Prepare for Takeoff

“Prepare for takeoff” is more than a phrase. It’s a call for action for everyone to contribute to travel safety. Whether local or abroad, traveling can be an exciting experience but do you know how to prepare for unexpected difficulties while away from home?

Safety begins before you go! The U.S. Department of State offers important tips to help you get ready for takeoff:

- Learn as much as you can about the local laws, customs and risks of the area you plan to visit. Know the emergency plans of the hotel or community where you will be staying;
- Bring travelers checks and no more than two credit cards instead of cash;
- Put your name, address and telephone numbers inside and outside of each piece of luggage. Use covered luggage tags to avoid causal observation of your identity. If possible, lock your luggage; and
- Pack an extra set of passport photos along with a photocopy of your passport’s information page to make replacement of your passport easier if it’s lost or stolen.

See how to respond to disaster specific hazards with safety tips from FEMA. Sign up for FEMA text messages or download the FEMA app to access preparedness tips when you need them the most.

You can also enroll in the Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program to automatically receive the most current information about the country they are visiting. Get travel alerts, warnings and assistance in case of an emergency or natural disaster.

Learn about the other ways the Department of State can assist you in a crisis. They provide emergency services 24-hours a day. Have a safe trip!