



Around the Region in Homeland Security March 2008

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest. This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.

This issue highlights

- A regional program to help ensure security of nuclear materials
- A pilot on integrated communications architecture
- Progress on a maritime pilot for radiation detection on small vessels
- An effort to model movement of contaminants in aquatic environments.

Regional Program Helps Ensure Nuclear Security

PNNL's Global Threat Reduction Program (GTRP) has begun working in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Radiation Protection to address the potential risk posed by radioactive sources and commercial nuclear materials located in the Pacific Northwest. The concern is that such sources and materials, in the wrong hands, could be used for malevolent purposes to assemble a radiological dispersal device (RDD) or improvised nuclear device (IND).

The GTRP is funded by the National Nuclear Security Administration and directly supports that agency's Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI). A key programmatic element of GTRI focuses specifically on reducing the risk posed by radioactive sources and commercial nuclear materials located within the United States. The types of sources and materials are widely varied and can include those used in medical, educational, research, and commercial applications.

The GTRI efforts are closely coordinated with those of the National Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear

