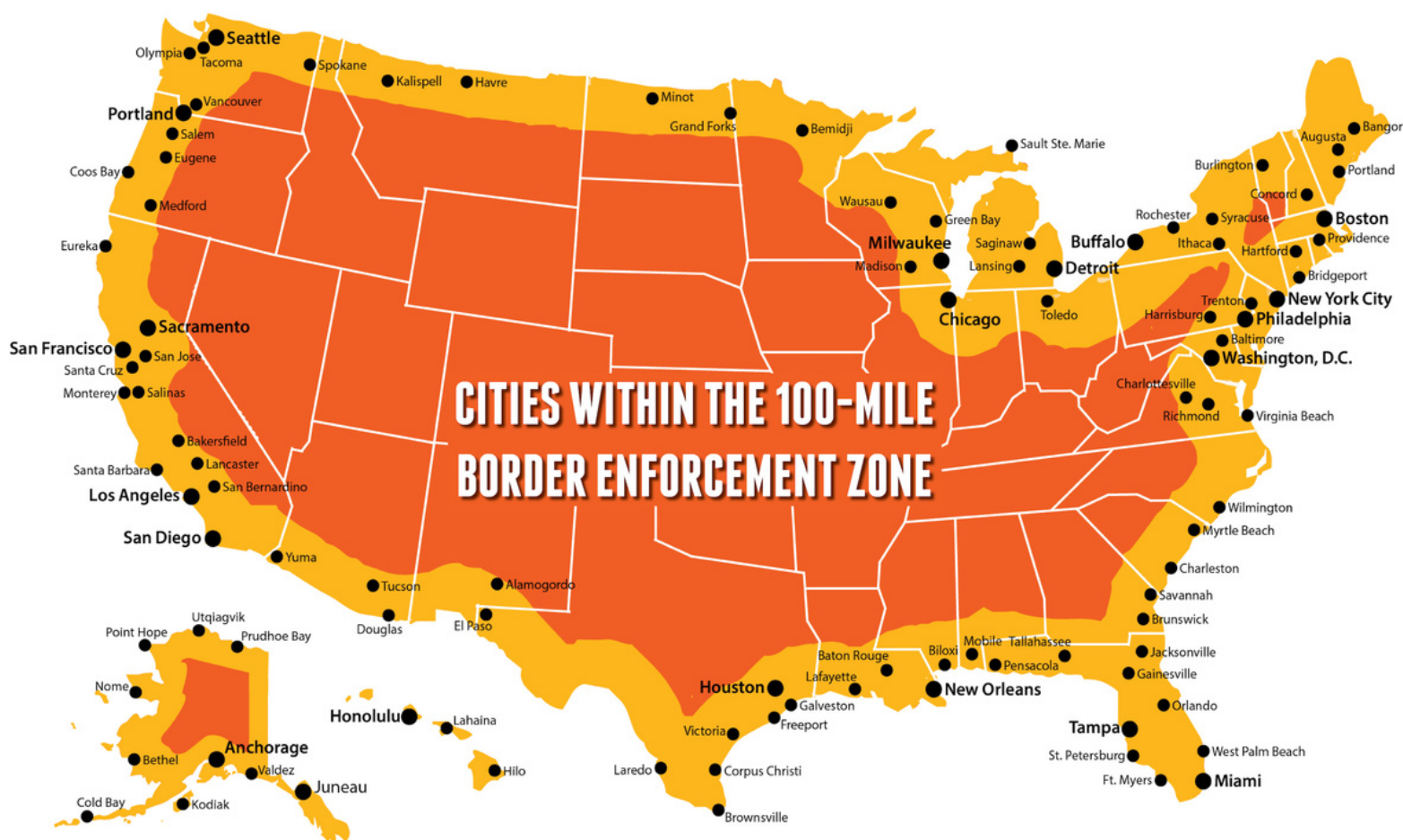




US BORDER ENFORCEMENT ZONE



In today's enhanced enforcement environment, having an immediate alert system when encounters go wrong can be the difference between quick resolution and extended detention.

Safely Arrived (safelyarrived.com) creates an automated safety net specifically designed for high-risk travel situations.



ENFORCEMENT ZONE

The 100-mile border enforcement zone is a legal designation that grants U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Border Patrol agents certain authorities within 100 air miles of any U.S. land or coastal border. This zone is a significant legal concept because it modifies the standard Fourth Amendment protections against searches and seizures that apply in the rest of the country.

- **Legal Basis:** The zone's authority stems from the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, which gives agents the power to board and search vehicles "within a reasonable distance" of the border. A subsequent regulation defined this "reasonable distance" as 100 air miles. This zone covers a large portion of the U.S. population, including major cities and entire states.
- **Warrantless Powers:** Within this zone, Border Patrol agents can set up immigration checkpoints. At these checkpoints, they can stop vehicles to ask questions about citizenship and visually inspect the vehicle's exterior without needing any suspicion. This is a key difference from standard law enforcement, which typically requires "reasonable suspicion" to stop a vehicle.
- **Roving Patrols:** Border Patrol can also conduct "roving patrols" to stop vehicles. However, to stop a vehicle for questioning outside of a fixed checkpoint, they must have reasonable suspicion that an immigration violation or a federal crime has occurred.
- **Searches:** While agents can visually inspect a vehicle at a checkpoint, a full search of a vehicle's interior (or a person's belongings) generally requires probable cause or consent from the individual.



RIGHTS IN ENFORCEMENT ZONE

Despite the expanded authority of Border Patrol within the 100-mile zone, the U.S. Constitution still applies. The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) and other organizations have provided guidance on how to assert your rights in this area.

- **At a Checkpoint:** You must stop. You should be prepared to answer questions about your citizenship and immigration status. The questions should be brief and related to your status.
- **During a Roving Stop:** If an agent pulls you over, they must have reasonable suspicion of a crime. You can ask if you are being detained and why.
- **Refusing a Search:** You have the right to refuse a warrantless search of your car or belongings. However, Border Patrol can still search your vehicle if they have probable cause (for example, if a drug-sniffing dog alerts them to something). Refusing to cooperate can lead to further detention or a more in-depth search.

This guide is based on current laws and procedures as of August 2025. Laws and enforcement practices can change. Consult with qualified immigration attorneys for specific legal advice about your situation.

BON VOYAGE



“One's destination is never a place but rather a new way of looking at things.” – Henry Miller

