



AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

MANAGUA NEWSLETTER

Issue 4—May, 2017

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EMERGENCY SERVICES



- Deaths, Abductions, Robberies, Arrests, etc. will be attended promptly.
- Please call (505) 2252-7104 and ask for the American Citizens Services Unit during Embassy office hours.
- If the Embassy is closed, please call **(505) 2252-7100** and ask to speak with the Embassy duty officer.

FOLLOW US ON THE WEB:

U.S. Embassy Managua



The United States Embassy in Managua is located at: Kilómetro 5 1/2 (5.5) Carretera Sur, Managua, Nicaragua.

Main embassy phone:
(505) 2252-7100

Consular Section:
(505) 2252-7104

Customer Service:
(505) 2252-7888

Fax: (505) 2252-7250

Email:
ACS.Managua@state.gov

Consular services are available Monday thru Friday except for official U.S. and Nicaraguan holidays.

Routine services such as passports and notarials require an appointment; you can schedule an appointment on-line:

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/vacs/default.asp?postcode=MNG&apcode=1>.

For questions about visas DO NOT CALL ACS or make an appointment for ACS services. Instead, please call (505) 7877-7600 (Movistar number), options available in English.

PRINCIPLES OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE



On April 5, the U.S. Embassy provided victim assistance training to all of our volunteer wardens. Here are some of the key takeaways:

Every crime will be different, ranging in severity, complexity, sensitivity, etc. Thus, our response to each crime will be different. With that said, we can still rely on a few core principles to help us navigate these crimes – even when we don't know what to say or how to respond to emotion, etc. The following principles come from the field of victim assistance (social work, advocacy, etc.):

1. Safety and Security

- ⇒ Victims need to feel safe before anything else
- ⇒ Assess immediate safety and medical needs
- ⇒ Basic needs: food, water, shelter, etc.
- ⇒ Respond expeditiously

2. Ventilate and Validate

- ⇒ Do not judge
- ⇒ Listen actively with empathy
- ⇒ Acknowledge his/her traumatic reaction
- ⇒ Encourage connection and proper resources

3. Prepare, Predict and Inform

- ⇒ They've lost control – knowing next steps can help
- ⇒ Offer to help (within the limits of your capacity)
- ⇒ Manage expectations, encourage support

“Every year, U.S. Embassy Managua’s Consular Section sees cases involving U.S. citizen victims of homicide, sexual or aggravated assault, and robbery or petty crime.”

Things that you CAN Say...

If someone in distress asks you for help, you can say:

- How can I help you?
- What can I do for you?
- Are you safe?
- How are you doing?
- I believe you.
- I can't imagine.
- I don't know, but I'll find out.
- I'm glad you called.
- I'm sorry that this happened to you...



THE ROLE OF THE EMBASSY REGARDING VICTIM ASSISTANCE



“Every crime is different, every victim is different and every situation is different.”

The U.S. Embassy CAN...

- Address emergency needs
- Provide hospital and lawyer lists
- Explain the local criminal justice processes
- Connect victims to local and US-based resources
- Contact family, friends, or employers
- Obtain information on legal cases
- Replace a stolen passport



The U.S. Embassy CANNOT...

- Investigate
- Provide legal advice
- Officially interpret or translate
- Pay legal, medical, or other fees
- Request preferential treatment
- Make guarantees



The information on this and the prior page was part of training provided by the State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs’ Victims Assistance Office remotely to ACS staff and volunteer wardens in Managua, and may be of use to private U.S. citizens.

ZIKA Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their Zika travel guidance on March 10, 2017, recommending that pregnant women not travel to any area where there is a risk of Zika virus infection. For a world map of the Zika affected areas, please visit CDC's [interactive map](#).

For more information about travel [guidance for pregnant women](#), visit the CDC's website. For general information and the latest updates about Zika and steps to prevent mosquito bites and sexual exposure to the virus, please visit the [CDC website](#).

CDC's Response to Zika

HOW TO PROTECT AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES



Zika virus is spread to people mainly through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes that spread Zika virus bite mostly during the day, but they can also bite at night. The best way to prevent Zika is to protect yourself from mosquito bites.

Use insect repellent

Use [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered](#) insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. Always follow the product label instructions.



- When used as directed, these insect repellents are proven safe and effective even for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Reapply insect repellent as directed.
- Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
- If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first.
- The effectiveness of non-EPA registered insect repellents, including some natural repellents, is not known.

If you have a baby or child

- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.
- Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children younger than 3 years old.
- Dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Cover crib, stroller, and baby carrier with mosquito netting.
- Do not apply insect repellent onto a child's hands, eyes, mouth, and any cut or irritated skin.
 - » Adults: Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.



Treat clothes and gear

- Treat items such as clothing and gear with permethrin or buy permethrin-treated clothes and gear.
 - » See product information to find out the number of washings or length of time the protection will last.
 - » If treating items yourself, follow the product instructions.
 - » Do not use permethrin products directly on skin.



ZIKA UPDATE *CONTINUED...*

CDC's Response to Zika

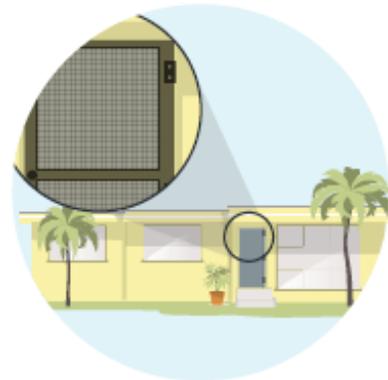


Control mosquitoes outside your home

- **Once a week**, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, and planters.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, rain barrels, etc.).
- For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
- Use larvicides to treat large containers of water that will not be used for drinking and cannot be covered or dumped out.
- Use an outdoor flying insect spray in dark humid areas where mosquitoes rest, like under patio furniture, or in the carport or garage. When using insecticides, always follow label instructions.
- If you have a septic tank, repair cracks or gaps. Cover open vent or plumbing pipes using wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

Control mosquitoes inside your home

- Keep windows and doors shut and use air conditioning when possible.
- Use, install, or repair window and door screens.
- **Once a week**, empty or throw out any items that hold water like vases and flowerpot saucers.
- Use an indoor flying insect fogger* or indoor insect spray* to kill mosquitoes and treat areas where they rest. These products work immediately, but may need to be reapplied. Always follow label directions.
- Only using insecticide will not keep your home free of mosquitoes.



Active ingredient

Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection

DEET

Picaridin (known as KBR 3023 and icaridin outside the US)

IR3535

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD)

2-undecanone



Find the insect repellent that's right for you by using [EPA's search tool*](#).

* The EPA's search tool is available at: www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you

For further information about security in Nicaragua:

See the State Department's travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Nicaragua Country Specific Information at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/nicaragua.html>



WANT TO BECOME A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER?



Registration for the June 2017 Foreign Service Exam

U.S. Embassy Managua will host the Foreign Service Officer Test on Thursday, June 8, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, June 10, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration opened on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 and will close on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. It is important to register and sign-up for a seat early since there are only 10 total spots available for the test. To register, please go to: <http://www.pearsonvue.com/fsot/>. Registration is not available through the Embassy.

If you are considering the test, or if you are thinking about which of the five career tracks is best for you, you can take this quiz to give you a better idea: <https://careers.state.gov/work/foreign-service/officer/career-track-quiz>.

More information on the application process to become a Foreign Service Officer can be found at: <http://careers.state.gov/officer>. You can also purchase the official study guide at https://www.mindhub.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=FSOTSG_P. When thinking about the Foreign Service, also consider opportunities offered through the [Foreign Service Specialist Program](#).

IF IN NICARAGUA...KNOW THE LAW!

While you are traveling in Nicaragua, you are subject to its laws. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from those in the United States. Persons violating Nicaraguan laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Nicaragua are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Under current law, possession of 5 to 20 grams of marijuana can carry a sentence of 6 months to 3 years in prison; possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana can carry a sentence of 3 to 8 years in prison.

Trafficking in illegal drugs, distributing or selling drugs inside the country can carry a sentence of 5 to 15 years in prison. It is not uncommon for someone to be charged with trafficking when found to be in possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana.

For more information, please click on the below link to the Nicaraguan penal code 641, articles 348-362 (in Spanish):

https://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/sp/nic/sp_nic_Nuevo_Codigo_Penal_%20Nicaragua_2007.pdf

“Trafficking in illegal drugs, distributing or selling drugs inside the country can carry a sentence of 5 to 15 years in prison.”

In the news...

U.S. AIR FORCE PLANE ARRIVES TO NICARAGUA WITH DONATIONS

A C-5 Galaxy, the largest airplane in the United States Air Force's inventory, landed at Augusto C. Sandino's International Airport, Saturday April 22nd, carrying donations for local organizations from humanitarian organizations in the United States.

The total donation amounted to 37,000 Kg in foods and 9,500 Kg in fire-fighting equipment with a total value of \$215,000. The donations were made by Abundant Rain Ministries and Bend Firefighters Foundation and will be delivered to local organizations.

The food donations will be distributed by Fundación Instituto Biblico Internacional in Managua, Granada, Ciudad Sandino, Tipitapa, San Rafael del Sur, and Masachapa through soup kitchens, orphanages and schools. The fire-fighting equipment will be distributed throughout the country by Asociación Civil Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Nicaragua.

The flight was part of the Denton Program, a joint effort among several U.S. government agencies.

"I am proud of the generosity of the people and government of the United States. We're happy to be able to hand over this donation."

Ambassador Dogu



For more embassy news and updates visit: <https://ni.usembassy.gov/>

Traveling to Nicaragua?... READ THIS

WHEN IS THE YELLOW FEVER VACCINE REQUIRED?

On January 17, 2017 the Government of Nicaragua announced a new requirement for travelers entering Nicaragua from certain countries to present proof of yellow fever vaccination as a condition for being granted entry to Nicaragua. This requirement is in response to a recent yellow fever outbreak in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais.

Effective January 27, 2017, travelers coming from countries designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as [places with the potential for active transmission of yellow fever](#) will be required to present an International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever, showing a vaccine given at least 10 days prior, at the Nicaraguan port of entry. Those countries currently include Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, and all countries located on the African continent with the exception of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia.

The United States is not listed as a country with the potential for active transmission of yellow fever. The new requirement does not impact travelers already in Nicaragua. Travelers with prior travel to countries with the potential for active transmission of yellow fever will not be required to show proof of a yellow fever vaccine as long as the prior travel to the affected country occurred more than six days prior and the traveler does not show symptoms of yellow fever. Symptoms of yellow fever include sudden onset of fever, chills, severe headache, back pain, general body aches, nausea and vomiting, fatigue, and weakness.

Travelers impacted by the new requirement must show an International Certificate of Vaccination as proof of immunization at the port of entry. A World Health Organization (WHO) card (commonly called a “yellow card”) showing proof of immunization is often used by travelers.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends or urges precaution against yellow fever vaccinations for pregnant women, children under 9 months of age, breastfeeding mothers, and people with certain other medical conditions. Please refer to the [CDC's website](#) for specific guidance. For those who cannot receive a yellow fever vaccination, the Nicaraguan government requires a letter of medical certification explaining why an exemption is medically justified. In accordance with CDC guidance, the Government of Nicaragua deems a yellow fever vaccine effective for life.



*“The United States is not listed as a country with the potential for active transmission of yellow fever. The new requirement **DOES NOT** impact travelers already in Nicaragua.”*

Registering with the U.S. Embassy is easy with STEP



SmartTravelerEnrollmentProgram
A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State

The Embassy encourages all U.S. citizens to enroll their trip to Nicaragua or their residency in Nicaragua through the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**.

Why it is important to register with STEP?

- **STEP** allows you to enter information so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency.
- It also allows U.S. citizens residing in Nicaragua to get routine and emergency information from the Embassy.
- To enroll, click on the following address or type it in your browser <https://step.state.gov/step>.
- You can also download the Smart Travel Program App for your Smartphone under the name **Smart Traveler**. Go to iTunes for Apple phones or Google Play for Android phones.

IF YOU ARE BRINGING A DRONE INTO NICARAGUA, THINK TWICE...

Nicaraguan Customs authorities will retain drones (and similar devices or toys) with an elevation capacity above 80 feet and a horizontal range of more than 82 feet, regardless of whether or not they are operated by remote control.



