



## Partners in Prevention

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### **FEMA Mission Makes a Difference in USVI**

FLASH continues to support recovery efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) as part of the team formed and led by FEMA through STARR II to provide assistance and support to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR). The team assembled in the wake of 2017 Hurricane Irma devastation.

The multi-faceted Resilient Building Codes Mission is a critical component of the ongoing disaster recovery in the USVI. FEMA's assistance, working with the territory, includes updating building codes, staffing, and training, using EMAC Building Inspectors, launching a modern permitting system, and a prescriptive residential construction guide designed to the latest 2018 International Codes.

"We are all working together to ensure the success of the mission and the Territory's desire and efforts in making it all happen is commendable and worthy of recognition," said John Ingargiola, Lead Physical Scientist, Safety, Planning & Building Science Division, FEMA. "As it boldly states in FEMA's new Strategic Plan 'Disaster Resilience starts with Building Codes'."

Mike Rimoldi has deployed to the USVI several times to join the team and provide support, and stated, "We are proud to be a part of this effort that clearly aligns with our mission of strengthening homes and safeguarding families. I have been honored to serve on such an important team."