



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, resilience, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME TO 2021!

I would like to start off this new year by thanking those on the front line—our essential workers, private and public health professionals, emergency managers, first responders, National Guard, and many others who are keeping us safe. I would also like to acknowledge all of our partners in the Pacific Northwest, across the nation, and around the world who make this center and our collaborations a success. While 2020 was a year of change and challenge, through our diverse partnerships and stakeholder engagement our center continued making science and technology connections that enhance preparedness, resiliency, response, and recovery regionally and nationwide.

In particular, we are grateful to have built and enhanced connections to do what our center does best: serve the region's and the nation's preparedness and response communities. At the onset of the pandemic, we were called upon to help share lessons learned and best practices between emergency managers and public safety practitioners—and that effort continues today. PNNL researchers have also been busy at work [confronting COVID-19 challenges](#) in some very diverse and innovative ways.

Looking forward, I am excited to see what our future holds. Our center, including this [newsletter](#) and our [website](#), remains a resource to you for connecting with first responders, emergency management, public safety professionals, academia, and the private sector to define and prioritize

technology needs. Our center's power is in our partnerships, and I look forward to connecting with you on whatever challenges and opportunities this year holds.



Ann Lesperance
NWRTC Director
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

OPPORTUNITIES

Events current at time of publication. Have a virtual resource or event to share? Email us!

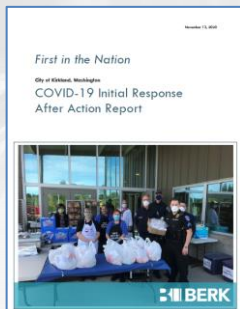
- February 1-28 – [Central U.S. Earthquake Awareness Month](#)
- March 23-25 – [Wildland-Urban Interface Conference](#)
- April 5-7 – [2021 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference](#)
- April 12-15 – [2021 Preparedness Summit](#)
- May 17-19 – [2021 International Association of Chiefs of Police Technology Conference](#)
- August 15-19 – [Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Annual Summit](#)

CONTACT

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

REPORT DOCUMENTS PANDEMIC RESPONSE EFFORTS

Kirkland, Washington, one of the first U.S. cities to address the COVID-19 outbreak, recently published an after-action report capturing actions and lessons learned from the initial outbreak in February 2020 through approximately May 2020.



Developed in partnership by the City of Kirkland and BERK Consulting, the report titled [“First in the Nation: City of Kirkland, Washington COVID-19 Initial Response After Action Report”](#) focuses on organizational impacts of the pandemic on the city’s departments and the city’s ability to maintain general government operations and service provision.

To learn more about the Kirkland response effort, tune into Disaster Zone Podcast, [“COVID Comes to the USA,”](#) to hear from City of Kirkland Emergency Manager Heather Kelly.

ARTICLE DISCUSSES RECOVERY OVER RE-ENTRY

Ten years ago, PNNL national security staff members Ann Lesperance and Grant Tietje joined representatives from King and Pierce Counties, cities of Seattle and Bellevue, and Joint Base Lewis McChord in developing the [Regional Recovery Framework for a Biological Attack in the Seattle Urban Area](#). In [“Think Recovery, Not Just Re-Entry, for Post-Pandemic Future”](#) in *Domestic Preparedness*, Lesperance and Tietje call upon emergency managers and first responders from the framework team to revisit the 2010 framework and its potential relevance during the current pandemic. The framework focused on a hypothetical weaponized anthrax attack but was designed to be flexible and scalable to serve for other chemical or biological incidents. Read more in [“Team Reflects on Long-Term Recovery Planning”](#) to learn more.

SCIENTISTS EXPLORE CONDITIONS THAT BEGET WILDFIRE RISKS

As wildfires burn more often across the Western United States, PNNL researchers are working to understand how extensively blazes burn. Atmospheric scientists Ruby Leung and Xiaodong Chen recently detailed their study of decades-long wildfire records and new simulations of past climate conditions, which they used to identify variables that lead to wildfires. Their investigation, aided by machine learning techniques that sort fires by the conditions that precede them, not only reveals that the risk of wildfire is rising, but also spells out the role moisture plays in estimating fire risk. Read the [PNNL news release](#) to learn more.



CHATTERJEE TO CHAIR SECURITY, DEFENSE SPECIALTY GROUP

PNNL Data Scientist Sam Chatterjee was appointed the 2021 chair of the [Security and Defense Specialty Group of the Society for Risk Analysis \(SRA\)](#).



The group focuses on development and application of risk science and risk analysis to the security and defense domain using data-driven, simulation-based, and expert-guided methods.

Chatterjee has been an SRA member for 10 years and previously served as chair of the Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group. Read more in [“Chatterjee to Chair SRA Specialty Group on Security and Defense.”](#)

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PNNL-SA-158983