



Around The Region In Homeland Security July 2014

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 InterAgency Board: Planning for the Future
- Understanding First Responder Biodetection Gaps and Needs
- Upcoming Events

The InterAgency Board: Planning for the Future

The [InterAgency Board](#) (IAB) is a voluntary working group comprised of over 150 emergency response and preparedness experts. Since 1998, the IAB has been working toward their mission of strengthening the nation’s ability to prepare for and respond safely and effectively to emergencies, disasters and CBRNE incidents.

The NWRTC recently discussed IAB’s goals and priorities with IAB Chair John Delaney, Jr., Captain II, Arlington County (VA) Fire Department, and former IAB Chair Jay Hagen, Assistant Chief of Operations for the Seattle (WA) Fire Department. This article is the last in a three-part series about the IAB.

PNNL: How important is the future of technical innovation in helping to detect, deter and prevent acts of terror?

Jay Hagen: That’s critical to the health and safety of responders and also to the folks we serve. Technical innovation is so important. We have a few items that always top our list that would make us more effective:

- 3D location – The ability to track responders in a hazardous atmosphere in three dimensions
- Standoff detection – To be able to, from a distance, determine if there are viable patients and their status
- Communication – To provide responders with hands free communication that functions well while wearing personal protective equipment, garments, and ensembles

John Delaney, Jr.: The world is getting much more complicated every day, so technology is necessary to help us do our job better, to give us more information in a timely manner, and to manage the complexities of the world that we’re facing.

PNNL: What are the next major steps or objectives the IAB would like to achieve in 2014 or beyond?

JH: There are many:

- We want to continue our effort to be diverse and balanced in terms of our membership, the disciplines that we represent, the geographic representation that we have
- We want to execute on our 2014 Work Plan
- We want to continue to attract, within our membership, those who have the expertise necessary to fill the roles of the long term members that will be retiring and moving on

We also want to continue to provide value in a couple of specific ways:

- Share field operational experiences and practices
- Be proactive and try to say the right thing, at the right time, about issues that matter
- Continue to be a credible voice of the responder community
- Continue to be a strong example of facilitating effective intergovernmental partnerships
- Foster a healthy disciplinary perspective

Learn more about how to engage with the IAB by [visiting their website](#) or emailing the [IAB Program Office](#).

Understanding First Responder Biodetection Gaps and Needs

PNNL is engaging first responders to identify key biodetection technology needs and conducting third party testing of biodetection technologies. As part of this Department of Homeland Security-funded effort, PNNL recently attended the International Hazardous Materials Response Team Conference, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. A booth hosted by the project team provided opportunities to highlight test results of the biodetection products, discuss the PNNL Biodetection Technologies Product Guide, and provided a forum for direct discussion, feedback, and interaction with meeting attendees.

PNNL also led a 90-minute session at the conference, Biodetection 101: Instrument Testing, Use and Limitations, and Needs/Gaps Discussions. Rachel Bartholomew and Rich Ozanich (PNNL) facilitated an expert panel including Grady Poole (Seattle Fire Department), Jeremy Clancy (Howard County Fire & Rescue), and Bob Ingram (Fire Department New

York). The panelists engaged conference attendees on issues such as biodetection testing needs and technology procurement. Key outcomes include:

Needs

- There is value in the work happening in the biodetection area in general. The work PNNL and others are doing will help provide valuable insight to first responders
- It is important that independent laboratories perform the equipment testing and publish the results in peer-reviewed publications

Requirements

- There is a need for testing standards. As PNNL and others are performing evaluations, first responders need a way to compare instrument performance based on specific testing standards
- Proficiency testing and training is also important

We need your help! PNNL is conducting surveys of first responders, key stakeholders and end-users to improve the understanding of biodetection equipment currently used, the equipment procurement process, and to understand needs and gaps. Please consider [taking the short online survey](#).

For more information, contact PNNL's [Rachel Bartholomew](#), Research Scientist, (509) 371-6906.

Upcoming Events

July 24, 2014

[Using Technologies for Cross-Jurisdictional Information Sharing](#)—Lessons Learned from CUSEC's CAPSTONE-14 Earthquake Exercise Webinar, 10:00 a.m. PT | 1:00 p.m. ET

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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