



Around The Region In Homeland Security June 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 visual analytics pilot in Kennewick, Washington
- A demonstration of decontamination technologies
- The availability of a concept video and website on precision information environments for emergency management
- An opportunity to comment on a federal plan to involve communities in hazardous waste emergencies.

Visual Analytics Software Installed at KPD

An initial prototype of the Everest visual analytics software has been successfully installed at the Kennewick Police Department (KPD) in Washington. Everest is used to analyze complex network structures and recognize patterns in events, places, and actions. The crime analysts are using Everest to better identify relationships between criminals, recognize criminal patterns, and stop criminal activities.

This software deployment is a collaboration between PNNL and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, funded by the Knowledge Management Tools Thrust Area in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Command, Control, and Interoperability Division. The KPD data center manages information from across the southeast Washington region. For the next 2 months, KPD analysts will use this prototype to generate reports and perform analysis in support of active cases. Feedback received from this small-scale pilot will be incorporated into the final deployment expected this summer.

Decontamination Technologies Demonstrated

On May 12, emergency management professionals attended a demonstration of decontamination technologies through the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) program. IBRD is a collaborative program between DHS and the Department of Defense (DoD), in close coordination with the Seattle Urban Area Security Initiative, to develop policies, approaches, methods, plans, and technologies to restore large urban areas, military installations, and critical infrastructure after a biological attack.

The hands-on decontamination demonstration highlighted technologies and capabilities available to support wide-area outdoor decontamination operations, including systems currently in use by the DoD; systems developed by industry partners; and technologies being evaluated by DHS S&T. For more information on the technologies demonstrated, contact [Ann Lesperance](#).

PIE Website, Video Available

A concept video depicting the impact of precision information environments (PIEs) on emergency management activities has been released with a website that introduces the PIE vision to the broad end user and research communities.

The PIE program, sponsored by DHS S&T's Command, Control, and Interoperability Division, is developing future work environments that will support all phases of emergency management and all emergency management stakeholders from first responders to the public. PIEs will integrate modeling and simulation, visual analysis, synthetic environments, and context-aware interfaces in an easy-to-use decision support and collaboration system. The PIE concept video articulates the long-term vision; many of the core technologies described in the video are now being developed by PNNL and partners.

The emergency management community originally provided input to the PIE research agenda in January. The video and accompanying materials available on the PIE [website](#) provide a mechanism for stakeholders to continue to provide input on PIE concepts, prototypes, and research and development directions.

EPA Solicits Comments on Plan to Involve Community in Hazardous Cleanup Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched an initiative to help communities more effectively participate in government decisions related to land cleanup, emergency preparedness and response, and the management of hazardous substances and waste. The Community Engagement

Initiative (CEI) plan lays out specific steps EPA is taking to provide communities with better information and opportunities to understand and influence decisions on environmental cleanup. The purpose of the plan is to present guiding principles, goals, and actions to enhance EPA's relationships with communities from across the country while protecting human health and the environment.

Through the initiative, EPA will help interested community members more effectively participate in EPA decision-making processes. The CEI plan also details actions EPA is pursuing to more effectively explain the hazards of environmental problems to affected communities. Implementation of this plan will help EPA make timely decisions and take actions that are reliably informed by the broad diversity of voices and interests in the communities served.

The plan is intended to be a working document, and specific actions will be refined with ongoing feedback from communities and other stakeholders. EPA invites public comment on the plan, will frequently evaluate the initiative's progress and results, and will regularly post this information on the agency's web site. For more information on the CEI and to comment on the plan, see the EPA's [web site](#).

Upcoming Events

August 31-September 1
[Visual Analytics Centers \(VAC\) Consortium Meeting](#)
College Park, Maryland

September 21-23
IBRD Capstone Event
Seattle

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://nwrhc.pnl.gov>.



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