



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

(340) 774-3552 • communications@viwapa.vi / www.viwapa.vi

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Figure 1: Authority team members helping young students try on utility hard hats and handing out coloring books and pencils at Fire Fun Day event on St. Thomas, Thursday, October 12, 2023.

Authority Participates at Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services "Fire Fun Day" Events

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) was delighted to take part in the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services' "Fire Fun Day" events, held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, on St. John and Thursday, October 12, 2023, on St. Thomas. The events provided an opportunity for the Authority to engage with the community, focusing especially on educating the island's youth on electricity conservation and water-saving practices.

As part of the day's activities, WAPA distributed informational coloring books and pencils to students from pre-school through 4th grade. Students were also treated to a fun hands-on experience of wearing utility hard hats and further learned about the benefits of safety equipment in the utility industry.

On St. John, WAPA's Line Department brought its utility bucket truck to the event. The bucket truck demonstration was a highlight for the young participants, as they witnessed firsthand how high the bucket could be raised and how it is often used to trim trees, a critical role in preventing vegetation overgrowth, which can lead to damaged electrical lines.

"We thoroughly enjoyed participating in this year's 'Fire Fun Day' event, and helping the next generation understand the importance of resource conservation, particularly electricity and water," noted Shanell Petersen, Director of Corporate Communications at the Authority. "WAPA is committed to creating a sustainable future, and events like this allow us to connect with our community and help be a part of the change."

The Authority would like to thank the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services for hosting such an extraordinary event and inviting WAPA to engage with hundreds of students this past week.

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication's department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.

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About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.

(340) 774-3552 (STT/STJ) • (340) 773-2250 (STX) |  Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority |  @VIWAPA