



American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
Warden Message



TO: All American Citizens

FROM: American Citizens Services Unit

DATE: June 25, 2010

SUBJECT: Heavy Rains and Flooding in the Dominican Republic

This warden message alerts U.S. citizens residing and traveling in the Dominican Republic to exercise caution in coastal areas and floodplains near rivers and creeks descending from mountainous areas of the country affected by recent rains. The Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) has issued a Red Alert for the following provinces affected by heavy rains and flooding: Santo Domingo, Barahona, San Cristobal, El Seibo, National District, San Juan de la Maguana, San Jose de Ocoa, San Pedro de Macoris y Monte Plata. Red Alerts are declared when a weather phenomenon or other event has a high probability of impacting a specific zone which could result in damage to property, transportation infrastructure, the environment, and people. Yellow (medium probability) and Green alerts (low probability) have been issued for other areas of the country. Landslides are a continuing threat in rural areas. Urban flooding has created hazards for drivers. Additionally, COE has advised that small watercraft on the Atlantic and Caribbean Coasts as well as Samana Peninsula should remain in port, due to abnormal winds and tides.

Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) has cautioned those who reside in the mostly rural areas close to rivers, streams, and canals to guard against rising waters and possible overflows. Do not attempt to cross rising rivers, canals, and streams. The National Meteorological Office and COE call for scattered light showers in the next few days; despite improving conditions, they recommend caution in coastal areas, including resorts, due to abnormally high winds and waves.

U.S. citizens should monitor local radio, the National Weather Service at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>, and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. For official information from the Dominican Government regarding weather conditions, please visit the ONAMET website at <http://www.onamet.gov.do>. The Dominican Emergency Operations

Center (COE) website can be found at www.coe.gov.do. Travelers should apprise family and friends in the United States of their whereabouts, and keep in close contact with their tour operator, hotel staff, and local officials for evacuation instructions in the event of a weather emergency. Travelers should also protect their travel and identity documents against loss or damage, as the need to replace lost documentation could hamper or delay return to the United States.

The U.S. Embassy will update this warden message if new information becomes available. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page www.usemb.gov.do.