

**Security Message for U.S. Citizens
U.S. Embassy Belmopan, Belize
May 18, 2012**

The U.S. Embassy reminds all U.S. citizens in Belize to drive cautiously and at a safe speed when traveling on the Western highway and other highways in Belize. On May 16, 2012, a fatal motor vehicle accident occurred on mile marker 44 of the Western Highway, killing four people and leaving a fifth in critical condition. Initial police investigations list the slippery road conditions as one of several contributing factors in the crash. A similar accident occurred on May, 15, 2012, without fatalities.

Historically, there have been numerous fatalities on the Western Highway, usually linked to a host of factors including excessive speed, weather conditions, lane spacing and poor construction. The various areas of wear and asphalt paving along the Western Highway contribute to changes in traction and vehicular maneuverability.

The most hazardous portions of the Western Highway, near the Belmopan city limits, are along mile marker 44 and extend for approximately four miles. Travelling west from Belize City, this section is easily distinguished by a large "Drive Safely" sign on the eastbound side of the roadway and a color change in the pavement. Travelling east from Belmopan, this same stretch of road is identifiable by the driveway entrance and sign for the Hotel Rio Coco.

All U.S. citizens should drive defensively at all times, maintain adequate distance between their vehicle and the vehicle in front of them and pay particular attention to oncoming traffic attempting to pass slower vehicles. The U.S. Embassy strongly advises U.S. citizens to avoid driving on Belize's highways at night whenever possible and to take extreme caution during times of limited visibility.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, Travel Warnings, and health information resources can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada or, for inquirers in other areas, by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00am to 8:00pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens living in or traveling to Belize are encouraged to enroll with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) website at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> By enrolling, U.S. citizens can obtain updated information on travel and security within Belize, and make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may enroll in person directly with the U.S. Embassy.

The U.S. Embassy is located at #4 Floral Park Road, Belmopan City, Belize; Tel: 501-822-4011 8:00am to 5:00pm—or for emergencies after hours, weekends, and holidays at 501-610-5030, Fax: 501-822-4050; E-mail: ACSBelize@state.gov; Website: <https://Belize.usembassy.state.gov>

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Regards,

American Citizen Services
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