



2011 Safety Procedure Update for Tecate, Baja California **(Current as of 3/1/2011)**

These changes apply in Tecate– **NOT Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua or Puerto Peñasco, Sonora.**

We want you to know that Amor Ministries has always been proactive about safety matters.

For the past 30 years, Amor Ministries has worked hard to provide the best security and safety for all individuals involved in our ministry. Amor Ministries 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 30 years through excellent relations with the local government, the police and the communities we serve. Because of these relationships we are equipped to deal with any and all safety issues that might arise.

Guidelines for Increased Safety in Tecate

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

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

Arrival & Going into Mexico:

- Groups must arrive at the check-in prepared (i.e., fully fueled, possessing Mexican insurance, and with completed paper work) 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 must be escorted through Mexico's Customs area (Aduana) and onward to camp.
- Changes in border procedures have increased wait times at Customs at the border. Please off-load all donations and prohibited items at check-in to prevent delays or being turned back. Clearance can range from 30 minutes to 2 hours before travel time to camp. Please plan accordingly.

Returning to the U.S.:

- Groups may request an Amor Field Representative to escort the group from camp/work site to the border line.
- Groups must leave camp/work site in order to arrive at the border line by 6 p.m. or dusk, whichever is sooner.
- 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 at all times of any intended travel, preferably the evening prior to such travel.
- Limit travel solely to the route given to and from camp each day.
- Refrain from traveling in vehicles alone to/from camp, stores, or border. Instead, travel in groups of two or more individuals.
- Return to the camp each evening by 6pm or dusk, whichever is sooner, and remain at camp.
- Avoid going to tourist areas (mercados, beaches, etc) which represent a safety risk.
- 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 and 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 eyesight 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 supports visiting group's needs and will provide escorts for trips to the grocery store or from camp to work site at any time.

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 to direct our steps into the areas in which we serve. We ask that you continue to pray for the families living in Mexico who are struggling without hope.