

United States Embassy Lusaka, Zambia
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Highway Robbery in Lusaka

June 24, 2014

The U.S. Embassy has received reports that a highway robbery recently occurred on Twin Palms Road in Lusaka, east of Leopards Hill Memorial Park. No U.S. citizens were involved in the incident.

While driving down the road in his personally owned vehicle, the victim was suddenly passed and blocked by another vehicle, which unexpectedly stopped in front of him on the roadway. Immediately after stopping, five individuals, one armed, exited the suspect vehicle and robbed the victim at gunpoint. After taking cash and other personal belongings, the suspects fled the scene. The victim was not injured during the robbery and is cooperating with the police investigation.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that Zambia continues to be rated “high” for crime and that highway robberies and carjackings occur in and around Lusaka on a frequent basis. Although every situation is different, when in isolated areas and/or on the road after hours, drivers should pay attention to their surroundings and take special note of vehicles which may be following them, or vehicles/individuals located suspiciously close to residential gates. In most robberies, the intent of the assailants is to relieve the victim of their valuables as quickly as possible. During this incident, the victim cooperated and was left, unharmed, with his vehicle at the scene of the crime.

Please contact the local police and notify the U.S. Embassy if you are a victim of a crime. The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in Zambia is 999. Police response, particularly outside major cities, varies and may be delayed due to a lack of vehicles and other resources.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Zambia enroll in the [Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don’t have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Zambia](#). For additional information, refer to “A Safe Trip Abroad” on the State Department’s website

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Lusaka is located on Ibex Hill and is open Monday through Thursday from 0730 to 1730 and on Fridays from 0730 to 1130. The Consular Section can be contacted at 0211-357-000 or via email at ACSLusaka@state.gov. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +260 (0) 966-877-805**