



Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media
Media Relations Office
(512) 424-2080

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DPS repeats warning to avoid travel to Mexico

The Texas Department of Public Safety is again warning Texans to avoid traveling to Mexico in light of recent violent events in and around Tamaulipas State.

“We know that many of our Winter Texans enjoy traveling to Mexico, but they should understand that we cannot guarantee their safety after they cross the border,” said Steven C. McCraw, DPS director. “If violence does occur, we cannot guarantee that anyone will be brought to justice for those acts.”

A Texas missionary was killed earlier this week as she and her husband attempted to escape from a number of men trying to stop them. The men opened fire on the couple, striking the woman in the head. Other recent violent events along the border include the shooting of an American on the Mexican side of Falcon Lake in late September, the killing of a University of Texas-Brownsville student in October and the suspected abduction of four men from San Marcos and a 14-year-old from Chicago who were visiting Nuevo Laredo in late November.

DPS has issued warnings against travel in Mexico four times in the past year, as violence in many parts of Mexico has increased.

“We recognize people travel and vacation in Mexico on a daily basis, but the increase in violence is a reality. Recent events show that drug-related violence does not spare innocent bystanders and that criminals will attack tourists,” McCraw said.

In an early January statement, the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros advised U.S. citizens traveling in Tamaulipas to be aware of numerous reported crimes against American citizens in the area. Many carjackings have been reported along Carreterra Federal 101, which runs from Ciudad Victoria to San Fernando.

The statement encourages U.S. citizens living or traveling in Mexico to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through their website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/>.

Travelers should always check the U.S. State Department website for the most up-to-date information related to security issues in Mexico. (See <http://travel.state.gov/travel.html> or [https://mx.usembassy.gov/.](https://mx.usembassy.gov/))

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