



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Monday, August 12, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR WARNS OF IMPENDING STORM

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) advises the public that given the forecasts of heavy rain and potential flooding to refrain from using the coastal waters throughout the Territory until further notification. DPNR is also advising parents to instruct their children to keep away from storm water-impacted beaches as well as areas with manholes and storm water flooding. There may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in storm water-impacted areas because of increased concentrations of bacteria.

All persons should also be aware that storm water runoff may also contain contaminants or pollutants harmful to human health and therefore all persons should avoid areas of storm water runoff (i.e. guts, puddles, and drainage basins). DPNR will continue to monitor the impacted areas and waters.

Moreover, DPNR advises **ALL CONTRACTORS, DEVELOPERS, AND HOME BUILDERS** to immediately maintain and implement additional erosion and sediment control practices at all areas where property is cleared, graded, filled, or otherwise disturbed.

Please take this opportunity to visually locate areas that may need additional erosion and sediment control measures. Measures include, but are not limited to the following:

- Preservation of natural vegetation
- Drainage Swales / Diversions
- Temporary & Permanent Seeding
- Soil Sealers / Binders
- Erosion Control Mats
- Soil Retaining Walls
- Construction Entrances / Exits
- Silt Fencing
- Sediment Traps
- Mulches, Mats & Geotextiles

It is also advised that all construction materials and equipment be removed from sites or properly secured. This includes all items likely to become airborne objects that may cause damage to your property or adjacent parcels.

To report any areas of concern, contact the Division of Environmental Protection Earth Change Program at 774-3320 or 773-1082.