



## **Around The Region In Homeland Security March 2011**

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 NWRTC enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities; federal, state, and local agencies; and private sector stakeholders in the Northwest. This monthly newsletter summarizes activities related to homeland security in the region, and this issue highlights

- A Denver kickoff meeting to look at long-term recovery
- An opportunity to pilot an information-sharing program
- A new report on emergency response planning for transportation agencies.

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### **Long-Term Recovery Program Kicks Off in Denver**

The Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration program, a successful partnership among the Seattle Urban Area, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and many private sector players, was completed in September 2010. Now a follow-on program is beginning in Denver as the Wide-Area Recovery and Resiliency Program (WARRP). WARRP will develop solutions to reduce the time and resources required to recover wide urban areas, military installations, and other critical infrastructures following a catastrophic chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) incident.

On February 16, WARRP held its initial kickoff meeting in Denver. At the meeting, Denver Mayor Guillermo Vidal (seen here), Federal Emergency Management Agency Associate Administrator for Response and Recovery William Carwile, and the members of the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership all indicated their support. The goals of the program are to

- Develop/refine guidance, plans, and decision frameworks for long-term recovery that can be leveraged for other parts of the country and internationally as applicable.
- Identify, develop/refine, demonstrate, and transition technologies/standards that support recovery prioritization, planning, and operations
- Better understand the public health strategies and challenges related to long-term recovery and recommend changes as needed to public health guidance and/or plans



- Exercise programmatic solutions for CBR recovery
- Enhance long-term formal coordination for response among the Departments of Defense, Energy, and Health and Human Services; DHS; and Environmental Protection Agency that will be optimized for stakeholder use at the local, state, and regional levels.

For more information on the program, contact [Garry Briese](#), [Ann Lesperance](#), or [Steve Stein](#).

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## DHS Seeking States to Pilot Information-Sharing Technology

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) has invested in the development of a computer software system intended to simplify and enable information sharing among organizations during emergency operations. The benefit of the Unified Incident Command and Decision Support (UICDS) system is that it codifies complex, role-based sharing policies among organizations, enabling the automatic exchange of information during an incident and freeing emergency management personnel from having to manually exchange data by phone or email. It also has the potential to streamline collaboration among organizations and increase effectiveness.

More specifically, UICDS is a middleware software platform that allows other software applications (e.g., WebEOC, E-SPONDER, ArcGIS, and CAD) that may not be designed to share information to do just that, without a user interface. Instead, each organization hosts a lightweight, server-based application called a *core*, which is responsible for exchanging encrypted incident data with other organizations' cores based on pre-defined sharing policies. As applications and data sources are connected to the local core, their information is

transparently shared with other users.

The capability is being piloted in several locations. DHS S&T is interested in expanding the number of pilots in the Northwest. If interested, contact [Mary Fordham](#) at 206-528-3225 for more information.

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## New Report Supports Emergency Response Planning at Transportation Agencies

The Transportation Research Board's National Cooperative Highway Research Program recently issued a report on planning for emergencies. *Report 525, Vol. 16: A Guide to Emergency Response Planning at State Transportation Agencies* is designed to help executive management and emergency response planners at state transportation agencies and their local and regional counterparts assess their respective emergency response plans and identify areas needing improvement.

The report is available online. For more information, see the [Transportation Research Board's website](#).

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## Upcoming Events

March 30 - April 1, 2011  
 DHS 5<sup>th</sup> Annual [University Network Summit](#):  
 Catastrophes and Complex Systems:  
 Transportation  
 Washington, D.C.

April 4 - 7, 2011  
 Alaska [Bi-Annual Preparedness Conference](#)  
 Anchorage, Alaska

April 26 and 27, 2011  
[Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness](#) Conference  
 Tacoma, Washington

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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>.

