

## **HURRICANE ODILE – ASSISTANCE FOR U.S CITIZENS**

For U.S. citizens affected by Hurricane Odile or their relatives, the State Department has established a crisis hotline to respond to inquiries about current conditions and loved ones in the impacted area. If they require assistance personally, or wish to inquire on behalf of a friend or family member, please contact Jane Loomis in my **Lake Dallas office at (940)497-5031 or [jane.loomis@mail.house.gov](mailto:jane.loomis@mail.house.gov)** and also use the State Department's emergency contact information:

**From the U.S. & Canada: 1-888-407-4747**

**From Overseas: 1 202-501-4444**

**Email: [OdileEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:OdileEmergencyUSC@state.gov)**

Updates will be posted regularly on the Tijuana consular page:

[http://tijuana.usconsulate.gov/odile\\_update09162014.html](http://tijuana.usconsulate.gov/odile_update09162014.html)

Please be ready to provide my staff and the State Department the following information:

U.S. citizen (s) Full name

Date(s) of birth

Place(s) of birth

Last known location (please be as specific as possible).

Any available contact information.

Any other information you think would be helpful in locating the U.S. citizen

The safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas is a top priority of the Department of State. We encourage U.S. citizens traveling and residing abroad to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), and to read the Country Specific Information also found on the site.

The Department of State has also provided the following update on the situation in Mexico:

Anyone who is interested in being evacuated from Los Cabos or La Paz should go to the closest of the two airports **during daylight hours**.

The Department of State is working with U.S. and Mexican carriers to arrange flights for U.S. citizens departing from San Jose del Cabo (SJD) airport on Thursday, September 18. Other flights MAY be departing from the airport in La

Paz (LAP). The Department of State urges U.S. citizens still in Cabo San Lucas to avail themselves of this opportunity. Passengers should be prepared to wait until they are able to depart. Many U.S. and Mexican commercial flights are departing the airport. In addition, the U.S. State Department has chartered flights. **By law, these flights will be provided on a reimbursable basis, and passengers will be required to sign a promissory note. No passenger will be turned away due to lack of funds.**

U.S. consular personnel are in affected areas in the Baja California peninsula to provide consular assistance to stranded citizens.

The U.S. Consulate in Tijuana advises against land travel between southern Baja and the northern Baja Peninsula because of damage to the Trans-Peninsular Highway. If a U.S. citizen is in need of shelter or does not wish to be evacuated, they are encouraged to seek out Civil Protection or other emergency service personnel at the airport. These officials should be able to direct them to the nearest established shelter.

In the event that they are not able to relocate to a shelter, citizens are encouraged to remain at the airport to minimize their risk. In addition to hazards such as downed power lines, citizens traveling alone run a greater risk of becoming victims of crime.