



News Release

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**** UPDATE ****

CEKA Runway Reopened after Temporary Closure

"Repairs to a portion of the Cyril E. King Airport runway damaged by jet blast this morning were completed around 11 a.m. today and the entire runway was available as of 11:12 a.m.," announced Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director Kenn Hobson.

VIPA closed the first 1,200 feet of CEKA's only runway around 9 a.m. today after a departing American Airlines jet displaced fresh pavement that was placed on the runway during VIPA's runway overlay project this morning. Hobson said that it had rained earlier this morning and this left a portion of the fresh pavement wet. That portion was dislodged by jet blast from an American Airline jet as it departed this morning.

Smaller aircraft were allowed to depart and land at CEKA during the closure from 9 o'clock this morning, but an 8:30 a.m. Delta flight bound for Atlanta was delayed at CEKA until about 11:28 a.m. VIPA does not have any other reports of any major delays of flights as a result of the closure at this time. Hobson again apologized for the disruption, but restated that the closure was necessary to ensure the safety of the aircraft and passengers onboard.