

### [VIDEO](#)

**SAN ANTONIO** - The 18-wheeler driver charged with smuggling a group of 39 undocumented immigrants in the big rig's trailer waived his preliminary and bond hearings in federal court on Monday.

Drew Christopher Potter, 33, was charged after the trailer he was transporting from Laredo to San Antonio was found to be carrying the immigrants.

Potter stopped his rig Sept. 18 at the Road Ranger convenience store at Highway 57 and I-35 South in Frio County.

Potter reportedly told an agent with Homeland Security Investigations that he didn't know what was in the trailer when he stopped to buy a drink and a case of water. While at the store, the agent said Potter "saw water leaking from the reefer and saw the trailer moving. Potter stated that's when he opened the door and people started jumping out of the trailer."

One of the immigrants told the agent that Potter was there when the immigrants got into the trailer in Laredo.

The 39 immigrants were treated at area hospitals for dehydration.

If he is not indicted by the middle of this month, Potter could be released. He remains in federal custody.

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