



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Buck Island Reef  
National Monument  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

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## Buck Island National Monument News Release

**Release Date:** Immediate; March 22, 2019

**Contact:** Gabriel Laurencin, LE Officer

### Potential Fire Hazard Due to Severely Dry Conditions At Buck Island Reef NM

Buck Island Reef National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, has been protected by federal legislation since 1961. Thousands of people visit the park each year to enjoy the natural beauty, relax on the beach, enjoy the picnic areas and snorkel the magnificent coral reef. The island is home to several protected and endangered plant and animal species including the St. Croix Ground Lizard.

Due to the lack of rainfall island vegetation is extremely dry creating conditions prone to brush fires. **To protect our visitors and wildlife NPS is temporarily prohibiting fires in picnic area grills to prevent potential brush fires. Grills will have signage prohibiting fires and use. This temporary prohibition is authorized under 36 Code of Federal Regulations 1.5 Public Use Limits. Fires on Buck Island Reef are prohibited at all times outside the NPS provide grills at the picnic areas.**

NPS will monitor the vegetation conditions weekly. Once the island receives rainfall the vegetation typically recovers quickly and the temporary prohibition will be lifted. **We ask all of our visitors to be conscientious and cooperate with this regulation to ensure the protection and preservation of the park and its natural and cultural resources.**

A few reminders: The Park is open every day from sunrise to sunset. There are two picnic areas with restrooms, picnic tables, and grills. Buck Island has no trash facilities and has a "Pack it in, pack it out" policy, so please take all trash off the island with you. To protect sea turtles that nest on the beaches the island is closed after sunset. Boats anchoring overnight in the designated anchorage must keep noise and lights to a minimum. Please contact the park for further information regarding overnight stays in the anchorage.

**For further information, please contact Park Headquarters at 340-773-1460 or Law Enforcement Officer Gabriel Laurencin at 340-773-1460 x247.** The National Park Service thanks all of our community members and friends for 57 years of support for Buck Island Reef NM. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 417 National Parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. [www.nps.gov/buis](http://www.nps.gov/buis)



