



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 535 – 2023

**ORDER AND PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
RESCINDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
DUE TO A FIRE AT THE BOVONI LANDFILL**

WHEREAS, Title 23, Section 1005(a), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the responsibility for meeting the dangers to the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands and its people presented by emergencies or major disasters; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2023, the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services (VIFEMS) issued an urgent alert regarding a vegetative debris fire at the Bovoni Landfill on the Island of St. Thomas.

WHEREAS, as of September 18, 2023, Bovoni Landfill had been burning for six (6) days with smoke which could be seen and smelled for miles, and the resulting poor air quality caused schools and businesses to close; and

WHEREAS, Title 23, Section 1005(d), Virgin Islands Code, vests in the Governor the authority to declare a State of Emergency when it is determined that an emergency or major disaster has occurred or is imminent; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2023, the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands declared a State of Emergency in the Territory to mitigate the health risks of such a large and sustained fire, and to enable external assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact; and

WHEREAS, through the dedicated efforts of the VIFEMS firefighters, as well as the Virgin Islands National Guard and Puerto Rico National Guard, and with the assistance and collaboration of other government agencies and volunteers from the community, after 21 days of active burn, the Bovoni Landfill Fire is now extinguished. The VIFEMS and the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) have determined that the Bovoni Landfill no longer presents a risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the residents of the Territory.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority granted to me by Section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and afore-cited sections of the Virgin Islands Code, do hereby DECLARE as follows:

It is ORDERED that the State of Emergency declared on September 18, 2023, by Executive Order 532-2023 is hereby terminated effective at 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 17th day of October, 2023.



Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor