GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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PRESS RELEASE

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VIDHS MASS CARE COMPLETES DISASTER PRE-STAGE SUPPLY DELIVERY TO WATER ISLAND FIREHOUSE

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – As part of its EFS-6 disaster readiness efforts, the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services (DHS) Mass Care team completed a water supply delivery run to the Water Island Firehouse on Thursday, marking the final FEMA designated shelter to receive pre-staging commodities for storm preparation.



Mark Wisser and Kevin Butler of Water Island Search and Rescue receive a case of water from with Edwin Monsanto, DHS Assistant Director of Capital Planning and Development.
Photo Credit: Yvette Henry - DHS

DHS Mass Care delivered ten cases of bottled water to Water Island Search and Rescue officers Kevin Butler and Mark Wisser, who arrived by boat to collect the supplies at the Waterfront in Downtown Charlotte Amalie. According to DHS Community Affairs Coordinator Yvette Henry, local supermarket chain The Market in both island Districts provided the cases of bottled water used to supply Mass Care's pre stage pods across the territory. "They really stepped up as a community partner and assisted us with acquiring the cases of water for shelters on all three islands." she said.

Henry added that the St. Croix and St. Thomas/St John shelters have already been pre staged with commodities. "This final delivery to Water Island today helps DHS Mass Care move forward in assisting our local and federal partners prepare a coordinated response in the event of a disaster."

The Virgin Island Department of Human Services is mandated to carry out Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6, under FEMA and VITEMA's Coordinated Disaster Response. ESF #6 refers to Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Shelters, and Human Services. It requires the agency to supervise the coordination and delivery of mass care, emergency assistance, sheltering, and human services during a disaster.

For general information, please visit the Department of Human Services website at www.dhs.gov.vi, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/usvidhs.The Department of Human Services (VIDHS) exists to provide social services to members in our community with diverse needs. In times of national uncertainty and hardship we act as a safety-net and exist to inspire hope and empower change through non-judgmental, quality delivery of needed services and resources. Please visit the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.gov.vi for more information.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure, and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov.

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