

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

Intense Activity at Tungurahua Volcano

April 27, 2011

The U.S. Embassy in Quito advises U.S. citizens living or traveling in Ecuador that a series of large explosions and ash emissions at the Tungurahua volcano near Baños has caused the Government of Ecuador to evacuate communities in the surrounding area. Flights between Quito and Cuenca have been suspended, and damage to crops is evident. The U.S. Embassy encourages U.S. citizens residing near or traveling in the area around Tungurahua volcano, including in the provinces of Tungurahua, Bolivar, Cotopaxi, and Chimborazo, to closely monitor local news sources and to follow the instructions of local authorities. Additionally, U.S. citizens visiting or residing in communities most directly impacted by the volcano are encouraged to consider alternate travel plans until the activity subsides.

If travel to the area is unavoidable, please use good judgment, familiarize yourself with local evacuation and emergency notification systems, and take all appropriate safety measures, as volcanic conditions can change rapidly.

Because Ecuador is in a region of frequent volcanoes and earthquakes, U.S. citizens 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/>.

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](#).