



IHS NEWSLETTER

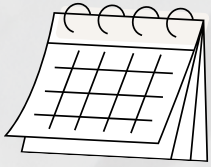
IHS to present at the 2026 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting

Members of the IHS team, SHSU faculty members, and industry partners are collaborating to offer three panels presenting our research on critical infrastructure protection strategies. The panels are “People are the Gatekeepers of Safety,” “Harbor Safety Committees as a Pathway to Trusted Networks,” and “Workplace Violence as a Public Health Issue.” These topic areas are all tied to the human factor of keeping critical infrastructure safe. People hold the keys to developing strategies, technologies, and solutions that ensure the security of our critical infrastructure. Our panels will focus on collaboration and cooperation as the foundation of building trusted networks. These networks function to develop policies, procedures, and practices to mitigate disruptive events and improve continuity of operations for all CI sectors.

Presenters:

- Michael Aspland, IHS Executive Director
- Dr. Ryan Randa, IHS Director of Research
- Dr. Shannon Lane, IHS Research Team
- Mr. Heberto Villarreal, IHS Project Manager
- Dr. Peter Lehmann, SHSU-COCJ Associate Professor
- William Dietrich, CEO, Port of Brownsville, TX
- Ms. Brandi Rogers, Port of Corpus Christi, TX
- Ms. Lidia Worthen, Christus Health, TX
- Mr. Mark Denham, Memorial Hermann Health Systems, TX
- Mr. Michael Maloney, Consultant, Former FBI Supervisory Analyst, IL

For more information, click the link [here](#).



RESEARCH



[Online Research Link](#)

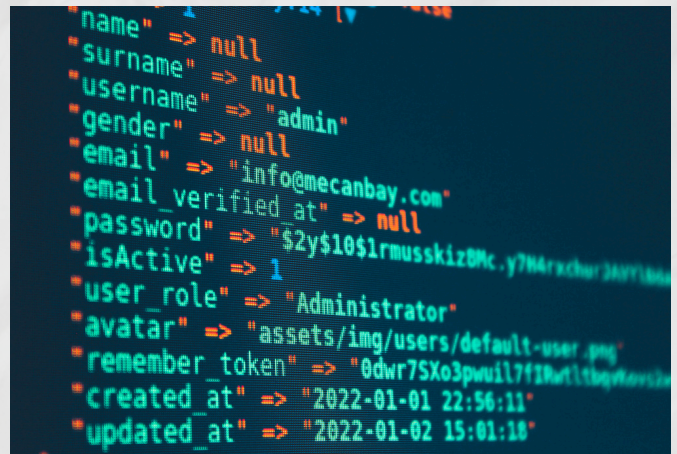


Cybersecurity Training Effectiveness in Texas Rural Hospitals for Texas Hospital Association

Julia Chialastri

Cybersecurity threats continue to escalate across the healthcare sector, placing rural hospitals in Texas at particularly high risk.

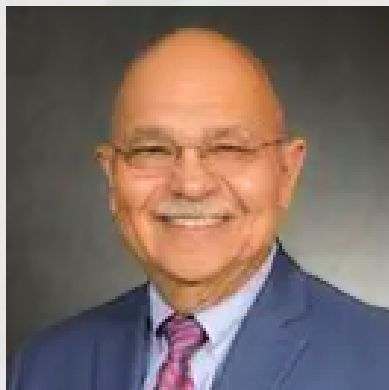
Cybersecurity threats are rapidly escalating across the healthcare sector, placing rural hospitals in Texas at heightened risk due to increasing ransomware, phishing, and data breach incidents that strain already limited operational and financial resources. Recent high-profile attacks have led to system downtimes, disrupted patient care, and elevated risks to patient safety and data privacy, with small, resource-constrained hospitals disproportionately targeted because of aging technology, limited budgets, and shortages of specialized cybersecurity staff. In response, Texas mandates annual cybersecurity training for hospital staff under Department of Information Resources (DIR) guidelines. This report synthesizes regulatory requirements, academic literature, and national best practices to evaluate the effectiveness and limitations of current cybersecurity training in rural hospitals, examining factors such as training frequency, delivery methods, tenure-based disparities, departmental involvement, review cycles, perceived policy effectiveness, and feedback mechanisms, and concludes with actionable recommendations tailored to the unique needs of rural Texas healthcare facilities.



TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT <<<

Clyde Loll

Director of Operations



Clyde Loll has more than 40 years of leadership experience across private industry, serving in roles from mid-management to the C-suite. He played a key role in building and leading an international oil and gas HSE team of 400+ professionals across 39 countries and has designed and implemented quality, safety, environmental, and security programs in the energy, healthcare, transportation, and utility sectors. Clyde currently serves as Director of Operations/Program Manager II at the Institute of Homeland Security at Sam Houston State University and brings deep expertise in emergency management, regulatory compliance, and critical infrastructure resiliency.

>>>EVENTS<<<

HIGHWAY AND MOTOR CARRIER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SYMPOSIUM

- Date: May 5, 2026
- Location: Houston, Texas
- Time: 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.
- Venue: In Person

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.

PODCAST <<<

METRICS AND COMMUNICATION

WITH DAVE KOMENDAT

It's tough to measure things that don't happen, especially in dollars and cents, but a quantitative approach and well-honed communication skills go a long way. This week, we chat with Dave Komendat, a retired vice president and chief security officer for Boeing and a member of the inaugural Hall of Fame Speaker series at our Thought Leaders Conference last fall.

Listen to the Podcast: [HERE](#)

