

U.S. Mission Ecuador
Message for U.S. Citizens
Importance of Emergency Preparedness
August 22, 2014

The U.S. Mission in Ecuador reminds U.S. citizens living or traveling in Ecuador that the Quito and Guayaquil areas are prone to natural disasters as the recent seismic activity in and around Quito has demonstrated. The U.S. Mission in Ecuador recommends that U.S. citizens keep themselves informed and make personal preparations in the event of a natural disaster.

Knowing what to do before, during and after a natural disaster is critical. When traveling and living overseas, it's important that you know how to respond to natural disasters, such as [earthquakes](#) and [flooding](#). We encourage U.S. citizens living in Ecuador to be prepared for natural disasters.

The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) recommends that you take three basic steps to mitigate your risk in an emergency:

- [Be Informed](#) – Stay aware of present risks and ways to avoid them.
- [Make a Plan](#) - Ensure you have a communication and emergency plan ahead of time.
- [Build a Kit](#) – Create an emergency kit to help cope with the unexpected. FEMA's [Emergency Supply List](#) has other recommended items.

Ecuador's National Risk Management Secretariat and the [Ecuadorian Geophysical Institute](#) monitor Ecuadorian volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis in Ecuador, issuing regular reports on their activity. In the event of a natural disaster, pay close attention to the news media for updates.

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

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. Email contact is available during business hours at ACSQuito@state.gov.

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 Avenida Jose Rodriguez Bonin and Calle Santa Ana in the San Eduardo neighborhood. The telephone number for U.S. citizen inquiries and after-hour emergencies is (011-593-4) 371-7000 from the United States, or (04) 371-7000 from within Ecuador, available 24 hours a day. Email contact is available during business hours at ACSGuayaquil@state.gov.

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