

# Emergent Security Advice against ICE's Kidnapping Spree

## A Practical, Timely, Semi-Local Guide to State Resistance

The current Trump administration is engaged in a [monstrous campaign](#) of [snatch-and-grabs](#), [warrantless raids](#), and the [arbitrary detention of brown and Black people in Chicago](#). For months, ICE, Border Patrol, and many other masked, unknown federal agents have [forcibly shoved our neighbors](#) into vans and out of Chicago at breakneck speeds. In some cases, federal agents [intentionally crash into cars and attack the people](#) inside of them. But Chicagoans are notoriously tough people and we've seen numerous [organic, spontaneous mobilizations](#) emerge to shatter ICE.

That being said, our **collective security culture needs to respond to the harsh reality that these governmental actors simply don't care about our rights, humanity, or dignity**. Our responses must, in turn, [adapt to the new authoritarian tactics](#), techniques and procedures. After all, we reject the detentions of all humans, [with or without warrants](#), and what we are seeing on the ground can only be described as an [aggressive application](#) of State power.

We're writing this guide with the intent of producing a resource focused on practical and actionable advice. Our recommendations are geared towards building habits and skills, rather than an attempt to establish a security dogma. Our hope is that in sharpening ourselves, individually and collectively, we will be more prepared to act during moments of State violence and strengthen our foundation for when escalation is needed on our own terms.

In this resource, we give recommendations for everyday situations that could include sudden aggression by State actors and for pre-planned actions that benefit from more specialized toolkits. Our recommendations are meant to be practical and re-mixable rather than proscriptive, and we urge you to adapt them as you see fit.

## What Chicago Has Seen and Done So Far

In Chicago, the [dominant tactic](#) appears to be [random jump-out-snatches](#) agents use to abduct people on the streets.

## Off the Top of Your Head

Ensure you **memorize a few phone numbers** that you may need in an emergency, whether for you or someone who may be targeted by ICE. The amount of numbers you choose to remember is at your discretion, but we recommend at least one trusted comrade, a lawyer or the NLG, and a doctor if you see one regularly. Bonus points if you can memorize the number for a local rapid response group or keep their card (laminated) in your phone case. Memorizing sucks so keep your goals reasonable and realize that even just remembering one is a good start.

**Know-Your-Rights (KYR)** training might seem unsatisfactory when rights are rarely guaranteed, but they are low-lift and can help slow the activities of ICE to an extent as well as make less seasoned activists *feel empowered* which in turns gives them confidence to *act*. *Never talk to police or sign their paperwork for any reason without a lawyer.*

We also recommend backing up all of your data and records to make sure loved ones can access critical information without you. Some questions you and your loved ones may ask are:

- When was the last time I backed up my phone or laptop?
- Get a lawyer now, rather than when you *need* one.
- Can those I trust have access to my USCIS file?
- Where can someone I trust ACCESS a copy of my birth certificate?
- Do I have the local Rapid Response group number readily available?
- Have a phone tree in place for if something does happen, who calls who?
- Do I and those I'm close to have shared knowledge of other important documents?

These are not recommended without good reason. Our crew-members have witnessed [first-hand a neighbor abducted by ICE](#) and assisted their family in a struggle to access necessary records for an immigration attorney. A local group, [Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment \(AFIRE\)](#) has an excellent and printable [Emergency Family Plan](#) you can use to organize some of this information.

**KEY TAKEAWAY;** One of the most critical things we can do *right now* is ensure that others are saving critical information, such as A-files, email logins, medication dosages, and copies of visas in multiple safe locations. Save files to a hard drive and you may also want a cloud-based app like iCloud or Dropbox. These apps may require some form of payment.

Another point to remember is that these actions by Border Patrol are *happening everywhere to all sorts of people*. One silver lining is it has created entirely new groups of people who are galvanized against the state or [who can be organized into action](#). Begin by meeting with those you already trust - family, your **affinity group**, or your day-ones, can be mutually supportive and

activated. If your cousins write graffiti, ask them to make their next pieces political or the old friend from college to begin organizing his church.

Right now, everyone sees the brutality and it's hard to overstate how *pissed off* everyone is. Don't allow people to make that a passive activity. Bring new folks in, ask them to donate their existing skills, time, labor, or money, teach each other new skills, and get people involved; everyone can contribute something.

## Rapid Response On-the-Streets

Right now, the situation is harsh. People are running into CBP agents as they drop off kids at school, going to the corner store for a snack, or just as they head to work. It's popping off everywhere, in unexpected and often violent ways.

Before leaving your home, we recommend getting ready similar to how you might at a protest. This includes always wearing comfortable shoes, staying hydrated, carrying accessible snacks, and a small dosage of your spare medication.

Next, consider what equipment you **can properly and reliably carry daily**. [If you are a trained medic](#), now is the time to daily carry an IFAK. One tactic we are seeing is ICE agents [randomly shooting at people](#) without warning [and then attempting to cover it up](#). We don't say this lightly or to scare people from inaction but rather to orient ourselves under a new threat landscape. Keep going with small, consistent acts. For example, if you have a wide legal network, always carry a pen and paper. The list goes on...

In Chicago, we're seeing **whistles** spread rapidly to signal approaching ICE officers to the community. Paired with a bicycle and some grit, these tools can do more to frustrate and slow down ICE than demanding a warrant they likely don't have.

A reminder: **bicycle helmets** reduce the risk of injuries in the event of a crash and you should always wear a properly fitting helmet. We have no doubt that ICE intends to replicate these tactics across the country.

If you see something, say something. Be ready to report [a kidnapping at any time](#) with photos or video.

We have also seen the need to quickly flip open a locked phone and photograph evolving situations. Please be aware that we are hearing **many reports** of agents targeting people simply for filming them and/or taking their phones. Numerous people raided or detained by ICE report

coming home with the [majority of their belongings](#), including personal papers, missing. **Our advice about backups can not be overstated.**

We hold no illusions about what the state can't or won't do to us, especially when they are willing to raid entire apartment buildings in the middle of the night and engage in **arbitrary, warrantless arrests** for a 4chan-pilled Zoomer [to make snuff films for DHS](#). Instead, we need to focus more of our efforts on *building capacity for rapid response, solidarity networks* for the thousands already detained, and documentation of these human rights abuses.

## Resistance at Detention Centers

Unsurprisingly, detention centers have continued to be major sites of struggle, and that's doubly true at this moment. ICE agents frequently exit and enter the detention centers, using the vehicles whose plates **they constantly swap on the streets**. Like in New York, LA and other cities, ICE agents are frequently protected by other police who wantonly shoot community members with pepper balls and gas munitions.

The **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** worn by protestors during actions contribute to multiple levels of safety. They prevent the spread of disease in packed crowds, and safeguard against tear-gas. They also provide the wearers some passive anti-surveillance, potentially against the use of facial-recognition technology. Some adopt much more opaque (and whimsical) **passive anti-surveillance** clothing as well, like the frogs in Portland taking a stand against ICE. We specifically mention PPE because we are seeing widespread use of CS/CN gas, [both across the city](#) and at the detention centers.

**Umbrellas**, most often associated with the uprisings in Hong Kong, can provide both visual and physical shielding in a pinch. And even **tarps** or **flags** bearing the insignia of the [Strawhat Crew](#) can provide quick moments of privacy in open-spaces.

## Mental Preparation

With respect to long-term organizing, we are seeing many flexible and organic networks develop emerge from years of trust. Our networks of lawyers, activists, documenters, volunteers and comrades have all been meeting the moment. Quite honestly, we are all slammed and we know it. **We have become mushrooms, creating networks between strongly anchored trees, and sending underground signals to warn of threats.**

But we are also in a principled struggle for our neighbors which requires us to continuously look over our shoulders, talk with co-workers about covering shifts if an emergency happens, and be ready to spring into action, not run away from it. Remember that all those gym sessions and talks about security culture have been for *this* moment. It's time to flex those instincts.

# What's Next?

## A Culture of Resistance Hygiene

### BioSocial Health

While our battles under crisis are hard and fast, the struggle for life goes well beyond the span of a single human being. New, kinder realities emerge from prefigurations at the scale of entire populations, cultures, complex systems, and over generations. Sustaining these dreams requires that we take particular care in ensuring our individual and collective stability.

As individuals, and within the best of our individual capabilities, we must gift our bodies the basic building blocks of life however we can. That means formulating a plan. If you struggle with mental health, make a plan *now* when you feel good about what to do before you spiral.”

Our plans should strengthen our minds and bodies. While the oppositional system seeks to crush our health, we must practice caution around the spread of disease, ensure we're up-to-date with our vaccinations, and have access to the medications or health resources we require. Desire is a tricky thing, and not everything we desire is necessarily what we may actually want or need, so it's important to have others to think and build with.

We are social creatures and of a greater shared collective nature with the world around us. Collectively, we must tend towards mutual aid and support. Socializing is important, and part of healing during these traumatic times is being with friends, new and old alike, where we can help each other and be whetstones for our own sharpening.

An unfortunate aspect of our current material epoch is that **access** to the **means** of stability are not guaranteed, and this poses a barrier to long-term goals. In the short-term, the collective bodies must care for individuals that lack access while simultaneously brainstorming creative, localized futures that ensure health with minimal effort.

### Digital Health

While pin-based logins are preferred, by and large, we know a lot of people will still use tools like FaceID. If you continue to use FaceID for daily phone use, and do not have a second phone for actions, **routinely practice disabling FaceID when you walk out your front door** and re-enabling it when you're home safely. (We recommend not using things like face or fingerprint unlocks but realize that people make their own choices and we should meet them where they are all.)

We also recommend deleting applications you don't consistently use, simply because it's easier to maintain your privacy with less software to worry about.

Excess and clutter in our digital lives are perpetuated by addictive, algorithmic systems that seek to control attention and emotional responses. Digital clutter creates more avenues for surveillance to occur, as digital records add up over time. In relating to our tools, we must develop the muscle for data minimization: decluttering, removing, and forgetting in the digital era. This prefigures a healthier relationship to the digital, and gives oppositional systems less information for malicious use. This also included not watching a million videos of ICE kidnapping people if it causes you to spiral. Importantly, digital decluttering should be **routine** and part of your **digital hygiene**. Maintaining simplicity and repeatability is important.

So many of us have moved onto communications applications like Signal is surely a win in and of itself. However, we must still ensure decluttering occurs with these tools. Keeping disappearing messages on chats is generally advised. We also suggest leaving and deleting unused chats, and never screenshots chats to preserve trust between communicators.

Towards Freedom,  
Lucy Parsons Labs