

DOCUMENTING & RESPONDING TO ICE TRAINING





Agenda

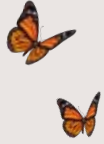
1. Check-in
2. ICE Watch
3. Safety & De-escalation
4. Building for Community Defense

Agreements

1. Help us get to the end :)
2. No unauthorized recording
3. Put questions in Q & A
4. Speak for yourself, from your own experience

NOTE: not all participants are vetted





“You don’t need to be a hero out of a movie.

You just need to be honest. Present.

And unwilling to surrender your humanity.

If you’re scared, you’re not alone.

If you showed up anyway, thank you.

If you couldn’t today, tomorrow is still yours.

But don’t look away. Don’t normalize what you know isn’t right.”

- Eric K. Ward ([Do Not Look Away](#))



What is new in this moment?



Deportation raids are not new but the **scale & severity** requires a new response.

- Deadly violence against immigrants in detention and against those who protect their neighbors
- Administration seeking to generate cruel and chaotic imagery; normalize militarization
- Large scale operations, with multiple agencies, meant to intimidate targeted cities or neighborhoods
- Sweeping up anyone in the area of an immigration operation or anyone who can be profiled or is otherwise vulnerable
- Targeting of previously 'sensitive' areas like schools, churches, courts, hospitals
- Aggressive surveillance, detainment and sometimes prosecution of non-violent protesters



WHY ARE OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS BEING TARGETED SO AGGRESSIVELY



- Immigrants and other marginalized groups of people are caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous escalation of authoritarianism.
- Authoritarian movements throughout history scapegoat immigrants and spread fear for their own power and profit.
- **This isn't about our immigrant neighbors, immigration is a testing ground for how civil rights will be comprehensively undermined for all.**



What is ICE / Migra Watch?



- ✓ ICE or Migra Watch is a tactic to document the immigration enforcement activity in our community
- ✓ ICE Watch is **NOT** about interfering
- ✓ ICE Watch is a **NON-VIOLENT** tactic
- ✓ ICE Watch is about **COMMUNITY**. It's not an individual activity
- ✓ It is a tool to **KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE**



Best practices for documenting abuses
and keeping yourself safe



Documenting public ICE and Border Patrol activity is legal & protected by the Constitution.

- ▶ Make sure to consult any local & state laws for additional laws about documenting as these will change from state to state, like distance from the activity.
- ▶ See [Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press](#) for state specific info.
- ▶ [Know your rights](#) before you begin watching.



(1) DOCUMENT: what they are doing in our neighborhoods, get a better understanding of ICE tactics, and documenting their activity that might run afoul of the law.

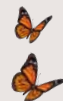
(2) SUPPORT: community members who are being targeted and are in crisis

(3) DE-ESCALATE: diminish violence from any law enforcement agency and stay safe by sticking together.

What if you're the first to see something?



SALUTE



- S** **Size/Strength:** *of group of agents*
- A** **Actions/Activities:** *what are they doing*
- L** **Location:** *cross streets and any additional detail*
- U** **Uniform:** *How are they dressed and markers*
- T** **Time & Date of Observation:** *important for other responders*
- E** **Equipment and weapons:** *this includes the vehicles*



Frequently Asked Questions

How many agents are on the scene?

- ▶ Anywhere from **two, four or six agents** for local operations targeting individuals in residential neighborhoods. More in surges like Twin Cities.

▶ Are they in clothing or uniforms?

Look for agents in tactical gear, fatigues, jeans, khakis or cargo pants. NOT uniformed municipal officers unless you are in a jurisdiction with a 287(g) agreement.

▶ What do agents' vests say?

You may see vests that say **POLICE ICE, POLICE HSI, or ERO** but they may have on jackets that just say POLICE. Sometimes they wear **no identifying markers**.





Frequently Asked Questions



▶ What do ICE vehicles look like?

Unmarked cars with dark tint & no plates. Common models: Ford Explorer, Chevy Tahoe, Dodge Charger. They may be driving minivans or SUVs with government plates, but mostly regular passenger plates.

▶ Can ICE pretend not to be ICE?

ICE agents are allowed and encouraged to use ruses. They use them to gain entry to private property without judicial warrants, to avoid being observed, and to surveil both citizens and non-citizens.

▶ Who else might I see?

DHS is allowing certain law enforcement components from the Department of Justice to carry out the "functions" of an immigration officer.



FEDERAL AGENTS



BORDER PATROL

- Mostly Olive Green
- More Uniform



OTHER FED AGENCIES

- Various Uniforms
- Usually have affiliation listed
- DEA, FBI, Prisons, HSI, ERO, Bureau of Prisons



BORTAC

- Border Patrol's tactical unit
- Jungle Camo
- Militarized

ICE (Immigration Enforcement)

- Hodge podge
- Often less trained



Common ICE Vehicles
Chicago October 2025



Chevy Express (Van)



Chevy Silverado



Ford Expedition



Ford Explorer



Jeep Cherokee



Nissan Armada



Chevy Suburban



Chevy Tahoe



Ford F-150



Ford Transit / Transit Connect



Nissan Pathfinder



Nissan Rogue



Chrysler Pacifica



Dodge Caravan



GMC Yukon Denali



GMC Sierra



Subaru Outback



Toyota 4Runner



Dodge Charger



Dodge Durango



Hyundai Santa Fe



Jeep Wagoneer

What to do after SALUTE:



▶ I have a neighborhood ICE Watch group:

Once you have gathered SALUTE info, send all information to your group. Ask others to help confirm the sighting, get folks to the scene, and provide guidance to targeted neighbors.

THEN, communicate with an immigrant rights hotline

▶ I do not have a neighborhood ICE Watch group but DO have a hotline:

Immediately call and provide all SALUTE info to your immigrant rights or rapid response hotline.

▶ I do not have a neighborhood ICE Watch group OR an immigrant rights hotline:

Google immigration or ICE hotline + your town/city/state, more are popping up each day.

If you know someone being held in an ICE detention center: Call NIJC at (312) 583-9721

Everyone can do ICE Watch!

YOU can do this with just a handful of neighbors

If possible, work in threes. Communication is key!

- ▶ **Priority 1: Recorder**
- ▶ **Priority 2: Supporter**
- ▶ **Priority 3: Monitor**



ICE Watch Roles



Priority 1: Recorder

- ▶ Record the raid all the way through as long as its safe to do so
- ▶ Narrate what you're seeing
- ▶ **DON'T** focus video on the person or people they are detaining

Priority 2: Supporter

- ▶ Try to shout out vital Know Your Rights info
- ▶ If someone is being actively detained, ask for an emergency contact
- ▶ **DON'T** engage with ICE agents or interfere (even if you witness violence)

Priority 3: Monitor

- ▶ Take note of everything that is happening
- ▶ Help direct people to engage safely
- ▶ **DON'T** interfere in any way



A Word About Whistles





What supplies do you need



- ▶ Video Camera / Phone Camera

What is helpful to have:

- Whistles / noisemakers
- Neighborhood Map
- Flashlight (phone is fine)
- Know Your Rights Cards
- Extra battery/phone charger
- Flyers and tape

What should you **NEVER** bring to verify a raid or ICE Watch:

(act like your going through security at the airport)

- Weapons of any kind
- Illegal (or any non prescription) drugs
- Open containers of alcohol or anything that is illegal to transport



De-escalation Basics

De-escalation is a RISK-REDUCTION strategy to try to calm a tense situation with nonviolent tactics.

Consider yourself, the individuals around you, and the person/people being targeted as you try to de-escalate.

Three main components are:

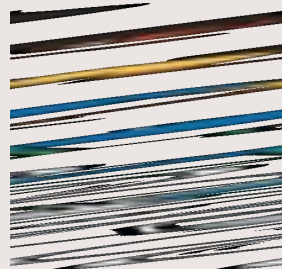
- a. **Act:** Remain calm, maintain distance, and walk away when necessary
- b. **Communicate:** Think about your language, tone, and volume, set clear boundaries
- c. **Monitor:** Observe what's going on around you, respect personal space



If you are documenting from vehicles/bikes:



- Always have someone with you.
- Determine who will record encounters with ICE (in a car this should be the passenger — begin recording as soon as you see a verified vehicle).
- If you're on a bike, try to stop as close to the sidewalk as you can. Put your hands up when it's safe to do so.
- If you are approached by agents in your car, lock your doors and roll the windows up. Once you're safely parked, put your hands up away from the steering wheel or gear shifter.
- Loudly and clearly: *"I am on a public road. I have a legal right to use this public road. I am not preventing you from using this public road. I am not impeding your movements on this public road."*





If law enforcement tells you to get back, take one or two steps back saying out loud that you are complying. **You have the right to observe as long as you are not interfering with law enforcement activity.** Turn your camera to the ground to document yourself moving back.

Script that might help

- ▶ If officers tell you to get back, take a step back and verbalize:

“I’m cooperating. I’m taking a step back. I’m not interfering. I’m just exercising my legal right to observe.”

Loudly and clearly: *“I am on a public road. I have a legal right to use this public road. I am not preventing you from using this public road. I am not impeding your movements on this public road.”*

Staying Safe



Stay **AT LEAST 10 feet away from ICE***

- ▶ **Create distance** - make sure they have to walk towards you and you have distance to walk away
- ▶ **Hands up and empty** - repeated statements about rights and non-aggressive behavior
- ▶ **No name calling** – no aggressive verbal or physical behavior
- ▶ **Don't interfere** – ICE Watch is not a tactic for interfering with ICE activity, even if you witness violence towards neighbor from law enforcement

*Some states **require** 25 feet or more distance for recording ICE activity



A model for a community defense network

Protect RP was started in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood in early 2017.

The goal has always been organizing neighbors to protect neighbors who are in danger of being targeted by ICE.

The three main components are:

- a. Train people on how to identify ICE incursions, how to respond in numbers, how to organize, how to recruit others, and how to use direct action.
- b. Creation of a communication system that allows all the different parts of the group to coordinate well and succinctly.
- c. Build a resilient community to resist all authoritarian incursions, whether by ICE or other law enforcement.



How to intentionally build a resilient community



Be Welcoming:

Involve food, time for reflection, and a democratic spirit. People need community and feeding! We know that no single person has every answer but we are stronger as a collective.

Be Creative:

There is no shortage of roles in community defense. Think creatively about roles and responses. Also think about how you adapt over time. Being resilient means being open to learning.

Be Flexible:

ICE won't invade our communities every day. We are clear that ICE watch and ICE response is core to community defense but we need to respond to all sorts of needs created by authoritarianism.

Be Courageous:

These are difficult days. We all have to know how much risk we can tolerate and be willing to test that. We find courage in each other. We keep us safe.

How to build a community defense group - the basics!



Get trained. Make sure you understand how to identify ICE and what you'd do if you see them in your community.

Find some friends! This can be as small as a few neighbors that are concerned. Start talking about what worries you, and how you'd like to be there for each other.

Help your friends get trained. Many networks struggle with false alarms that overwhelm the group, so making sure everyone is Ice Watch trained is a good start.

Put your newly trained friends to work! Designate a few people as first responders. Some things that make people good responders: work from home or around the community, flexible work hours, mobile, and can stay calm in tense situations.

How to build a community defense group

- ▶ **Download an encrypted messaging app.**
- ▶ **Test the system.** When someone in your network has a possible ICE sighting, the verifier/administrators receive the message first. They'll ask for SALUTE information, as well as photos to try and help confirm the sighting.
- ▶ **Establish protocols.** If you're in a place without a larger network, your group of neighbors are your first resource for support. Can they join you? Can they send friends to join you? Are you in a city where you can alert a larger network? Is there a hotline you can call?
- ▶ **Decide how you can have impact** - Our experience shows that you have about a 5-7 minute window from the moment contacted until the agents are gone. groups that rely on larger time frames may consistently be too late.
- ▶ **Meet (and eat) regularly!**



A Structure for Community Defense or School Safety



Find your people and make a thing!

Protect Rogers Park and other Chicago community defense networks utilize a hub and spoke model.

The hub or core leads should be responsible for decision-making, coordination between the spokes, and coordination with other rapid response teams.





- New Sanctuary Movement: (267) 217-2292 - North, Northeast and Southwest
- Make the Road PA: North and Northeast Philadelphia, in partnership with NSM
- Juntos: (814) 205-3293 - South Philadelphia
- Asian Americans United: (445) 310-4081 - Chinatown
- MILPA: (717) 536-8367 - Upper Darby / DelCo



MONARCA Rapid Response Line
(612) 441-2881 (Minnesota)



Siembra Rapid Response Line
(336) 543-0353 (North Carolina)

California rapid response numbers:





ICE WATCH & COMMUNITY DEFENSE



<https://tinyurl.com/mryh9c82>



REGISTER NOW!

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25
6-7:30PM CT / 7-8:30PM ET**

Join this 90-minute training from **States at the Core**, featuring experienced Chicago community defenders, on effectively **protecting your neighborhoods** from federal enforcement incursions.

This training will share important skills for **building neighborhood resilience**, documenting ICE activity, and **supporting neighbors**. In addition to covering the basics of ICE Watch, we will discuss **new analysis** on ICE operations, community responses, and safety guidance.



List of upcoming trainings on our [Substack](#)

Help Support the Work

**We have trained over 30,000 people so far!
Only, a few hundred million to go.**



<https://www.stacup.org/>



Additional



Resources



Safety & Security Checklist



CHECKLIST

- ICE Watch with a buddy or two. Let a trusted friend or relative know where you are and how long you plan to be there.
- Review your rights Know Your Risks (KYRs) - National Lawyers Guild and think through your comfortability with risk.
- Clear enough memory on your phone to have storage space for recording!
- Keep your phone charged and extra battery packs with you if possible.
- Use encrypted communication and turn off your device biometrics



Mental Healthcare Resources



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID **+**

When things feel intense or overwhelming:

PAUSE

- + Feet on the floor. Look around. **Name what you see.**
- + You are here. **You are safe** in this moment.

BREATHE

- + Inhale **4 seconds**. Exhale **6 seconds**.
- + Repeat for 1 – 2 minutes.

LOWER THE NOISE

- + **Step away** from news, social media, or chat threads.
- + Dim lights. Reduce sound. **Find quiet if you can.**

CARE FOR YOUR BODY

- + **Drink water.**
- + Eat something simple.
- + **Stretch** your shoulders, neck, or hands.

NAME IT

- + "I feel scared." "I feel angry." "I feel overwhelmed."
- + **Naming feelings** helps calm the nervous system.

NARROW YOUR FOCUS

- + Only worry about the **next hour.**
- + **Big decisions can wait.**

REACH OUT! Call or text someone you trust. You don't need the right words. "Can you check in with me?" is enough.

+++++ **NEED IMMEDIATE SUPPORT?** +++++

988: Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (Call or Text, U.S.)

911: If you are in immediate danger.

[How to talk to children about ICE and immigration](#)

[How to talk to children about difficult news](#)



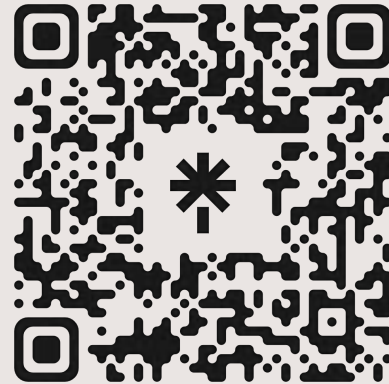


ICE Watch Resources Linktree

This will be continually updated



<https://linktree.com/icewatchresources>



Wallet-Sized Know Your Rights Cards to **Download & Print**

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- French
- Haitian Creole
- Hindi
- Korean
- Polish
- Russian
- Spanish
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Somalian



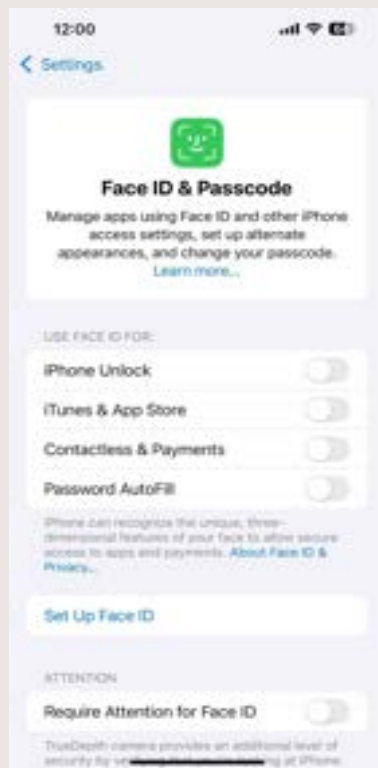
Digital KYR card: <https://www.ilrc.org/redcards>



How to turn off your biometric unlocking!

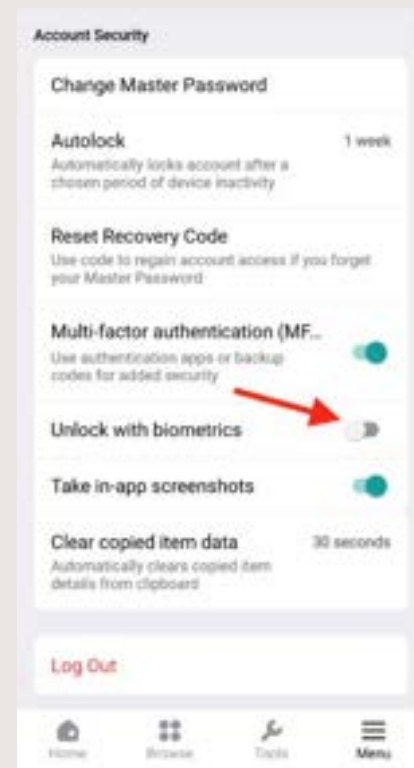
For iPhones

- Go to Settings, tap **Face ID & Passcode** or **Touch ID & Passcode**
- Enter your passcode when prompted
- Toggle off all “Use Face ID For:” settings



For Android

- Open the **Settings** app
- Tap on **Security & privacy**
- Select **Face & Fingerprint Unlock** or **Face recognition**
- Toggle off “unlock with biometrics”



Legal & Rights Resources

To Report Police & National Guard Misconduct: Free legal representation, community resources, report misconduct

- First Defense Legal Aid Hotline: 1-800-529-7374

If you are arrested at a protest or for political activity: Free legal representation while in police custody or court

- National Lawyers Guild Chicago Hotline: 872-465-4244

If you are active military & are uncomfortable with what you're being asked to do: Confidential and free legal support for military members and families.

- GI Rights Hotline: 877-447-4487

National Immigrant Justice Center: What to do if you or a loved one is detained

ICE's 287(g)



- ▶ The **Jail Enforcement Model (JEM)** targets people already in custody. Local law enforcement can question people arrested under local or state charges about their immigration status. These officers may also hold non-citizens in jail for up to 48 hours under ICE's request.
- ▶ The **Warrant Service Officer (WSO)** program allows ICE to train, certify and authorize state and local law enforcement officers to serve and execute administrative warrants in their agency's jail.
- ▶ The **Task Force Model (TFM)** serves as a force multiplier, allowing state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce limited immigration authority with ICE oversight during their routine duties, such as traffic stops.

Check to see if your local law enforcement has a 287(g) agreement in effect: <https://www.ice.gov/identify-and-arrest/287g>



THINK BEFORE SHARING

Pause before you share publicly or start livestreaming. Determine if you need to protect anyone's identity, including your own.

If posting online, be aware of what information the platform is collecting. For example, cellphones often capture GPS coordinates in the video's metadata. If this information is uploaded with the video, it could be used to trace the footage back to you.



PRESERVE YOUR MEDIA

Save the original file in a safe place. Never delete the original file or change the filename.

If you do edit, do it from a copy. Refer to our [archiving decision tree](#) for more key points.



LIVESTREAMING

WITNESS does NOT recommend sharing footage on social media or livestreaming without consent from the person involved and/or direct representatives including lawyers or family members.

- Livestreaming can expose people's identities and other sensitive information far more easily than recorded video, but **sharing any videos online – live or not – is risky.**
- Consider streaming to a **trusted set of viewers**, such as an attorney or legal observers on a private channel.
- It can be helpful to describe what's happening or recap what happened through factual commentary.
- **Work with a partner** to keep an eye on what's happening in the periphery and to check viewers' comments and questions.
- While some sites may let you save the video on their platform, others delete the video after a set time period. If you think your video contains evidentiary content, it's good to **download and preserve a copy** on your secure devices.



WITNESS
SEE IT. FILM IT.
CHANGE IT.





BIG THANKS TO

- > All the observers who are working hard to protect neighbors!
- > ICE Watch trainers everywhere
- > YOU!

