

# **Border Operations Sector Assessment**

South Texas  
Ranch Edition

**May  
2021**

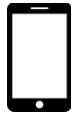
**REPORTING PERIOD:  
01-31 MAY 2021**



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER



The Ranch BOSA is a monthly overview of drug/human smuggling and other criminal activity in south and west Texas. The purpose of this report is to inform ranch owners of emerging trends and relevant incidents.



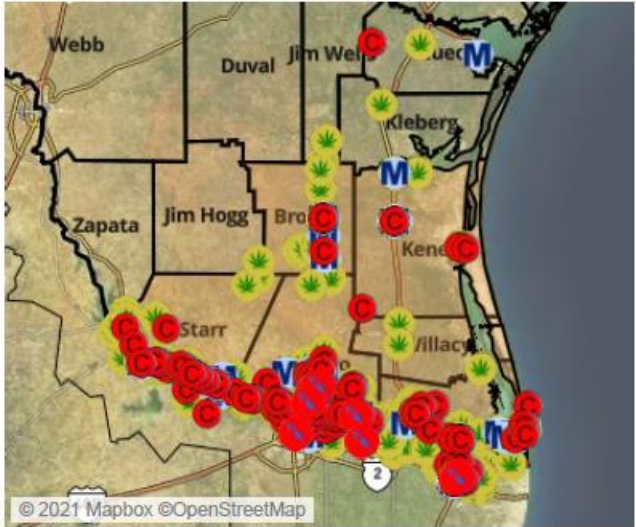
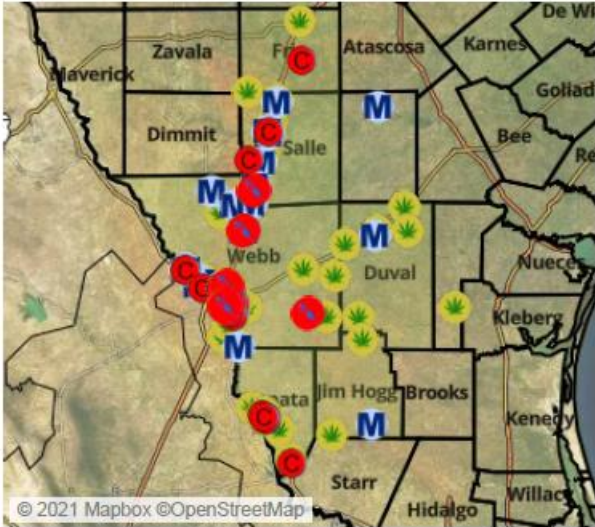
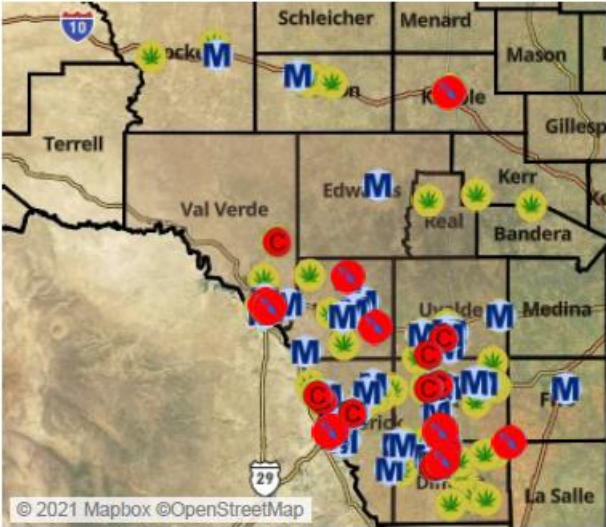
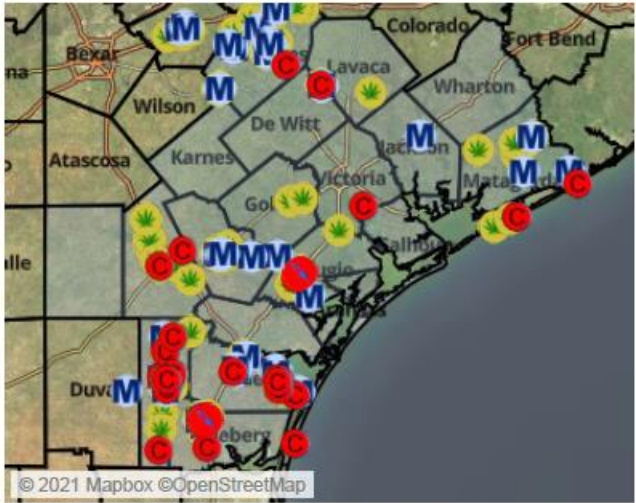
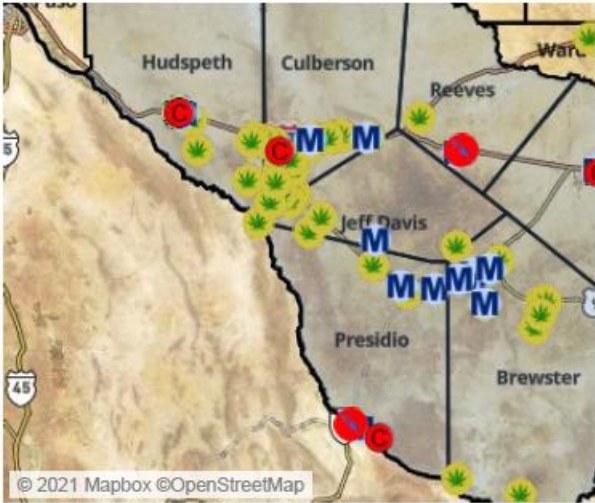
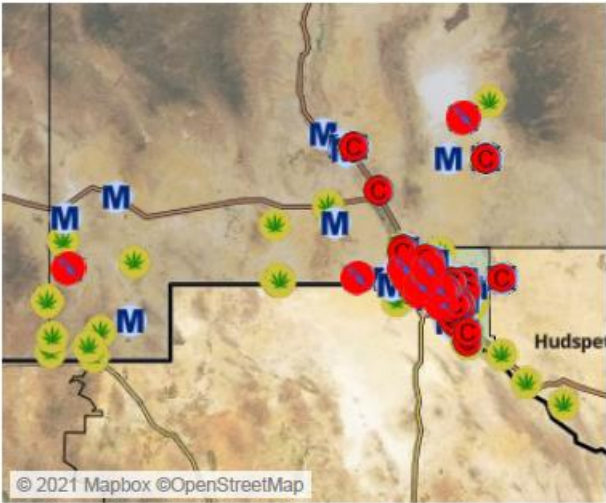
You may use the [Texas DPS iWatch](#) to report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal or terrorist activity, such as drug smuggling, human smuggling, oil field thefts, and other criminal activity. Every report will be reviewed by analysts. You may also contact DPS at 1-866-786-5972, or through the JOIC contacts listed below.



## OPERATION BORDER STAR

JOIC Contact Information	Border Security Ops Ctr (Austin)	El Paso JOIC (El Paso)	Big Bend JOIC (Marfa)	Del Rio Sector (Del Rio)	Laredo Sector (Laredo)	Rio Grande Valley Sector (McAllen)	Coastal Bend Sector (Victoria)
Main Phone #	(512) 454-7561	(915) 680-6500	(432) 729-4506	(830) 778-7837	(956) 764-3181	(956) 289-5727	(361) 485-8500
Main E-mail	<a href="mailto:TBSOC@dps.texas.gov">TBSOC@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov">joic.elpaso@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov">joic.marfa@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov">joic.delrio@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov">joic.laredo@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov">joic.mcallen@dps.texas.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov">joic.victoria@dps.texas.gov</a>

CYTD 2021	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Va..	Coastal Bend	Total
Marijuana (lbs)	3,777	11,637	49	24,055	47,750	227	87,495
Cocaine (lbs)	1,271	38	92	1,299	2,689	276	5,666
Methamphetamine (lbs)	3,073	86	313	4,389	7,465	69	15,395
Heroin (lbs)	110	3	46	157	317	1	634



Maps depict narcotics seizures during the respective reporting month

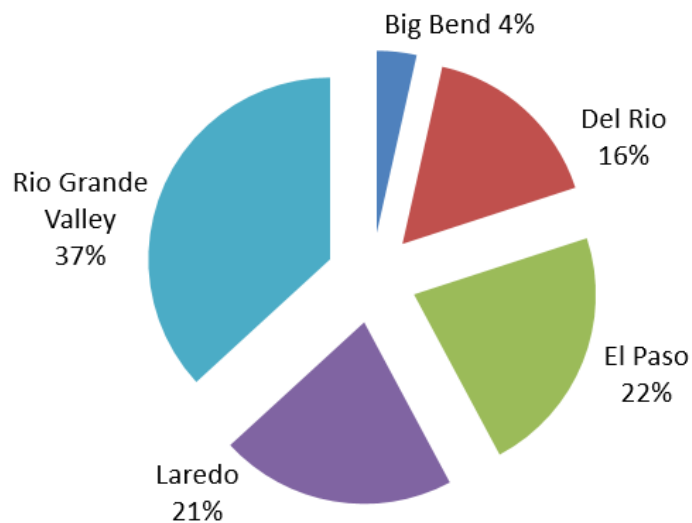


# Sector Apprehension Comparisons



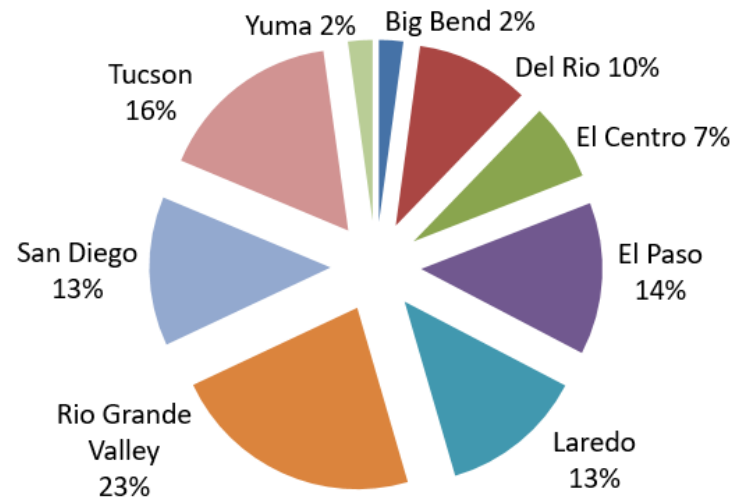
## Texas Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)



## Southwest Border Sector Apprehensions

FY2020 (OCT-SEP)



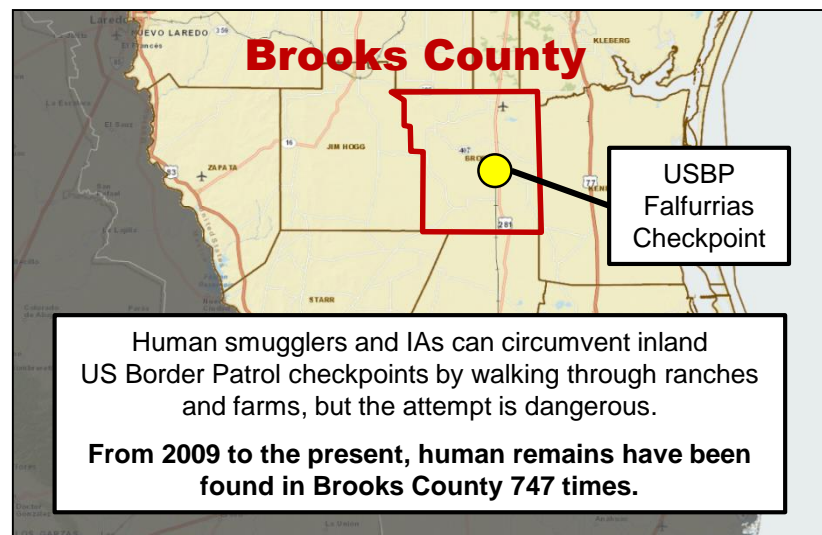
For more information, visit the USBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov>

Total UA wT42	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	58,533	18,767	90,345	50,521	215,900	--	<b>434,066</b>

Other Than Mexicans (OTMs)	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	RGV	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
CYTD 2020	41,136	9,056	60,340	14,973	181,688	--	<b>307,193</b>

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs)	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2016
Texas Border	20,459	57,603	34,383	31,827	47,192



# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 01 MAY, Sierra Blanca USBP Agents apprehended a group of 24 IAs in the brush on a ranch southeast of Allamore. All of the subjects were processed.

On 03 MAY, Van Horn and Sierra Blanca USBP Agents, working in conjunction with DPS AVN and a local fire department, responded to a brush fire southwest of Van Horn and found an IA with a possible broken leg. The Agents rescued the subject, who was transported to a hospital and brought to a stable condition.



On 05 MAY, USBP Agents apprehended a group of nine IAs near pecan orchards south of Van Horn. A human smuggler was identified and referred to HSI. The IAs were processed.

On 06 MAY, Brewster Co SO Deputies responded to a ranch north of Study Butte and detained 12 IAs. The subjects were referred to USBP.

On 06 MAY, USBP Agents apprehended a group of nine IAs on a ranch east of Marfa. During processing, a records check revealed that one of the subjects had been convicted of Lewdness Involving a Child. The subjects were processed.

# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 10 MAY, USBP Agents apprehended 15 IAs in the brush near pecan orchards south of Van Horn. A human smuggler was identified, and all of the subjects were processed.

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On 12 MAY, Sanderson USBP Agents apprehended a group of 17 IAs on a ranch south of Dryden. In the group, an MS-13 gang member was identified. The gang member was referred to Del Rio Sector Prosecutions, and the remaining IAs were processed.

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On 16 MAY, DPS AVN referred 22 IAs to USBP at a ranch in Culberson Co.



# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 19 MAY, Van Horn USBP Agents seized two burlap sacks containing a total of 123.10 lbs of marijuana found abandoned beside a ranch near US-90.

The narcotics were referred to Alpine DEA.

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On 22 MAY, DPS CID Special Agents responded to an attempted burglary of a residence at a ranch east of Valentine. The Special Agents encountered four IAs who had been looking for food and water, and referred them to USBP.

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On 23 MAY, Marfa USBP Agents apprehended a group of 20 IAs on a ranch west of Valentine. A human smuggler was identified within the group.

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On 25 MAY, Van Horn USBP Agents seized 120.76 lbs of marijuana that was found abandoned in two bundles on a ranch south of Van Horn. The narcotics were referred to Alpine DEA.



# BIG BEND SECTOR

On 27 MAY, Marfa USBP Agents searched for a group of eight suspected IAs on a ranch east of Valentine. Additional Agents observed a Chevrolet Silverado pickup being driven slowly through the area where the group was believed to be headed. A vehicle stop was conducted, and several unopened Gatorade bottles were observed. The driver admitted to being in the area to pick up the group of eight IAs. The Agents were unable to locate the group of IAs. The driver was apprehended and processed. The vehicle was seized.

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On 27 MAY, a Brewster Co SO Deputy and a USBP Agent apprehended six IAs hiding in the brush on a ranch northeast of Alpine after the subjects had bailed out from a previous traffic stop by THP. The IAs were processed.

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On 31 MAY, Sanderson USBP Agents apprehended a group of 27 IAs on a ranch south of Dryden. A known alien-smuggling-organization guide was identified within the group. The subjects were processed.

# DEL RIO SECTOR



On 06 MAY, a Texas National Guardsman discovered an abandoned gym bag on a ranch near Eagle Pass. Eight AK-47 pistols and ten magazines were found in the bag. A USBP Agent seized the weapons, which were reported stolen from Arlington. The weapons and magazines were referred to DEA and ATF.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 08 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2018 Ford F-150 pickup near Big Wells, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch, where the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Live Oak Co, was impounded.

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On 10 MAY, a Crystal City PD Officer conducted a traffic stop on a 2013 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup north of Crystal City, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle continued north, and was then driven through a ranch fence, where the driver bailed out. The driver was apprehended, identified as an IA, and processed. The vehicle was impounded.

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On 15 MAY, a Dimmit Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 186 near Carrizo Springs, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle crashed into a tree on a ranch, and the driver bailed out and absconded. The Deputy discovered that the VIN was fictitious, and the vehicle was reported stolen. The vehicle was impounded.

# DEL RIO SECTOR

On 20 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2019 Ford F-350 pickup on US-57, east of Eagle Pass, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the Trooper found it abandoned. The vehicle was bearing license plates from another vehicle, and had been reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was impounded.

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On 24 MAY, Zavala Co SO Deputies received information regarding a white 1999 Chevrolet Suburban that was stolen from a ranch east of La Pryor.

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On 27 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2016 Chevrolet Silverado pickup on FM 481, south of Uvalde, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle stopped on US-83, and 11 subjects bailed out. The vehicle was then driven through a fence near FM 140, where the driver was detained. USBP Agents apprehended five IAs, and the USC driver was identified as the human smuggler. The Trooper arrested the driver, and the vehicle was impounded.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 01 MAY, Cotulla USBP Agents assisted La Salle Co SO Deputies in a pursuit of a 2020 Dodge Ram pickup and a 2014 Dodge Ram pickup near Cotulla. The vehicles were driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicles were reported stolen from San Antonio. La Salle Co SO assumed custody of both vehicles.

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On 02 MAY, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to an alert of human smuggling near FM 468, west of Cotulla. When the Agents arrived, La Salle Co SO Deputies were in a pursuit of a stolen 2012 Dodge Ram pickup. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and fled. Two IAs were apprehended by the Agents. La Salle Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.

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On 03 MAY, THP Troopers conducted a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Silverado pickup on US-281, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence and across a field. The pursuit was terminated.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 03 MAY, Freer USBP Agents encountered a 2021 GMC Sierra pickup on FM 2895. Before the Agents could perform a vehicle stop, the vehicle was driven off the road and onto a ranch near Mirando City. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Duncanville, was found abandoned. Webb Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.

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On 05 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2019 Ford F-250 pickup on US-57 in Frio Co, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch and into the brush. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

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On 10 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a stolen black 2014 Dodge 2500 pickup in La Salle Co, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven into a pasture, where the driver bailed out and absconded.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 13 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a Dodge Ram 1500 pickup on SH-44 in Webb Co, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a fence and onto a ranch. The Trooper terminated the pursuit.

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On 13 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a Ford pickup on SH-16 in Duval Co. The driver pulled over and stopped briefly, and then took off west, initiating a pursuit. The vehicle was driven through a ranch gate, and the Trooper lost sight of the vehicle, terminating the pursuit. The Trooper followed the tire marks, observing that they went through a fence, across the ranch, and onto another property. The Trooper found the vehicle abandoned on the other property.

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On 14 MAY, a La Salle Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch in La Salle Co regarding an abandoned stolen 2017 Ford F-250 King Ranch pickup.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 14 MAY, a THP Trooper observed a Ford F-250 pickup displaying stolen plates in La Salle Co. The driver traveled west on a ranch road near IH-35, and the Trooper could not follow due to the terrain. USBP assisted. The vehicle came to a dead end at a ranch, where it was driven through a locked gate and across the property. The vehicle was not located.

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On 14 MAY, Freer USBP Agents assisted THP Troopers with a pursuit of a 2014 Dodge Ram pickup reported stolen from San Antonio. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence near Freer. The Agents advised that they had found the abandoned vehicle on the property. THP assumed custody of the vehicle.

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On 17 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a white 2011 Ford F-150 pickup on SH-44 in La Salle Co, when a pursuit ensued. When the vehicle became entangled in a fence, the occupants bailed out and absconded.

# LAREDO SECTOR

On 18 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Ford F-250 pickup on FM 468 in La Salle Co, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto an oil-field property. The ranch manager later notified the Trooper that the vehicle had been found abandoned. The vehicle was reported stolen from Bexar Co.

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On 18 MAY, a La Salle Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2018 Ford F-350 pickup in Cotulla, when a pursuit ensued. When the vehicle stopped at a ranch fence, the occupants bailed out and fled. The Deputy detained an IA. The vehicle was impounded.

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On 18 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a stolen black Ford F-250 pickup, when a pursuit ensued. The Trooper was later notified by a ranch manager that the vehicle had been abandoned in an oil field near Cotulla.

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On 31 MAY, a La Salle Co SO Deputy was dispatched to a ranch near IH-35 regarding an abandoned white 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio.

# RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On 03 MAY, a THP Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a Dodge Durango on US-281, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven into a fence and struck a post. The driver bailed out and absconded.

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On 04 MAY, a Brooks Co SO Deputy, along with USBP Agents, took a report of human remains on a ranch near Falfurrias. A funeral home assumed custody of the remains.

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From 10-18 MAY, Brooks Co SO Deputies took six reports of human remains that had been found on ranches in the Falfurrias and Encino areas.

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On 13 MAY, a Kenedy Co SO Deputy took a report of human remains found on a ranch in Riviera. A funeral home assumed custody of the remains.

# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 10 MAY, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy was dispatched regarding a stolen white 2019 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup that had been found on a ranch in Alice. The vehicle had been involved in a pursuit a few days prior. A search of the vehicle revealed an unknown amount of marijuana concealed in a non-factory compartment in a soda bottle. The vehicle was impounded.

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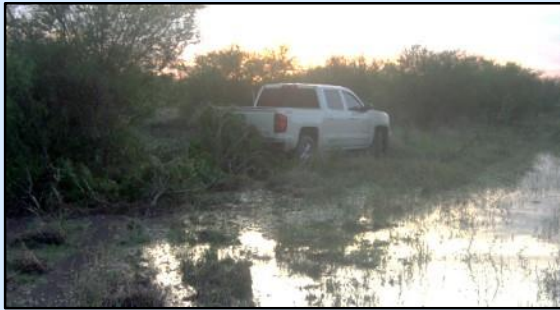
On 12 MAY, a Lavaca Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado pickup in Yoakum, when a pursuit ensued. When the vehicle stopped at a ranch, the driver and a passenger bailed out and fled. An IA was detained, and the Deputy seized 0.03 lbs of marijuana. The vehicle, which was stolen from Houston, was impounded. The IA was referred to USBP.

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On 13 MAY, a Lavaca Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2018 GMC Sierra pickup in Yoakum, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch. Jackson Co SO Deputies located the vehicle, and the driver bailed out. The Deputies detained two IAs and referred them to USBP. The vehicle was impounded.

# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 17 MAY, a San Patricio Co SO Deputy assisted a Bee Co SO Deputy in a pursuit of a 2015 GMC Sierra pickup in Tynan. The San Patricio Co SO Deputy found the vehicle on a ranch. The driver bailed out and absconded. The vehicle appeared to have been used for human smuggling and was stolen from La Porte. The Deputy detained an IA, who was referred to USBP.



On 19 MAY, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado pickup in Alice, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was driven through a ranch fence, and the occupants bailed out and absconded. The vehicle was identified as stolen from Houston, and a small amount of marijuana was seized.

On 20 MAY, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado pickup near George West, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was found abandoned on a ranch and was impounded after being identified as stolen from Houston.

# COASTAL BEND SECTOR

On 21 MAY, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado pickup near George West, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle was found abandoned on a ranch. The vehicle, which showed signs of human smuggling and had been reported stolen from Houston, was impounded.

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On 27 MAY, a Live Oak Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a black 2016 Chevrolet Silverado pickup that had been stolen from Houston, when a pursuit ensued. The Deputy lost sight of the vehicle, but it was later found on a ranch west of US-281. The vehicle, which showed signs of having been used for human smuggling, was impounded.

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On 29 MAY, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a blue Chevrolet Silverado pickup on US-281 in Alice, when a pursuit ensued. The vehicle traveled east on FM 2044 and was driven through a property fence and into the brush. The Deputies followed the tracks on foot for a few miles and located the vehicle on private property east of US-281. The vehicle, which had been reported stolen from Alice, contained several license plates.

# COASTAL BEND SECTOR



On 31 MAY, a Jim Wells Co SO Deputy was dispatched to Orange Grove regarding a white 2015 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup that was stolen from Victoria Co. Jim Wells Co Constable Pct. 5 Deputies advised that approximately 50 subjects and two vehicles fled from a nearby warehouse. The Deputies conducted a vehicle stop, and a pursuit ensued, ending at a ranch. Four IAs were found in the area and referred to USBP. The Deputies also recovered a black 2017 Chevrolet Silverado pickup that was reported stolen from Houston. Both vehicles were impounded.

# DRAWBRIDGE

On 19 MAY, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to a **Drawbridge** alert by a vehicle suspected of being involved with IAs near Cotulla. A La Salle Co SO Deputy observed a vehicle matching the description and conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle was driven onto a ranch property and was found abandoned. The vehicle was a stolen 2018 Chevrolet Silverado pickup. La Salle Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.

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On 21 MAY, Cotulla USBP Agents responded to a **Drawbridge** alert by several subjects. La Salle Co SO Deputies advised that they located a vehicle, a 2020 Ford F-150 pickup, abandoned on a ranch near Cotulla. The Agents recovered the vehicle and apprehended four IAs. The vehicle was reported stolen from San Antonio. La Salle Co SO assumed custody of the vehicle.

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On 25 MAY, Freer USBP Agents assisted THP Troopers with a **Drawbridge** alert off SH-44 near Freer. The Agents ran a vehicle registration check on the license plates of a 2018 GMC Sierra pickup that did not match the description of the vehicle. The vehicle was driven through several ranch fences, and was later found abandoned on SH-16. The vehicle, which was reported stolen from Houston, was impounded by Freer PD.



## Total Pursuits and Bailouts – CYTD \*

Event	El Paso	Big Bend	Del Rio	Laredo	Rio Grande Valley	Coastal Bend	TOTAL
Pursuits	3	42	332	161	233	89	860
Bailouts	1	80	446	153	189	66	935

*\* Totals include all incidents reported by the JOICs, not merely those that are ranch-related*





	Grand Total
IAs Detected	937,603
Marijuana Seized (lbs.)	593,615
Cocaine Seized (lbs.)	1,156
Heroin Seized (lbs.)	40
Meth Seized (lbs.)	201
Firearms Detected	65

If any comments or questions arise from this product, please contact:

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER**



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