



## **Around The Region In Homeland Security October 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 newsletter summarizes activities related to homeland security in the Pacific Northwest, and this issue highlights

- Table top exercises on long-term recovery
- Workshops on waste disposal following a biological attack
- Progress on implementing an information sharing platform and radiation detection surge package
- Puget Sound small craft exercises in radiation detection.

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### **Table Top Exercise Looks at Long-Term Recovery**

On October 6 and 7, the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) Project hosted a table top exercise to consider long-term recovery issues following the wide-area release of a significant quantity of a biological agent such as anthrax. The IBRD Project, a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD) Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), is aimed at recovery and restoration of an urban area or military installation following a biological release.

At the event, participants from state and local agencies exercised methodologies and strategies for restoring critical infrastructure and assets; prioritizing assets for restoration; and characterizing, remediating, and clearance following a catastrophic biological event. The discussion-based exercise gave regional partners an opportunity to better understand processes, toolsets, operational capabilities, and interagency coordination to recover from a biological attack in the greater Seattle urban area.

Lessons learned (including dependencies and critical milestones) from this exercise will be used to further refine guidance and plans, toolsets, and capabilities that will enable a timely return to normalcy for the communities involved.

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### **Workshops Consider Issues of Incident Waste Disposal**

On October 13 and 14, private and public waste facility owners and operators, haulers, and associations and staff from state and local agencies joined staff from DHS, DTRA, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at a workshop on disposal of anthrax-contaminated waste. The workshop supports the IBRD Project.

The PNNL-organized workshops identified the state of preparedness for disposal of anthrax-contaminated materials; capabilities, requirements, and limitations associated with waste disposal for an anthrax incident; and issues and barriers concerning disposal of chemical, biological, and radiological waste.

Attendees developed a prioritized list of issues, which the EPA will use to enhance the country's ability to recover and restore operations after such a disaster.

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## Information Sharing Platform and Surge Package Gain Momentum

On September 29 and 30, representatives from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington agreed to endorse the concept of a regional information sharing platform. Participants viewed demonstrations of similar platforms in Alabama and Virginia. The goal is to have an information platform in place by next fall to be ready for the 2010 flood season. The states are committed to the hard work involved to achieve this goal.

On October 1, representatives from DNDO, the Region 8 Team of the U.S. Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program, PNNL, Whatcom County Sheriff, Washington State Patrol, the Washington National Guard 10th Civil Support Team, and Customs and Border Protection met to identify potential threats and points to deploy DNDO's surge package of radiation detection equipment for the 2010 Olympics. Participants agreed on a draft concept of operations and identified resource, training, and staffing requirements. Staff will be trained and practice with the equipment in the next few months in preparation for deployment during the Olympics.

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## Puget Sound Small Craft Exercises Train Hundreds

September 22 and 23, more than 300 maritime law enforcement and first responder staff from federal, state, local, and tribal agencies were trained on non-intrusive screening in an operational maritime. The Puget Sound exercise was part of a pilot demonstration funded by the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) to evaluate radiation detection sensors and operational protocols. PNNL coordinated activities.

Team members used radiation detection equipment ranging from portable hand-held sensors to boat-mounted systems.

“Our goal was to coordinate efforts by DHS and regional partners to prevent illicit radiological or nuclear materials from entering Puget Sound waterways by way of small vessels,” said PNNL Maritime Project Manager Bill Peterson. The pilot directly supports the DHS Small Vessel Security Strategy to reduce potential security and safety risks on our waterways and at our nation's many ports.

Participants included the U.S. Coast Guard (Sector Seattle, Group Port Angeles, Auxiliary); Customs and Border Protection (Office of Air and Marine Operations, Field Operations); Federal Bureau of Investigation; Puget Sound Area Maritime Security Committee; Washington State agencies (Emergency Management Division, Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Patrol, Department of Health, and National Guard 10th Civil Support Team); sheriffs from Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties; police from Seattle, Port of Seattle, Tacoma, Edmonds, Everett, Port Orchard, Bainbridge Island, and the Suquamish Tribe; Seattle Fire; and Port of Everett.

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## Upcoming Events

Dec. 2-4

Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Stakeholders Workshop  
Washington, D.C.

<https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/BARDA/PEMCE/workshop/2009/2009workshop.aspx>

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*Around the Region in Homeland Security* is a monthly report from PNNL's Northwest Regional Technology Center for Homeland Security. For more information, contact Director Steve Stein at [steve.stein@pnl.gov](mailto:steve.stein@pnl.gov) or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at [ryan.eddy@pnl.gov](mailto:ryan.eddy@pnl.gov) or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at [ann.lesperance@pnl.gov](mailto:ann.lesperance@pnl.gov) or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtec.pnl.gov>.



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