



*Embassy of the United States of America
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

November 15, 2015

This message is being sent out in response to reports of potentially serious weather across Saudi Arabia this week.

Heavy rainfall, high winds and rough seas may strike various areas across the country over the next week.

The Presidency of Meteorology and Environmental Protection (PMEP) of Saudi Arabia has stated that weather conditions characterized by rising winds and dust are expected in the regions of Tabuk, Al Jouf, the northern border areas, Madinah and the coastal plains of Makkah. On Monday, November 16, a medium to heavy thunderstorm is possible in Tabuk and in the coastal areas, and is likely to extend to Al Jouf. These weather conditions may continue until Wednesday morning.

Significant rainfall is expected in Madinah, Yanbu and Makkah, and in the provinces of Rabigh and Jeddah as well as areas of Qassim, Hail and northern parts of the Riyadh region. Rainfall can lead to flooding wherever it occurs in the country and can create dangerous situations that have resulted in casualties in the past.

High winds may also carry dust, limiting visibility in the regions of Makkah, Madinah and parts of Tabuk throughout the week. Travel by car may be unsafe whenever such dust storms occur throughout the country, and flights may be cancelled.

All Americans are urged to use this warning as an opportunity to assess their emergency preparedness. Prepare for inclement weather by organizing a kit in a waterproof container that includes a supply of bottled water, non-perishable food items, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, any medications taken regularly, and vital documents (especially your passport and other identification). Emergency shelters often provide only very basic resources and may have limited medical and food supplies. [NOAA](#) and the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) have additional tips on their websites.

Monitor television, local radio, other local media, and online weather information services to be aware of weather developments. Inform family and friends of your whereabouts and remain in close contact with your employer, tour operator, hotel staff, transportation providers, and local officials for evacuation instructions during a weather emergency.

We strongly encourage U.S. citizens to enroll with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate through the U.S. [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). By enrolling, you

will receive the most recent security and safety updates during your trip. Enrollment also ensures that you can be reached during an emergency. While we will do our utmost to assist you in a crisis, be aware that local authorities bear primary responsibility for the welfare of people living or traveling in their jurisdictions.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Saudi Arabia Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the [U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia](#) located at Abdullah Ibn Huthafah Al-Sahmi Street, Diplomatic Quarter, at +966 11 488 3800, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +966 11 488 3800.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

NE-20/2015

[U.S. Embassy Riyadh](#)

Telephone: (966) (11) 488-3800

Fax: (966) (11) 483-0773

[U.S. Consulate General Dhahran](#)

Telephone: (966) (13) 330-3200

Fax: (966) (13) 330-0464

[U.S. Consulate General Jeddah](#)

Telephone: (966) (12) 667-0080

Fax: (966) (12) 669-3098