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South Texas Development Council of Governments

Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Implementation Plan for 2023

December 30, 2022



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**Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025
Implementation Plan for 2023**

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Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025 Implementation Plan for 2023

FOREWORD

The Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025 directs that “Each Council of Governments will develop an annual implementation plan [for the strategy] detailing significant regional and local implementation tasks.”

This implementation plan is for calendar year 2023. It identifies significant HSSP implementation tasks along with performance measures, completion milestones, and required resources.

This homeland security implementation plan also ensures that the South Texas Development Council of Governments is fully integrated into the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan and has identified all resources necessary to achieve homeland security preparedness goals for 2023.

Action items called for in this plan do not represent taskings from the STDC, nor does this plan represent a statutory mandate to individual jurisdictions or agencies.

Juan E. Rodriguez
Executive Director
South Texas Development Council

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SECTION I: GENERAL

A. Purpose and Scope

This document establishes the South Texas Development Council's Implementation Plan in support of the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025. It establishes priority actions with specific performance measures to be completed by milestones established in the plan. This plan is a roadmap for our homeland security preparedness and identifies the resources required to implement the plan. Provisions of this document apply to all aspects of the region's homeland security activities, and all jurisdictions within the region share responsibility for implementing this plan.

B. Planning Process

The South Texas Development Council planning staff coordinated planning workshops with participants from local agencies and departments that respond within the South Texas Region. Throughout the workshops, assessments were conducted and input from local experts was gathered to complete the regional Threats and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the State Preparedness Report (SPR). STDC planning staff, additionally, gathers information regarding homeland security planning efforts throughout the year from other coalitions, committees, and subject matter experts within the region. With the specific gaps identified, goals and objectives were selected by the STDC Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) to support statewide homeland security strategic goals and objectives. Recent accomplishments, performance measure, and implementation tasks were completed through worksheets to address each regional objective selected as a major priority for the South Texas Region.

C. Authorities

The South Texas Development Council (STDC) Board of Directors is composed of one elected official or his/her representative from each of eleven jurisdictions within Region 19. STDC Region: Jim Hogg County, Starr County, Webb County, Zapata County, City of Laredo, City of Rio Bravo, City of El Cenizo, City of Escobares, City of Roma, City of Rio Grande City, and City of La Grulla.

Homeland Security issue and initiatives are discussed by the regional Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) that is composed of first responder and law enforcement agency representatives from each of the same eleven jurisdictions.

The HSAC acts as a local expert group that recommends actions regarding emergency preparedness and homeland security initiatives for consideration and final approval by the STDC Board of Directors.

Nothing in this document is intended to supersede the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the presiding officers and governing bodies of a political subdivision of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, chapter 418 government code.

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D. Key Personnel

1. The South Texas Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) is the primary action committee responsible for implementing this plan.
 1. Jim Hogg County Chief Deputy Reyes Espinoza
 2. Starr County Major Carlos Delgado
 3. Zapata County Executive Chief Joseph Peña
 4. Webb County Chief Julio Gonzalez
 5. City of Laredo Police Department Asst. Police Chief Manuel J. Maciel
 6. City of Laredo Fire Department Paramedic Ricardo Oliva
 7. City of Rio Bravo Vacant
 8. City of El Cenizo Vacant
 9. City of Escobares EMC/Fire Chief Lauro Cantu
 10. Rio Grande City Fire Chief Manuel Muñiz
 11. City of La Grulla Chief Desi Olivarez
 12. City of Roma Asst. Police Chief Francisco Garcia

2. Other partners involved in overseeing the implementation of this plan.
 - a. STDC Executive Director Juan E. Rodriguez
 - b. STDC Program Planner Guadalupe Trinidad-Ramos
 - c. District Coordinator DPS/TDEM
 - d. Jim Hogg EMC Chantel Molina
 - e. Starr County EMC Captain Lenard Fuentes
 - f. Zapata County EMC Fire Chief Daniel Arriaga
 - g. Webb County EMC Rosemary T. Santos

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Position Title	Point of Contact	E-mail Address/ Office Telephone	Area of Responsibility
Jim Hogg County Sheriff's Office	Captain Reyes Espinoza	961esp@sbcglobal.net (361) 527-3710	HSAC Representative
Jim Hogg County	Juan Carlos Guerra	jcguerra@co.jim-hogg.tx.us	County Judge/EMC
Starr County Sheriff's Office	Major Carlos Delgado	carlos.delgado@starrcountyso.org (956) 487-5571	HSAC Representative
Starr County	Captain Lenard Fuentes	lenard.fuentes@starrcountyso.org (956)487-5571	EMC
Zapata County	Chief Daniel Arriaga	firepolice114@gmail.com (956)765-9942	Fire Chief/EMC
Zapata County	Executive Chief Joseph Peña	jpena@zapatacountytx.gov (956) 765-9973	HSAC Representative
Webb County	Chief Julio C. Gonzalez	jugonzalez@webbcountytx.gov (956) 744-9009	HSAC Representative
Webb County	Rosemary T. Santos	rtsantos@webbcountytx.gov (956)523-4600	EMC
City of Laredo Police Department	Chief Claudio Treviño Jr.	ctrevino@ci.laredo.tx.us	Police Chief
City of Laredo Police Department	Asst. Chief Manuel J. Maciel	mmaciel@ci.laredo.tx.us	Asst. Chief of Police/ HSAC Chair
City of Laredo Fire Department	Paramedic Ricardo Oliva	roliva@ci.laredo.tx.us	HSAC Representative
City of Rio Bravo	Chief Juan Gonzalez	jcgonzalez4801@gmail.com	Fire Chief
City of Escobares	Fire Chief Lauro Cantu	lc.cityofescobares@yahoo.com (956) 750-1003	HSAC Representative
Rio Grande City	Chief Manuel Muñiz	mmuniz@cityofrgc.com (956) 487-5312	HSAC Representative and EMC
City of La Grulla	Asst. Chief Desi Olivarez	Desi.olivarez@cityofgrulla.com (956) 735-4099	EMC, Police Department Chief
City of Roma	Asst. Chief Francisco Garcia	fgarcia@cityofroma.net (956) (956) 500-3050	HSAC Representative
City of Roma	Chief Jose H. Garcia	jgarcia@cityofroma.net (956) 849-3313	Police Chief/EMC
STDC Executive Director	Juan Rodriguez	jerodriguez@stdc.cog.tx.us (956) 722-3995	Executive Director
STDC Program Planner	Guadalupe Trinidad-Ramos	gatrinidad@stdc.cog.tx.us (956) 722-3995	Planner
District 3B- District Coordinator	Bill Davis	bill.davis@dps.texas.gov (956) 532-3768	District Coordinator/Emergency Management

Figure I-1. Identification of Key Personnel

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E. References

1. The Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025, January 2021
2. State of Texas Emergency Management Plan, February 2020
3. The National Incident Management System (3rd Ed.), October 2017
4. The National Prevention Framework (2nd Ed.), June 2016
5. The National Protection Framework (2nd Ed.), June 2016
6. The National Mitigation Framework (2nd Ed.), June 2016
7. The National Response Framework (4th Ed.), October 2019
8. The National Disaster Recovery Framework (2nd Ed.), June 2016
9. The National Preparedness Goal (2nd Ed.), September 2015
10. The National Preparedness System, November 2011
11. Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program, January 2020
12. National Infrastructure Protection Plan, December 2013
13. Texas Division of Emergency Management Fiscal Year 2023 Training Calendar
14. South Texas Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Plan
15. South Texas Regional Interoperable Communications Plan
16. Jim Hogg County Emergency Operations Plan
17. Webb County/Rio Bravo/El Cenizo Emergency Operations Plan
18. Starr County/City of Escobares Emergency Operations Plan
19. Zapata County Emergency Operations Plan
20. City of Laredo Emergency Operations Plan
21. City of Rio Grande Emergency Operations Plan
22. City of Roma Emergency Operations Plan
23. City of La Grulla Emergency Operations Plan

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SECTION II: PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENT

A. Regional Overview

The Area of Responsibility (AOR) that the South Texas Development Council (STDC) encompasses is a four-county region; Jim Hogg, Starr, Zapata, and Webb County with a total of 6,799 square miles. Three of the counties (Webb, Zapata, and Starr) are bordered by Mexico to the Southwest.

Background Information

The South Texas Region 19 population for the 2020 Census was 351,761 residents.

Jim Hogg County covers an area of 1,136 square miles of which 100% is land.

The Major highways in the county are Farm to Market Road 1017, State Highway 16, State Highway 285, and State Highway 359.

The county seat is the town of Hebbronville and there are no incorporated areas in Jim Hogg County.

Starr County covers an area of 1,229 square miles of which 1,223 are land and 6 are made up of water. The major corridor in the county is US Highway 83.

The County seat is the Rio Grande City, while City of Roma, City of La Grulla, and City of Escobares make up the rest of the incorporated cities in the county. There are many unincorporated areas in the county, most of which are called *colonias*. Some of these *colonias* are Alto Bonito, El Refugio, Falcon Heights, Falcon Village, Fronton, Garceño, La Casita, Garciasville, La Puerta, La Rosita, La Victoria, Falcon Lake, Delmita, La Gloria, La Reforma, Santa Catarina, and San Elena amongst others.

Residents of eastern Starr County are zoned to schools in the Rio Grande City Consolidated Independent School District. Residents of western Starr County are zoned to schools in the Roma Independent School District. Residents of northeastern Starr County are zoned to schools in the San Isidro Independent School District.

Zapata County covers an area of 1,058 square miles of which 997 are land and 61 are made up of water.

The major corridors in the county are US Highway 83 and Texas State Highway 16. The county seat is the town of Zapata and there are no incorporated areas in the county. There are several unincorporated areas in the county including: Falcon Lake, Lopeño, New Falcon, Siesta Shores, Falcon Mesa, Medina, Morales-Sanchez, and San Ygnacio.

Zapata County Independent School District serves the county as its only school district.

Webb County covers an area of 3,376 square miles of which 3,357 square miles are land and 19 square miles are water.

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The major corridors in the county are Interstate 35, US Highway 59, US Highway 83, State Highway 255, and State Highway 359.

The only metropolitan area in the region, City of Laredo, is located in Webb County and accounts for the majority of the county's population. City of Rio Bravo and City of El Cenizo are two small cities situated about 20 miles southeast of the City of Laredo off US Highway 83.

Three school districts serve Webb County. They include Laredo Independent School District, United Independent School District, and Webb Consolidated Independent School District. There is a total of 41 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, and 5 high schools.

Below are the regional demographics based on 2020 Census numbers.

Regional Demographics

	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>UNDER 5 YEARS</u>	<u>UNDER 18 YEARS</u>	<u>OVER 65 YEARS</u>	<u>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</u>
Webb (2020)	267,114	9.5%	33.2%	9.2%	76,326
Jim Hogg (2020)	4,838	9.9%	32.0%	14.2%	1,626
Zapata (2020)	13,889	9.3%	33.5%	13.8%	4,503
Starr (2020)	65,920	9.9%	33.0%	11.2%	16,188

	<u>DISABILITY</u>	<u>Employment Rate</u>	<u>Median Household Income</u>	<u>SCHOOL ENROLLMENT K-12</u>
Webb (2020)	13.7%	59.5%	\$56,084	74.4%
Jim Hogg (2020)	21.8%	51.8%	\$33,382	76.0%
Zapata (2020)	18.1%	52.1%	\$33,952	8.4%
Starr (2020)	16.6%	48.8%	\$30,387	75.4%

Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CIKR)

Land Ports: Eight (8) International Bridges:

International Airports (1)

Natural Gas/Oil Fields: The STDC region is known for producing nineteen (19) percent of the nation's natural gas. Several natural gas pipelines and distribution hubs are located within the STDC region. Natural gas pipelines also span out from the STDC region throughout the state, reaching the entire continental U.S. area.

Power Plants (1)

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Water Plants (6)

Hospitals (1 Private, 2 Public)

Dams (3)

Health Departments (2)

Health Laboratories (1)

B. Threats and Hazards

Terrorism: Domestic Terrorism

According to law enforcement agencies within the STDC region, gangs and organized crime pose a large threat of domestic terrorism. Most of these gangs/organized crime entities exist primarily for the conduct of violent crime acts, continuing criminal enterprises, money laundering, as well as drug trafficking and distribution.

Currently, gangs are largely Hispanic-based including both males and females in their organizational structure. Moreover, gangs also recruit juveniles. This is a proven criminal gang strategy that gangs have developed to combat the criminal justice system since in past years juveniles were able to commit serious crimes but not prosecuted as adults.

Several of the identified gangs are locally-based however many other organizations have state/national ties through prison networks, while others have national/international ties with organized crime networks through the USA and Mexico. This in turn produces an extra burden on our law enforcement community because of the extensive 196 miles of porous border with Mexico that they must also patrol.

International Terrorism

International terrorism poses the greatest threat to the STDC region. There are eight (8) international border crossings located within the region, consisting of seven (7) vehicle/pedestrian crossings and one (1) rail bridge. Throughout the course of the years there have been reported bomb threats on these international border crossings which negatively affect commerce and transportation between the United States and Mexico.

The porous rural areas between Webb, Zapata, and Starr Counties also allow for the illegal entry of people and items into the United States, and this becomes more common as a drought continues to take hold of the STDC region, causing the Rio Grande water levels to diminish and provide easier access to illegal smuggling and entry. Illegal immigration has increased the threat to life and property to the State of Texas and the United States as whole, as illegal aliens make their way into northern communities. Urban and rural areas have been threatened with murder and kidnappings, forcing citizens to look the other way when illegal activities take place in or near their properties. Local ranchers have witnessed illegal smugglers armed with different types of weapons and contraband materials. This insecure infrastructure may well possibly serve as a backdoor of international terrorism.

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Moreover, the recent uprise of caravans and illegal immigration have shed light on the security gap on the southern border. Concerns of Terrorist Infiltration, through mass migration from central American countries, were brought up by the then Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson during the Obama administration. Border security concerns continued throughout the Trump administration to include illegal immigration and address trends in migration of Special Interest Aliens. Currently under the Biden Administration, the continuous growing number of mass migrations is proving to be of concern for the border communities who are at the forefront of this security threat.

Natural Hazards

The STDC region is exposed to several natural hazards which include flash flooding, river flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, thunderstorms, and an occasional winter storm. Our region is semi-arid and is usually under a state of drought, however, quick and heavy rain fall can cause flash floods throughout the region in low lying areas of cities and rural areas. Also, the lack of adequate drainage causes flash flooding in certain parts of urban areas.

The Rio Grande, being our main water source can become flooded if there are excessive rains in the northern parts of the state along the border, causing the low-lying areas near the river to be at risk of flooding. Some of these events include the floods of June 2010 causing the river to be at record levels along three counties in our region as an effect of Hurricane Alex or more recently the June 2018 floods in the Starr County area. Hurricanes have historically been at risk for the STDC region. Although the probability of a Category 4 or Category 5 hurricane directly hitting our region is low, the tornadoes caused by hurricanes may affect populated areas of the region.

Since the region is usually arid and in a drought state, the brush land terrain that surrounds the populated areas pose a serious threat of wildfires to the region. The severity of a wildfire would be even more critical if it did reach a populated area within the region.

The least severe of the natural hazards for the STDC region would be winter storms. Although winters in South Texas tend to be relatively mild, a severe cold front is capable of freezing highways and bridges that are heavily used during the winter season due to a heavy influx of people migrating to the south and into Mexico for the winter holidays. More recently the February 2021 winter storm proved that many of our communities lack the necessary resources to ensure that public services remain uninterrupted.

Figure II-1 is a Regional Natural Hazards Matrix that summarizes the level of threat from each natural hazard discussed.

Figure II-1. Regional Natural Hazards Matrix

Natural					
Hazard Type:	Frequency	Magnitude	Warning	Severity	Risk
Earthquake	Unlikely	Negligible	Minimal	Negligible	Low
Flash Flooding	Likely	Limited	Minimal	Limited	High
Flooding (river or flash)	Possible	Limited	6-12 hours	Limited	High

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Hurricane	Likely	Limited	24+ hours	Limited	Medium
Tornado	Likely	Critical	Minimal	Limited	Medium
Wildfire	Highly likely	Critical	None	Critical	High
Winter Storm	Possible	Limited	12-24 hours	Limited	Low

Potential Manmade Hazards

The threat of a potential manmade disaster exists in the STDC region.

The hazard that was ranked as the most catastrophic was a Pandemic because of the daily travel by citizens between the sister-cities. The daily influx of people would spread the pandemic at an alarming rate that would affect a large section of Texas and Mexico in a matter of hours. The second most catastrophic of the man-made hazards would be dam failure of the Lake Amistad Dam north river of the Rio Grande which would cause a river flood for two counties within the STDC region.

The other hazards listed identified in **Figure II-2** would also pose a critical severity to the region, and would interrupt the economy of both the U.S. and Mexico because of the transportation of goods through the international border crossings found in the STDC region, especially City of Laredo, which is one of the country's largest inland ports

Figure II-2. Regional Manmade Hazards Matrix

Manmade					
Hazard Type:	Frequency	Magnitude	Warning time	Severity	Risk Priority
Chemical/HAZMAT	Likely	Critical	Minimal	Critical	Medium
Dam Failure	Possible	Catastrophic	Minimal	Catastrophic	High
Fire	Likely	Limited	Minimal	Limited	Medium
Nuclear Facility Incident	Unlikely	Negligible	24+ hours	Negligible	Low
Power Outage	Possible	Limited	Minimal	Limited	Medium
Water System Failure	Possible	Critical	Minimal	Critical	Medium
Accidents (transportation)	Likely	Limited	Minimal	Limited	Medium
Pandemic - Mass Prophylaxis	Likely	Catastrophic	24+ hours	Catastrophic	Medium

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Civil Disorder	Possible	Limited	12-24 hours	Limited	Medium
Explosion	Possible	Limited	Minimal	Limited	Medium
Weapons Assault	Likely	Limited	Minimal	Limited	Medium
Terrorism - CBRNE	Possible	Critical	Minimal	Critical	Medium
Border Security	Highly likely	Critical	Minimal	Critical	High
Livestock/Wildlife	Highly likely	Critical	24+ hours	Critical	High
Pipeline	Possible	Critical	None	Critical	Medium
Fiber Optic Outage	Possible	Limited	None	Limited	Medium

C. Capability Assessment

A total of thirty-two core capabilities were assessed through the State Preparedness Report:

Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operational Coordination, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Interdiction and Disruption, Screening, Search and Detection, Forensics and Attribution, Access Control and Identity Verification, Cybersecurity, Physical Protective Measures, Risk Management for Programs and Activities, Supply Chain Integrity and Security, Community Resilience, Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction, Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment, Threats and Hazard Identification, Infrastructure Systems, Critical Transportation, Environmental Response/Health and Safety, Fatality Management Services, Fire Management and Suppression, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Mass Care Services, Mass Search and Rescue Operations, On-Scene Security, Protection and Law Enforcement, Operational Communications, Public Health, Healthcare & Emergency Medical Services, Situational Assessment, Economic Recovery, Health and Social Services, Housing, Natural and Cultural Resources.

Through the review of each capability, the following gaps were identified:

1. Lack of whole-community approach to planning: local plans are not reviewed by all departments in the jurisdiction; no review of plan on a yearly basis for some jurisdictions in the region.
2. Lack of healthcare providers including nurses, doctors, radiologists, etc. In case of a catastrophic event, personnel would have to be requested through mutual aid.
3. Lack of exercises with after-action reports and improvement plans (no training and exercise plans).
4. Lack of standard operating procedures and the practice of common language for interoperable communications.
5. Agreements for shelter management and mass feeding for mass care with red cross and other nonprofit organizations are not in place.
6. Shelters have not been assessed or adequate sleeping and bathing accommodations; outlets for generators are not installed shelters.

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7. Lack of whole-community approach to training on ICS and exercising ICS (no tabletops involving multiple disciplines).
8. Low capability for fatality management, only five bodies can be housed at any point in time given current capabilities.
9. Intensive care unit beds are low.
10. No alternative sites for triage have been identified.

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SECTION III: CONCEPT OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Overview

Although the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan establishes the road map for the next five years, this implementation plan focuses only on 2023. Each year the South Texas Development Council will write a Homeland Security Strategic Implementation Plan for the following year predicated on assessing preparedness actions and adjusted risk assessments from the current year.

The South Texas Region will focus on the following objectives listed in order of priority during 2023:

- 1) OBJECTIVE 4.3: Achieve statewide communications operability and interoperability in Texas.
- 2) OBJECTIVE 1.3: Prevent terrorists and criminal enterprises from exploiting Texas' international borders, including land, air, and sea.
- 3) OBJECTIVE 2.6: Enhance statewide cybersecurity efforts to protect information assets.
- 4) OBJECTIVE 4.7: Ensure updated and validated emergency plans are in place at public agencies that provide vital services and encourage such planning within private entities.
- 5) OBJECTIVE 4.1: Enhance the systems and organizational structures that coordinate and manage response operations to ensure unified, efficient effort.
- 6) OBJECTIVE 2.2: Reduce the risk of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) incidents by enhancing control and early detection capabilities.
- 7) OBJECTIVE 3.1: Use mitigation planning to reduce the threats disasters pose to people, property, and critical functions throughout the state.
- 8) OBJECTIVE 5.2: Strengthen preparedness for whole community recovery through outreach programs, training, and exercise.
- 9) OBJECTIVE 4.2: Build and maintain the response teams and qualified personnel essential to all-hazard response operations.

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The South Texas Implementation Plan mirrors the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025 which establishes five goals:

Texas Homeland Security Goals 2021-2025	
Goal 1: Prevent	Prevent terrorist attacks and organized criminal activity in Texas.
Goal 2: Protect	Reduce the state's vulnerability to terrorist and criminal attacks and natural and technological disasters.
Goal 3: Mitigate	Minimize the impact of terrorist and criminal attacks and natural and technological disasters through proactive mitigation planning and programs.
Goal 4: Respond	Increase the capability of the state's response system to minimize damage and loss of life from terrorist and criminal attacks and natural and technological disasters.
Goal 5: Recover	Ensure rapid, effective, and comprehensive community recovery following terrorist or criminal attacks and natural or technological disasters.

The implementation plan will leverage the Preparedness Strategy, which includes five areas:

1. Planning.
2. Organizing.
3. Equipment/Technology.
4. Training.
5. Exercises.

The remainder of SECTION III includes the goals and objectives listed in the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan and the corresponding Target Capabilities with associated capability and performance measures. This information is provided to facilitate the application of planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises to achieve a preparedness plan for those goals and objectives that will be addressed during 2023.

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B. GOAL 1 - PREVENT: PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS AND ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN TEXAS.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: Prevent terrorists and criminal enterprises from exploiting Texas' international borders, including land, air, and sea.

Recent Accomplishments:

Rio Grande City

- 1 case of 156 lbs. of marijuana seized with one arrest
- 33 cases of evading arrest on foot or in a vehicle regarding alien smuggling or narcotics
- 12 smuggling of person cases involving homes
- 50 UDA's turned over to Border Patrol

Roma PD

- 9 arrests associated with human trafficking
- 854 detentions under operation stone garden
- 224 detentions under local border security program
- \$19,200 worth of marijuana confiscated
- \$92,000 worth of meth confiscated
- \$3,000 worth of cocaine confiscated
- 20 detentions for pecuniary benefit

Starr County

- 42 arrests associated with human trafficking smuggling
- 60 narcotic arrests
- 3117 lbs. of marijuana seized a totaling \$935,100.00
- 55 lbs. of cocaine seized totaling \$662,500.00
- 45 kilos of fentanyl seized totaling \$1.5 million

City of Laredo PD

- Disrupted and dismantled 45 human smuggling stash houses.
- Arrested 19 persons for human smuggling.
- Arrested 123 persons during OPSG border security operations.
- Conducted 62 Local Border Security Program (LBSP) operations.
- Turned over 334 illegal immigrants to Border Patrol during OPSG border security operations.

Performance Measures:

1. Number of human smuggling stash houses dismantled and disrupted.
2. Number of persons arrested for human smuggling
3. Number of persons arrested during OPSG border security operations
4. Number of Local Border Security Program (LBSP) operations conducted
5. Number of joint operations with CBP towards border security.
6. Number of vehicle stops conducted by law enforcement
7. Number of vehicle stops that resulted in illegal alien detentions
8. Number of vehicle stops that resulted in drug seizures
9. Number of vehicle stops that resulted in arrest for drug and illegal alien smuggling.

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<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	Integrated Team Planning with Federal, State, and Local LEAs on Border Security Planning	Federal and State Law Enforcement Agencies	\$3,897,440.16	December 2023
Organization				
Equipment	Purchase 50 helmets and sheilds	Laredo PD	\$250K/ OPLS	Spring 2023
	Purchase 2 police cars	Laredo PD	\$90K/ OPSG	Spring 2023
	Purchase 48 police cars	Laredo PD	\$3.5 M/ General Fund	Spring 2023
	Purchase 50 Ballistic Shields	Starr County	\$176,729.18	February 2023
	Purchase 2 fully equipped patrol units	Starr County SO	\$140,000.00/ARP	November 2023
Training	SOLO/ERASE/Active Shooter response, Level 1. Ballistic Shield training.	Starr County	State Funded	November 2023
Exercises	Conduct multi-agency table top exercises with border related scenarios.	Starr County	n/a	December 2023

C. GOAL 2 - PROTECT: REDUCE THE STATE’S VULNERABILITY TO TERRORIST AND CRIMINAL ATTACKS AND NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: Reduce the risk of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) incidents by enhancing control and early detection capabilities.

Recent Accomplishments:

Starr County- La Casita VFD

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- La Casita VFD conducted Hazmat Awareness, Operation, and Mission Specific for 15 fire cadets
- All Starr County Fire Personnel attended and participated in the Hazmat Training-Continuous Education as per TCFP

City of Laredo FD

- Held in person Hazardous Materials Disaster drill at TAMIU- Multi Agency
- Held in person and table top exercise Tri-Annual Airport Disaster Drill
- Held online Career Cert Annual 8 hours CE for Hazmat Technicians (Spill Control, Controlled Gas Safety, Hazmat Awareness)

Rio Grande City FD

- Participated in table top exercise conducted by US Custom Agents, alongside local law, fire, and Mexican Counterparts.

Roma FD

- Held workshops on EOC operations and planning
- Updated corresponding Annexes.
- Held Hurricane Threat Preparedness Workshop

Webb County VFD

- 4 personnel attended TEEC Municipal Fire School, July 2022.
- Creation of new department- Webb County Fire Marshal's Office.
- Acquisition of 55 SCBA face masks through a grant.
- Participated at Operation Skyfall Exercise held by HPP/ CBRAC, June 16, 2022.
- Participated at Airport Exercise hosted by City of Laredo, September 22, 2022.

Performance Measures:

1. Number of tabletop exercises participated
2. Number of EMS assist calls by department.
3. Number of response calls by department overall/incident type
4. Number of response calls in coordination with law enforcement.
5. Number of cadets sent to Fire Academy.
6. Number of fire personnel to haz-mat class
7. Number of Class A and B haz-mat suits obtained
8. Number of PD and Public Works personnel attending awareness CBRNE classes
9. Number of identified facilities that may be a target for CBRNE attacks

<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	Update Annex F, Q, & D	Emergency Management	n/a	November 2023
	Acquisition/Completion of Webb County VFD Station 4 in PCT 1	Webb County/ Webb County VFD	County Funds	December 2023

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Organization	Add Hazmat Team	Roma Fire Department		September 2023
	Replace Vacant Position for Firefighter	Roma Fire Department		June 2023
Equipment	Purchase Haz-Mat Equipment	Roma Fire Dept	\$40,000.00	September 2023
	Purchase of 10 Firefighting Units	Webb County/Fire Dept	\$4M/ County Funds	May 2024
	Purchase of needed equipment	Webb County/Fire Dept	\$48,000.00/ Department Funds	August 2023
Training	Attend Haz-mat class	Roma Fire Dept	\$1000 per student/ General Fund	December 2023
	TEEX Municipal Fire School- 10 Personnel to attend	Webb County VFD	Texas Forest Service	July 2023
Exercises	Hold Annual Mock Hazmat Drills	Region/Local	n/a	September 2022

OBJECTIVE 2.6: Enhance statewide cybersecurity efforts to protect information assets.

Recent Accomplishments:

Starr County

- Renewed Antivirus software for entire agency
- All personnel and officials completed cybersecurity training course for 2022 certified by Texas DIR.
- 80 computers renewed license and upgrade to new version of ESET Antivirus.

City of Laredo PD

- Deployed new CAD and RMS software. (October 2022)
- Purchased 25 new upgraded desktop computers. (September 2022)
- Switched RMS and CAD to cloud based solutions. (October 2022)
- Mapped/upgraded security of all points with end to end encryption. (Sept 2022)
- Conducted department wide annual cyber security training. (June 2022)

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City of Rio Grande City

- Purchased Sentinel One, a next generation anti-virus, machine learning artificial intelligence.

Performance Measures:

1. Number of upgraded software and hardware
2. Number of cybersecurity trainings held
3. Number of new upgraded desktop computers
4. Number of policies and procedures updated to include cybersecurity protocols.
5. Number of networks backed up in a separate location.

<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	The RMS software is updated periodically by the vendor (Cardinal Tracking). This company is CJIS compliant.	Roma PD/RMS Vendor	\$600 Gen Fund	Sept 2023
	Conduct Cybersecurity Assessment region wide	STDC	TBD	December 2023
Organization				
Equipment	Upgrade switches/servers	Laredo PD	\$50K/ Local	June 2023
Training	Cybersecurity Training	Laredo PD	n/a	Summer 2023
Exercises				

D. GOAL 3 - MITIGATE: MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF TERRORIST AND CRIMINAL ATTACKS AND NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS THROUGH PROACTIVE MITIGATION PLANNING AND PROGRAMS.

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OBJECTIVE 3.1: Use mitigation planning to reduce the threats disasters pose to people, property, and critical functions throughout the state.

Recent Accomplishments:

STDC

- Participated in Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meetings via Zoom.

Performance Measures:

1. Number of plans federally approved.
2. Number of plans developed.

<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	Develop mitigation plan for Jim Hogg and Webb County	Local	TBD	Dec 2023
Organization				
Equipment	Purchase generators for water plant and fire department	City of Roma	\$380K/DR 4586	December 2023
Training	Hold G-318 in Webb County and Jim Hogg County	STDC	None	Dec 2023
Exercises				

E. GOAL 4 - RESPOND: INCREASE THE CAPABILITY OF THE STATE'S RESPONSE SYSTEM TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE FROM TERRORIST AND CRIMINAL ATTACKS AND NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS.

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OBJECTIVE 4.1: Enhance the systems and organizational structures that coordinate and manage response operations to ensure unified, efficient effort.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Local jurisdictions continue to implement NIMS Training Local Policy and Procedure that delineates the local personnel that is to completed ICS courses
- First responder agencies track local personnel NIMS training using standard form
- EOC Management Training in Laredo, Texas
- Operation Lonestar, Laredo, TX, command structure was set up by City of Laredo Health Department in collaboration with local healthcare providers.

Performance Measures:

1. Number of first responders to have access to ICS Field Guides
2. Number of ICS trainings held in the region.
3. Number of ICS trainers added in the region.
4. Number of local personnel to obtain minimum IS 200 and IS 700 certificates
5. Number of local jurisdictions to exercise NIMS at the EOC level.

<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	Adoption of NIMS training P&P	Local jurisdictions	\$0	December 2023
Organization	Two (2) individuals to become certified ICS trainers	Local jurisdictions	\$2,000/ Local	December 2023
Equipment				
Training	Offer 1 ICS 300 and 1 ICS 400 to region	TDEM	TDEM, \$0	December 2023
	ICS 200 & 800 training for local personnel (other than FD and PD)	Local	Local, \$0	December 2023
Exercises	Use NIMS during local exercises	Local Jurisdictions	\$600, Local	December 2023

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	NIMS review and exercise with EOC staff for 50% of local jurisdictions	Local Jurisdictions	None	December 2023

OBJECTIVE 4.2: Build and maintain the response teams and qualified personnel essential to all-hazard response operations.

Recent Accomplishments:

Starr County

- Continuous Education in Hazardous Materials for all Starr County Fire Personnel participating in the La Casita VFD's Fire Academy #16
- Sent Starr County Fire Personnel to Pipeline Safety Classes
- Participated in Operation Lone Star- NOW Operation Border Health Preparedness in Starr County

Rio Grande City

- Local law and fire personnel not certified in hazmat attended Hazmat Classes held at the local STC Starr Campus.

Laredo PD

- LPD SWAT completed 6,300 proficiency and readiness training hours
- LPD SWAT responded to 12 critical incidents
- LPD Bomb Squad completed 24 days proficiency and readiness training
- LPD Bomb Squad responded to 8 hazardous device incidents
- LPD Bomb Squad participated in multi-agency airport disaster drill.
- Purchased tact robot for LPD SWAT

Laredo FD

- Completed ARFF Annual Qualification Course & Live Burns
- Held Rescue Operations Training for Rescue Team

Performance Measures:

1. Number of SWAT proficiency and training hours
2. Number of critical incidents SWAT responds to
3. Number of Bomb Squad proficiency and training hours.
4. Number of Bomb Squad responses to hazardous devices.
5. Number of Fire Personnel sent to La Casita VFD's Fire Academy.
6. Number of multi-agency exercises conducted.
7. Number of protective hazardous devices sweeps at public events
8. Number of calls where the Special Response Team was activated for Police Department incidents
9. Number of calls where the Special Response Team was activated for assistance to any other agency in the county
10. Number of calls where the Special Response Team was activated for assistance of agencies in the region
11. Number of ARFF Qualification Training completed.

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- 12. Number of Annual Fire Recertification hours completed.
- 13. Number of EMT/P for Medic personnel hours completed.

<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning				
Organization	Augment Bomb Squad	LPD		Summer 2023
Equipment	Purchase night vision	LPD/SWAT	\$48K/OOG	December 2023
	Purchase bomb suit	LPD/Bomb Squad	\$38K/OOG	January 2023
	Purchase 2 EOD units	LPD/Bomb Squad	\$111K/OOG	Spring 2023
Training	Annual Fire /ARFF Training	Region/Local		September 2023
Exercises				

OBJECTIVE 4.3: Achieve statewide communications operability and interoperability in Texas.

Recent Accomplishments:

Regional

- Replaced UPSs at 4 tower sites.
- Upgraded dispatch consoles at 4 dispatch centers.
- Added Channel Repeaters to Roma and Starr sites.
- Purchased the upgrade to ESL from T1.

City of Roma

- Purchased 2 APX 6500 mobile radios for 2 new police units
- Completed training for 5 communication officers
- Completed mobile data training for 14 patrol officers.

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- Purchased 2 APX 8500 All Band MP Mobiles
- Purchased 3 APX 8000 All Band Portables Model 2.5

Starr County S.O.

- Purchase of 50 APX 8000 P25 Dual Band portable radios
- Purchase of 50 APX 8500 P25 Dual Band mobile radios
- All communications equipment upgraded with encryption technology

City of Laredo PD

- Donated 3 Motorola 800mhz in-car radios to Laredo Int. Airport PD
- Coordinated with CBP Air & Marine to program their radios with LPD channels.
- Conducted airport disaster drill to test interoperability communications.

Performance Measures:

1. Number of satellite phones replaced.
2. Number of radio equipment upgraded or replaced.
3. Number of officers sent to communications training.
4. Number of monthly communications drills conducted.
5. Number of communications plans reviewed and updated.
6. Number of exercises participated or conducted testing interoperable communications.
7. Number of mobile in-car radio purchased
8. Number of multi-agency interoperability exercises
9. Number of MOUs with participating partners to expand interoperability communications
10. Number of LPD Real Time Crime Center enhancements for interoperability communications

<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	Review and update Regional SOPs	Police, Fire, EM, and STDC	N/A	Sept 2023
	Sign ILA with GATRRS and TXDOT	Jim Hogg, Zapata, Roma, and Starr County	n/a	March 2023
Organization				
Equipment	Fire Communications Equipment	Fire	\$41,899	January 2023
	Purchase 2 APX 6500 P25 mobile radios, purchase 5 APX 6000 P25 portable radios, convert radio system to a combined simulcast system with Starr County SO	Roma PD	Operational funds and HSSP	Sept 2023

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Training	Train 12 officers in mobile data, 6 communication officers in First Aid and regular training hours	Roma PD, Fire, and EM	n/a	Sept 2023
Exercises	Multi-agency exercise	Laredo PD	TBD-Local	Summer 2023
	Participate in 1 multi-agency tabletop exercise	Roma PD, Starr Co. SO, Roma Port of Entry, CBP, BP, DPS, and Mexican agencies	n/a	Sept 2023

OBJECTIVE 4.7: Ensure updated and validated emergency plans are in place at public agencies that provide vital services, and encourage such planning within private entities.

Recent Accomplishments:

- City of Roma- Advanced Level Emergency Operations Plan Approved
- City of La Grulla- update of Level Emergency Operations Plan
- Update of Regional Implementation Plan for 2022
- Update of regional interoperable communications SOPs

Performance Measures:

1. Number of Local Emergency Operations Plans reviewed and updated.
2. Number of Hazard Mitigation Plans approved.
3. Number of Regional Plans updated.

<u>Implementation Tasks</u>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	Update/Develop: -Hazard Mitigation Plans -Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Plan -Regional Comm. SOPs	COG/Local	COG, Local, PDM	December 2023
	Local Emergency Plan Updates	Local	Local- N/A	December 2023
Organization				

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Equipment				
Training	-Flood plain manager	N/A	None	September 2023
Exercises				

F. GOAL 5 - RECOVER: ENSURE RAPID, EFFECTIVE, AND COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY RECOVERY FOLLOWING TERRORIST OR CRIMINAL ATTACKS AND NATURAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS.

OBJECTIVE 5.2: Strengthen preparedness for whole community recovery through outreach programs, training, and exercise.

Recent Accomplishments:

City of Roma PD

- Held National Night Out event
- Held 14 Red Ribbon Week presentations
- Held 5 Career Day presentations
- Held 14 911 presentations

City of Roma FD

- Held Fire Prevention Awareness Month throughout schools/community events
- Held COVID Vaccine Drive
- Coordinated Opioid Response Team

Starr County

- Participated in Rio Grande City POE Tabletop Exercise
- Participated Roma POE Tabletop Exercise
- Held SOLO/Active Shooter Response Level 1 training

Webb County Fire Marshal's Office

- Hired Webb County Fire Marshal (August 2022)
- Established new department, Fire Marshal Office (October 2022)

Performance Measures:

1. Number of 911 presentations held.

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2. Number of Red Ribbon presentations held.
3. Number of career day presentations held.
4. Number of participants for National Night Out.
5. Number of inspections provided by department.
6. Number of investigations conducted by department.
7. Number of households reached through outreach programs, such as trainings for business personnel, school demos/presentations, and community fire alarm programs.
8. Number of events attended by Fire Prevention
9. Number of community events held.

<i>Implementation Tasks</i>				
Objective Number	Task(s)	Responsibility	Cost and Source	Completion Date
Planning	Development of MOU and SOPs for CERT response	CERT	n/a	December 2023
	Fee implementation	Webb County/ Fire Marshal's Office	\$0	June 2023
Organization	Increase volunteer force by 25 Increase trainer force by 10 including Spanish trainers	CERT	\$2,000, CERT (outreach)	December 2023
	Reorganize CERT Committee	CERT	n/a	December 2023
	Physically establishing department with personnel	Webb County/Fire Marshal's Office	\$0	April 2023
Equipment	Purchase of backpacks and response equipment	CERT	\$3,000 (HPP) \$2,000 (CERT)	December 2023
Training	1 CERT course	CERT	\$2000	December 2023
	1 CERT Trainer Course	CERT	\$500	December 2023
	14 Red Ribbon presentations & 14 911 presentations serving approx. 1400 students	Roma PD		Oct 2023
	5 career presentations serving approx. 800 students	Roma PD		Oct 2023
	Hold Active Shooter training with the private sector	Starr Co. SO	n/a	December 2023

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	Fire Inspection Principles	Fire Marshal's Office	\$0	February 2023
	Various Certification Trainings	Fire Marshal's Office	Dept. Funding	August 2023
Exercises	Participate in minimum one (1) local exercise	CERT	\$500	December 2023
	Hold National Night Out event serving approx. 600 people	Roma PD, Starr Co. SO, CBP, BP, DPS, Roma FD, Game Warden	n/a	September 2023