



RISK PLAN: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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 Dominican 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 for each location we minister in.

These Fail-Safes Include:

- A Casas por Cristo staff missionary is with the team AT ALL TIMES. Every Casas staff missionary has been trained in the contingency plans for medical emergencies, natural disasters, and the threat of impending violence.
- Every Casas staff missionary is equipped with a cell phone to provide constant communication with other staff members in country and with our headquarters in El Paso, TX.
- Two emergency contacts are available at all times on the Casas por Cristo voicemail system.
- We take every effort to avoid driving after dark.
- Casas por Cristo is well known and respected throughout all of the communities in which we work.
- We have local Dominican ministry partners that are available 24 hours a day.

Medical Emergencies:

- In case of a medical emergency your Casas missionary will evaluate the severity of the injury. For minor medical issues (dehydration, minor scrapes and cuts, food-related sickness, etc.), the team member will see the local doctor, Dra. Petra Pena, in Navarrete, Villa Bisono, Santiago, Dominican Republic at Centro Medico (GPS: 19.556808, -70.863013). For more serious injuries, the Casas missionary will call the international insurance your team has purchased and take the injured person to Santiago De Los Caballeros to receive treatment at a larger medical facility, HOMS (GPS: 19.436122, -70.661062) or Union Medica (GPS: 19.459283, -70.680169). If you are not able to reach anyone from the travel insurance company, your Casas missionary will still take you to a medical facility for treatment (pre-authorization is not required). You will need to pay cash up front for any expenses and file a claim with the travel insurance company for reimbursement. The team member will be accompanied by a Dominican field missionary while another Casas missionary attends to the needs of your team. The injured team member will be sent back to the US as early possible.

Natural Disasters & Impending Violence:

- In the Santiago area, the Marte House (GPS: 19.385000 -70.514400) that can be used as a safe meeting place during inclement weather or times of upheaval in the Dominican Republic. All staff missionaries and interns of Casas por Cristo know the location of and have access to this facility.
- Every Casas staff missionary knows the quickest and most effective routes to access the Marte House.

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 in the Dominican Republic. We absolutely believe that service is worth the risk, and we will always continue on with the task at hand. Additionally, because we partner with an established local ministry that live and work in the Santiago area, 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.