

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Water Shortages

September 26, 2013

Because of continuing water shortage, U.S. Embassy Dakar has advised its employees to be mindful of potential security and health risks and, for those who have water, to be conservative and aware of their water usage.

Security

Over the past two days there have been several incidents of civil unrest in Dakar. While no deaths have been reported related to the unrest or the lack of water, residents and visitors in Dakar should avoid large crowds and spontaneous demonstrations and follow the security directives of local authorities. Remember, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn violent with little warning. You may also want to ensure that you always have a means of communications, such as a cell phone or two-way radio, both at home and when driving.

Health

The Embassy Health Unit advises using only bottled or distilled water for brushing your teeth, cooking, and cleaning fruits and vegetables. When eating out, you should stay away from leafy greens or anything raw. Consider fully-cooked proteins and fried foods instead. If you have a water distiller, check it nightly as debris can keep it from working properly. If you are experiencing symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, or nausea, please seek medical attention.

Water Conservation

The Embassy has advised employees who have water to not wash their cars or water their gardens and to reduce shower times and limit laundry and toilet flushing. The Embassy also recommends buying large containers of bottled water to keep as a reserve.

Stay in Touch with the Embassy

You can get Embassy updates by checking the **U.S. Embassy Dakar [website](#)**. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, **Bureau of Consular Affairs [website](#)** where you can find the current **[Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warning](#), [Travel Alerts](#)**, and **[Country Specific Information](#)**. Follow us on **[Twitter](#)** and **[Facebook](#)**, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through **[iTunes](#)** and the **[Google Play](#)** store, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**. If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies, Dakar, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to **DakarACS@state.gov**. For after hours emergencies, please call Tel: +221 33 879 4444 and ask to speak to the duty officer.