



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Fire Incident at WAPA Randolph Harley Garage Contained with No Injuries Reported

ST. THOMAS, U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — (August 1, 2025) — At approximately 1:00 p.m. this afternoon, a fire occurred in the compressor room of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority's ("WAPA" or "the Authority") garage located at the Randolph Harley Power Plant (RHPP) in St. Thomas. Thanks to the activation of the facility's built-in fire wall protections, the fire was isolated to an aging air compressor unit and successfully contained within the compressor room.

The incident triggered an immediate evacuation of the facility, following standard emergency protocols. All persons on site were safely evacuated and accounted for by the team. 911 was promptly notified, and the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services (VIFEMS) crews extinguished the blaze and conducted a thorough inspection to ensure the facility was safe for re-entry.

Importantly, there were **no injuries** reported, and **no disruption to plant operations or services** occurred as a result of the fire.

WAPA's Safety Department, in conjunction with the responding emergency units, is actively investigating the cause of the fire. A full damage assessment is underway.

"We are incredibly grateful that all employees are safe and that our emergency systems and teams responded swiftly and professionally," Anthony D. Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer, WAPA. "Today's incident highlights the importance of our ongoing investments in workplace safety and emergency preparedness."

The Authority extends its sincere thanks to the Randolph Harley plant team, the WAPA Safety Department, and the VIFEMS for their quick response, coordination, and dedication to public safety.

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.