



# News Release

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## **Chemical Gas Storage Prohibited at Gallows Bay Marine Facility**

The Virgin Islands Port Authority hereby advises the public that **effective August 1, 2015**, tanks used in the transportation of petrochemical material in any form will not be allowed to be stored at the Gallows Bay Marine Facility on St. Croix. VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dowe said Port Authority officials concluded that the storage of gasoline cylinders or tanks containing petro chemical, liquid propane or natural gas at the Gallows Bay Marine Facility poses a serious risk to the surrounding community.

Operators berthing vessels at the facility with general cargo and a maximum of three gas tanks will be allowed to unload and transfer the tanks from the vessels by trucks. The tanks must be removed from the facility immediately. Staging of gas tanks at the Gallows Bay Marine Facility will be prohibited, said Dowe.

The Port Authority has designated the Gordon A. Finch Molasses Pier as the facility for the staging of all gas tanks and the unloading of more than three tanks. The Molasses Pier is located on the south shore of St. Croix, adjacent to the Wilfred ‘Bomba’ Allick Port & Transshipment Center (the Container Port).

**(more)**

This issue was magnified since the manner in which fuel was procured for St. Croix changed drastically after the closure of the HOVENSA refinery, Dowe said. Fuel is now being imported to the island.

Dowe said the Port Authority recognizes that this change will cause some inconveniences to the shipping companies and businesses that rely on gas being shipped to St. Croix. However, this decision was made in the best interest of the public to prevent a tragedy. He added that VIPA has conferred with the heads of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, VI Fire Services, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, the US Coast Guard, and the Office of the St. Croix Administrator. These agencies agree with VIPA's decision to store gas tanks at the Gordon A. Finch Molasses Pier in the interest of public safety.

This announcement gives shipping companies thirty days' notice to make any necessary preparations for the change in VIPA's operations policy to prohibit storing gas at the Gallows Bay Marine Facility, Dowe said. For more information, the public may contact VIPA's St. Croix Marine Manager, John Payne, at (340) 778-3131 or [JPayne@viport.com](mailto:JPayne@viport.com).

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