



ROYAL ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES POLICE FORCE

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PRESS RELEASE

**SVG COAST GUARD RESPONDS TO MARITIME EMERGENCY ON
ANNIVERSARY OF LA SOUFRIÈRE ERUPTION**

As Vincentians paused to reflect on the anniversary of the La Soufrière volcanic eruption on April 9, 2021, a day that changed the course of our nation's history, they were reminded that the spirit of duty, courage, and unity that emerged in that time continues to shine through the daily efforts of those who serve and protect.

In the face of that historic crisis, when fiery ash and pyroclastic flows threatened lives and livelihoods, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coast Guard Service stood at the forefront of the emergency response. On April 8, 2021, just minutes after the Evacuation Order was issued, the Coast Guard activated its Maritime Evacuation Plan and, working in concert with ferry operators, members of the fishing community, and the vessel "Vincy Pride," carried out a seamless operation that led to the safe evacuation of over 2,100 residents from the Red Zone. Their actions in those critical hours became a symbol of unity, swift coordination, and deep commitment to national service.

That same commitment was once again evident earlier today, on the morning of April 9, 2025. As the country paused to remember the events of the 2021 eruption, the Coast Guard remained ever vigilant. At approximately 0315 hours (3:15 AM), a Mayday distress call was received from the sailing vessel (SV) "Milagro," which was en route from Grenada and had begun taking

on water. Without hesitation, two Coast Guard vessels were dispatched to the scene, located thirty-two nautical miles (32 nm) west of Bequia.

Upon arrival, Coast Guard officers discovered two persons aboard: one American and one Canadian. Despite joint efforts by the crew of "SV Milagro" and the Coast Guard personnel to dewater the vessel, the situation remained critical. Local tug operator Captain Bim was contacted and promptly towed the distressed vessel to Ottley Hall Marina for repairs.

Reflecting on the Coast Guard's role in both emergencies, Commander Deon Henry (Ag.) said, "Even as we continue to rebuild from the events of 2021, the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force and the Coast Guard's steady presence reminds us that true service extends beyond emergencies. It lives on in our watchfulness and determination to protect lives and ensure safety at sea."

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