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Two Tropical Systems Under Watch as V.I. Officials Urge Preparedness and Announce Emergency Shelter Plans

With two tropical waves being monitored, VITEMA and DHS urge residents to prepare as peak hurricane season nears, announcing shelter sites across the territory and encouraging elderly, disabled, and isolated individuals to register for pre-storm support.

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With two tropical waves currently under observation in the Atlantic, Virgin Islands officials have provided a critical update on weather activity and emergency shelter preparations as the territory enters the heart of hurricane season.

VITEMA Director Daryl Jaschen reported that the first system—located approximately 700 miles east-southeast of the Lesser Antilles—has a 20% chance of development within the next 48 hours. A second tropical wave, positioned near 30W in the eastern Atlantic, is also being monitored closely by local and federal partners.

Jaschen emphasized that although the Atlantic hurricane season began in June, the region is now approaching its most active period. “Historically, the peak occurs between August 15 and October 15,” he said, underscoring VITEMA’s coordination with agencies such as the National Guard, FEMA, the ADA Coordinator’s Office, and the American Red Cross to assess and prepare congregate shelter sites across the territory’s four islands.

Current designated shelters include:

- St. Thomas: Ivanna Eudora Kean High School and Lockhart K-8 School Cafeteria (pet-friendly)
- St. John: Adrian Senior Center and Gift Hill School Upper Campus
- St. Croix: D.C. Canegata Community Center and Educational Complex High School Gymnasium (pet-friendly)

Department of Human Services Commissioner Averil George reinforced her agency’s pivotal role in shelter management and supporting vulnerable residents. She encouraged elderly individuals, people with disabilities, and those living alone to enroll in the Elderly and Disabled Disaster Registry to ensure pre-storm assistance and support.

Registration is available by contacting:

- St. Thomas–St. John: 340-774-0930 ext. 4109
- St. Croix: 340-718-6935

VI Energy Office Director Kyle Fleming was also present during the briefing, joining Director Jaschen and Commissioner George in highlighting the government’s unified approach to preparedness as the Virgin Islands navigates the unpredictable months ahead.