



## **Disaster Preparedness Checklist for Americans in Colombia**

### **Essential Supplies (Store enough for 3-5 days)**

- Water (one gallon per person per day. Change water every 3-5 months)
- Food (canned or pre-cooked, requiring no heat or water. Consider special dietary needs, infants, the elderly, pets)
- Flashlight with spare batteries and bulbs
- Radio (battery operated with spare batteries)
- Large plastic trash bags (for trash, waste, water protection, ground cloth, temporary blanket)
- Hand soap and/or disinfecting hand cleaner gel that does not require water
- Feminine hygiene supplies, infant supplies, toilet paper
- Essential medications as required; glasses if you normally wear contacts
- Paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, cooking foil, plastic wrap and paper towels
- First aid kit with instructions
- Pesos in small bills (ATMs may not work after a disaster), with coins and phone cards for public phones.
- Place emergency supplies and your telephone in places where they are less likely to be knocked over or buried by falling objects (on the floor under a strong table is a good choice).

### **Essential Home Preparations Before a Disaster**

- Secure water heaters, refrigerators and tall and heavy furniture to the walls to prevent falling.
- Move heavy items to lower shelves, and install latches or other locking devices on cabinets.
- Install flexible connections on gas appliances.
- Remove or isolate flammable materials.
- Move beds and children's play areas away from heavy objects which may fall in an earthquake.
- Register your travel with the [Smart Traveler Enrolment Program](#) (STEP).

### **Essential Planning Before a Disaster**

- Draw a floor plan of your home showing the location of exit windows and doors, utility cut off points, emergency supplies, food, tools, etc. Share it with baby-sitters and guests.

- Establish family meeting points with alternate sites inside and outside of your home for all members to gather in the event of an evacuation.
- Establish reunion sites with alternate sites for when the family is not at home, e.g., local shelter, neighbor's house, park, school.
- Designate a person outside of your immediate area for separated family members to call to report their location and condition if separated.
- Learn or establish disaster policy/planning at your children's school
- Know your neighbors and make them aware of the number of people living in your home.
- Learn where the nearest designated shelter for your neighborhood is.
- Photocopy passports and other important documents. Store copies away from home (for example, at work).
- Learn how to contact the police, fire and rescue services in Spanish (Emergency services in Colombia is reached by dialing 123 from a land line or \*123 from a mobile phone). Be able to provide your address in Spanish.

### **Essential Steps Immediately After a Disaster**

- Check your immediate surroundings for fire, gas leaks, broken glass and other hazards.
- Open doors and/or windows to avoid being locked in if there are after-shocks.
- Contact a friend or relative in the United States and ask them to inform other parties of your situation.
- Monitor local TV and radio for evacuation information.
- Monitor the [U.S. Embassy website](#), [Facebook](#) page, and [Twitter](#) account for updates.

### **How to Contact Us**

#### **U.S. Embassy in Bogota**

Calle 24 Bis No. 48-50 in Bogotá, Colombia

Tel: 03-3224-5174 Fax: 03-3224-5856

<http://bogota.usembassy.gov/emergencies.html>

#### **Consular Agency in Barranquilla**

Calle 77B No. 57-141, suite 511

Tel 05-353-2001 or 05-353-2182