



February 1st, 2011

Re: Safety in Oaxaca, Mexico

To Whom It May Concern:

In light of the US State Department's Travel Warning issued for Mexico on September 10, 2010, we would like to explain how it affects our program. To begin with, I am proud to say that since the ProWorld Mexico program began in 2005, we have not had a ProWorld Mexico participant physically harmed or violently threatened in anyway. We at ProWorld make the health and safety of each of our volunteers our number one priority.

Mexico has been depicted in the media over the past couple of months as a violent and unsafe place to travel. The US State Department Mexico Travel Warning is for the whole country but states that most of the violence is located near the US-Mexico border. ProWorld Mexico is located in the state of Oaxaca, which is located in Southern Mexico, far from the northern border. We do recognize that there are potential dangers, so that is why before arrival and once on-site, ProWorld Mexico has an extensive orientation session, which thoroughly covers health and safety issues. If we felt any participants or staff were at risk, we would immediately stop onsite programming.

As previously stated, we at ProWorld Mexico make the health and safety of our participants the number one priority. We closely monitor the news and notify our participants and US administration of any developments. ProWorld Mexico staff live year-round onsite in Oaxaca and are well connected to the happenings in the area. If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leigh Newman-Bell

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