



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Beliz Warns of Dangers Posed by Hurricane Rina

Natural Disasters

Western Hemisphere > Belize > Belmopan

10/26/2011

U.S. Embassy Belmopan issued the following Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens on October 26, 2011:

This Message is being issued as a third alert to U.S. citizens residing and traveling in Belize to the potential dangers posed by Hurricane Rina. A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for Belize.

The National Hurricane Center reports that Hurricane Rina is located near latitude 17.9 north, longitude 85.5 west. Hurricane Rina is currently located 190 miles east-southeast of Chetumal, Mexico. She is moving toward the west at 5 mph (10km/h). Maximum sustained winds are still near 85 mph or 53 km/h. Hurricane Rina is currently a category one hurricane



on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale. The center of the hurricane is predicted to make landfall in the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula between Wednesday evening and Thursday morning; however, the hurricane's trajectory may change, potentially affecting Belize.

The Belize National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) resumed evacuation services on October 26 from all the cayes, including the tourist locations of San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, and Caye Caulker; with the last evacuation at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST). Please monitor Belize media reports for the latest updates on future evacuations, if any. U.S. citizens seeking to leave the cayes may still use local airlines Tropic Air and Maya Air. Please contact local airlines for the latest commercial flight information. Commercial flights from San Pedro and Caye Caulker to mainland Belize, as well international flights from Belize City, are still scheduled for routine departures.

U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (i.e. U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that U.S. citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

For continued updates on Hurricane Rina, residents and travelers are advised to monitor the storm at www.nhc.noaa.gov or www.nemo.org.bz. Additional media reports may be found at Channel 5 News Belize (<http://www.channel5belize.com/>), Channel 7 News Belize (<http://www.7newsbelize.com/>), and the Belize Tourism Industry Association, <http://btia.org/>.

U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to enroll in our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security. Americans without Internet access may register in person with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

For emergencies involving American citizens in Belize, please contact the U.S. Embassy Belmopan. The U.S. Embassy is located in Belmopan City on Floral Park Road, telephone from the United States: 011-501-822-4011; telephone from within Belize: 822-4011 or after working hours at either 610-5030. You may also contact the Embassy by e-mail at: ACSbelize@state.gov. The Embassy's Internet address is <http://www.belize.usembassy.gov/>.