

National Reports will be posted to the ICG/CARIBE EWS-XVI web site without TWFP contact details

**NATIONAL REPORT
Submitted by (VIRGIN ISLANDS)**

BASIC INFORMATION

1. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami National Contact (TNC)

The person designated by a Member State to an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) to represent his/her country in the coordination of international tsunami warning and mitigation activities. The person is part of the main stakeholders of the national tsunami warning and mitigation system. The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point, from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities.

Name: Jasen Penn
Title: Director
Organization: Disaster Management
Postal Address: deCastro Street, Simms Building 2nd Floor, Road Town, Tortola, Virgin Islands , VG1110
E-mail Address: japenn@gov.vg , ddm@gov.vg
Telephone Number: 1 284 468 4200(office)
Fax Number: 1 284 468 4208
Cellular Telephone Number: 1 284 468 9665

2. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP)

The 7x24 contact person, or other official point of contact or address, is available at the national level for rapidly receiving and issuing tsunami event information (such as warnings). The Tsunami Warning Focal Point either is the emergency authority (civil defense or other designated agency responsible for public safety), or has the responsibility of notifying the emergency authority of the event characteristics (earthquake and/or tsunami), in accordance with national standard operating procedures. The Tsunami Warning Focal Point receives international tsunami warnings from the PTWC, or other regional warning centres.

Name: Mr. Richard Ulger
Title: Commissioner of Police
Responsible Organization: Royal Virgin Islands Police Force
Postal Address: 33 Admin Drive, Wickhams Cay 1, Road Town, Tortola, Virgin Islands
E-mail Address: rlulgerl@rvipolice.vg, control@rvipolice.vg
Emergency Telephone Number: 1 284 368 5429
Emergency Fax Number: 1 284 494 5968
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number: 1 284 368 5430

National Tsunami Warning Centre (if different from the above)

Person in Charge: Victor Huerfano
Title: Director
Responsible Organization: Puerto Rico Seismic Network

Postal Address:

E-mail Address: analistas@prsnmail.uprm.edu
staff@prsnmail.uprm.edu

Emergency Telephone Number: 1 787 833 8433

Emergency Fax Number:

Emergency Cellular Telephone Number: 1 787 986 7076

3. Tsunami Advisor(s), if applicable

(Person, Committee or Agency managing Tsunami Mitigation in country)

Name:

Title:

Postal Address:

E-mail Address:

Emergency Telephone Number:

Emergency Fax Number:

Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

3. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Local Tsunami (when a local tsunami threat exists, less than 1 hour travel time)

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) will notify the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) that a local tsunami has been generated based on the report received from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. If the RVIPF cannot make contact with the Director or his team members as outlined in the Tsunami Warning Protocol, will proceed to activate all systems under their control. The public has been educated to observe for signs for receding water, immense destruction should proceed to evacuate without being prompted by the RVIPF, DDM or hearing any of the warning systems.

4. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Regional Tsunami (when a regional tsunami threat exists, 1–3 hour travel time)

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) will notify the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) that a local tsunami has been generated based on the report received from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. If the RVIPF cannot make contact with the Director or his team members as outlined in the Tsunami Warning Protocol, will proceed to activate all systems under their control. If the RVIPF does make contact with the Director, the Director will then contact the Governor indicating that a tsunami threat is imminent and may require activation of systems. Once the Governor is aware of the threat and understands the level urgency, all systems will be activated to ensure the public is provided with enough time to evacuate and move to safety.

5. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Distant Tsunami (when a distant tsunami threat exists, more than 3-hour travel time)

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) will notify the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) that a local tsunami has been generated based on the report received from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. If the RVIPF cannot make contact with the Director or his team members as outlined in the Tsunami Warning Protocol, will proceed to activate all systems under their control. If the RVIPF does make contact with the Director, the Director will then contact the Governor indicating that a tsunami threat is imminent and may require activation of systems. Once the Governor is aware of the threat and understands the level urgency, all systems will be activated to ensure the public is provided with enough time to evacuate and move to safety.

For each situation, please provide the following:

- What organization identifies and characterizes tsunamigenic events?
 - **The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre , The Puerto Rico Seismic Network**
 - What is the threshold or criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency?
 - **This is done by the PTWC and the PRSN as backup.**
 - What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?
 - The Department of Disaster Management and the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force would be the agencies that will direct all other agencies in keeping with the Tsunami Warning Protocol and the National Disaster Management Plan 2022 of the Virgin Islands.
 - How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc) disseminated within country?
 - The Virgin Islands maintains a National Early Warning and Multi-Hazard Alert System (NEWMHAS) which uses various mediums to alert the executive and operational arms of government in addition to the public. This system includes: Sirens, National Emergency Broadcast System, Smart Radios, VHF etc.
 - Who is it disseminated to? Information is disseminated to the Government Agencies and the public.
 - How is the emergency situation terminated?
 - Once there is no longer a threat a cancel or all clear message is issued on the direction of the Governor advised by the Director, Disaster Management.
 - For Distant Tsunami Procedures:
 - Once there is no longer a threat a cancel or all clear message is issued on the direction of the Governor advised by the Director, Disaster Management.
- What actions were taken in response to warnings issued by PTWC and/or US NTWC, during the intersessional period?
There were not actions in the Virgin Islands during the intersessional period.

7. National Sea Level Network

Please include a table with position and description of stations/sensors, and a map.



This map illustrates the location of the Tide Gauge in Cane Garden Bay. GPS coordinates are 18.426 latitude , 64.660 longitude. Tide Gauge has a bubbler level installed.

8.Information on Tsunami occurrences/Tsunami Exercises

Please include sea level observations, pictures, wave arrival descriptions, public, media, or other responses to warnings, lessons learned, etc.



H. Lavity Stoutt Community College

March 19 · 🌐

HLSCC jumped right into action today as we took part in the Regional Caribe Wave 2026 Earthquake & Tsunami Exercise, coordinated by the Department of Disaster Management ([BVI DDM](#))

Even with everything happening on campus, our students, faculty, and staff didn't miss a beat. The moment the alert went off, everyone did exactly what they were trained to do: 🙌

DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON for one minute then make your way calmly to the designated tsunami assembly point for head counts and accountability.

Because the BVI is in a seismically active zone, these drills are essential.

Taking them seriously helps us stay ready and confident if a real emergency ever happens while we're on campus.

Preparedness is a team effort, and the HLSCC community showed up strong. 🍀🍀

[#CaribeWave2026](#) [#HLSCC](#) [#SafetyFirst](#) [#TsunamiReady](#) [#DisasterPreparedness](#) [#BVI](#)





bvi_ddm • Follow



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One of the best parts about #CaribeWaveBVI is seeing our colleagues in the Public Service doing their part to be #TsunamiReady!

Thank you to @deputygovernorbvi, Department of Human Resources, the @customerservicecentrebvi, the Employee Relations Unit, and Dept. of Information Technology for sharing their photos.

If you joined us, it's not too late to share your images, just tag us or use #CaribeWaveBVI, and please share your feedback about how the exercise went at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/feedbacksurvey2026>



March 19

[Log in to like or comment.](#)



Royal Virgin Islands Police

March 18 · 🌐

On Tuesday, 17th March 2026, officers in the Control Room participated in the Adapted Tsunami Warning Protocol exercise with **BVI DDM** in preparation for Caribe Wave 2026, scheduled for Thursday, 19th March 2026.

This exercise aimed to strengthen coordination, enhance response readiness, and ensure that all personnel are familiar with the updated procedures in the event of a tsunami threat.



The Department of Disaster Management took in Caribe Wave 2026. We did see a slight reduction in participation with registered numbers at 6032. What we saw was an increase

in private businesses participation ensuring their staff members were aware of the evacuation routes and knew what to do in the event we were to experience a tsunami.

Lesson Learned: *More awareness is needed throughout communities. Senior citizens do not understand the difference between evacuating to higher ground and to evacuation route for example many felt they needed to get to their communities to evacuate to safety.*

Current concern: *Alternative National Emergency Operation Centre (E911 Centre) is expanding and may not be conducive for territorial emergency operations use upon activation. Designated NEOC needs to be a priority completion.*

9. Web sites (URLs) of national tsunami-related web sites
tsunami.gov, <https://redsismica.uprm.edu/index.php>

10. Summary plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements.
This information will be used to aid the development of the CARIBE-EWS Implementation Plan

While one tide gauge is currently installed in Cane Garden Bay, we aim to bring the remaining two into full operation. Although budget constraints have delayed the procurement of necessary replacement parts, we are grateful to the IOC and the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC) of the UK for funding the recent technical training provided to two of our technicians in Barbados; their expertise will be vital for the upcoming installations.

Upgrading our system to be CAP-compliant remains a strategic priority to streamline emergency activations. While this transition has been planned for some time, funding limitations have slowed its progress.

On a positive note, we secured funding in 2025 for an additional siren for the coastal community of Carrot Bay. The equipment is already on-island, and we are currently finalizing the logistics for its installation.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

11. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brief statement of no more than one page addressing all items discussed in the Narrative section of the National Report (below)

Despite various challenges, the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) continues to achieve significant milestones in maintaining Tsunami Ready status. The Department remains actively engaged in enhancing preparedness and public awareness through robust outreach initiatives. In 2025, the DDM conducted over five school visits, engaging students from primary to tertiary levels on multi-hazard awareness, with a specific focus on earthquakes and tsunamis.

Over the past year, we have developed customized evacuation maps and signage for both government departments and private homeowners. To ensure data accuracy and visibility, all tsunami signage has been integrated into the National GIS; currently, approximately 40 signs and all designated evacuation routes are mapped and displayed throughout the Territory.

Our critical warning infrastructure includes a network of 16 sirens, with an additional unit slated for installation to bring the total to 17. To ensure system redundancy, the Territory now utilizes two siren controllers: one stationed at the DDM and a second at the Police Control Room. This is supported by a network of four repeaters to ensure comprehensive signal coverage across the Territory.

Furthermore, collaborative efforts with the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN) have led to the successful reinstallation and commissioning of seismic stations on Tortola, Virgin Gorda, and Anegada. This partnership also facilitated the re-establishment of core GPS stations and the installation of three strong-motion sensors on key islands by the Puerto Rico Strong Motion Program.

The Department maintains a diverse and far-reaching emergency communication suite, including:

- **Digital Platforms:** An emergency app with over 5,000 registrants, a WhatsApp channel with over 5,000 members, and a combined social media presence exceeding 20,000 followers (including 17,000 on Facebook and 1,782 on Instagram), with an extended reach of 40,000 through partner channels.
- **Mass Messaging:** Access to the Territory's SMS system, connecting the DDM to over 30,000 mobile devices.
- **Broadcast & Radio:** Connectivity to six local radio stations, Amateur Radio networks with operators territory-wide, and marine VHF communications.

To validate these capabilities, the Department organized a comprehensive territory-wide evacuation exercise for CARIBE WAVE 2026. The event successfully engaged over 6,000 participants approximately 20% of Tortola's population significantly strengthening community resilience and overall preparedness

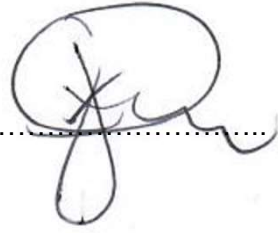
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12. NARRATIVE

Detailed description of innovations or modifications to National tsunami warnings procedures or operations since last National Report, tsunami research projects, tsunami mitigation activities and best practices (especially in preparedness and emergency management), tsunami exercises, as well as public education programmes or other measures taken to heighten awareness of the tsunami hazard and risk.

A VSAT terminal is to come on stream soon allowing the Anegada Seismic Station to have a consistent connection back to the Puerto Rico Seismic Network and partners. The installation of a new Siren in Carrot Bay, Tortola to be completed soon bringing the Territory's number to 17 sirens.'

Date: ...20th April 2026 Name: ...Jasen H. Penn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jasen H. Penn', written over a dotted line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.