



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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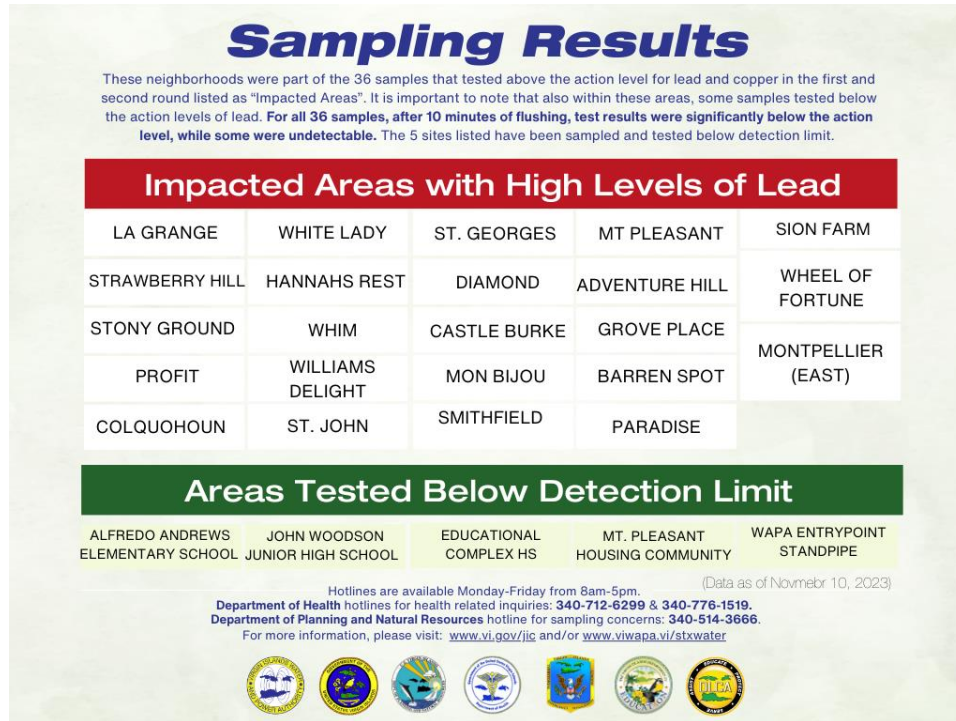


Figure 1: Sampling results highlighting areas in St. Croix above and below lead detection levels as of November 10, 2023.

Authority Clarifies Misinformation Regarding Potable Water Lead Levels on St. Croix

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) would like to address recent misinformation circulating about current lead levels in St. Croix’s potable water system. As much as we work closely with the media, it is important to ensure that information received and shared has been verified and from a credible source. We are encouraging all residents to verify the source and spread the facts.

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) conducted comprehensive sampling on October 20 and 21, 2023 and results demonstrated that water quality at Alfredo Andrews Elementary School, John Woodson Junior High School, Educational Complex High School, Mt. Pleasant Housing Community, and WAPA’s Entry Point Standpipe, were well below the lead action level, and in some cases undetectable.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) guidance indicates residents can continue to use potable water for bathing, flushing, laundering clothes, and cleaning without any danger of adverse effects. Residents, however, are asked not to consume or ingest the water, such as drinking or cooking. For more information on EPA water use guidelines, we encourage the public to visit: <https://www.epa.gov/groundwater-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

To ensure the information you are receiving is accurate, please visit the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority's website at: <https://www.viwapa.vi/stxwater>. Additional information can also be found at the Department of Health's (DOH) website at: <https://doh.vi.gov> and the Joint Information Center (JIC) at: <https://www.vi.gov/jic/>.

In addition to the websites listed above, there are two Department of Health hotlines available for residents to call from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday with health concerns related to lead in potable water. Individuals may call 340-712-6299 or 340-776-1519. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources also operates a hotline number related to concerns on sampling, 340-514-3666, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Department of Health also advises the community that testing for lead exposure is available at the Clinical Laboratory Inc. at Sunny Isle Medical Center on St. Croix and the St. Thomas East End Medical Center at Tutu Park Mall on St. Thomas.

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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.

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