

DATE: June 3, 2016

TO: ISU faculty, staff, and students traveling in Europe, Summer 2016

FROM: ISU Study Abroad Center and Office of Risk Management

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of State Travel Alert for Americans in Europe

On May 31, 2016, the U.S. Department of State (State Department) issued a [Travel Alert for Americans in Europe](#) through August 31, 2016. The Travel Alert is notable in that it is only the third time that the State Department has issued a general Travel Alert for Europe. Aside from highlighting the risk posed to U.S. citizens from potential terrorist attacks at public locations and large scale events (i.e., tourist sites, restaurants, commercial centers, mass transit, etc.), the Travel Alert draws specific attention to France and Poland:

In France, activities associated with the European Soccer Championship (June 10 – July 10) and Tour De France (July 2 – 24) are explicitly listed as potential attractive targets to terrorist actors. In Poland, the Catholic Church’s World Youth Day celebrations (July 26 – July 31), to be held in Krakow, is identified as a potential target.

Iowa State takes your personal safety and security seriously. At this point, the State Department has expressed confidence in European authorities’ abilities to assure the public safety of these events and to disrupt terrorist plots before they are seen to fruition. Officials at Iowa State will continue to monitor information as it relates to this alert and will discuss modifications to plans in Europe if it becomes apparent that ISU travelers’ safety and security are in jeopardy.

In light of the Travel Alert, this is a good time to reiterate some of the steps you should take to prepare yourself in the event of an emergency:

- If your travel is for ISU business, enroll in [Cultural Insurance Services International \(CISI\)](#) for basic and emergency medical insurance and security evacuation services.
- Enroll in the State Department’s [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, and to help make it easier to locate you in the event of an emergency.
- Know the local “911” phone number, and have it and other important numbers [i.e., the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate and Cultural Insurance Services International-CISI (312-935-1703)] written down and programmed into your phone.
- Make two copies of your passport, insurance card, and any other documents important to you in the event of an emergency. Leave one copy with a family member, and secure the other separately from your travel documents in case of loss or theft.

- Beware of your surroundings and avoid large crowded places. Exercise vigilance when in public places and when using mass transit.
- Maintain good communication with your program's sponsor. Know your program's accountability measures and plans in the event of an emergency.
- Monitor the news and the State Department's [Travel Website](#) for updated Travel Warnings and Alerts, and "know before you go."
- Download the [TripLingo](#) app on your smartphone or tablet to access travel tools, Wi-Fi dialer, safety tools, and more. Download the app and login with your @iastate.edu email address. **iOS:** bit.ly/iphonetl | **Android:** bit.ly/androidtl

We hope you have a good summer abroad.

Please contact the Office of Risk Management at 515-294-7700 (phone line available 24/7) or orm@iastate.edu (e-mail checked on business days only) with any questions or concerns.