



FEMA

FEMA Region 2 Watch

FEMA-R2-WatchOfficer@fema.dhs.gov | 877-568-9043

FEMA Region 2 SPOTREP: No Drinking or Consumption Advisory for Potable Water Island-wide for ST Croix, USVI (Region Tracking 195, Update 1, as of 10/18/2023 9:51 AM ET)

Critical Information Requirement: CIR 24 - CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE: Information or communication system outages or threats to degrade critical infrastructure/key resources in R2, including FEMA facilities and systems.

Primary Source(s): FEMA R2 Regional Leadership; Jurisdiction Emergency Management Office; USVI Governor Bryan, WAPA Director, VITEMA Director; [USVI Joint Information Center](#)

Current Situation:

On 10/17/23, USVI Governor Albert Bryan Jr provided an updated briefing about USVI Government actions to address high levels of lead and copper reported in recent water testing in some areas on St. Croix

- Extremely high levels of lead and copper were detected in potable water in specific St. Croix locations, including Estates Colquhoun, Mon Bijou, Castle Burke, and Diamond
- WAPA is clearing water lines by flushing them to remove sediment
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review, confirm, and validate the testing protocols to ensure the utmost accuracy and safety for St. Croix's residents
- USVI Department of Health (DoH) advised the St. Croix community of the following:
 1. **Do not consume potable water. Until it can be confirmed that the water is safe, do not drink potable water or use it for cooking**
 2. **Use alternative water sources such as bottled water or water from a known safe source for drinking and cooking**
- USVI DoH hotlines available to residents 8AM ET to 5PM ET, Monday – Friday, regarding health related to water quality
 - ST Croix: 340-712-6299; St. Thomas/St. John: 340-776-1519
- Testing for lead exposure is available:
 - St. Croix: Frederiksted Health Center St. Thomas: East End Medical Center at Tutu Park Mall
- Department of Planning and Natural Resources hotline available 8AM ET to 5PM ET, Monday – Friday at 340-514-3666

On 10/16/23, USVI Governor Albert Bryan Jr announced a 'no drinking or consumption' of potable water advisory for St. Croix

- Advisory was issued out of an abundance of caution as WAPA, EPA, VITEMA and other government agencies continue to test and validate potable water in order to ensure the safety of the public

Jurisdiction Actions:

- USVI:
 - No Drinking or Consumption Advisory for Potable Water issued 10/16/23
 - Mobilized resources to the affected areas; comprehensive plan in place
 - VITEMA: Monitoring
 - Activated the Joint Information Center

FEMA Actions:

- FEMA R2 US Virgin Islands Caribbean Area Coordinator coordinating with VITEMA leadership
- Region 2 continues to obtain, maintain, and disseminate situational awareness



FEMA

FEMA Region 2 Watch

FEMA-R2-WatchOfficer@fema.dhs.gov | 877-568-9043

- Regional Watch Center: Monitoring
- No requests for Federal Assistance

Impacts by Lifeline

- **Safety and Security:** No significant impacts reported
- **Food, Hydration, & Shelter:**
 - Component – Hydration: USVI is making provisions to supply water to residents if needed
 - Component – Hydration: On 10/17/23, safe water was delivered to Alfredo Andrews Elementary School, St. Croix Educational Complex, and John H. Woodson Jr. High School, all of which use potable water for cooking purposes
- **Health & Medical:** No significant impacts reported
- **Water Systems:** Component - Potable Water Infrastructure: "No drinking or consumption" advisory for St. Croix issued 10/17/23
- **Energy:**
 - Component - Power Grid:
 - USVI: Under 5,000 customer power outages
 - Component - Fuel: No significant impacts reported
- **Communications:** No significant impacts reported
- **Transportation:**
 - Highway/Roadway/Motor Vehicle (Roads, Bridges): No significant impacts reported
 - Mass Transit (Bus, Rail, Ferry): No significant impacts reported
 - Railway (Freight, Passenger): No significant impacts reported
 - Aviation (Commercial, General, Military): No significant impacts reported
 - Maritime (Waterways, Ports, and Port Facilities): No significant impacts reported
- **Hazardous Material:** No significant impacts reported

Follow Up: R2 Regional Watch Center will provide additional reporting as information becomes available.

Graphics:



FEMA Region 2 Watch

FEMA-R2-WatchOfficer@fema.dhs.gov | 877-568-9043

FEMA

OPERATIONAL STATUS					
Organization	Address & Contact Information	Current Status	Comments		
FEMA R2 Regional Continuity Status	FEMA R2 Facility Status: (718) 780-8684 FEMA R2 Disaster Facility Status: (212) 720-9613	Not Activated			
FEMA R2 Regional Watch Center (RWC)	225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY, 11201 Phone: (877) 568-9043 Email: FEMA-R2-WatchOfficer@fema.dhs.gov	Enhanced Watch	Enhanced Watch (Virtual day shift only) for INVEST 94L		
FEMA R2 Regional Response Coordination Center (RROC)	Naval Weapons Station Earle, 201 Highway 34 South Building C54, Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Phone: (732) 866-1400	Steady State	Level 3 Partial Activation for INVEST 94L at 8AM ET 10/19/23		
FEMA Region 2 Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) A (Traditional IMAT)		Deployed	INVEST 94L		
FEMA Region 2 IMAT B (Collateral Duty IMAT)		Deployed	INVEST 94L		
Backup Regional IMATs	FEMA National Watch Center: fema-nwc@fema.dhs.gov	Fully Mission Capable/Available	Primary: Region 1; Secondary: Region 4-1; Tertiary: Region 2		
New Jersey State Office of Emergency Management EOC	2 Schwarzkopf Drive, Ewing Township, NJ 08628 Phone: (609) 963-6834 Email: roic@gv.njsp.org ; njeoc@njsp.org	Normal Operations			
New York State Office of Emergency Management EOC	1220 Washington Ave Building 22, Albany, NY 12226 Phone: (518) 292-2200 Email: ny.statewatchcenter@dhses.ny.gov	Steady State – Continuous Monitoring			
New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) EOC	165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Phone: (718) 422-8700 Email: ocemwatchcommand@ocem.nyc.gov	Level 4: Watch Command			
Puerto Rico Emergency Management Bureau (PREMB) EOC	Carr. #1, KM 24.5, Bo. PR, 00926 Phone: (787) 724-0124 Email: mesa@prema.pr.gov	Level 5: Normal Operations			
US Virgin Islands Territorial Management Agency (VITEMA) EOC	St. Thomas / St. Croix / St. John Phone: (340) 774-2244 Email: contact@vitema.vi.gov	Level 5: Normal Operations			
NWS Eastern Region - Regional Operations Center (ROC)	630 Johnson Ave, Suite 202; Bohemia NY 11716 Phone: (631) 244-0172 Email: erh.roc@noaa.gov	Level 4: Watch/Steady State			
Port Authority Agency Emergency Operations Center	Phone: (201) 216-2735 Email: paocem_agencyEOC@panynj.gov	Level 3: Situational Awareness			
COLOR CODE LEGEND:	Deployed	Mission Capable or Steady State	Enhanced Posture	Partially Mission Capable or Partial Activation	Non Mission Capable or Full Activation