

Dakota: Police Blast #NoDAPL Activists With Water Cannons in Sub-Freezing Temperature

By [Nika Knight](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

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Law enforcement unleashed percussion grenades, rubber bullets, tear gas, and water cannons in sub-freezing temperatures on peaceful water protectors battling the controversial [Dakota Access Pipeline](#) in North Dakota late Sunday.

An activist's drone captured the onslaught:



Carlton Banksy

@rtyson82

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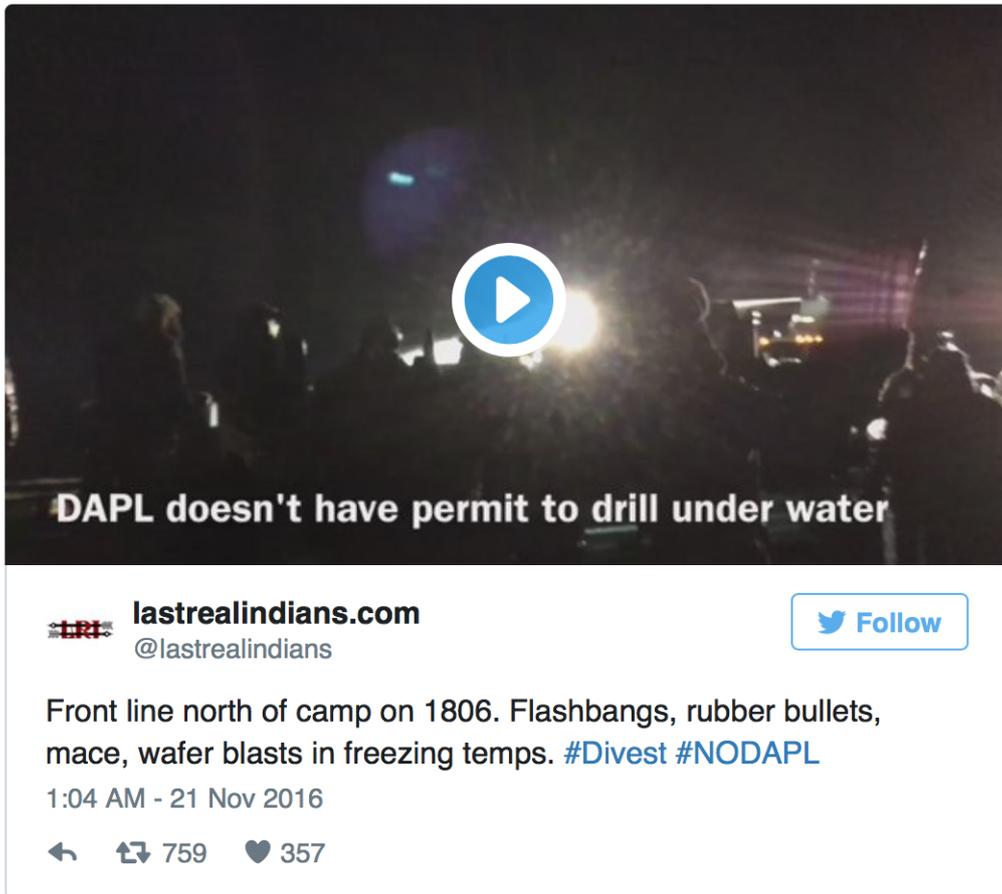
Drone footage showing water cannons being used on water protectors

At the end of the clip, they try to shoot drone w/ water cannon#NoDAPL

12:44 AM - 21 Nov 2016

  15,990  9,057

And Native American news outlet [lastrealindians.com](#) showed the scene from the ground, with water protectors peacefully standing and chanting “water is life” as they were soaked by a water cannon:



The Morton County Sheriff's Department's assault came in response to Indigenous activists' attempts to clear away the husks of two burned-out cars on Highway 1806, which leads to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's main protest camp, [said](#) the Indigenous Environmental Network's Dallas Goldtooth:

Independent outlet *Unicorn Riot*, which had reporters on the ground throughout the six-hour standoff, [said](#) that over 160 people were injured. Those injured included a 13-year-old-girl who was shot in the face by rubber bullets, two people who suffered cardiac arrest, and multiple cases of hypothermia as a result of the water cannons, the outlet reported.

"Water cannons. Rubber bullets. Mace. Flash grenades. It's an army vs. unarmed people who only want to protect their water and graves," [commented](#) *Indian Country Today* writer Ruth Hopkins.

Water protectors and supporters posted photos and updates from the scene on Twitter throughout the night:



tara houska
@zhaabowekwe

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An elder went into cardiac arrest as police shot w/water cannons, rubber bullets, tear gas, etc. for trying to clear a public road.

#NoDAPL

12:02 AM - 21 Nov 2016

2,548 1,561

 **SHERIFF & DEPUTIES** 
Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff

County and State law enforcement officials continue to urge those within the protest camps to understand that North Dakota winters are harsh with sub-zero temperatures and dangerous wind chills. In addition, possible snow totals could impact emergency personnel's ability to access the camp and provide aid.

Attempts to manage the cold, such as the use of generators and alternative heat sources at the camp sites, also present a fire hazard and concern for the ill effects of carbon monoxide.

"The number one goal of all state and local officials here is the safety of all involved in this event, including the protesters," said North Dakota Department of Health's Chief of Emergency Preparedness & Response Tim Wiedrich, "Exposure to North Dakota's winter weather presents a very real risk of frostbite, hypothermia, and life-threatening conditions."

Winter temperatures can be deceiving and prolonged exposure to cold air can be deadly, particularly for infants and the elderly. Get to know the warning signs, symptoms and treatment for the conditions indicated below.

Frostbite—is the damage to body tissue caused by exposure to extreme cold. A wind chill of -20°F will cause frostbite in just 30 minutes. Symptoms of frostbite are a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately! If you must wait for help, slowly rewarm the affected areas. However if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before the extremities.

Hypothermia (Low Body Temperature)—is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops to less than 95°F. Hypothermia can cause long-term liver, kidney, or pancreas problems and even be deadly. Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, Disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. Take the person's temperature. If below 95°F, seek medical care immediately! If medical care is not available, begin warming the person slowly. Warm the body core first. Caution; warming the arms and legs first drives cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure. Get the person into dry clothing, and wrap them in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, coffee, or any hot beverage or food. Warm broth is the first food to offer.



Unicorn Riot
@UR_Ninja

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Nov 18: Morton County Sheriff expresses concern about hypothermia at #NoDAPL camps. Nov 20: uses water cannons on ppl in ~20 degree weather

2:46 AM - 21 Nov 2016

654 273



Josh Fox ✓
@joshfoxfilm

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Let's be clear: the acts of brutality by ND police against Peaceful Protectors are acts of utter COWARDICE. [#standingrock](#) [#NoDAPL](#) [#Love](#)

2:42 AM - 21 Nov 2016

↩️ ↻️ 5,294 ❤️ 4,544

The astonishing show of force was only the latest [in a series of violent assaults](#) from law enforcement targeting the peaceful Indigenous activists taking a stand to protect their drinking water and sacred sites.

And this latest attack “comes at a difficult time for Indigenous activists at the camps,” as the *Guardian* [writes](#).

“We have a very harsh day coming up now,” Standing Rock Sioux Tribe chairman Dave Archambault II told the newspaper. “In my family we never celebrated Thanksgiving. It was always a day of mourning for the day that genocide began on this continent. This all just goes to prove what we’re talking about.”

Despite the sustained protest and violence from law enforcement, the pipeline construction company is [still refusing](#) to consider rerouting the Dakota Access Pipeline. “There’s not another way. We’re building at that location,” Energy Transfer Partners CEO Kelcy Warren [told](#) *CBS News*.

Activists and environmental groups are calling on President Barack Obama to step in and take action—[before President-elect Donald Trump takes office](#).

Greenpeace spokesperson Mary Sweeters said Tuesday: “Law enforcement put people’s lives in danger last night as water protectors attempted to clear a path for emergency services to reach the camp. President Obama must step in to stop the pipeline and end the violence immediately. This is about standing up for Indigenous people’s rights and sovereignty. This is about ensuring Standing Rock’s survival by protecting its water supply and land. It is time to do the right thing before more damage is done.”

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