

Border Awareness

1. Know where you are at all times. You must be able to describe your location to a dispatcher (GPS Coordinates are most effective). Always let someone (e.g. your supervisor) know your route and destination (STAY IN TOUCH)
2. Radio frequency interference from Mexico is likely (may affect cell phones)
3. Expect the Unexpected! Develop a plan for what you will do in the event of a surprise encounter with illegal activity
4. Threats to employees exist all the time, not just in high traffic areas
5. Every contact with unknown personnel has elements of risk; and traditional responses to contact may not be appropriate. Language barriers increase risks. Trust your instincts
6. Make sure you are clearly identified as a BLM employee and not as a law enforcement officer
7. Expect to encounter unknown personnel (sometimes in large numbers) in vehicles and/or on foot
8. Avoid responding to situations that are inconsistent with your assigned authority and training
9. Dawn and dusk (night) operations require extra vigilance on your part
10. Other vehicles found unattended in remote areas may be involved in illegal activities

Border Watchouts!

Remember to watch out for the following situations

1. No communication link with other crew members, dispatch, and/or law enforcement
2. Working in a Law Enforcement Area of Concern
3. Armed confrontations by law enforcement and/or illegal entrants
4. Small or large groups of people being transported either on foot or in a vehicle
5. Accidental witnessing of drug deals and drug transportation
6. High-speed driving and law enforcement pursuits in your work areas
7. Aircraft trying to avoid detection and frequent law enforcement aircraft operations due to these illegal activities
8. Historical, administrative, and cultural sites that have been vandalized and broken into
9. Locks and fences deliberately knocked down or cut
10. Large numbers of footprints - these may be headed to your work area
11. Abandoned vehicles either intact or set on fire
12. Wildfires caused by abandoned warming and cooking fires
13. Individuals that appear ill
14. Trash and high concentrations of human fecal material in heavily used illegal entrants staging areas and routes
15. Methamphetamine labs either occupied or abandoned. Chemical dumping
16. Marijuana fields protected by growers
17. Working alone and working at night
18. Leaving your BLM vehicle unattended