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# E-ISAC

ELECTRICITY  
INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER



# TEXAS RE

## GridEx Planning

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**February 11, 2025**

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**Notice of this meeting was posted on the Texas RE website and this meeting is being held in public. Participants should keep in mind that the listening audience may include members of the press, representatives from various governmental authorities, and industry stakeholders.**



# Upcoming Texas RE Events



talk with  
TEXASRE

February 27, 2025

Small Modular  
Nuclear Reactors



talk with  
TEXASRE

March 11, 2025

Protection  
Systems and IBRs



talk with  
TEXASRE

March 18, 2025

Physical Security





# Upcoming Texas RE Events



February 19, 2025

Q1 MRC, AGR&F, and  
Board Meetings



April 23, 2025

Spring Standards,  
Security, &  
Reliability  
Workshop



July 16, 2025

Evolving Grid  
Workshop



# Upcoming ERO Enterprise Events

## NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION



Date	Event
February 25-26	<u>Spring Reliability &amp; Security Seminar (SERC)</u>
February 25-26	<u>Grid Fundamentals</u>
March 4	<u>2025 Women's Leadership Conference (MRO)</u>
March 25-27	<u>Physical Security Workshop</u>
March 25-27	<u>Reliability &amp; Security Workshop</u>



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# GridEx VIII Primer and Preview

Jesse Sythe – E-ISAC GridEx Program Manager

TLP:CLEAR

**RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY**







Planner registration is open  
at: <https://www.eisac.com/s/register-for-gridex>



GridEx is a biennial grid security exercise hosted by the E-ISAC to provide E-ISAC member and partner organizations the opportunity to practice response and recovery from coordinated cyber and physical security threats and incidents.

The first GridEx was hosted in 2011 and have taken place every other year since.

GridEx is designed for:



Electricity asset owners and operators



Critical infrastructure partners



Emergency management agencies



State/provincial, local, and tribal governments



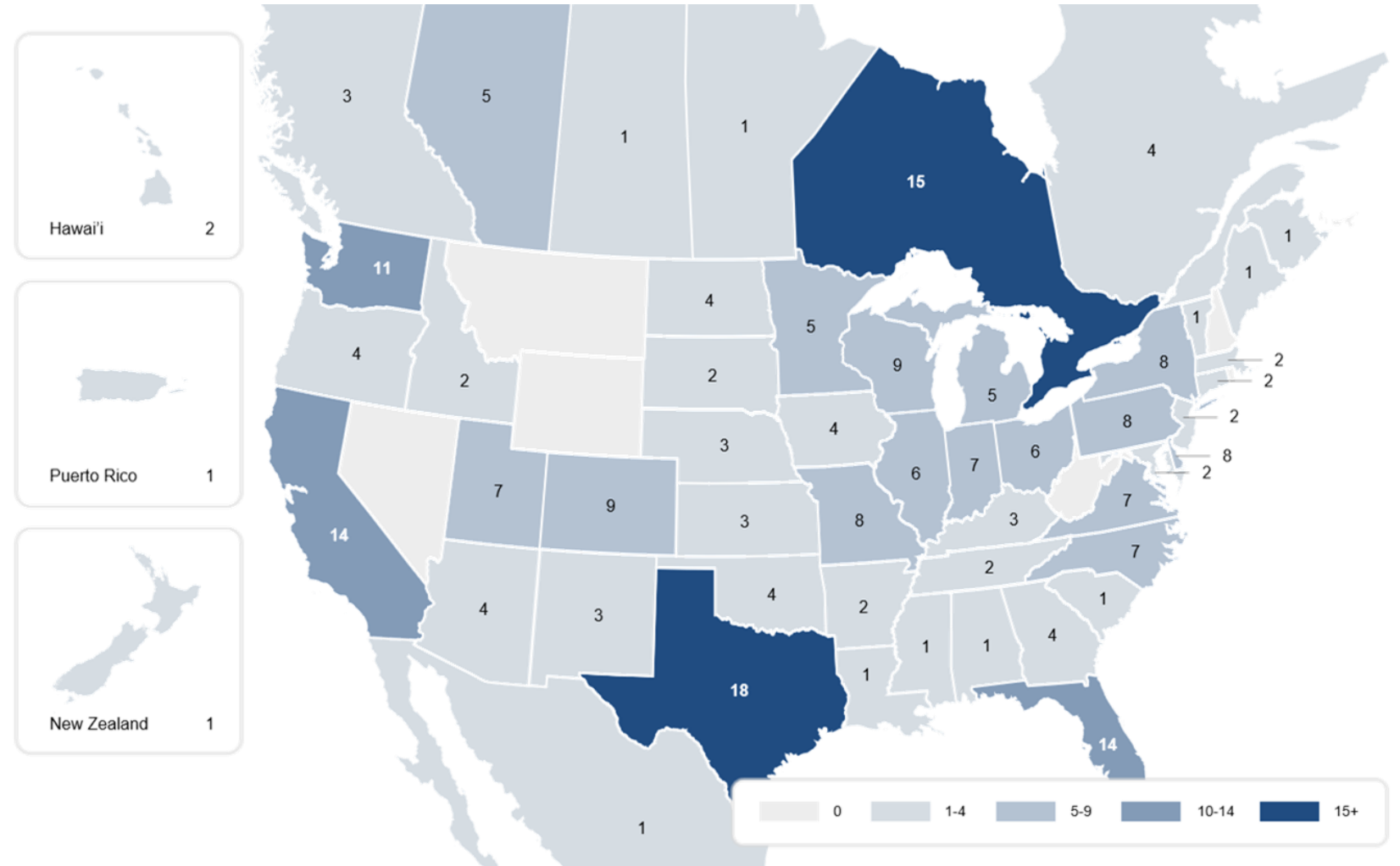
Law enforcement agencies



And more!

GridEx is a **Distributed Play** exercise. The E-ISAC's GridEx Planning Team develops core exercise materials, which local Planners across North America use to design and conduct their own exercises for their organizations.

GridEx VII (right) had participants in four countries.





Distributed Play exercises happen using different instances of the GridEx scenario across North America.

Participants coordinate with others in their region to simulate a real-world emergency.





## GridEx VII Distributed Play Observations and Recommendations

- Non-federal government partners and electric utilities should advance coordination efforts
- Communications and response in a hybrid work environment should be further refined
- Response planning should be augmented to ensure comprehension of technical information across functional teams and external response partners
- The E-ISAC should continue to evolve its support for planners from organizations of varying sizes and with different levels of experience
- Cyber and technical components of the GridEx scenario should continue to be developed and expanded for future iterations of GridEx

Read more in the [GridEx VII Public Report](#)

Leading up to exercise conduct in November 2025, the E-ISAC will support Planners with the following:

- Managing the exercise registration process for Planners – if you need assistance registering, please email us at [GridEx@eisac.com](mailto:GridEx@eisac.com)
- Facilitating a series of Planning Meetings and training webinars to prepare Planners for November
- Developing the scenario and supporting tools with teams of industry subject matter experts
- Hosting a social media simulation website that allows Planners to build detailed social media environments for their public information and intelligence/investigations players
- Providing participant feedback surveys following the event

The E-ISAC provides a variety of resources to help Planners design and manage their exercise. **The number one location for all these resources is the GridEx VIII Planner Resources Site.**

Materials on the Planner Resources Site include:

- Planner Directory
- Planner Checklist and FAQs
- Planning Meeting and Training Webinar Materials
- Scenario Narrative (*soon*)
- MSEL (*soon*)
- Inject Supporting Materials (*soon*)
- Exercise Evaluation Materials (*soon*)



## GridEx VIII Planner Resources

+ New ▾

↑ Upload ▾

📊 Edit in grid view

🔄 Sync



### Documents



Name ▾

Modified ▾



01. Planning Meeting Materials

August 8



02. Training Webinar Materials

August 8



03. Exercise Materials

August 12



GridEx VIII Planner Directory TLP\_CLEAR.xlsx

December 18

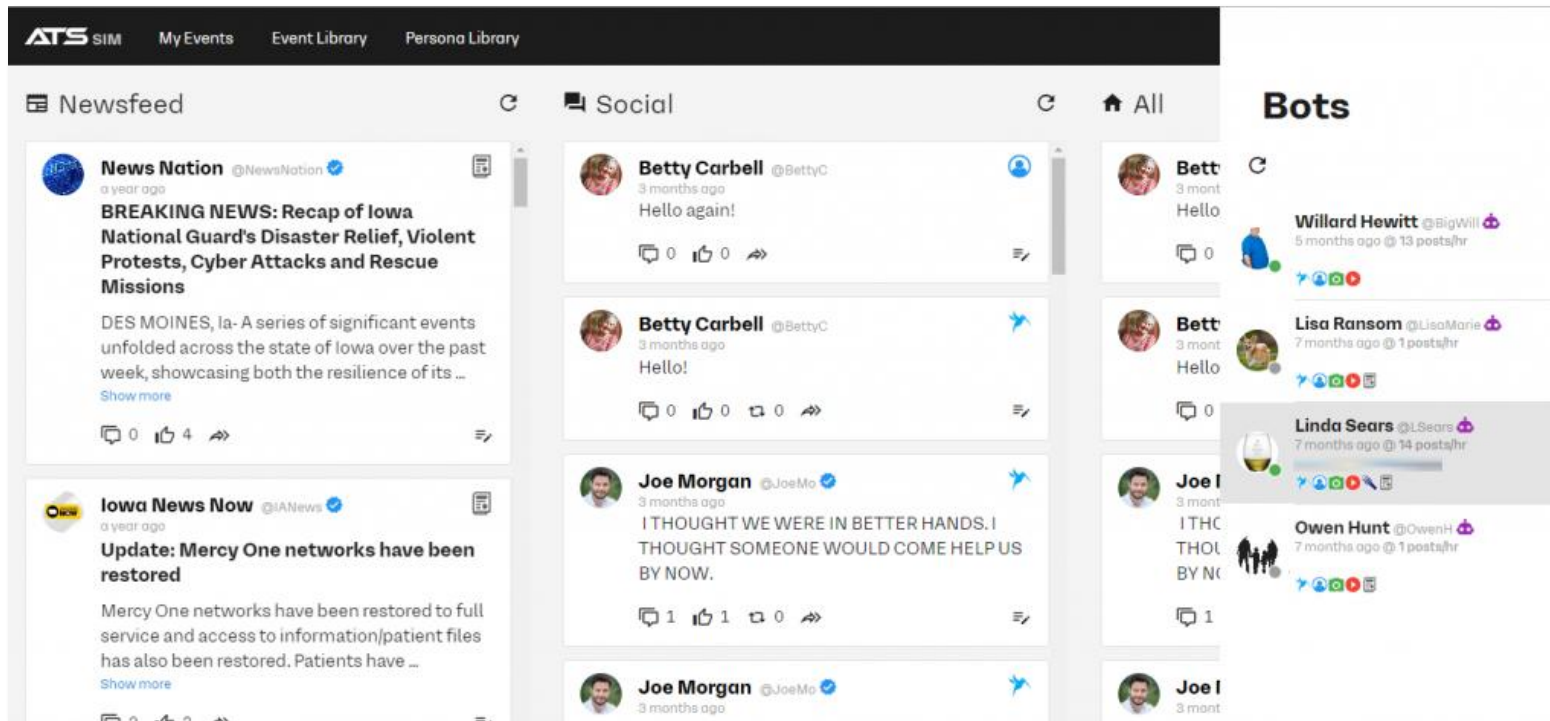
**All registered Lead Planners and Planners will have access to the Planner Resources Site.**

After registration, expect an email within two business days from a hagertyconsulting.com domain name with a link to a Microsoft SharePoint Site.

If you cannot access the Planner Resources Site, please email [GridEx@eisac.com](mailto:GridEx@eisac.com) for assistance.



The E-ISAC will be using ATSSim Media as the new social media and news simulation tool for GridEx VIII, the new tool will provide Planners the ability to add a level of realism to GridEx play.

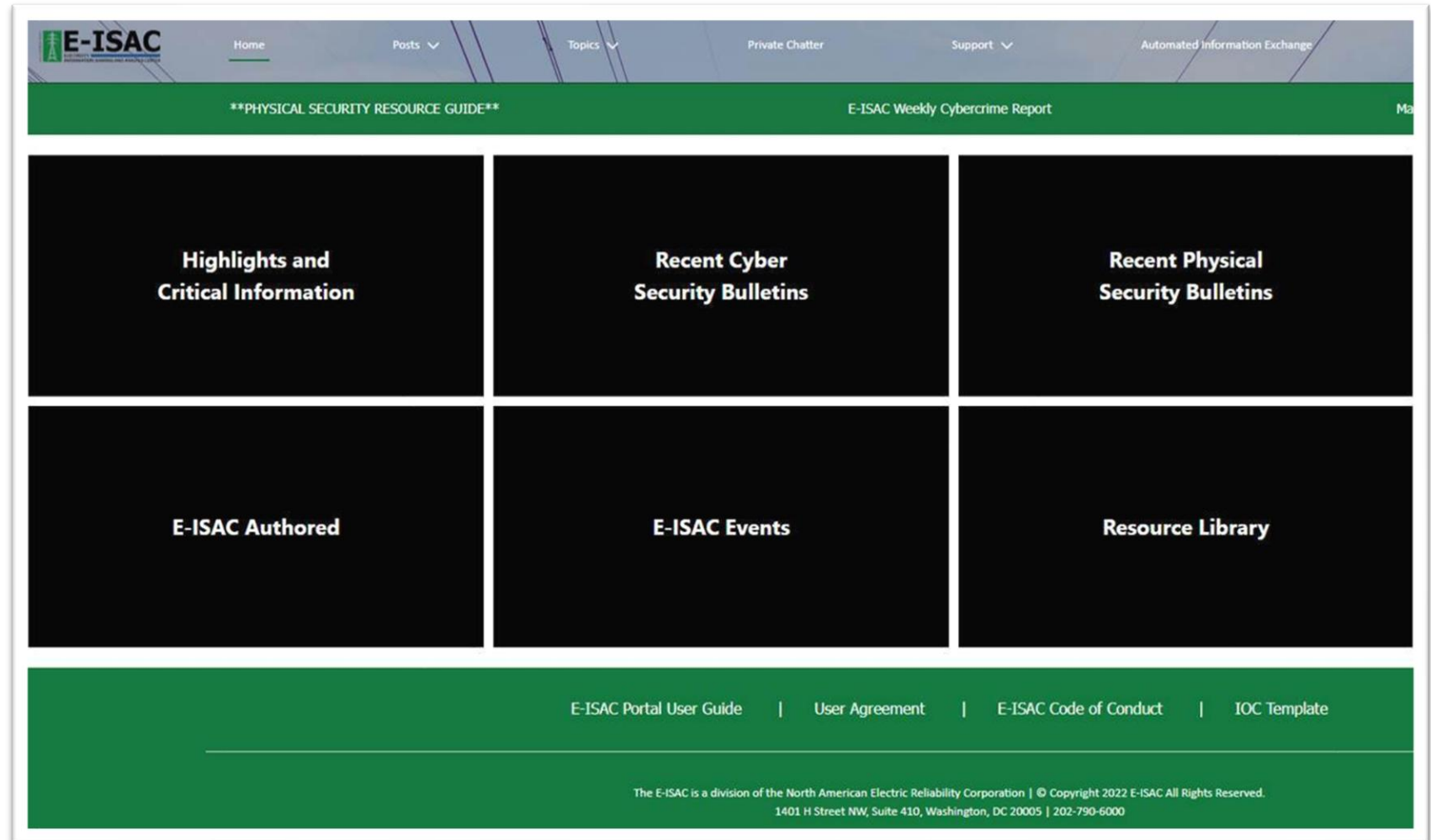


The GridEx VIII Planning Team will share more information about ATSSim Media during the April GridEx training webinar.

The E-ISAC Portal provides:

- Incident Bulletins
- Security Briefings
- Reports and White Papers
- Opportunities to Connect

Players who use the E-ISAC Portal during their day-to-day work will have access to the Exercise Portal during GridEx.





This year, GridEx is going to be even easier to tailor to your organization's unique needs and resources. The E-ISAC is excited to introduce three different options for participation in GridEx VIII:

## STANDARD SCENARIO

- Default GridEx experience
- Move Zero in the week leading up to the exercise
- 2-day full-scale exercise
- Cyber and physical attack scenario unfolding in real-time
- Extra focus on recovery to end the exercise
- Engage all aspects of organizational response
- Partner with external organizations
- Enhance your exercise with media and social media simulation
- Access to the Exercise E-ISAC Portal

## GRIDEX IN A BOX

- 2-day functional exercise
- Abbreviated scenarios customized for smaller planning teams
  - Cyber-focused scenario
  - Physical-focused scenario
- Specialized Exercise Plan designed for staging a real-time exercise on limited resources
- Aligns with the Standard Scenario, enabling external engagement
- Media and social media simulation
- Access to the Exercise E-ISAC Portal

## TABLETOP SCENARIO

- 1-day Discussion-based Tabletop Exercise
- Designed to be “Plug and Play”
- Facilitator guide and slide deck, enabling a single person to deliver a challenging exercise
- Engage internal and external partners in a broad discussion
- In-person or remote

The GridEx VIII training webinar series includes seven webinars, six for Planners and one for Players.

Training webinars are a great way to learn tips and tricks and hear Planner testimonials.

- 1 GridEx 101 | *Completed*
- 2 Securing Participation in GridEx | February 19, 2025
- 3 New and Improved GridEx MSEs | *March 25, 2025*
- 4 Planner Tools | *April 2025*
- 5 Inject Supporting Material | *May 2025*
- 6 GridEx Last Steps and Q&A | *June 2025*
- 7 GridEx for Players | *September 2025*



**Earning  
Leadership  
Buy-in**



**Building a  
Planning Team**



**Assign Planning  
Team Roles**



**Recruiting  
Internal  
Partners**



**Engaging  
External  
Partners**





- **Register and identify your team.** Ensure all Planners are registered for GridEx VIII and can access the GridEx VIII Planner Resources Site. Please contact [GridEx@eisac.com](mailto:GridEx@eisac.com) if you have trouble accessing the site.
- **Develop organizational objectives** based on past incidents and exercises.
- **Connect with local partners.** Use the GridEx VIII Planner Directory to identify local partners and encourage exercise participation.
- **Review the Planner Newsletters.** Gain further information regarding past and upcoming events as well as helpful tips and tricks in the monthly GridEx VIII Newsletter. Please reach out if you have not received these newsletters.

## Upcoming Events

- Training Webinar: **Securing Internal and External Participation** – February 19, 2025
- **Midterm Planning Meeting (MPM)** – February 25, 2025
- Training Webinar: **New and Improved GridEx MSELs** – March 25, 2025





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**Questions?**

[GridEx@eisac.com](mailto:GridEx@eisac.com)

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