



Around The Region In Homeland Security July 2009

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, and this issue highlights

- Radiation/nuclear detection for the 2010 Winter Olympics
- Social networking and emergency management
- Waste disposal workshops
- How Montana is using interdependencies to become more resilient.

Radiation/Nuclear Detection for the 2010 Winter Olympics

The U.S Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) has offered its support to upcoming special events in the Pacific Northwest. DNDO's Mobile Detection Deployment Program (MDDP), also known as the "surge" package, bridges gaps in radiation and nuclear detection capabilities during high-risk events by providing federal, state, and local authorities with an equipment package to augment incident response teams. This surge package, which is housed in the pictured trailer, includes specialized mobile radiation/nuclear detection equipment. DNDO pays the costs for deploying the equipment; the host agencies cover the time to train staff to use the equipment and to deploy staff at events. The surge package has been successfully deployed at the Daytona 500 and both recent national political party conventions.



The surge package will be used to support the World Police and Fire Games in British Columbia July 31 to August 9, 2009. These games have received the highest rating (SEAR-I) on the Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) scale. The rating allows DNDO to deploy the surge package.

The Washington National Guard's 10th Civil Support Team (CST) will be joining the regional U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Radiation Assistance Program (RAP) Team from Richland, Washington, in being trained on the use of the equipment. The surge package will also be deployed in support of the 2010 Olympics in British Columbia next February and the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in March. Both events are rated SEAR-I.

IBRD Program Explores Social Networking Tools for Emergency Management and Waste Disposal Following a Biological Event

The Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration Project (IBRD), a joint DHS and Department of Defense program looking at long-term recovery from an aerosol attack of a biological agent, is exploring the use of social networking tools for emergency management and the challenges of waste disposal following a biological event.

Social networking tools are already being used by various agencies across the nation for training, communication, and situation awareness. In the next few months, a core planning group representing the City of Seattle, Pierce County, the Port of Tacoma, King County, and the NWRTC will determine specific goals, desired outcomes, possible formats, and potential venues to hold a workshop to consider using these tools for emergency management in the region. If you would like to provide input or participate in the workshop, contact Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnl.gov or 206-528-3223.



The IBRD program is also teaming with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters to evaluate the environmental cleanup and disposal challenges to the federal, state, and local response communities in the event of a wide-area biological event. The disposal of waste following such an incident will be an important component of the overall response timeline and will require an extraordinary level of effort on the part of the public and private sector stakeholders.

The response activities following a wide-area biological attack will generate large quantities of waste, which will require proper transportation and disposal. The waste streams will be highly variable, ranging from building contents (e.g., carpets, wallboard, and electronics) to contaminated water and sludge used in cleanup. Wastes derived from a wide-area biological attack may be classified in several categories (e.g., uncontaminated waste, verified treated waste, and unverified treated waste). Understanding the disposal issues inherent to each of these categories will be critical in developing plans to address biological events. Workshops with both public and private sector representatives are planned for October 2009.

Montana Using Interdependencies to Become a More Resilient State

The Montana Infrastructure Protection Alliance sponsored a workshop May 27 - 29, 2009, to help state agencies ensure that Montana is safe, secure, and resilient. The over 100 attendees included staff from agricultural, educational, environmental, financial, forestry, health and safety, human services, law enforcement, military, power, and transportation organizations. The conference addressed goals and issues of interoperability, the need to identify and protect critical infrastructure, risks and threats identified for the area, and how the state could progress toward a more resilient infrastructure.

One of the programs discussed at the conference was Interoperability Montana, a group of state and local agencies that have banded together to form a locally led association of governments. Interoperability Montana is a legal entity registered with the Montana Secretary of State and is a sub-grantee for DHS grant funds. With an executive director, radio system administrator, and three project managements, the association is supported by the state of Montana's Public Safety Services Bureau. The goals of Interoperability Montana are to:



- Implement a statewide communication system
- Improve operability and interoperability
- Enhance voice/data capabilities in rural areas.

For more information on the association, see <http://interop.mt.gov/default.mcp.x>.

Counter Surveillance Technology Being Piloted in Northwest

TrapWire,® a counter surveillance technology designed to capture information on suspicious behaviors that could signal surveillance of a facility or infrastructure will be piloted in the coming months at several dams in the Northwest, an international airport, and a neighborhood of office buildings. The technology collects key information without gathering personally protected information. The pilots will assess the utility of the technology for various infrastructure types, identify use and insertion challenges, and determine areas where additional capability would be beneficial.

The results of the pilots will be shared with the 11 states and Guam making up the Northwest Region as the effort progresses in the hope that a successful round of pilots can lead to accelerated deployment in the region.

NWRTC Welcomes a New Member to the Leadership Team



Bringing a national perspective to the region is new Deputy Director Ryan Eddy, who joined PNNL in February. During his 7 years in Washington, D.C., Ryan served as the Senior Policy Advisor to the Presidentially appointed director of DNDO. He was also the Confidential Assistant to the Director for the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President.

He began his career working for the Office of the Governor of Arizona for nearly 4 years. Ryan earned a Bachelor's degree in political science from Arizona State University, with a concentration in international relations and national security.

Upcoming Events

July 12-16, 2009

Pacific Northwest Economic Region Annual Summit

Boise Convention Center, Idaho

July 14-16, 2009

Homeland Defense Homeland Security Capabilities Forum

NORTHCOM, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

July 31-August 9, 2009

World Police and Fire Games

Vancouver and other locations, British Columbia, Canada

Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly report from the Northwest Regional Technology Center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The goal of the NWRTC is to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security issues and provide a collaborative environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and challenges. For more information, contact Director Steve Stein at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnl.gov or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnl.gov or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtec.pnl.gov>.



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