

Emergency Message #4 – Hurricane Irene Update

August 24, 2011

This emergency message is being issued by the U.S. Embassy in Nassau to update U.S. citizens residing or travelling in The Bahamas or Turks and Caicos regarding Hurricane Irene.

On August 25-26, the U.S. Embassy in Nassau will be closed except for emergency services to U.S. citizens.

As of 2:00 p.m., the Lynden Pindling International Airport in Nassau is closed with tentative plans to reopen on Thursday, August 25, at 5:00 p.m. Hurricane Irene has become a strong category 3 hurricane with sustained winds at 120-125 mph. It is possible that the storm will strengthen still more on Thursday.

U.S. citizens in the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos should have already completed any necessary actions to ensure their safety, and should remain indoors in a secure dwelling or shelter during this hurricane. Small craft operators in should remain in port. U.S. citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events, weather and marine forecasts, and monitor the [National Hurricane Center](#) and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. For official information from the Bahamian and TCI governments regarding weather conditions, please monitor ZNS or other local media outlets.

If you are in need of emergency consular assistance, the U.S. Embassy has set up a temporary emergency e-mail address and phone number to field inquiries regarding American citizens in The Bahamas. Inquires by e-mail should be sent to [BahamasAMCITS@state.gov](mailto: BahamasAMCITS@state.gov) or by telephone: 242-323-7871.

The please send an e-mail to a special box ([BahamasAMCITS@state.gov](mailto: BahamasAMCITS@state.gov)). In your message, please provide the following information for each family member or American traveler:

- * Full Name
- * Passport Number
- * Date and of Birth
- * The same as above for each family
- * Name of Hotel if you are staying in a Hotel
- * Name of Island/Location on Island

We ask that you provide as much information as possible regarding your physical location (address, hotel name, etc.) and contact information (home phone, cell phone, email address, etc.) within The Bahamas. In your e-mail, please state if we may release your information to people who may contact us regarding your welfare so we know how to field any possible telephone inquiries.

As we prepare for the possibility of communications being interrupted, the U.S. Embassy encourages all American citizens to try to contact your family and friends via email, SMS

texting, and social media (e.g., FaceBook, My Space, Twitter, etc) that your loved ones may use or by telephone to let them know your location and a local phone number before any interruption to services occurs. If communications are interrupted, your family and friends can email the U.S. Embassy at the following email to inquire about your continued safety:

BahamasAMCITS@state.gov

If unable to e-mail, they may also call a special emergency number set up at the U.S. Embassy Bahamas to field telephone inquiries regarding American citizens during or after Hurricane Irene. That number is 1-242-323-7871.

Other possible ways to inform your family of your situation is via “Google Person Finder.” If you are in The Bahamas, you can post messages about your whereabouts. A person looking for you can type in your name to find out if you are safe. Similarly, your family or friends may have posted a message that they are looking for you.

Please continue to monitor the Embassy's website, <http://nassau.usembassy.gov/>, for updated information.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on our “[Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go](#)” webpage, and on the “[Natural Disasters](#)” page of the [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#). Updated information on travel in The Bahamas may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Please continue to monitor the Embassy’s website for updated information.

For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please contact the U.S. Citizens Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy’s Consular Section, located 42 Queen Street (across from the British Colonial Hilton Hotel), Nassau; telephone: 242-323-7871; ACS unit fax: 242-356-7174; e-mail: ACSN@state.gov; web page: <http://nassau.usembassy.gov>.

U. S. Embassy
Nassau, Bahamas