



Around The Region In Homeland Security May 2014

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

- InterAgency Board: Strengthening the First Responder Community
- Partnering to Tackle DND's Grand Challenges
- Biodetection Twitter Chat
- Upcoming Events

InterAgency Board: Strengthening the First Responder Community



For the past 15 years, the [InterAgency Board](#) (IAB) has been working to strengthen the nation's ability to prepare for, and respond safely and effectively to, emergencies, disasters and CBRNE incidents.

The NWRTC recently discussed IAB's goals and priorities regarding national emergency preparedness with IAB Chair Jay Hagen, Assistant Chief of Operations for the Seattle (WA) Fire Department, and Deputy Chair John Delaney, Jr., Captain II, Arlington County (VA) Fire Department. This article is the second in a three-part series about the IAB.

PNNL: Do you think the nation is adequately prepared to respond to emergencies, disasters, and incidents of terror?

Jay Hagen: Preparedness is an ongoing activity and something that takes continual investment. Generally,

the U.S. is prepared to respond to disasters and incidents of terror. The challenge remains that we face such a wide spectrum of continuous threats. At the IAB, we strive to maintain capability and achieve higher levels of preparedness by supporting smart equipment purchases and conducting exercise and training programs through participation in grant programs.

PNNL: What can the first responder community do today to help prepare themselves?

JH: Because the threats that we're facing today remain diverse, all levels of government need to be focusing on the basics. This requires a large amount of coordination and cooperation, which is extremely important. But integrating disciplines together in planning and response is difficult.

John Delaney, Jr.: A key variable boils down to our leaders recognizing and understanding the threats and working to develop relationships within and across jurisdictional boundaries. If this is not established as a priority, we are not going to be as prepared as we could be.

Check back next month for the final installment in this series as we cover the IAB's future plans and priorities.

Partnering to Tackle DNDO's Grand Challenges

Dr. Huban Gowadia, Director of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), recently visited PNNL. The goals of the trip were threefold:



- share information about PNNL's work for DNDO and within the national security mission space,
- expose the PNNL staff at large about DNDO's priorities and partnership opportunities as a national laboratory, and
- enable discussions with regional stakeholders about radiological and nuclear detection challenges.

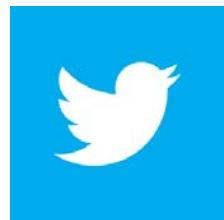
Several hundred PNNL staff were on hand as Dr. Gowadia shared her perspectives on DNDO's vision and technical grand challenges the organization faces in the prevention of nuclear terrorism. She discussed the daunting nature of protecting the homeland against threats across air, land, and sea pathways, and that the need for new, novel detection methods is ever present.

Joined by Captain Matt Callan, Senior U.S. Coast Guard detailee to DNDO, Dr. Gowadia toured facilities at PNNL's Richland, WA, main campus before viewing a radiological and nuclear detection maritime drill in Everett, WA.

Dr. Gowadia rounded out her visit by hosting a Washington State Regional Stakeholder meeting. Attended by over a dozen officials including Washington State TAG, General Bret Dougherty, discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities for the expansion of radiological and nuclear detection in Washington State and around the country more broadly. Dr. Gowadia thanked the agencies for the time and effort they have put in to building the Regional Puget Sound Small Vessel Preventative Rad/Nuc Detection Program, and said that she views the Puget Sound as a partner who has embraced the mission and has made it a part of their daily operations.

Biodetection Twitter Chat

First responders and biodetection officials alike are invited to team with PNNL and DHS in a live tweet conversation regarding the science of biodetection technology evaluation. Use the hashtag #STTechTalk to discuss available biodetection technologies and products available for first responders, including how and why PNNL developed their own [product guide](#).



When: Thursday, May 29 from 9:30 – 10:30 AM PST.

How: [Twitter](#) – use the hashtag #STTechTalk

Upcoming Events

May 29 – June 1, 2014

[International Association of Fire Chiefs \(IAFC\)](#)

[Hazmat Conference](#)

Baltimore, MD

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@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtc.pnnl.gov>.
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