

# ACS Kathmandu, Nepal

February 2013  
Volume 6 Issue 1

This newsletter is published by the American Citizen Services Unit, U.S. Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Tel: 977-1-400-7200, 400-7201;  
Fax: 977-1-400-7281  
(Tel: 977-1-400-7266, 400-7269-  
offer hours American Citizen  
Emergencies only)

Email: [consktm@state.gov](mailto:consktm@state.gov)

Website:

<http://nepal.usembassy.gov>

U.S. Department of State's  
Consular travel website:  
[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

**American Citizen Service  
Hours:**

1:30 to 4:00 pm, Monday  
through Friday, excluding  
holidays.

To schedule an appointment:

<http://go.usa.gov/Yjc>



## Meet

### Patrick McNeil, Consul

Hello, I'm Patrick McNeil, Chief of the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu.

We hope to include an item in each newsletter introducing our staff to you, so that you can get to know the American and Nepali employees who provide routine and emergency services to American citizens in Nepal.

I'm from Chicago, where I also attended university. I've worked as an investment banker and a tax attorney before joining the Foreign Service in 1999. Since then, I've served in Mexico City, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi and most recently in Tallinn (Estonia). I arrived in Kathmandu to take up my new position as Chief of the Consular Section in August 2012. I look forward to managing our consular operation (which includes American citizen services as well as a large visa operation) until 2015. I welcome you to contact me if you have any issues you would like to discuss about our consular operations in Nepal: [McNeilPT@state.gov](mailto:McNeilPT@state.gov).

#### Inside this issue:

Meet Mr. Patrick Mc Neil, Consul	1
Some Tax Tips for 2013 Taxpayers	2
Wanted: Wardens for Zones 9, 12 13 & Co-Wardens for most Zones	3
Enroll through the STEP Program	4
Skills Bank	4
U.S. Messages to Americans	5
Quetta Cup, Tennis Tournament	5
Disaster Preparedness	6



## Some Tax Tips for 2013 Taxpayers

It's that time of year again for U.S. taxpayers to file their annual tax returns on Form 1040! Here are a few tips that are important to Americans living overseas. You should consult with a tax advisor to verify how tax rules apply to your situation, however.

- *Do I have to file?* Although U.S. citizens are subject to tax on their worldwide income, even if not living in the United States, most Americans living overseas owe no U.S. income tax because of various foreign income exclusions and tax credits. However, even if the amount you will owe is zero, you may still be required to file a return, and failure to do so could trigger penalties. For example, a single filer who earned \$9,750 or more in 2012 is required to file a return. Please see page 6 of the instructions to Form 1040 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for the exact rules.
- *What is the filing deadline?* Generally, tax returns must be filed by April 15. However, overseas filers get an automatic extension of two months to file. To take advantage of this extension, you should put your Nepali address on your tax return, or otherwise include a statement with your return explaining why the extension applies to you. (Alternatively, you can file Form 4868 to seek a six-month extension of the filing deadline, but any amount you owe in tax would still be due on April 15.)
- *Can the Embassy mail my return?* Unfortunately, no. We are authorized to handle only voting-related mail for Americans overseas. You must mail (or, if available, electronically file) your own income tax return. To find out the address where to send your return, see the last page of the instructions to Form 1040 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).
- *My printer is worthless! Will the Embassy print out some IRS forms and publications for me?* Sure! Write to us at [ConsKTM@state.gov](mailto:ConsKTM@state.gov), and list the items that you would like us to print for you.
- *Is there anything else important that I may be missing?* Anyone who maintains a bank account in a foreign country the balance of which at any time during the year exceeds \$10,000 must file Form TD F 90-22.1 with the U.S. Department of the Treasury. This form is completely separate from your tax return and is not mailed to the same address where you send your tax return. Please see the form and instructions at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f90221.pdf>.

# WANTED

*WARDENS for Zones 9, 12 and 13*

*& Co-WARDENS for most Zones*

Are you an American citizen over 21 years of age living in Nepal in Zones 9 (Kirtipur), 12 (Pulchowk/Patan), 13 (Bhaktapur)?

If you have forgotten your zone and/or you are interested in being a warden, please contact us at [wardenktm@state.gov](mailto:wardenktm@state.gov).

- ◆ Do you have an email account and telephone?
- ◆ Are you willing to help your fellow citizens?

If you can fill these roles, please consider becoming a warden with the U.S. Embassy.

As part of our effort to serve American citizens living or traveling abroad, the U.S. Embassy has a warden system to assist American citizens, especially in times of emergencies. Wardens are volunteers who serve the particular geographic zone where they live. Usually, we are able to communicate with most of the registered Americans citizens in Nepal via email or cell phone. However, if a natural disaster, personal crisis, or other emergency strikes; we look to our wardens for help.

What is a warden's responsibility?

- ◆ Assist the U.S Embassy in communicating important information.
- ◆ Notify the U.S. Embassy of American citizens who need assistance.
- ◆ Forward messages, as appropriate, from family members who have lost contact with an American citizen living in Nepal.
- ◆ Check on the welfare of American citizens in your area during a natural disaster or other times of crisis.

If you think you would like to volunteer for this important job, or if you would like more information about this program, please contact the U.S. Embassy at: [wardenktm@state.gov](mailto:wardenktm@state.gov).

## Spread the word to American friends visiting Nepal to enroll with the U.S. Embassy through the STEP Program.



U.S. citizens living or traveling in Nepal are encouraged to enroll with the U.S. Embassy through the

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#).

STEP helps us help you in the case of an emergency or disaster. STEP enrollees also automatically receive updates from the Embassy, including Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts.

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

The Consular Section is developing a Skills Bank and we are still looking for people who can assist when a natural disaster strikes.

Thank you for those who have already responded!



If you have knowledge about or skills in:

- Search and rescue
- Certified electrician
- Disaster assessment
- Firefighting/fire prevention
- Structural engineering
- Chemical/biological first responder training
- Medical training

Please send an email to [wardenktm@state.gov](mailto:wardenktm@state.gov).

## U.S. Messages to Americans

The Embassy wishes to remind American citizens that demonstrations are unpredictable, and can turn violent with little notice. Avoid large crowds and gatherings. Use good judgment and common sense when traveling, and be prepared for disruptions in transportation services. We recommend that U.S. Citizens monitor media coverage of local events for the latest information.

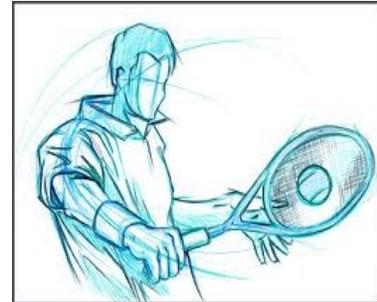
U.S. messages to Americans can be found at:

<http://nepal.usembassy.gov/mfe.html>

### ***QUETTA CUP, TENNIS TOURNAMENT***

***Calling on all Tennis Players from North and South America and all the Countries and Islands in between....***

***We need YOU to help us take on Great Britain and the Commonwealth in this year's edition of the annual Quetta Cup Tennis Tournament.***



Here is your chance to participate in a team event and support our half of the world! For the past 36 years we have taken on the friends of Britain in this friendly but competitive tennis rivalry known as the Quetta Cup. Last year's event went the way of the Americas, but our rivals promise to come roaring back in 2013. We are looking for players (men and women) from USTA level 3.5 up to professional who are citizens or residents of any country that calls itself part of the Americas to play mens', womens' and mixed doubles .

We will start practices soon at Phora Durbar on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (you don't need to be a member) to prepare for this year's Quetta Cup Tournament, which is tentatively scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please contact:

Richard Feldman at [feldmanrp@state.gov](mailto:feldmanrp@state.gov) or 98010-13659

Mercedes Marquez-Feldman at [feldmanmx@state.gov](mailto:feldmanmx@state.gov) or 98010-05336

## BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE **PLAN!**

**Family Plans** – evacuation plans, accounting for persons (meeting place), know where to access emergency supplies (medical), water, food, search and rescue equipment, know where important documents are.

**Community Plans** – how community groups and resources can be used to assist one another (mothers groups, water users groups, Rotary club, Red Cross, religious organizations), including how to rescue people and provide emergency medical treatment.



### **KEYS TO PREPAREDNESS**

- Practice drills / discuss plans in advance
- Establish priorities
- Know how to access important information
- Know how to access emergency supplies

## DURING AN EARTHQUAKE **TAKE COVER!**

Minimize your movements during an earthquake to a few steps or to a nearby safe place. Assess the situation before you decide it is safe to move to another location.

### **Indoors**

Take the best cover you can find in your situation. Cover your face and head with your arms, and crouch. Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as food storage containers and shelves. Note: Most injuries during earthquakes occur when people are hit by falling objects when entering into or exiting from buildings. Identify evacuation routes. Stay in your secure position until shaking stops.

### **Outdoors**

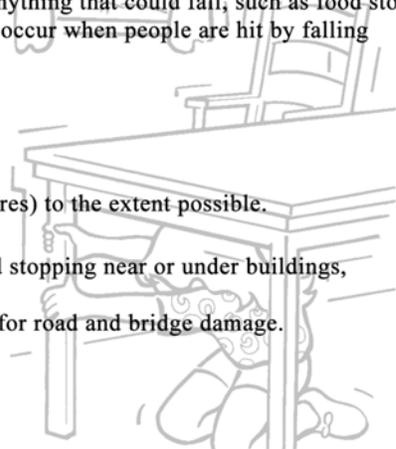
Stay there. Move away from hazards (buildings, streetlights, and utility wires) to the extent possible.

### **In a moving vehicle**

Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires. Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped, watching for road and bridge damage.

### **Trapped under debris**

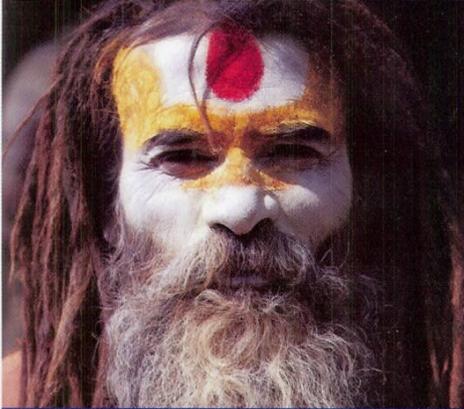
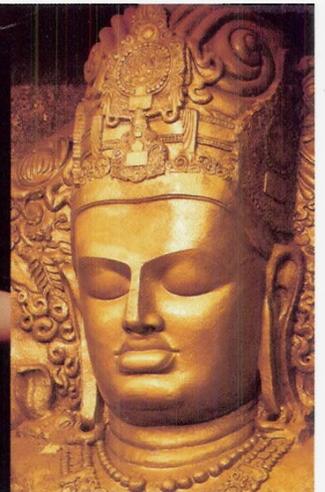
Do not light a match. Do not move about or kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing. Tap on a pipe or wall so someone can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort - shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.



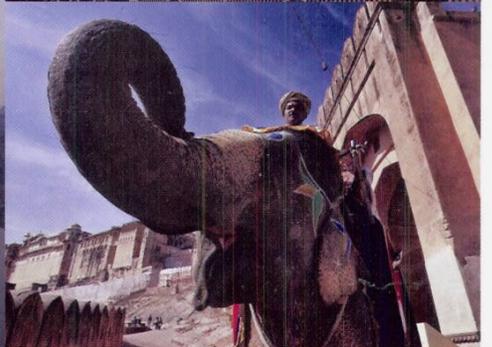
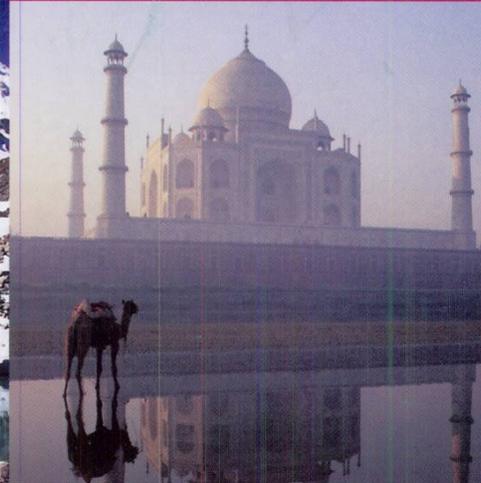
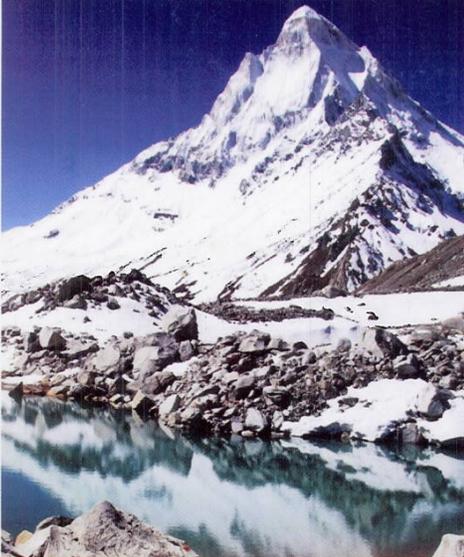
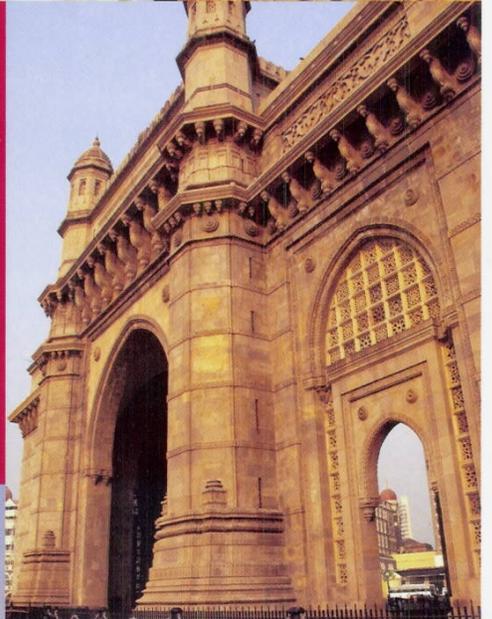
## AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE **REMAIN AWARE!**



- Be aware of unsafe conditions, including aftershocks. These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures.
- Beware of objects that can fall.
- Take measures to protect yourself from new hazards (fire, live wires, etc)
- Stay away from damaged areas if at all possible.



Are you  
an American  
Citizen visiting  
South Asia ?



**STAY INFORMED.**

**STAY CONNECTED.**

**STAY SAFE.**

**Tell us where you're going as you travel through this amazing region!**

All American citizens are encouraged to sign up for our free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). By providing the details of your stay in South Asia, you will automatically receive the most current safety and security information about your trip. In case of a local emergency or should we need to contact you because of an emergency at home, our Embassy and Consular personnel will be better able to locate and assist you.



<http://www.travel.state.gov/step>



\*\*\*\*\*