgin Islands

VITEMA CONTINUES TO MONITOR TROPICAL STORM EARL, URGES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency, VITEMA, is urging residents to take personal preparedness steps as forecasts show Tropical Storm Earl passing near the Territory within the next few days. The National Weather Service has issued a tropical storm watch for the U.S. Virgin Islands which means the territory may experience heavy winds, tropical storm force winds, surges and dangerous surf conditions associated with Tropical Storm Earl between late Monday evening and early Tuesday morning.

“National Weather Service forecasters are projecting that St. Thomas-St. John may receive between 2 to 4 inches of rainfall, wind gusts of up to 40 miles per hour and rough sea conditions,” said VITEMA Director Mark A. Walters. “We’re urging residents to begin personal preparedness measures to prevent flood damage and destruction caused by unsecured objects on their properties and to stay tuned to radio or TV announcement and advisories from local government offices.”

According to Director Walters, VITEMA continues to monitor Tropical Storm Earl around the clock and has already made contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, which rapidly deployed a 15-member Incident Management Assistance Team to the territory. The team arrived Saturday and is in place at VITEMA’s headquarters on St. Thomas. The IMAT’s mission is to identify where federal assistance may be needed and to support efforts to meet emergency needs.

VITEMA and other local officials and the IMAT are continuously monitoring the Tropical Storm Earl and have begun to hold regular conference calls with the National Weather Service to receive the latest tracking information.

“We’re also urging residents to register with VI ALERT to receive the severe weather alerts and notifications as there are issued by the National Weather Service,” Director Walters said. “VI ALERT users receive the same information VITEMA does, directly from the National Weather Service.”

To register for VI ALERT visit www.vitema.gov ("http://www.vitema.gov/") and click on the VI ALERT logo.