Security: UPDATE 1: Search for escaped prisoner continues in Mexico. Expect heightened security along highways and at airports, ports, and border crossings.

This alert affects Mexico

This alert began 13 Jul 2015 18:30 GMT and is scheduled to expire 15 Jul 2015 23:59 GMT.

Updated Information
The Mexican government issued a countrywide alert July 13 for authorities to increase security at airports, ports, border crossings, and major highways to locate escaped prisoner Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, leader of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel drug trafficking organization (DTO). Expect heightened security and increased screenings at international airports. Flights and general airport operations are unlikely to be affected, however, and flights have resumed at Toluca International Airport (TLC) after authorities previously suspended operations on July 12 (map).

Police could set up checkpoints along major highways, especially in Mexico State and neighboring states. Likewise, increased security screenings are possible at international border crossings at Mexican borders with the US and Guatemala.

Background and Analysis
Guzman is unlikely to pose an immediate security threat to travelers. However, if he is not recaptured, his escape could prompt the Sinaloa Cartel to seek to re-establish control over lost turf or expand into new territory. This could result in clashes between Sinaloa Cartel members and rival groups or security forces, especially in areas where the Sinaloa Cartel is already vying for control. The federal government is likely to allocate significant resources to locating Guzman, as his escape is a serious blow to the administration's security strategy and reputation.

Guzman's July 12 escape from the Altiplano Federal Prison - a maximum security facility located about 18 km (11 miles) northwest of Toluca - is the second time the DTO leader has successfully escaped incarceration. In 2001, Guzman escaped from the Puente Grande maximum security prison after serving nearly eight years of a 20-year sentence.

Advice
Allow additional time for ground transportation, especially on interstate highways and at border crossings. Arrive for flights early due to the likelihood of increased security screenings. Follow all instructions of security personnel, and carry proper identification at all times.

Resilience against the impact of global threats will depend on how prepared you are and how fast you can respond. Licensed users can visit Worldcue® Global Control Center at https://gcc.worldcue.com to immediately assess the impact of this Alert on your people, facilities and supply chain.

Traveling employees and expatriates may visit their personal traveler Web-site at https://traveler.worldcue.com to change alert delivery preferences, modify itineraries and update personal profiles.

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