CCRIF SPC
The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility

British Virgin Islands

Earthquake

4 May 2025

Preliminary Event Briefing

5 May 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred at 06:58:24 (UTC) on 4 May 2025, 26.44km (16.43 mi) N of The Settlement, British Virgin Islands; 54.94km (34.14 mi) NNE of Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands and 61.32km (38.10 mi) NNE of Spanish Town, British Virgin Islands. Initial estimates from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) located the epicentre of the event at 18.986°N, 64.316°W, and at a depth of 20.0 km (12.42 mi), Figure 1.

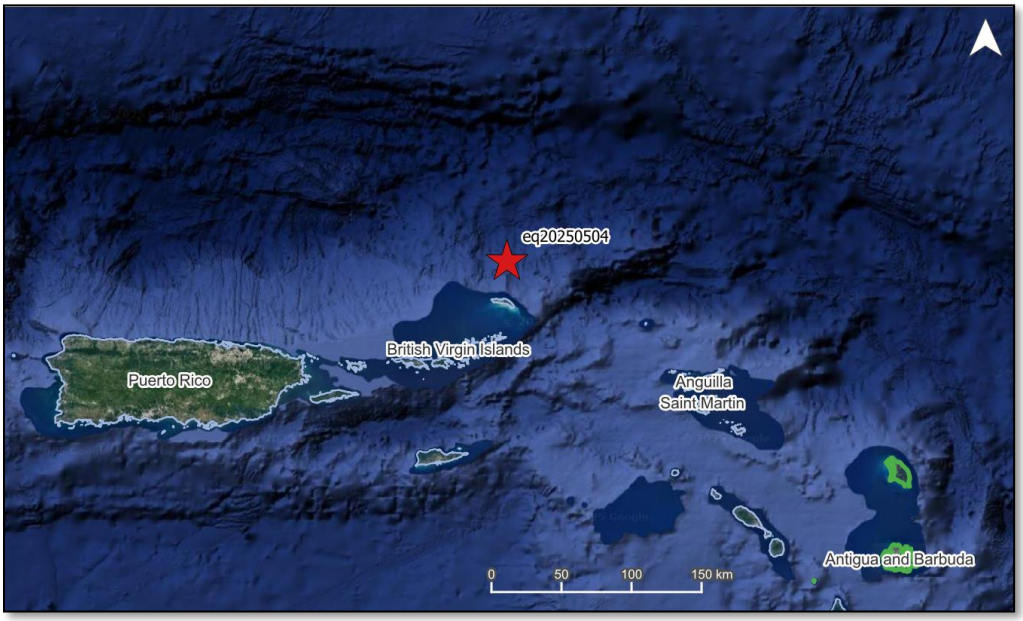

Figure 1 Information from the Earthquake Hazards Program of the United States Geological Survey regarding the earthquake event on 4 May 2025. Source: USGS[1]

The British Virgin Islands was the only CCRIF member country where peak ground acceleration, computed with the SPHERA[2] earthquake (EQ) model, was greater than 0.03 g for this earthquake. Preliminary runs of the SPHERA EQ model for peak ground acceleration produced government losses for the British Virgin Islands, which were below the Attachment Point of the British Virgin Islands' Earthquake policy and therefore no payout under the policy is due.

However, conditions are fulfilled to activate the Aggregate Deductible Cover (ADC)[3] policy endorsement: while modelled losses are less than the Earthquake policy's Attachment Point (AP),

[1] Download Event KML, United States Geological Survey, review date: 5 May 2025, available at: https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/feed/v1.0/detail/pr2025124000.kml

[2] System for Probabilistic Hazard Evaluation and Risk Assessment.

[3] The ADC policy endorsement is activated under either of the following conditions: 1) if the modelled loss value is between 30% and 50% of the Attachment Point and a Disaster Alert is issued by ReliefWeb within 7 days after the event 2) if the modelled loss value is between 50% and 100% of the Attachment Point of the country's earthquake policy.

the losses are greater than 50 percent of the APand therefore, an ADC payment is due to the Government of the Virgin Islands.

2 CCRIF MODEL OUTPUTS

Under CCRIF's loss calculation protocol, a report using the CCRIF SPHERA model is produced for any earthquake with a magnitude greater than or equal to 5.0 that occurs within the region monitored by CCRIF and which generates a peak ground acceleration of at least 0.03 g in one or more grid cells of at least one CCRIF member country.

Based on the SPHERA footprint for the magnitude 5.6 earthquake, peak ground accelerations of up to 0.2 g were estimated in the British Virgin Islands. The peak ground acceleration footprint is the output from the CCRIF SPHERA EQ model. Figure 2 shows the regions that were affected following the magnitude 5.6 earthquake.

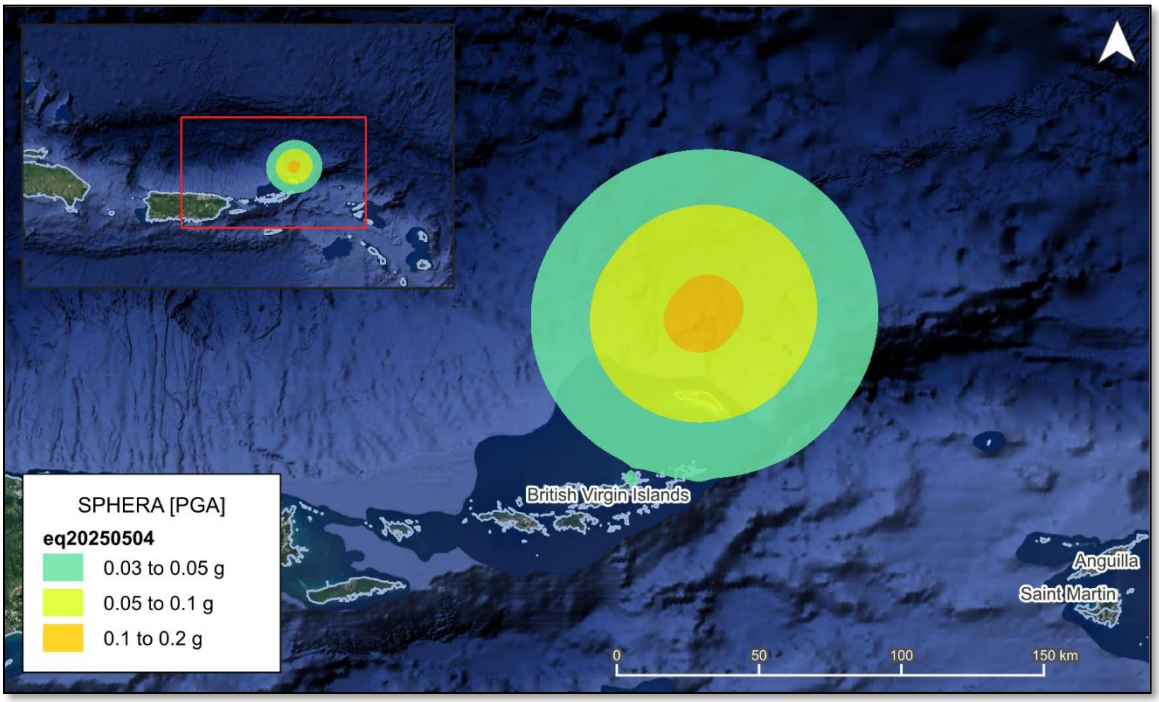

Figure 2 Map showing the peak ground acceleration in British Virgin Islands computed using the SPHERA model following the magnitude 5.6 earthquake[4] on 4 May, 2025.
Source: *USGS & CCRIF SPHERA EQ Model*.

[4] United States Geological Survey (USGS), review date: 4 May 2025, available at: M 5.6 - 88 km NE of Cruz Bay, U.S. Virgin Islands

3 IMPACTS

At the time of writing this report, there was no available information on damage or loss in the British Virgin Islands due to this earthquake. There are no initial reports of damage or casualties due to this earthquake.

According to the USGS "*Did You Feel It?*" online tool, there was no report in this online tool from residents in the British Virgin Islands.

4 TRIGGER POTENTIAL

Preliminary runs of the SPHERA EQ model for peak ground acceleration produced government losses for the British Virgin Islands, which were below the Attachment Point of the British Virgin Islands' Earthquake policy and no payout is due under the underlying policy. However, the Aggregate Deductible Cover endorsement was activated because the modelled loss was greater than 50% of the Attachment Point. Therefore, a payout of US$128,390.27 is due under the Aggregate Deductible Cover endorsement.

For additional information, please contact CCRIF SPC at: pr@ccrif.org