



Around The Region In Homeland Security October 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

- The National Recovery Framework recently issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- An airborne management system to be piloted in a Los Angeles exercise
- New guidance on nuclear and chemical response planning.

FEMA Lays out National Recovery Framework

In September, FEMA issued the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#), a guide for effective recovery support to disaster-impacted states, tribes, and local jurisdictions. The flexible structure is designed to enable disaster recovery managers to operate in a unified and collaborative manner. The framework also defines core recovery principles, roles and responsibilities of recovery coordinators and other stakeholders, and the overall process by which communities can capitalize on opportunities to rebuild stronger, smarter, and safer.

The framework introduces six Recovery Support Functions with specific federal leads:

- Community Planning and Capacity Building (FEMA)
- Economic Recovery (U.S. Department of Commerce)
- Health and Social Recovery (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—DHHS)

- Housing Recovery (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)
- Infrastructure Systems Recovery (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery (U.S. Department of the Interior)

The Recovery Support Functions facilitate the identification, coordination, and delivery of federal assistance needed to supplement recovery resources and efforts by local, state, and tribal governments, as well as private and nonprofit sectors. These Recovery Support Functions activities assist communities with accelerating the process of recovery, redevelopment, and revitalization.

Real-Time Airborne Management System to be Piloted in LA Exercise

The Real-Time Airborne Management System (RAMS) will be piloted in Los Angeles County, California, during the Great Southern California Shake-Out, a full-scale exercise scheduled for

October 20, 2011. In support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), PNNL met in September with Los Angeles County Fire and Search and Rescue to discuss the possible inclusion of the technology.

RAMS is an airborne platform that can be flown over an impacted area to provide near-real-time damage pictures, with significant resolution. Because the camera system is "side looking," the images provide depth of field rather than just a top-down look. LA County Fire has agreed to incorporate this capability into the exercise to help the emergency response team gain a clearer picture of the situation and to give Search and Rescue teams better information to support efforts to establish priorities.

In support of DHS S&T, PNNL will be working with the LA County Fire Department to develop and test a concept of operations and standard operating procedures for adding the RAMS technology to emergency response operations. After the pilot demonstration, PNNL will revise the concept of operations and procedure, which can then be vetted in other interested cities and states in the Northwest Region. The final concept and procedure will help transition this technology for use nationwide.

DHHS Issues Guidance on Nuclear and Chemical Response Planning

DHHS recently issued guidance to state and local agencies on response planning for nuclear and chemical disasters.

The [guidance on nuclear response planning](#) provides general issues to consider and specific processes and templates for state, facility, community hospitals, and

hospital response team plans. The guidance is meant to provide just-in-time, evidence-based, usable information with sufficient background and context to make complex issues understandable to those *without* formal radiation medicine expertise.

The [information on chemical response](#) is designed to enable first responders, first receivers, other healthcare providers, and planners to plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of mass-casualty incidents involving chemicals.

In both cases, the web-based information is also downloadable in advance, so that it would be available during an emergency if the internet is not accessible.

Upcoming Events

November 7

[The Tale of Our Cities](#): Planning for Response to Explosives Threats
Seattle, Washington

November 11-17

[International Association of Emergency Managers Annual USA Conference](#)
Las Vegas, Nevada

November 15 and 16

[Public Health and Medical Disaster Response](#) in Action: The Joplin Tornadoes
Omaha, Nebraska

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://nwrwc.pnnl.gov>.



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