



Mayor's Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security



Houston Emergency Center

- The Houston Emergency Center and Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Network are looking into implementing additional AI technologies to enhance the call-takers' ability to triage callers effectively and deliver more detailed information to responders in the field.
- AI technology currently in use is , Smart Transcription, which transcribes 911 audio and translates Spanish calls. Additional languages are being tested to ensure accuracy.
- However, an updated CAD system is essential, as the current system is 20 years old. Increased funding is necessary to upgrade this aging infrastructure. Many peer agencies in cities like Chicago and San Francisco have already transitioned to newer CAD systems with enhanced features that support multimedia, advanced mapping, and integration with real-time responder tracking.
- Additionally, establishing a second backup site is a priority, as cities of similar or larger size already operate secondary sites with minimal staffing, i.e., Washington DC and Los Angeles. This aligns with best practices to prepare for potential terrorist attacks and natural or man-made disasters.
- To keep up with the demands of a growing city and provide the highest level of service to its residents, HEC must offer competitive pay to its call takers. A pay increase would not only help HEC recruit more qualified individuals but also retain current staff members, reducing the costs associated with constant recruitment and training.

MOPSHS Programmatic Team

Public Safety Committee meeting – December 2024

Primary Responsibilities

- Develop, update, and execute the greater Houston regional homeland security strategic plans.
- Develop and submit homeland security grant applications on behalf of the City of Houston and greater Houston region.
- Serve as the primary liaison between the greater Houston region and DHS/ FEMA related to homeland security.
- Serve as the primary liaison between the greater Houston region and the State of Texas related to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program.
- Coordinate with DHS/ FEMA on policy.
- Facilitation of the homeland security committees and work groups.
- Administration of the region's critical infrastructure catalog.
- Conduct data calls for the Department of Homeland Security.
- Manage supply chain coordination efforts for the region.

Current major initiatives

- Preparing to kickoff FY2025 UASI applications for the region.
- Accepting the FY2024 homeland security grants awarded to the City of Houston.
- Facilitating the regional THIRA (Threat and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment) and SPR (Stakeholder Preparedness Review).
- Facilitating the local coordination structure for World Cup planning, training, and exercise.
- Working with DHS on updates to the THIRA/ SPR methodology and on the upcoming grant guidance.

Current major initiatives

- Leading planning efforts to build out the Community Lifelines construct and creating the Lifelines tool to enable decision-makers to have the data needed to determine resource allocations to facilitate response and recovery, with particular emphasis on vulnerable communities.
- Leading efforts to support an infrastructure study with CISA and Texas A&M.
- Facilitating planning efforts to codify processes in the Regional Supply Chain Coordination Framework.

Small team - diverse duties

- Procurement
- Federal reporting – programmatic and financial
- Guidance policy implementation
- Audit compliance
- Staffing support

Grants
Management
Business Unit

Manage full life cycle of
various DHS grant programs.

Response to Single Audit

Preparedness Programs

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Training (since 2006)

Readyhoustontx.gov

Are You Ready? Videos

School Ready – Elementary/Middle/High School

Neighborhood Ready

Make the Call Program

If You See Something, Say Something™

Run Hide Fight®

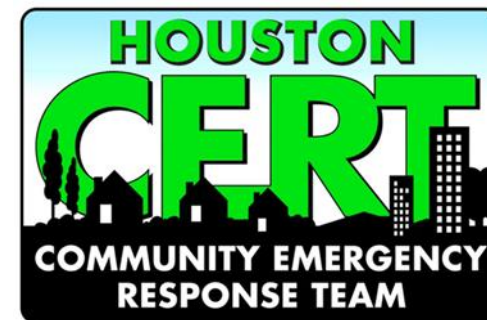
Disaster Preparedness Presentations

Getting It Right Programs



Supplemental Training Offered

- Rodeo Preparation Training
- Stop the Bleed
- Traffic/Crowd Control
- Disaster Psychology
- Shelter Management
- Mini Skills Camps



CERT Ongoing Community Engagement

Disaster Response (Self-Activate)

CERT Rodeo

Annual CERT Rodeo

MS150

Tour de Houston

Houston Marathon

Wings Over Houston

Exercises

Veteran's Day Parade

Special Projects, i.e. Disaster Readiness & Resilience Clinic



Houston Crackdown

Houston Crackdown is a division of the Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security that addresses substance use and related issues through community collaboration and volunteer efforts. Program areas include drug prevention/education, treatment and recovery, and support for law enforcement and courts. Through its coalition network Houston Crackdown carries out its mission by networking on multiple community wide programs and projects. Some of the key projects includes public awareness campaigns through the year

Red Ribbon Rally is held each October and is focused on Houston area youth with anti-drug messaging throughout the month culminating with the annual Red Ribbon Rally which takes place at City Hall. On average more than 400 middle school students hear from public official from the city, state, county, and federal levels. Students also participate in workshops on issues that they face daily, such as gangs, guns, violence, bullying and more. Students and teachers, parents participate in a youth council session where they discuss real life issues and happenings on their campuses and in their neighborhoods. The students are encouraged to become ambassadors for a drug free Houston and have continued talks with key community leaders and others in their respective neighborhoods.



Houston Candlelight Vigil is held annually to serve as a memorial for victims of alcohol and substance use related incidents. The event typically draws Houston and others who lost loved ones. The event takes place at City Hall and is filled with photos, uplifting music, and prayers. The candlelight vigil is very interactive as attendees are offered the opportunity callout the names of a son, daughter, cousins, family member(s) or friends. Guests in attendance can also sign a special banner in remembrance of their loved ones.



Community Drug Awareness Day Conference An annual conference design to provide insight into the issues of substance use disorders and related problems in Houston and vicinity. Subject matter experts provide the latest news of drug trends, research, with relevant inform on homelessness, mental health, treatment, and opportunities to address the complex cycle of substance abuse. Area college and university campuses throughout Houston provide the perfect backdrop for open discussion, foster ideas, and strategies, and to serve as agents of change for the greater good.



Additional initiatives:

- co-host the bi-annual Prescription Pill Take Back Day as part of a national campaign.
- Representation on several community substance abuse advisory councils throughout Houston and vicinity.
- Monitoring substance abuse legislation at state and federal levels.
- Advocate for substance abuse funding for greater Houston vicinity, in areas of prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.
- Serves as an internship practicum site for area college students.

Securing the Cities (STC)

- Trained & equip over 5000 LEO to detect and interdict illicit radiological materials that could be:
 - Weapons of Mass Destruction
 - Unsafe uses of industrial devices
 - Improper transportation
- Recent success stories:
 - Largest recovery of abandoned radioactive material (Jersey Village, October 2023)
 - Response to vehicle fire with radiological materials (July 2024)
- Initial funding awarded in 2015, \$30mil awarded to date
 - Began as a regional grant (five-county area)
 - Now expanded across Texas and Oklahoma
 - Funds planning, equipment, training, and exercises
 - Can't be used for operational costs
- Houston is one of only 13 regions that receive this funding
 - Largest geographic area covered
 - Leading the way in program expansion

Securing the Cities (STC)



Radio-Isotope Identifier Device (RIID)

- Identifies specific radioactive isotope
- Performs some measurement
- Photo is from Oct 2023 source recovery



Backpack Detector

- Can be worn or used in a fixed position
- Helps locate source (left vs right) and IDs isotopes
- Photo is from an public entry at World Petroleum Congress

Mobile System

- Vehicle-mounted systems (aircraft, watercraft, and cars/trucks)
- Large detectors make them very sensitive
- Helps locate source (left vs right) and IDs isotopes
- Deployed with Truck Enforcement units and specialized units
- Photo is from a joint FBI/DOD nuclear response exercise that HPD participated in



Personal Radiation Detector (PRD)

- Belt-worn
- Detects radiation and levels
- Most of the program involves issuing this device
- Photo is from a training class

Critical Infrastructure Liaison

Responsibilities:

- Promote and review Haystax – an online catalog system which maintains critical regional asset data as well as real-time digital feeds.
- Lead a Cyber Security workgroup which discusses local cyber security concerns and how to better protect the region.
- Sustain grant funding for a Cyber Disruption and Assessment Tool as well as cyber training and exercises to harden regional security
- Create a regional Assessment Team to complete vulnerability assessments in our region.
- Bring training to our regional Assessment team to keep consistency and structure.
- Review the yearly Special Events Data Call and add additional events as they come up.

Port Security & First Responder Law Enforcement Liaison

- UASI Law Enforcement Liaison for the UASI First Responder Law Enforcement Committee (FRLEC). Simply put, I help manage all new applications that come in from all partners in the region (Law Enforcement) for this committee, all additional cost savings/ funding approvals that occur numerous times a year for added projects and assist with tracking of previous years project status updates from all partners in the region – throughout the year.
- Assist with governing all new grant applications for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) for the city (separate from UASI - Port Patrol, Air Support, Dive Team, Bomb Squad, HITS, HFD Shipboard Prop, HFD Hazmat, etc.), and manage all matching fund requests to the Houston Ship Channel Security District (HSCSD) from the city for the port grants.
- resent monthly reports to the Houston Ship Channel Security district (HSCSD) on project progress – on all partner (Port Patrol, Air Support, HFD Shipboard Prop, Dive Team) activity for the previous month (as well as a visual compilation of the year’s activity for all groups at the HSCSD annual meeting).
- City of Houston envoy for the U.S. Coast Guard PSGP grant subcommittee for 2024 (regional grant request review)

- I am positioned as a neutral asset representing all aspects of Emergency Services that includes but is not specific to law enforcement.
- I represent the Office of the Mayor and HPD collectively collaborating with multiple city departments and divisions of the Mayor's Office.
- I assist in administering multiple federal grant programs over a 13 County Region.
- Over the years this position has helped acquire millions of (Grant) Dollars for the city of Houston.
- I represent the City of Houston *and* Houston Police Department on all matters Houston Ship Channel, liaising with all government and private sector entities located there. Coast Guard - Maritime Tactical Operations Group (MTOG) Sector Houston, Houston Ship Channel Security District, DHS – CISA, and the Port Authority to name a few.
- I assist with any special projects delegated by Director Satterwhite here in MOPSHS

Questions
