



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do you have a formal statement regarding participants' safety?

A: Yes, please visit us online at <http://www.amor.org/Document.Doc?id=76> for an official statement about our practices or click on "Safety with Amor"

Q: What new things have you implemented to keep groups safe?

A: In close partnership with local pastors, we've decided to concentrate our worksites near our campsites, approximately 45 minutes from central Tijuana and 90 minutes from Juarez. Additionally, all groups will be escorted across the border to the camp (and back) along with to and from the work sites daily. (This is not applicable in Chihuahua.) Also, work days will end before dark at approximately 5:30 p.m. A new vehicle check-in/check-out system is being implemented this spring to ensure every participant vehicle returns to camp every night. Lastly, there are more than two experienced Amor Team Members at every camp each night and Camp Caretakers to monitor the camp gate and patrol the area 24/7.

Q: What is your evacuation plan?

A: In case of an emergency, the following steps will be taken:

1. An Amor representative will inform the trip leader for the reason of the evacuation. (e.g. severe weather)
2. An Amor representative will provide a timeline for the evacuation with specific instructions to remove the group. (e.g. Please be off of the worksite in 15 minutes and head back to camp.)
3. Amor representatives will remain in the field until all groups have been safely evacuated.
4. All groups will be accounted for and checked into camp by an Amor representative.
5. All groups will be escorted to the border, if necessary.

Q: What is the current U.S. State Department Advisory on travel in Mexico?

A: U.S. travel warnings have not changed significantly over the last few years though it has recently been updated as of February 20, 2009. According to the most recent travel advisory, participants should be aware of the following: "Common-sense precautions such as visiting only legitimate business and tourist areas during daylight hours, and avoiding areas where prostitution and drug dealing might occur, can help ensure that travel to Mexico is safe and enjoyable." Additional information can be found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html#country.



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Q: If Amor continues to feel comfortable in Mexico, why the added safety precautions?

A: Amor's recent safety updates are due, in part, to the concerns of Mission Trip participants and parents rather than any negative experiences.

Q: What is our greatest risk of exposure while serving in Mexico?

A: According to reports from our Pastors and the government officials that Amor consults, the greatest risk of exposure to violence is due to personal involvement with illegal drug activities.

Q: Has Amor or its missionary groups seen any incidences of violence?

A: No, Amor has had no incidences of violence in its 29-year history beyond that which is typical for a large, metropolitan city.

Q: Is there a greater risk for children?

A: There is no increased risk for children than there is for any other individual.

Q: When will it be safe to work in Rosarito again?

A: Our contacts in the city of Rosarito have indicated that the violence previously experienced has diminished. Nevertheless, Amor has temporarily suspended operations in this region for the spring. We are currently exploring our return this summer to keep our commitment to the pastors of this area.

Q: What is the minimum threshold to pull groups out?

A: A Safety Committee comprised of Amor's team members along with input from our local Mexican pastors and government officials reviews any intelligence received on a weekly basis. Each week they discuss the current issues at hand and determine whether it is safe to remain in Mexico. They have been instrumental in creating many of Amor's recently implemented safety procedures. Because Amor's team members serve in Mexico on a daily basis, they are the first to determine whether their personal sense of security has been compromised. Until reports indicate that the violence in Mexico is beyond the control of its government, Amor will continue serve those most in need—the poor and the local church.

Q: Which border crossing is Amor using for Baja California?

A: All buses must cross at San Ysidro. Groups caravanning will cross at Otay Mesa as in previous years.



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Q: Where are the camp sites?

A: In Baja California, the same two camp sites are available in Eastern Tijuana and in Tecate. A new campground southeast of Juarez located in a community known as San Agustin has been purchased for those serving in Chihuahua. In Sonora, the same camp site used in previous years for Puerto Peñasco applies.

Q: How has camp security increased?

A: Full-time Camp Caretakers patrol the area and keep the gate secure 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, a new vehicle check-in/check-out system is being implemented this spring to ensure every participant vehicle returns to camp each night. Lastly, there are two, experienced Amor team members at every camp all night.

Q: Are the families receiving homes endangered by our presence?

A: There have been no reports of threats or perceived danger of any kind.

Q: Is it still okay to play with kids in the communities?

A: Absolutely! The bigger issue is that you ensure that your participants don't wander away from the site and from the watchful eye of your leaders when playing with kids.

Q: Is it still possible to travel by myself to pick up supplies like food and water?

A: Though Amor feels comfortable working in Mexico, we have decided to exercise caution in response to the concerns of our participants. To minimize these worries, groups are temporarily not permitted to travel by themselves. We ask that you please take extra care to plan ahead before crossing the border or take advantage of the pre-arranged runs to the store provided by Amor representatives. In the event that you still need to pick up additional supplies, your Field Specialist may provide approval on a case-by-case basis. Prior approval, however, does not guarantee travel if an Amor representative is unavailable to accompany your group to and from the grocery store. All pre-approved travel will be held during daylight hours.



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Q: May we visit a previous work-site, attend a local church service, or stop at the pay showers?

*A: Again, though Amor feels comfortable working in Mexico, we have decided to exercise caution in response to the concerns of our participants. Until further notice, groups may not visit areas outside of currently designated work zones. If the previous work site, church or showers are in a zone that has been deemed safe by Amor **and** your Field Specialist has given prior approval and made arrangements for an Amor representative to accompany you, you may proceed provided that you travel during daylight hours and return to camp before dark. Once again, prior approval does not guarantee permission to travel if an Amor representative is unavailable to accompany your group.*

Q: May we leave camp in the evenings to pick up tacos?

A: Once more, though Amor feels comfortable working in Mexico, we have temporarily suspended such activities. Please see the responses to the previous questions in regard to prior approvals. Groups are not permitted to travel after dark and must stay at camp in the evenings. In the case of an emergency, an Amor representative will arrange an escort.

Q: May we go shopping or visit the beach in Rosarito?

A: Until Amor lifts its current restriction for the city of Rosarito or allows groups to travel independently, groups may not visit areas outside of presently designated work zones. Although Americans are not targets of the recent outbreaks of violence, Amor has temporarily suspended activities that may put individuals at risk. Again, these restrictions have been enacted in response to participant concerns.