

Crowd-Sourced Volunteer Data Testimony

Submitted to the Minnesota Truth Council by Volunteer Observers

Reports of activity and threatening language and behavior by federal immigration agents

September 29, 2026

The following data testimony draws on experiences reported by volunteer observers connected through decentralized, encrypted Signal groups during and after Operation Metro Surge. Volunteers aggregated reports of activity to create a contemporaneous record of federal immigration agents' actions and behaviors. While this data testimony does not represent the full scope of federal activity during Operation Metro Surge, it provides an on-the-ground view that adds context and scale to individual testimony submitted elsewhere.

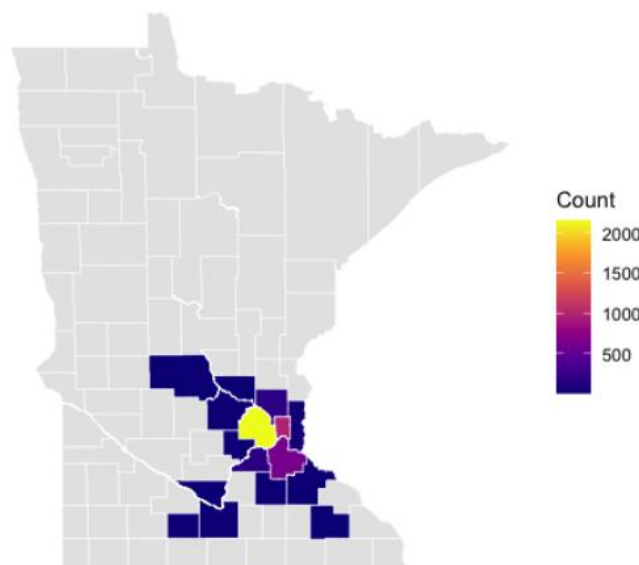
VOLUNTEERS AND REPORTING

4,191 incidents were reported by volunteer observers in 16 out of 87 counties in the state between Dec 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026.

5,342 incidents by

Incidents by Minnesota County

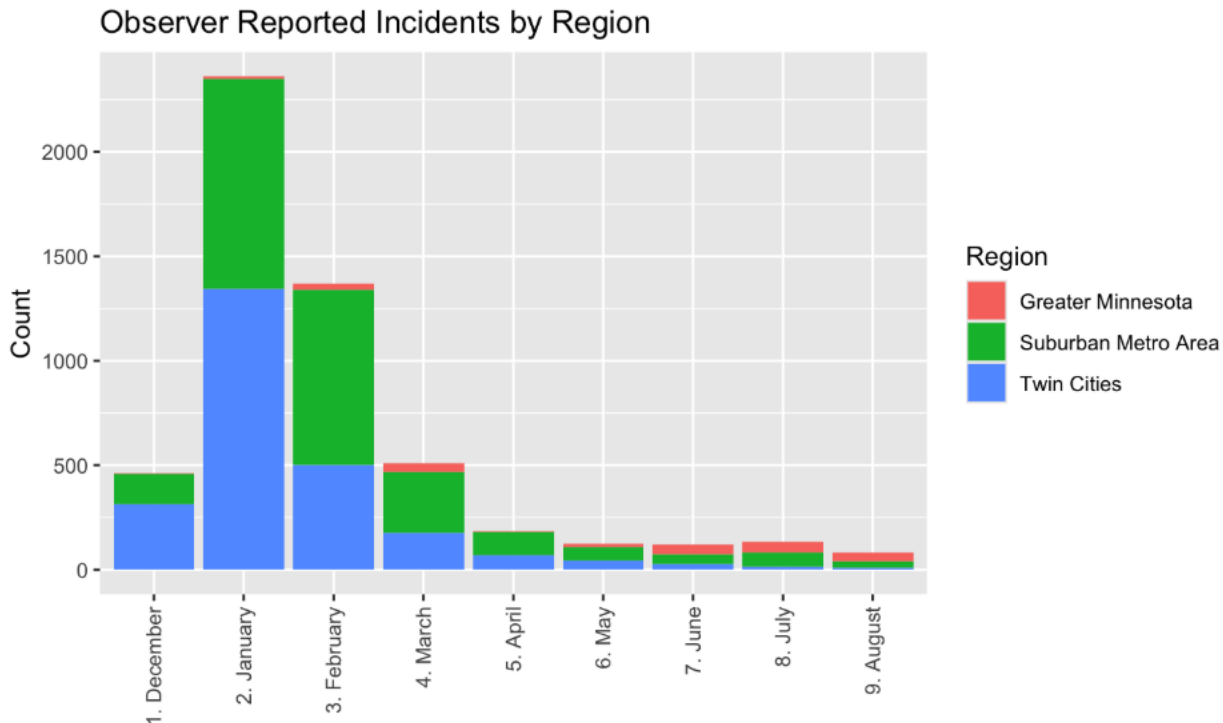
This number rises to
August 26, 2026.



SPREAD TO GREATER MINNESOTA

Reported incidents were highly concentrated in the Twin Cities in December and January, but then more were reported in the Suburban Metro starting in February. Since April, Greater Minnesota has had slightly more reported incidents by constitutional observers (161) than the Twin Cities (159). In this same period, the Suburban Metro Area has doubled each of those regions (323).

Note: The number of counties that had incidents reported in each month grew steadily from ten in December to a peak of 28 in July.



Because officers were often in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles, observers could not always determine whether they were witnessing immigration enforcement, other federal activity such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives operations, or local law enforcement activity. While the nature of the activity was clear in many cases, some observations were less certain. Observations were therefore tagged to indicate the level of certainty that the activity was immigration-related, using several methods to assess that likelihood. Overall, 87% of incidents in the database were classified as “confirmed” or “very likely” to be immigration-enforcement related.

Table 1: Number of observations coded in each level of certainty.

Level of Certainty	N	%
Confirmed	3,651	68
Very Likely	999	18
Likely	692	13
Total	5,342	100

REPORTS OF THREATS MADE BY FEDERAL AGENTS

Volunteers recorded threatening behaviors and language directed toward both the subjects of enforcement actions and observers. Between December 2025 and March 2026, volunteers reported 431 observations that included threatening behavior or language. The most aggressive of these threats were directed toward enforcement subjects in the form of violent and/or threatening behavior. Additionally, 287 activities were specifically identified as being directed toward an observer. Most of these types of threats were verbal. Together, threatening behavior and language were present in 10% of all observations recorded in the database.

Table 2: Number of Threats by Type

Description	Count
Shattered Car Window	18
Battery	15
Lethal Gun Drawn	55
Less Lethal Weapons Deployed	60
Vehicle as Weapon	58
Other Threat to Observer (Primarily Verbal)	287

Note: In some cases, a single observation in the data had descriptions of multiple types of threats. This table displays the total responses across all categories.

EXPLORING DESCRIPTIONS IN THE “OTHER THREAT TO OBSERVER CATEGORY”

While threats and violent behaviors directed toward the subjects of enforcement actions were frequently observed by volunteers and were the foremost concern, the crowd-sourced data testimony also provides a unique look into the experience of observers that is not available elsewhere. A key word-based qualitative analysis provides more information on 91 of the 270 threats to observers shown in the “other” category.¹ The following three themes emerge from these cases.

Harassment and intimidation

Volunteers reported feeling U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents were intimidating them by yelling their full name, recording or photographing them, yelling out their home addresses, threatening to arrest them, flipping them off or swearing at them. Additionally, volunteers reported feeling threatened by ICE agent vehicles by being boxed in or followed, seeing vehicles swerve towards them, having vehicles in front of them slam their brakes, or seeing ICE agents drive erratically. Finally, volunteers also reported spotting drones or cars parked in areas they live.

- **Report:** “Gray Ford Expedition, stationary on Lawson between Edgerton and Payne. 3 separate suspicious vehicles noted, seemingly driving observers around and blocking off side streets at times. Verbally threatened observers.”
- **Report:** “Report of ICE requesting papers from workers, agents mostly in plain clothes observed between 2 cars. Observer followed and blocked in, threatened that they would smash observer’s window... Aside from observer being intimidated with threatened violence, no observation of detainment or other activity.”

Weapons being drawn or used

Volunteers reported being pepper sprayed and gassed, flashbangs and paintballs being deployed, physical altercations, guns being pointed at them, and window breakers held at their cars.

- **Report:** “2 people detained by at least 4 agents, all in plain clothes. Threatened to pepper spray observer and told them to back up.”
- **Report:** “Agents got out of idling car and approached observer with pepper spray while asking them to roll down their windows”
- **Report:** “Pepper spray deployed on observers.”
- **Report:** “ICE agents attempted to enter the restaurant, but the doors were locked. Agents circled the building until a large observer turnout arrived. Agents attempted to hit observers with their vehicle.”

Destruction of personal property

Volunteers reported ICE agents destroying or threatening to destroy their personal property, such as by shattering volunteers’ car windows.

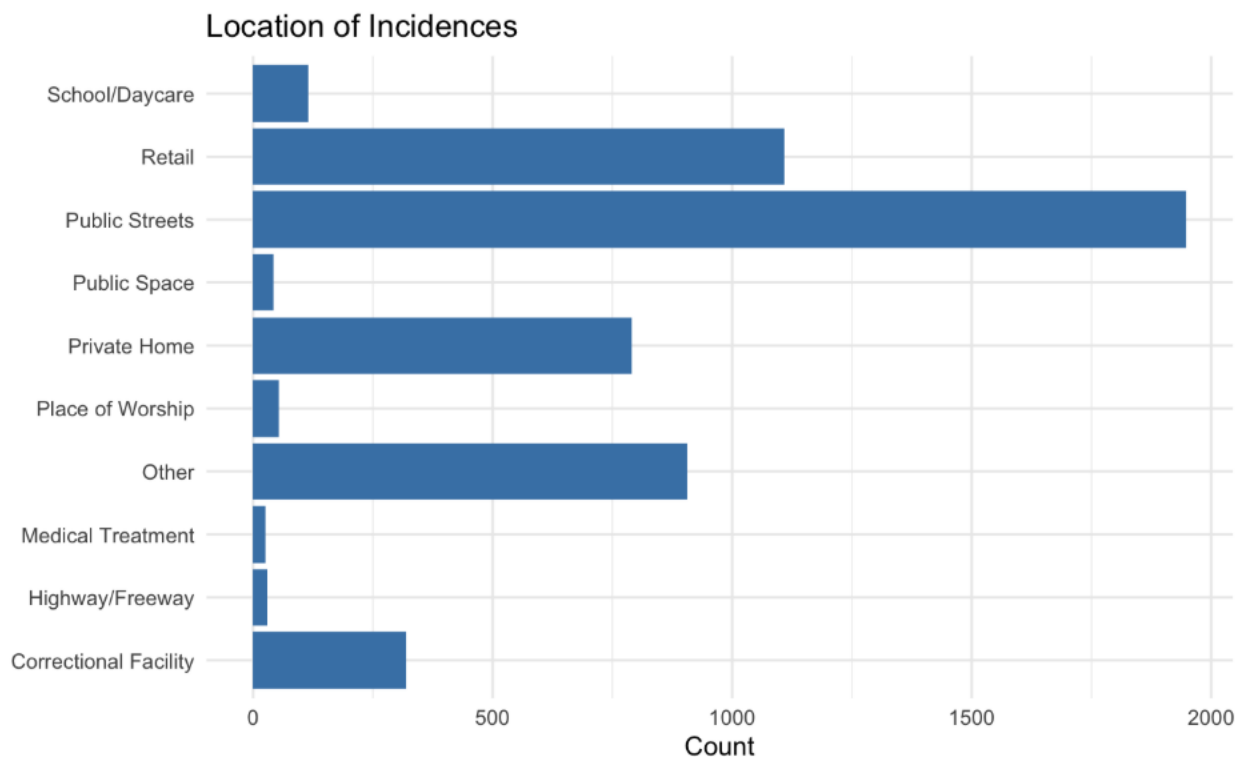
- **Report:** “Confirmed ICE vehicle was driving around side streets and parking lot of Fresh Thyme. Vehicle stopped and two agents walked towards observer’s cars. Agents knocked on observer’s car window and

told them that if they didn't stop following them, they would break their window. Then agents filmed the observers, got back in their car and left."

- **Report:** "Agents brake-checked an observer vehicle during a sharp-right turn, and reversed to smash the front of the observers' car. Agents subsequently broke out the windows of the observer vehicle and abducted all passengers."

TYPE OF PLACE

Using keywords to code reported location names confirms the type of place for 83% of the sample. The remaining other category contains private businesses (e.g., employer headquarters, hotels, gas stations), private residences, and data without a location listed.



ⁱ If the Truth Council would like additional qualitative reports on threats experienced by the subject of immigration enforcement, additional information can be provided at a later date.