



# WAPA cleanup being monitored by 1000

investigating.

is the proper disposal of contaminated soil. Based on regular site assessments, he said he is satisfied so far that WAPA is taking adequate steps to dispose of the soil.

V.I. environmental protection division officials said they were notified by WAPA immediately about the spill.

The Coast Guard said it is not

poolled resources to better monitor the progress of the cleanup.

The spill, which occurred Oct. 30, involved an estimated 10,663 gallons of fuel oil. WAPA maintains that it was caused by a judgment error by one of its employees.

Carlos O'Neill of the EPA in Puerto Rico said there's no investigation planned. Their main concern

## Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Authorities are keeping close watch on efforts by the V.I. Water and Power Authority to clean up a four-month-old oil spill in Krum Bay.

The San Juan office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard have

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## Tax amnesty brings results

Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS — Virgin Islands real property owners have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in delinquent property taxes during the first month of the government's tax amnesty, according to Finance Commissioner Rudolph E. Krigger.

Krigger said he will have a more precise figure later this week.

The two-month amnesty began in February in an effort to collect an estimated \$20 million in unpaid property taxes.

Property owners have until April 22 to pay delinquent pre-1992 taxes voluntarily without interest or penalties. Krigger said he has authority to waive penalties on delinquent 1992 taxes if the property owner can show good cause for being late.

# LEAD: Older homes at greater risk due to lead solder on copper pipes

## How to reduce lead

- Flush your tap. Run cold water for 15 to 30 seconds before using the water for drinking or cooking. The longer water sits in the home's plumbing system, the more lead seeps in. Water is precursors in the islands, but residents can conserve by using the flush water to wash dishes or water plants. It also helps to fill several large bottles once a tap has been cleaned.
- Draw cold water for cooking. Hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold. If you need hot water for cooking, draw it cold and check home plumbing. To flush out any loose lead solder, remove the faucet strainers and let the water run three to five minutes. A licensed plumber can check the pipes for lead fittings. If your house was built after 1986, it shouldn't have lead solders.
- Check wiring. If grounding wires are attached to the pipes, corrosion may be greater. Have an electrician check them.

## TO HAVE WATER TESTED

- Contact one of the following laboratories. Tests cost about \$30.
- Suburban Water Testing Lab (800) 433-6595
- Water Test (800) 425-8378
- National Testing Lab (800) 458-3330

Wernicke said WAPA is considering adding calcium and magnesium to the distilled water to combat the problem.

# FIRE: Resident calls firefighters' work 'impressive'

Sgt. Eugenio Guadalupe, "protecting life and property."

Guadalupe said the fire scorched 50 to 60 acres but no buildings were damaged, and no injuries were reported. Two Robie Cat sailboats pulled up on the beach at Chenay Bay west of the resort were slightly damaged.

Members of the V.I. Fire Service also surrounded the house. "They were very impressive," said Laura Muirmann, forger

(Continued from page 1)

to see this fire under control. Then the wind shifted.

"It changed just a little and slowed down," said soot-covered homeowner forger Muirmann. "It started burning backward, and then

## 'impressive'

were relieved about 4 p.m., and was two more hours before a fresh crew could get the fire under control.

"This was a mean fire," Guadalupe said.

"This one fought us back. In the past, we've simply let brush fire