

# **Downtown Safety Forum**

**March 19, 2026**

**8:30 - 9:30**



# Today's Agenda

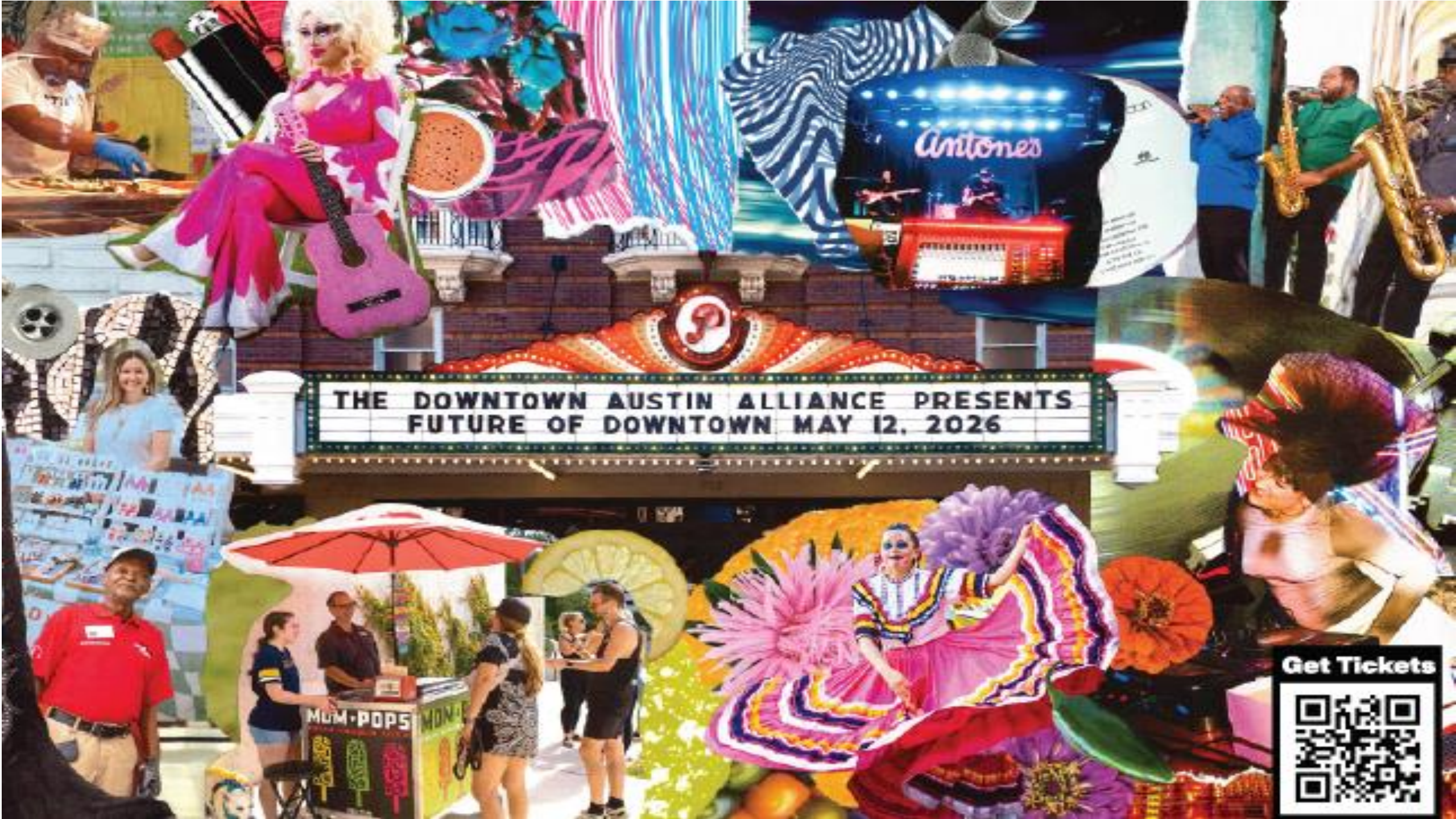
- Announcements
- Commander Chaudoir: APD Updates
- Jim Redick, Director, Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- Upcoming Conferences and Events
- Open Q&A



# ISSUES & EGGS

**WATERLOO GREENWAY -  
AUSTIN'S URBAN CONNECTOR**

March 31 • 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM  
Moody Amphitheater Waterloo Park



THE DOWNTOWN AUSTIN ALLIANCE PRESENTS  
FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN MAY 12, 2026

Get Tickets



—  
Austin Police  
Department

Commander  
Carey Chaudoir

[Carey.Chaudoir@austintexas.gov](mailto:Carey.Chaudoir@austintexas.gov)  
512-974-9004





# Austin Police – Downtown Area Command

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March 19, 2026

# Aftermath of the DTAC Mass Shooting



- Moment of Silence for Ryder, Savitha and Jorge
- 3/1/2026 – Mass Shooting in front of Buford’s
  - 3 deceased victims
  - 15 victims injured
  - Suspect deceased
    - OIS involving 3 APD Officers
- APD/EMS responded within 57 seconds on scene
- FBI Lead Investigating Agency
- CAST/MED
- APD & FBI Victim Service Counselors made available the week following the incident
- Debrief with Buford’s Staff – provided Victim Service Counselors
- Debriefed with APD Officers
  - Peer Support
  - Mental Health Leave
  - Ongoing Wellness support as needed

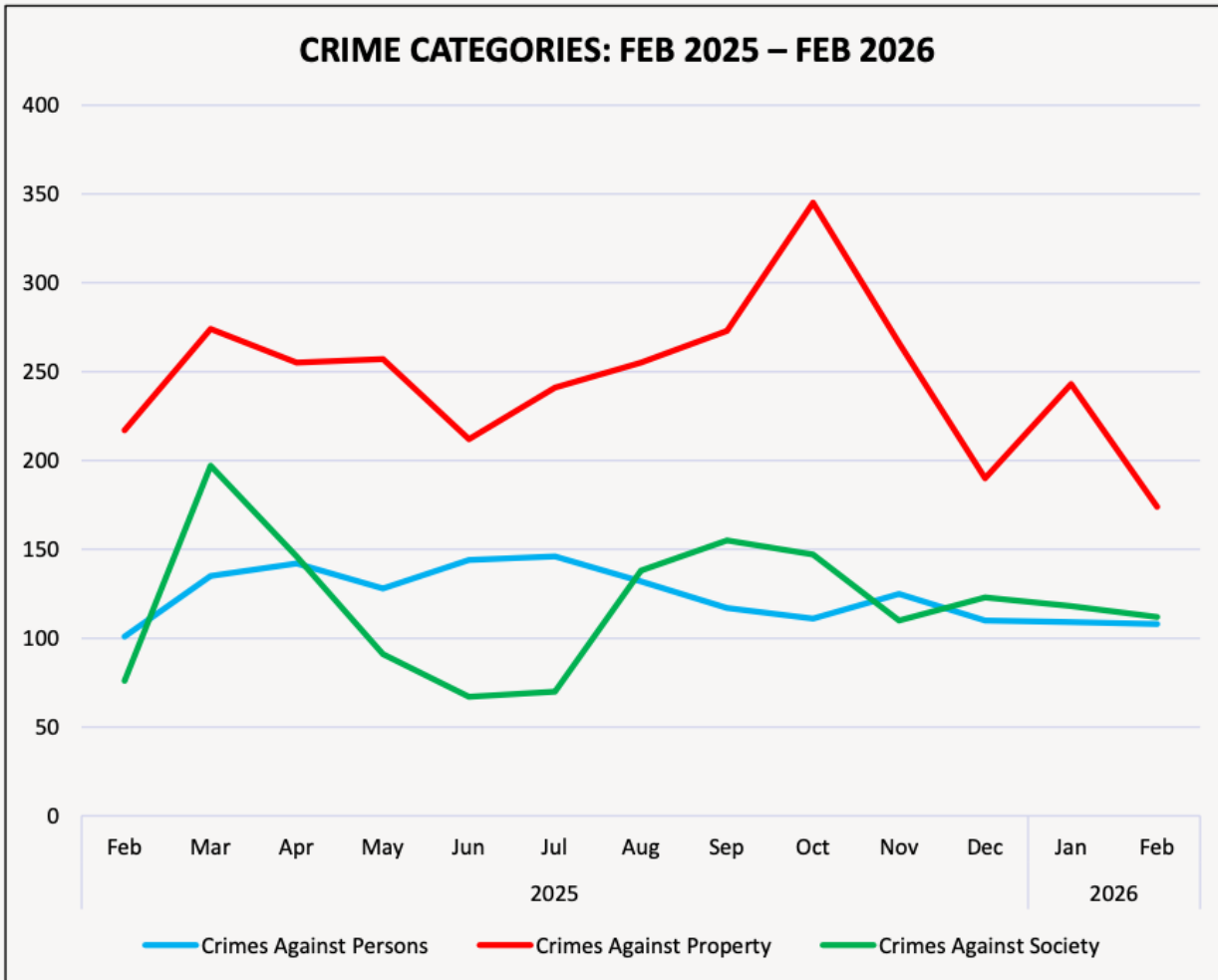


# **Downtown Crime Data: Feb 2025 – Feb 2026**

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Austin Police | March 19, 2026

# Overview: February 2025 – February 2026



**DURING FEBRUARY 2025 – FEBRUARY 2026**

**A little over half** of reported activity in George are Crimes Against Property.

- Data trends as expected across all categories
- Data for February 2026 remains steady and/or is lower than February 2025
- Crimes Against Society peak in March 2025 (likely SXSW)
  - This will likely trend similarly in March 2026
  - The “spike” is likely reflecting an increase in proactive enforcement
- Crimes Against Property peak in October 2025
  - Large increase in Pocket Picking from Halloween weekend

Crimes Against Society are of note, especially beginning in August 2025. An increase in targeted and focused enforcement in this regard is in place and leads to an increase in reports of activity.

## CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS: FEBRUARY 2025 – FEBRUARY 2026

### TOP 3 CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

*Simple Assault*

*Intimidation*

*Aggravated Assault*

Simple Assaults account for **roughly 65%** of all reported Crimes Against Persons.

Intimidations account for a **little over 20%** of all reported Crimes Against Persons.

Aggravated Assaults are **about 7%** of all reported Crimes Against Persons.

Simple Assault and Intimidation rates remain steady across the observed date range. Aggravated Assaults occur less frequently and are not consistent month-to-month.

Unless an officer witnesses a Simple Assault, they are often reported after-the-fact; limitations to investigations.

“Hot” areas are the Republic Square Park area and the general E 5th – E 8th / San Jacinto St – Red River St area.

*In addition, it is worth considering the potential for temporal fluctuations across overall activity with several downtown- and city-wide events occurring (e.g., Football, Levitation Music Festival, ACL, Formula 1, Halloween, etc.)*

## CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY: FEBRUARY 2025 – FEBRUARY 2026

### TOP 3 CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

*Theft: All Other Larceny*

*Pocket Picking*

*Destruction / Damage / Vandalism of Property*

Theft: All Other Larceny account for **about 30%** of all reported Crimes Against Property.

Pocket Picking account for **roughly 20%** of all reported Crimes Against Property.

Destruction are **about 15%** of all reported Crimes Against Property.

Data indicates that activity, overall, has remained relative. Pocket Picking is observed to have peaked in October 2025, which is consistent with the spike in activity during Halloween weekend; an additional peak is observed in January 2026 and is likely attributed to the “Free Week” music festival.

Increased Crimes Against Property activity may be observed in the later months of the year due to seasonal events and/or holidays (i.e., increased presence of people **may** lead to increased opportunity for crime to occur)

“Hot” areas generally surround the entertainment areas – increased persons, vehicles, and overall presence in these areas is common.

# CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY: FEBRUARY 2025 – FEBRUARY 2026

## TOP 3 CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

*Drug / Narcotic Violations\**

*Drug Equipment Violations\**

*Weapon Law Violations*

Narcotic Violations account for **over half** of all reported Crimes Against Society.

Drug Equipment Violations account for **roughly 45%** of all reported Crimes Against Society.

Weapon Law Violations are **about 8%** of all reported Crimes Against Society.

Crimes Against Society are of note in downtown. Several operations and focused efforts among Patrol, Investigative, and specialized units were deployed in 2025 and/or are still in place targeting **proactive and increased enforcement** – resulting in increased reports for Crimes Against Society.

In addition, it is worth considering the potential for temporal fluctuations across overall activity with several downtown- and city-wide events occurring (e.g., Football, Levitation Music Festival, ACL, Formula 1, Halloween, etc.). These types of events are especially relevant with consideration to drug activity. Large events typically lead to increased law enforcement presence which inherently leads to an increase in reporting. **This is especially relevant during SXSW.**

# Event Summary of SXSW 2026



- DTAC had appropriate staffing for this event, to include: east Sixth, west Sixth
  - SRT actively patrolled and made numerous arrests for minor misdemeanors in order to prevent more serious incidents
  - DPS Troopers patrolled on west side of DTAC on weekend
  - CAST teams were in place in all four quadrants of DTAC during entirety of the event
- Significant number of anti-vehicle borne attack barriers were in place to protect dense pedestrian populations
- Sound enforcement, Right of Way enforcement, Public Health, Code Enforcement, Fire Marshals and APD conducted numerous safety checks and enforcement actions related to their various areas of enforcement responsibilities throughout the event
- No incidents during this period had a negative impact on events, businesses, or tourists visiting downtown
- DAA was fully supportive of helping APD get set up for our satellite office at 408 E 6<sup>th</sup>.

# Weekend after SXSW & Future Deployments



- DTAC has an Event Action Plan in place for the next weekend which includes sufficient patrol and SRT staffing, west Sixth street staffing
- Public Safety Zone activation on Rio Grande Friday thru Sunday\*
- Public Safety Zone activation at 600 Neches Friday thru Sunday\*
- Satellite office will be in use again to support the staffing resources deployed downtown\*
- There are no indicators of violence or threats to the public specific this weekend
- DTAC will deploy the anti-vehicle borne attack barriers for this weekend to further protect high density pedestrian areas\*
- Prioritizing more visibility for all entertainment areas on weekend (E 6<sup>th</sup>, W 6<sup>th</sup>, Rainey & 4<sup>th</sup>)

# DTAC Highlights



- HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR DTAC STAKEHOLDERS
  - For checking in on our officers after the mass shooting
  - Providing food, treats, etc. after mass shooting and during SXSW
- Mounted Patrol
  - In addition to seeing them in the downtown areas – they will also be assisting through our city parks
- DARRT - Non-compliant Entertainment Establishments & Pocket Picking
- Public Order Team – Continues to be proactive in the alleyways, Congress Ave., Republic Square Park and Brush Square Park
- Staffing – DTAC will have another draft and continue this after every graduating cadet class to upstaff our personnel downtown.

# THANK YOU

Commander Carey Chaudoir  
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City of Austin

Office of Homeland  
Security & Emergency  
Management

Jim Redick - Director



# Downtown Safety Forum

- **SXSW**
- **West 6<sup>th</sup> Street Shooting**
  - Survivor Resources
  - Potential SBA Resources
- **Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Division**

- **Critical Infrastructure Engagement**
  - Engage with more private sector partners
  - **Expand promotion of the ILO Program**
  - **Conduct more webinars/workshops for ILOs**
  - Expand the CIPP social media presence
  - Improve Communities of Interest on HSIN
  - **Launch the Mil-Gov CIP Working Group**

## ▶ Critical Infrastructure Protection Program

- Hiring boards completed for eight new positions
- 2 Critical Infrastructure Physical Security TTXs in 2025
- Texas Critical Infrastructure Protection Task Force
  - 4 Meetings in 2025 → 4 planned for 2026
- Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC)
  - 4 meetings in 2025 → 4 planned for 2026
  - Next meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> at AT&T Stadium in Arlington

# Business Resources



<https://www.ready.gov/business>

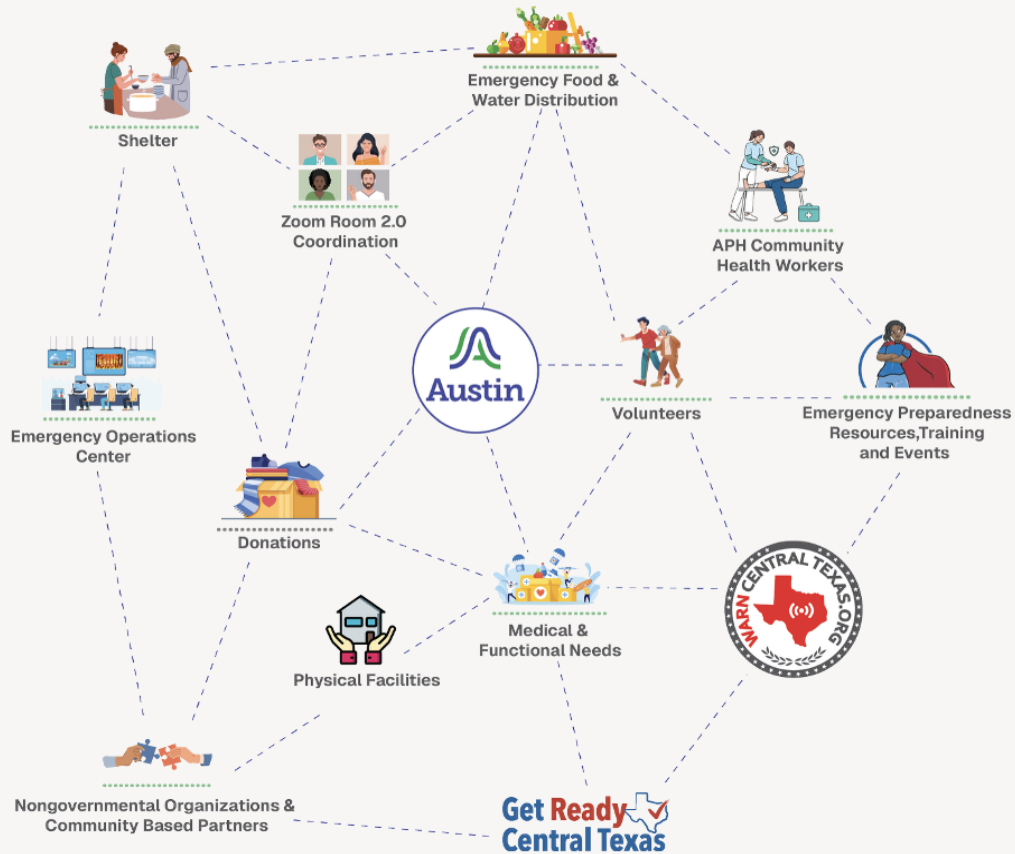


<https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/prepare>

# Austin Resilience Network (ARN)

“A network of city and community resources that equitably empower individuals to prepare for, endure, and bounce back stronger from community-wide shocks, stressors, and emergencies.”

- Collaborative & community led
- Complex solutions for complex disasters
- Framework for strategic partnerships
- Empower organizations & community members



# THANK YOU!

Jim Redick, MPA, CEM  
Director, Austin Emergency Management  
[Jim.redick@austintexas.gov](mailto:Jim.redick@austintexas.gov)

# Upcoming Events

## March

- March 13–28 / Rodeo Austin @ Travis County Expo Center
- March 23–26 / Staffing Industry Analysts Executive Forum @ JW Marriott (1,200 attendees)
- March 27–29 / MotoGP Red Bull Grand Prix @ Circuit of the Americas
- March 28–29 / Austin Junior Volleyball @ Palmer Events Center (3,000 attendees)

## April

- April 4–9 / AbbVie National Sales Meeting @ Fairmont Austin (500 attendees)
- April 4–6 / ESO Solutions @ JW Marriott (1,300 attendees)
- April 8–19 / Moontower Comedy Festival @ Paramount Theatre
- April 10–14 / Clarion Events Global @ Fairmont Austin (500 attendees)
- April 11 / ABC Kite Fest @ Zilker Park
- April 12 / Capitol 10K @ Downtown Austin
- April 13–19 / Fusebox Festival @ Various Locations
- April 14–18 / Intuitive Surgical @ Austin Marriott, JW Marriott, & Fairmont Austin (1,700 attendees)
- April 14–23 / Association of Home Office Underwriters @ JW Marriott (900 attendees)
- April 17–19 / Austin Reggae Fest @ Auditorium Shores
- April 23–28 / Healthcare Financial Management Association @ JW Marriott (550 attendees)
- April 25–26 / Austin Blues Festival @ Moody Amphitheater
- April 27–May 3 / American College of Mohs Surgery @ JW Marriott (1,100 attendees)

# Open Q&A

**Downtown Safety Forum**  
**8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 16, 2026**  
**(via Zoom)**