



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



TO: American Citizens and Consular Wardens

FROM: ACS Unit

DATE: January 12, 2010

SUBJECT: 7.0 Haiti Earthquake

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following Warden Message to alert American Citizens to the occurrence of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Haiti which may affect residents and visitors to the Dominican Republic.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reports that an earthquake of magnitude 7.0 on the Richter scale occurred at approximately 5:53 p.m. local time today (Tuesday, January 12). The location of the earthquake was 18.451°N, 72.445°W, which is 10 miles (15 km) SW of Port-au-Prince, Haiti and 90 miles (145 km) WNW of **Barahona, Dominican Republic.**

The Dominican Republic's Civil Defense authorities report that tremors from the earthquake were felt throughout the country. Ongoing aftershocks have been reported, and American Citizens are advised to stay alert for any continued aftershocks.

The Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) reports no major damage to structures in the Dominican Republic at this time. There are currently no reports of injuries or death due to the earthquake in the Dominican Republic. Airports remain open and are operating normally. The Metro subway in Santo Domingo has suspended service.

Residents and visitors to some parts of the Dominican Republic have reported power outages and interruptions in cell phone service, but these occurrences may or may not be a result of the recent earthquake.

The Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) reports that they remain on alert. A previously-issued Tsunami alert has now been cancelled. COE advises individuals in low-lying areas of the

country to stay especially alert for advisories as sea conditions may change as a result of seismic activity. Furthermore, danger to boats and coastal structures can continue for several hours due to rapid currents.

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, adhere to warnings and instructions of local authorities, and be aware of their surroundings at all times. The Dominican Emergency Operations Center (COE) website can be found at www.coe.gov.do. Due to the catastrophic effects of this earthquake in Haiti, it is recommended that non-essential travel to that country be suspended at this time.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy or contact the State Department Operations Center at 202-501-4444, or you or your family members in the US may dial 888-407-4747.

The Consular Section of the US 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.

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>.