



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Bogota (Colombia), Eruption of the Nevada R Volcano

Volcanoes

Western Hemisphere > Colombia; Western Hemisphere > Colombia > Bogota

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The Government of Colombia has released a warning about an ongoing eruption of the Nevada del Ruiz volcano, on the border of the Tolima and Caldas Departments about 80 miles west of Bogota. The Manizales Municipal Office of Disaster Prevention and Attention reports today that the volcano generated a column 10 km high and dispersed ash over the immediate area of the volcano (sector Brisas, Cerro Gualí, el Arbolito y Nereidas) and in municipalities of Caldas such as Manizales, Chinchiná, Villamaría, Palestina, Neira y Anserma. They expect to see further ash falls in areas farther from the volcano depending on wind patterns.

The Colombian Geologic Society has placed the volcano on a red alert (level 1- Imminent or Ongoing Eruption) and will continue to monitor the volcano's activity. They recommend that the community remain calm and continue to monitor official reports.

In 1985 this volcano erupted and created mud and debris flows that killed over 25,000 people in and around the town of Armero. Given the unpredictability of volcanic activity and the previous volatility of this volcano, the U.S. Embassy recommends that U.S. citizens avoid this area if possible. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to local news reports. Local updates are posted on the "ingeminas" website here.

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You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, found [here](#). Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, by calling the regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the embassy/consulates to contact them in case of emergency. Stay up to date by bookmarking our Bureau of Consular Affairs website, which contains the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts as well as the Worldwide Caution. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, via e-mail at acsbogota@state.gov or by telephone at (571) 275-2000. The U.S. Embassy is located at Carrera 45, # 24B-27, Bogota, D.C., Colombia and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 09:00 to 11:30. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting [this website](#).

The Embassy operates a Consular Agency in Baranquilla, Colombia which also provides assistance to U.S. citizens. The Baranquilla Consular Agency is located Calle 77B No. 57-141, suite 511. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary.

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