



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Tropical Storm Ernesto Restoration Efforts and Advisory to the Public

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (August 19, 2024) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) urges the public and electricians not to touch or tamper with any WAPA infrastructure. Unauthorized contact with power lines, streetlights, transformers, and other equipment can cause serious harm to both the system and our customers.

As progress from our line crews remains steady, customers may experience fluctuations in power to allow the teams to safely work on isolated/pocket outages in their area. On **St. Thomas**, portions of Feeder 6A, 7A, 6B, 8B, 9C, and 7C were restored, in addition to pocket outages across the island. On **St. John**, the line crew continue to repair power lines and clear vegetation to restore power to customers along North Shore, Chocolate Hole, and Fish Bay. On **St. Croix**, several isolated outages on the following feeders were restored: 2A, 3A, 4A, 7B, 9B, and 10B.

In the St. Thomas/St. John district, due to reduced generation capacity caused by the loss of Wartsila 3, the following feeders experienced an outage for approximately 3 ½ hours that has since been restored: 7C, 9C and 8A. As the nature and inconvenience of the restoration process following a storm, we are asking for the patience and understanding from our customers who continue to remain without power and for the unexpected temporary outages. On St. Croix, customers on Feeder 9B also experienced loss of power at about 12:30 p.m. but was restored successfully by the line crews within 30 minutes.

Restoration efforts remain dynamic as our team strives for full power restoration despite the challenges. We sincerely thank the community for their resilience during this time.

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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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