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## **NORMS TO BE OBSERVED FOR ROAD TRAVEL TO/FROM THE ORM IN WINTER, DURING WEATHER ALERTS, AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS**

These norms consist of control measures that are applied in order to reduce the risk of accidents/incidents occurring in the above situations. Consequently, all those intending to go up to the Observatory, for whatever reason, should be aware of these norms and ensure that they have thorough knowledge of them.

If you intend to travel to or from the Observatory, you must be aware that the state of the road and the weather conditions can vary in a short time, and so drivers should be cautious and adapt their way of driving to the prevailing conditions. Although the purpose of going may be to fulfil work commitments at the Observatory, personal safety takes first priority.

### **GENERAL PROCEDURE**

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- During the months between November and April, both the ORM and the access road can be affected by ice, snow and/or bad weather.
- Personnel of the User Institutions should comply with the procedures established by their own organization regarding travel. A report on the state of the road and the weather conditions will be published on the ORM website and transmitted by radio, on a daily basis at about 08:00h. Personnel may also be contacted by mobile phone. For that reason, radios and mobile phones should always be operative and have sufficient battery power.
- As regards all those who are not regular members of staff of the User Institutions, **no one should travel to the Observatory without having previously called the ORM Reception** to obtain information about weather conditions and the state of the road.
- These norms apply equally to employees, contractors and collaborators.
- In the event of a **weather alert or exceptional situation on the road**, the use of private vehicles or hired cars is not allowed, unless specific consent has been obtained from the Observatory Site Manager. All astronomers, contractors, collaborators, etc. should organize their transport to and from the Observatory through their User Institution, or, if applicable, through the Observatory Administration. They should not resort to using their own means (taxi bookings should be made through the Residence Reception or by UI's sea level office informing to Reception ).
- All those travelling to the Observatory should carry warm clothes with them, especially in winter during periods when the risk of adverse/dangerous conditions is higher (usually from November to April).
- **A basic aspect concerning the safety of journeys to and from the Observatory in winter, during weather alerts and hazardous situations is effective communication. OBSERVATORY PERSONNEL MUST BE INFORMED OF ALL MOVEMENTS.**

## STATUS

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On journeys to and from the ORM, the following situations can occur:

**Road and weather conditions are normal.** In this case, the previously described general procedure is applied. Before starting the journey, the weather and road conditions at the Observatory should be checked on the IAC website. In addition, during the period November-April, the ORM Residence should be informed.

**There is a weather alert or exceptional situation on the road.** In the event of either of these circumstances, the IAC website will provide permanently updated information on the state of the road and weather conditions. Whatever the case, journeys to the Observatory will only be made when essential, after previously contacting the Residence Reception, and always by 4x4 vehicles equipped with snow chains and radio. To book taxis, contact the Residence Reception or the User Institution sea level office. The use of vehicles not complying with the previous requirements (private or hired cars) is strictly forbidden.

If, for any reason, existing communications prevent contact with the ORM Reception, the journey should not be undertaken. On reaching the Observatory, Reception should be informed of your arrival.

**Activation of exceptional procedure.** Should a meteorological event, an emergency, or the state of the road warrant the activation of a special evacuation or transit procedure on the Observatory road, the measures indicated by the Observatory Site Manager, and duly published on the ORM website, should be strictly observed. In such cases, contact by radio or mobile phone will be established with the vehicles involved. Possible measures which could be adopted include, for example, suspension of all movements by road, use of the Garafía road only, postponing or bringing forward ascent and descent times, travelling in groups, etc. In case of doubt as to whether an exceptional procedure is in operation or not, call the ORM Reception. The Observatory Site Manager will announce the start and finish of the period of application of these norms.

While an alert or exceptional procedure is in operation, no one should travel to the Observatory before a report on the state of the road and the weather has been issued. This implies that no one should set off for the Observatory before 08:00h, or leave the Residence Reception before 09:15h in the morning, or drive after 18:00h (to avoid darkness) - and that all travellers should inform the Residence Reception, and have the most recent information on the state of the road, and the weather conditions, together with the instructions for the journey before departure. All road use outside these times is forbidden for safety reasons.

ORM Reception contact telephone numbers

From 09:00 to 19:00h: +34 922 405 500

From 19:00 to 09:00h: +34 922 405 500 or mobile 609 554 576