

## **Security Message: Armed Robberies in Freeport, Grand Bahama**

November 8, 2013

The U.S. Embassy in Nassau advises U.S. citizens residing in and traveling to Freeport, Grand Bahama, to be aware of their surroundings and remain on heightened alert to avoid being a victim of crime. On the night of November 5, two men robbed two U.S. citizens in their hotel room; one of the men carried a machete (or “cutlass”). There have been two prior incidents this year of an assailant armed with a machete robbing U.S. tourists. On September 22, a couple was robbed at machete-point in the afternoon on Barbary Beach. Previously, on June 1, another couple was robbed on Barbary Beach under the same circumstances. In both cases, the single assailant held a machete to the throat of one of the victims and demanded cash.

Armed robbery remains a major threat facing U.S. citizens in The Bahamas, including in areas frequented by tourists on New Providence Island. In the past year, a number of U.S. citizens have fallen victim to armed robbery. The Royal Bahamas Police Force issued a message earlier this year citing concerns about the increased number of armed robberies in Nassau. From January 1–May 27, 2013, there were 457 reported armed robberies and 928 house break-ins, according to statistics available on the [Royal Bahamas Police Force website](http://royalbahamaspolice.org/Statistics/). Crime statistics for specific islands, as well as all of The Bahamas, can be viewed at: <http://royalbahamaspolice.org/Statistics/>.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

If you are the victim of a crime abroad (including the loss or theft of a U.S. passport), you should immediately contact the local police (dial “911”). Contact with the Embassy should be made as soon as possible thereafter.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in The Bahamas enroll in the [Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don’t have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department’s [website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country](#)

[Specific Information for The Bahamas](#). For additional information, refer to [“A Safe Trip Abroad”](#) on the State Department’s website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#) and [Google play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

In The Bahamas, the Embassy is located at 42 Queen Street in downtown Nassau, and can be reached at 242-322-1181.