



January 7, 2020

### **Safety Procedure Update for Tijuana/Rosarito/Tecate, Baja California: Updated 1-7-20**

We want you to know that Amor has always been proactive about safety matters. Since 1980, Amor has worked hard to provide the best security and safety for all individuals involved in our ministry. Amor considers the safety of our groups and team members its first priority. Everything we do regarding security and safety is preventative and proactive.

Amor has built a strong presence in Mexico over these past 40 years through excellent relations with local government, law enforcement, and the communities we serve. Because of these relationships we are equipped to deal with safety issues as they arise.

#### **Guidelines for Increased Safety in Tijuana/Rosarito/Tecate:**

We seek to provide groups with an Amor Trip that supports the work of the local church while allowing groups to have a rich, meaningful, and effective experience.

In order to limit exposure to known risks, we ask that groups work within our outlined recommendations to travel safely while in Tijuana, Rosarito, and Tecate.

#### **Arrival & Going into Mexico:**

- Groups should arrive at the check-in prepared (i.e., vehicles fully fueled, Mexican insurance obtained, completed paperwork) to cross the border with enough time to get from the meeting location to camp by dusk or 6 p.m., whichever is sooner.
- Groups will be escorted through Mexico's Customs area (Aduana) and onward to Amor's campground by an Amor Ministries representative.
- Changes in border procedures have increased wait times at Mexico Customs. Clearance from the customs and immigration area can range from 30 minutes to 2 hours. Please plan accordingly.

#### **Returning to the U.S.:**

- Groups may request an Amor Representative to escort the group from camp/work site to the border crossing.
- Groups must leave camp/work site in order to arrive at the border line by 6 p.m. or dusk, whichever is earlier.
- In the event of an emergency requiring a trip to the U.S., an Amor representative will be assigned to escort your vehicle(s) to the border line.

#### **While in Mexico, groups should:**

- Inform their Amor Field Representative of any intended travel, preferably the evening prior to such travel.
- Limit travel solely to the route given to and from camp.
- Make sure there is a working mobile phone accessible at all times.
- Travel only during daylight hours.
- Refrain from traveling in vehicles alone. Instead, travel in groups of two or more individuals.
- Return to the camp each evening by 6pm or dusk, whichever is earlier, and remain at camp.



- Avoid going to tourist areas (mercados, beaches, etc).
- Refrain from visiting prior work sites in communities where Amor is not currently working. Please inform your Amor Field Representative well in-advance if you intend to visit a previous worksite.
- Stay within eyesight of your group at all times. Do not allow individuals to walk around the communities or walk alone anywhere off the work site. If walking, travel in groups of three or more and remain within visible distance of the work site.
- Please, do not invite the family for whom you are building back to camp if they cannot provide their own transportation home that same evening.

Amor will provide escorts for trips to the grocery store or from camp to worksite at any time, as requested.

As a courtesy, we ask that you notify your field representative if you decide to disregard these guidelines. If you do so, please know that you could potentially put your group at risk and are taking their safety into your own hands. As a result, Amor cannot guarantee that we will have the ability to assist you.

We are more convinced than ever that there is work to do in the communities of Mexico and that God still desires us to serve there. We continue to have faith in God as he directs our steps into the areas in which we serve as we work together to bring hope to those in need. We ask that you continue to pray for the families we work alongside in Mexico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wilson', written over a white background.

Jonathan Wilson  
Chief Operating Officer  
Amor Ministries