

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine

Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Protest Related Violence Escalating
February 18, 2014

The U.S. Department of State informs U.S. citizens of the increased risks of travel to Ukraine due to the ongoing political unrest and violent clashes between police and protesters. February 18 has seen a sharp escalation in violence between protesters and police. The Ukrainian Security Services have announced that following today's violence they may take extraordinary measures beginning this evening (February 18). The Embassy advises all Citizens to maintain a low profile and to remain indoors tonight. The Kyiv Metro (subway) has been shut down and access into Kyiv by road has, according to credible reports, been restricted.

Protest-related violence, particularly in Kyiv, escalated sharply on February 18, resulting in several deaths and hundreds of injuries. Protesters remain in Kyiv's Independence Square and several government buildings in Kyiv and other cities throughout Ukraine. U.S. citizens are advised to avoid all protests, demonstrations, and large gatherings and to remain inside in the evening. U.S. citizens whose residences or hotels are located in the vicinity of the protests are cautioned to leave those areas or prepare to remain indoors, possibly for several days, should clashes occur.

The situation in Ukraine is unpredictable and could change quickly. Further violent clashes between police and protesters in Kyiv and other cities are possible. The location and nature of demonstrations and methods employed by the police can change quickly and without warning. Protest sites have drawn large crowds, and protesters have blocked roads in Kyiv and other cities and may do so again.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Ukraine 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 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.

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 Ukraine. For additional information, refer to the "[Traveler's Checklist](#)" 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 the iTunes store and Google Play store, to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv is located at 4 A.I. Sikorsky St. (formerly Tankova), Kyiv, Ukraine and is open Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., +380-44-521-5000. **If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +380-44-521-5000.**