



American Citizen Bulletin July 2011

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Happy Fourth of July from the American Citizen Services section at U.S. Embassy Beijing!

NEW! SMART TRAVELER IPHONE APPLICATION

Smart Traveler, the official State Department app for U.S. travelers, invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more. To read reviews and access the free download please check out the following link: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8>.

U.S. EMBASSY AIR QUALITY MONITOR

The U.S. Embassy has an air quality monitor on the Embassy compound in Beijing's Liangmaqiao neighborhood. Many of you follow the monitor's results on the Embassy's Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/beijingair>. The Embassy now also makes the data directly available on our website:

- U.S. Embassy Air Quality Monitor: <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/070109air.html>.

The results of the air quality run from 0 to 500. The higher the value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the concern to your health. For example, a value of 50 represents good air quality with little potential to affect public health, while a value over 300 represents hazardous air quality. Here is a key for reading the monitor:

- 0 – 50 – Good
- 21-100 – Moderate
- 101-150 – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
- 151-200 – Unhealthy
- 201-300 – Very Unhealthy
- 300-500 – Hazardous

The air quality monitor measures PM 2.5 particulates on the Embassy compound. PM 2.5 is a standard recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and allows us to compare against U.S. standard measures. Particulates less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM 2.5) are referred to as "fine" particulates and are believed to pose the largest health risks, as they

are small enough to get into the lungs and the blood stream. For more information, please visit the EPA site http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naags/pm/pm25_index.html.

Note: The data from the Embassy's air quality monitor pertains to the neighborhood where the U.S. Embassy is located; citywide analysis cannot be done on data from a lone machine.

TYPHOON SEASON

Hurricane and typhoon season is underway in the Pacific and the Atlantic. The Department of State [alerts U.S. citizens](#) residing in or traveling to East Asia and the West and Central Pacific region about the ongoing threat of typhoons originating in Pacific. Typhoons in this area of the Pacific may occur year round; however, historically, the most active months are June through November. U.S. citizens in the region should monitor local weather reports and take appropriate action as needed.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts a [below-normal hurricane season](#) in the **Eastern Pacific** with 9-15 named storms. In the **Atlantic Basin**, it predicts [an above-normal hurricane season](#) with 12 to 18 named storms, including 3-6 possible major hurricanes.

EXIT PERMITS FOR U.S. CITIZEN CHILDREN BORN IN CHINA

A reminder that if you have a child born in China who has a U.S. passport, the Chinese government requires that he/she obtain an exit visa to depart China. If you reside in Beijing, obtain the exit permit from Beijing Public Security Bureau Entry/Exit Administration (www.bjgaj.gov.cn/eng). If you live outside of Beijing area, please go to your local Entry/Exit Administration.

NEED A NOTARIAL SERVICE? MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE

Need to close on a refinance or mortgage so you don't miss out on your locked-in interest rate? There are plenty of reasons in a global and digital economy that a notarial may be urgent. ACS Beijing provides same-day notarial services. Please make an appointment online at <http://beijing-usembassy-china.org.cn/acs>, and bring in your documents and your valid photo ID – passport or Chinese ID cards. The cost is \$50 for each notarial service provided.