GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Virgin Islands Strengthens Emergency Preparedness Through Joint Training

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Emergency response personnel in the Virgin Islands have completed specialised training to strengthen the Territory's disaster preparedness and emergency medical response capabilities.

The three-day training initiative was a collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the BVI Health Services Authority (BVIHSA) and other emergency response agencies.

Provided at no cost through the UKHSA Overseas Territories Programme, the training focused on Major Incident Management and First Response Emergency Care. Participants developed skills in emergency coordination, resource management, patient assessment, trauma care and triage.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ronald Georges highlighted the importance of the training in strengthening the Territory's emergency response systems.

“Major incidents demand coordinated action across multiple agencies. This training provides a valuable opportunity for healthcare professionals and emergency responders to learn from internationally recognized experts and strengthen the systems that protect lives during crises,” Dr. Georges stated.

Participants included representatives from the BVIHSA, Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, Virgin Islands Fire and Rescue Service, Department of Disaster Management, VISAR and Virgin Islands Airports Authority.

BVIHSA Emergency and Disaster Manager Mr. Rodney Brathwaite said, “This programme demonstrates the importance of collaboration in building a resilient emergency response system.”

The training was delivered by Mr. Tim Atherton, a Tactical Incident Commander and National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer with the West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust. The initiative was supported by Professor Ian Cumming, UK Ambassador for Health to the Overseas Territories and Chairman of the Trust.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to protecting and promoting the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands

through effective policies, sustainable programmes and strategic partnerships that support a safe, healthy and resilient society.

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