



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: South Korea, Typhoon Bolaven Warning

Natural Disasters

East Asia & Pacific > South Korea

8/24/2012

According to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), Typhoon Bolaven is moving towards the Korean peninsula and is expected to make landfall on the Peninsula around the afternoon of August 27th and will continue to move north bringing heavy rain of 50-100 mm. and strong winds. A typhoon warning is in effect.

For specific information on the storm, please refer to the Korean Meteorological Administration for further information. <http://web.kma.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>

Strong winds associated with typhoon may cause damage by blowing down trees, fences, TV antennas, etc. Property can be damaged by loose objects being blown around by these strong winds and by driving rains entering through joints around windows doors. In some areas tropical storm may cause local landslides, flooding and wave damage.

Typhoons can cover areas of up to 500 miles (800 km) in diameter and generate winds up to 180 miles (290 km) an hour. The typhoon season in East Asia Pacific runs from May through October, with most activity from July to September. Typhoons that hit the region are often accompanied by damaging high tides. Persons living in areas close to the ocean are especially at risk. Landslides are also a serious concern during periods of heavy rain. A typhoon advisory (Jui) will be issued when the weather can cause damage. Typhoon warnings (kyungbo) will be issued when heavy widespread damage is expected due to the weather. For English-language information on the typhoon situation on the Korean peninsula, please refer to Armed Forces Network FM at 102.7, and/or TBS English FM 101.3.

Being prepared for a typhoon means keeping informed on the progress and severity of the storm, and taking some common-sense precautions to minimize the problems a typhoon may cause for you. National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of the Republic of Korea provides safety guidelines on preparing for a typhoon. For these safety tips, please refer to http://eng.nema.go.kr/sub/cms4/4_1.asp

In anticipation of typhoon weather conditions, you should take the following actions:



Inspect the general condition of your quarters. Look for loose items, broken or cracked windows and doors and windows that will not latch securely. Request repairs for unsafe items and remove loose items from porches and patios. Inspect your first aid kit to ensure it is complete. Check to make sure you have sufficient candles, matches, lanterns, flashlights, batteries, etc. to provide adequate emergency lighting. Close and lock all exterior doors, shutters and windows. Check to see that you have a supply of non-perishable foodstuff and potable water set aside for an emergency. Secure or move indoors all items outdoors such as toys, cookers, bicycles, balcony furniture, grills, plants, and anything moveable. Keep your radio tuned to RADIO AFN (AM1440/FM102.7) for tropical storm announcements. Set your freezer to the coldest temperature setting to minimize spoilage if the electric power is cut off. Gather buckets, towels, rags and mops to absorb rainwater that may be blown into your quarters by the wind. 10. If water leaks in around the windows and doors, roll up rugs and place them on top of beds or tables to avoid water damage.

11. If the storm becomes very severe, move your family into a hallway or an area where there is the least exposure to external glass windows.

Continue to monitor local radio and other media, and the National Weather Service to be aware of weather developments. Minor tropical storms can develop into hurricanes or typhoons very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Inform family and friends of your whereabouts and remain in close contact with your tour operator, hotel staff, transportation providers (airlines, cruise lines, etc.), and local officials for evacuation instructions during a weather emergency.

We strongly encourage U.S. citizens to enroll with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate through the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) website. By enrolling, you will receive the Embassy's most recent security and safety updates during your trip. Enrollment also ensures that you can be reached during an emergency. While we will do our utmost to assist you in a crisis, be aware that local authorities bear primary responsibility for the welfare of people living or traveling in their jurisdictions.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness can be found on the Department's "Hurricane Season - Know Before You Go" webpage. You can get updated information on travel from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada or, from outside the United States and Canada, 1-202-501-4444.

Embassy Contact Information:

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Seoul



32, Sejongno, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-710, Korea

- or -

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #15550
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport Inquiry line)
Tel: 02-397-4114 (All other services)
Fax: 02-397-4080
DSN: 721-4114
English: <http://www.asktheconsul.org/>
Korean: <http://www.usavisas.org/>
E-mail: seoulinfoacs@state.gov

Alternatively, you may unsubscribe from the embassy website at <http://www.asktheconsul.org/> (enter your email address and click on "unsubscribe"). Or, you may send an email to: leave-seoulacs@mh.databack.com.