



---

# IHS NEWSLETTER

---

## *New Website Launch!*

---

The Institute for Homeland Security at Sam Houston State University is proud to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website, a modern digital platform built to better connect researchers, practitioners, and industry partners working to protect critical infrastructure across Texas and beyond.

The new website reflects the Institute's continued growth and expanding impact in research, education, and collaboration. Designed with accessibility and usability in mind, the updated platform provides streamlined navigation and improved access to the Institute's expanding body of work, including research publications, training opportunities, sector initiatives, and upcoming events.

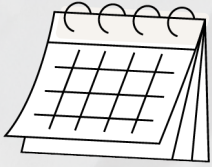
Visitors will now find an enhanced Research Library and Research Briefs section featuring practitioner-focused analysis on emerging homeland security challenges. With more than 120 research publications and partnerships spanning government, industry, and academia, the Institute continues to serve as a center for strategic thought dedicated to strengthening security, resilience, and business continuity across critical infrastructure sectors.

The redesigned site also highlights the Institute's Learning Academy, offering online and in-person courses, interactive tabletop exercises, and professional development programs aimed at equipping leaders and practitioners with practical skills to address real-world threats. Sector-focused pages now make it easier to explore initiatives supporting transportation, energy, chemical, healthcare, and water/wastewater infrastructure partners.

In addition to improved functionality, the new website creates a central hub for staying connected with the Institute's work. Users can quickly access event announcements, podcast releases, newsletters, and research updates, ensuring stakeholders remain informed about emerging risks, and collaborative opportunities shaping the homeland security landscape.

We invite you to explore the new site, engage with our latest research, and join our growing community of professionals working to strengthen critical infrastructure security.

Visit our website here at: <https://www.ihsonline.org/>



# RESEARCH



[Online Research Link](#)



## Texas Water and Wastewater Workforce Crisis: Challenges and Solutions for Infrastructure Resilience

*Ashley Myers*

Across Texas, drinking water and water treatment systems, both public and privately operated, are facing the same challenge: retaining institutional knowledge while struggling to recruit and train the next generation of workers needed to maintain these systems.

Despite a growing body of research documenting the shortages in Texas' drinking water and water treatment industry, the current policies, programs, and data collection efforts have not necessarily kept pace with the scale or complexity of the challenge. Significant gaps remain between what is acknowledged in format reports and the experience of water professionals across the state, specifically in how workforce data is tracked, how workers are supported and retained, and how emerging technologies are reshaping day-to-day operations. This gap between recognition and action has left many utilities ill-equipped to plan for long-term workforce sustainability. This workforce shortage is not just an industry concern; it is a statewide issue with far-reaching consequences. Water is foundational to daily life in Texas. Farms, homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, and entire communities depend on reliable drinking water and water treatment services to function. Where water systems are strong and dependable, people and industry follow. When they are not, public health and economic stability are placed at risk.



## TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



### Scott Lynn

Project Manager



Scott Lynn is a Project Manager at Sam Houston State University's Institute for Homeland Security. Scott earned BAs in Environmental Studies and Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master's degree at Arizona State University (solar energy). He is based in Ventura, California. Scott spent most of his career in sales engineering and management roles. His focus was capital equipment projects, primarily to improve efficiency by automating manufacturing, packaging and logistics. This gave him experience in virtually all manufacturing sectors, as well as with electric and water utilities. He has enjoyed the intersection of engineering and dealing with customers and the opportunity to "translate" technical concepts to the "normal English" used by customers. Scott currently manages IHS research contracts for the institute.

## EVENTS

### TRANSPORTATION CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM

MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

This event moves beyond awareness and theory to prioritize practical, actionable mitigation strategies delivered by industry practitioners—not long lectures or sales pitches. Sessions will be structured around moderated panels, encouraging real-world discussion and lessons learned.

### MARITIME RISK SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 2-3<sup>RD</sup>, 2026

Over 90% of global trade travels through the world's maritime domain, making it a linchpin of international commerce. Safeguarding this vast ecosystem is vital—not only for the secure transport of goods and passengers, but also for economic resilience and national security.

## PODCAST



### **INNOVATING MASS CAUSALITY INCIDENT TRAINING IN HOSPITALS** *WITH DAVE KOMENDAT*

How do you plan for mass casualty incidents, especially in healthcare? Tabletop exercises and planning are a good start - especially when they prompt unexpected or innovative questions. This week, we chat with Donald Berger, Administrative Director of Safety Operations at University Medical Center and El Paso Children's Hospital, and Dr. Joel Hendryx, the recently retired chief medical officer at University Medical Center of El Paso, about the importance of adapting and developing MCI training. Listen to the Podcast: [HERE](#)

