



Around The Region In Homeland Security September 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

- A new Strategic Foresight Initiative at the Federal Emergency Management Agency to bring emergency management stakeholders together
- The results of a survey on how people use social media to get help in emergencies
- The expansion of Washington State's Critical Incident Planning and Mapping System.

FEMA Leads Strategic Foresight Initiative

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has launched the Strategic Foresight Initiative to bring the emergency management community together to better understand how the world is changing and how those changes may affect the future emergency management environment. The community-wide effort, involving the federal, state, and local agencies; members of academia, private, and non-profit sectors; and other stakeholders, will help identify both strategic opportunities and challenges from which the community could significantly benefit.

In April, FEMA hosted representatives from over 30 organizations at a scoping workshop. In this workshop, dozens of one-on-one meetings, and various small group discussions, the community identified ten major drivers of change that will affect the future of emergency management:

- Changing role of the individual
- Climate change
- Critical infrastructure

- Evolving terrorist threat
- Global interdependencies
- Government budgets
- Metro area populations
- Technological innovation and dependency
- Universal access to and use of information
- U.S. demographic shifts.

The Strategic Foresight Initiative's success is based on input from the emergency management community. Using an online tool (OMB-Max), Strategic Foresight Initiative community members contribute to a rich discussion surrounding the ten drivers and their potential future impacts on emergency managers. To join the conversation, send an email to FEMA-OPPA-SFI@fema.gov. Additional workshops, conference calls, and webinars will be held as the dialogue evolves.

For more information, see the [Strategic Foresight Initiative's website](#).

Survey Shows That People Will Use Social Media to Get Help in Emergencies

A new American Red Cross survey shows many web users would turn to social media to seek help for themselves or others during emergencies — and they expect first responders to be listening.

The online survey asked 1,058 adults about their use of social media sites in emergency situations. It found that if respondents needed help and couldn't reach 9-1-1, one in five would try to contact responders through a digital means such as e-mail, websites, or social media. If web users knew of someone else who needed help, 44% would ask other people in their social network to contact authorities, 35% would post a request for help directly on a response agency's Facebook page, and 28% would send a direct Twitter message to responders.

Web users also have clear expectations about how first responders should answer. The survey showed that 69% thought emergency responders should be monitoring social media sites to quickly send help — and nearly half believed a response agency is probably already responding to urgent requests issued online. Survey respondents also expected quick response to an online request — 74% expected help to come less than an hour after their tweet or Facebook post. For more information, see the [Red Cross's website](#).

Tactical Mapping System Expands

The Critical Incident Planning and Mapping System (CIPMS) has been expanded to cover the community college system, other school changes, and critical

infrastructure. CIPMS is operated by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). Created in 2003 under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.28A.060-080, it is the only statewide tactical mapping system in the country, with over 11,000 users. With funding from the 2010 Legislature, the system has detailed, customized tactical response plans maps and 200 to 1,000 floor plans and pictures. First responders access the information over a secure and encrypted Internet connection, or they install the information on laptop hard drives or other secured media. Advanced features allow users to display the impact of a bomb or chemical release on a map and store and exchange Incident Command System forms and information with other users.

All of the state's elementary through high school public school and 27 of 35 community colleges have been mapped. The 2010 Legislature funded the completion of the community college system and the mapping of new and remodeled public schools. In addition, federal homeland security funding was used to map over 100 critical infrastructure sites, including hospitals, arenas, airports, and other public buildings. For further information, contact [Bruce Kuennen](#) at 360-486-2389. For mapping projects outside the state of Washington, contact [Michael Brown](#), Prepared Response, Inc., at 253-272-1483, extension 9000.

Upcoming Events

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://nwrtec.pnl.gov>.



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