



Around The Region In Homeland Security July 2010

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

- The development of a recovery plan for the region
- The appointment of a new administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region X
- International interest in a biological restoration demonstration
- Availability of a private sector resource catalog for disaster preparedness and response
- A study on medical infrastructure resiliency.

Recovery Plan Moving Forward

The Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) Project is working with emergency managers to draft a regional recovery plan. IBRD is a collaborative program between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), in close coordination with the Seattle Urban Area Security Initiative, to develop policies, methods, plans, and technologies to restore large urban areas, military installations, and critical infrastructure after a biological attack.

Workshops in March and April with local emergency managers from the Seattle, King County, Pierce County, Bellevue, and Combined Base Lewis-McChord focused on the key decisions, actions, and policies that must be addressed regarding long-term recovery from a biological event. Based on those workshops, the project staff drafted a plan that will be the focus of a July workshop. The workshop will validate the key elements of the plan and solicit thoughts and input from the emergency management community. A final draft is expected before the end of the fiscal year.

Ken Murphy Appointed FEMA Region X Administrator

Congratulations to Ken Murphy, Director of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, who was appointed by President Obama to be Regional Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region X. Region X encompasses Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Responses to the appointment were positive, with praise from the FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski.

Murphy has served with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management since 1999. As Director, he was responsible for coordinating preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities with state and local emergency services agencies. Murphy oversaw the response and recovery for six Presidential and eight Gubernatorial disaster declarations in Oregon. Brigadier General Mike Caldwell, Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department, will cover Murphy's role until a permanent replacement can be named.

DoD Considers Taking IBRD International

The DoD is considering the need for and potential value of conducting a European program similar to the IBRD Project, which ends in September 2010. DHS and DoD have partnered in the conduct of the IBRD Project domestically for the last 3 years. In March, NWRTC Director Steve Stein participated in a workshop in Garmisch, Germany, as a subject matter expert on community resilience.

The workshop was a 3-day forum to explore ways to conduct a European-based scenario response to a biological incident. Lessons learned from an international approach could help advance plans and practices in the Northwest region as well. The workshop was viewed as a major success by the participants and IBRD Project sponsors.

Private Sector Resources Catalog Available

In May, DHS released the *Private Sector Resources Catalog*, which collects information on training, publications, guidance, alerts, newsletters, programs, and services available to the private sector in responding to disasters. The publication recognizes the diversity of the private sector and includes resources for academia, nonprofits, non-government organizations, and large and small businesses.

DHS has committed to regularly update [the catalog](#) with new resources. For more information or to provide feedback, contact the DHS Private Sector Office at private.sector@dhs.gov, (202) 282-8484.

Resiliency of the Medical Infrastructure Studied

Resiliency of the community may be heavily tied to resiliency of the medical infrastructure. In partnership with Seattle-King County Public Health, PNNL is conducting a study to identify the interdependencies of the medical system within the context of a high-consequence event such as terrorism, earthquake, or flood.

The study will also consider the potential implications of such events on remediation, recovery, and resiliency, particularly as related to public health. The goal is to take a key element of the medical infrastructure and develop an analytical framework as a ty model. This model can then be used for a broader assessment of medical resiliency in the larger public health infrastructure.

For more information on the study, contact [Ann Lesperance](#).

Upcoming Events

July 27

Meeting of Adjutant Generals and Emergency Managers on Virtual USA Implementation
Camp Murray

August 31-September 1

[Visual Analytics Centers \(VAC\) Consortium Meeting](#)
College Park, Maryland

September 21-23

IBRD Capstone Event
Seattle

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 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://nwrtp.pnl.gov>.

