



Around The Region In Homeland Security November 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

- Small Vessel Standoff Federal, State, Local and Tribal Day held in Sequim
- Puget Sound Regional Land-based PRND Program Next Steps
- Twitter Alerts Aid in Emergency Communications
- Upcoming Events

Small Vessel Standoff Federal, State, Local and Tribal Day held in Sequim

PNNL and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) held its Small Vessel Standoff Detection Federal, State, Local and Tribal Day at the Marine Sciences Laboratory on October 9 in Sequim, Wash. It was a chance to demonstrate current radiation detection capabilities to the nearly 75 visitors in attendance. Many invited visitors boarded multiple agency and law enforcement vessels on hand from Clallam County, Seattle Fire, Bainbridge Police and Skagit County to see the demonstration first hand.

The Performance Testing Project gave law enforcement and first responders an opportunity to demonstrate commercial off-the-shelf radiation detection equipment in a low background maritime environment. Various radiation target sources were used to simulate on-the-water screening scenarios, which characterized the radiological and nuclear detection capability of the US Coast Guard and the Customs and Border Protection Office of Air and Marine. The permitted test venue was located on Sequim Bay due east of the Marine Sciences

Laboratory. Three anchored test platforms fitted with various sealed sources simulated vessels bearing radioactive threats. Agency vessels and first responders with a variety of detection systems including boat-mounted, backpack, and PRDs received 'hits' as they screened the simulated threat vessels.

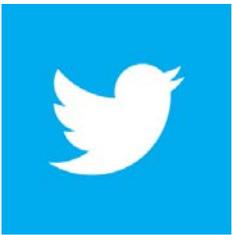


Drill participants from the Puget Sound Regional AMSC Small Vessel PRND team evaluate readings on detection sensors.

The conclusion of weeks of testing and the October 9 visitor event demonstrated the region's cooperative and collaborative relationship of the nearly two dozen first responder and law enforcement

contributors. More than 350 personnel have been trained over the past several years to reduce the risk of radiological and nuclear materials being illicitly transported on recreational or small commercial vessels into Puget Sound. DHS and PNNL are committed to a unified and sustained effort to improve maritime safety, security and stewardship by identifying and interdicting potential threats. The Small Vessel Preventive Radiation and Nuclear Detection Project has demonstrated significant progress to that end.

Twitter Alerts Aid in Emergency Communications



In emergency situations such as natural disasters where people may be away from their homes and traditional communications aren't accessible, getting relevant and accurate information to community members is critical.

Twitter has become more widely used as a tool to push timely content during emergencies and receive immediate feedback from members of the community. Recently FEMA used Twitter to communicate safety information during Superstorm Sandy and the City of Boston Tweeted official information and updates following the Boston Marathon bombing.

Recognizing the opportunity to streamline these emergency notifications, Twitter recently launched Twitter Alerts. Those who sign up for Alerts will receive notifications directly on their mobile device via SMS. Users of Twitter's mobile app will also receive a push notification.

Learn more about what agencies are eligible for the program and how to register:

<https://blog.twitter.com/2013/introducing-twitter-alerts>

For a full list of participating organizations, visit:

<https://about.twitter.com/alerts/participating-organizations>

Puget Sound Regional Land-Based PRND Program Next Steps

In May, 2013 the "Operation Emerald City Seminar" was conducted to inform participants of current Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection (PRND) initiatives and to explore a path forward for the Puget Sound Regional Land-Based PRND program.

A regional planning group has now formed and DNDO has agreed to provide assistance to the group. The goal is to support efforts to establish PRND capabilities in Washington's Puget Sound with hopes to expand statewide at a later date.

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

Upcoming Events

November 7, 2013

[Cybersecurity Overview for Public Safety Administrators](#)

DHS FRG Capability Building Webinar Series

November 14, 2013

[GeoCONOPS: What It Means to State and Local Officials](#)

NISC Webinar

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@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtec.pnnl.gov>.
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