



Casas por Cristo
short term missions

Risk Plan: Acuña

It is the goal of Casas por Cristo to assure teams that their safety is of utmost importance. We continually monitor current conditions and adjust our programs to meet the needs of teams. But we also fully understand that with service comes risk. The question to ask is, "Is the assumed risk worth the potential result of the task at hand?" We at Casas por Cristo would love to be able to provide a 100 percent guarantee that safety is never an issue, that turbulent weather doesn't exist, and that no team member will ever get sick or need medical attention. But the truth is, we can't guarantee any of these things. However, we do believe that these situations are worth the risk to continue serving God and the Mexican people in desperate need of adequate housing and the love of Jesus Christ.

As a ministry we are as prepared as possible to deal with any unexpected situations and potential problems. We have been working diligently since our inception in 1993 to ensure that we have a number of fail-safes in place regarding personal safety and emergency situations.

These fail-safes include:

1. Amistad Cristiana de México - a gated church that works with Casas por Cristo that can be used as a safe meeting place in times of upheaval in the city of Acuña. All staff and interns of Casas por Cristo know where this facility is located and how to gain access. In the event of flooding, Casas por Cristo staff members will lead their teams to either Monte Sinai or Gracia Abundante Templo Bautista, two churches that can be accessed on either side of Acuña's creeks.
2. A Casas por Cristo staff person is with the team AT ALL TIMES.
3. Every Casas staff leader is equipped with a Mexican cell phone to provide constant communication with other staff members in Acuña and/or Del Río.
4. Two emergency contacts are available at all times on the Casas por Cristo voicemail system who will be able to contact the teams in Acuña.
5. We take every effort to avoid driving after dark.
6. Casas por Cristo is well known and respected throughout all of the communities we work in.
7. Every Casas staff leader knows how to navigate the city and knows the quickest and most effective routes to access the international border crossing.
8. We have a Mexican national on staff that lives in México and is available 24 hours a day.
9. We have contingency plans in place for medical emergencies, natural disasters, and threat of impending violence. Every Casas staff leader has been trained in these contingency plans.

More important than any of the plans that we can implement, is our faith in God's protection. We believe He has placed a hedge of protection around the work we do for Him along the border. We absolutely believe that service is worth the risk, and we will always continue on with the task at hand. Additionally, because we live and work on the border, we are very aware of the daily goings-on. We will never put a team or an individual in a situation that we deem unsafe. The safety of our staff and team members is our number one priority.