



## GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## DPNR ANNOUNCES NEW REPORTING APP FOR TERRITORY

Commissioner Jean-Pierre Oriol of the Department of Planning & Natural Resources (DPNR) is pleased to announce the start of a new reporting app that allows users to submit anonymous tips about illegal or suspicious activity that could harm our natural resources. The USVI DPNR Hotline is now available on the web and as an app on your smart phone.

The public is encouraged to download the app “USVI DPNR Hotline” from the Apple App Store or the Android Google Play Store which allows them to submit photos, videos, a description, and location of the activity in question. Once reported, an encoded line of communication is opened between the tipster and a DPNR representative which allows for a follow-up conversation. This reporting form is also available on the DPNR website at <https://dpnr.vi.gov/home/dpnr-hotline/> which allows for the same functionality without the use of a smart phone.

Some examples of tips that could be submitted include: building without permits, leaking chemicals, activities outside of the permitting zoning designations, or construction sites without proper silt fences. If you’re not sure if it’s a DPNR issue, send it anyway and we will help make that determination.

The Department is very excited about the opportunities that this new software will offer the general public and coordination between the public and the divisions of DPNR. Within the first week of the being active we have already seen over 50 people download the app! We hope that the ease and anonymity will encourage more community members to have an open dialogue with the Department and be more willing to submit tips about activities that are damaging to our natural resources.

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