Protecting Harris County: A Unified Approach

Emergency Response: Current State

First responders, emergency managers, and support staff are bound by "All-Threats, All-Hazards, Always Ready" mission.

3 Key Recommendations to Protect Our Community

1 Implement a community monitoring strategy for air, surface water, and soil

2 Streamline information sharing between agencies and departments

3 Improve public notification and communications

➡ **Bottom line: Better, faster communication with partners and the public**

Key Finding: Data Quality Needs Improvement

FINDING	RECOMMENDATION
Errors in data from facilities reporting chemical inventory	Execute comprehensive analysis to better understand hazards and risks posed by different facilities
Local responders and planners need to know which facilities present the greatest hazard	Conduct site visits to identify top 20 facilities that have the largest quantities of the most hazardous chemicals
More recent data on the location of pipelines is needed to better analyze hazards and risks	Update data set with the most recent pipeline data to generate a new analysis and identify potential risks

Agencies and Roles During an Emergency

(HCOHSEM)
Overall responsibility for comprehensive emergency management; activates and staffs the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

(HCFMO)
HazMat, Disaster Response, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management Support

(HCPH)
Responsible for health implications during a chemical, nuclear, or radiological response

(HCPCS)
Ensure clean air, ground, and surface water by monitoring for and testing pollutants

(HCSO), Precinct 1-8 Constables
Perimeter control, lead in evacuations; HCSO utilizes aviation and marine unit to collect information for analysis

Highlights: What to Expect Going Forward

Streamlined communications: Standardized, streamlined, social-media-integrated websites; ReadyHarris.org as primary source of information during emergencies

Common operational picture: Greater ability to assess incoming environmental and health data quickly and use it to guide decisions

Professional development: Increased training for responders, support staff, agencies, and key communicators; improved understanding among individual agencies on the local authority with jurisdiction

Adequate staffing levels: Consider increasing the number of air/water/soil monitoring personnel, HazMat personnel, HCFMO inspectors, and trainers

Emerging technology: Potential use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for emergency survey and situational awareness

Improved code enforcement: Public education for builders, commercial facility partners, and local groups to ensure awareness of fire code