



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

- June 7-8, 2016 – [World Conference on Disaster Management 2016](#), Toronto, Canada
- June 7-10, 2016 – [Cascadia Rising 2016 Exercise](#), Seattle, WA
- June 13-16, 2016 – [National Fire Protection Association Conference & Expo](#), Las Vegas, NV
- July 17-21, 2016 – [Pacific Northwest Economic Region 26th Annual Summit](#), Calgary, Alberta

CONTACT

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

PNNL ASSESSES PORTABLE DETECTORS

In April, PNNL conducted an assessment of six portable infrared spectroscopy chemical detectors at the Seattle Fire Joint Training Center in Seattle, WA. The week-long assessment tested the equipment against criteria in various scenarios of their design (use with personal protective equipment, low light, etc.).



“We have come a long way in improving the ability of the end user (first responder) to be able to access resources that provide not only specifications for performance of equipment they use, but also the functionality of that equipment in the environment in which it will be used. The health and safety of the responder in the environment they will work in depend on knowing the capability and limits of the equipment they will be using,” said Chief A. D. Vickery of the Seattle Fire Department.

Seven evaluators assessed equipment against 11 criteria established during a workshop held in September. The team, comprising first



responders from varying jurisdictions as well as representatives from various federal agencies, reviewed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) concepts and defined criteria for assessing the equipment in terms of usability, deployability, and capability.

(Continued next page)

“This was a great opportunity to get technology into the hands of the actual users—the first responder community—and provide feedback on equipment that can impact health and safety of first responders across the nation,” said Rich Ozanich, Senior Research Scientist at PNNL.

DHS established the SAVER program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions. The program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems and provides these results to the first responder community.

“For responder confidence in equipment they will use, we need standards, third-party testing to those standards, and the testing should include bench testing and usability in the responder environment. These results need to be published and updated on a predetermined basis in comparative rankings,” said Chief Vickery.

The results of this effort will be made available at www.firstresponder.gov/SAVER in the summer of 2016.

PANEL DISCUSSES RESILIENCE, VULNERABILITIES

Northeastern University Seattle (NEU) hosted a panel discussion on “[Bolstering National and Global Resilience in the Face of 21st](#)



[Century Mayhem](#),” bringing together local experts to discuss controversial issues in security and resilience.

[Dr. Stephen Flynn](#), NEU’s co-director for the Research Institute for Homeland Security and the director for the Center for Resilience Studies in Boston, spoke about new approaches to reducing damages, to adapt to more frequent and consequential hazards, and to overcome barriers to advance societal resilience. “Community resilience and critical infrastructure resilience are national security imperatives,” Dr. Flynn said.

[Dr. Mai’a K. Davis Cross](#), an expert on European politics, addressed environmental sustainability and reflected on the European Union’s role as a global leader in support

of climate policy in the Global South, as well as emerging security concerns in this sector.

The presentations were followed by a discussion with Ann Lesperance, NWRTC Director, and Jonathan Scanlon, Senior Advocacy Advisor for Oxfam America, who provided local insight about how to establish the Northwest’s place as a secure and resilient regional leader and to advance measures to increase resiliency in vulnerable countries.

The event was sponsored by NEU and hosted in partnership with [Global Washington](#) and the [World Affairs Council](#).

UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES SECURITY AND RESILIENCE CERTIFICATE

NEU Seattle launched a [Graduate Certificate in Security & Resilience Studies program](#) designed to help students develop critical thinking skills to address transnational risks impacting the built and natural environment, and to discover the principles, policies, and strategies to protect communities and critical systems. The program is led by co-directors Stephen Flynn and Daniel Aldrich, whose collective experience span systems resilience, homeland security, post-disaster recovery, and countering violent terrorism. The program is offered in a hybrid option in both Boston and Seattle.

NEW CYBERSECURITY RISK ANALYSIS TOOL ON THE MARKET

The DHS S&T announced the licensing of a fifth cybersecurity technology for commercialization as a part of the [Cyber Security Division’s Transition to Practice program](#). The Physical and Cyber Risk Analysis Tool (PACRAT), developed by researchers at PNNL, assesses cyber risks simultaneously with physical risks. RhinoCorps, a small business and vulnerability assessment tool developer, is licensing the tool and plans to integrate its capabilities into their physical vulnerability assessment tool ([Simajin](#)) to enable users to examine how their cybersecurity and physical security postures impact one another. [Read the press release](#) for more information.

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