On Tuesday 8th September, the US Virgin Islands acting Governor Osbert Potter, declared a State Of Emergency in the US Virgin Islands, following an upsurge in shootings in St. Croix. This does not include a curfew.

The acting Governor has made an appeal to residents to help the police to stem the current wave of violence, particularly regarding gun crime over the last few months, which has witnessed a rise in retaliatory shootings between street gangs.

The state of emergency will remain in place until otherwise ordered by Governor Kenneth Mapp, who is currently out of the country.

With the implementation of the state of emergency, checkpoints will be established, the leave of all police officers has been cancelled and others will be placed on 12-hour shifts.

Gun related crimes are a growing problem in many of the Caribbean countries and those planning to visit would be advised to seek advice about security issues and training prior to travel.