



## **Around The Region In Homeland Security February 2010**

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

- A request from Washington State to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to continue partnering in maritime security
- Training to prepare the Northern Border for enhanced security during the Olympics
- Lessons learned in resilience from New York City
- An opportunity to submit a presentation to a national conference on urban area security
- Availability of a new report on resilience.

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### **State Requests Continued Partnership in Maritime Security**

In January, Washington State requested that DHS partner with it to develop a long-term strategy to sustain capabilities in maritime security. In a letter to Chuck Galloway, Director of the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), Adjutant General Timothy Lowenberg and Department of Health Secretary Mary Selecky highlighted the results of the Puget Sound Small Vessel Preventative Rad/Nuc Detection Pilot Project. The pilot, which is in its final stages, provided over 20 federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with radiation detection equipment, an integrated standard operating procedure, and training. The effort provided an operational capability in advance of the 2010 Olympics being held in British Columbia this month.

The challenge is providing a maritime security layer in the long term. Given the capabilities' national implications, the state suggested identifying an enduring funding mechanism, such as DNDO currently funds the deployment of radiation portal

monitors at ports of entry nationwide. The state hopes to meet with DNDO and the U.S. Coast Guard to further review the results of the pilot and discuss a way forward.

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### **Northern Border Prepares for Olympics**

Athletes from all over the world weren't the only ones exercising in advance of the 2010 Winter Olympics. DNDO deployed its rad/nuc detection surge package along the Northern border to provide federal, state, and local authorities with equipment to augment incident response teams. PNNL staff led development of the concept of operations for the surge package and assisted in organizing training for local and state law enforcement with the support of the Washington State Department of Health. Final training was held in January with about 50 local law enforcement officers on how to operate personal radiation detectors and radioactive isotopic identifiers. A final round of drills with the agencies were conducted early in February, just before the Olympics.

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## National UASI Conference Seeks Presentations

The National Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Conference will be held June 21-24 in New Orleans. Conference organizers seek presentations in any of the nine program tracks: detection and response, community preparedness, interoperable communications & information sharing, medical response, planning/training/ exercises, port and transit security, program management, public/private partnerships in infrastructure protection, and regionalism.

The conference encourages federal, state, and local staff to discuss the latest issues in Homeland Security Grant Programs and review innovations and best practices. Submit [proposals](#) no later than February 19. For more information see the [conference website](#).

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## New York City Shares Lessons Learned in Resilience

On December 10, 2009, PNNL staff associated with the NWRTC met with New York City building owners and emergency management to gain from their experience in recovering from 9/11 and a major steam pipe explosion in 2007. The meeting was part of the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) Program, a joint project with DHS and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. The IBRD Program is helping develop polices, methods, plans, and applied technologies to restore large urban areas, military installations, and critical infrastructure following a biological attack. Participants at the meeting included officials of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Greater New York, property managers, real estate managers, New York's Office of Emergency Management, and industry emergency managers.

In New York in an emergency, BOMA represents the building owners and management, working directly with the Office of Emergency Management and Public Health as needed. Key lessons learned from their experiences include the following:

- Have a detailed response and recovery plan that includes agreements with remediation and cleanup contractors.
- Know what to tell tenants, both from a legal perspective (can building owners direct tenants?) and from a communication perspective (prepare standard announcements in advance)
- Bring insurance companies to the table during emergency planning to determine what will be covered and how to file claims
- Determine who has the authority and liability to declare buildings safe to reoccupy.

Additional information from the meeting will be shared with the Seattle UASI Committee.

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## Resilience Report Available

On October 21, 2009, several Northwest agencies met with presidential advisor Randy Beardsworth to discuss requirements for resilience. The report *Influencing Resiliency: A Discussion with Northwest Government and Industry* summarizes the discussion and is [now available](#) on the NWRTC website.

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## Upcoming Events

March 10  
Social Network Workshops  
Seattle

June 2-4  
IBRD tabletop exercise on regional response and recovery plans  
Seattle

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

