



Around The Region In Homeland Security May 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 NWRTC enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities; federal, state, and local agencies; and private sector stakeholders in the Northwest. This monthly newsletter summarizes activities related to homeland security in the region, and this issue highlights

- Pierce County's achievement of National Accreditation
- The first meeting of the Precision Information Environments Stakeholder Advisory Group
- The new Presidential Policy Directive on National Preparedness.

Pierce County Emergency Management Earns National Accreditation

Washington's Pierce County Department of Emergency Management has reached a milestone shared by only five counties across the nation – accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

“Pierce County is the first jurisdiction within Washington state – local, county, or state – to achieve national accreditation,” County Executive Pat McCarthy said in the press release accompanying the announcement. “That shows an incredible level of commitment and preparation by Emergency Management staff.”

To earn accreditation, Pierce County documented how it met national standards for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery systems. The county then documented compliance with standards used in the accreditation process and underwent a peer review that noted several best practices in Pierce County's program, including technology applications, training, grant management, and public education.

The accreditation program is connected with the National Emergency Manager's Association and the International Association of Emergency Managers. More information is available [online](#).

PIE Advisory Group Holds Inaugural Meeting

The Precision Information Environments (PIE) Stakeholder Advisory Group held its first quarterly meeting on March 24 in Seattle. PIE, being developed by PNNL under the direction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology (DHS S&T) Visual Analytics Program, allows emergency response agencies to engage with each other and leverage their collective experience in an online environment that combines physical models, real-time data streams, and other information to support actions, assessments, and decision making.

The group provides input on PIE's research direction and technology development efforts. At the meeting, members reviewed the technology gap analysis that is guiding technology development and shared insights in how information technologies like PIE can be more effectively deployed in the field. Members also showed interest in pilot testing the technologies as

they are developed. Group members include representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Port of Seattle, DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle Police Department Office of Emergency Management, and Washington State Department of Health.

President Issues New Policy Directive on National Preparedness

On March 30, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8): National Preparedness. The directive seeks to strengthen national security and resiliency through systematic preparation for threats that pose the greatest risk, including acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters. PPD-8 is intended to galvanize action by the federal government and facilitate an integrated, capabilities-based approach to preparedness. The directive guides creation of the following:

- A national preparedness goal identifying the core capabilities for preparedness, to be completed by the DHS Secretary by 9/30/11.
- A national preparedness system to guide activities that will enable the nation to achieve the goal. The system will track the progress of building and improving the capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from those threats that pose the greatest risk. The DHS Secretary of Homeland Security will submit a system description by 11/30/11.
- An interagency-developed implementation plan for completing the national preparedness goal and system, submitted by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism by 5/30/11.

All activities will be coordinated among federal agencies and in consultation with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; the private and nonprofit sectors; and the public. In addition, PPD-8 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to coordinate a comprehensive campaign to build and sustain national preparedness, including public outreach and community-based and private-sector programs. Within 1 year, the Secretary of Homeland Security will submit the first annual national preparedness report to the President.

This directive replaces Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8, issued December 17, 2003, and HSPD-8 Annex I, issued December 4, 2007, except for paragraph 44 of HSPD-8 Annex I. Individual plans developed under HSPD-8 and Annex I remain in effect until rescinded or otherwise replaced. The full text of the directive is available on the [DHS website](#).

Upcoming Events

May 25 and 26

[Montana Ready: Disaster Preparedness 2011](#)

Montana State University, Billings

June 14

[Second Annual Disaster Housing Summit](#)

New York

June 20-23

[National UASI and Homeland Security Conference](#)

San Francisco, California

June 21-22

DHS S&T Visual Analytics Program Exercise
Resilience Experiment on Emergency Response
Technology

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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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