Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) took some heat this weekend for blaming wildfires in Arizona and New Mexico on illegal immigrants. McCain has since recanted (sort of), claiming that he was merely repeating what an unnamed Forest Service official told him in a briefing.

McCain’s comments are just the latest example of our country’s habit of blaming all manner of problems on immigrants. Let’s take a look at a few recent instances of illegal immigrants becoming scapegoats for... well, you name it:

- **Car Accidents**: Thank Arizona’s senior senator for this one, too. McCain told Bill O’Reilly (who else?) that Arizona’s highways were plagued by illegal immigrants who intentionally crashed in standstill traffic on their way to the ER, hacking and wheezing, and then tossing their used Kleenex out the window!

Immigrants must be exhausted after leaving their foreclosed homes in pot-laden cars, crashing in standstill traffic on their way to the ER, hacking and wheezing, and then tossing their used Kleenex out the window!

"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she / With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. / The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. / Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, / I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" | Or, you know, don’t. jordi.martorell/Flickr

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Got A Problem? Blame It On Illegal Immigrants

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Got A Problem? Blame It On Illegal Immigrants

— By Tim McDonnell | Wed Jun. 22, 2011 4:30 AM PDT

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Tim McDonnell is an editorial intern at Mother Jones. For more of his stories, click here.

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