



January 2023

Safety Procedure Update for Tijuana/Rosarito/Tecate, Baja California: Updated January 2023

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 43 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.

Due to our relationship with the office of public safety, police officers from Tijuana will regularly visit Amor's worksites. Police officers are assigned to visit worksites throughout the day and take photos of the house tag (where the project ID is), to show their supervisors that they've been there. This idea was created by our local Mexico Team as a proactive way to keep the police aware of our groups, should anyone need assistance.

Our team is in constant contact with officials within a group chat in which our groups' movements (including when our groups leave our camp, arrive at the worksite, etc.) are shared. This allows intervention to happen quickly, if something were to happen.

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 also allowing these 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, paperwork completed) to cross the border with enough time to get from the meeting location to camp by dusk or 5 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/worksites to the border crossing.
- Groups must leave camp/worksites with enough time 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 5 p.m. or dusk, whichever is earlier, and remain at camp.
- Avoid going to tourist areas (mercados, beaches, etc).
- Refrain from visiting prior worksites 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 along anywhere off the worksite. If walking, travel in groups of three or more and remain within visible distance of the worksite.
- 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 Amor 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'.

Jonathan Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
Amor Ministries