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# American Citizen Services Newsletter

U.S. EMBASSY—QUITO, ECUADOR

## New Rules pertaining to Dual Nationals (U.S. and Ecuadorian citizens) trying to Depart Ecuador

### Are you a Dual National of Ecuador and the United States?

If this is the case, new regulations by the Ecuadorian government may affect your trip.

All individuals born in Ecuadorian territory are automatically considered Ecuadorian citizens at birth. Therefore, an individual born to U.S. citizen parents in Ecuador — regardless of whether he or she qualifies as a U.S. citizen — is an Ecuadorian citizen and must depart Ecuador for the first time using an Ecuadorian passport.

In order to do so, parents, or the actual Dual National in the case of adults, should first obtain an Ecuadorian birth certificate at their local Civil registry office and then obtain a national ID card (“cedula”). With this document, parents, or the actual Dual National in the case of adults, can apply for an Ecuadorian passport.

Subsequent to the first trip out of the country, a dual national may re-enter Ecuador either as an Ecuadorian citizen or as a tourist. If a U.S. passport states that the person traveling was born in Ecuador, Ecuadorian immigration authorities will treat him or her as a dual national and will allow the person to enter Ecuador on the U.S. passport alone, provided the Dual National presents their Ecuadorian passport as well upon departure. Whether or not a Dual National enters Ecuador on a U.S. or Ecuadorian passport, they will need the Ecuadorian passport to depart Ecuador.



For additional information, visit the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Travel Documents website at:  
<http://www.mmree.gob.ec/servicios/indice.asp>

Information about dual nationality or the prevention of international child abduction can be found on our website:  
<http://ecuador.usembassy.gov>



## Earthquake Emergency Supply Checklist

The Quito consular district lays in a geographically vulnerable region, on a fault line that rates between 4.0 and 4.8 in terms of seismic vulnerability. In view of the location of American Citizen residences and their distance from the fault line, every household should consider preparing an emergency kit in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster. The items listed below are recommended when assembling an emergency kit. The exact contents of emergency kits will vary depending on family size and personal preferences; but, the items listed below are a guide to essential supply items in emergencies.

It is important to remember that regular services such as utilities, communication, and transportation may be disrupted for several days. Plan to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours. Remember 72 hours is only a guideline...it may be wise to prepare for more.



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*[ecuador.usembassy.gov/](http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/service.html)*

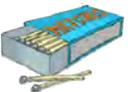
*[service.html](http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/service.html)*

**Backpack or Duffel Bag** – All emergency equipment should be stored in a portable “go-bag” near the primary exit of the home. It should be sturdy, able to contain all the necessary equipment, but still be portable.



 **Flashlights and Extra Batteries** – Consider placing one in each frequently occupied room. Put them in easy-to-reach locations. Be sure to check the batteries each month.

**Matches or Candles** - Can be used provided you are CERTAIN there are no gas leaks or flammable liquid spills in the area. Look for drip less candles to avoid hot wax spillage.



**First Aid Kit and Instruction Book** – Standard first-aid kit is good, but try to supplement it with other materials useful in treating injuries, such as rolled-up newspaper for splints, cotton swabs, antiseptic, a pair of scissors, and anti-bacterial soap. Consult with your physician about storage of prescription medicines. It is generally a good idea to have all members of your household (domestic employees included) receive some basic medical training.

**Fire Extinguishers and Smoke Detectors** – Check the batteries in the smoke detectors every six months.

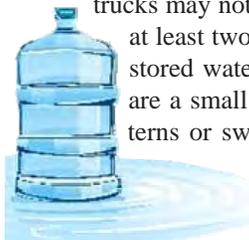


*Did you know that you can apply for your U.S. passport in the U.S. Embassy in Quito?*

*Check out the details and requirement at:*

*<http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/passports.html>*

**Emergency Water** - This is extremely important since water mains may be broken and delivery trucks may not be able to deliver water due to debris filled streets. You should have on hand at least two gallons (7.5 liters) of potable water per person per day. Periodically replace stored water to keep it fresh. Water purification tablets or devices can be essential and are a small storage item. Consider obtaining hand pumps for removing water from cisterns or swimming pools, where available. Water in toilet cisterns may remain drinkable. Consider saving potable water for drinking and other types of clean yet non-potable water for hygiene (i.e. swimming pools). Consider using hydration bladders.



**Emergency Food** – Rotate stock periodically. Plan for alternate methods of cooking such as camp stoves or heating gel (e.g., Sterno canned heat). You should have at least a 3-day supply of food per person. For additional security, consider storing food sufficient for one week (seven days) per person. Canned and other non-perishable items are best. Consider purchasing a box of Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE) online.



**Blankets or Sleeping Bags** – Have enough for each member of your household and include a plastic ground cloth that can serve as a moisture barrier and/or a make-shift tent. Other shelter items could include a tent or pillows.



**Sanitation Supplies** – Toilet tissue, plastic bags, anti-bacterial soap, buckets, and powdered chlorine or lime for emergency sanitation purposes. If you reside in a suburban area, consider having a shovel as part of your emergency sanitation kit. There are also commercial portable sanitation solutions that can be purchased online.



**Tools** – Wrenches (for water and gas shut-off valves), hammers, pliers, shovels, screwdrivers, plastic sheeting, axe & pry bar, ladders, heavy gloves, rope, hard hat and wire. Small multi-tools provide a good all-in-one alternative.



**Fuel** – If your house is equipped with a generator, keep the fuel tank full.



**Cash** – Have U.S. dollars on hand as banks may be closed for some time.

**Safety Items** – Sturdy shoes, face masks, safety glasses/goggles, leather work gloves, hats/helmets, scarves etc. may provide additional protection during a crisis.



**Special Items** - Have a small supply of any regular medications in your emergency kit (insulin, epinephrine, inhalers, etc.). Consider packing small and light comfort items like a paperback book, deck of playing cards, or travel style board games.



STEP

*Do you want to get information regarding important messages to U.S. citizens while you travel? You only have to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).*

*Check the Department of State website at: <http://travel.state.gov> for more information.*

## Contact Us

**Telephone number**  
(011 593 2) 398-5000

Public call in hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 to 11: a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

For after-hours emergencies, call (011 593 2) 398-5000

**Our Address**  
Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro

**e-mail**  
[ACSQuito@state.gov](mailto:ACSQuito@state.gov)

**Website**  
<http://ecuador.usembassy.gov>



# Special report about Reventador Volcano

After the great eruption in November 2002, the Reventador volcano has been several periods of intense volcanic activity related to the generation of lava flows that have fallen north and south flanks of the volcano, and the growth and subsequent destruction of domes lava, materials that have been slowly filling in the large crater left by the explosion of 2002 and whose effects have so far been restricted exclusively to areas located within the caldera and are uninhabited.

On July 14, staff conducted a flight IG monitoring and observation of the volcano, where it was found that inside the crater of 2002, still growing a lava dome that has reached the same height similar to or greater than the highest peak top of the volcano and has completely filled the inner crater, as shown in Figure 1, additionally showed the presence of intense fumarolic activity inside the outer crater, which leads to the emission of continuous columns of water vapor .

From the observations made by the IG staff con-

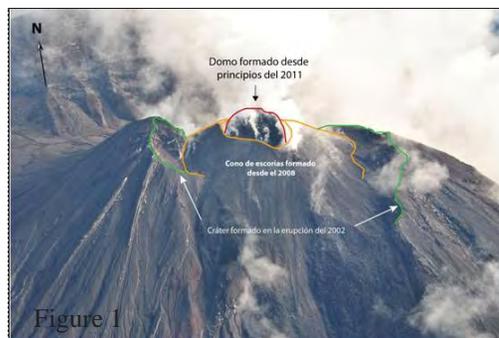
tains it, causing the collapse of it and leading to the formation of pyroclastic flows that descend from all sides of the cone. Was also found that the type of volcano's current activity is not being issued lava flows, the last flow was observed descending the south flank of the cone was in October 2009.

On the other hand, the seismic monitoring system that keeps the volcano IG shows that in recent weeks the seismicity at the volcano has increased very significantly, this increase begins to manifest itself clearly from the month of May, in regard to the total number of events, activity so far has quadrupled. Seismic events are recorded long-period earthquakes, volcano-tectonic earthquakes and explosions. These indicate that the mobilization is occurring fluid within the volcano and there is a process of rising to the surface of materials which manifests itself in a moderately energetic.

In regard to the IG satellite monitoring performed in this volcano may indicate that concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and detected by the OMI satellite sensor in recent days, show no significant values in the vicinity of the volcano Reventador. Neither thermal alerts were detected in the vicinity of the volcano by the MODIS sensor in recent days.

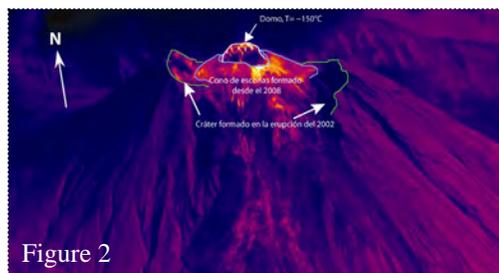
The results of the monitoring system and technical observations made by the IG, it is clear that the volcano appears significantly more active than in previous months, this being much more noticeable in recent days. The explosive of moderate activity that occurs at the time and the possibility that the growth of the dome gives rise to its collapse and the consequent generation of pyroclastic flows, leads us to be more attentive to the evolution of the parameters monitored in the trapping. For now, this type of activity, the main involvement is in the flanks of the volcano and into the boiler, which is a completely uninhabited area. However, if the current conditions change, the Geophysical Institute shall inform the authorities and the general community.

However, the Geophysical Institute believes that in these circumstances the presence of people near the volcano's crater is dangerous and in no way recommends awarding promotions to the summit.



cludes that this dome began to form just at the beginning of this year and is expected to grow very fast, the order of several tens of meters from the start, well evidenced by the high temperatures measured in the dome by the technicians of IG (Figure 2).

To continue this rapid growth of the dome is very likely that the same overflow the crater that con-



**Thinking about relocating to Ecuador for your retirement?  
We can help you setting up direct deposit from Social Security to a local bank.**

**Check our Federal Benefits section for more details:  
<http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/service/federal-benefits3.html>**



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## The Tenth Anniversary of September 11



Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy

WASHINGTON— In this week's address, President Obama marked the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks and paid tribute to the first responders, those serving our nation in the military, and those who lost their lives on that tragic day. In the difficult decade since 9/11, our nation has stayed strong in the face of threat, and we have strengthened our homeland security, enhanced our partnerships, and put al Qaeda on the path to defeat. As we look to the future, we will continue to prove that the terrorists who attacked us are no match for the courage, resilience, and endurance of the American people.

**Remarks of President Barack Obama  
Weekly Address  
The White House  
Saturday September 10, 2011**

This weekend, we're coming together, as one nation, to mark the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. We're remembering the lives we lost—nearly 3,000 innocent men, women and children. We're reaffirming our commitment to always keep faith with their families.

We're honoring the heroism of first responders who risked their lives—and gave their lives—to save others. And we're giving thanks to all who serve on our behalf, especially our troops and military families—our extraordinary 9/11 Generation.

At the same time, even as we reflect on a difficult decade, we must look forward, to the future we will build together. That includes staying strong and confident in the face of any threat. And thanks to the tireless efforts of our military personnel and our intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security professionals—there should be no doubt. Today, America is stronger and al Qaeda is on the path to defeat.

We've taken the fight to al Qaeda like never before. Over the past two and a half years, more senior al Qaeda leaders have been eliminated than at any time since 9/11. And thanks to the remarkable courage and precision of our forces, we finally delivered justice to Osama bin Laden.

We've strengthened the partnerships and tools we need to prevail in this war against al Qaeda—working closer with allies and partners; reforming intelligence to better detect and disrupt plots; investing in our Special Forces so terrorists have no safe haven.

We're constantly working to improve the security of our homeland as well—at our airports, ports and borders; enhancing aviation security and screening; increasing support for our first responders; and working closer than ever with states, cities and communities.

A decade after 9/11, it's clear for all the world to see—the terrorists who attacked us that September morning are no match for the character of our people, the resilience of our nation, or the endurance of our values.

They wanted to terrorize us, but, as Americans, we refuse to live in fear. Yes we face a determined foe, and make no mistake—they will keep trying to hit us again. But as we are showing again this weekend, we remain vigilant. We're doing everything in our power to protect our people. And no matter what comes our way, as a resilient nation, we will carry on.

They wanted to draw us in to endless wars, sapping our strength and confidence as a nation. But even as we put relentless pressure on al Qaeda, we're ending the war in Iraq and beginning to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. Because after a hard decade of war, it is time for nation building here at home.

They wanted to deprive us of the unity that defines us as a people. But we will not succumb to division or suspicion. We are Americans, and we are stronger and safer when we stay true to the values, freedoms and diversity that make us unique among nations.

And they wanted to undermine our place in the world. But a decade later, we've shown that America doesn't hunker down and hide behind walls of mistrust. We've forged new partnerships with nations around the world to meet the global challenges that no nation can face alone. And across the Middle East and North Africa a new generation of citizens is showing that the future belongs to those that want to build, not destroy.

Ten years ago, ordinary Americans showed us the true meaning of courage when they rushed up those stairwells, into those flames, into that cockpit. In the decade since, a new generation has stepped forward to serve and keep us safe. In their memory, in their name, we will never waver. We will protect the country we love and pass it safer, stronger and more prosperous to the next generation.



The end of summer always brings transitions. Whether it's "back-to-school", changing leaves and weather, or the start of football season, things tend to shift a little. In Embassies and Consulates worldwide the end-of-summer always means staffing transitions as Foreign Service Officers tend to begin and end our "postings" in the summer.

Here in Quito, I am happy to introduce a number of new team members. My new Deputy is Matt Flannigan. He arrived at the end of July and has done a tremendous job of leading the section for the past six weeks. I know he'll impress you all as much as he's impressed me. Earlier in the summer, we also welcomed Andy Grillos. He's been heading up the American Citizen Services unit for the past two months so many of you may have already met him. Travis Murphy returns to work with Andy and will lead the ACS team in October.

On the visa side of the house, we've welcomed new officers Mike Fogo and Rebecca Raman (who joins us after two years in Guatemala).

All of the new officers join Travis Murphy, Ben Rogus, Eric Theus and myself in a promise to provide you with high quality and efficient services when you have need to work with your Embassy. Please do not hesitate to contact us.



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

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### Bureau of Consular Affairs: "Secure Borders, Open Doors" - Contact Us:

**Telephone number: (011 593 2) 398-5000.**

**Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

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**Address: Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro**

**Email: [ACSQuito@state.gov](mailto:ACSQuito@state.gov)**

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