

U.S. Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone
Security Message to U.S. Citizens: Holiday Safety Reminder
December 11, 2013

The holiday season is once again upon us, and the U.S. Embassy reminds you to take this opportunity to exercise caution and common sense, and to practice heightened personal security during the holidays. Historically, there is usually a spike in holiday-related crime, so please take some time to review your security practices along with your family.

Basic Holiday Security Tips:

1. While driving, keep your doors locked and windows up or at a level to prevent someone from reaching into your vehicle. Keep purses and bags on the floor.
2. Do not leave packages open to view in parking areas when shopping. If possible, lock them in the trunk/cover them up before you reach the parking destination.
3. If you plan to consume alcohol, a designated driver is recommended.
4. Be aware as you approach your residence and check for people who should not be hanging around.
5. Keep your doors and windows locked when not at home, and make sure your house staff keeps the doors locked when they are in the home alone.

Thank you for your cooperation, and have a safe and happy holiday season.

If you are going to live in or travel to Sierra Leone, 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.

You can stay in touch and get U.S. Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy Freetown](#) website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, 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).

The U.S. Embassy in Freetown is located at Leicester Square, Regent. 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 to consularfreetown@state.gov or calling 232(76) 515-000 or 076-515-000. For after- hours emergencies, please call Tel: 232-(76) 515-000 or 076-515-000.