



[Family Sharing is here! Subscribe to Premium Access for \\$1](#)

Portland Homicides Courts

PUBLIC SAFETY

Portland police order ICE protesters' tents cleared, warn of stepped-up enforcement to come

Updated: Oct. 26, 2025, 8:32 a.m. | Published: Oct. 25, 2025, 9:55 p.m.



Portland police ordered protesters near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building to clear a path on the sidewalk Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. Fedor Zarkhin



By [Fedor Zarkhin | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#), [Julia Silverman | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#) and [Lillian Mongeau Hughes | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

Portland police officers shocked entrenched protesters outside the city’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building Saturday night by ordering the immediate removal of tents and supplies that had fully blocked sidewalks.

The chaotic scene took place starting at 8:30 p.m. amid pouring rain, as more than 30 officers arrived and ordered a path be cleared along the sidewalk.

Officers told protesters who accused them of aiding federal immigration officials they were merely enforcing city laws. Police also warned they will soon begin enforcing low-level violations such as blocking sidewalks, consuming alcohol or drugs in public, jaywalking and the like in the coming days.



Public Safety in Oregon

TUESDAYS 4 P.M.

Public safety is important to you and your community. Stay on top of news events in Portland and Oregon, and read The Oregonian/OregonLive's examinations of issues you need to know.

Sign Up

By signing up, you agree to our [user agreement](#) (including the [class action waiver and arbitration provisions](#)), and [privacy policy](#).

The Portland Police Bureau has [been criticized for months](#) for not doing enough ensure livability for nearby residents amid the protests.

But Police Bureau spokesperson Sgt. Kevin Allen said Saturday's intervention didn't represent a major shift in posture.

“At the direction of the Crowd Management Incident Commander, officers requested the group ensure access to the sidewalk and advised them of the legal consequences if they did not,” he wrote in an email. “The City of Portland has abated this encampment several times over the past few months. This was simply an effort to maintain compliance.”



Portland Police Bureau officers ordered protesters to clear a path on the sidewalk near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in South Portland Oct. 25, 2025. Fedor Zarkhin

Officers told protesters they were issuing warnings Saturday but would subsequently start enforcing city code.

“What we haven’t been enforcing is, like, the drinking in public, standing in the middle of the street, the blocking vehicles, just kind of stuff like that,” one officer told a protester across from the ICE building. “If you can stand on this sidewalk and peacefully protest, that’s great. If you want to be over here with an open can, blocking traffic, doing all this stuff, then we’re going to start enforcing those things.”

Allen added that police officers monitoring the protests had been issuing warnings to people consuming open containers of alcoholic beverages for more than a week.

Some protesters downplayed how much the tent clearing would deter the effectiveness of their protests.

“It’s not stopping us from protesting,” said Pamela Hemphill, a former supporter of President Donald Trump jailed for participating in the 2021 U.S. Capitol Riot. She has since become a regular at the Portland protests criticizing Trump’s policies. “You can have your (expletive) sidewalk.”



Vancouver-based protester Kelly Clark, right, offers to take home a protester who uses a wheelchair. The person in the wheelchair, who gave her name only as Heather, was under a canopy as police took it down and removed some of her possessions. Fedor Zarkhin / The Oregonian

The scene remained chaotic for more than an hour, punctuated by thunder and lightning. As protesters worked to clear items from the encampment, a jeering crowd of counterprotesters gathered around them streaming the proceedings live, and some hurled invective at the Portland police officers standing watch.

The city has treated the encampment near the ICE facility much as it typically treats homeless camps, posting written warnings prior to its occasional removal, which has been handled by the same private contractor that clears homeless encampments. After the several previous times the protesters' encampment has been cleared — most recently Oct. 23 — it's returned within days.

Police typically assist in removing camps only when weapons are known to be present or when there is fear of physical violence.



A protester walked away carrying a propane tank after Portland police ordered the sidewalk near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in South Portland to be cleared. Fedor Zarkhin

On Saturday, police stood watch as protesters removed their materials. Allen, the police spokesperson, said no property had been confiscated by officers.

After the surprising tent removals, protesters regrouped across the street to inventory the items they had moved — which included a gas grill, medical supplies, masks and other equipment.

“We will rebuild this!” some chanted on repeat.

Seth Todd, who said he has been protesting near the ICE building since early June — usually in what has become his trademark inflatable frog costume — said he arrived Saturday to see police near the camp. He crossed the street, but not at a crosswalk, and said a police officer warned he would be arrested the next time.



Portland police ordered protesters near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in South Portland to clear a path on the sidewalk. Protesters' supplies, a tent, and sundry items had made the sidewalk impassable, police said. Oct. 25, 2025. Fedor Zarkhin

“I think that it’s pretty lame that they’re going to enforce something as small as jaywalking when they could be spending their time focusing on actual crimes,” Todd said.

RECOMMENDED

[Blind protester dragged, detained by feds says agents picked ‘the weakest person they could find’](#) Oct. 24, 2025, 9:41 a.m.

During lull in legal fight over Portland troop deployment, police surprise ICE protesters: Get caught up Oct. 26, 2025, 8:48 a.m.

He said he understood the concerns of people who live near the building, including residents of a large nonprofit-operated apartment building across the street from where the encampment stood.

“I get their frustration, I genuinely do,” he said. But I really think it’s more important that we stick up for our community members.”

Portland police reported three arrests Saturday on allegations of misdemeanor crimes. Two men were arrested on suspicion of second-degree disorderly conduct after police said they continued to walk in the street after being told to return to a sidewalk. Later, police said officers saw one person push another. The alleged aggressor was arrested on suspicion of harassment.

Fedor Zarkhin

Fedor is a breaking news and enterprise reporter with a focus on crime. Reach him at 971-373-2905 or by email.

✉ fzarkhin@oregonian.com X

If you purchase a product or register for an account through a link on our site, we may receive compensation. By using this site, you consent to our [User Agreement](#) and agree that your clicks, interactions, and personal information may be collected, recorded, and/or stored by us and social media and other third-party partners in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).



▼ About Us

[Our Journalists](#)

[About OregonLive.com](#)

[Contact The Newsroom](#)

[Technical Support](#)

[Search Our Archives](#)

[Advertise With Us](#)

[Subscribe to The Oregonian](#)

[Subscriber Services](#)

[Digital Subscription FAQ](#)

[Delivery Opportunities](#)

[Accessibility Statement](#)

▼ Subscriptions

[The Oregonian](#)

[eNewspaper](#)

[Email Newsletters](#)

▼ Already a Subscriber

[Manage your Subscription](#)

[Place a Vacation Hold](#)

[Make a Payment](#)

[Delivery Feedback](#)

▼ Read More Top News

[Today's Top News](#)

[Politics](#)

[Crime](#)

[Business](#)

[Commuting](#)

[Weather](#)

[Education](#)

[Homes & Gardens](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Video](#)

[Environment](#)

[Here is Oregon](#)

[Noticias en español](#)

[Special Sections](#)

[Sports](#)

[High School Sports](#)

[Ducks](#)

[Beavers](#)

[Trail Blazers](#)

[Timbers](#)

[Thorns](#)

[Recruiting News](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Travel](#)

[TV & Movies](#)

[Eat, Drink, Cook](#)

[Comics](#)

[Archives](#)

▼ Your Regional News Pages

[Portland](#)

[Washington County](#)

[Clackamas County](#)

[Clark County](#)

[Pacific Northwest](#)

▼ Follow Us

[Email Newsletters](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[RSS](#)

▼ Mobile

[iPhone, Android apps](#)

[Tablet apps](#)

▼ More on OregonLive.com

[Place an Ad](#)

[Autos](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Sponsor Content](#)

[Post a Job](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [▶ Ad Choices](#)

ADVANCELOCAL

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#), (updated 8/1/2024) and acknowledgement of our [Privacy Policy](#), and [Your Privacy Choices and Rights](#) (updated 10/1/2025).

© 2025 Advance Local Media LLC. All rights reserved ([About Us](#)).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Local.

[Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

YouTube's privacy policy is available [here](#) and **YouTube's terms of service** is available [here](#).

[▶Ad Choices](#)