



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 February 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

- The Associated Press reports snow and ice coated streets Wednesday, February 14, as a blizzard shut down schools, highways, and air travel across the Northeast, and left 300,000 homes and business without electrical power. (See item [3](#))
- The Associated Press reports two baggage handlers working for Menzies Aviation at Seattle–Tacoma International Airport have been arrested and fired in suitcase thefts that included laptop computers, video cameras, and DVDs. (See item [10](#))
- All Headline News reports a mysterious ailment, called the Colony Collapse Disorder, is killing the nation's honeybees that are necessary to pollinate most of the food crops, as well as pollinating plants in home and public gardens. (See item [21](#))
- InformationWeek reports Microsoft is warning customers that the switch to early daylight savings time on March 11 isn't accounted for in a number of its products, and that users will need to update their software to avoid potential problems. (See item [33](#))

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. *February 14, Reuters* — **Canada oil sector takes al Qaeda threat seriously.** Canada's oil and gas industry and regulators responsible for overseeing the bulk of production were taking a threat by al Qaeda seriously on Wednesday, February 14, but had not raised security levels as a result. Industry regulators, including the National Energy Board and Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, said they are in a state of heightened awareness following a Web posting by a Saudi wing of al Qaeda, which called for attacks on oil suppliers to the United States. "Given the nature of the threat, there is really no direct evidence that Alberta infrastructure is being targeted and clearly, the information we get from intelligence agencies is what we base our decisions on," Alberta EUB spokesperson Darin Barter said. The threat appeared in the Arabian Peninsula's e-magazine Sawt al-Jihad (Voice of Holy War), which was posted on a Website used by Islamist militants. It also pointed to Venezuela and Mexico as big oil suppliers to the United States.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/governmentFilingsNews/idUSN1433721020070214>
2. *February 14, News Journal (DE)* — **Valero refinery has second fire in a week.** A fire Tuesday, February 13, at Valero's Delaware City, DE, refinery disrupted operations at the largest crude oil processing unit, forcing a cutback in production. Although none of the refinery's workers was injured, one man was checked at the scene for what refinery spokesperson Lisa Lindsey said was smoke inhalation. It was the second fire in a week at the refinery. Lindsey said Tuesday's fire began at 12:44 p.m. EST and was put out about 45 minutes later. Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary John A. Hughes said officers from his agency were dispatched to assess the risk to surrounding areas. The blaze was the latest in a series of mishaps at Delaware River refineries. Operations at Sunoco's Marcus Hook, PA, refinery were disrupted Monday when a nearby transformer exploded. On Friday, a fire at Valero's hydrocracker — a unit that breaks down partially refined oil under high temperatures and pressures — caused a pollution release.
Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070214/NEWS/702140349/-1/NEWS01>
3. *February 14, Associated Press* — **Midwest storm hits Northeast as blizzard.** Snow and ice coated windshields and streets Wednesday, February 14, as a blizzard shut down schools and air travel and turned highways into skating rinks. Nearly 300,000 homes and business had lost electrical service in the cold weather. At least 12 deaths were blamed on the huge storm system. At least 108,000 customers were without power across Ohio, and more than 14,000 customers were blacked out in northern Kentucky. Maryland's four biggest utilities reported about 120,000 customers without power statewide, 36,000 customers were blacked out in New Jersey and more than 4,500 Duke Energy customers remained without power in Indiana.
Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/W/WINTER_WEATHER?SITE=OHCOL&SECTION=HOME
4. *February 13, Miami Herald* — **Florida PSC changes nuclear rules, pushes new plants.** The Public Service Commission adopted new rules today to encourage the construction of nuclear power plants in Florida. The proposed rules would permit investor-owned electric utilities to request partial recovery of the planning and construction costs of nuclear plants before they become operational. "Early recovery should reduce risks and encourage financial investment in nuclear power plants by allowing prudent costs to be recouped as they are incurred," the commission said in a press release. The move is part of a series of efforts as utilities start

planning for new nuclear plants, which are still years away. Florida Power & Light has said it may pick a site for a new nuclear facility in the next year or two.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/16689048.htm>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *February 14, Reading Eagle (PA)* — **Blaze destroys buildings at plant.** A two-alarm fire destroyed several buildings Tuesday night, February 13, at a Berks Products concrete plant near Gilbertsville, PA, causing about \$1 million damage, fire officials said. A firefighter was injured in the blaze at the Ready Mixed Concrete Division, Gilbertsville Plant, in Douglass Township, Montgomery County. Acetylene tanks inside the plant were exploding as firefighters arrived. Damage to a garage, maintenance shop and office at the complex along Wilson Avenue near Routes 73 and 100 could exceed \$1 million. About a half-dozen cement trucks, valued at roughly \$150,000 each, were destroyed in the fire. Families from two nearby residences were forced to leave their homes as a precaution, but were allowed to return later Tuesday night.

Source: <http://www.readingeagle.com/re/news/1623068.asp>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *February 14, Department of Defense* — **Navy, Marines request funding to repair, replace equipment.** The Navy and Marine Corps are requesting \$4.4 billion to fix or replace worn out or damaged military equipment that has seen hard use in the war against global terrorism, senior military leaders testified before a joint U.S. House committee on Capitol Hill Tuesday, February 13. Congress deserves thanks for already providing about \$10.2 billion for repair or replacement of Navy and Marine equipment as part of fiscal 2006 and 2007 supplemental funding, Lt. Gen. Emerson Gardner, the Marines' deputy commandant for programs and resources, said before members of the Sea Power and Expeditionary Forces subcommittees. High-demand naval combat engineers, known as Seabees; Sea, Air and Land special operations forces; and explosive ordnance disposal teams deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq are experiencing rapid wearing out of their equipment, said Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, deputy chief of naval operations for integration of capabilities and resources. Some equipment is wearing out on average 14 times faster than during peacetime usage, he noted. Other equipment, such as field generators, are wearing out 40 times faster, Greenert said. In addition, Navy aircraft like the F/A-18 Hornet are aging rapidly due to excessive amounts of mission flight time, the admiral said.

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=3053>

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Banking and Finance Sector

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February 14, Los Angeles Times — **Bank of America moves to issue credit cards to people without Social Security numbers.** Bank of America said Tuesday, February 13, that it was issuing credit cards to Spanish-speaking immigrants who may not have Social Security numbers. The bank described the program as a pilot, limited for now to 51 branches in Los Angeles County, and said it could go national this year. The credit cards are not aimed specifically at illegal immigrants, a bank spokesperson said, but instead people who lack solid credit histories. "At face value the program seems to be problematic," said Russ Knocke, a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson. "It seems to be lending itself to possibilities of perpetrating identity theft or creating more risk for money laundering." Other major banks including Wells Fargo & Co. and Citibank have launched similar initiatives to gain customers in the burgeoning Latino community. Bank of America spokesperson Alexandra C. Trower said the company complied fully with all banking and anti-terrorism laws governing customer identification, which she said permitted the use of taxpayer ID numbers instead of Social Security numbers.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-credit14feb14.0,1490047.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

8. *February 14, InformationWeek* — **Better Business Bureau spoofed in phishing scam.** The Better Business Bureau has found itself tangled up in a phishing attack that is blasting U.S. and Canadian consumers and businesses. The agency, which is a network of local offices that investigate consumer complaints, issued a statement on its Website, warning people of a spoofing scam that is using the Better Business Bureau name and a false e-mail address to lure users to click on links and connect with malicious Websites. A computer system in a Kennesaw, GA business on Monday night, February 12, was compromised, the agency said. The compromised computers were then used to generate thousands of counterfeit messages, claiming to be a complaint filed with the agency. "All recipients are advised that any e-mail from the operations@bbb.org address is not coming from [the Better Business Bureau] and should be considered counterfeit," the warning says. "The Better Business Bureau strongly encourages recipients of any such message to delete the message immediately without clicking on the "DOCUMENTS FOR CASE" links."

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=197006114&subSection=All+Stories>

9. *February 13, CNET News* — **Identity theft risk greatest in major cities.** Residents of New York, Detroit and Los Angeles are the most at risk of having their identity stolen, according to new research. By contrast, people in Wyoming run the lowest risk of identity fraud, according to ID Analytics, a company that provides fraud intelligence services to businesses. Other states with low rates of identity related fraud are Vermont and Montana, ID Analytics said. "What's most meaningful about these findings is that they can help identify specific areas where criminals may be operating in an organized manner," Stephen Coggeshall, ID Analytics chief technology officer said. However, ID Analytics' study gave no indication why people in certain areas of the country are at greater risk of identity theft. Report information:

http://www.idanalytics.com/news_and_events/20070214a.html

Source: http://news.com.com/Identity+theft+risk+greatest+in+major+cities/2100-1029_3-6159195.html?tag=nefd.top

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *February 14, Associated Press* — **Two baggage handlers fired in thefts.** Two baggage handlers at Seattle–Tacoma International Airport have been arrested and fired in suitcase thefts that included laptop computers, video cameras, and DVDs. The men, ages 19 and 22, were arrested last week in separate investigations. The teenager was caught trying to use a stolen credit card at an airport shop and the older man was caught selling what apparently were pilfered cigarettes, authorities said. The men worked for Menzies Aviation of London, a contractor handling baggage and other ground operations for Alaska Airlines at the airport. Seven Menzies employees were arrested last December in Houston after 68 looted suitcases were found in a trash bin.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AIRPORT_BAGGAGE?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

11. *February 14, SignOnSanDiego (CA)* — **Security tighter at Amsterdam airport after threat.** Dutch authorities tightened security around Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, the fourth biggest European hub, after a threatening letter was sent there, police said on Wednesday, February 14. “We found a reason to take extra precautions at Schiphol airport,” said a spokesperson for the Dutch National Terrorism Task Force. “We now have more surveillance in and around the airport.”

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20070214-0425-dutch-threat-.html>

12. *February 14, USA TODAY* — **Security devices falter in rail tests.** An ambitious test of machines for checking subway and rail passengers for bombs failed to find a technology that can reliably stop terrorists such as those who attacked trains in Madrid and London, according to a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assessment. The technological limitations are forcing the DHS to find other ways to secure rail systems. The \$7 million government program tested futuristic screening equipment in major rail systems last year and found that each of the technologies had significant problems. Many machines triggered excessive false alarms, some took too long to screen passengers, and one “could not consistently locate the item that caused the alarm,” according to the report, which was presented at a recent rail–security conference in Arlington, VA. “There's no plan to put any of the technology that was tested in the pilot in broad–based use. We want to continue to do more research,” said Robert Jamison, deputy administrator of the Transportation Security Administration. The test indicates the limited role that technology can play for now in securing the nearly 12 million people who ride subway and rail systems each weekday.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-02-13-rail-security_x.htm

13. *February 14, Inside Bay Area (CA)* — **Amtrak Wi–Fi service could prevent deaths.** Thanks to a system being contemplated for the San Jose–Oakland–Sacramento Capitol Corridor rail line, Wi–Fi Internet access may have a chance to save people from being killed by 79–mph trains. In the search for a convenient wireless Internet system for laptop–toting commuters, officials for the rail line have been impressed by a British firm's ability to beam video from wireless cameras to a speeding train. Onboard, the engineer can watch video images on a Wi–Fi linked laptop and see what's on a crossing soon enough to avoid hitting something or someone. A successful test of the system was staged February 3, on a train borrowed from Caltrain in San

Carlos. That was 10 days before a man trespassing on the line's tracks was killed Tuesday in Mountain View — Caltrain's second fatality of the year. It could take as many as two years to get the system up and running. The video system has limitations, however, as a way of saving people from rail crossing accidents. "They're not going to see someone who's crossing where you have no crossings, where you wouldn't have a camera," Caltrain spokesperson Jonah Weinberg said.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/localnews/ci_5224300

14. *February 14, USA TODAY* — **Air travel snarled: Winter storm shuts DC, Northeast airports.** Wintry conditions forced the closure of four big airports Wednesday morning, February 14, and more flight delays and cancellations were forecast across much of the Midwest and East as a strong winter storm continues its trek across the nation. Major delays were common Wednesday and the number of weather-related flight cancellations easily reached into the hundreds, affecting airports across large swaths of the Midwest, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic. Wednesday, air travelers' biggest trouble spot appeared to be Washington, DC, where both of the city's major airports — Washington Dulles and Ronald Reagan Washington National — were closed for much of the morning. Reagan National closed just before midnight Tuesday because it "ran out of chemicals" to treat runways and aircraft, according to the Federal Aviation Administration's Website, though it resumed at least limited service by noon EST. Elsewhere in the Northeast, airports in Hartford, CT, and Westchester County, NY, also had closed to commercial service this morning, but appeared to have restarted some service by 11:35 a.m. EST.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-02-14-winter-storm-snarls-air-traffic_x.htm

15. *February 14, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-278: Homeland Security: Planned Expenditures for U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Program Need to Be Adequately Defined and Justified (Report).** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has established a program—the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT)—to collect, maintain, and share information, including biometric identifiers, on selected foreign nationals who travel to the United States. By congressional mandate, DHS is to develop and submit for approval an expenditure plan for US-VISIT that satisfies certain conditions, including being reviewed by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). GAO was required to determine if the plan satisfied these conditions, follow up on recommendations related to the expenditure plan, and provide any other observations. To address the mandate, GAO assessed plans against federal guidelines and industry standards and interviewed the appropriate DHS officials. GAO is recommending that the Secretary of DHS direct the US-VISIT program director to increase program transparency and accountability by defining and justifying planned investments and effectively measuring and reporting on their progress and to determine and mitigate risks associated with not fully satisfying legislative conditions and report these risks to DHS senior leadership and to the appropriate congressional committees. DHS agreed with GAO's findings and recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07278high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-278>

16. *February 14, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-490T: Federal Aviation Administration: Challenges Facing the Agency in Fiscal Year 2008 and Beyond**

(Testimony). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operates one of the safest air transportation systems in the world. It is, however, a system under strain. The skies over America are becoming more crowded every day. FAA faces the daunting task of safely integrating a growing influx of passengers and aircraft into the system and simultaneously leading the transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen)—a complicated effort to modernize the system. FAA’s broad responsibilities to maintain and modernize the nation’s air transportation system must be met in an uncertain budgetary and long-term fiscal environment. The Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) concerns about financing the nation’s transportation system, including aviation, led GAO to designate this issue as high-risk. This statement is based on recent reports and interviews with FAA officials. It focuses on FAA’s challenges relating to (1) ensuring the continued safe operation of the nation’s airspace system, (2) continuing to improve FAA’s management while leading the transition to NextGen, and (3) funding issues concerning capital improvements for airports and FAA’s reauthorization. In prior reports, GAO has made recommendations to address data and management problems. Although FAA has begun to address them, many have not been fully implemented.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07490thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-490T>

- 17. February 13, CTV Toronto (Canada) — Incident prompts airport security concerns.** A Toronto taxi driver landed himself in trouble early Tuesday morning, February 13, at Pearson Airport after driving his car into Terminal 1, prompting concerns about security. An argument between the car driver and an associate boiled over, resulting in the cabbie allegedly driving his vehicle through the front door of the terminal building. The car made it through the doors and stopped inside the terminal building. Emergency crews arrived on the scene quickly. No one was hurt in the incident. A 36-year-old man was charged with mischief and dangerous driving in relation to the incident. But the ease with which the car smashed through the doors has raised concerns about the building's security. Officials said they are looking at erecting concrete barricades, similar to the ones outside the U.S. Consulate in downtown Toronto.
- Source: http://toronto.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20070213/airport_taxi_070213/20070213?hub=TorontoHome

- 18. February 13, New York Times — Coast Guard Chief announces plans to overhaul the service.** Coast Guard Commandant, Adm. Thad Allen, unveiled a plan Tuesday, February 13, to restructure management and expand surveillance efforts along the nation’s coasts. The overhaul is intended to address mounting criticism of a \$24 billion equipment program known as Deepwater, which is replacing or rebuilding most of the service’s large ships, planes and helicopters. This plan includes revamping the way the Coast Guard manages its response to natural disasters and terrorist attacks, supervises its Atlantic and Pacific fleets, maintains its aircraft and ships, and handles its payroll and financial systems. Instead of operating separate Pacific and Atlantic fleets, Admiral Allen said, all 35,000 active duty Coast Guard personnel on the service’s nearly 250 large ships, 1,700 smaller boats, 200 aircraft and 750 shore-side units will now report to a single commander. A hundred-person operations group will coordinate how specially trained Coast Guard units respond to terror attacks, natural disasters, chemical or oil spills, and its war-time assignments with the Department of Defense. Since 2001, the Coast Guard has become much more of an extension of the military, instead of a service that primarily focuses on safety, with law enforcement playing a secondary role.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/14/washington/14coast.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *February 13, DM News* — USPS attributes Q1 loss to reform. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) reported a fiscal year 2007 first-quarter loss of \$2.7 billion due to the accelerated funding of retiree health benefits mandated by the postal reform law signed in December. The law requires the USPS to substantially fund its share of these benefits by 2017. Operationally, the USPS otherwise would have achieved a net income of \$1.2 billion, in line with its first-quarter financial plan. For FY 2007, the new law mandates \$5.4 billion to be placed in the new Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund. The new postal law eliminates the escrow account previously required under Public Law 108-18 and reduces USPS payments into the Civil Service Retirement System. The \$3 billion that the USPS placed in the escrow account in FY 2006 is now designated to fund retiree health benefits.

Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/direct-mail/40031.html>

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Agriculture Sector

20. *February 12, Agricultural Research Service* — Lettuces fend off two viruses. Iceberg lettuce and its relatives — romaine and butterheads like Boston and bibb — are vulnerable to attack by an impressive array of viruses and other natural enemies. But five kinds of iceberg lettuces, developed several years ago by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), are today still holding their own against attack by two of these daunting villains: big vein virus and lettuce mosaic virus. In 2004, the plants became the first publicly available iceberg lettuces to boast resistance to both diseases. Dual-resistance enhances survival because a lettuce field can easily be besieged by both viruses at once. Equipping lettuce plants with genes that enable strong, natural resistance is still the most economical way to defend vulnerable plants from the viral diseases. Lettuce big vein gets its name from the unhealthy, enlarged appearance of veins in infected lettuce leaves. These lettuces may be bushy-looking or undersized. The likely culprit? Mirafiori lettuce big vein virus, which makes its way to lettuce roots via a soil-dwelling, fungus-like microbe. Lettuce mosaic, caused by a virus of the same name, results in stunting and unattractive mottling.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070212.htm>

21. *February 12, All Headline News* — Nation's honeybees threatened by mysterious disease. A mysterious ailment is killing the nation's honeybees. However, the problem doesn't stop at honey; the bees pollinate most of the nation's food crops, as well as pollinating plants in home and public gardens. About one-third of the food people eat comes from plants pollinated by insects, with honeybees doing about 80 percent of that work, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mysterious honeybee killer is being called the Colony Collapse Disorder. What that means is that adult bees simply disappear from the hives. Although no dead adult bee bodies are found near the hives, inside the hives there is a high level of foreign fungi and

bacteria, and dissected juvenile bees show weakened immune systems, bee experts say. Commercial beekeepers in 22 states have reported losses of up to 50 percent of their hives in 22 states afflicted with the disease. Pollination by honeybees contributes more than \$14.6 billion to the nation's agriculture industry, a 2000 Cornell University study found.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7006439846>

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Food Sector

22. *February 14, Agricultural Research Service* — Retail meat analyzed for parasites. A recently completed survey of meats for a common microscopic parasite found none in raw beef and poultry and a low level in pork. The study focused on the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which commonly infects animals and humans worldwide, and was conducted by scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The scientists analyzed samples of retail meat obtained from nearly 700 stores nationwide. More than 6,000 samples — 2,000 each of pork, chicken and beef — were purchased from stores in 28 major U.S. geographic areas. Each sample weighed a minimum of 2.2 pounds, for a total of more than 14,000 pounds of meat tested. None of the raw beef and chicken meat samples contained live *T. gondii* parasites, based on a controlled analysis. In raw pork from retail meat cases nationwide, the prevalence of live *T. gondii* parasites was estimated at 0.4 percent, or about four per 1,000 samples. The parasite can seriously damage developing infants and persons with weakened immune systems. Infants born to mothers who become infected for the first time just before or during pregnancy are at risk of developing severe toxoplasmosis due to *T. gondii* exposure.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070214.htm>

23. *February 12, Associated Press* — California man pleads not guilty to federal food tampering charges. A food factory worker pleaded not guilty Monday, February 12, to federal charges he sprinkled glass and other debris into wontons packaged and shipped across California three years ago. Albert Vidal Torres was arrested last week and was being held without bail. He has been charged with three counts of tampering with consumer products, along with fraud and misuse of a resident alien card and false representation of a social security account number. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. Prosecutors alleged Torres contaminated the dumplings in 2003 during the manufacturing process at Golden Crown Foods. The company was alerted to the contamination when customers complained about finding odd items in their wontons. Besides glass, prosecutors alleged Torres also placed seeds, pebbles and spit inside.

Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-562095~SoCal_man_pleads_not_guilty_to_federal_food_tampering_charges.html

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

Public Health Sector

24. *February 14, Shanghai Daily (China)* — Two more dead birds have H5N1 in Hong Kong.

Two dead birds found on a busy street in Hong Kong have tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, the government said, bringing the number of cases this year to 10. A series of laboratory tests confirmed that the silver-eared mesias had H5N1, the government said in a statement Tuesday, February 13. The birds were collected last week in Mong Kok, one of Hong Kong's busiest areas.

Source: <http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/?id=306363&type=Nationa>

25. *February 14, Agence France–Presse* — Bird flu experts join probe of mystery Bangladesh deaths. Bird flu experts are part of a team investigating the unexplained death of three people in northern Bangladesh. Bangladesh has so far reported no cases of avian flu. "The Health Directorate of Dhaka formed a five-member medical team comprising bird flu experts and sent them to the village and started an investigation into the disease," the official news agency BSS report said Wednesday, February 14. The investigation followed the death of a 32-year-old man on January 26. His wife, 24, died February 8 after falling ill with similar symptoms, the report said without giving details. Another man died in hospital in Dhaka on Monday, February 12. Two others — including the sister of one of the deceased — were also taken ill and hospitalized in a serious condition, BSS said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070214/hl_afp/healthflubanglad_070214120005;_ylt=A1ZbERBZzAlbCHOpd8p3NS2JOrgF

26. *February 14, Reuters* — China in civet cat crackdown to prevent SARS. Chinese health authorities have launched a crackdown on restaurants offering civet cats for consumption, state media said on Wednesday, February 14, to prevent an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) linked with the cats. SARS emerged in southern China in 2002, swept through the province of Guangdong and spread globally in 2003, infecting 8,000 people and killing 800. Hong Kong scientists have said the SARS virus jumped from civet cat, a delicacy in southern China, to humans and quickly developed the ability to pass from person to person. Reports of the illegal sale of civet cat had increased in recent months, the official People's Daily said, citing the Guangdong Health Department. Health inspectors had found 14 frozen and one live civet cat, and 22 kilograms of civet cat meat from 18 animals in a sweep of restaurants across the province.

Source: http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2007-02-14T124557Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-287635-1.xml&archived=False

27. *February 14, Reuters* — Egyptian woman tests positive for bird flu. A 37-year-old Egyptian woman has tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus, bringing the number of confirmed cases in Egypt to 21, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Wednesday, February 14. A Health Ministry statement identified the woman as Nadia Abdel-Hafez from Fayoum province southwest of Cairo, the same area where a 17-year-old girl died of bird flu this month. Egypt has the highest known cluster of human cases outside Asia, with 12 deaths out of the 21 infected cases since the virus first surfaced in Egyptian

poultry a year ago. The woman, who kept birds in her home, was admitted to hospital on February 12 after coming into contact with infected poultry, officials said.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L14468605.htm>

28. *February 13, Associated Press* — **Health costs of 9/11.** Respiratory ailments, mental trauma and other problems that arose after the September 11 attacks are costing the U.S. health care system \$393 million per year, according to an analysis that New York City officials released Tuesday, February 13. The estimate was part of a report by a panel that Mayor Michael Bloomberg convened last year to study September 11 health effects and treatment programs, which are said to be running out of funding 5 1/2 years after the attacks. Some of the people who worked amid the dust, smoke and ash at the site have died. Others have developed conditions including respiratory problems, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, and the report noted the troubling prospect of later-emerging diseases including cancer and pulmonary fibrosis.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/02/13/ap/national/mainD8_N94JC00.shtml

29. *February 13, Associated Press* — **Program seeks to boost health by phone.** The U.S. government and several mobile phone companies have announced a \$10 million initiative that takes advantage of cell phone networks to improve health care in the developing world. The partnership Phones-for-Health includes network operators, handset makers, technology companies, health groups and government agencies. "The explosive spread of mobile phone networks across the developing world has created a unique opportunity to significantly transform how countries can tackle global health challenges," said Howard Zucker, assistant director-general of the World Health Organization. The program equips health workers in the field with mobile phones equipped with an application that lets them enter health data on patients. Then that information is securely sent wirelessly to a central database. If the data network is not available, it can be sent via short message service. The information is then analyzed by the system and made available to health officials on the Internet. The system also supports the sending of text alerts and other information to staff in the field.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/13/AR2007021300445.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *February 14, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Weather radios save lives.** Instead of waking with three seconds warning of a tornado, a shrieking alarm from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio could give as much as eight minutes warning. As essential as a smoke detector for fires, a special NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards can alert people to approaching severe weather. A weather radio provides instant

access to the same weather reports and emergency information that meteorologists and emergency personnel use. This information can save lives. Instant weather alerts are especially important when tornadoes threaten because tornadoes can form quickly then move fast once they are formed and on the ground. NOAA, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of Florida's State Emergency Response Team agree every home should have a NOAA receiver as standard equipment. During an emergency, NOAA will broadcast a special tone that automatically activates weather radios. NOAA then broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards. They are especially valuable in places that are prone to tornadoes.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=34146>

- 31. *February 14, Ventura County Star (CA)* — California fire center communications system in one hub.** With technology such as a Global Positioning System (GPS) at the new Ventura County Fire Department Fire Communications Center in Camarillo, CA, dispatchers can track the nearest fire crew and direct it to the scene. Armed with a state-of-the-art computer system and a new two-story, 16,000-square-foot building, County Fire officials marked the opening of the Fire Communications Center on Monday, February 12, with an open house for invited guests. The \$6 million building includes training and expanded dispatch rooms; climate-controlled computer, radio, and telephone equipment rooms; and offices. The building also includes 10 individual sleeping quarters, common areas with plush recliners and a television screen, a kitchen and an exercise room. The building is also equipped with a \$9 million system that utilizes computerized maps that allow dispatchers to pinpoint the callers' locations. Using the automatic vehicle locator system, dispatchers can track fire units and other emergency vehicles by using GPS satellites. The Fire Communications Center serves more than 600,000 residents in the unincorporated areas of the county and cities, except Oxnard, which has its own fire department.

Source: <http://www.firerescue1.com/communications-interopability/articles/278390/>

- 32. *February 13, Associated Press* — Survey says Texas police unprepared for Katrina fallout.** The mass evacuation of people from Louisiana and Mississippi to Texas after Hurricane Katrina caught Texas police agencies unaware, leading to spikes in crime rates and soaring police expenses, according to a study of Texas police departments. "I think law enforcement had their eyes opened to how unprepared they were," said Mark Pullin, a doctoral candidate at Sam Houston State University's College of Criminal Justice who conducted the study. "Most surprising were the numbers of law enforcement agencies that did not have an emergency contingency plan to deal with disasters or evacuees from disasters." Almost a half-million Louisiana residents fled to Texas — nearly 200,000 to Houston — as Katrina flooded New Orleans and parts of Mississippi in August 2005. Houston spent an extra \$4.7 million on police in the first six months after the survivors arrived, causing political headaches for elected officials who had basked in the charitable glow of welcoming the hurricane victims. Homicides in particular surged 23 percent late in the year, a spike blamed on Katrina evacuees. And the jump in homicides continued into the first half of 2006 before retreating to more pre-Katrina levels.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/politics/16689247.htm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *February 14, InformationWeek* — **Microsoft issues warning on daylight-savings time software flaw.** Microsoft is warning customers that the switch to early daylight savings time this year isn't accounted for in a number of its products, including Windows XP, and that users will need to update their software to avoid potential problems. U.S. daylight savings time will start on March 11, this year — three weeks earlier than usual. The change was authorized by the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005, but Microsoft says its Y2K-like implications mean computer users need to parry like its 1999. "Unless certain updates are applied to your computer, it is possible that the time zone settings for your computer's system clock may be incorrect during this four week period," the software maker said in a statement issued Tuesday, February 13. That could lead to all kinds of problems, from calendaring applications not working properly to key, automated processes not taking place on time. Microsoft said the fix is already built into Windows Vista and Office 2007, but that earlier operating systems and applications could be hit by the problem. As of Tuesday, the company had released an update for Windows XP SP2 users via its Automatic Updates service.
Microsoft statement: http://support.microsoft.com/gp/dst_homeuser#affected
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=VORJ0BAAN1KVYQSNLPSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=197006039>
34. *February 14, VNUNet* — **Valentine worm spreading fast.** Security experts warned Wednesday, February 14, that a "widespread worm" posing as a Valentine's greeting is spreading fast across the Internet. Dref-AB was deliberately spread so that office workers and home computer users found the malicious e-mail in their inbox first thing Wednesday morning. Since midnight GMT Dref-AB has accounted for 76.4 percent of all malware sighted at Sophos. Subject lines used in the attack are many and varied, but all pose as a romantic message. The worm is attached to the e-mails in files called "flash postcard.exe," "greeting postcard.exe," "greeting card.exe," or "postcard.exe."
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2183228/valentine-worm-spreading-fast>
35. *February 13, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team* — **US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-044A: Microsoft updates for multiple vulnerabilities.** Microsoft has released updates to address vulnerabilities that affect Microsoft Windows, Internet Explorer, Office, Works, Malware Protection Engine, Visual Studio, and Step-by-Step Interactive Training as part of the Microsoft Security Bulletin Summary for February 2007. The most severe vulnerabilities could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code or cause a denial-of-service on a vulnerable system. Some of the updates released for Microsoft Office address vulnerabilities that are actively being exploited. For more information, refer to the following Vulnerability Notes:
<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=VU%2316670>
[0.VU%231996892,VU%23412225,VU%23613740](http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=VU%231996892,VU%23412225,VU%23613740)
Solution: Microsoft has provided updates for these vulnerabilities in the February 2007 Security Bulletins. The Security Bulletins describe any known issues related to the updates. Note any known issues described in the Bulletins and test for any potentially adverse effects in your environment. System administrators may wish to consider using an automated patch distribution system such as Windows Server Update Services:
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserversystem/updateservices/default.mspx>

Microsoft February 2007 Security Bulletin:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms07-feb.msp>

Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-044A.html>

36. *February 13, InformationWeek* — Cisco warns of multiple IOS vulnerabilities. Cisco Systems announced on Tuesday, February 13, that there are several vulnerabilities in the Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) feature set of its Internetwork Operating System (IOS). Fragmented IP packets may be used to evade signature inspection, according to a warning on Cisco's Website. It also warned that the IPS signatures using the regular expression feature of the Atomic.TCP signature engine may cause a router to crash, resulting in a denial-of-service. Cisco Security Advisory: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20070213-iosips.shtml>

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=VORJ0BAAN1KVYQSNLPSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=197005905&articleId=197005905>

37. *February 13, SecurityFocus* — Old Firefox, IE flaw remains unfixed. Security researchers discovered that both Mozilla's Firefox and Microsoft's Internet Explorer Web browsers fail to securely handle keystrokes entered by the user, potentially allowing an attacker the ability to download files. The design flaws, which resemble issues found in June 2006 and as far back as 2000, allow certain keystrokes to be sent to a different application as long as the attacker can convince the user to type the appropriate characters. Attackers could use typing-intensive tasks such as keyboard-based games and comment fields to collect a user's input and send the appropriate keystrokes to a hidden application. "The vulnerability allows the attacker to silently redirect focus of selected key press events to an otherwise protected file upload form field," researcher Michal Zalewski, who discovered the most recent issues, stated in a post to the Full Disclosure security mailing list on Sunday, February 11. "This is possible because of how onKeyDown [and] onKeyPress events are handled, allowing the focus to be moved between the two. If exploited, this enables the attacker to read arbitrary files on victim's system." The issue appears to affect versions 1.5 and 2.0 of Firefox and versions 5.0, 5.5, 6 and 7 of Internet Explorer.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/433>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

38. *February 14, Associated Press* — State Farm: No new policies in Mississippi. State Farm Insurance Cos. is suspending sales of any new commercial or homeowner policies in

Mississippi starting Friday, February 16, citing in part a wave of litigation it has faced since Hurricane Katrina, a company official said Wednesday. Mike Fernandez, vice president of public affairs for State Farm, said Mississippi's "current legal and political environment is simply untenable. We're just not in a position to accept any additional risk in this homeowners' market." Fernandez said the decision does not affect existing policies but the company is still assessing how many of the current policies in Mississippi will be renewed this year. State Farm, the largest homeowners insurer in Mississippi with more than 30 percent of the market, has agreed to settle hundreds of lawsuits by policyholders and reopen and pay thousands of other disputed claims. The company had written roughly 29,000 new homeowner policies in the Mississippi in 2006, while other companies were writing a smaller percentage of claims, Fernandez said. The decision does not impact State Farm's financial services, banking products or automobile coverage in the state.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Katrina-State-Farm.html>

39. *February 14, WXIA (GA)* — Three college students arrested in Georgia sniper attacks.

Dawson County's Sheriff lived up to his promise to have 19-year-old Seth Adam Kirkland of Cumming, GA, behind bars Tuesday, February 13. Kirkland was the third person arrested as part of a trio of teens that authorities believe to be connected to more than 30 sniper type shootings in six North Georgia counties in late January. The other two suspects, 18-year-old Richard Adam Toole of Bowman and 19-year-old Barkley Phillip Hart of Royston, were already in jail. All three were to appear before a Dawson County Magistrate Judge later Tuesday. They face multiple counts of aggravated assault in connection with several sniper attacks on homes, businesses, and vehicles a couple of weeks ago. Sgt. Tony Wooten of the Dawson County Sheriff's Office said Toole and Hart were caught after an alert news viewer saw and read stories about the unsolved shootings, most of which happened near Dawsonville the weekend of January 20 and 21.

Source: http://www.ksdk.com/news/world/us_world_article.aspx?storyid=112744

40. *February 13, AccessNorthGa.com* — Explosives found in Flowery Branch, Georgia. The Hall County Sheriff's Office arrested a Flowery Branch man Monday evening, February 12, in connection with the discovery of several explosive devices including military explosives. During the course of serving a Temporary Protective Order on Robert Miley, 39, of Flowery Branch, deputies discovered a firearm and what appeared to be components of a military explosive. The devices were turned over to the bomb squad and identified as grenade fuses. Deputies along with the GBI obtained a search warrant for a storage area at the complex and discovered additional military type items including a pipe bomb type device. Miley was arrested and is currently being held at the Hall County Detention Center without bond. It appears Miley had collected these items while serving in the military. Additional charges are pending.

Source: <http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/hall/newfullstory.asp?ID=111634>

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General Sector

41. *February 14, Associated Press* — French judge warns of terror threat. The risk of terror attacks in Europe is high and is increasing, France's leading anti-terrorism judge said, warning

that a recent alliance between al Qaeda and a North African terrorist group poses a grave threat. The Salafist Group for Call and Combat, known by its French initials GSPC, staged seven nearly simultaneous attacks in Algeria on Tuesday, February 13, targeting police in several towns east of Algiers, killing six and injuring around 30, according to officials, police and hospital staff. Al Qaeda in Islamic North Africa, the new name for the GSPC, claimed responsibility for the strikes. "The GSPC wants to carry out attacks in Europe, especially in France, Italy and Spain, and destabilize North Africa," Jean-Louis Bruguiere told the Associated Press on Tuesday night in New York. Bruguiere, who spoke at the French-American Foundation in New York, has been instrumental in rounding up hundreds of suspected militants in France over 20 years and more recently earned a global reputation as having a key role in the fight against al Qaeda. French counterterrorism police arrested 11 suspects as part of efforts aimed at dismantling an alleged al Qaeda-linked recruiting network to send radical Islamic fighters to Iraq, police officials said Wednesday.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_EUROPE_TERRORISM_THREAT?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

42. *February 13, WorldNetDaily* — **Utah gunman was Muslim from Bosnia.** The 18-year-old gunman who killed five people in a crowded Utah shopping mall was a Bosnian Muslim refugee who was prepared to kill many more, say investigators. Ken Hammond, an off-duty officer from Ogden, having an early Valentine's Day dinner with his wife, was credited with cornering Sulejmen Talovic, exchanging fire with him until other officers arrived to shoot and kill the gunman. The trench-coated teenager wanted to "to kill a large number of people" and probably would have killed many more if not for the off-duty officer, Police Chief Chris Burbank said. A friend said Talovic was from the war-torn country of Bosnia and that the trauma he experienced while growing up may have led to him snapping for some reason. Talovic had a backpack full of ammunition, a shotgun and a .38-caliber pistol, police said. Investigators knew little about Talovic, except than he lived in Salt Lake City with his mother, the chief said. He was enrolled in numerous city schools before withdrawing in 2004, the school district said.

Source: http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=54247

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