





On January 10, 2017, the Department of State released its new Travel Advisory Program. The primary focus of the new plan is to revamp the Consular Information Program which is the department's cornerstone in keeping U.S. citizens safe while they travel or live abroad.

Over the years the Department of State felt certain documents and terminology used were confusing, not conveyed effectively, and not readily accessible. To eliminate confusion the department has done away with "Security/Emergency Messages" and "Travel Warnings/Travel Alerts" and instituted "Alerts" and "Travel Advisories".

In the new program, status Alerts replaced Security and Emergency messages. With alerts, users will receive one message which may be a crime alert, hurricane alert, or terrorist incident alert.

Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts for each country have been substituted for Travel Advisories. Identifying a country's Travel Advisory is a collaborative process which involves compiling information from security experts, the Intel community, host governments, and U.S. embassies and consulates. Once a Travel Advisory is determined travelers will see a four level ranking system which is as follows:

	Level 1 "Exercise normal precautions"
	Level 2 "Exercise increased caution"
	Level 3 "Reconsider travel"
	Level 4 "Do not travel"

To further assist travelers, icons have been developed and used to specify why a specific country is believed to be rated in its current status. All countries with a Level 2 or higher advisory should have one or more of the following icons attached:

- C for crime
- T for terrorism
- U for civil unrest
- H for health issues
- N for natural disasters
- E for time-limited events such as elections or major sporting events
- O for other, catch-all for the things that don't fit into those other categories

With the new Travel Advisory Program users may now view or get updates online or via a mobile device. For more information on the new Travel Advisory Program, please visit the following links:

[Travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov), [complete list of countries](#), or [world at a glance color coded map](#).