

Security Message for U.S. Citizens – U.S. Embassy Quito

Widespread Fires September 25, 2012

The U.S. Embassy in Quito advises U.S. citizens visiting or living in Ecuador that there have been an unusual number of forest and vegetation fires throughout the country this season. Some of these fires have come very close to urban areas, including Quito, and one required the evacuation of several houses. There have been no deaths reported, but smoke inhalation has been a problem.

Ecuador's firefighters are responding to these fires and the government has declared an orange (2nd highest level) alert in the following provinces: Carchi, Imbabura, Pichincha, Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Cañar, Azuay, El Oro and Loja. This alert level requires that emergency operation centers are manned 24 hours a day and makes national resources, such as firefighters from other areas, available to respond to local hotspots. U.S. citizens should monitor local media and follow the instructions of local authorities if asked to evacuate.

Please be extra vigilant when using any fire source—matches, cigarettes, BBQ, etc. If you live near dry vegetation keep the plants and area near your house moist. Clear away any dead brush or garbage that can help create a fire ladder to your property. Make a plan for what to do—have your “go bag” ready, know your potential escape routes—should fire threaten your house. Fire moves very fast and is very destructive- it should be taken very seriously. For more information on how to prepare for forest fires, please visit the [U.S. Fire Administration's](#) website.

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).

- The telephone number for ACS inquiries is (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 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](#).