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: Advancing First Responder Priorities
- Biodetection Technology Resources
- Rad/Nuc Detection Training
- Upcoming Events

**InterAgency Board: Advancing First Responders Priorities**

The InterAgency Board’s (IAB) mission is “to strengthen the nation’s ability to prepare for and respond safely and effectively to emergencies, disaster and CBRNE incidents.” “And really,” explains IAB Chair Jay Hagen, Assistant Chief of Operations for the Seattle (WA) Fire Department, “what the IAB does is provide a structured forum for the exchange of ideas based on the idea that we can improve national preparedness if we promote interoperability and compatibility among the local and federal response communities.”

Recently the NWRTC had the opportunity to speak with Jay and Deputy Chair John Delaney, Jr., Captain II, Arlington County (VA) Fire Department, about the IAB’s current priorities, interests and goals. This article is the first in a series about the IAB.

**PNNL:** This year marks the 15th anniversary of IAB, what types of priorities do you see coming up over the next year or two?

**Jay Hagen:** The work of the IAB is a combination of the priorities submitted by our federal partners, and projects that are advanced by our first responder members. All of those interests and goals get boiled down to an annual work plan of which there are about 35 projects happening right now. *We have some really important partnerships and projects that we’re working on.*

**PNNL:** Who makes up the IAB?

**JH:** What we are is a voluntary group of responders and practitioners; we have a wide array of disciplines, multiple levels of government, and educational institutions represented. We hold a few concepts that we really feel are important:

- We offer ground truth that the IAB is a conduit for direct feedback from the responder community.
- We think it’s very important to maintain independence.
- We work hard to maintain credibility.
- We try to be as diverse as possible in terms of response disciplines that we have in our membership. We try to be geographically diverse as well.
- We try to have a proactive orientation.
**Biodetection Technology Resources**

PNNL’s Ann Lesperance and Rachel Bartholomew recently were invited to attend the annual IAB meeting in Arlington, VA. The two-day meeting included plenary talks as well as multiple breakout focus area subgroup sessions including those in equipment, and science and technology. Keynote talks included personnel from Seattle Fire, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Customs and Border Protection. IAB Chair Jay Hagan invited PNNL staff to present to the equipment subgroup an update on their recent efforts to evaluate hand portable biodetection technologies.

PNNL has been tasked by DHS to perform technology foraging to identify hand portable biodetection technologies and evaluate the performance of these instruments for screening samples for *Bacillus anthracis* and ricin. The technologies evaluated included screening assays (e.g., protein and ATP tests) as well as agent specific tests (e.g., immunoassays and PCR). PNNL presented the data from 15 different biodetection technologies for screening environmental hoax powders. Testing with agents is in progress. [Download the updated report](#), Biodetection Technologies for First Responders: 2014 Edition.


**Rad/Nuc Detection Training**

Idaho’s Radiological Nuclear Defense Program is hosting a pair of training and seminar opportunities around the topic of rad/nuc detection. Idaho is one of a growing number of states to partner with the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture (GNDA) in an effort to protect against radiological and nuclear related threats. Training will be divided into two sessions:

- Idaho Radiological Nuclear Detection Seminar – will include a National Level Mission briefing by the DHS’s Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.
- Idaho Mobile Detection Deployment Unit Field Training – participants will receive hands on training on a variety of rad/nuc detection equipment.

Sessions are scheduled June 16 & 17 in Idaho Falls, and June 17 & 18 in Boise.

Visit [http://www.prndexercise.us/idaho.html](http://www.prndexercise.us/idaho.html) to register. Contact Tom Clawson at (208) 528-8895 or Josh Fishburne at (208) 475-3274 for more information.

**Upcoming Events**

May 13 – 15, 2014
[Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Higher Education (L-363)](#)
Washington State University, Pullman, WA

May 20 – 22, 2014
[National Homeland Security Conference](#)
Philadelphia, PA

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