

This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. This issue highlights advances in

- Developing a software program to model effects of disease outbreaks on continuity of operations
- Inserting technology to improve security at the 2010 Olympics
- Interconnecting emergency operations centers in the region
- Developing a credentialing technology with stakeholder support
- Teaming with public health to develop new bioassays
- Briefing Washington State emergency response policy groups on regional efforts
- Ensuring success of the Regional Technology Integration efforts.

Seattle Provides Critical Data to New COOP Model

PNNL researchers James Campbell and Robert Brigantic are developing a unique software program to model effects of pandemic disease outbreaks on continuity of operations (COOP) and have been reaching out to the region to collect important data. The program uses incidence data from epidemiological models to enable decision makers to predict precisely when their key operational objectives will fail under the specific conditions of an outbreak such as avian flu. The developers met the end of March with Dr. Peter Houck, Seattle Medical Quarantine Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Heather Hasting, Officer in Charge of the Seattle-Tacoma Airport for Quarantine. JD Malone (PNNL's infectious diseases doctor) and Campbell also met with Jeff Duchin, Chief of Infection Control for the Seattle-King County Public Health Department) and Romesh Gautam, Director of the Department of Health Public Health Laboratories in Seattle, to gain critical input parameters related to infectious diseases and laboratory interactions, respectively. They also met with representatives of the airport police to learn more about the security aspects of a pandemic flu event that incorporates quarantine activities.

The project is currently in the information gathering stage, but the researchers plan to work closely with regional authorities in coming months to develop, test, and validate the model. Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories are also participating in the effort.

Seattle Proposed for Technology Insertion Related to the 2010 Olympics

S&T has proposed a Technology Insertion Project for the Seattle Urban Area to support the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia. Under the proposal, federal, state, and local entities would work together to develop a fully integrated communications system with near-real time situational awareness and a common operating picture in time to deploy for the Olympics. The project would connect operations centers, intelligence fusion centers, and other incident command elements and includes conduct of operations plans, protocols, and standards as well as training and exercises. Development, testing, and validation is set to integrate with the 2010 Olympics security exercise schedule. The system will form the cornerstone for regional collaboration and provide a template that can be applied to federal, state, and local agencies and private industry across the U.S. to speed technology integration in emergency response.

