



*Updated 9/8/10

Response to Recent Travel Warning

This alert supercedes Amor's previously published response dated 7/20/2010.

Amor Ministries works diligently to keep the safety of its Mission Trip participants at the forefront of all decisions when serving abroad. **Accordingly, Amor uses U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings to inform groups of Amor's current evaluation of such areas.**

Recently, the U.S. Department of State updated its Travel Warning for Mexico to reflect current travel conditions. The previously released notice was a result of violence directed specifically at a U.S. Consulate member and others employed by the Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. Consequently, the Department of State temporarily authorized Consulate dependents in border cities to return to the U.S. and extended this authorized departure for two months. The most recent warning has extended these departures until further notice.

In addition, in the previously released Travel Warning, the U.S. Consulate urged all U.S. citizens to delay unnecessary travel to key regions and warned citizens in those areas to exercise extreme caution. The Travel Warning, released on August 27th, 2010, has included other states in Mexico where specific threats of violence have occurred:

- Durango
- Chihuahua
- Michoacán
- Coahuila
- Sinaloa
- Tamaulipas

U.S. citizens are urged not to travel in these regions or portions of them. **In response, Amor has extended its temporary suspension of all youth-related Mission Trip activity in the state of Chihuahua, and more specifically, to Ciudad Juarez.** Amor continues to monitor the Consulate's recommendations of this region and will comply with all restricted travel.

Once again, the regions of Sonora and Baja California have not been addressed in this current Travel Warning. In fact, family members of U.S. personnel in other regions of Mexico have not been affected by this decision and specifically address only the cities of Ciudad Juarez, Nogales, Tijuana, Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey, and Matamoros. The areas addressed in this most recent warning are outside the scope of our ministry.

Although the existing Travel Warning identifies Tijuana as an area of potential violence, there are no reports of incidences like those displayed in Ciudad Juarez. Additionally, Amor is continually monitoring the region and the U.S. Consulate for changes in safety. Because of this, Amor will continue to serve in the cities of Puerto Peñasco and Tijuana. For more information about regional updates, visit the U.S. Embassy's [Mexico Security Update](#).

In view of that, Amor will continue to require groups serving in the region to travel in caravans, remain at Amor's carefully monitored camp site in the evening, and keep movement limited to daylight hours. In addition, Amor will continue to carefully select pre-designated work areas which have had been identified as having typical urban environments not unlike our own U.S. cities.

Finally, armed with daily information from Amor's contacts in the U.S. Consulate and from the Mexican mayoral staff and police officials who serve the communities that Amor supports, the Ministry feels confident that we have made the best decision for our participants, the Pastors, and the Mexican families we serve.

It is our hope that this knowledge encourages you to serve alongside us and more specifically, to pray for the people of Mexico.

To learn more about the United States position on travel to Mexico visit State Department website at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_4755.html.

Scott and Gayla Congdon