

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

### President of Ecuador Declares State of Emergency due to Tsunami Warning

March 11, 2011

The President of Ecuador has declared a State of Emergency, mandating the movement of those in coastal areas to higher ground. This includes the Galapagos Islands as well as coastal areas of mainland Ecuador. U.S. citizens residing in or visiting coastal areas of Ecuador should move to higher ground. Please follow instructions and guidance given by local officials and monitor new sources such as <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/> and [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), as well as local news reports.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito reiterates that a massive magnitude 8.9 earthquake rocked the Japan coast on Friday, triggering tsunami warnings for twenty countries, including the coast of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. NOAA alerts indicate that the tsunami could reach Ecuador late afternoon to early evening on Friday. Action should be taken immediately to protect life and property.

A tsunami is a series of long ocean waves. Each individual wave crest can last 5 to 15 minutes or more and extensively flood coastal areas. The danger can continue for many hours after the initial wave as subsequent waves arrive. Tsunami wave heights cannot be predicted and the first wave may not be the largest. All shores are at risk no matter which direction they face. The Galapagos Islands may be especially vulnerable to large waves. Extremely strong and unusual currents can accompany a tsunami. Debris picked up and carried by a tsunami amplifies its destructive power. Simultaneous high tides or high surge can significantly increase the tsunami hazard.

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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. For assistance in the Galapagos Islands, please contact the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil.

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