

WARDEN MESSAGE

April 27, 2011

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.

Taal Volcano

The U.S. Embassy advises U.S. citizens in the Philippines to avoid the Volcano Island in the center of the Taal Volcano, located in the Province of Batangas, approximately 60 kilometers (37.28 miles) south-southeast of Manila, on the island of Luzon. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) maintains an Alert LEVEL 2 over Taal Volcano. This alert level means that magma is rising towards the surface of the volcano, as manifested by carbon dioxide being released in the Main Crater Lake and an increase in seismic activity. PHIVOLCS advises the public that the main crater, Daang Kastila Trail, and Mt. Tabaro (1965-1977 eruption site) are strictly off-limits because sudden hazardous steam-driven explosions may occur and a high concentration of toxic gases may accumulate.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that the Philippine government has established that the entire Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) and has stated that permanent settlement in the island is strictly not recommended. No residents are allowed within the danger zone. Updated information on volcanoes in the Philippines is available at <http://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/>

The Embassy urges all U.S. citizens contemplating travel to the vicinity of the Taal Volcano to strictly observe any Philippine government restrictions on travel into the PDZ and to pay close attention to daily status reports issued by PHIVOLCS. U.S. citizens are also encouraged to inform the Embassy of any travel plans in the area.

U.S. citizens with questions or concerns may telephone the Embassy at (63)(2) 301-2000. In case of an emergency outside business hours, citizens may reach the Embassy duty officer through the Embassy operator at (63)(2) 301-2000. The U.S. Embassy is located at: 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines. The Consular American Citizen Services (ACS) section's fax number is (63)(2) 301-2017, email address is acsinfomanila@state.gov and the web page is at <http://manila.usembassy.gov>.

The Embassy recommends that U.S. citizens residing or traveling in the Philippines enroll with the U.S. Embassy's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. 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 callers in other areas by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).