



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



**TO: Consular Wardens**

**FROM: ACS Unit**

**DATE: 22 September 2008**

**SUBJECT: TROPICAL DISTURBANCE ADVISORY**

**Following is a Warden Message being transmitted for your information.  
Please circulate this to your constituents.**

This warden message is being issued to alert U.S. citizens residing and traveling in the Dominican Republic that the National Hurricane Center (NHC) [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) is reporting that as of 2:00 pm, Monday, September 22, 2008, a Tropical Disturbance is located over the Mona passage between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. The storm is producing torrential rains and some areas have already seen 20 to 30 inches of rainfall which have produced life-threatening flash floods. The storm is expected to produce large amounts of rainfall in the Dominican Republic through Tuesday, September 23 as it moves slowly to the north-northwest.

The Dominican National Office of Meteorology (ONAMET) has issued an advisory warning of life-threatening mudslides and flash flooding due to already rain-soaked terrain and the massive amounts of rainfall expected. Persons living near rivers, canyons, and ravines should take extra precautions. Flooding can also be expected throughout other affected parts of the country. Extreme caution should be taken when driving through areas of high water. There is also the possibility of road and bridge closures due to rising water and bridge washouts. Currently, all airports are open and operating normally within the Dominican Republic.

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](http://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.

U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the Department of State's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. By registering, American citizens can receive the Embassy's most recent security and safety updates during their trip. Registration also ensures that U.S. citizens can be reached should an emergency arise either abroad or at home. While Consular Officers will do their utmost to assist Americans in a crisis, travelers should always be aware that local authorities bear primary responsibility for the welfare of people living or traveling in their jurisdictions.

For emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section of the 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](mailto:acssantodom@state.gov); website [www.usemb.gov.do](http://www.usemb.gov.do).

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on the Hurricane Season 2008 page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/hurricane\\_season/hurricane\\_season\\_3795.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/hurricane_season/hurricane_season_3795.html) or in the "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" pamphlet at: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/hurricane\\_season/hurricane\\_season\\_2915.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/hurricane_season/hurricane_season_2915.html). Updated information on travel in hurricane-prone regions may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). For further

information please consult the Country Specific Information for the Dominican Republic available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.