



**All Hazards Plan Validation  
Table Top Exercise U.S. Virgin Islands  
Earthquake and Tsunami Hazard-  
Specific Annexes  
March 28-29, 2012  
After Action Report (AAR)**



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**Exercise Summary**

The USVI Earthquake and Tsunami Plan Validation Tabletop Exercise was the culmination of many months of planning for all of the Territorial and Federal Partners in FEMA Region II. It was part of the Catastrophic Planning Tabletop (TTX) Series consisting of FEMA Regional-level exercises to validate catastrophic planning efforts. In addition, a purpose was to test the capability of FEMA and its Federal Partners to provide support to the territorial government of the USVI in order to save and sustain human life, minimize suffering, stabilize critical infrastructure, ensure the continuity of government, and set the conditions for long-term recovery. The response focus of the plan, and the exercise were only centered on addressing ten critical core capabilities-based objectives within the first 72-hours of the event and what FEMA Region II could “push” out to assist the Territory. The ESF11 Coordinator for FEMA Region II focused planning and exercise play with Mass Care.

The scenario for the TTX was a major earthquake and an accompanying series of tsunami waves impacting the USVI and causing major damages throughout the eastern Caribbean. Hundreds of homes and commercial buildings collapsed throughout St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas, resulting in over 55,000 people that needed sheltering and feeding. The harbors were filled with damaged cruise ships, pleasure boats, fishing boats, containers and other debris. The airports were severely damaged and planes were unable to land or take off and navigational aids around the territory were down. Major roads were damaged or inaccessible. Utilities’ infrastructures were severely impacted and were made inoperable.

**Lessons Learned**

**Things that went well:**

The ESF11 Coordinator for FEMA Region II was offered invitational travel to attend the TTX in St. Thomas, USVI, which allowed for beneficial and productive networking with the USVI Emergency Management, USVI Government and Partner Agencies regarding feeding and the needs of household pets and service animals in disasters. Another area of success was emphasizing that mass care response needs to be a priority in the queue for transport to the Territory from the mainland, especially the human and material resources of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide sheltering and feeding. However, it would be a challenge to actually get the NGOs priority status in the federal transportation queue.

**Things that could use improvement:**

Although it’s said, “Don’t fight the scenario” the 72-hour limit of the Plan was the challenge. In a real event it would probably take 72 hours to obtain situational awareness and most of the Federal Partners’ response actions would be provided after this timeframe, and thus were not captured. In addition, until the airports and sea ports are operational, nothing will be “pushed” into the Territory and items that the Federal family thought they needed, might not be what the Territory would request, thus clogging up the logistical system. Also, only addressing ten core capabilities precluded other agencies from providing their capabilities for a catastrophic event. An internal challenge that was the ESF11 Coordinator didn’t have voicemail coverage on island, which wasn’t discovered until arrival back to mainland and the voicemails came through. Apparently anything outside of the continental US is considered international and one needs to request special coverage before travel.