



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Matamoros (Mexico), Recent Carjackings

Crime

Western Hemisphere > Mexico > Matamoros

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The U.S. Consulate General in Matamoros has learned that a series of carjackings appear to have been committed by the same suspects in the first two weeks of December in neighborhoods in the north of Matamoros. At least five of the carjacking victims were either US citizens or Legal Permanent Residents of the US. Suspected perpetrators were described as two armed males in their early 20s, each approximately 150 lbs. The pair have been seen driving different vehicles, including a green Chevrolet Cavalier, a green Chevrolet Tahoe and a black Ford Escort. The carjackers appear to be targeting vehicles with valid U.S. license plates that are stopped in traffic or parked at commercial establishments.

American citizens who find themselves confronted by armed assailants who demand property should know that it is usually best to comply with those demands. Additionally, U.S. Government official personnel assigned to the U.S. Consulate General in Matamoros have been advised to:

Travel in pairs whenever possible Watch what is happening in mirrors – trouble can come from behind as fast as from the front Pre-program emergency phone numbers in your phone and have your cell phone charged and with you at all times Keep emergency medical supplies in the car Be familiar with the areas in which one is driving and know as many different routes as possible Know one's vehicle and its capabilities; ensure it is in good working order and de-program any auto-unlocking features Trust one's instincts; most crime victims perceived something was wrong before they actually experienced it Have a plan before leaving; know where safe havens (e.g., police stations or Mexican military outposts) are along intended routes Please review the Department of State's Travel Warning concerning travel within Mexico and the state of Tamaulipas, available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5440.html. The Department continues to advise U.S. citizens to defer non-essential travel to the state of Tamaulipas. We also encourage U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security. Americans without internet access may register in person or by phone with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

For any emergencies involving American citizens in the Matamoros consular district, please call or visit the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit at the U.S. Consulate General on Avenida Primera 2002, Col. Jardin, Matamoros, Tamaulipas; telephone (011)(52)(868) 812-4402; <http://matamoros.usconsulate.gov/>.