



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 525-2023

**BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**TO ADOPT THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ACROSS
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2003, the President of the United States, in Homeland Security Directive No. 5 (HSPD-5), directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS) to provide a consistent, nationwide approach for federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic security incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity; and

WHEREAS, NIMS was developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President to integrate effective practices in emergency response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management; and

WHEREAS, NIMS is a comprehensive approach to incident management which will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively, manage domestic incidents, and provide clear and effective response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, NIMS includes the concepts of modular organization, unified command, multi-agency coordination, span of control, action planning process, integrated communications, and pre-designated facilities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to V.I. Code tit 23, §1006, VITEMA is to prepare and maintain the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Plan, which among other things shall provide for prompt and effective response to an emergency, and establishment of administrative procedures for enforcing compliance with federal and territorial standards; and

WHEREAS, the Director of VITEMA is responsible for coordinating the emergency management program for the Territory and for liaising with the emergency management agencies

of neighboring territories, states, and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, VITEMA is the Territorial entity best positioned to review ongoing requirements for NIMS compliance, and minimum training requirements based on the NIMS curriculum; and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible to receive federal Preparedness Grants, local state, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions are required to adopt NIMS as the system of choice for the jurisdiction.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby **ORDER**:

SECTION 1. All government agencies and semi-autonomous agencies to adopt NIMS as the standard for incident management for all planned events and incidents in the United States Virgin Islands.

SECTION 2. VITEMA to work with all government agencies and community stakeholders with responsibility for incident management to develop and deliver NIMS-compliant training programs.

SECTION 3. All government departments and agencies incorporate NIMS into existing training programs and exercises, wherever appropriate.

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 Islands, this 1st day of May, A.D., 2023.




Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:


Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Acting Lt. Governor