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USCG discourages private boaters departing the continental U.S. from transiting to ports affected by Hurricane Irma & Hurricane Maria



The Coast Guard Cutter James serves as a command and control platform in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Sept. 26. The cutter's crew deployed to aid in Hurricane Maria response operations and the ship's communications capabilities are being used to help first responders coordinate efforts.

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Woodall, U.S. Coast Guard District 7

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Photo and Information Provided By USCG Published Sept. 30, 2017 at 7:37 p.m.

MIAMI -- The United States Coast Guard discourages private boaters departing the continental United States from transiting to ports affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

While volunteers and aid are needed and welcomed, it is recommended that these efforts be coordinated through FEMA, who has requested volunteers to go through www.nvoad.org. Uncoordinated volunteer efforts can hinder the response and impede a challenging logistics situation on the ground in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The outpouring of volunteers and desire to help our fellow Americans following Hurricanes Irama and Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands is nothing short of inspiring," said Capt. Ladonn Allen, chief of prevention for the Coast Guard Seventh District. "But we discourage people from entering affected ports, many of which are still littered with wreckage and debris, particularly outside the federally maintained channels. Individuals entering unfamiliar ports or attempting to bring supplies without coordinating through volunteer organizations that are working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its partners are putting themselves in danger."

National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster is an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters; provide a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; and foster more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster. Find more information at www.nvoad.org.

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USCG Helps In Puerto Rico



The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Venturous, a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida, arrives to deliver aid near the port of Ponce, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017 in Ponce, Puerto Rico. The crew delivered food and supplies to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local law enforcement officials who will distribute the aid to the victims of Hurricane Maria.

Click [HERE](#) to see the video.

U.S. Coast Guard video by Petty Officer 1st Class Michael De Nyse

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About 10 days ago, the people of Puerto Rico experienced the devastation of Hurricane Maria as it swept across the island, killing at least 16 people. The people have been without electricity. The 3.4 million people in this United States territory search for water and food. They seek fuel for generators. Help is coming in now, but it will be a long time before normal island life returns.

Here are two websites to help direct aid toward recovery in Puerto Rico (Just Click On The Names To Go To Those Websites):

[Global Giving](#)

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[UNICEF](#)

Published Sept. 28, 2017 at 10:47 p.m.