



Around The Region In Homeland Security September 2009

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, 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 Pacific Northwest, and this issue highlights

- Planned activities for National Preparedness Month (September 2009)
- Training of state and regional agencies in radiation detection
- Upcoming pilot of new information sharing platform
- Research and industry thoughts on the next 5 years for visual analytic science
- Availability of a new report on the economic impacts of an anthrax attack.

National Preparedness Month Activities Planned

September is National Preparedness Month. The effort, sponsored by the DHS *Ready* Campaign and Citizen Corps, encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The groups invite other organizations to participate by becoming members of the National Preparedness Coalition. Organizations can [register online](#).

This year's efforts focus on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness and helping Americans understand what it means to be *Ready*. National events include webinars for businesses, held Wed., September 2, 16, 23, and 30 and available afterward online.

Topics include flu season preparations, the role of social media in business preparedness, and creating a culture of preparedness.

State and Regional Teams Trained in Rad/Nuc Detection

In August, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) helped train Washington state and regional teams in advanced radiation detection. The 10th Civil Support Team, Region 8 Team of the U.S. Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program, and members of the Washington State Department of Health participated. The work culminated in an exercise at the Tacoma Dome.

This training will assist agency staff in working with the DNDO surge package of equipment, which is planned to be deployed during the 2010 Olympics. A planning meeting is scheduled for October 1 to discuss mission, threats and concepts of operation for deployment.

Northwest Agencies to Pilot Virtual USA

A core team representing Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington will meet September 29 and

30 in Tacoma to discuss the launch of Virtual USA, envisioned to be a fully interoperable platform for sharing information between and within states. This pilot will be a partnership between the five Northwest states, DHS S&T's Command, Control, and Interoperability Division, and the Pacific Northwest and Idaho National Laboratories. This partnership strengthens the collaboration with DHS and better ensures the security of the states. To make the best use of limited resources, the group will initially focus on a smaller number of states and then expand to the remaining states and territory in the NWRTC region.

“The states do have a unique opportunity to partner with the DHS on the Virtual USA initiative,” said General Timothy Lowenberg, Adjutant General for Washington State. The program is supported by the First Responder Technologies Program in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

NVAC Consortium Looks at Next Five Years for Science

Members of the National Visualization and Analytics Center (NVAC) Consortium met August 18 and 19 at PNNL's Richland campus to discuss the promise of the next 5 years in visual analytics. The field is expected to expand, both through technological leaps and through deployments to users in many fields.

Key speakers at the meeting included Joe Kielman, DHS Science Advisor and NVAC program manager; Jim Thomas, who founded NVAC at PNNL; new NVAC director Richard May; Ron Rasmussen, Seattle Police Department; Gael Tarleton, Port of Seattle Commission; Anne Kao, Boeing; Ben Sommers, Future Point Systems; Chris Stolte, Tableau Software; and Michael Warner, Quantum 4D. The NVAC Consortium is a partnership among researchers, industry, and technology users, who meet twice a year to share research needs and results.

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

Economic Report Available

The report *Economic Impacts of a Wide Area Release of Anthrax*, sponsored by DHS and the Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency, is now available through the NWRTC. This report explores the economic impacts that might result from a wide-area release of anthrax. The intent is not to provide a quantitative analysis of such a disaster, but to define the general categories of economic impacts that a region should consider and to explore what types of private sector businesses or industries, if any, may have the greatest impact on speeding the economic recovery of the region.

This analysis was conducted through a review of literature on regional economic development, regional resiliency, and the economic impacts of major disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, the 9/11 attacks, and hypothetical analyses. For a copy of the report, see the [NWRTC homepage](#).

Upcoming Events

September 17
Annual Disaster Preparedness Summit
Seattle

September 21-24
ASIS International 55th Annual Meeting for industrial security and resilience
Anaheim, California

September 22-24
Small Maritime Craft Pilot On-the-Water Exercises
Puget Sound