



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 17-21, 2016 – [Pacific Northwest Economic Region 26th Annual Summit](#), Calgary, Alberta
- August 30-31, 2016 – [Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference](#), Colorado Springs, CO
- September 19-22, 2016 – [National Association of State EMS Officials Fall 2016 Meeting and Exhibit](#), Albuquerque, NM
- October 3-7, 2016 – [EMS World Expo 2016](#), New Orleans, LA
- November 16-19, 2016 – [Economic Leadership Forum](#), Boise, ID

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.

CASCADIA RISING SHAKES UP NORTHWEST EMERGENCY RESPONSE

What happens if a massive earthquake shakes the Cascadia Subduction Zone along the West Coast? In June, the Cascadia Rising 2016 exercise put the Pacific Northwest response to the test.

The exercise simulated response to a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the resulting tsunami. Early on June 7, Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Coordination Centers at all levels of government and the private sector in Washington and Oregon activated to launch the simulated field response operation, both within their jurisdictions and also with neighboring communities, state EOCs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and major military commands.



Left to right, Barb Graff (City of Seattle), Lauren Augustine (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine), and staff from PNNL Sean Zabriskie, Ann Lesperance, Steve Stein, Grant Tietje, Jean Scholtz, and Brooke Brisbois.

Over the next several days, the exercise spanned multiple states (Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California) as well as Canada, a number of Northwest tribes, and the military. The event brought together more than 4,000 participants including 70 EOCs, 250 planners, and 3,500 exercise participants. The civilian exercise lasted five days alongside Department of Defense exercises occurring in parallel over 10 days.

The exercise objectives relate to operational communications, public health and medical services, mass care, situational awareness, critical transportation, and operational coordination. (Continued next page)

Staff at PNNL and Lauren Augustine, National Academies of Sciences, coordinated with Barb Graff, Director of the Seattle Office of Emergency Management, to serve two days as evaluators at the City of Seattle EOC during the exercise. Their observations will be used to improve present plans and processes to better prepare the region for a real emergency.

“Exercises test plans, not people. When an actual disaster hits, we can’t guarantee who will show up but we can make sure we have workable plans in place. This exercise gave us the opportunity to test our plans and practice a whole community response,” said Grant Tietje, a specialist at PNNL leading the Responder Technology Alliance project.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM READY FOR RESPONSE



The Washington State Department of Health (WADOH) has organized a Type 3 [Incident Management Team \(IMT\)](#) to address public health

and medical emergencies throughout the state. The team was formed to establish a strong incident command capability for WADOH and bolster the state’s readiness for public health and medical disasters.

“Our goal is to ensure that Washington State is ready for a public health emergency. The IMT expands our response capabilities by ensuring we have a team of highly trained and certified individuals ready to mobilize at any time,” said Michael Loehr, WADOH Chief of Emergency Preparedness & Response.

The IMT comprises approximately 55 public health professionals from WADOH who can staff approximately four deployable Type 3 teams. Most recently, the team was activated to aid local health departments and guide the WADOH response to potential lead contamination in municipal water systems in western Washington. WADOH is partnering with the state’s Emergency Management Division to ensure the

team meets appropriate standards to be deployable as a statewide and interstate mutual aid resource.

The IMT recently participated in the Cascadia Rising exercise and will be on standby for wildfire season. For more information about the IMT, contact Nathan Weed at Nathan.weed@doh.wa.gov.

FIRSTRESPONDER.GOV WEBSITE JOINS DHS S&T

The Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) and its First Responders Group migrated the FirstResponder.gov website to a new location:

<https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/first-responders>.



The new First Responder pages will still be the central “go-to resource” where local, tribal, state, and federal first responders can easily access and use information on resources, products, standards, grants, training, testing and evaluation, and best practices. Additionally, content is optimized to be viewed well on any device: smart phone, tablet, or desktop.

The pages feature original content on technology developments, videos, reports, links to first responder grants and training, and other communications tools to help first responders engage directly with DHS S&T.

Program resources still include the Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program (P25 CAP), System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) program, Next Generation First Responder Apex program, International Forum to Advance First Responder Innovation, and Virtual Social Media Working Group. Coming soon will be Anthrax Preparedness for First Responders, which will provide guidance and links to resources on this important issue.

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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