



American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
Warden Message



TO: American Citizens and Consular Wardens

FROM: ACS Unit

DATE: August 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Dangerous Water Conditions Associated with Hurricane Bill

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following Warden Message for your information.

The National Hurricane Center has announced that Hurricane Bill is racing Northwestward and spreading high swells over the Caribbean during the next few days. These swells will likely cause extremely dangerous surf and life-threatening rip currents.

The Dominican Republic's National Weather Service (ONAMET) has issued an Alert for abnormal winds and tides from Cabo Engaño to Bahía de Manzanillo and urges boats to remain in port; it is advised not to leave the shore in areas from Cabo Engaño to San Pedro de Macorís. Please be constantly alert to sea conditions, as dangerous tides can reach further inland than normal. Individuals should stay away from the water and vessels should remain in port until these conditions subside and the sea has returned to a normal state. Please keep in mind that tides can be deceptive and what appears to be safe water may have a strong undercurrent, even in the absence of large waves.

The Dominican Emergency Operation Center (COE) has also issued a Green Alert for possible flooding in the following provinces: Maria Trinidad Sanchez (Nagua, Matancita, Cabrera and Rio San Juan), El Seibo (Miches) and Puerto Plata (low coastal zones). COE urges all those residing in or visiting the North and Northeast coasts of The Dominican Republic to monitor wave patterns.

U.S. citizens should monitor local radio, the National Weather Service at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>, and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. For official

information from the Dominican Government regarding weather conditions, please visit the ONAMET website at <http://www.onamet.gov.do>. The Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) website can be found at www.coe.gov.do Minor tropical storms can develop into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Travelers should apprise family and friends in the United States of their whereabouts, and keep in close contact with their tour operator, hotel staff, and local officials for evacuation instructions in the event of a weather emergency. Travelers should also protect their travel and identity documents against loss or damage, as the need to replace lost documentation could hamper or delay return to the United States.

The U.S. Embassy will update this warden message if new information becomes available. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page www.usemb.gov.do.