



IHS NEWSLETTER

Partnership Spotlight – PHEM

The Institute for Homeland Security's Partnership for Healthcare and Emergency Management (PHEM), led by Project Manager John Suarez, prioritizes supporting the resilience and continuity of the healthcare sector. PHEM brings together healthcare systems, public health agencies, emergency management, academic experts, and private companies to deliver applied research, training, and support services focused on pressing sector needs. As a member of the Health Sector Coordination Council and Cybersecurity Working Group, PHEM contributes to national strategic initiatives such as pandemic preparedness, workplace violence prevention, and rural healthcare resilience. These efforts help elevate SHSU's role in serving Texas and beyond.

Since its formation in late 2022, PHEM has expanded its reach from Southeast Texas to statewide and now includes national partners. It maintains strong ties with organizations like the Texas Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association while actively developing training and research programs in areas such as disaster supply chains, threat assessment, biotechnology CIP, IT/OT convergence, and mass casualty response. With ongoing workshops, published research, and practitioner-driven working groups, PHEM creates space for collaborative solutions and shared learning. It continues to seek new partners to build a trusted network dedicated to protecting critical health infrastructure and ensuring operational continuity in an evolving threat landscape.

For more information on PHEM, please visit our website:

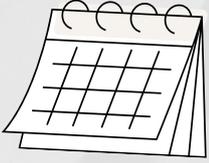
<https://ihsonline.org/partnerships/partnership-for-healthcare-emergency-management> or contact John Suarez (jfs029@shsu.edu) today!



Health Sector Coordinating Council
Cybersecurity Working Group



**Health & Public Health
Sector Coordinating Council**
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP



RESEARCH



[Online Research Link](#)



Looming Energy Security Risks: Emerging Demand-Led Vulnerabilities to Energy Infrastructure

Dierker, B., & Rogers, O.

This study explores the growing complexity of protecting U.S. critical infrastructure, most of which is owned and managed by the private sector. It examines the challenges of aligning public and private sector responsibilities, risk tolerance, and preparedness in the face of evolving threats.

Energy security is most often framed in terms of resource supply and generation capacity, with supporting and facilitating infrastructure sometimes being overlooked. However, electrical demand is a growing threat to energy security in Texas and across the country. Commercial and industrial users increasingly require more power for data centers, artificial intelligence applications, cryptocurrency mining, and other high-energy uses. Coupled with population growth, this rising demand growth risks outpacing current energy capacity. Until this expansion occurs, the grid faces critical vulnerabilities, putting individuals, communities, and businesses at risk. Cascading effects of this demand-driven vulnerability include economic disruptions, supply chain challenges, quality-of-life impacts, and environmental considerations. Texas is uniquely positioned in this evolving challenge, with rich hydrocarbon reserves, petrochemical assets, nation-leading wind capacity, an independent energy grid, rapid population growth, and an influx of energy-intensive businesses. Additionally, its vast area creates logistical complexities for connecting power projects. Meeting this rising demand will require both infrastructure expansion and policy innovation. Policymakers and industry leaders must understand the evolving nature of electrical demand to balance capacity and loads. That balance must be system-wide and include resilient material supply chains, commodity and technology expansion, and power generation, transmission, storage, and distribution capacity.



TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT <<<

Mayra Salas

Graduate Student Assistant



Mayra Salas currently serves as a Graduate Student Assistant in research at the Institute for Homeland Security. She obtained her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, complemented by dual minors in Psychology and Computer Information Systems, from the University of the Incarnate Word. Presently, Ms. Salas is furthering her academic endeavors by pursuing a master's degree in criminal justice and criminology at Sam Houston State University, with an anticipated graduation date in Spring 2026. As a key member of the IHS team, Mayra collaborates with various stakeholders and participates in a wide range of projects throughout the year.

>>> EVENTS <<<

IHS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

- **Date:** July 30th, 2025
- **Time:** 8:30am CST
- **Organizer:** Institute for Homeland Security
- **Location:** Sam Houston State University - The Woodlands Center
- **More Info:**
<https://ihsonline.org/events/ihs-research-symposium>

CONFERENCE TO COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- **Date:** June 22nd - 25th, 2025
- **Time:** 8:00am - 5:00pm CST
- **Organizer:** University of Houston
- **Location:** Sam Houston State University - The Woodlands Center
- **More Info:**
<https://bti.egr.uh.edu/news/events/combat-human-trafficking>

PODCAST <<<

MARITIME SECURITY AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

The Arctic environment is shifting - literally and figuratively. There are unique and varied opportunities and risks for critical infrastructure and national security in and around Alaska and the Arctic Circle. In this episode, we're joined by IHS program executives Scott McHugh and Robert Crane to chat about the Maritime Risk Symposium and the emerging arctic landscape.

Link: <https://ihsonline.org/ihs-media/podcast>

