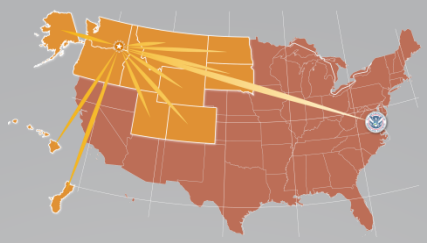


UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 15, 2018 – Alliance Northwest, Puyallup, WA
- March 21, 2018 – Blue Cascades Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies Exercise, Seattle, WA
- April 26, 2018 – Idaho Cybersecurity Interdependencies Summit, Boise, ID
- July 22–26, 2018 – Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Annual Summit, Spokane, WA

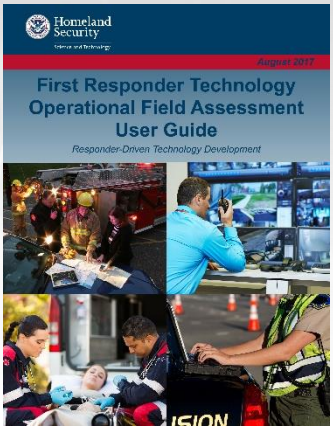
CONTACT

- Want to know more? Visit us on the web at http://nwrtc.pnnl.gov
- Contact the NWRTC with questions and comments at nwrtc@pnnl.gov.

AROUND THE REGION IN HOMELAND SECURITY

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by 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.

USER GUIDE HELPS ASSESS FIRST RESPONDER TECHNOLOGY



With new technology coming to market at a record pace, how do we know products are reliable, durable, and secure enough to make our nation's emergency management professionals safer, better connected, and fully aware?

To ease that process, PNNL, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science & Technology Directorate (S&T) First Responders Group (FRG), created the First Responder Technology Operational Field Assessment User Guide. This user-friendly, streamlined approach joins technology developers, users, and subject matter experts in assessing technology products in a consistent way.

In February 2017, PNNL piloted the approach with staff at the Xfinity Arena in Everett, Washington, to demonstrate a communications and enhanced situational awareness technology called CommandWear, a technology that was part of the DHS S&T EMERGE accelerator program. Event staff used the technology (app, smartwatch, cellphone, and tablet) during a hockey game at the 10,000-seat venue.

The guide is accompanied by user forms and templates that can be modified to fit different technology products, scenarios, and use cases. For more information, visit the DHS S&T FRG web site. The guide was produced as part of the DHS S&T Responder Technology Alliance, managed by PNNL, and will be used in future DHS S&T technology developments. For assistance with the guide, contact Ann Lesperance or Richard Ozanich.

RECEPTION WELCOMES EMERGENCY MANAGERS, BUSINESS CONTINUITY PROFESSIONALS

Relationships are vital in the field of emergency management. To help facilitate regional networking, the 2018 Emergency Managers and Business Continuity Professionals Reception on February 13 brought together public and private sector emergency management and business continuity professionals.

Guest speakers shared about the value of mentorship, networking, communication, and coordination to enable a lasting emergency management capability both locally and nationwide.

"We are fortunate to have a thriving community of emergency management professionals and organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest. Events like this give us the much-needed opportunity to connect in our critical mission to enable response, resilience, and recovery," said Grant Tietje, PNNL Specialist and Program Manager of the DHS S&T Responder Technology Alliance.

The event was hosted by the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region and Center for Regional Disaster Resilience in partnership with Snohomish County Emergency Management, the Northwest Healthcare Response Network, Berk Consulting, and the City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management.

BILL TO MODERNIZE FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

The Wildfire Management Technology Advancement Act of 2017, introduced by U.S. Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Cory Gardner (R-CO), seeks to modernize fire departments by requiring the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to provide GPS locators for crews fighting wildfires. The bipartisan bill has the support of numerous national firefighter organizations.

The act requires the agencies to use unmanned aircraft systems to find and map wildfires in real time, and work with NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and PNNL to forecast where wildfires might occur. The act also requires analysis of firefighter injuries to identify gaps in training to prevent injuries in the future.

To learn more, read "Bill will modernize department's fire-fighting equipment" in *Homeland Preparedness News*.

FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK GOES NATIONWIDE

All 50 states, two U.S. territories, and Washington, D.C., have joined FirstNet, giving first responders an unprecedented wireless broadband network.

FirstNet resulted in part from the public safety community advocating for a wireless broadband network following the 9/11 attacks; proponents stressed that enhanced communication during emergencies and other events was needed.

As described in the press release, the First Responder Network Authority's public-private partnership with AT&T provides first responders with immediate access to mission-critical capabilities, such as priority and preemption features to allow first responders to communicate and share information when commercial networks could become congested (i.e., during emergencies or large-scale events).

Key activities on the FirstNet horizon include expanding the network and building out bandwidth, advancing public safety innovation through the FirstNet App store, enabling full encryption of public safety data over FirstNet, and continuing to engage with the public safety community to make sure the network meets their needs.

For more information, contact NWRTC Director Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov or (206) 528-3223, or Deputy Directors Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov or (509) 372-6622, and Rob Jasper at robert.jasper@pnnl.gov or (509) 371-6430, or visit us online at http://nwrtc.pnnl.gov.
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