

USVI Storm Strong Program launches ahead of hurricane season

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A free hurricane hazard preparation program, USVI Storm Strong, will launch ahead of the 2019 hurricane season, bringing together private and public partners to develop a long-term, high-impact, community-focused hurricane preparation program with \$500,000 in funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Literacy Program.

"Hurricanes Irma and Maria were devastating storms that fundamentally changed our community. But, they also gave us a tremendous opportunity to think about how we can be more prepared for future storms," said Project Lead, Kristin Wilson Grimes, assistant professor at the University of the Virgin Islands Center for Marine and Environmental Studies.

The USVI Storm Strong Program engages middle- and high-school youth and their families in workshops designed to increase their personal abilities to be prepared for a major storm. It will launch on St. Thomas in May and will expand to St. John and St. Croix in later years.

The eight-week program will be held at the St. Thomas Recovery Team's offices on Kongens Gade from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, from May 8 to June 26. A light dinner will be provided for participants. For more information about the USVI Storm Strong Program visit www.usvistormstrong.org. Registration deadline is Tuesday.