



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Figure 1: WAPA team members on site for the Disaster Preparedness Expo at UVI's Sport and Fitness Center on Friday August 25, 2023, St. Thomas USVI.

Authority Supports Resilience at the 2023 Disaster Preparedness Expo targeted for Vulnerable Community Members

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) recently participated in the 2023 Disaster Preparedness Expo, held on August 25th, 2023, on St. Thomas and August 29th, 2023, on St. Croix. The expo saw government agencies and the business community come together to discuss disaster preparedness with seniors and individuals living with disabilities in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

Throughout the event, WAPA’s representatives were able to engage with the community's most vulnerable members and share vital information for ensuring their safety during emergencies. Among information shared, team members covered disaster preparedness best practices, alongside distributing informational flyers on the "Do's and Don'ts for Downed Power Lines" and "Tips for Energy Conservation." These resources are designed to equip residents with essential knowledge to navigate potentially hazardous situations, while also encouraging responsible energy consumption.

Recognizing the importance of communication in emergency situations, the Authority also provided handouts and guidance on "How to Sign Up for WAPA Alerts." WAPA Alerts ensure community members receive updates and critical information directly from the Authority in the event of power and water disruptions or other emergencies. Attendees were also given the opportunity to sign up for alerts on the spot, with WAPA's team on hand to assist in the process. To sign up for WAPA Alerts, please visit: <https://www.viwapa.vi/news-information/advisory-details>

"We appreciated being part of this impactful event that focuses on the needs of individuals with disabilities and seniors in our community," noted Shanell Petersen, Director of Corporate Communications at the Authority. "At WAPA, we believe in the power of preparedness and inclusivity. Our participation in the expo allowed us to connect directly with those who are most vulnerable during disasters, ensuring that they are well-informed, empowered, and prioritized."

A special thank you to the organizers of the event including the Office of the ADA Coordinator, Office of the Governor, Virgin Islands Association for Independent Living, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands, VI Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocates (VIDHHA), Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD), the Government of the Virgin Islands, and all the sponsors.

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.

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