



Around The Region In Homeland Security August 2010

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, resiliency, 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 region, and this issue highlights

- The upcoming Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) final capstone event
- The continued development of a recovery plan for the region
- The path forward for implementing the pilot of a common information-sharing platform
- A risk model being piloted for emergency management.

IBRD Capstone Scheduled for September

The 3-year IBRD Program will celebrate completion with a capstone event September 21 - 23. IBRD is a collaborative program between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense, in close coordination with the Seattle Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), to develop policies, methods, plans, and technologies to restore large urban areas, military installations, and critical infrastructure after a biological attack.

Over 250 emergency managers from federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector are expected to attend. Keynote speakers include Tara O'Toole, DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology; Andrew Webber, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs; and Timothy Manning, Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The event will showcase the technical work of the program in such areas as the evaluation and demonstration of sampling and decontamination

technologies and methods, research and development on the fate and transport of anthrax, national guidelines for restoration and recovery of an outdoor area, and responses to the private sector for community resilience as it relates to recovery from a terrorist attack using anthrax. Held at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, the event includes hands-on activities as well as demonstrations and discussions. Visit the [IBRD event portal](#) to register.

First Regional Recovery Plan Nearing Completion

The Northwest region will be the first in the nation to complete a regional recovery plan. The plan is being developed by emergency managers with support from the IBRD Program, and is currently being revised from comments received as well as input from a July workshop. Workshop participants weighed in on three key areas: prioritization of cleanup, economic development, and information coordination. Participants stressed the importance of involving the private sector in all three areas.

The final plan is expected by year end.

Emergency Management Leaders Meet to Discuss Virtual USA

Emergency management leaders from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington met on July 27 to discuss Virtual USA, a common platform for sharing information during emergencies. Major General Timothy Lowenberg (Adjutant General, Washington State) hosted the meeting with Dr. David Boyd of the DHS Science and Technology Directorate. Each state sent four to five representatives, such as the Adjutant Generals and emergency management directors.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and demonstrate progress within states and across the region on the development of Virtual USA information-sharing capabilities. Participants also identified and defined the path forward on regional objectives for the technology's pilot effort.

Based on the results of the meeting, the DHS support team is completing documents to chart the identified path forward. By the end of August, PNNL will contact each state to determine whether assistance is needed in standing up the state viewer. These viewers will enable data sharing in 25 common data feeds such as emergencies near borders and roadway conditions. PNNL plans to visit each state, train personnel to link data to the viewer, and recommend basic actions for system administration.

Model Looks at Risk During Emergencies

The Washington State Ferry System and Washington State Patrol are partnering to pilot the 3RAM system developed by PNNL. The 3RAM system enables risk to be estimated based on patterns of operation and usage, then models deployment of various security measures (e.g., use of canine teams, bomb sniffing

equipment, and stand-off detection) to optimize risk reduction or probability of detection. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has indicated its support for the effort and provided an exception to the Ferry System to pilot 3RAM. PNNL is also developing the transition plan to sustainable application for ferry transport in Washington and to extend the application nationally.

The work is part of the DHS Advanced Incident Management Enterprise System, which works to make cities and states safer by understanding their priority needs and accelerating the deployment of appropriate new and emerging solutions into existing infrastructures and operations.

“We believe that the methodology being developed and implemented in this model is innovative in nature, reflects a forward-thinking approach to risk quantification and mitigation, and will positively impact the security decisions made by the Washington State Ferries, Washington State Patrol, and the USCG, who collectively share the primary responsibility for the security of the nation's largest, and arguably highest risk, ferry system,” said the Washington State Secretary of Transportation and the Chief of the Washington State Patrol in a March 2010 letter to the DHS program manager.

Upcoming Events

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://nwrhc.pnl.gov>.

