

★★ AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES ★★ CONSULAR QUARTERLY

Embassy of the United States, Mission Mexico

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Hurricane Season Blows into Town

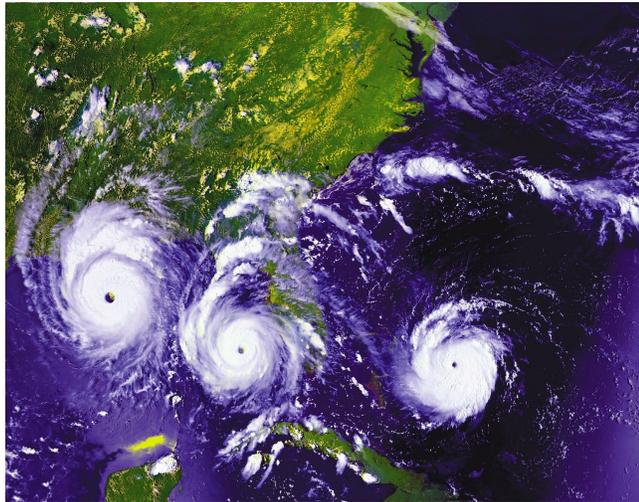
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts an active Atlantic hurricane season this year, with a 70 percent chance of having 14 to 23 named storms, 14 of which could become hurricanes.

An average season has 11 named storms.

In light of these statistics, residents in Mexico need to be especially prepared for and stay aware of hurricane developments.

Below are some general tips on what to do before and during an actual hurricane:

- **Register** with the U.S. Embassy
- **Create an emergency kit** that includes canned food and water
- **Designate** a safe haven in case you need to evacuate
- **Secure your home:** Seal windows



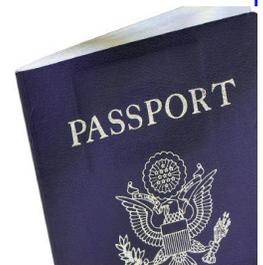
and doors, remove loose items from outside (patio furniture, etc.)

- **Remain indoors** in an interior room on the lowest level
- **Take cover** under a table or other sturdy object
- **Do not venture outside** if there is a lull in the storm

For more tips, log on to the Embassy's emergency preparedness page at http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/eacs_emergency_preparedness.html

HIGHLIGHTS

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DETER·DETECT·DEFEND



Exercise Your Right to Vote, Even Abroad

The 2010 election cycle has begun and the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) can help Americans living outside the U.S. register to vote in local and federal elections. Keep in mind that registration re-



quirements vary from state to state, so plan ahead and don't forget to exercise your right to vote.

Log on to the FVAP's website at www.fvap.gov

For more information, log on at <http://www.travel.state.gov> or www.usembassy-mexico.gov

PASSPORT FAQs



Q: I'm applying for a U.S. passport for the first time. I was born in the U.S. but returned to Mexico shortly after. What documents do I need to present with my DS-11 passport application?

A: First-time passport applicants may be asked for all or some of the following documents:

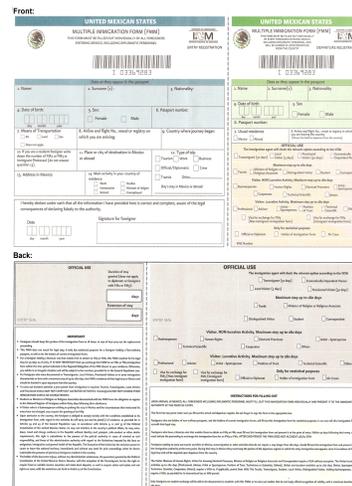
- Original U.S. birth certificate
- Prenatal documents
- Documents from hospital
- Photos taken during the mother's pregnancy
- Proof of parents' presence in the United States around time of birth of the applicant
- Photos of the applicant from birth to present
- If necessary, notarized written consent from an absent parent of a minor applicant
- School records

In certain cases, documents in addition to those listed above may be required.

For information on passport services and how to make an appointment, and for downloadable application forms, log on at <http://mexico.usembassy.gov>

Mexico's New, Simpler Immigration Form

Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM) introduced a new immigration form earlier this year in an effort to streamline the immigration process for both tourists to Mexico and permanent residents of the country. As of May 2010, all foreigners entering Mexico fill out the same immigration form (pictured right), which is in both Spanish and English. Mexican immigration officials keep the larger half. The smaller, right-hand side is retained by the visitor or resident and needs to be presented to immigration officials when exiting the country.



Studying Abroad? Travel and Safety Tips

Are you planning on studying abroad? If so, the U.S. State Department has a website dedicated to students and younger travelers who are about to embark on an experience of a lifetime. Keep in mind that preparing for your study abroad isn't simply a matter of stuffing your backpack and buying a pair of flip-flops! Studentsabroad.state.gov offers information you might not find



in your tourguide, including tips on how to prepare your travel documents, deal with local authorities, buy insurance, and adjust to a new country and culture. Log on at www.studentsabroad.state.gov

Get In STEP, Sign Up for Travel Information

In its effort to keep Americans abroad safe and informed, the U.S. State Department will soon unroll its Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to improve and replace current travel sign-up procedures. Enrolled Americans will receive regular travel updates and information, and security alerts. To stay updated on STEP, log on to the State Department's website at www.travel.state.gov.



New Consular Agent in Ixtapa

There's a new consular agent in town: Longtime U.S. expat Debbie Mione now heads up the consular agency in Ixtapa and looks forward to working with and assisting American citizens in the community.

Debbie brings years of experience to the job and, more importantly, a dedication to and passion for her work.

**LONGTIME EXPAT
DEBRA L. MIONE
JOINS EMBASSY**

A recipient of numerous awards from the Mexican government for her contributions to the Ixtapa community, Debbie recently celebrated her 25th anniversary in Mexico. She fondly recalls her first trip to the country. "I came here to Zihua on vacation," Debbie explains, "and just didn't leave."

Debbie adds that she's fallen in love with Mexico, its culture and its people. She feels that her affection



Photo courtesy of Debra Mione

will translate to a more caring approach to consular services. "You will get the human feeling here."

The Ixtapa Consular Agency is located in the Hotel Fontan on Blvd. Ixtapa. The phone number is 755-553-2100



CALLING ALL WARDENS

Are you a U.S. expat with an interest in giving back to the Mexican community that you live in and now call home? If so, the U.S. Embassy's American Citizens Services (ACS) section is always looking for dedicated individuals and prominent members of the international community in Mexico who are willing to volunteer their time and energy as wardens of their communities. Wardens keep the Embassy informed of newsworthy events in their area, raise any relevant issues in the community with the Embassy, liaise with other Americans in the neighborhood, and help ACS organize events, such as town halls (see page 4 for more details on town halls). Are you ready to accept the call of community service?

If you would like more information on the warden system or on how to volunteer, email American Citizens Services at acsmexicocity@state.gov

Giving Back to the Community: Robert Kruger

Robert Kruger is a longtime U.S. expat in Mexico who, over the past three years, has volunteered his services to the U.S. Embassy as a warden.

Robert assists the Embassy by staying informed about issues affecting the area and serving as a link between the Embassy and U.S. citizens in the community. In addition to being a warden, Robert is the director of a prominent academic institution in Veracruz that caters to international students,

Robert explains, "Since I work with foreign students, I thought that



Photo courtesy of Robert Kruger

being a warden would help me be more effective in keeping my students in touch with important issues that arise through the Embassy."

Reaching Out to the Int'l Community



American Citizens Services (ACS) recently hosted a number of town halls around Mexico.



List of American Organizations

Below is a listing of prominent American clubs and associations in Mexico, along with their websites:

American Benevolent Society
www.abs.org.mx

American Chamber of Commerce
www.amcham.com.mx

American Legion
www.amlegion-mexico.org

American Society of Mexico, A.C.
www.americansocietyofmexico.com

Benjamin Franklin Library
<http://www.mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/library.html/>

Democrats Abroad
www.mexicodemocrats.org

Newcomers Club
www.newcomers.org.mx

Salvation Army
www.salvationarmy.org

YMCA
www.ymca.org.mx

Due to popular demand, American Citizens Services (ACS) has held a number of town halls and other outreach events in Mexico in the past four months. Recent trips include visits to Guanajuato, Puebla, and Oaxaca. More trips are planned, including a number of events to be held in Mexico City and its near vicinity. ACS outreach events have four main goals: to introduce Embassy services to U.S. citizens, to locate U.S.

citizens in Mexico and encourage them to sign-up for travel information through the U.S. State Department, to address any concerns they might have, and to make contact with appropriate Mexican authorities and agencies. ACS will be in your neighborhood soon!

American Citizens Services (ACS) plans to hold outreach events in Mexico City in the near future. For updates on ACS events, log on at www.usembassy-mexico.gov.

INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER

Are you a member of a non-profit American club (or maybe even part of a group for Republicans abroad)? If so, we'd love to know. Please send us an email introducing your organization to acsmexicocity@state.gov

Stamped, Signed & Sealed

American Citizens Services (ACS) offers notary services on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, by appointment only. Appointments are offered weekly from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. In its continuing efforts to improve service and respond to customer suggestions, ACS will add additional



days for notary services depending upon demand. Some guidelines to remember before your appointment:

- Bring documents to be notarized, proof of identity such as a passport or driver's license, and cash in U.S. dollars or the Mexican equivalent as follows: US\$30.00,

NOTARY SERVICES

for the first notarized document, and US\$20.00 for each additional document to be notarized. **There is no fee to notarize U.S. Government documents**

- ACS can only notarize signatures, and cannot vouch for the veracity of the content or the authenticity of a notarized document
- The U.S. Embassy and its consulates do not issue apostilles or arrange for witnesses

For more information on ACS notary, children's issues, welfare and whereabouts, arrests and detentions, death and estates, and passport services, log on to the Embassy's website at www.usembassy-mexico.gov



Steps to Prevent Identity Theft

Are you sure you're who you think you are? In an age when business and

correspondence is conducted electronically, the potential for identity theft increases. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission's website can provide you with information to help you deter, detect, and defend against identity theft. Log on to

the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.ftc.gov and look under the "Identity Theft" section, located in the middle of the homepage.

U.S. Embassy Contact Information

Address: 305 Paseo de la Reforma, Col. Cuauhtemoc, 06500 Mexico D.F.

Phone: (011)(52) 55-5080-2000

For passport information, ext. 4325

For other services, ext. 4780

For afterhour emergencies, ext. 0

The U.S. Embassy, Mission Mexico wishes you a

Happy Fourth of July Holiday!

The U.S. Embassy will be closed to the public on July 5 in observance of Independence Day. For a complete listing of U.S. Embassy and American Citizen Services closures, log on to the Embassy's website at www.usembassy-mexico.gov

