Corals
Are actually living animals, contact can cause severe
damage to the coral and
injury or infection to you.
Prevention:
Always stay a safe distance
from the reef, do not kick or
step on corals while snorkeling, stand only in sand.
Symptoms: Cuts and abrasions.
Remedy: Clean wound thoroughly.

Enjoy the Beautiful Waters of the Virgin Islands
National Park

“Look But Don’t Touch!”

Help us protect park resources include:
- Remove all trash when you leave.
- Do not feed fish or wildlife.
- Campfires are prohibited.
- Pets off leash or on beaches are prohibited.
- Do not collect shells or rocks.
- Do not touch or stand not on coral or rocks

For your Safety
- Do not leave valuables unattended.
- No surfing or skim boarding in designated
  swim areas.
- Always wear reef safe sunscreen.
- Body surfing is not advised.
- Vehicles parked on roadway will be
  ticketed/towed.

Respect Others
- No smoking on beaches.
- No glass on Beach—cut feet spoil
  vacations.
- Loud music is prohibited.
- Nudity is prohibited.

In case of EMERGENCY DIAL 911

From Cell Phone DIAL (340) 776-9110

To report a Lionfish sighting call
(340) 201-2342

Things to Avoid While in the Water.

Virgin Islands National Park and Virgin Islands Coral
Reef National Monument offer wonderful underwater
adventures.

This brochure describes some common hazards, as
well as precautions and remedies should you come in
contact with one of these creatures or plants.

Should you wish to learn more, a simple Internet
search will provide a wealth of information.

Lionfish
Have Poisonous venom
tipped spines.
Prevention: Do not approach.
Symptoms: Swelling, and
intense pain. If systemic
allergic reaction occurs
seek immediate medical
attention.
Remedy: Soak area in hot
water and seek medical
attention.

Jellyfish & Sea
Wasps
Not often found in
waters here. Avoidance
is the best practice. Soft
gelatinous bodies with
long stinging tentacles
that discharge when
touched.
Symptoms: Mild stinging, itching and redness to
severe allergic reaction and anaphylactic shock.
Remedy: Tentacles must be removed from skin or
will continue to fire. Bare hands should not be used
to remove tentacles. Vinegar may relieve the pain.
**Scorpionfish**
Excellent camouflage helps them blend into seagrass, coral reef and rocky habitats. Venomous spines line the dorsal, anal and pectoral fins. 
**Prevention:** Shuffle feet when entering the water and not touching the sea floor may prevent injury from a Scorpionfish.

**Symptoms:** Swelling, intense pain. Seek immediate medical attention if allergic reaction occurs.

**Remedy:** Soaking in hot water may alleviate the pain.

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**Fire Coral**
Have strong stinging cells and are either blade-like (shown) or encrusting (flat), and are mustard-yellow to dark orange, often with white edges.

**Prevention:** Do not touch any corals.

**Symptoms:** Painful burning sensation, rash, redness, tingling, itching, welts and allergic reactions.

**Remedy:** Rubbing alcohol or meat tenderizer may help alleviate the pain.

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**Touch-me-not sponges**
Brown or orange, they have fiberglass like spines which contain toxin that imbed in the skin if touched.

**Prevention:** Do not touch any marine life.

**Symptoms:** Burning, itching, swelling and redness.

**Remedy:** Spicules may be removed with adhesive tape. Vinegar may help relieve the burning sensation.

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**Fire/Bristle Worm**
Commonly found in sea grass, on or under boulders, and coral. Thousands of fine venom-filled, needle-like bristles can break off and become embedded in the skin.

**Prevention:** Do not touch marine life.

**Symptoms:** Pain, burning, itching and redness.

**Remedy:** Bristles may be removed by using adhesive tape. Ammonia may help relieve pain.

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**Sharks**
Shark attacks are extremely rare in the Virgin Islands.

**Prevention:** Avoid waters being fished or where fish are being cleaned. Do not swim at night or at dusk and dawn. Remove shiny jewelry and do not enter the water if you are bleeding. Move out of the area or exit the water if a shark approaches too close, makes sudden movements or appears agitated.

**Remedy:** Seek medical care immediately if bitten.

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**Long-spined sea urchins**
Found in reefs, seagrass beds or on rock piles on the sea floor, have long spines which puncture the skin if stepped on or touched. The spines are usually absorbed in a few days. Do not try to pull spines out. May have to be removed by a doctor.

**Prevention:** Avoid any contact with urchins.

**Symptoms:** Redness, pain and swelling.

**Remedy:** Soak the wound in hot water. Vinegar may help dissolve the spines.