



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



**TO:** U.S. Citizens

**FROM:** American Citizens Services Unit

**DATE:** November 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Tropical Storm Tomas

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The following Warden Message is being transmitted to alert U.S. citizens to the development and progress of Tropical Storm Tomas.

The National Hurricane Center reports that Tropical Storm Tomas is 480 miles southeast of Santo Domingo and moving toward the west-southwest near 14 mph. A general westward motion with a decrease in forward speed is expected during the next day or two. Maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 45 mph with higher gusts. Although additional weakening is forecast today, re-strengthening could begin by late Tuesday. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 105 miles from the center of the storm.

Current predictions show Tropical Storm Tomas continuing in this general motion for the next 48 hours. It is expected to move northeast in about 72 hours in the general direction of Haiti and the southwestern Dominican Republic, and could intensify in strength to become a hurricane again by Thursday or Friday.

ONAMET, The Dominican National Meteorological Office, has indicated that within the next 24 to 72 hours abnormally large waves, between 9 and 12 feet, may occur along the country's southern coast. ONAMET advises that all vessels remain in port and that all aquatic activities be suspended.

The Dominican Emergency Operation Center (COE) has issued a Green Alert from San Cristobal to Pedernales. A Green Alert is declared when a weather phenomenon or other event

has a low to medium probability of impacting a specific zone which could result in damage to property, transportation infrastructure, the environment, and people.

U.S. citizens residing and traveling in coastal areas in this region and floodplains near rivers and creeks descending from mountainous areas of Southwestern provinces including Barahona, San Juan de la Maguana, and San Jose de Ocoa, should be alert to flooding and landslides in rural areas. 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.

U.S. citizens are advised that U.S. Embassy personnel have been restricted from traveling to the border area after Tuesday and for the remainder of the week. Residents in Santo Domingo and other areas adjacent to the water should remember that storm surge can flood coastal roads quickly. Take appropriate precautions when driving. In the event of local government ordered evacuations, U.S. citizens are advised to follow instructions of civil emergency personnel.

Tropical storms can develop into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. 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 advises all U.S. citizens living in and/or visiting the Dominican Republic take certain basic precautions in preparation of a possible hurricane.

### **Supplies and Preparation:**

- If you are living in the Dominican Republic: Ensure you have adequate supplies of food, water, medications and other essential supplies on hand. It is not unusual for stores and shops to close before, during and after a hurricane. Check your generators and make sure you have an adequate supply of fuel; cut down any dead foliage and remove any debris around your home; secure any items that could become dangerous flying objects (patio furniture, umbrellas, barbeques, etc); have the tools and supplies on hand to secure your house (plywood, nails, shutters, etc). Upper floors in high-rise buildings are at increased risk of windows being blown out, due to the fact that wind speed increases with height.
- If you are a tourist, talk to your hotel front desk to learn about the hotel's emergency plan for a hurricane. Notify your family and friends of your whereabouts and your plans until the storm passes. Be sure to have an adequate supply of necessary prescriptions and medications on hand.

**During the Storm:**

-Do not go outside, flying debris is lethal;

-Do not watch the storm from beaches as storm surge, rip tides and rogue waves are hazardous.

-Stay inside in an interior room of your residence (bathroom, large closet or pantry). Choose a room with little or no windows that is located away from the exterior wall of the residence;

-Stay off your home/cell phone and radio. Keep all means of communication available for an emergency;

-If a member of your family sustains an injury during the storm, report the injury and degree of severity to the local authorities as soon as possible.

U.S. citizens should monitor local radio, the [National Weather Service](#) 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 and the [COE](#) website.

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>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section of the Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail [accsantodom@state.gov](mailto:accsantodom@state.gov); web page [www.usemb.gov.do](http://www.usemb.gov.do).