



Around The Region In Homeland Security January 2011

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

- A new report on maintaining first responder capabilities during a pandemic
- Advice on using microcredit for disaster recovery
- Idaho's quarterly newsletter for the emergency response community
- A new version of a catalog on private sector resources for disasters
- Funded training for emergency responders.

Fire Administration Suggests Ways to Maintain First Responder Capabilities During a Pandemic

During a severe pandemic, workloads for first responders will increase and staff sizes will diminish as employees and their families become ill. To help support contingency planning, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Fire Administration issued the report *Information for First Responders on Maintaining Operational Capabilities During a Pandemic* (November 2010).

The report, in conjunction with the DHS *Pandemic Influenza Best Practices and Model Protocols* (2007), is intended to support first responder efforts to provide the best service to their team and their community. The report shares

- Potential ways to adjust operations to maintain readiness and response
- Opportunities, including two planning tools, for leaders in the first responder community at the local level to take action

- Reference sheets with discipline-specific potential action steps.

The report also offers suggestions for staffing, training, workforce protection, sustainability, resource sharing, and public communication and education for law enforcement, fire service, emergency services, and emergency call centers.

The [full report](#) is available online.

Report Offers Advice on Using Microcredit for Disaster Recovery

Disasters, whether natural, accidental, or intentional, pose one of the greatest threats to any economy. Historically, the small business community is the hardest hit. A new report documents a study to determine the potential for using microcredit as a disaster relief tool. The study identified both challenges and benefits of microcredit as well as the types of businesses most likely to be aided by a microcredit system. See [the full report](#) on the NWRTC webpage.

Idaho Newsletter Keeps Emergency Managers Up to Date

Each quarter, the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security publishes a newsletter on emergency management topics such as lessons learned from disasters, progress on major initiatives, and tools for emergency planning. The newsletter shares information with the state's emergency management community, legislators, government officials, and others who are interested in learning about Idaho's emergency management techniques and procedures.

The latest issue can be found in the Bureau's [newsroom online](#), under "Newsletters."

Version 2.0 of the Private Sector Resources Catalog Now Available

In November 2010, DHS issued Version 2.0 of its *Private Sector Resources Catalog* to facilitate access by businesses to homeland security resources. First issued last May, the catalog collects the training, publications, guidance, alerts, newsletters, programs, and services available to the private sector across DHS components.

DHS had committed to updating the catalog as resources changed. The [full catalog and various chapters](#) are available online.

Center Offers Funded Training to Emergency Responders

Established in 1998, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) trains emergency response providers in preparedness, protection, and response. Costs for training, transportation, meals, and expenses are fully funded by DHS for state, local, and tribal

responders. International, federal, and private sector responders may participate in CDP training on a space available, fee-for-service basis.

The CDP's interdisciplinary resident and nonresident training courses promote greater understanding of emergency management, emergency medical services, fire service, governmental administrative, hazardous materials, healthcare, law enforcement, public health, public safety communications, and public works. Team training for two to fifty people from the same organization is also available.

A page on the CDP website provides details on [how to register](#). See the [main website](#) for details on the program.

Upcoming Events

January 19, 2011

Utah Emergency Management Association 2011
[Annual Conference](#)
Salt Lake City, Utah

March 1-3, 2011

Colorado Emergency Management Association 2011
[Annual Conference](#)
Loveland, Colorado

March 30 – April 1, 2011

DHS 5th Annual [University Network Summit](#):
Catastrophes and Complex Systems:
Transportation
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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