# Rising Migrant Deaths in El Paso Sector Highlight Desperate Conditions at Southern Border



In the region near El Paso, Texas, where New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico converge, the extremities of the migration crisis at the Southern Border have become stark. Asylum seekers are being routed through remote desert areas, resulting in a significant number of deaths due to harsh conditions. Since October 2023, the El Paso Sector of the US Border Patrol has reported 82 migrant deaths, an increase from 50 deaths during the same period the previous year.

Border Patrol and rescue organizations report finding migrants in severe distress, often with body temperatures too high to measure without protective gear. In response, rescuers, including the Sunland Park Fire Department, have resorted to ice bath treatments to manage heat stroke cases. The rise in fatalities is attributed to rising temperatures and the treacherous terrain of the Chihuahua Desert.

Migrants face numerous dangers, including dehydration, starvation, and physical abuses from smugglers before they even cross into the United States. Once across, they often traverse dangerous landscapes, such as Mount Cristo Rey or high border walls, where injury or abandonment by smugglers can be fatal. Border Patrol agents and specialized rescue teams frequently encounter migrants in need of urgent medical attention due to extreme heat and exhaustion.

The humanitarian crisis is putting immense strain on local resources, with rescue missions diverting attention from community needs. Despite these efforts, the true death toll may be significantly higher than reported, as many bodies may never be found due to the desert’s vastness and conditions. The ongoing situation underscores the perils faced by migrants and the challenges for those tasked with their rescue and care.