

United States Embassy Lusaka, Zambia
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Holiday Security Reminder

December 13, 2013

The U.S. Embassy would like to remind U.S. citizens that during the holiday season, crime increases worldwide. U.S. citizens should take the following precautions:

- Remember to keep your doors locked and windows closed and maintain good residential security habits. Residential burglaries are more common as thieves are aware that people may have gifts and other high-value items in their homes.
- Do not try to do all of your holiday shopping at once. The more shopping bags you carry or pack in your car, the more a target you make yourself.
- Do not leave items in plain view in your unattended vehicle. Place valuables in the trunk or in the rear of the vehicle and close your window screen.
- Maintain a good grip on all bags, parcels, and personal items while shopping or walking in public. Keep purses and bags closed and do not leave them unattended.
- Be cautious of persons representing themselves as collectors for charity. They may be attempting to gain access to your residence for actual crime or criminal surveillance of your property.
- Be mindful of your surroundings when driving, especially after dark and whenever approaching chokepoints (like driveways). If you notice a vehicle following you or any other suspicious activity, do not drive home and proceed to a police station or well lit public area. Armed carjackings occur in Zambia on a frequent basis. When approaching a gated driveway, to the extent possible, keep your vehicle on the road until you see the gate begin to open to prevent being “boxed in” from behind. Should you find yourself the victim of a carjacking, comply with the perpetrators’ demands; resistance is often met with immediate violence.

- Most importantly, maintain good awareness over all of your surroundings. Listen to your instincts. If your instincts tell you something is awry,....HEED THE WARNING!

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

Have a safe and happy holiday.

You can stay in touch and get updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy in Zambia 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 Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#).

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the State Department page on [Facebook](#) as well, 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)

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). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or when 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 Lusaka is located on Ibex Hill Road, Lusaka. The Consular Section can be contacted at 0211-357-000 or via email at

ACSLusaka@state.gov. For assistance after hours or in an emergency, you can contact us at 0211-357-000 or 0966-877-805.