



IHS NEWSLETTER

Supporting Wilson County's Annual Emergency Management Tabletop Exercise

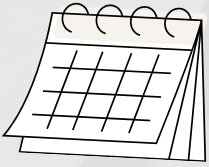
The SHSU Institute for Homeland Security (IHS) participated in Wilson County's annual tabletop exercise, supporting the Emergency Management Department at their new state-of-the-art facility. The event brought together representatives from the city, county, school district, and state agencies—demonstrating a strong commitment to multi-agency coordination and community resilience.

The exercise utilized the SimTable to model flooding scenarios across the county, allowing participants to visualize potential impacts and evaluate response strategies in real time. This interactive approach enhanced situational awareness and supported informed decision-making throughout the exercise.

Special thanks are extended to the Wilson County Emergency Management team for inviting IHS to take part in this year's event. Their dedication to collaboration and continuous improvement was evident from start to finish. The exercise highlighted the strength of coordinated planning efforts in testing and strengthening the county's emergency management plan.



IHS looks forward to continuing its support of Wilson County in future preparedness projects and initiatives.



RESEARCH



[Online Research Link](#)



Bridging Public Infrastructure with State Security

Benjamin Dierker and Owen Rogers

How proactive infrastructure maintenance enables more effective commerce, emergency management, and security mitigation.

The resilience of Texas' transportation infrastructure, especially bridges, is vital to public safety, economic stability, and statewide mobility. Though often overlooked when well maintained, underfunded or neglected bridges can create serious safety hazards, disrupt supply chains, and trigger significant economic losses. This paper evaluates the condition of Texas bridges, focusing on structural integrity, maintenance status, and potential vulnerabilities, including the economic impact of disruptions to heavily traveled corridors. Drawing on state and federal data along with ASCE and ARTBA assessments, it highlights the state's most traveled bridges, compares Texas' performance to national averages, and examines risks ranging from structural failure to cyber or terrorist interference. The analysis outlines the safety, economic, and operational consequences of deficient bridges and concludes by recommending stronger maintenance investment, real-time monitoring, and cross-sector coordination to enhance the resilience and security of Texas' transportation network.



TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT <<<

Michael Aspland

Executive Director



Michael Aspland has 36 years of public service that includes a background in criminal justice, homeland security, and public service. He was the first member of the IHS team, bringing together a group of professionals from the public and private sectors to set the Institute on a path to improving critical infrastructure protection for Texas. The journey to the Lone Star State began in 2014 when he retired from law enforcement after 26 years of service in California and started a second career in academics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He taught civilian and military partners how to map out and disrupt the networks of illicit organizations. During this time, he founded Set Free Monterey Bay, a restoration home for women escaping sex trafficking (www.setfreemontereybay.org). In October 2021, Michael arrived in Texas to launch IHS!

>>> EVENTS <<<

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION & RESILIENCE NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE

MARCH 10th, 2026 - MARCH 12th, 2026

- Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA
- Registration Link: [here](#)

Bringing together leading stakeholders from industry, operators, agencies and governments to collaborate on securing North America.

PODCAST <<<

COMMUNICATION AND CRITICAL STORYTELLING WITH KIRSTEN MESKILL

Exemplary corporate security begins with effective communication - knowing your audience, knowing when to be direct and when to tell a compelling story. This week, we chat with Kirsten Meskill, the Chief Security Officer at Solventum and the second in our Hall of Fame Speaker Series following our Thought Leaders Conference in October.

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

