



Around The Region In Homeland Security September 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

- Progress on a recovery framework in Denver
- An engagement with the U.S. Navy to help enhance emergency response technologies
- An update on Precision Information Environments available online
- Standards for public health preparedness from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

WARRP Team Agrees on Denver UASI Recovery Framework

August 17, the writing team developing the Regional Recovery Framework for the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) met to vet, validate, and discuss key elements of the draft framework, which will serve as the basis for recovery plans in the region. The writing team includes representatives from the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, Buckley Air Force Base, Denver Office of Emergency Management, Boulder Office of Emergency Management, Douglas County Office of Emergency Management, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Englewood Office of Emergency Management, and Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management. The work is being supported by the Wide-Area Recovery and Resiliency Program (WARRP), a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

At the meeting, the team generally agreed on the overall structure of the framework. They also discussed and began developing a revised

organizational chart, showing roles of various groups in disaster recovery. They reviewed 10 existing concepts of operation that had been used in the Seattle UASI framework and identified 5 others to be added (re-entry, judicial issues, public safety, continuity of government, and human and community services).

The team also agreed to further develop the concepts of recovery and vet and validate the content with local, state, federal, and military subject matter experts at a working meeting in Denver on September 29 and 30, 2011. The team expects to have the initial draft of the WARRP Recovery Framework completed in October; this draft will then be shared with a larger stakeholder group for comment.

Navy Engagement Could Enhance Technology Development

The NWRTC has been working to build partnerships with the U.S. Navy. The Navy's focus on fleet, fighter, and family requires it to respond effectively to disasters just as state and local governments respond to communities in need. There are also opportunities to leverage new technologies to the benefit of the

Navy and to leverage technologies developed by the Navy to benefit public safety and emergency management.

On July 27, PNNL staff met with Rear Admiral Douglass Biesel, Commanding Officer, Navy Region Northwest and much of his senior leadership as well as commanding officers from Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and Naval Station Everett to discuss a more formal relationship. Based on the meeting, Rear Admiral Biesel recommended that PNNL meet with Vice Admiral Michael Vitale, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC). VADM Vitale is responsible for shore installation management at 13 regional installations worldwide. VADM Vitale, CNIC is responsible for many different aspects of installation management which includes port security, environmental management and emergency management.

In August, PNNL staff met with Vice Admiral Vitale, who was enthusiastic about the potential for collaborative efforts. Discussions are underway to pilot and enhance technologies to improve energy usage, surveillance, and social media analytics. These improvements can then be utilized by other agencies and organizations partnering with the NWRTC.

iVAC Newsletter Highlights Advances in PIE

A recent issue of the Integrated Visualization and Analytics Community (iVAC) newsletter highlighted advances being made by the Precision Information Environments (PIE) effort at PNNL. PIE will provide tailored access to information and decision support capabilities that adapt to the varying users and phases of emergency management. The newsletter shared articles on the PIE research roadmap, which was developed with state and local stakeholders, among

others; an emergency management gap analysis; Livewall, the latest technology developed under the effort; and the PIE Stakeholder Advisory Group. The articles can be viewed online at theivac.org.

CDC Issues Standards for Public Health Preparedness

One of the nation's key preparedness challenges has been determining appropriate state and local public health preparedness priorities. To assist state and local public health departments in their strategic planning, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed 15 capabilities to serve as national public health preparedness standards.

CDC applied a systematic approach to developing the capabilities. Content is based on evidence-informed documents, relevant preparedness literature, and subject matter expertise gathered from across the federal government and the state and local practice community. CDC's [*Public Health Preparedness Capabilities: National Standards for State and Local Planning*](#) provides a guide that state and local jurisdictions can use to better organize their work, plan their priorities, and decide which capabilities they have the resources to build or sustain. The standards also help ensure that federal preparedness funds are directed to priority areas within individual jurisdictions.

Upcoming Events

September 27-29
Washington Emergency Management Association
[Conference](#)
Port Angeles, Washington

October 10-13 Oregon Emergency Management
Association [Annual Conference](#)
Sunriver, Oregon

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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