

Dear Warden:

Below please find a Warden Message from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia. Please share this warden message with any U.S. citizens in Bolivia with whom you have contact.

WARDEN MESSAGE
U.S. EMBASSY LA PAZ, BOLIVIA
December 27, 2010

This warden message informs U.S. citizens traveling to and residing in Bolivia of possible demonstrations and roadblocks affecting travel nationwide.

On Sunday, December 26, and without prior notice, the Bolivian government announced an increase in the price of gasoline and diesel fuel by 73% nationwide, effective immediately. The news of the price hike prompted a widespread negative reaction across many sectors of society given its expected multiplier effect on prices throughout the economy.

Several labor unions are meeting today to discuss possible retaliatory measures. Transportation unions have already announced "indefinite" public transportation strikes across the country that are affecting both inter- and intra-city travel. Protestors have also begun to erect sporadic road blockades in La Paz and other cities and elsewhere around the country, and may be planning more organized and widespread blockades in the coming days.

The U.S. Embassy urges you to exercise caution when traveling within Bolivia. If you do decide to travel, you should verify your routes and check news reports prior to departing for updates on possible protest and blockade locations.

The U.S. Embassy reminds you that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia and can emerge with little or no prior notice. Even though they might be intended to be peaceful they can turn confrontational between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders, and escalate into violence. We urge you to avoid the areas of demonstrations and to exercise caution if you are within the vicinity of any protests. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, it is recommended you leave the area immediately for your own safety.

The U.S. Embassy encourages you to register and update your contact information at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz and/or the U.S. consular agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Registration may be done online and can be done in advance of travel. Information on registering may be found at the Department of State's Consular Affairs website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For the latest security information, you should regularly monitor the Department's internet website at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current worldwide caution, travel warnings and travel alerts can be found. Additional information is available in the country specific information for Bolivia at <http://travel.state.gov> and on the embassy web page at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>.

Current information on travel and security in Bolivia may be obtained from the Department of

State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or, from overseas, 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 traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. embassy or consulate on the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

You may contact the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at consularlapaz@state.gov or by telephone at (591-2) 216-8246 during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or (591) 715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The consular section is located in the U.S. Embassy at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. The Santa Cruz consular agency can be reached by telephone at (591-3) 351-3477. The Cochabamba consular agency is temporarily closed.

We hope this information is useful to you. If we may provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia