

Hopefinder

Historical Timeline – V3.2 – September 25th, 2032

The following is a historical record of the events that led to the Fall in late 2022. As records from this time are hard to come by, considering the collapse of the web and other online data sources, some of these events are reconstructed from multiple firsthand accounts.

OCTOBER 3RD, 2022

Historians generally agree that the first victim died on October 3rd, 2022 at St. Mary's Regional Clinic in rural Wisconsin. Although the farmer died due to cardiac arrest, an autopsy revealed a massive parasitic infection caused by a bite.

Investigators learned that he had been bit three days prior by a hog that he was taking to slaughter. He had already infected 3 people by the time of his death. He would infect 11 more in the coming days.

OCTOBER 4TH, 2022

The farmer's wife went missing on Oct 4th. Her car was found wrecked in a nearby ditch. Blood from the scene was later found to carrying the same parasites as her husband. Meanwhile, pork from their pigs began to arrive at regional grocery stores.

That night, the staff at the clinic called 911 to report a disturbance in the morgue. Someone had broken in and the farmer's body was missing. Transcripts note that the refrigerator door had buckled, broken open from the inside.

OCTOBER 5TH, 2022

Oct 5th was the day the world got its first glimpse of the danger they were in, when the dead farmer walked into a nearby farm supply store and began biting other shoppers. The attack was caught on surveillance tape that leaked to the internet that evening.

He was put down with a shotgun by the store manager. 10 people had been infected in the store and another had been bit by the farmer in the parking lot. One of the farmhands that had been infected on Oct 3rd arrived in Seattle at 9:14pm to visit relatives.

OCTOBER 6TH, 2022

All seemed quiet on Oct 6th, but no one knew that the farmer's wife had stumbled into dairy farm. We can only guess at her time of death, but she soon rose and killed the entire family. This small horde remained there for several days.

In Seattle, the infected farmhand went to visit the famous Market. He got progressively more ill throughout the trip and his coughing spread the parasites to 37 people, including several of the workers at the Market. This would prove to be disastrous.

OCTOBER 7TH, 2022

October the 7th is generally referred to as the start of the plague, when over 150 people in the Chicago and Milwaukee area were admitted to area hospitals complaining of fatigue, headaches, and muscle spasms. Parasites were found in their blood samples.

It would soon become apparent that over 100 more never made it to the hospital, having slipped into a coma and dying at home. All of the victims had consumed pork from the farmer's tainted pigs. The true terror was about to begin.

OCTOBER 8TH, 2022

News in the Milwaukee and Chicago areas on the 8th was dominated by stories of domestic disturbances and mass brawls breaking out. On the streets, the police were caught in the center of a situation that was spinning out of control.

Thousands more were infected, and hospitals were filling up with the wounded. Milwaukee set up a temporary morgue, but later that night it was overrun by the dead, rising from within! There was no mention of this in the news, the truth was being suppressed.

OCTOBER 9TH, 2022

Clips from social media on the 9th showed the true nature of what was happening in the Midwest, even as media outlets continued to hide the truth. One video showed a man emerging from a burning building only to chase down and bite a bystander while on fire.

Behind the scenes, the Governors of both WI and IL were in a panic, unable to control the situation. The plague had spread to Indiana and Michigan overnight. The first team from the CDC arrived in Chicago, but they lost 3 members to attacks on the 1st day.

In DC, the first briefing about the plague made it to the President's desk, but amid an ongoing escalation in tensions with Russia and the challenges of the upcoming midterms, the threat of a new contagion was not taken seriously.

In Seattle, the farmhand died overnight in the spare bedroom of a house in Kirkland. He rose and bit two others before being put down with a fire axe. The police report blamed this on drugs. Across the city, folks who visited the Market were getting sick.

OCTOBER 10TH, 2022

Just 1 week since the first victim, by Oct 10th it is estimated that 400 people had died and over 5,000 were infected. Both WI and IL declared a state of emergency and Milwaukee enacted a curfew to curtail the violence that had overtaken some neighborhoods.

The farmer's wife and her growing horde overran an entire suburban city center that evening, with only a pair of people escaping to tell the tale. Cell Phone footage showed the horde of shambling dead enveloping the living, ripping them limb from limb.

In Seattle, the first wave started when dozens of people called out sick and many showed up in ERs with internal bleeding, extreme fatigue, and loss of motor control. Locals would take to calling it "Shudder". Random attacks started appearing in the news.

The director of the CDC asked for an emergency meeting with the president, but it was not scheduled until Thursday. The evening news reported a massive fire at Zynocol Pharmaceutical HQ just outside of Madison, WI. They were destroying evidence.

OCTOBER 11TH, 2022

On Oct 11th, the mayor of Milwaukee went on national television to talk about the escalating violence and rising illness in the city. He called for everyone to enter lockdown, but this seemed to have no effect. The dead were now wandering the streets.

Authorities in Chicago lost control, as firefights broke out in most neighborhoods. A fire started on the north side of town and raged out of control. No firefighters reported to put it out. Across the border in Gary Indiana, everything devolved into chaos.

As people fled the Midwest, they took the disease with them. In the coming days, infected would start appearing in 23 nearby states and in several countries around the world, including Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, Japan, England, Germany, and Russia.

In Seattle, cases of Shudder dominated the news, alongside a story about one of the fishermen in the Market who went on a rampage, biting workers and visitors. Everyone who was infected by the farmhand had died and they started stalking their neighborhood.

OCTOBER 12TH, 2022

The power grid for Milwaukee and Chicago collapsed on Oct 12th after a fire at a major substation caused a cascade failure. Communication became erratic, but it was clear that the situation was deteriorating.

The infection was spreading throughout the Midwest freely at this point, with no attempts at containment. National news was focused on the problems in WI and IL, but many local stations reported sicknesses and attacks elsewhere.

The president cancelled all plans for the day as this crisis pushed out all other concerns. After a meeting with the CDC and a review of classified footage of an animating corpse, the military was put on alert. It was already too late.

Police in Seattle cordoned off the Market due to incredibly violent attacks by the workers and a gun battle that took place in the lower level. By the end of the day, everyone inside was dead. Across the metro area, people were dying from shudder.

OCTOBER 13TH, 2022

The national guard deployed to the Milwaukee and Chicago areas on the morning of Oct 13th, establishing cordons in a hope to contain the outbreak, but they were under siege from both sides of the line by day's end. The dead and the living were kept inside.

Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Detroit all saw serious infection blooms in their populations. All three would fall within a week. Infections were now reported in 42 states, with over 25,000 cases nationwide. The true number would be much higher.

In a panic, executives at Zynocol ordered their Seattle laboratory to destroy their samples, including all variants of the parasite. Fortunately, one lab director, Dr. Avanti Kepler, disobeyed the orders and removed key samples to store in a safe location.

In Seattle, a Barricade was set up around the Market, which would soon be called the Hive. All around the city attacks were ongoing. A massive horde was forming in Kirkland, consuming neighborhoods block by block. The WA Gov declared a state of emergency.

RECONSTRUCTION STILL IN PROGRESS

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