



Around the Region in Homeland Security May/June 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 newsletter summarizes activities related to homeland security activities affecting the Pacific Northwest.

This issue highlights

- An agreement among Western states to partner with Northwest national laboratories
- The need to communicate the results of a maritime protection project
- Interdependences in maritime commerce and infrastructure
- Stakeholder recommendations for the Regional Technology Integration Project
- Including private property owners in restoration and recovery efforts.

States Endorse Concept of Partnering with National Laboratories

Across the nation, state agencies face challenges in homeland security, from choosing the right instrument to detect chemicals and radiation to raising awareness among staff on how to detect and respond to biological and explosive threats. Some challenges are so complex they can only be met by developing new technology and pushing the bounds of science. The stakes, and public expectations, are high, yet state budgets grow ever tighter and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants are becoming more competitive.

Ten western states and the Territory of Guam may have found the answer: partner with the regional national laboratories. Adjutant Generals, State Emergency Management Directors, the State Directors of Public Health, and the State Patrol Chiefs from Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Guam met on May 28 in Richland, Washington, to consider how a partnership of multiple states, teamed with national laboratories, could strengthen the collaboration with DHS and better ensure the security of the states. South Dakota has also indicated an interest in participating in the process. The Director of the DHS Domestic Nuclear

