



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 January 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- USA TODAY reports a number of community banks and credit unions are joining insurers and a few major banks like Citibank in offering customers free identity theft recovery service. (See item [9](#))
- The Associated Press reports the pilot of a Continental Airlines flight bound for Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, became ill after takeoff and was later pronounced dead after the plane made an emergency landing at McAllen–Miller International Airport Saturday, January 20. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 19, Associated Press* — **U.S. petroleum demand dipped in 2006.** While oil companies reaped gargantuan profits in 2006 amid high prices, U.S. demand for petroleum dipped for the second year in a row, the American Petroleum Institute (API) said Friday, January 19. Total U.S. petroleum deliveries, a measure of demand, fell by roughly one percent to 20.6 million barrels per day, down from 20.8 million in 2005, according to an API report. "We've entered that era on a worldwide basis where demand is growing more slowly," Citigroup oil analyst Tim Evans said. Most analysts are forecasting slower economic growth in

the U.S. in 2007, in part because of high energy prices. In the U.S. — still the world's largest energy consuming nation — residual fuel oil deliveries experienced the steepest decline, falling nearly 27 percent as industrial and electric utility facilities made major shifts to natural gas. The year's largest increase in demand was for distillate fuel, which includes highway diesel and heating oil. Gasoline demand rose 0.8 percent to average more than 9.2 million barrels per day. The slight bump was met entirely by ethanol blends, API said. Despite the dip in demand, U.S. refineries and blenders produced record amounts of gasoline and distillate fuel oil in 2006.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Falling-Oil-Demand.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

2. *January 18, Associated Press* — **Nuclear regulatory workforce challenged.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) ability to hire enough workers to manage the expected onslaught of new nuclear reactor applications will be crippled without increased funding, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released Wednesday, January 17, says. NRC Chairman Dale Klein said he, too, was concerned about the agency's ability to handle the license requests unless it receives more money from Congress. Without a new budget, the agency will be \$95 million, or 12 percent, short. "It will slow (the licensing) down," he said in an interview. Electric power companies intend to apply for 20 licenses to build and operate at least 29 new nuclear power reactors in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. To deal with the application demands and its other duties, NRC projects that its workforce will need to grow from about 3,100 employees in early fiscal 2006 to nearly 4,000 workers by 2010. Reviewing the applications and conducting its other work could hinder NRC's ability to ensure a safe and secure nuclear power industry. Substantial delays in the application process also could decrease the cost effectiveness of nuclear energy, and possibly reduce the amount of electricity available in the U.S., the report concluded.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070118/nuclear_workforce.html?.v=1

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *January 19, Oklahoman* — **Residents return after plant fire.** McAlester, OK, residents who evacuated after a food processing plant caught fire Thursday night, January 18, were allowed to return to their homes Friday morning. About 50 people left their homes after the blaze started at Diversified Foods and Seasonings Inc., 101 Steven Taylor Blvd. Workers and residents were evacuated because 33,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia was stored at the plant. It took firefighters nearly three hours to get the blaze under control and several area fire departments were called in to assist. The fire also shut down the Indian Nations Turnpike for more than three hours.

Source: <http://www.newsok.com/article/3001243/?template=news/main>

4. *January 18, KPVI (ID)* — **Spilled chemicals close school.** Hazardous materials experts were called to South Fremont High School in Saint Anthony, ID, Thursday, January 18, after a cupboard full of chemicals tipped over and spilled. The spilled chemicals were considered dangerous and the school had to be evacuated. It's believed that the cupboard tipped over sometime Wednesday night when no one was in the classroom. The spilled chemicals were a mixture of formaldehyde and alcohol that were used to preserve different specimens for biology

classes. Chief David Fausett, St. Anthony Fire Department: "Some of the specimens, we were told, are over 30 plus years old, so they didn't know the concentration of the formaldehyde."

Source: <http://www.kpvi.com/index.cfm?page=nbcstories.cfm&ID=3213>

5. *January 18, KSLA-TV (LA)* — **Chemical spills prompt road closure.** Traffic returned to normal Thursday, January 18, along a four-block area of Hamilton Road in Bossier City, LA, after about 8,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid leaked from a storage tank inside the Schlumberger plant. Bossier City spokesperson Mark Natale said workers discovered that a valve on the tank had broken and began cleaning up the spill. He said the chemical flowed into a containment area and did not seep onto any nearby streets. Still, firefighters evacuated two employees from a business next door as a precaution. Traffic had to be diverted for more than three hours.

Source: <http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=5954975&nav=0RY5>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *January 19, Associated Press* — **Pentagon changes war funding.** The Bush Administration will abandon the practice of financing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through emergency spending requests that have relatively little supporting detail, Pentagon officials said Thursday, January 18. Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England told the House Budget Committee that President Bush's upcoming budget request for 2008 would be accompanied by an estimate for that year's war costs. England said Bush's \$100 billion-plus emergency war request for the 2007 budget year, to be sent the same day, would be the last multibillion-dollar request, also known as a supplemental. "In '08, there's not a plan to have a supplemental," England said. Lawmakers in both parties have criticized the Administration for funding the war through such requests, bypassing the normal budgetary review and accountability. Such requests invariably contain fewer details and justifications than the Pentagon's annual budget blueprint.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/19/AR2007011900407.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *January 19, Register (UK)* — **Phishers haul in money from Nordic bank.** Phishing gangs have managed to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from accounts at Swedish bank Nordea since last autumn using a Trojan horse, according to Computer Sweden. Swedish police say they are still receiving reports of losses to the scam. At least 250 customers have been affected; the accounts of another 121 customers are under investigation. Nordea, the largest bank in Nordic countries, have confirmed the attacks, but didn't inform the public until now. Reports of phishing attacks against Nordea Sweden popped up as early as October 2005, but according to Computer Sweden the first successful attack took place in September 2006. The Trojan is activated when customers enter their log-in details. An error message appears and the details

are sent to the phishers in the U.S. and Russia. In some cases large amounts of money were taken from the accounts. Nordea managed to cancel some of the transactions.

Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2007/01/19/phishers_attack_nordea/

8. *January 19, Sophos* — **eBay to close on 27 February? Phishers try and lure victims with bogus vote e-mail.** SophosLabs has reminded computer users to be wary of phishing scams following the discovery of a scam that tries to steal usernames and passwords off eBay users by claiming the giant auction Website will close for business on 27 February. The e-mails claim that eBay has decided to shut down its business at the end of next month, and is asking users to vote on whether they disagree with the decision. The e-mail claims that 50 percent of eBay members are required to say that they want eBay to stay open, otherwise it will be closed permanently. Clicking on the e-mails' links takes the user to a phishing Website which poses as eBay, and is designed to steal usernames and passwords from users. "It's unlikely that anyone would really believe that such a successful Website as eBay is considering shutting its doors for business, but they might think it is a teaser campaign by the auction giant for some other kind of promotion," said Graham Cluley of Sophos.

Source: http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/01/ebay_vote.html

9. *January 19, USA TODAY* — **More banks offer free help for victims of identity theft.** A number of community banks and credit unions are joining insurers and a few major banks like Citibank in offering customers free identity theft recovery service. The service is aimed at helping victims close compromised accounts, place fraud alerts and prevent additional damage. Such efforts could help squelch identity theft, which claimed an estimated 8.9 million victims and accounted for \$56.6 billion in losses in 2005, according to Javelin Strategy & Research. In the past year, about 130 credit unions and community banks rolled out free identity theft recovery services to their customers, according to Identity Theft 911, which contracts with businesses providing the service to customers and employees.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/banking/2007-01-19-bank-id-theft_x.htm?csp=N008

10. *January 18, Courier Mail (Australia)* — **Four jailed over \$1.6 million skimming scam.** Four members of an international crime syndicate have been jailed for their part in a \$1.6 million scam that used skimming machines in Sydney ATMs to drain Australian bank accounts. The group, who traveled to Australia from Canada on tourist visas, were part of a "highly planned and organized scheme", planting the devices at automatic teller machines (ATM) in the city. The four, Svilen Marinov, Gueorgui Dinkov, Assen Dotchev and Christo Sotirov, were not leaders of the criminal syndicate and became involved in the skimming scam out of financial hardship. The four men were responsible for stealing a total of \$60,000. Up to seven others involved in the scam had fled Australia. They attached skimming devices to machines to record the details on each card entered, and a camera to record bank customers entering pin numbers. Duplicate ATM cards were then created and the thieves would often access the accounts close to midnight and then shortly after in order to withdraw the maximum daily amount twice. As many as 500 bank accounts were accessed.

Source: http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,21080525-50_03402,00.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *January 21, Courier–Journal (KY)* — **Cities seek disclosure of train cargo.** Freight trains pull tankers of deadly chemicals through the Louisville, KY, area daily, but what they're carrying is a mystery to most. Concerns about what trains are carrying through cities became heightened last week when an 80–car train on its way to Louisville derailed, exploded, and sent toxic smoke from burning cars of methyl ethyl ketone and cyclohexane billowing into the sky in Bullitt County. Just one Louisville chemical plant alone — American Synthetic Rubber — uses about 300 million pounds of butadiene brought in by trains, said Art Williams, director of the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District. The Conference of Mayors has asked the Department of Homeland Security to require railroads to tell cities when highly toxic shipments are coming their way, or to at least require better communication about the types of chemicals being shipped through communities. The railroad industry, however, has argued that full advance disclosure of chemicals and other toxic materials in shipments could be an aid to terrorists in planning an attack. They also point out that the information is on manifests in locomotives, on placards on the rail cars, and available from the companies in an emergency. Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070121/NEWS01/701210448/1008>
12. *January 21, Associated Press* — **Pilot dies in–flight; co–pilot lands jet.** The pilot of a Continental Airlines flight became ill after takeoff and was later pronounced dead after the plane made an emergency landing Saturday, January 20, a company spokesperson said. The 210 passengers on the flight, which departed from Houston, were never in danger and the co–pilot landed the plane safely, Continental spokesperson Macky Osorio said. The airline said only that the pilot suffered a "serious medical problem." Continental believes the pilot died of natural causes, Osorio said. The flight, bound for Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, took off from Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport and was diverted to McAllen–Miller International Airport, two miles south of McAllen, TX. Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PILOT_DIES?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT
13. *January 19, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–382R: Intercity Passenger Rail: Highlights of GAO Report on Need for National Policy and Strategies to Maximize Public Benefits from Federal Expenditures (Correspondence).** The future of intercity passenger rail service in the United States has come to a critical juncture. The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) continues to rely heavily on federal subsidies—over \$1 billion annually in recent years—and operating losses have remained high. In addition, Amtrak will require billions of dollars to address deferred maintenance and achieve a “state of good repair.” These needs for Amtrak come at a time when the nation faces long–term fiscal challenges. Addressing the projected fiscal gaps will require policy makers to examine the affordability and sustainability of all existing programs, policies, functions, and activities throughout the federal budget. Reexamining the federal role and expenditures on intercity passenger rail service will be particularly difficult because opinions differ about what this service should be. Amtrak itself has proposed a new vision for intercity passenger rail service that would include a greater role for states in planning and developing passenger rail corridors. In light of these findings, you asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to testify before the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission on January 17, 2007, about issues in our

recent report.

A copy of our November 13, 2006, report (GAO-07-15) can be found at www.gao.gov.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-382R>

14. *January 19, Baltimore Business Journal* — Lighting improvements at BWI draw praise.

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) received praise from a national airport lighting organization. The Illuminating Engineering Society of North America named BWI the Air Carrier Airport of the Year, airport officials said. Fast-growing BWI's lighting improvements to a taxiway and runway intersection on its airfield gleaned praise from the New York City association's airfield lighting committee. The project included adding lighting fixtures called "stop bars" between the taxi zone and runway. The stop bars are rows of red lights that illuminate from the airfield's pavement and are easily recognized by pilots from cockpits.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070119/1405719.html?v=1>

15. *January 16, USA TODAY* — More states use 511 for 411 on traffic.

Commuters, truckers and leisure drivers eager to elude bumper-to-bumper traffic increasingly have a new weapon: dialing -- or clicking on -- 5-1-1. Technology that delivers instantaneous information on traffic gridlock via cell phones and the Internet is spreading across the nation. Louisiana in December became the 28th state to implement a 511 system, and 36 percent of the U.S. population now has access to real-time traffic data, the Federal Highway Administration says. Several more states and large metropolitan areas are developing the systems. The agency expects them to be available to 50 percent of the population by the end of 2007. Louisiana's new system gives current data for about 1,000 miles of interstate highways, says Mark Lambert of the state Department of Transportation and Development. The interstates make up about five percent of Louisiana's roads but carry about 25 percent of the traffic. The 511 systems are part of a wave of techno-tools emerging to help drivers avoid traffic jams. Other examples include message boards along highways, freeway cameras that provide Websites with up-to-the-minute views of traffic jams and high-occupancy toll lanes that enable commuters to pay a toll to avoid congestion.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-01-15-511_x.htm

16. *January 16, Journal Gazette (IL)* — States step up to fund Amtrak service, but want federal match.

California is among 14 states, including Illinois, that fund corridor service that Amtrak wouldn't otherwise provide. On Tuesday, Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and Trent Lott (R-MS), are expected to announce the introduction of legislation that would, among other things, encourage more state investment in Amtrak by making federal matching funds available. One aspect of the bill is relatively uncontroversial. The idea of matching funds for state investment in Amtrak is one that both supporters and critics of the railroad have embraced -- and something states like California believe is long overdue. As for Amtrak itself, "states are our future," President Alex Kummant told The Associated Press last week. He said a matching program for capital investments, along with making Amtrak "more user-friendly" for states, is essential if Amtrak is to capitalize on growing demand for intercity rail. Even without such matching funds, states have been stepping up. The biggest player, California, currently contributes \$73 million for the Pacific Surfliner and two other trains it runs jointly with Amtrak. Illinois last year doubled its annual subsidy to Amtrak to \$24 million.

Source: <http://www.jg-tc.com/articles/2007/01/16/ap-state-il/d8mluhm02.txt>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

17. *January 18, Courant (CT)* — Equine herpes outbreak spreads at University of Connecticut.

An equine herpes outbreak at the University of Connecticut has now spread to 21 horses, including five who have shown neurological signs of the disease. But despite the spread of equine herpes virus infection within the 72-horse herd, none of the horses has become recumbent and none have died and all are expected to recover, Sandra Bushmich, associate professor of pathobiology and veterinary science said. The state Department of Agriculture, together with the university, quarantined the herd about a week ago until the virus runs its course. To prevent the disease from spreading further within the herd or outside UConn, horses have been quarantined, the barns are being routinely disinfected. Humans who enter the barns must wear protective garments and use footbaths.

Equine herpes information: <http://www.vet.uga.edu/vpp/IVM/ENG/ERD/EHV-4and1.html>

Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-uconnequineherpes-0118.0.6446934.story?track=mostviewedlink>

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Food Sector

18. *January 19, Agricultural Research Service* — Tools boost food safety, quality. Portable inspection devices that detect food safety and quality problems are being developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. Scientists at the ARS Instrumentation and Sensing Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, are designing such portable inspection devices by adapting optical technology used for remote sensing of Earth. Prototypes include binoculars with lenses that detect fecal matter on meat, produce or processing equipment—as well as diseases or quality defects. A camera/light combination can be helmet-mounted or used in a hand-held device to expose fecal matter as white specks on an eyewear-mounted computer display. The portable devices are the next stage for the research team that recently handed industry a prototype of an on-line imaging system for chicken inspection. Next will be a similar system for inspecting fruits and vegetables.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

19. *January 18, Associated Press* — Nestle dairy plant in Colombia destroyed. A pickup truck carrying 660 pounds of explosives destroyed a dairy plant owned by Swiss food giant Nestle SA in southern Colombia, an attack police attributed Thursday, January 18, to leftist rebels. The attack was the second this week against a Nestle facility in Caqueta state, located in the country's impoverished southern half and engulfed in coca, the base ingredient of cocaine. The

state is a long-time stronghold of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. One person was injured in the attack Wednesday, January 17, in Doncello, 220 miles south of Bogota, as milk trucks were entering the plant, said Col. William Urrego, police commander in Caqueta. An unidentified man snuck past security, parked the truck loaded with plastic explosives inside the facility, then ran toward the plant's gates. Minutes later, a blast flattened the plant.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070119/ap_on_re_la_am_ca/colombia_nestle_bomb_1

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Water Sector

20. *January 19, Agence France–Presse* — Foreign Zebra mussels likely harming Canadian drinking water. A European mussel introduced accidentally to North America in the 1980s could be tainting Great Lakes drinking water quality, affecting its taste and causing an explosion of toxic blooms, Canadian researchers said. In tests, zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) changed basin water chemistry, creating favorable conditions for masses of cyanobacteria (also called blue-green algae) or blooms to grow, researchers said. Cyanobacteria secrete chemicals that alter the taste of drinking water, create a foul odor and sometimes emit toxins that can be harmful to humans. Zebra mussels were discovered in North America in 1986 after likely hitching a ride in the ballast of transatlantic ships from the Caspian and Black seas.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070118/wl_canada_afp/canadaush_ealth_070118221224

21. *January 19, Tulsa World (OK)* — Water Oklahoma town's number one worry. Electricity returned to a majority of homeowners left in the cold by a weekend ice storm as Jay, OK, officials scurried Wednesday, January 18, to meet residents' demand for drinking water. "This is our issue right here," said Jay Fire Chief Rick Goins, eyeing the quickly vanishing reserves of bottled water. Police Chief Mike Shambaugh estimated Wednesday afternoon that more than 50 percent of the town of about 2,800 had power. Tap water, however, remains nonexistent because electricity hasn't been restored to Jay's water pumps, he said. "We'll get some water hopefully within 24 hours so we'll have sewer water to flush with," Goins said. Water won't be suitable for drinking until it is treated, a process that could take a couple of days, Shambaugh said.

Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/NewsStory.asp?ID=070118_Ne_A1_Water51842

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Public Health Sector

22. *January 19, Agence France–Presse* — Indonesia birds killed in flu fight. Indonesia health workers have started slaughtering poultry in the capital as the country stepped up its fight against bird flu, which has already killed four people this year. Backyard poultry will be banned from the capital from February 1, with residents having until then to get rid of the estimated 2.5 million birds in the city. The ban will be extended to eight other provinces across the central island of Java, which includes Jakarta, and neighboring Sumatra, Health Minister Siti Fadilah

Supari said. "Gradually it will be effective nationally," she said. Indonesia's efforts to curb the spread of bird flu have been hampered by the reluctance of some poultry owners, especially backyard farmers, to hand over their sick or potentially infected birds for slaughter. The latest human fatalities raised Indonesia's death toll from the virus to 61, the highest in the world. The vast majority of bird flu cases have occurred after contact with infected poultry.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070119/wl_asia_afp/healthfluin_donesia_070119102547

23. *January 19, Associated Press* — **Japan debates national survival strategies to face possible influenza pandemic.** Japan released pandemic draft government guidelines Friday, January 19. Should a human flu pandemic break out and vaccine supplies fall short, the country must choose whether it wants to "minimize deaths" or "protect the future of Japan," the draft says. To minimize deaths from a virus, the elderly, who can be particularly vulnerable to influenza, would be given vaccines before children. But to protect the country's future, children would have to receive vaccines before the elderly and others deemed medically vulnerable, according to the guidelines, which will be finalized later this year after input from an expert panel and the public. An H5N1 viral pandemic could infect one in four people in Japan and kill up to 640,000 across the country, according to official estimates released last year. The government says it expects 25 million people to seek treatment at hospitals — swamping medical services and bringing society to a standstill. Elsewhere, the guidelines urge authorities to inspect crematoriums to make sure they can deal with a surge in deaths. But if too many die, the guidelines say bodies may have to be buried without cremation to speed up the handling process.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/01/19/asia/AS-GEN-Japan-Bird-Flu-Survival.php>

24. *January 18, Associated Press* — **California hospitals won't meet deadline.** Nearly half of California hospital buildings in danger of collapsing during a major earthquake will not meet a state deadline for safety improvements, according to a study released Thursday, January 18. Tough standards passed after the deadly 1994 Northridge earthquake required that vulnerable buildings be retrofitted or replaced by 2008, a deadline that was extended to 2013. By 2030, all hospitals must be able to stay open and treat patients after a disaster. The report projected that nearly half of some 900 hospital buildings statewide will not meet the retrofitting deadline, even by 2030. Complicating the matter is that the majority of weak buildings — more than 80 percent — are in the densely populated San Francisco Bay area and greater Los Angeles region. The study, funded by the California HealthCare Foundation and conducted by Rand Corp., does not single out hospitals, but notes the buildings are on over 300 hospital campuses across the state. The study also projects that quake-proofing the hospital buildings by the deadlines would cost between \$40 billion to \$110 billion.

Report: <http://www.chcf.org/topics/hospitals/index.cfm?itemID=129370>

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/01/18/national/a061847S44.DTL&type=health>

25. *January 18, Reuters* — **Measles deaths down 60 percent in six years.** Deaths from measles have fallen by 60 percent worldwide since 1999 in what experts described on Friday, January 19, as an historic victory for global health. Accelerated control measures including an increase in routine measles immunizations and a campaign to reach marginalized children in the 45 worst hit countries has pushed deaths down from an estimated 873,000 in 1999 to around

345,000 in 2005. The biggest fall has been in Africa where the number of children dying from the illness fell 75 percent to 126,000. In the western hemisphere there has been no local spread of the measles virus since 2002 because of very aggressive vaccination efforts. Ninety percent of the estimated 340,000 deaths from measles in 2005 were in children under five years old.

Measles information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenu/sub_measles.htm

Source: <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=32F791428812696EE7CE8F161ECD490C>

26. *January 18, Texas A&M Health Science Center* — **Researchers learn bacteria in common staph infections can cause necrotizing pneumonia.** Researchers at the Texas A&M Health Science Center Institute of Biosciences and Technology at Houston have discovered a toxin present in the bacteria responsible for the current nationwide outbreak of staph infections also has a role in an aggressive pneumonia that is often fatal within 72 hours. “The virulence of CA-MRSA (community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) strains that produce the PVL (Panton Valentine leukocidin) toxin presents a nightmare scenario,” said M. Gabriela Bowden, co-senior author. “If the community-acquired strain establishes itself in the hospital setting, it will be difficult to contain.”

CA-MRSA information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca.html

Source: <http://www.tamhsc.edu/news/archives/002313.php>

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Government Sector

27. *January 19, California Aggie* — **Gun replica prompts arrest, lockdowns in California university.** After receiving several conflicting reports about a male subject wielding a rifle in the Mathematical Sciences Building just south of the Silo Union on Thursday morning, January 18, the UC Davis Police Department arrested senior mathematics major Glenn Kirkpatrick, 21, who brought a replica of a rifle he uses as a Reserve Officers' Training Corps student to a professor's office hours. Initial 911 callers confused Kirkpatrick with another student who had "had problems in the math department" and was scheduled to meet with a Student Judicial Affairs officer around the same time Kirkpatrick was seen with a gun in the Mathematical Sciences Building, according to UCDPD Captain Joyce Souza. Because UCDPD did not initially know the subject's true identity, officers placed Dutton Hall, where SJA is located, on lockdown. The Mathematical Sciences Building was also placed on lockdown, Souza said. Kirkpatrick was in possession of a replica of a rifle that "appeared to be a real firearm," Souza said. The gun is used for ROTC training to represent what members of the military may encounter in combat. Kirkpatrick was arrested and cited for displaying a replica firearm in public, an infraction that carries a \$100 fine, Souza said. He was later released.

Source: <http://media.www.californiaaggie.com/media/storage/paper981/news/2007/01/19/CampusNews/Gun-Replica.Prompts.Arrest.Lockdowns-2654761.shtml?sourcedomain=www.californiaaggie.com&MIHHost=media.collegepublisher.com>

28. *January 18, USA TODAY* — **Terrorism hoaxes still plaguing law agencies.** Some hoaxes make national news, such as last October's radioactive "dirty bomb" threat against seven football stadiums. But FBI agents and officials from the Departments of Justice and Homeland

Security say those represent just a fraction of those received by phone, mail and e-mail each year. At police stations and FBI offices across the country hoaxes are "a serious drain," says Ken Wainstein, head of the Department of Justice's National Security Division. "These terror hoaxes distract law enforcement." On Thursday, January 17, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff said the government doesn't publicize most threats because "people would be in a constant state of hyper-anxiety." The department posts Internet hoaxes on its Website to reassure citizens and encourage them not to pass on bogus e-mailed chain letters. Charlie Allen, DHS's top intelligence officer, says hoaxes and bogus tips come in "almost on a daily basis." Officials say they want stiff penalties imposed on those who make false threats. Allen said the incidents frighten the public, force emergency responders to go on alert, and tie up federal agents and investigators at a time when the nation faces serious threats. "It's a malicious, malevolent act," Allen says, "and a felonious act."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-01-18-hoaxes_x.htm

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *January 19, Richmond Register (KY)* — New center to help manage emergencies. The creation of a backup Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Berea, KY, is expanding Madison County's emergency preparedness efforts. The basement of Berea City Hall has been transformed into a functional facility that will allow Berea officials to act locally in case of an emergency. "If we had an event within the city limits, for instance, if there was a power outage that affected a portion of the city, city officials could operate out of there and do a local emergency response," said Berea Police Chief Dwayne Brumley. The EOC's Richmond location has 24 computers and the backup office in Berea now has 12 and officials hopes to get 18 total, Richards said. If a countywide disaster was to occur, half of the Richmond EOC staff would relocate to the Berea facility. It also would serve as an alternate location if something were to happen to the Richmond facility. Brumley keeps his police officers trained in how to respond in city-wide emergencies, but having the new facility will make those efforts more efficient, he said.

Source: http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews/local_story_019225945.html?keyword=topstory

30. *January 19, Oakland Tribune (CA)* — High-rise simulations help to hone skills for any big blaze. As thick smoke filled the darkened seventh-floor hallway of a hotel in Fremont, CA, firefighters had no time to panic. They had to remain calm because they had a job to do stay safe, save lives and extinguish the fire. Those were some of the lessons that fire instructors were teaching Bay Area crews Thursday, January 18, during a training exercise held at the south Fremont hotel. More than 150 firefighters from three counties attended the all-day exercise in fighting high-rise fires. For the first time in a dozen years, local agencies came together for hands-on training in search-and-rescue tactics, and a series of lecture-style sessions and demonstrations in managing equipment and personnel during a large event. Although high-rise fires are rare in the Bay Area, incidents of this magnitude often require a large amount of resources, said Geoff LaTendresse, a Fremont fire operations division chief. With that in mind, instructors from different departments rotated crews through five stations, including a demonstration on using large-capacity hoses and a lifelike search-and-rescue drill.

The event was beneficial for all agencies involved because it gave them a chance to interact, share strategies and see what equipment other departments are using.

Source: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=24537>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. *January 19, VNUNet* — **Nokia cleared in exploding phone case.** A man thought to have been the victim of an exploding mobile phone has left investigators baffled after engineers examined the device and gave it the all clear. Luis Picaso, 59, is in a critical condition with 50 percent second- and third-degree burns to his upper body, back, right arm and right leg after being found in his hotel room in Vallejo, CA. The cause of the fire was assumed to be his mobile phone, which was still in his pocket where the fire started. But engineers from Nokia have flown to California to examine the 2125i handset and gave it the all clear and were even able to switch it on. While there have been instances of mobile phones overheating and catching fire, the usual culprit is third-party batteries with faulty power management controllers.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2173035/nokia-cleared-exploding-phone>
32. *January 19, Sophos* — **Trojan spam storm hits inboxes, races to top of malware charts.** Sophos is warning of a widespread spam campaign that poses as a breaking news report, but is really an attempt to lure innocent computer users into being infected by a Trojan horse and attacked by hackers. The distribution has been so widespread that since midnight GMT the Trojan has accounted for over two thirds of all malware reports seen at Sophos' global network of monitoring stations, accounting for an infection rate of 1 in 200 of all e-mails being sent across the net. Subject lines used in the malicious e-mails include, but may not be limited to, the following: 1) 230 dead as storm batters Europe; 2) British Muslims Genocide; 3) Naked teens attack home director; 4) A killer at 11, he's free at 21 and kill again!; 5) U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has kicked German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Attached to the e-mails are files with names such as Full Clip.exe, Full Story.exe, Full Video.exe, Read More.exe, Video.exe which contain malicious code. Sophos products detect the malicious Trojans it has seen so far as Troj/DwnLdr-FYD and Troj/Small-DOR (also known as Small.DAM).
Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/01/malwarestorm.html>
33. *January 19, VNUNet* — **Data centers face looming power crisis in London.** Companies in the city of London are facing a looming power crisis, as some report being unable to get enough power for in-house data centers. Power is an increasing problem for data center managers, both as a running cost and increasingly because of the overall power requirements of high-end data centers. "Some banks in the city cannot physically get any more power in their data centers," said Chris Armes, director of Solaris revenue product engineering software at Sun Microsystems. "That is how big a power problem we have looming."
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2172968/city-faces-looming-power-crisis>
34. *January 18, eWeek* — **Survey: Half of SMBs have faith in the security of VoIP.** Only half of small and midsize business users feel they can trust the security behind IP telephony, according to a survey released Thursday, January 18, by the Computing Technology Industry Association

(CompTIA) and IDC. User sensitivity to any disruption of service in voice communication and knowledge that IP telephony relies on the same systems they know are vulnerable to viruses, worms and Trojan horses make it hard for any more than 50 percent of those surveyed to say they could rely on the technology, up from 48 percent a year earlier, researchers said. "People are much more sensitized to disruptions in voice communications than they are with data communications," said John Venator, president and chief executive officer, CompTIA, which commissioned the study. Conversely, 82 percent of the 350 respondents said they trust the security of traditional telephone systems, 72 percent trust Ethernet data networks and 60 percent wireless local area networks, according to CompTIA.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2085417,00.asp>

- 35. January 18, eWeek — Microsoft patches buggy Excel patch.** Microsoft has re-released an update issued in its January 2007 patch batch to correct a glitch in the way Excel 2000 processes information. The company announced that the "targeted re-release" was necessary to correct the bug, which occurs in the way Excel 2000 processes the phonetic information embedded in files created using Excel in the Korean, Chinese or Japanese executable mode. The patch was shipped January 9 as part of the MS07-002 bulletin that provided fixes for a total of five Microsoft Excel vulnerabilities.

Microsoft Security Bulletin MS07-002:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS07-002.msp>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2085354,00.asp>

- 36. January 18, CNET News — Mashups: The future of the Web?** Alan Taylor is living in the Wild West of Web development, and he has the scars to prove it. In his spare time, Taylor builds mashups — Web applications that combine content from more than one source and have caught on as Web providers from Amazon.com to Microsoft make their data programmatically available to outsiders. But while he is breaking new ground on the Internet, he is also pushing legal and business boundaries. His Amazon Light application — a stripped-down site for buying and renting goods through Amazon — attracted two cease-and-desist orders a couple of years back, one from Amazon and another from Google. Taylor, who holds a day job as a senior Web developer at Boston.com, survived the legal threats without much trouble, but his experience points to the relative immaturity of mashups, which advocates believe represent the Web's cutting edge. Large software vendors catering to corporate software developers or independent software vendors have spent years establishing a suite of Web services standards and infrastructure software while advocating a modular design, called a service-oriented architecture. Mashups, by contrast, tend to focus on speed and simplicity, wiring together different Websites using quick and lightweight methods.

Source: http://news.com/At+Mashup+Camp%2C+geeks+plot+future+of+W eb/2100-1012_3-6151162.html?tag=nefd.top

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	The top 10 Target Ports are temporarily unavailable. We apologize for the inconvenience. Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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