



INSTITUTE FOR
HOMELAND SECURITY

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** Message From the Director
- 02** Vision and Mission
- 03** IHS Pillars
- 04** Research Methodology
- 05** Research Numbers Snapshot
- 06** Professional Development Methodology
- 07** Professional Development Snapshot
- 08** Events Snapshot
- 09** Partners
- 10** Website & Media Snapshot



INTRODUCTION

INSTITUTE FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

Welcome to the 2026 Fiscal Year Report for Institute for Homeland Security (IHS), where we proudly reflect on a year of achievements, growth, and collaboration. This year has been marked by our unwavering commitment to advancing research, enriching educational opportunities, and fostering meaningful partnerships.

In the past year, our research initiatives have yielded evidence based insights and innovations for critical infrastructural protection (CIP) sectors. Our diverse range of events has brought together thought leaders, practitioners, and community members, creating vibrant platforms for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Our educational programs equip learners with skills and knowledge to make impactful contributions in their respective fields.

Moreover, the strength of our partnerships has been a cornerstone of our success. By building and nurturing relationships with key stakeholders, we expanded our reach and amplified our impact. Each collaboration has contributed to a collective mission of excellence and progress.

We invite you to explore the highlights of our journey over the past year and celebrate the milestones achieved through collective effort and shared vision.

Michael Aspland
Executive Director



VISION AND MISSION



VISION

Be the recognized leader for homeland security best practices aligned to critical infrastructure needs and objectives.



MISSION

The SHSU Institute for Homeland Security provides innovative, value-added knowledge tailored to the needs of industry and public institutions, to protect critical infrastructure supporting Texas and the nation's economy.



PILLARS



Texas Nexus

We believe in a secure and unified Texas, connecting our private industry partners with public institutions through productive conversation.



One Step Ahead

Our focus is to stay ahead in an ever-changing security environment by providing innovative solutions that support business continuity and critical infrastructure protection.



Complement to Complete

We aim to fill the gaps and meet the needs of critical infrastructure sectors alongside our institutional partners.



IHS RESEARCH

OUR RESEARCH PROCESS

IHS research is driven by the needs of the communities and sectors we serve. Through ongoing engagement with industry, government, academic, and CIP professionals, the Institute identifies emerging challenges, recurring concerns, and practical questions that warrant deeper examination.

These insights help shape IHS research priorities and inform the development of research topics, commissioned work, and calls for papers. By grounding our research agenda to real-world problems while maintaining academic rigor and independence, IHS works to produce knowledge that is timely, relevant, and useful to practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

This approach allows the Institute to build a growing body of research that not only improves understanding of complex homeland security and critical infrastructure challenges, but also supports better decisions, stronger organizations, and more resilient communities.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 SPONSORED RESEARCH

IHS has sponsored and completed forty one research papers in FY 2025 - 2026.

With research spanning topics such as: port security, cybersecurity, and drone regulation to water utilities, hurricane and coastal resilience, hospital preparedness, storage tank safety, waterway navigation, nuclear energy, and AI-enabled supply chains.

Each year the standout research is published in the ***IHS One Step Ahead Journal***.

View the [2026 One Step Ahead Journal Here](#)

To View the [Full IHS Research Library](#) Scan the QR Code



NUMBERS SNAPSHOT

41

Research Papers
Sponsored for this FY

\$116,750

Funds Allocated for
External Contracts

\$63,000

Funds Allocated for
Internal Research

\$280,952

Funds Allocated for
Research Staff

\$40,101

Funds Allocated for
Research Events

\$500,803

Total Funds used for
Research Development

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

IHS creates and delivers professional development trainings focused on critical infrastructure security, threats, and resilience. Working in collaboration with industry and public sector partners, IHS designs and evaluates programs grounded in real-world risks and operational needs, offering both online and in-person courses as well as interactive tabletop exercises through tools like the SimTable. Its core objectives are to build operational capability among professionals, help organizations adapt to evolving threats, strengthen decision-making in high-pressure situations, and continuously evaluate and refine training effectiveness through research-based methods.

To expand its reach, IHS is also building out the Mobile Training Team (MTT), a growing network of practitioners, educators, and subject matter experts. This team delivers practical, real-world instruction across critical infrastructure sectors such as transportation, healthcare, energy, chemical, and water and wastewater sector protection. By recruiting experienced professionals to serve as instructors, the MTT extends our reach beyond the classroom, bringing applied training directly to businesses, public agencies, and community partners across Texas and beyond in support of workforce development and stronger critical infrastructure resilience.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IHS has completed development of added four online courses in FY 2025 - 2026.
With three more courses in development.

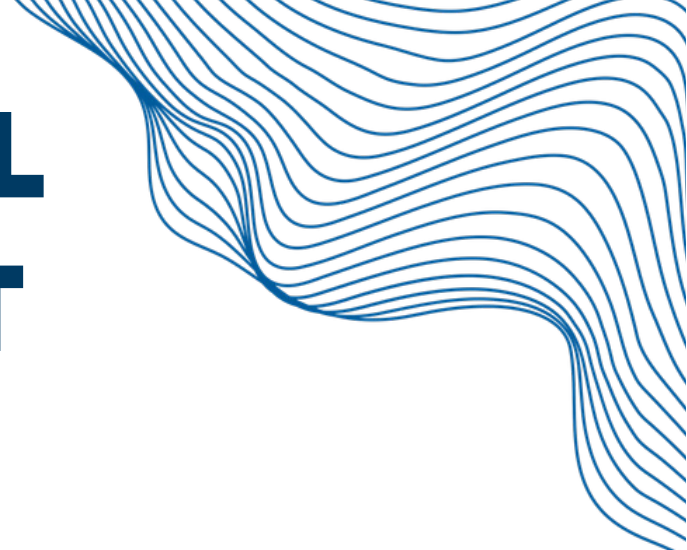
Course Topics Include:

- Private and Public Partnerships During Disruption Events
- Hazardous Materials General Awareness and Familiarization Training
- Protecting the Power Grid
- CARVER Vulnerability Assessment for Water Operators

To View the Full IHS Course Catalog Scan the QR Code



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NUMBERS SNAPSHOT

463

Annual Learners

117

Current Active Learners

171

Course Completions

16

Courses Offered

3

Courses in Development



NUMBERS SNAPSHOT

12

Events Hosted

57

Conferences Attended

33

Conferences Presentations

588

Total Number of Participants
in IHS Hosted Events

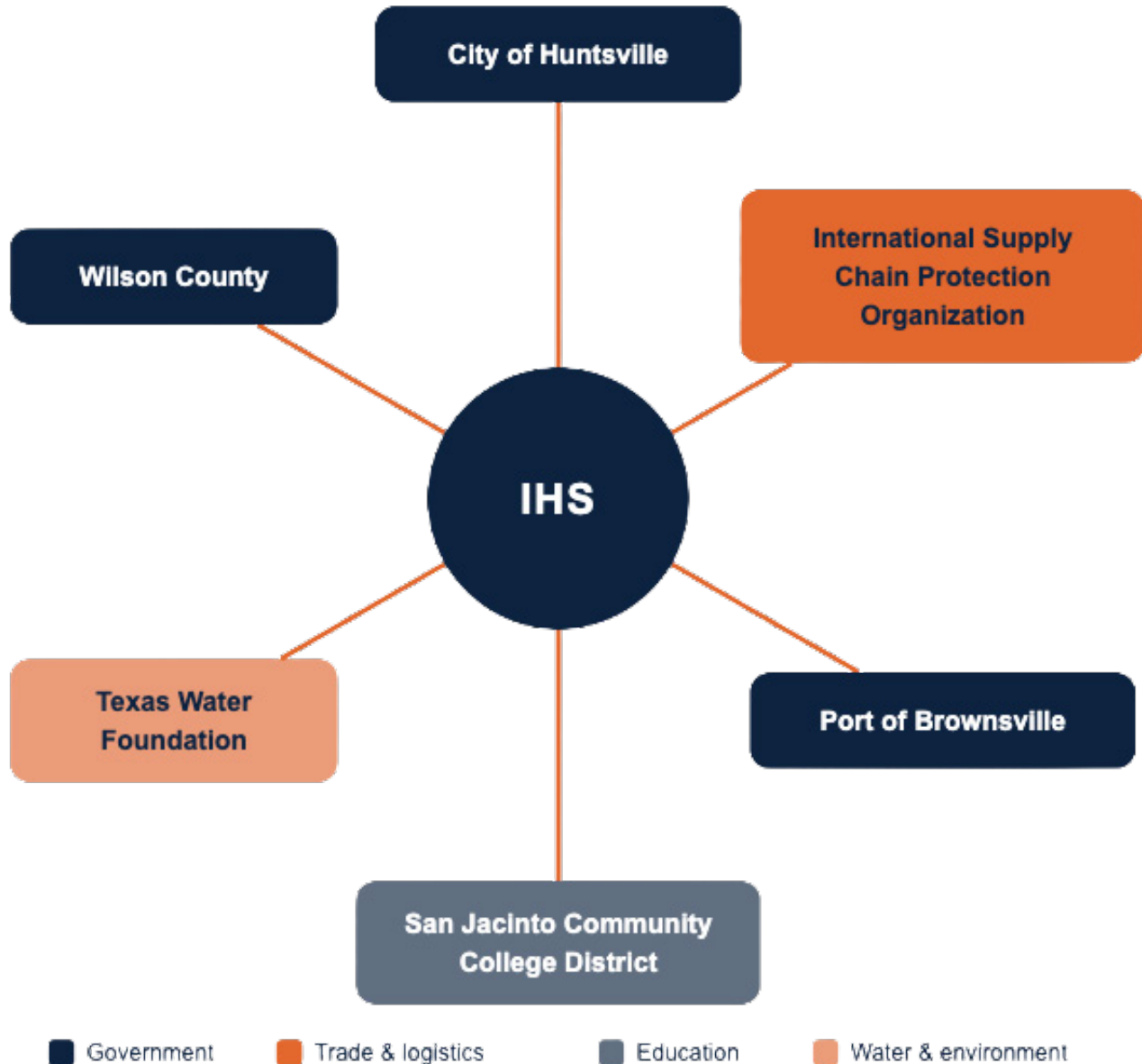
FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 EVENTS

Hosting and attending conferences is essential to IHS's growth, creating valuable networking opportunities, driving innovation, and strengthening our visibility across our five critical infrastructure sectors. These events showcases our expertise and creates a platform for collaboration with industry peers — deepening relationships with current stakeholders while attracting new partners.

Attending conferences allows the IHS team to be informed on emerging trends and connected to insights from industry leaders. Of the fifty seven (57) conferences IHS attended, we presented at thirty three (33). Together, these efforts support IHS's strategic development, fueling knowledge exchange and opening doors to new business prospects.

TEXAS PARTNERS

Over the past year we have entered into formal partnerships with the following organizations to conduct research and provide professional development services to enhance critical infrastructure security.



WEBSITE & MEDIA STATS

Throughout the year, the Institute for Homeland Security expanded its digital presence and strengthened how it connects with researchers, practitioners, partners, and the broader homeland security community. **A major milestone was the launch of a new, modernized IHS website, designed to provide improved access to research, training, events, publications, and other resources.**

In addition, IHS continued to grow its presence on LinkedIn, using the platform to share research, organizational updates, events, and opportunities while engaging with a broader professional audience. Together, these platforms serve as important tools for increasing IHS visibility, sharing expertise, and connecting the Institute's work with audiences across Texas and beyond.

NUMBERS SNAPSHOT

6,271

Website Visitors

3,844

Unique Visitors

164,130

LinkedIn Impressions

1,713

LinkedIn Followers

315

New Followers in Last FY

31

New Podcast Added to the Library

All Website Numbers Start At the Website Launch in March 2026

Top Website Content: Events Page, Staff Page, and Research Library





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**Sam Houston
State University**

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

