



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 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 Des Moines Register reports ice accumulation of up to one and one-half inches wreaked havoc on Iowa's power lines Saturday, February 24, leaving more than 171,000 customers without electricity and others in jeopardy of losing power if winds pick up. (See item [1](#))
- The Transportation Security Administration on Friday, February 23, unveiled an operational test to evaluate backscatter technology, which detects weapons, explosives, and other metallic and non-metallic threat items concealed under layers of clothing, at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. (See item [13](#))
- U.S. scientists have confirmed the first reported case of pig meningitis in a human being in North America: a 59-year-old farmer in New York State, who complained of sudden fever and confusion. (See item [25](#))

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](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

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 25, Des Moines Register (IA)* — **Storm knocks out power for 171,000 in Iowa.** Ice accumulation of up to one and one-half inches wreaked havoc on Iowa's power lines Saturday, February 24, leaving more than 171,000 customers without electricity and others in jeopardy of

losing power if winds pick up. Some may not have power until the middle of next week, said Ryan Stensland, a spokesperson for Alliant Energy, which serves about 500,000 customers in 77 of Iowa's counties. "There's a tremendous amount of weight on those power lines right now," he said Saturday. "If we get any kind of substantial sustained winds, it's going to escalate." About 109,000 Alliant and 62,000 MidAmerican Energy customers had lost power by 9:30 p.m. CST as a series of storms pounded the state, making it difficult for workers to repair power lines. Several cities – including Newton, Marshalltown, Grinnell and Burlington – were almost entirely without power.

Source: <http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2007/0225/NEWS/702250344/-1/NEWS04>

2. **February 23, Reuters — Oil price hits its highest this year.** Oil climbed above \$61 to its highest this year on Friday, February 23, after top fuel consumer the United States reported an unexpected drop in gasoline stocks and Iran said it would show 'no weakness' over its nuclear program. U.S. crude (CLc1) was up 35 cents at \$61.30 a barrel at 1449 GMT. It earlier hit \$61.70, the highest since December 26, taking gains for the week to \$3.66 or 6.3 percent. Some analysts had said a close above \$60.80 could presage further gains. Weekly U.S. data on Thursday showed a surprise 3.1 million barrels fall in gasoline stocks, unnerving investors ahead of the peak summer demand season. Problems at some U.S. refineries and the temporary closure of part of a fuel pipeline supplying the densely populated Northeast have also supported the market.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/23/AR2007022300528.html>

3. **February 22, Reuters — NRC puts biggest U.S. nuclear power plant on watch.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Thursday, February 22, announced it has placed the biggest nuclear power plant in the United States, the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in Arizona, under a tighter watch because of a safety violation. The NRC gave Arizona Public Service (APS) a "white" finding after its inspection, meaning "low to moderate safety significance." The violation did not create a public safety health risk, the NRC said. The extra scrutiny in the past has cost nuclear power plant operators millions of dollars but Palo Verde's operator and main owner, APS, said it won't be a significant amount. The NRC found that APS was at fault for its operation of emergency diesel generators at the 3,850-megawatt nuclear power plant, which at full operation can make enough electricity to feed about two million homes. The generators are designed to provide power in the event of an emergency. While a low to moderate safety violation in itself is not enough to put a plant under special scrutiny, Palo Verde has been found in violation of safety procedures in the past several years.

NRC Press Release: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2007/07-003iv.html>

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN22473681200_70222

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *March 01, National Defense* — **DoD needs more technical expertise.** Despite decades of acquisition reforms, major military procurement programs continue to experience cost growth and technology readiness problems. These challenges could be solved to a large extent if the Department of Defense (DoD) put more emphasis on the early phases of the development process, says the Pentagon's chief weapon tester. Often the wrong decisions are made because the government lacks enough technical expertise to oversee complex programs, says Charles McQueary, director of operational test and evaluation at the DoD. "You need top notch engineering capability in the government. Unfortunately, the government has lost quite a bit of its systems engineering capabilities, and when you lose these capabilities, you tend to do too much designing without an adequate knowledge of the tradeoffs." Before they enter production, major weapon systems undergo "developmental testing" and later they move to "operational testing." Program officials also tend to identify problems when the systems reach the operational testing phase. At that point, it becomes much more expensive to change the design. "Developmental testing is the place to find problems. Operational testing should be the period of confirmation, not a period of discovery," McQueary says.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/March/DefenseDept.htm>

5. *February 23, Aviation Week* — **Substantial wording change in CSAR-X proposal.** The Air Force changed the wording of a key performance parameter during a crucial phase of the proposal requests for its high-profile multibillion-dollar combat, search and rescue (CSAR-X) helicopter competition without explicitly alerting contractors to the alteration or its impact. While defense acquisition experts agree the wording change itself is substantial — and could have had a major impact on the competition — they disagree whether the Air Force should have made the change without drawing attention to it. To be sure, the change — regarding the capability and readiness of the CSAR-X helicopter after being disassembled and reassembled for deployment — appeared to be legal and occurred during the regular development of the acquisition. Moreover, the onus is on the competing contractors to recognize any such changes, as one analyst said. "Can this type of change have an impact on competition? It's certainly possible," said Steve Chadwick, defense acquisition analyst for the Congressional Research Service. But Chadwick said the Air Force apparently has not breached procedures. A draft RFP is just that, he said, a draft. There's no requirement for the service to even release a draft RFP — that's just a courtesy.

Source: <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/CSAR02237.xml&headline=Wording%20Change%20In%20CSAR-X%20Proposal%20Raises%20Hackles&channel=defense>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *February 23, Websense* — **Phishing Alert: Banco Banvivienda.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets users of Banco Banvivienda. Users receive a spoofed email message which claims that new servers have been deployed and that, in order to

keep customer data secure, they will have to log on to their account to restore the data on record. The email provides a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect personal and account information. This phishing site is hosted in Spain.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=746>

7. *February 23, Federal Trade Commission* — **FTC to host identity authentication workshop.**

On April 23 and 24, 2007, the Federal Trade Commission will host a public workshop, “Proof Positive: New Directions in ID Authentication,” to explore methods to reduce identity theft through enhanced authentication. The workshop will facilitate a discussion among public sector, private sector, and consumer representatives, and will focus on technological and policy requirements for developing better authentication processes, including the incorporation of privacy standards and consideration of consumer usability issues. The agency is seeking public comments in planning the agenda for the workshop, and is inviting parties interested in participating as panelists to notify the agency.

Federal Register Notice: <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2007/02/authenticationfrn.pdf>

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2007/02/authentication.htm>

8. *February 23, SC Magazine* — **Washington State man pleads guilty to spreading Trojan.**

A Washington State man, charged with creating and distributing a Trojan intended to steal computer usernames and passwords, has pleaded guilty in federal court. Richard Honour admitted to distributing the spyware through emails he sent to users of DarkMyst, an IRC chatroom popular with online gamers. He also released messages with embedded links that would download and install spyware on to the recipient’s computers. The 31-year-old then used the infected machines to steal online financial details and other personal information in order to commit identity theft. He pleaded guilty to one felony count of computer fraud. The FBI began to investigate the case after receiving complaints from Internet users, and arrested him at his home in Washington State.

Source: <http://scmagazine.com/us/news/article/635322/washington-stat-e-man-pleads-guilty-spreading-trojan/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *February 24, Associated Press* — **Winter storm across the Plains affects transportation.**

A large, fast-moving snowstorm that closed sections of major highways in the Plains on Saturday, February 24, was blamed for seven traffic deaths, while strong winds in Arkansas cut a five-mile-long swath of damage, destroying buildings and leaving several people injured. The seven deaths occurred on slippery Wisconsin roads. The vast storm system also spread rain and thunderstorms across parts of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. Interstate 70, a major cross-country route, was closed for about 400 miles, from just east of Denver to Salina, KS, because of blowing snow and slippery pavement, Colorado and Kansas highway officials said. About 35 vehicles collided in a pileup in whiteout conditions Saturday morning on an icy section of I-70 west of the highway closure. Airlines canceled 230 arrivals and departures at Chicago's O'Hare International and 40 at Midway in anticipation of snow, sleet and freezing rain, said Wendy Abrams, Chicago's aviation department spokesperson.

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

- 10. February 23, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-245: Highway Emergency Relief: Reexamination Needed to Address Fiscal Imbalance and Long-term Sustainability (Report).** Since 1972, Congress has authorized \$100 million a year for highway disaster recovery needs through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) program. Increasingly, the program's actual costs have exceeded this amount, and Congress has provided additional funding. Because of this fiscal imbalance between program funding and program needs, we reviewed ER under the Comptroller General's authority to determine the (1) total funding, distribution of funds among the states, and disaster events funded; (2) sources of funding provided and financial challenges facing the program; and (3) scope of activities eligible for funding and how the scope of eligible activities has changed in recent years. The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) study is based on financial data, document analysis, stakeholder interviews, and site To place the ER program on a sustainable financial footing, Congress should reexamine the level and source of funds for future demands and consider tightening eligibility standards. FHWA should, within its authority, tighten eligibility standards, recapture unused funds, and seek rescission of unneeded funds. The Department of Transportation generally agreed with the facts presented and took no position on our recommendations.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07245high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-245>
- 11. February 23, Associated Press — Jet makes emergency landing; four treated.** An American Airlines flight made an emergency landing in Louisville, KY, because of smoke in the cabin, and four people were treated at a hospital, authorities said. The plane was en route from Dallas-Fort Worth to Newark, NJ, late Thursday, February 22, airport spokesperson Rande Swann said. There were 123 passengers and five crewmembers on board, the airline said. Two adults, including one crewmember, and two children were treated in an emergency room, American Airlines spokesperson Tim Wagner said. The air conditioning system apparently malfunctioned, but there was no sign of fire.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-02-23-jet-louisville_x.htm
- 12. February 23, Department of Transportation — Cross border truck safety inspection program.** U.S. trucks will for the first time be allowed to make deliveries in Mexico under a year-long pilot program that expands cross border trucking operations with Mexico, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Mary Peters announced Friday, February 23, during a visit to truck inspection facilities in El Paso, TX. U.S. trucks will get to make deliveries into Mexico while a select group of Mexican trucking companies will be allowed to make deliveries beyond the 20-25 mile commercial zones currently in place along the Southwest border. Secretary Peters said the new demonstration program was designed to simplify a process that currently requires Mexican truckers to stop and wait for U.S. trucks to arrive and transfer cargo. Peters said those Mexican truck companies that may be allowed to participate in the one-year program will all be required to have insurance with a U.S. licensed firm and meet all U.S. safety standards. Companies that meet these standards will be allowed to make international pick up and deliveries only and will not be able to move goods from one U.S. city for delivery to another, haul hazardous materials, or transport passengers.
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/cbtsip/dot2107.htm>

13. *February 23, Transportation Security Administration* — TSA unveils backscatter technology testing at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on Friday, February 23, unveiled an operational test to evaluate backscatter technology at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. This new technology can detect weapons, explosives and other metallic and non-metallic threat items concealed under layers of clothing without physical contact, and TSA has applied multiple protections for passengers' privacy. "Privacy and security are not mutually exclusive, and backscatter has potential to be a valuable tool in our layered security approach," said TSA Administrator Kip Hawley. "There will be opportunity for continued public dialogue as we see how this technology works in the airport setting." During test operations, passengers will participate on a voluntary basis only. In addition to usual effectiveness and suitability assessments, TSA will examine operational issues, including throughput, privacy considerations, training, safety of use and perceptions by the traveling public.

For more information about backscatter:

http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/screening/backscatter.shtm

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2007/press_release_02232007.shtm

14. *February 23, Reuters* — U.S. airlines pledge to review service plans. Major U.S. airlines pledged Thursday, February 22, to review and update their customer service plans as necessary and called for a government review of airline and airport preparations for handling weather-related problems. The steps outlined by airline chief executives through their trade group were intended to head off potential congressional action against carriers over the service meltdown by JetBlue Airways Corp. during last week's ice storm in New York. Bipartisan legislation proposed in the Senate would force airlines to take specific action to get passengers off planes during long delays, a proposal that carriers fear would tangle operations and impose high costs. Airline chief executives met Thursday at the offices of their lobbying group, the Air Transport Association, to address customer service concerns raised by the cascading series of events that swamped JetBlue at New York's John F. Kennedy airport. JetBlue stranded hundreds of passengers on grounded aircraft February 14 and canceled more than 1,000 flights as it struggled over succeeding days to address problems with crew scheduling and reservations, and other difficulties. Airlines are worried about congressional and consumer reaction to the JetBlue debacle, especially after a recent government report that measured flight delays and revealed more than four million mishandled bags last year.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/TRAVEL/02/23/airlines.service.reut/index.html>

15. *February 23, New York Times* — New parts in old system are cited in Amtrak trouble. The power supply system for trains running between New York and Washington, DC, a concatenation of parts whose oldest links date back 80 years, failed last May 25 because of a hidden flaw in some of the newest equipment in the chain, the railroad said Friday, February 23. A four-year-old computer in Philadelphia failed to execute a single command given 36 hours earlier, after maintenance had been done on the evening of May 23, and then failed to alert human controllers that it had not followed instructions, according to an extensive investigation performed by outside experts. The system muddled through the morning and evening rush hours on May 24, but on the morning of the 25th it became overloaded and failed, according to Amtrak. Giant machines, needed to convert power to the type Amtrak needs, failed one by one, first at a substation in Sunnyside, Queens; then at Jericho Park, near Bowie, MD;

and then Lamokin, near the Pennsylvania–Delaware border. Adding to the problem was that much of the equipment is remotely controlled, but if the power fails, a technician must be present to restart it, by physically resetting electrical breakers.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/24/us/24amtrak.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

16. February 22, Department of Homeland Security — DHS announces proposed passport flexibility for U.S. and Canadian children at land and sea borders. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Thursday, February 22, its intent to propose, as part of the forthcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), significant flexibility regarding travel documents required for U.S. and Canadian children as part of WHTI requirements for U.S. land and sea border entry in 2008. As early as January 1, 2008, U.S. citizens traveling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea will be required to present a valid passport or other WHTI compliant documents, as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. The initial phase of WHTI travel document requirements went into effect last month, obligating all air travelers, regardless of age, to present a passport for entry to the United States. This DHS proposal announced does not affect the requirements for air travel. The Department of State will soon issue final regulations that will allow it to issue to U.S. citizens a lower cost alternative to a passport, the Passport Card. DHS will continue to issue WHTI compliant border crossing documents for frequent border crossers under its trusted traveler programs. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 mandated the WHTI travel document requirements.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1172167923684.shtm

17. February 22, Department of Transportation — Cross border safety inspection program to begin. Truck safety inspectors working for the U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will be able to travel to Mexico to conduct extensive safety audits on companies interested in hauling cargo into and out of the United States as part of a new program announced on Thursday, February 22, by Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters. Peters, who visited a local trucking company in Monterrey, Mexico, to announce the program with Mexican Secretary of Communications and Transportation Luis Téllez, said this step is needed before the United States can allow trucks from Mexico to operate beyond the currently existing border commercial zones that include cities like San Diego and El Paso. Peters also noted U.S. inspection teams will now be able to visit Mexican trucking companies to ensure their trucks and drivers meet the same safety, insurance and licensing requirements that apply to all U.S. truckers. She added the inspectors will evaluate truck maintenance and driver testing for compliance with U.S. requirements. The inspection teams also will check that drivers have a valid commercial driver's license, have a current medical certificate, and can comply with U.S. hours-of-service rules

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/cbtsip/dot2007.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

18. February 23, DM News — PRC to announce recommended decision on postal rate hike. The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) said on Thursday, February 22, that it would

announce its recommended decision on the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) request to increase postage rates to the agency's board of governors on February 26 at its offices in Washington, DC. The USPS filed May 3 with the PRC for an average 8.5 percent rate increase. The PRC was expected to make a recommendation to the agency's board of governors on the case in March, although lately insiders had said that the decision most likely would be made earlier. The decision will include recommendations on postal rates and fees affecting all mail users. The decision will also address the request to establish a "Forever Stamp" that would allow consumers the opportunity to purchase a non-denominated, non-expiring stamp that would be valid regardless of future rate changes. Postmaster General John E. Potter told USPS customers last year that they should prepare for a possible May 6 rate change date.

Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/direct-mail/40166.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

19. *February 24, South China Morning Post* — Experts stumped by mystery horse virus. Trainer John Moore and the Hong Kong Jockey Club veterinary department may never know the identity of the virus which struck down nine racehorses and two lead ponies. The head of veterinary regulation, Brian Stewart, said Friday, February 23, that test results from the Hong Kong government laboratories have ruled out equine influenza and it is 99 percent certain that the horses were not infected with an equine herpes virus. Nine Moore-trained horses were struck with the mystery illness last week, with the main external symptoms including a fever. There are no new fevers in John Moore's yard since Monday, February 19.

Source: <http://racing.scmp.com/freeservice/news/news20070224.asp>

20. *February 22, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — USDA delays inspection and user fee requirements for commercial trucks, railroad cars entering the U.S. from Canada. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is delaying the effective date for the collection of user fees from March 1, 2007, to June 1, 2007, for inspections of commercial trucks and railroad cars entering the U.S. from Canada. In an interim rule published on August 25, 2006, APHIS announced that it would remove the inspection exemption for Canadian-grown fruits and vegetables and user fee exemption for commercial vessels, trucks, railroad cars and aircraft, as well as international passengers entering the U.S. from Canada. Effective March 1, the removal of the inspection exemption for Canadian-grown fruits and vegetables and the user fee exemption for all commercial vessels and aircraft entering the U.S. from Canada will take effect. The remaining provisions of the rule (i.e. the removal of the user fee exemption for commercial trucks and commercial railroad cars entering the U.S. from Canada) will take effect June 1, 2007.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/02/canfeedly .shtml>

21. *February 15, Cornell University* — Rapid fish virus test developed. Cornell researchers are fine-tuning a new technique they developed to rapidly detect a deadly fish virus that has increasingly appeared in the Great Lakes and neighboring waterways. Current tests take a month, while the new technique, which measures viral genetic material, takes only 24 hours to identify the virus. The Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus has been isolated in a wide variety of dead fish from the St. Lawrence River, the Niagara River, Lake St. Claire, Lake Erie,

Lake Ontario and Lake Huron. The virus detected in Lake Huron was only 22 miles from Lake Michigan. VHS is a rhabdovirus, a pathogen that has caused large fish kills in these areas.

Source: http://www.news.cornell.edu/pressoffice1/Feb07/fish.virus.up_date.shtml

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

22. February 25, Agence France–Presse — China bans imports of U.S. peanut butter. China's ministry of health has warned consumers against eating two brands of U.S.–made peanut butter and has banned imports and sales of the products, state press said Saturday, February 25. The ministry banned Peter Pan and Great Value brands of peanut butter after the World Health Organization warned that the products could be contaminated by the food–borne bacterium salmonella, Xinhua news agency said. Chinese import agents of the two brands were also ordered to immediately recall their products.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070224/hl_afp/chinausfoodhealth_070224204846;_ylt=AtP_erFdYHmaM7yPhXX.YSSJOrgF

23. February 22, Food Safety and Inspection Service — Timeline for risk–based inspection in processing plants proposed. U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Food Safety Richard Raymond Thursday, February 22, announced a timetable for introducing more robust risk–based inspection in processing plants, proposing to begin in April with 30 locations representing about 254 establishments and potentially expanding to approximately 150 locations by the end of 2007. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) intends to better utilize the information regularly collected by inspection program personnel at processing establishments to improve food safety. By taking into account the relative risk of what each processing plant produces and how each plant is controlling risk in its operations, FSIS will more effectively allocate inspection resources to those processing plants needing it the most, while continuing daily inspection at all processing facilities. The level of inspection at a processing plant will be based on a number of objective factors such as public health related inspection noncompliances and FSIS microbiological testing results and will be updated each month so that inspection resources can be adjusted as conditions change.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_022207_01/index.asp

24. February 22, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Green bean casserole recalled. Americas Kitchen of Alpharetta, GA, is recalling its 32–ounce packages of "Wellsley Farms" Green Bean Casserole sold from September 1, 2006 through February 22, 2007 because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism which can cause illness, mild, moderate or even severe. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this product. The recalled "Wellsley Farms" Green Bean Casserole was distributed nationwide in BJ's Wholesale Club retail stores. The production of the product has been suspended while the problem is being investigated.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/americaskitchen02_07.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

25. *February 23, Pig Progress (Netherlands)* — North American case of pig meningitis in humans. U.S. scientists have confirmed the first reported case of pig meningitis in a human being in North America. The patient is a 59-year-old farmer in the state of New York, who complained of sudden fever and confusion. His pulse was racing, he breathed rapidly and he had meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. The hospital's preliminary tests revealed the presence of *Streptococcus suis*, a bacteria prevalent in pigs that can lead to meningitis. Ruth Zadoks, research associate and veterinarian at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, provided the insights and a DNA-level analysis of *S. suis* strains found in both the farmer and pigs from his farm. With the farmer's bacterial cultures and the pig samples, Zadoks confirmed that the patient was indeed infected with *S. suis*. "Even though we did not match the human strain with those of the pigs, the strain from the farmer matches superficially a strain found in both pigs and humans in Denmark and the Netherlands," said Zadoks. People have regularly contracted the disease in South East Asia, especially China where a 2005 outbreak resulted in 204 human cases with 38 deaths, and some 600 pigs killed.

Source: http://www.pigprogress.net/ts_pi/pigprogress.portal/enc/nfpb/true/tspi_portlet_news_singleeditorschoice1_3_actionOverride/_2Fportlets_2Fts_2Fge_2Fnews_singleeditorschoice1_2Fcontent_2FshowDetailsList/windowLabel/tspi_portlet_news_singleeditorschoice1_3/tspi_portlet_news_singleeditorschoice1_3id/12716/desktopLabel/pigprogress/pageLabel/tspi_page_news_content/

26. *February 23, Voice of America* — Afghan Health Ministry confirms deadly bird flu virus. Afghanistan's Health Ministry has confirmed the presence of bird flu in eastern Nangarhar province. Health Ministry Deputy Faizullah Kakar said that the H5N1 strain of bird flu virus was confirmed by officials Friday, February 23. Earlier in the week, Afghan authorities ordered the slaughter of birds in both Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, suspecting an outbreak of bird flu. Last year, Afghanistan discovered cases of the H5N1 virus in birds.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-02-23-voa55.cfm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

27. *February 23, Federal Computer Week* — OMB: Agencies ready for daylight-saving time shift. Although industry information technology leaders are worried about the effect of the upcoming change to daylight-saving time on IT systems, federal systems are prepared, according to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Representatives from the agency said OMB surveyed federal chief information officers and found that most were well prepared

for the upgrade of IT infrastructure, which will include almost all their desktop and laptop computers and portable devices running operating systems. “We are pleased to report minor to no impact is anticipated for the majority of agencies,” OMB spokesperson Andrea Wuebker said. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed the start and end dates of daylight–saving time, lengthening the total time of daylight savings to four weeks each year. Clocks will now shift forward one hour March 11 and back one November 4. The new time rule takes effect March 11, 2007. IT executives are concerned that the time shift could cause problems with machines’ automatic time adjustments.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97741-02-22-07-Web>

28. *February 23, WUSA (DC)* — **Suspected pepper spray at Maryland high school.** There was a scare Friday, February 23, for thousands of students at Gaithersburg High School. A noxious cloud sent seven students and two staff members to the hospital. All 2100 youngsters were evacuated. Firefighters suspect it was pepper spray. The students streamed out of the building, first to a parking lot, and then to nearby rec center. Police are trying to determine if someone shot off a canister of pepper spray in a hallway near the office. Firefighters brought in fans to air out the building. And nearly two hours later, the teens were back inside.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=56178

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

29. *February 24, Associated Press* — **White House conducts bomb drill.** Dozens of high–level officials joined in a White House drill Saturday, February 24, to see how the government would respond if several cities were attacked simultaneously by the type of the roadside bombs used against American troops in Iraq. White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend presided over the three–hour exercise. All Cabinet agencies were represented by their secretaries or other high–ranking officials, with a total of about 90 participants, said Scott Stanzel, a White House spokesperson. Stanzel said the drill revealed gaps in the government's ability to respond, but also showed that there have been many improvements since Hurricane Katrina exposed federal inadequacies when it devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. For instance, coordination with state and local authorities and the ability to get federal resources in place quickly—key missteps after Katrina—appeared much better now, Stanzel said. This was the administration's fourth such "tabletop" exercise since the first in December 2005 on a bird flu or other pandemic outbreak. The next step is for the Homeland Security Council to study the role play and report on what gaps were revealed, Stanzel said.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1151AP_Disaster_Drill.html

30. *February 23, Federal Computer Week* — **HUD creates online housing locator for disaster assistance.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development has developed a Web–based National Housing Locator system to help state and public housing authorities and other first responders quickly identify the available housing during a disaster. The locator combines federal housing resources with three commercial apartment locators and housing Websites to offer one platform that allows housing agency personnel and emergency responders immediately access available rental housing resources nationwide. The locator allows users to set search criteria to locate available housing in a one–stop shopping environment. Once the

criteria are set, the locator conducts a rapid search nationwide and displays the results about available housing in a report format. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the government had an urgent need to house thousands of families nationwide, said Orlando Cabrera, assistant secretary for the Office of Public and Indian Housing. HUD tapped a number of commercial sites to supplement its search of government housing resources. The system is available to states and public housing authorities, and other first responders.

Source: <http://www.few.com/article97763-02-23-07-Web>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. *February 23, IDG News Service* — **Mozilla fixes Firefox bugs.** Mozilla has released an update to its Firefox browser, fixing security flaws in the product. The Firefox 2.0.0.2 release includes a fix for a bug disclosed by a security researcher last week. That flaw can be exploited by attackers to manipulate cookie information in the Firefox browser, making it probably the most important fix in the update, according to Window Snyder, Mozilla's head of security strategy. The updates also include a fix for a previously undisclosed memory corruption flaw in the browser that could be exploited to run unauthorized software on a Firefox user's computer. This flaw could also affect Thunderbird users who have configured their mail client to run JavaScript automatically, something that Mozilla does not recommend. Thunderbird is Mozilla's free e-mail client. Mozilla has patched a total of seven Firefox bugs and is also addressing two bugs in Thunderbird.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/02/23/HNmozillafixesfirefoxbugs_1.html

32. *February 23, CNET News.com* — **Flaw found in Office 2007.** Researchers at eEye Digital Security found a file format vulnerability in Microsoft Office Publisher 2007, which could be exploited to let an outsider run code on a compromised PC. An attacker could create a malicious publisher file, said Ross Brown, eEye's chief executive. Once the recipient opens the file, he or she could find the system infected and susceptible to a remote attack. Microsoft, meanwhile, said it is investigating the report of a possible vulnerability in Publisher 2007 and will provide users with additional guidance if necessary.

Source: http://news.com.com/Flaw+found+in+Office+2007/2100-1002_3-6161835.html?tag=ne.fd.mnbc

33. *February 23, Websense* — **Monster.com email lure to malicious code.** Websense Security Labs has discovered emails that attempt to lure users to click on a link in order to upgrade their system security. The emails, which are spoofed from Monster, are written in HTML and claim that Monster systems have been upgraded and that users need to download a certified utility to be able to use Monster. The domain name that the emails point to are using five different IP addresses. Upon connecting to one of the IP addresses, the code is run, several files are downloaded and installed on the user's machine, and another file is downloaded and installed from a server in Denmark. The files appear to be designed to steal end-user information.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=747>

34. *February 23, US-CERT* — **Vulnerability Note VU#393921: Mozilla Firefox fails to**

properly handle JavaScript onUnload events. The JavaScript onUnload event is executed when the browser exits a Web page. An event handler can be installed via JavaScript to trap and process this event. Mozilla Firefox fails to properly handle JavaScript onUnload events. Specifically, Firefox may not correctly handle freed data structures modified in the onUnload event handler possibly leading to memory corruption. By convincing a user to view a specially crafted HTML document (e.g., a web page or an HTML email message or attachment), an attacker may be able to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user. We are currently unaware of a practical solution to this problem; however, disabling JavaScript will prevent exploitation of this vulnerability.

Source: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/393921>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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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/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

35. *February 24, Associated Press* — New promo campaign angers Boston officials, again. Less than a month after highways and bridges were shut down during a bomb scare touched off by an advertising stunt, a new marketing scheme has led angry city officials to shut down a historic site. A clue in a Dr Pepper promotion suggested a coin that might be worth as much as \$1 million was buried in the 347-year-old Granary Burying Ground, the final resting place of John Hancock, Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, and other historic figures. After contestants showed up at the cemetery gates early Tuesday, February 20, the city closed it, concerned that it would be damaged by treasure hunters. British candy and soft drink maker Cadbury Schweppes PLC, which makes Dr Pepper, canceled the Boston portion of the 23-city coin hunt promotion on Thursday. Parks officials said the city might seek compensation for the police used to protect the site. City Council President Maureen E. Feeney said she will convene a hearing next month on the Dr Pepper promotion and on the cartoon stunt. "It is intolerable that companies should exploit city resources at the expense of public safety and even historic property for a cheap promotion," Feeney said in a statement.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=184740>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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