

## Warden Message – U.S. Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

### U.S. Embassy Encourages Evacuation of Communities and Area Surrounding Tungurahua Volcano

December 4, 2010

The U.S. Embassy in Quito advises U.S. citizens living or traveling in Ecuador that a series of large explosions this morning at the Tungurahua volcano near Baños has caused the Government of Ecuador to evacuate communities in the area around the volcano.

Given the high level of volcanic activity and unpredictability of the situation, U.S. citizens are encouraged to defer all travel and lodging in the Baños area and the area of the volcano for the foreseeable future. Further, the Embassy encourages any American citizens living in the Baños area and the area of the volcano to consider evacuation until the activity subsides.

Government authorities have raised the level of alert to red, the highest level of risk and awareness. At this time, significant ash, smoke, rock and lava continue to be emitted from the volcano. Officials advise that, because of the emission of ash by the volcano, some domestic flight schedules may be disrupted.

If travel to the area is unavoidable, please use good judgment and take all appropriate safety measures as volcanic conditions can change rapidly.

Because Ecuador is in a region of frequent volcanoes and earthquakes, Americans are advised to keep extra food and water in their homes, and consider purchasing dust masks and heavy gloves to protect hands during ash clean-up.

The U.S. Embassy continues to monitor the situation and will keep you apprised of new information. Also, for more information on current activity, visit the website of the Instituto Geofísico which monitors volcanoes and earthquakes at: <http://www.igepn.edu.ec/>.

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Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to enroll with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador through the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

U.S. citizens should consult the [Country Specific Information](#) for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the [Department's website](#). Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone number for American Citizen Service (ACS) inquiries is (011 593-2) 398-5000. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. For after-hours emergencies, contact the Embassy at (011 593-2) 398-5200. Appointments for ACS are available through our [website](#).

The [U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil](#) is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies.

Anyone can follow the activities of the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador through the [Embassy website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).