



**RULES TO FOLLOW WHEN TRAVELLING TO THE ROQUE DE LOS MUCHACHOS OBSERVATORY  
IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WEATHER ALERTS OR EXTREME AND/OR EXTRAORDINARY  
PROCEDURES**

If a severe weather alert has been issued or an extraordinary procedure declared (Activation of the Island Emergency Plan, closure of access to roads LP4 and/or LP403, forest fire, etc.) that involves the closure of the access road to Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (ORM), the Emergency Officer of the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) at the ORM shall request the ACTIVATION of the following PROTOCOL:

**PROTOCOL FOR THE TRANSIT OF PERSONS & VEHICLES TO AND FROM THE ORM**

- 1) The movement of personnel from user institutions (UIs) between headquarters or rendezvous points and the Observatory must be kept to the minimum required for the proper maintenance of the installations and never put at risk the safety of personnel.
  
- 2) All movement undertaken to and from the Observatory must be PREVIOUSLY communicated to ORM Reception, indicating the origin, number of persons and characteristics of the vehicle (model, make and registration number) together with the itinerary to be followed. Reception must likewise be informed of arrival and departure at the moment any journey is initiated or completed.
  
- 3) Where possible, vehicles should move in convoys to make use of opening schedules, as happens in the use of the road by snowploughs and the performing of road-clearing duties. In all cases, the ORM Administrator, or a person delegated by him, shall oversee the coordination of convoys. Journeys to the Observatory must not be undertaken before 08:00 or the Residence abandoned before 09:15. Neither should any journey be undertaken after 18:00 in order to avoid driving in darkness. The Residence Reception must be given prior notice of all journeys.
  
- 4) Access is forbidden to persons (technicians, observers) whose vehicles are not equipped to deal with adverse weather conditions. In this sense, all vehicles authorized for use must be equipped with the necessary tools to cope with any unexpected stop en route either to or from the Observatory.
  
- 5) Access to the Observatory by outside contractors and work on the exterior of buildings is CONDITIONAL on the EXPRESS PRIOR AUTHORIZATION of the Administrator and/or the Emergency Officer of the ORM when such work is needed for the essential functioning of the installations or to assist in the emergency itself. Safety officers of the UIs must contact the firms in question to inform them of this procedure. The same conditions of transit and times apply, the journeys being undertaken in convoy with the UI concerned.



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6) For journeys undertaken within the Observatory, between telescopes and the Residence, the previously mentioned conditions shall apply. That is, such journeys shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the maintenance of the installations, prior notice having been given to Reception, indicating the destination, number of persons, vehicle characteristics (model, make and registration number), and the route to be followed. Reception must likewise be informed of arrival and departure at the moment any journey is initiated or completed.

7) Safety officers for the installations and/or heads of shifts must be responsible for providing information relating to the emergency to the personnel at their installations to ensure that the Reception telephone is manned for as long as possible.

8) This Protocol shall be deactivated as soon as the opening of the roads is announced by the Competent Authority of the Island Cabildo of La Palma (Cecopin, Cabildo Infrastructure and Road Service).

(APPROVED BY CONSEJO DE GOBIERNO, CABILDO INSULAR DE LA PALMA, IN ORDINARY SESSION MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2020).

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