

Police Officials, their uniforms, vehicles and duties.

This article is geared mainly for the Chapala / Guadalajara area but also may apply to all of Mexico as regards the federal police agencies. This article is designed to help you know what each law enforcement agency representative looks like and what type of vehicle they drive and what their job is so you know who to call in the event of an emergency and also who to be careful of if you are dealing with them in a situation where they do not have jurisdiction.

Municipal Police

The municipal police are for preventing crime and enforce a variety of laws but it is usually the municipal administrative law that gives them the broadest freedoms to stop and detain people (many of these laws are unconstitutional but are tolerated as they give the police excuses to arrest people). The local municipal police do not enforce traffic crimes but they will arrive at accident scenes and will detain drivers if they have been drinking or if they caused injury accidents. The municipal police use traffic offenses as an excuse to pull drivers over and search them and their vehicle although they are looking for drugs and weapons and cannot write you a traffic ticket.

Chapala



Guadalajara



Zapopan



Tlajomulco



Transit Police, Vialidad, Movilidad

The transit police are in charge of traffic enforcement as well as attending to accident scenes and the new DUI checkpoints. They give out traffic tickets and do radar speed camera operations



State Police / Policia Estatal

These police usually go in groups and do raids and attend to crimes like shootings and make raids on areas where there is criminal activity.



Federal Police

The Federal Police do law enforcement as well as write traffic citations on federal highways.



SAT / Aduana Police

They are rarely seen around Chapala and are looking for contraband goods.



The Mexican military is used for law enforcement against large criminal organizations and do raids against drug kingpins as well as traffic checkpoints to look for weapons and drugs or stolen vehicles.

Army (Ejercito Mexicano, EM)



Navy (La Marina)



Policia investigadora, PGR, Ministerio Público

You probably won't run into these guys unless you run afoul of the law. They are usually in plainclothes and drive white Mitsubishi trucks, although the Ministerio Público in Guadalajara has a silver Japanese pickup truck. Some other agents drive Dodge full size pickups.