



Around The Region In Homeland Security November 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

- Interest by federal advisors in involving state and local agencies
- Northwest agencies that will be piloting a multi-band radio
- Northwest agency input on national resiliency policies
- A new report on anthrax frequently asked questions.

Federal Advisors Learning Importance of Involving State and Local Agencies

A recent meeting underscored the interest of the federal government in more effectively involving state, local, and Tribal organizations in resolving homeland security challenges. On October 20, NWRTC Director Steve Stein and representatives from three other national laboratories had the opportunity to brief the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Advisory Committee (HSSTAC).

The HSSTAC is a source of independent scientific and technical planning advice for the DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology (S&T). After hearing presentations from the national labs, the HSSTAC discussed recommendations. Members supported the need for engagement with state, local, and Tribal users. They were particularly interested in developing ways to more effectively and rapidly transition new approaches and technologies from research to industry and use in the field.

2010 Winter Olympics, Boise Fire to Pilot Multi-Band Radio

The 2010 Winter Olympic Security Committee and the Boise Fire Department are 2 of 14 organizations nationwide that were chosen to participate in the pilot of a multi-band radio developed for the DHS S&T. The 30-day pilot starts this month.

The multiband radios, developed by Thales Communications, enable emergency responders to communicate with partner agencies regardless of the radio band. The radios can operate on all emergency response frequencies, including the primary public safety bands, Department of Defense bands, and National Guard and other federal bands.

Other agencies piloting the radios include mass transit authorities, the Federal Emergency Management Agency offices in several regions, and other state and local agencies.

A final version of the radios could be ready for production and sale by the middle of 2010.

Northwest Agencies Advise Presidential Homeland Security Advisor on Resiliency

On October 21, local, state, and federal agency representatives had a unique opportunity to share insights with Randy Beardsworth, former DHS Assistant Secretary who co-led a Presidential Study for President Obama to look at how the White House should be organized to deal with the critical issues of homeland security and counter-terrorism.

Beardsworth was interested in input on the priorities and approaches that could be shared with the new White House Resiliency Policy Directorate, which will ensure that state, local, tribal, and private sector ideas, concerns, and priorities are considered early in the policy development process.



Laurie Van Leuven-Seattle Public Utilities, Randy Beardsworth, Ann Lesperance-PNNL, Joe Donovan-Beacon Capital Partners, and Diane Bonne-City of Seattle discussed resiliency needs at the meeting.

Discussions centered on the concept of resiliency. For example, after a catastrophic event, how does an agency contribute to regional resiliency? How does an agency contribute before the event? How are agencies approaching resiliency today?

Participants also discussed the following:

- Challenges in trying to achieve regional resilience
- Gaps in coverage
- Priorities that should be addressed
- Approaches that could be more cost effective
- The federal government's role and priorities in individual, community, and system resiliency.

Participants included representatives of local organizations such as the Port of Seattle, City of Seattle, and Seattle Public Utilities; state-level agencies such as the Washington Emergency Management Department and the University of Washington; Beacon Capital Partners; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A report on the discussion is in preparation.

New Report Addresses Anthrax FAQs for PIOs

A new report from the NWRTC summarizes frequently asked questions (FAQs) about anthrax based on interactions with Public Information Officers (PIOs) and the private sector. *Anthrax Frequently Asked Questions for the Private Sector and Public Information Officers with Example Fact Sheets* aims to provide a better understanding of anthrax from a health and remediation perspective. Please contact Ann Lesperance for a copy.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 2-4

Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Stakeholders Workshop

Washington, D.C.

<https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/BARDA/PHEMCE/workshop/2009/2009workshop.aspx>

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>.



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