



**Hurricane IRMA Recovery Committee Report
UPDATE #2 Sept 12, 2017 – 10 AM EST**

Recovery efforts are now in evidence in many of our territories. Help has come from local and international sources.

Air and Sea Ports Open – some have limited traffic:

Various news agencies report the airport is open on *Providenciales, Turks & Caicos*
In *Tortola, BVI* DGE Delma and PDG Felix report: BVIDDM is not dealing with clearance centrally now. Airport Tower and Sea Port Authorities are back up so pilots/captains should radio in for instructions directly from the tower or BVI Customs as they normally would when approaching. PLEASE USE CAUTION as there will be increased traffic. Inform the authorities on what you are bringing and who you are taking out.

The Sea Port facility on Tortola opened yesterday for emergency supplies. For the time being all emergency supplies must be consigned to DDM.

BVI Airports Authority contact: satellite phone #881651477456

Port Purcell (sea port) contact: VHF 16

PDG Felix reports on TCI (From the Premier's update): CDEMA Teams were dispatched to hardest areas today - Grand Turk and South Caicos. Travel for them, PAHO, DFID, UNDAC was facilitated by TCIG today into Grand Turk.

Fortis got more lights up in Providenciales today. Water is also up in some areas.

Provo Boating Club did it again. Today they transported relief for TCIG into North and Middle Caicos. The residents there are getting more cell coverage around the Island. Arrangements were also made to have them take into relief items to Grand Turk.

Evacuees from Salt Cay are eager to return and check on their properties. TCIG is organising to get the Ferry Services back up and running.

Tropical will bring in the first boat of relief items into Provo tonight and then onto Grand Turk tomorrow.

Heard from Chairman of Caricom today. A Caricom Team will visit.

St Lucia has agreed to take a few of our Prisoners.

Passenger operations have resumed for international and domestic flights. Operations are manual for now.

Held first Press conference today. Thank you to Shaun Malcolm who streamed live and who traveled today with Team TCIG to South Caicos and Grand Turk.

Grand Turks remain understandably frustrated with lack of communication. RTC is up and running. There will be a Town Hall Meeting in GT tomorrow at 11am.

Began visiting Resorts this evening. Will speak with owners and guests. Tourists began to leave today.

Lots of help is coming from Regional and International Countries and Bodies.

Armed Forces, Police and Rotarian Assistance:

The Governor's Council has authorised the release of funds for emergency supplies and Disaster Chair Jacquie Heyliger reports that *Rotarians on St. Croix* worked diligently and obtained a 40ft

trailer of water (1680 cases) to the dock. Unfortunately, with such short notice Tropical could not fit it onto the boat to St. Thomas. It will go on the next available shipping. They are uncertain what day but it will be this week.

Regarding tarps, Home Depot is out and selling all to FEMA but we have contacted another vendor and awaiting availability and price.

We can get items to BVI through STT and will see about getting a trailer of items on the vessel with the one at the port.

The BBC reports 50 police officers have been dispatched to the UK's overseas territories and 500 UK troops have been sent to Anguilla, Turks and Caicos, and British Virgin Islands .

the ***British Military*** have landed in Tortola bringing supplies and are assisting with the plan for the restoration of power and water. DGE Delma advises that with the reinforcement of ***Special Forces from Bermuda and Cayman*** as well as a 6pm to 9am curfew law and order is being restored.

The Metro News UK reports that the UK supply ship RFA Mounts Bay is now in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) after being pictured delivering aid to ***Anguilla.***

The Source news reports Help is coming into St. John and St. Thomas at a fast-increasing pace and boats are starting to ferry the people stranded in shelters off to St. Croix and Puerto Rico.

Financial Support

Yesterday, your Council of Governors approved release of funds of USD\$20,000 for water and supplies to be shipped to St. Thomas, and to St John, The BVI, TCI, St Maarten, Anguilla, and St Barts. Any and all contributions made will assist us even further to make a bigger impact in these areas.

This is only to start our relief process as a district so we continue to raise funds from other sources. We need all Rotarians and Clubs to assist us going forward.

In addition to our own [District 7020 Hurricane Irma Fund](#), PDG Diana and PP Roger White are on the ground in England and are liaising with RGBI headquarters staff who have been incredibly responsive and helpful. A UK tax-beneficial fund was re-opened immediately after the storm hit the Caribbean. Since then, more than £50,000 has been donated. The total is increasing by the day and the latest information can be found at [Caribbean Hurricane Fund Appeal](#) .

The UK Government have budgeted £32 million of which £28 million has already been spent. BBC also reported on Monday, Boris Johnson said further support would soon be made available on top of the £32 million already pledged

Arrival of International Government Representatives

From The Netherlands, Dutch King Willem-Alexander arrived in monster hurricane Irma-ravaged St. Maarten on Monday together with Kingdom Relations Minister Ronald Plasterk. <https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/69290-dutch-king-willem-alexander-arrived>

From the UK, the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is to fly to the Caribbean and will visit the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41236692>

From France, President Emmanuel Macron will travel to battered Sint Maarten/Saint Martin on Tuesday (today) with goods and reinforcements,"

From the USA, President Donald Trump will visit the U.S. Virgin Islands “within the next six or seven days,” Governor Kenneth Mapp said during a press conference at Government House late Monday. Mr. Mapp said he had a conversation with the president today, and Mr. Trump expressed his full support for the territory in providing disaster relief, following the calamitous state Hurricane Irma left St. Thomas and St. John. <http://viconsortium.com/featured/trump-to-visit-u-s-virgin-islands-in-wake-of-irma-more-police-national-guard-arrive-on-st-john/>

Infrastructure and Services:

The BVI Platinum reports that *banks* are pushing to resume services and that the BVI will be receiving help from over 100 workers across the Caribbean, to help with restoring *electricity*, which was knocked out by Hurricane Irma

The *St. Thomas Source* reports: Areas that have received power include portions of Savan, Back Street, Garden Street, Longpath, Government Hill, Education Street, portions of the Oswald Harris Court and Paul M. Pearsons Garden housing communities, Charlotte Kimmelman Cancer Institute and Store Tvaer Gade

<http://stthomassource.com/content/2017/09/11/wapa-makes-progress-on-power-water-restoration/>

President-Elect Kim from *Turks & Caicos* reports:

Premier Sharlene Cartwright Robinson reports “The general public is advised that the utilities and communication companies continue to work to assess the extent of damages to their networks. Additional repair crews have begun to arrive and they are arranging visits to all islands as a matter of priority.

FORTIS Crews have begun work along the Leeward Highway and has listed the following areas as priority; Five Cays, Blue Hills, Downtown, Kew Town, South Dock, Grace Bay and the Airport.

DIGICEL Teams along with helicopters has begun to arrive in the TCI and will make trips to other islands to assess the damages and to restore communications to their customers

FLOW has begun country wide assessment of damages to their network and are sending teams to the family islands to begin repairs for the restoration of services to its customers.

Provo water company will continue to provide periodic access to water supply in select communities. Blue Hills, Wheeland and the far end of Chalk Sound continue to face challenges with water supply due to extensive damages along the network in those areas.

This is a general public announcement. Persons should look out for specific information released by the respective utilities and communication companies for up to date information Please share this message with family and friend to keep all informed. We are committed to rebuild TCI together.

Rotaract District Leadership is forming a Team to assist Clubs with exchange of information relating to ways they can assist in the coming weeks. Rotaractors can reach out to their respective ADRRs or directly to DRRE Leah Lowe - leahclowe@gmail.com with any area updates or questions.

Other Reports and Messages

Mary Beth Arceneaux Dionne, former 7020 Rotarian writes from *New Orleans*:

WE WANT AND NEED TO HELP our beloved, devastated islands. Would you please consider how we might partner with Rotary in Louisiana, and Rotary in St. Thomas, to help

there? I do know that District 6020 has been considered "international" for purposes of matching grant funding, so whatever funds can be raised can be multiplied. There is already a District 7020 disaster recovery fund set up, and there may also be ways to help on a more localized basis through club to club outreach.

Please think about how we can do this, and know that Fern and I, and Spencer, are ready and willing to do whatever we can to help make an event, or series of events, happen. I'm including Spencer, Marston, and others on this message too. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Peggy Simmonds in St. Thomas reports. We need to set up some type of Rotary Emergency Supply distribution in St Thomas. I called a meeting of my club via Radio Station WSTA for tomorrow (Monday 11th) at 1:30 downtown at the My Brother's Workshop Soup Kitchen on Back Street near the Dutch Reformed Church. Do not know how to coordinate with Other Rotarians. We have no generator so Rotary East President Tim Hall had helped me cutting trees, hot shower at his house up the street since has a generator but had little to none cell coverage with Sprint. My first time on internet just now!!! I have AT&T My cell is 787-691-3218. Peggy Simmonds, President Rotary Club of St Thomas II. Many of our members including me have lost all or part of our roofs. No roof Tarps that I can find. Very limited food distribution (yesterday three 15 oz of water and 3 army rations MRE's). Pretty bad food but we ate it!!! Please advise How I should proceed via text

BVI Update from DGE Delma. Being from one of the affected areas I am heartened by the outpouring of love and support. I am more impressed than ever before by the power of Rotary and it's ability to quickly mobilize resources in times of need.

I did not imagine the BVI could look as it does now, as with Hugo, Marilyn and Louis damage in the BVI was minimal compared to our neighbours and nothing compared to Irma. Cleanup has commenced in earnest by communities and by Government.

With the reinforcement of special forces from Bermuda and Cayman as well as a 6pm to 9am curfew law and order is being restored.

The Port facility has opened today for emergency supplies. There is a cargo vessel there now. For the time being all emergency supplies must be consigned to DDM.

The main compound of the largest food supplier RTW is intact but at least 4 of our outer stores were looted, as were many businesses on Road Town. I think 2 other large grocery stores are intact. Hence, supplies of basic needs are short.

DDM is overwhelmed but seem unwilling to accept help from "civilians" as we are referred to. Plan to seriously lobby Premier and Governor for immediate change here.

Communication is still very problematic. Thank God for Digicel.

Please convey the love of BVI to neighbours in the other affected areas.

We will all get through this and are grateful for all the help and support.

Our Irma Recovery fund will be managed by Rotary's DNA-RAG Rotarian Action Group, a 501(c)3, in cooperation with District 7020's Disaster Recovery Committee.

To contribute please wire funds to:

Name of Account: Disaster Network of Assistance - Rotarian Action Group, Inc. dba "DNA-RAG"

Account #: 12 1682 8928

Swift Code: PNCCUS33

Physical address of Bank: PNC Bank, 9033 Glades Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33433
Contact: PDG Phil Lustig, Vice Chair, Tel: 1 561 212 6554 Email: phil.lustig3@gmail.com
Ensure payee instructions entered for: "District 7020 Hurricane Irma Fund"

For further information on District 7020's Hurricane Irma Recovery contact:

District 7020 Hurricane Irma Recovery Chair - PDG Jeremy Hurst
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District 7020 Hurricane Irma Recovery Vice Chair – PDG Paul Brown
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District 7020 Disaster Chair: Rtn. Jacqueline Heyliger
Email: jjheylinger7020@hotmail.com Tel: +1 340 277 3201