Contingency Guidance

1. Introduction

The British Embassy in Seoul has prepared these guidance notes to familiarise you with:

* How to make preparations during periods of increased tension in Korea;
* What the Embassy can do to help in the event of a crisis;
* What you should do if an evacuation becomes necessary.

It is important to stress that evacuation by the Embassy is a last resort and will have followed a phased approach aimed at helping resident and visiting British nationals reach informed decisions about whether to remain in South Korea.

2. Who is eligible for help in the event of an evacuation?

Those who qualify for help are:

* British nationals;
* British nationals with another nationality ( dual nationals), although this may depend on the circumstances;
* Spouses and dependent children of the above, regardless of nationality;

In addition, citizens of EU and Commonwealth countries that do not have an Embassy in Korea may also be eligible for help.

3. Sensible precautions you can take:

* The latest travel advice for South Korea including safety and security is available through our country Travel Advice pages  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-korea> . It is recommended that you subscribe to our travel advice <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-korea> .
* During periods of increased tension, please be alert to changing circumstances and be prepared to depart voluntarily if you feel uncomfortable with the situation. Please refer regularly to the Embassy website (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-korea>) for updated information and other sources of information (e.g. local media or your employer). If you do leave, please let us know so that we can update our records and avoid wasting resources trying to track down people who have already left the country.
* At such times, please maintain a stock of useful items (see Annex A) and have essential documentation (see Annex B) readily to hand to prove your eligibility for help.
* We also advise that you keep private vehicles well maintained and, in times of increased tension, keep the fuel tank as full as possible. If you have suitable safe storage, you may also wish to keep a small stock of fuel at home. (However, please note that in an evacuation situation, travel by car may not be possible).

4. Subscribing to our travel advice

The latest travel advice for South Korea including safety and security is available through our country Travel Advice pages  <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-korea> . You can subscribe to receive automatic updates, and can also follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

Follow us on twitter: @ukinkorea and @UKAmb\_Wightman

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ukinrok](http://www.facebook.com/ukinrok)

If the situation deteriorates further, the Embassy will pass information via AFN radio and television service (see Annex C), TBS Efm (101.3MHz - Seoul, 90.5MHz - Pusan, 98.7MHz - Kwangju), Arirang DMB and BBC World Service.

5. Evacuation: Assembly

Should it ever be necessary, the Embassy will do all it can to organise an evacuation of the British community. Our priority will be to move British nationals and their families away from possible danger. As long as you are in no immediate danger, you should stay put until such time as you are asked to move. However, you should check your e-mail and the British Embassy's web-site regularly for advice. You should also listen to the radio broadcasts referred to in section 4.

When you are advised to assemble for evacuation, you should:

* Promptly collect (or contact) any other members of your family who are not with you;
* Collect your emergency supplies (Annex A) and essential documents (Annex B);
* Collect any personal items you wish to take and can carry (please remember that you may have to walk some distance with your luggage and that space on the transport may be very limited);
* Proceed to your designated assembly point. Please regularly check the British Embassy website at the time for updated details.

During a crisis, it may not be possible to drive a vehicle, so you and your family should be prepared to walk or find alternate means of transportation. The Embassy will not be able to provide transport for UK citizens to reach assembly points.

At the assembly point, you will be asked to provide documentary proof of your eligibility for evacuation. British Embassy Consular Officers will be on hand to help.

6. Evacuation: Relocation

After assembly, it may be necessary to relocate you to another point within the Republic of Korea before you can be evacuated. At this time, you will be expected to use the emergency supplies you were advised to bring. Conditions might be difficult and you should be prepared for some inconvenience and discomfort.

7. Evacuation: Departure

When it is considered safe to evacuate, we will aim to move you to an evacuation point. Evacuation may be to the nearest suitable country in the region.

At the time of evacuation, you may be asked to sign an undertaking to repay the cost of your evacuation.

Annex A: Recommended Emergency Items

Essential

* 3 days supply of lightweight, high energy, non-perishable ready-to-eat food and water per person.
* Eating utensils.
* Toiletries (toilet paper, soap, tissues etc).
* 30 days supply of essential medicine or prescription drugs.
* If you have a baby, at least 3 days supply of milk formula, food, nappies etc.

Desirable (Supplies should be lightweight, disposable items wherever possible)

* Rucksack.
* Blankets or sleeping bag.
* Extra clothing (including one warm item whatever the weather) and strong footwear.
* First aid kit.
* Torch and extra batteries.
* Small AM/FM radio with extra batteries. Lightweight SW radios if possible.
* Money: Local currency and US dollars.

Annex B: Documentation

(It is advisable to have English translations of any documents that are in a foreign language, including Korean.)

Essential

* Passports.
* Local Identity card.
* Birth certificates.
* Marriage certificates.
* Nationality documents, if relevant.
* Power of attorney, if you are taking charge of someone else's child or children.

Desirable

* Insurance documents
* Medical records, including vaccinations.
* Driving licences.
* Financial documents
* Wills.
* Address books
* Household inventory

Annex C : American Forces Network Frequencies in Korea

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Location | Radio | | Television Channel |
| FM | AM |
| Chinhae | 88.5 | 1512 | 2 |
| Chunchon | 88.5 | 1440 | 2 |
| Cheju-Do |  | 1512 |  |
| Kunsan | 88.5 | 1440 | 49 |
| Kwangju | 88.5 |  |  |
| Munsan | 88.5 | 1440 | 19 |
| Osan | 88.5 | 1359 | 49 |
| Pajuri | 88.5 | 1440 | 49 |
| Pohang |  | 1512 |  |
| Pusan | 88.1 | 1260 | 2 |
| Pyongtaek | 88.3 | 1440 | 58 |
| Seoul | 102.7 | 1530 | 34 |
| Taegu | 88.5 | 1080 | 12 |
| Tongduchon | 88.3 | 1197 | 49 |
| Uijongbu | 88.5 | 1161 | 58 |
| Wonju | 88.3 | 1440 | 58 |
| Waegwan | 88.5 | 1080 | 49 |