



Dozens Suffer Terrible Outcome of Human Trafficking – Eight people were found dead in a San Antonio Walmart parking lot and another thirty suffering serious injuries as a result of being packed into a locked box trailer for more than twelve hours on Saturday in a smuggling attempt from across the Rio Grande in Mexico. Coherent survivors later told of how there may have initially been up to 200 in the sweltering space, apparently many of which fled when the doors were finally opened after midnight on Sunday morning. They were loaded in on Saturday morning and sat idle until the driver, who has been arrested and charged, finally undertook the trip at around 9 p.m. on Saturday. A Walmart employee, who was approached by one of the migrants who requested water, called police. The temperature ranged between 90 and 101 degrees in the area that day. Two more people died after being transported to the hospital and many others sustained permanent brain damage from the conditions.



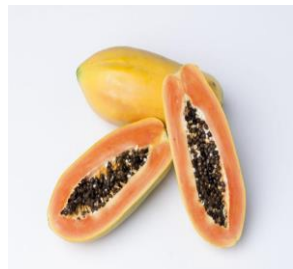
Assessment: The incident is among a “[disturbingly regular occurrence](#)” of would-be immigrants imperiled by “callous smugglers,” though it ended far more tragically than others. Earlier this month, for example, 19 who were lost in the ranchlands near Laredo were rescued by Border Patrol agents, 72 others were found locked inside a trailer with ‘no means of escape,’ and 33 were found locked inside a tractor-trailer by CBP agents. Still others have been found in refrigerated trucks. Human smuggling falls under the umbrella of human trafficking, where many times victims are forced into modern-day slavery conditions. It is incumbent upon responders to [report](#) suspicions in this area which may not only serve to save individuals directly, but mitigate the greater regional and global plague.

Police Security Detail Targeted in Pakistani Suicide Bombing – Twenty-six people, including nine police officers, were killed and more than twice that many injured when a suicide bomber struck at a Lahore, Pakistan vegetable market outside the entrance of a software technology park. A crowd gathered there Monday during a campaign by city government officials against illegal and sprawling vendors along busy Ferozepur Road. Nine police officers were among those killed, as many had been assigned to security for the event. A local official told reporters that ‘Police were the main target of the attack.’ It was reported that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed credit for the attack via motorcycle suicide bomber, however local officials determined that a new offshoot of TTP, [Taliban Special Group \(TSG\)](#) were responsible, and it is believed the bomber was brought to the location via rickshaw or other transportation.

Assessment: According to one [source](#), the splinter group of highly trained “commandos” may have acted in retaliation for the Pakistani Army’s operations in tribal areas. Short of hitting government officials themselves, police officers are an attractive target as they are seen as representative of the state. In NYC and elsewhere in the U.S. many, many activities call for large pools of police, and these circumstances might serve as a convenient target for attacks by suicidal individuals or those willing to die for a cause.

Former Islamic State Occupied Areas Littered with Booby-traps – With residents beginning to re-occupy neighborhoods in Mosul and other towns in northern Iraq following the defeat and expulsion of Islamic State fighters, United Nations Mines Action Service teams are overwhelmed with the task of clearing booby-traps left behind. Miles and miles, and miles of devices, “sensitive enough to be detonated by a child and powerful enough to blow up a truck,” are in play, [according to Craig McInally](#), operations manager for a Norwegian anti-explosives project. Everything from mosques and schools, streets and fields, to appliances and televisions in homes have been rigged and primed. Since clearing operations commenced in liberated areas last October, 1,700 have been killed or injured by these improvised explosives.

Assessment: As if any reminder were needed of the inhuman brutality of ISIS militants, this difficult situation stands in testament, regardless of any strategic explanations. Booby-traps which can harm responders may be set for a variety of reasons, from drug labs to the likes of the Aurora, Colorado movie theater shooter. Use extreme caution where situational awareness dictates.



New Yorker Dead in Salmonella Outbreak – An unidentified New Yorker is dead, and about 50 people are sick nationwide, in a salmonella outbreak that is connected to papayas from Mexico. Infections started in May in several states, including New Jersey, Iowa, Kentucky, Mass., Penn., and Va. The FDA is [warning](#) consumers to avoid Maradol and Caribena brand papayas. New York state leads with 13 cases related to this outbreak, and New Jersey is a close second with 12 cases.

Assessment: Salmonella bacteria can cause diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, and fever, but most people infected recover on their own in 4-7 days, the [FDA said](#). Children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk. Besides the threat of infections in the natural world, some officials worry that ISIS may be developing biological weapons, such as [bubonic plague](#), but there is no evidence at this time. But research papers found in the recent liberation of Mosul University show that Islamic State [tested](#) chemical weapons on human subjects. In another development, scientists [made smallpox](#) in about six months from DNA fragments of horsepox for a cost of about \$100,000, after some debate that it could not be done.

3-D Gun Instructions Available on Dark Web on the Cheap – Instruction downloads for do-it-yourself 3-D guns are selling for as low as \$12 on the internet, according to a [wider report](#) on online firearms sales from Rand Europe. Lone-wolf terrorists, gangs, or any number of illicit actors, could be downloading these plans to print guns from their 3-D printers. About one-quarter of “dark web” gun sales involved digital products, such as instructions on converting replicas to functioning guns and how to make home-made guns and explosives. “The proliferation of guidelines and 3D models, in combination with the increased quality of commercially available 3D printers, may result in more untraceable weapons,” the report said.

Assessment: As stated in the quote above, the ability for these weapons to pass through metal detectors is troubling, and the quality of 3-D firearms is increasing (prototypes were only good for a few shots only a few years ago). With all of the other cyber threats that responders face today (hacking, data theft, equipment shutdowns, cryptoware lockouts, etc.), criminals and terrorists can increasingly meet their weapons demands online through purchases of black-market firearms, 3-D printer manuals, and ammunition. The Rand report recommends that policymakers update regulations, but stressed that existing investigative techniques are still valid (“The emergence of a new threat does not necessarily require the creation of new instruments”).

Emergency Managers Shed Light on Upcoming EAP (Eclipse Action Plan) – Kentucky is in the spotlight as thousands prepare to swarm the Bluegrass State in anticipation of the August 21 total eclipse of the sun. It will be the first coast-to-coast eclipse since 1918, but Kentucky, and some surrounding states, will provide the best vantage point (based on totality of eclipse and duration), called the Point of Greatest Eclipse (PGE). State troopers [expect](#) 100,000 observers to descend on a county with a population of about 70,000 via 30-50,000 vehicles, for example, taxing local infrastructure and support services.



Assessment: Kentucky emergency managers said that this influx of fans is more difficult to prepare for than an event in a fixed location, such as a race at the Kentucky Speedway (the eclipse viewing band covers the western portion of the state). The PGE is in a rural valley of mostly farmland so officials will have to figure out traffic, parking, medical care and transport, waste disposal, etc. NASA is providing an “[Eclipse 101](#)” website, which includes safety and maps links, for the hundreds of thousands who are expected to view, and travel, for this rare astronomical phenomenon across the contiguous U.S.—from Oregon to South Carolina.

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