



AROUND THE REGION IN HOMELAND SECURITY

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 30 - [74th Disaster Conference](#), Seattle, WA
- Aug. 10-14 – [National Tribal Emergency Management Conference](#), Spokane, WA
- Aug. 17-19 – [Maritime Security 2015 West](#), San Diego, CA
- Aug. 30-Sept. 2 – [Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals \(AHMP\) National Conference 2015](#), Scottsdale, AZ
- Aug. 30-Sept. 2 – [National Information Officers Association Training Conference](#), Clearwater Beach, FL

CONTACT

- Want to know more? Visit us on the web at <http://nwrtp.pnl.gov>
- Contact the NWRTC with questions and comments at nwrtp@pnnl.gov.

PANEL ADDRESSES FIRST RESPONDER OF THE FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

Ann Lesperance, Director of the NWRTC, recently facilitated a panel on the First Responder of the Future at the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.



IAFC panelists Deputy Chief Charlie Cordova, Seattle Fire Dept.; Master Police Officer Bryan Cooke, Fairfax County Police Dept.; Deputy Chief John Esposito, New York City Fire Dept.; and Dr. Reed Smith, Arlington County Fire Dept.

The session presented two partnering initiatives focused on the responder of the future: the InterAgency Board's (IAB) First Responder of the Future and the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate's (DHS S&T) Responder Technology Alliance (RTA). The RTA was established by the DHS S&T First Responders Group and is managed by PNNL to advance technology solutions to improve the safety and capability of first responders.

"This was a great opportunity to both inform and seek support for the joint IAB and RTA effort to establish a vision for game-changing technology that will enhance the safety and effectiveness of the responder of the future," said Captain John Delaney Jr., Arlington County Fire Department and Chair of the IAB.

The event featured an interactive panel discussion with several members of the emergency response community to highlight challenges and issues with integrating new technologies into the first responder workplace.

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Participants provided helpful feedback regarding the needs of first responders including:

- **Weight**—First responders do not need to add another pound to their uniform.
- **Cross training**—First responders do not need to be trained to do the job of the other disciplines but they need knowledge of each other's jobs to understand why and how things are done (i.e., knowing about cross-pathways of smoke).
- **Usability**—Solutions need to be simple so first responders are not intimidated and can use them easily.

The IAB and RTA will use this feedback as they work to identify and build solutions to enhance first responder technologies and capabilities.

Also at the conference, Dr. Rachel Bartholomew and Dr. Cindy Bruckner-Lea shared information about [PNNL's biodetection capabilities and resources](#), including the recently released [Biodetection Technologies for First Responders: 2015 Edition](#), and gave a demonstration of biodetection equipment.

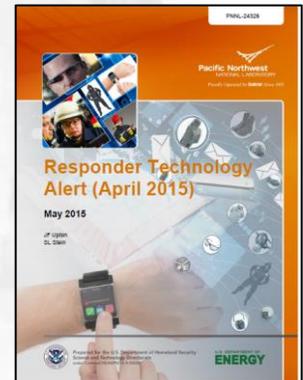
"It was a great opportunity to interact with the first responders, gain a deeper understanding of their biodetection needs, and share with them our biodetection test results, all with the aim to further improve their biological response capabilities," said Dr. Bartholomew.

DHS S&T LAUNCHES FACEBOOK

DHS S&T announced the launch of its new Facebook site: <http://facebook.com/dhsscitech>. Visitors can like the page to stay up to date with DHS S&T news and events. DHS S&T social media also includes a [YouTube page](#) with videos on the latest technology developments as well as the [@DHSSCITECH](#) Twitter and [DHSgov Instagram](#). To find out more, follow #dhsscitech and visit the [DHS S&T blog](#), where Under Secretary for Science and Technology [Dr. Reginald Brothers](#) shares the latest on DHS S&T social media and online conversation tools.

RESPONDER TECHNOLOGY ALERTS NOW AVAILABLE

The RTA is publishing monthly technology alerts that summarize the latest trends in wearable technologies. "As we advance solutions for the responder of the future, we have to be aware of new ideas and capabilities as they come to market," said Jaki Upton, PNNL RTA Technology Scanning Lead.



The reports are part of the RTA's technology scanning to identify wearable technologies that may be of potential interest to the first responder community. This includes sensors, displays, power supplies, integrated communications systems, cameras, breathing apparatuses, exoskeletons, and wearable computers.

The reports are available on the NWRTC web site at <http://nwrtec.pnnl.gov/projects/reports.stm>. These reports are not meant to be an exhaustive list nor are they an endorsement of any product featured therein.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT AVAILABLE

The [National Preparedness Community](#) (NPC) recently announced the release of the [Severe Weather Preparedness Toolkit](#), which includes social media shareable items and writing tips. The toolkit is part of NPC's Ready Campaign designed to use social media to promote emergency preparedness. Also available are Spring, Flood, Holidays, and Winter Toolkits. To learn more, visit [NPC's Seasonal Prep Social Media Toolkits site](#).

For more information, contact NWRTC Director Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3223, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov or 509-372-6622, Technical Advisor Steve Stein at steve.stein@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3340, or visit us online at <http://nwrtec.pnnl.gov>.

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