



Around The Region In Homeland Security June 2013

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

- Operation Emerald City Seminar
- Biodetection Technologies
- Twitter Discussions on Protective Equipment and Other Resources
- Upcoming Events

Operation Emerald City Seminar

The Washington State Department of Health, Seattle Fire and Police Departments and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office joined forces to provide the “Operation Emerald City Seminar” to over 50 Federal, State and local agencies. The seminar sought to raise awareness and discuss regional Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection (PRND) initiatives.

The purposes of the event were to provide information about capabilities and approaches to investigate suspect radiological/nuclear threats, to understand potential consequences of a nuclear-related terrorist attack and to develop a path forward to the development of the Puget Sound Regional Land-Based PRND program.

To learn more, contact [Steve Stein](#) at (206) 582-3340.



Biodetection Technologies

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) and PNNL recently issued an informative report, titled [“Biodetection Technologies for First Responders.”](#) that summarizes an extensive list of commercially available hand-portable biodetection technologies. The report helps end-users such as firefighters, police officers and HazMat workers make informed decisions about procuring the right technology for their particular need and circumstance.



Representatives from Washington State firefighters, HazMat teams, Public Health Laboratories, Navy Region Northwest, Joint Base Lewis McChord, 10th Civil Support Team, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the private sector (Boeing), and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security assembled to provide information on biodetection information need, gaps and priorities.

The release of the report is part of a larger effort at PNNL to create partnerships with first responders that provide value to all parties. Early on in the process, PNNL conducted dozens of interviews and surveys, and held a workshop at Seattle's Joint Training Facility to better understand first responder biodetection and information needs, gaps and priorities. The exchanges helped researchers have a better grasp of the context by which first responders perform their duties. This leads to better results and the ability to get the best solution faster and more efficiently.

For more information, view PNNL's [official press release](#), or [download a copy](#) of the report today.

Twitter Discussions on Protective Equipment and Other Resources

Since March of this year, DHS S&T's First Responders Group (FRG) has sponsored three Twitter chats—Multi-Band Radio, FirstNet Board and Public Safety Broadband Network, and Personal Protective

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Equipment (PPE)—virtual discussions on topics relating to the first response community.

During the PPE chat, responders asked questions about how FRG intends to continue improving the PPE of the future and collaborate with communications, industry, and manufacturing partners so the best practices are collected and improvements are streamlined.

Currently, DHS S&T plans and executes focus groups that often include manufacturers to ensure they have a good understanding of first responder requirements. At the conclusion of each development effort, products are tested by first responders to ensure their requirements are met.

FRG will incorporate first responder input from its June PPE Technology Discussion meeting into a strategic plan for the development of next-generation PPE for all first responder disciplines.

For questions or ideas on PPE contact Bill Deso at william.deso@hq.dhs.gov. For information about future Twitter chats visit www.FirstResponder.gov or follow us [@dhsscitech](https://twitter.com/dhsscitech).

Upcoming Events

July 14 – 19, 2013
[PNWER 2013 Annual Summit](#)
Anchorage, AK

July 29 – 30, 2013
[L339: Radiological Emergency Preparedness \(REP\) Core Concepts Course](#)
Richland, WA

