Common Natural Disasters Causing Damages to Homes in the USVI

- **Floods:** the most common natural disaster, damage includes mold, contaminated water, structural damage and collapse, damage to finishes and furnishings.

- **Hurricanes and Tropical Storms:** produce extreme rainfall, storm surges, sustained very high winds with flying debris; damage may be widespread and affect thousands of buildings especially roofs, walls, windows, and entire building collapse, severe water damage.

- **Tsunamis and Storm Surges:** coastal flood events from hurricanes and earthquakes, which produce similar damages.

- **Mudslides/Debris Slides:** usually happen after a long period of rain or an intense storm; damages range from modest damage to foundations and roofs to complete destruction.

Creating a Plan for Safe Cleanup, Repair and Restoration of Homes

An important first step in the recovery process is to plan ahead before starting any cleanup and recovery operations. Your work sequence should progress in the following phases.

1. Protect yourself first and foremost
2. Assess the damages and hazards
3. Create a work plan
4. Prepare the worksite
5. Clean and remove damaged materials, and decontaminate
6. Restore and improve the home
Consumer Resources

VITEMA Headquarters  
www.vitema.vi.gov  
8221 Estate Nisky  
St. Thomas, VI 00803  
phone: (340) 774-2244  
fax: (304) 715-6847

St. John Office  
www.vitema.vi.gov  
6 Susannaberg  
St. John, VI 00830  
phone: (340) 776-6444  
fax: (304) 714-4470

St. Croix Office  
www.vitema.vi.gov  
Department of Planning and Natural Resources  
45 Estate Mars Hill  
Frederiksted, VI 00840  
phone: (340) 773-1082

Virgin Islands Housing Authority  
3202 Demarara Plaza Suite 200  
St. Thomas, VI 00802-6447  
phone: (340) 777-4432  
fax: (304) 775-7913

General Disaster Recovery Information

HUD — U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Disaster Resources hud.gov/info/disasterresources  
Disaster Assistance Improvement Program www.DisasterAssistance.gov  
For all of the above you can also access federal agency telecommunication services for people with speech and hearing disabilities: www.gsa.gov/fedrelay

American Red Cross www.RedCross.org  
Citizen Corps www.ready.gov/citizen-corps

Key Hotlines

All the phone numbers below may also be reached by people who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, by teletype at 711.

FEMA Helpline (800) 621-3362  
Poison Control Centers (800) 222-1222  
HUD and EPA National Lead Information Center (800) 424-LEAD, (800) 424-5323  
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791  
National Pesticide Information Center (800) 858-7378  
FDA, Food Safety Information Service Hotline (888) SAFE-FOOD, (888) 723-3663

hud.gov/healthyhomes  
healthyhomespartnership.net  
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