Los Alamos National Laboratory to host robot rodeo

May 21, 2010

Events test skills of hazardous devices team from around the Southwest

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, May 21, 2010—Hazardous devices teams from around the Southwest will wrangle their bomb squad robots at the fourth annual Robot Rodeo beginning May 26 at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The rodeo gets under way at 8 a.m. at Technical Area 49, a remote section of Laboratory property near the entrance to Bandelier National Monument. Six teams are scheduled to participate in the three-day competition.

“The Robot Rodeo gives bomb squad teams the ability to practice and hone their skills in a fun setting,” said Chris Ory of the Laboratory’s Emergency Response Group and a member of the Lab’s Hazardous Devices team.

Teams compete in events and simulations that may include having their robots remove bombs from the inside of aircraft, rescuing injured first responders, navigating obstacle courses, responding to a roadside bombing, operating in smoke-filled buildings, troubleshooting equipment problems, attacking and rendering safe large vehicle bombs, and dealing with suicide bombers.

The Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, Region II, put on the rodeo.

News media interested in attending should contact Steve Sandoval at (505)665-9206 by Monday, May 24 to make arrangements to travel to the site.

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