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Remembrance Day/Veterans Day Travel Reminders

11/06/2012

Great Falls, Mont. - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is reminding travelers planning trips across the border into Idaho or Montana to anticipate holiday traffic during the observance of Remembrance Day in Canada and Veterans Day in the United States. Traditionally, this holiday is observed on November 11, but will be observed on Monday, November 12 in the U.S. this year. Originally dedicated as Armistice Day to commemorate the ending of the First World War it is now observed in honor of the sacrifices of all members of the armed forces in times of war.

All travelers, including U.S. and Canadian citizens, are reminded that the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) was implemented on June 1, 2009 requiring persons age 16 and older to present a valid, acceptable document that denotes both identity and citizenship when entering the U.S. by land or sea. WHTI compliant documents include a passport, U. S. passport card, enhanced driver's licenses (EDLs), or a Trusted Traveler Program card (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST). For more information, visit GetYouHome.gov. (Get You Home)

Plan your trip, avoid peak travel times (typically between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.) and consider alternate ports of entry. Consult the CBP website (CBP.gov) to monitor border wait times at Sweetgrass, Montana, find out the operating hours for ports of entry in Montana and Idaho, and review the "Know Before You Go" tip sheet.

As winter approaches, travelers are encouraged to check weather and road conditions prior to travel. Current road conditions in Idaho can be found at the ITD website. (Idaho Transportation Department) Montana weather and road conditions are found at the MDT website. (Montana Department of Transportation)

Travelers arriving from Canada are reminded that several types of Canadian and U.S. origin fresh fruits and vegetables are prohibited from entering the United States. Prohibited fresh fruits and vegetables grown in Canada include: tomatoes, peppers, green onions, leeks, chives, garlic with green tops, and home-grown potatoes. Oranges, lemons, limes, and grapefruit grown in the U.S. or elsewhere MAY NOT be brought into the U.S. from Canada. With few exceptions, fresh fruits and vegetables grown outside of the U.S. or Canada are also prohibited.

Recently, a small, destructive agricultural pest of spices, grains and packaged foods, Khapra beetle, has been found in dried products from various countries. This has prompted the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prohibit rice, soybeans, chickpeas, and safflower seeds grown in the following countries from entering the U.S. in passenger baggage: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Cyprus, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Upper Volta (Burkina Faso).

Currently, travelers are allowed to bring up to 50 pounds per vehicle of Canadian origin beef, pork, or poultry for personal consumption into the U.S. Travelers wanting to bring wild game meat must have a current, valid Canadian hunting license in their possession, in addition to meeting the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Information on USFWS requirements may be found on the website. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Additionally, USDA initiated new restrictions on pet food from Canada: pet food manufactured in

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Canada containing lamb or goat is prohibited; pet food must be in its' original container and, if the container is open, the pet must be present in the vehicle. The maximum quantity of pet food allowed is 50 pounds (22.7 kg) or less.

Remember to declare all fruits, vegetables, plants, meats, pets, or wood products to CBP officers and agriculture specialists at ports of entry. Failure to declare agriculture products or food items may result in the issuance of a fine of up to $1,000.

Do not attempt to bring fruits, meats and dairy/poultry products into the United States from Canada without first checking whether they are permitted. Review the "Know Before You Go" tip sheet at CBP.gov for additional information concerning your trip into the United States. (CBP.gov)

The United States has been and continues to be a welcoming nation. U.S. Customs and Border Protection not only protects U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents in the country but also wants to ensure the safety of our international travelers who come to visit, study and conduct legitimate business in our country.

Our dual mission is to facilitate travel in the United States while we secure our borders, our people and our visitors from those that would do us harm like terrorists and terrorist weapons, criminals and contraband.

For more information, please visit Get You Home or CBP.gov. (Get You Home)(CBP.gov)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

see also:

on cbp.gov:

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News Releases

CBP.gov

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on the web:

Get You Home

Idaho Transportation Department

Montana Department of Transportation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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