

# HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL SECURITY DISTRICT

## FACTS & BENEFITS

[hscsecurity.org](http://hscsecurity.org)

The Houston Ship Channel Security District (HSCSD) is a unique public-private partnership that further improves security and safety for facilities, employees and communities surrounding the Houston Ship Channel through increased preparedness and response capability. Proven modern technology and security infrastructure funded by Department of Homeland Security federal grants is being installed within the district. Assessments from district members will enhance the infrastructure, as well as improve maintenance and operations of the security network. Additionally, the HSCSD will improve specific security operations and processes.

The HSCSD expects improved response times from security professionals dedicated to the district. Specially trained Harris County Sheriff's Office personnel will use the improved infrastructure and associated equipment, such as marked patrol cars, patrol boats, and enhanced radio communication system. The district will establish a consolidated command and control process and improve access and communication between emergency agencies and plant personnel. The improved technology, equipment and processes will deliver more rapid response times and deter security threats.

Although intended to deter terrorism, the district also will deter theft and aid other security and safety issues. The processes and technology as well as the additional personnel and equipment can be applied during events, such as hurricanes, evacuations, or plant upsets. HSCSD plans will mitigate disruption of business and help district members recover and restore normal operations more quickly.

Projects and services apply to members within the HSCSD who have waterside and landside facilities, as well as associated supply chain and support industry surrounding the Houston Ship Channel community.

### Infrastructure improvements include:

- wireless and fiber optic-wired communications system that includes integrated analytics and intelligent video software
- surveillance and detection cameras of multiple styles and types, including closed-circuit TV
- night vision and motion detection technology
- land and water detection components such as radar, sonar, and security sensors
- enhanced radio communication

### Services include:

- routine security capability, such as marked patrol boats, patrol cars, all terrain vehicles
- improved rapid response times
- improved information sharing, alerts and notifications
- surveillance of security district geography without infringement on privacy
- a consolidated, multi-agency operational and strategic command and control emergency response structure

## PARTNERS



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### Security District members include:

East Harris County Manufacturers Association plant facilities; Maritime company facilities regulated by MTSA (Maritime Transportation Security Act); Port of Houston Authority; and Harris County.

### Member assessments categories:

Member assessments and contributions for MTSA-regulated facilities fall into six categories based on various criteria, including facility size. Annual assessment categories are: \$95,000; \$65,000; \$45,000; \$25,000; \$15,000; and \$5,000.

Member assessments and contributions for EHCMA facilities fall into nine categories based on various criteria, including number of employees. Annual assessment categories are: \$250,000; \$200,000; \$150,000; \$95,000; \$65,000; \$45,000; \$25,000; \$15,000; and \$5,000.

Exact assessment category recommendations can be found in the HSCSD Presentation online at [www.hscsecurity.com](http://www.hscsecurity.com)

### Partners include:

Harris County Judge's Office; Harris County Precinct 2; Harris County Sheriff's Office; TranStar partners – TxDOT, METRO and City of Houston; Houston Ship Channel Security Council; University of Houston; U.S. Coast Guard.

### Security District managed by member-dominated board:

The district will be managed by an 11-member board of directors, eight elected from manufacturing/maritime industry membership and three appointed members.

### Boundaries include:

The district boundaries encapsulate specific manufacturing and maritime members along the Houston Ship Channel and in associated industrial districts. Although potentially within boundaries, the following are some entities excluded from membership: residential property; most retail or service businesses; utilities.

### Miscellaneous:

The Houston Ship Channel region includes 40 percent of U.S. chemical refining capacity and 14 percent of U.S. crude refining capacity, including a significant amount of U.S. jet fuel capacity.

The Ship Channel region generates approximately \$120 billion annually in direct and indirect impact on the Texas economy. A shut down of the refining and chemical industry in this region would impact the nation, region, state and local economies. Texas economy alone could suffer a \$320 million per day impact from catastrophic business disruption in the Ship Channel region.

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