



Around The Region In Homeland Security December 2010

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. This monthly newsletter summarizes activities related to homeland security in the region, and this issue highlights

- The status of Montana's information-sharing viewer
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appreciation for participants of the Puget Sound maritime small vessel pilot
- Recommendations from the DHS Local, State, Tribal, and Federal Preparedness Task Force
- Online information on disaster management from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Montana Viewer Up and Running

The state of Montana has been participating in the Northwest Pilot of the Virtual USA technology. On July 27, representatives from the state attended the Virtual USA plenary session at Camp Murray in Washington state to share information and ideas with the other partner states from the Northwest. John Walsh, the Adjutant General; Ed Tinsley, Administrator; Steve Knecht, Deputy Administrator; Jens Bolstad, GIS and Virtual Montana Project Director (all from the Disaster and Emergency Services Division); and Robin Trenbeath, State Geographical Information Officer, represented Montana. "We appreciate the opportunity to share ideas and best practices and be part of consensus building for the overall Virtual USA Project," said Knecht.

The state is working with PNNL and the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) to develop a viewing platform that can be incorporated into the existing state architecture. This platform allows emergency managers to easily view situational data. Montana is also finishing the process of incorporating WebEOC and the MapperPro module

and hopes to develop an interface to share information between the two systems soon.

On October 25, representatives from PNNL and DHS S&T arrived at the Montana State Emergency Coordination Center located on Fort Harrison to work through the process of setting up the viewer platform and giving the Disaster and Emergency Services Division as well as other state agency tech staff the tools to set up the pre-determined data layers. This set-up and training process ran from October 25 through the afternoon of October 27. Montana was also able to incorporate weather layers from the National Weather Service into the product.

With the viewer set up and operating within the Disaster and Emergency Services Division's firewall, the state is in the process of obtaining all of the necessary user licenses to host and publish the Virtual Montana service on the internet. For more information, contact [Steve Knecht](mailto:Steve.Knecht@pnnl.gov) at 406-841-3961.

Editor's Note: Thanks to the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division for sharing this article.

DNDO Deputy Director Thanks Maritime Pilot Participants

On November 17, Dr. Huban Gowadia, Acting Deputy Director of the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), attended the Puget Sound Area Maritime Security Committee meeting in Seattle. Gowadia thanked the Committee and all agencies that had participated in the Preventative Rad/Nuc Detection Small Vessel Pilot.

“The pilot set the standard for a successful operational program,” Gowadia said. “DNDO will use the lessons learned to bring this capability to other regions in the U.S.” She also recognized the outstanding teamwork of federal, state, local, and tribal agencies and industry in the Puget Sound area.

The DNDO pilot, which concludes this month, provided over 20 agencies with radiation detection equipment, an integrated concept of operations and pilot standard operating procedure, and training. The partners have agreed to pursue a Port Security Grant to help sustain the capability in the short-term. Washington’s Adjutant General Timothy Lowenberg has written to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano encouraging the identification of a path forward for sustaining the capability in the longer term.

Preparedness Task Force Issues Recommendations

The DHS Local, State, Tribal, and Federal Preparedness Task Force recently issued a report of findings and recommendations to Congress. The Task Force was convened in April 2010 to take stock of the numerous efforts that have shaped preparedness policy, guidance, and investments since 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina and find ways to ensure that future

efforts are efficient, streamlined, and measurable.

The Task Force comprises members representing local, state, tribal, and territorial governments who were recommended as leading homeland security decision-makers and practitioners from a variety of disciplines, as well as *ex officio* members representing federal departments and agencies. Their conclusions draw on their experience and expertise.

Specific recommendations fall into four areas: strategic investments, policy and guidance, capabilities and assessments, and grant administration. The full report is [available online](#).

NIH Offers Information on Disaster Management

The National Institutes for Health (NIH) has gathered online resources for disaster management. The National Library of Medicine’s Disaster Information Management Research Center [website](#) provides guides to public health in disasters and other disaster health literature, emergency response tools, and updates on current crises around the globe such as the cholera outbreak in Haiti.

Upcoming Events

January 10-12, 2011
[Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise Stakeholders Workshop](#)
Washington, D.C.

April 26 and 27, 2011
[Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness](#) Conference
Tacoma, Washington

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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