



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

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 532 – 2023

**ORDER AND PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
DUE TO A FIRE AT THE BOVONI LANDFILL**

WHEREAS, Title 23, Section 1005(a), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the responsibility for meeting the dangers to the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands and its people presented by emergencies or major disasters; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2023, the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services (VIFEMS) issued an urgent alert regarding a fire at the Bovoni Landfill on the Island of St. Thomas. The Bovoni Landfill Fire is located on a sloped hillside area which is approximately sixty feet wide and eight hundred feet high. The burning pile is made up of debris from both Hurricane Irma and Maria, including brush, logs, and tree trunks; and

WHEREAS, the Bovoni Landfill has been burning for six (6) days with smoke which can be seen and smelled for miles, and the resulting poor air quality has caused schools and businesses to close; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing Bovoni Landfill Fire is not sustainably contained and external assistance is required to extinguish the flames below the surface. The continuous flames create hazardous smoke and airborne particles which may cause respiratory medical complications for individuals in the area; and

WHEREAS, immediate action must be taken to secure the necessary support to extinguish the Bovoni Landfill Fire, including coordination of fire-fighting assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact; and

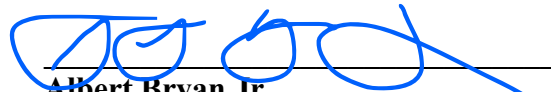
WHEREAS, Title 23, Section 1005(d), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the authority to declare a State of Emergency when it is determined that an emergency or major disaster has occurred or is imminent; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, in order to protect the residents of the Territory will activate all appropriate territorial resources under the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency, and other agencies and partners to complete the preparation necessary to protect life and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, do hereby **DECLARE** as follows:

1. A State of Emergency throughout the United States Virgin Islands effective September 18, 2023, and such State of Emergency shall continue in effect until the Governor finds that the threat or danger has passed or that the response and recovery has progressed to the point that a state of emergency no longer exists, unless earlier lifted or extended by Order of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands consistent with Title 23, Section 1005(d) of the Virgin Islands Code.
2. In accordance with Title 23, Section 1005 of the Virgin Islands Code, I designate the Director of the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Daryl George, the Incident Commander to direct the territorial response and execute the directives for enforcement of this order. I further designate the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services as the lead agency to coordinate emergency response activities in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA). The Incident Commander and Director of VITEMA shall advise the Office of the Governor on the implementation of the emergency response activities.
3. The disaster preparation, response and recovery aspects of the territorial and inter-jurisdictional emergency and major disaster plans applicable to the area in question, shall be activated, and the deployment and use of any forces to which the plan or plans apply and the use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, materials, and facilities assembled, stockpiled, or arranged to be made available shall also be authorized pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, Section 1005(e) and any other provision of law relating to emergencies or major disasters.

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 18th day of September, 2023.


Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor