



**United States Consulate General, Hermosillo, Mexico
Consular Section**

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

Dated May 31, 2013

Hurricane Season

The U.S. Consulate General in Hermosillo reminds U.S. citizens that hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30.

Be Prepared

U.S. citizens planning to visit places that are vulnerable to hurricanes should be aware of the chance of storms and make a plan in case of emergency. Even inland areas far from the coast can experience destructive winds, tornadoes, and floods from tropical storms and hurricanes. In the event of a tropical storm or hurricane, the Embassy or Consulate will monitor the storm and send email messages to U.S. citizens who have enrolled with us. The Department of State may also issue a Travel Alert or Travel Warning to apprise the public of the situation.

Please check your passport and those of your family members to assure that they are still valid. As you may need to travel to the United States (or elsewhere) on short notice, it is important to have valid travel documents so that your trip is not unnecessarily delayed. If you plan to travel to the United States, please also ensure that any non-U.S. citizen family members also have valid Lawful Permanent Resident cards or U.S. visas or visit our website at <http://www.travel.state.gov/> for more information on applying for a visa.

Your Checklist:

- Prior to leaving the United States, register your travel plans on the State Department's travel enrollment website at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.
- Check with your tour operator, airline, or charter flight company (as appropriate) regarding travel services back to the United States in the event of a hurricane, and the possibility of early return if a storm is forecasted for your region.

- Obtain a cell phone that works internationally so that you can stay in regular contact with family and friends and advise them of your whereabouts.
- Research the region you're visiting and become familiar with local emergency procedures
(http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html)
- Pack an emergency supply kit (<http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>). Keep extra bottled water and non-perishable food items on hand.
- Keep an up-to-date list of local emergency phone numbers, as well as contact numbers for the nearest U.S. Embassy, Consulate, or Consular Agency.
- Protect your vital travel documents from potential water damage by placing them in a waterproof container.
- Obtain travel insurance prior to your trip to cover unexpected expenses in the event of an emergency
(http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html).
- Ensure your medical insurance covers costs associated with emergency situations (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html).
- Consider what arrangements you will make for your pets. Please note that the Mexican authorities and the U.S. government do not make accommodations for the care or transportation of pets during storm-related emergencies or evacuations.
- Leave a detailed itinerary and your local contact information with a friend or family member in the United States.
- Make two photocopies of the biographic identification page of your passport, airline tickets, driver's license, and any credit cards you plan to take. Leave one copy of each with family or friends at home, and pack the other copies separately from the originals. You may also wish to scan these documents and store them electronically, such as on a flash drive or in an email account. If using traveler's checks, leave a copy of the serial numbers of your travelers' checks with a friend or relative at home.

Please also visit the following U.S. government websites for more information:

Mexico Country Specific Information:

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html

Hurricane Season: "Know Before You Go":

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_2915.html

National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

How to Contact U.S. Consulate General Hermosillo:

U.S. Consulate in Hermosillo contact information is available here:

<http://hermosillo.usconsulate.gov/contact.html>

The U.S. State Department has also issued the following Hurricane Season Travel Alert:

1. The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens to the upcoming Hurricane Season in the Atlantic, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane season in the Atlantic begins June 1 and ends November 30.
2. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>) expects to see an active or extremely active season in the Atlantic Basin this year with a 70 percent chance of 13 to 20 named storms, of which seven to eleven are predicted to strengthen to a hurricane (with top winds of 74 mph or higher. Of those, three to six are expected to become major hurricanes (with top winds of 111 mph or higher, ranking Category 3, 4 or 5). NOAA recommends that those in hurricane-prone regions begin preparations for the upcoming season now.
3. During and after some previous storms, U.S. citizens traveling abroad encountered dangerous and often uncomfortable conditions that lasted for several days while awaiting transportation back to the United States. In the past, many U.S. citizens were forced to delay travel (including return travel to the United States) due to infrastructure damage to airports and limited flight availability. Roads were also washed out or obstructed by debris, adversely affecting access to airports and land routes out of affected areas. Reports of looting and sporadic violence in the aftermath of natural disasters have occurred. Security personnel may not always be readily available to assist. In the event of a hurricane, travelers should be aware that they may not be able to depart the area for 24-48 hours or longer.
4. If you travel to these areas during hurricane season, we recommend you obtain travel insurance to cover unexpected expenses during an emergency. If a situation

requires an evacuation from an overseas location, the U.S. Department of State will work with commercial airlines to ensure that U.S. citizens are repatriated as safely and efficiently as possible. Commercial airlines are the Department's primary source of transportation in an evacuation; other means of transport are utilized only as a last resort. The U.S. Department of State will not provide no-cost transportation but does have the authority to provide repatriation loans to those in financial need.

5. If you live in or are traveling to storm-prone regions, prepare for hurricanes and tropical storms by organizing a kit in a waterproof container that includes a supply of bottled water, non-perishable food items, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, any medications taken regularly, and vital documents (especially your passport and other identification). Emergency shelters often provide only very basic resources and may have limited medical and food supplies. NOAA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have additional tips on their websites, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php> and <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.

6. Monitor local radio, local media, and the National Weather Service to be aware of weather developments. Minor tropical storms can develop into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Inform family and friends of your whereabouts and remain in close contact with your tour operator, hotel staff, transportation providers (airlines, cruise lines, etc.), and local officials for evacuation instructions during a weather emergency.

7. We strongly encourage U.S. citizens to enroll with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate through the U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). By enrolling, you will receive the most recent security and safety updates during your trip. Enrollment also ensures that you can be reached during an emergency. While we will do our utmost to assist you in a crisis, be aware that local authorities bear primary responsibility for the welfare of people living or traveling in their jurisdictions.

8. Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness can be found on the Department's "Hurricane Season - Know Before You Go" webpage. You can get updated information on travel in the Caribbean from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada or, from outside

the United States and Canada, 1-202-501-4444. We also encourage you to check the Country Specific Information and the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate with consular responsibilities for the territory you will be visiting. Follow us on Twitter and become a fan of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' page on Facebook as well.

You have received this message because you are enrolled with us.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Mexico enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. 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 Mexico](#). 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 iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Consulate General in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico is located at Calle Monterrey #141 Poniente, C.P. 83000 and is open from 8:00am until 4:30pm, phone number: (662) 289-3572. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the U.S. Consulate is (662)-256-0741.**