



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 April 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

- A Canadian Defense Department study underlines the terrorist threat to oil refineries, as a key target in efforts to cripple economies around the globe, and points to a lack of refinery capacity as a key security weakness in the world's oil supply chain. (See item [4](#))
- The Associated Press reports the U.S. Government is going to shut down more than 125 Jackson Hewitt tax preparation stores in four states after the Department of Justice accused the franchises of bilking the government out of more than \$70 million through fraudulent practices. (See item [11](#))

### 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. *April 04, New York Times* — **Nuclear drill performance raises issues on safety.** As a simulated nuclear accident unfolded at a Georgia power plant, the drill called for a pump shaft to break and to dump metal parts into the reactor coolant system. Radiation in the containment building levels was to rise and the water level was to start dropping so fast that the regular pumps could not keep up. The emergency director concluded that there might have been a pipe break, and declared a site-area emergency, the second-highest classification of accident. But the script for the drill, held March 22, 2006, at the Vogtle Nuclear Plant near Augusta, did not

include a pipe break, and the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission graded the performance of the plant's owner, the Southern Company, poor. The company has made an unusual appeal to top commission officials to revise its grade on the drill. The company contends that penalizing it for making a tough call within the short time allotted will have a chilling effect on the rest of the industry and lead to reactor operators' being too slow in giving public safety officials their assessments of what is happening.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/04/us/04nuke.html?\\_r=1&oref=s\\_login](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/04/us/04nuke.html?_r=1&oref=s_login)

2. *April 04, Reuters* — **Silicon Valley's 'best brains' work on energy.** Although commercial success could take years, venture capitalists are pouring cash into solar power, fuel cells, wind energy, biofuels, new lighting microchips, "smart" power grids, and other innovative energies. "The best brains in the country are no longer working on the next pharmaceutical drug or the next Silicon Revolution. They want to work on energy," said Vinod Khosla, a top venture capitalist in Silicon Valley. While there is competition from Canada, Germany, China, India and other nations, traditional energy companies have been relatively quiet. "It is under-researched. There are easy pluckings. Oil companies spend no money on research, especially outside of how you discover more oil. All their efforts are token or nominal. The same is true of the coal business," Khosla said. More than two-thirds, or \$883.6 million, of all clean technology investments last year were made by U.S. investors. Cleantech Venture Network estimates that clean energy investment in Silicon Valley topped \$500 million last year, including not just venture capital but also corporate and some debt financing. The group estimates \$3.6 billion was invested across the United States and Europe.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/04/AR2007040400717\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/04/AR2007040400717_pf.html)

3. *April 04, Gannett News Service* — **New sirens flunk test at Indian Point.** Another week, another set of challenges for Indian Point nuclear facility in Buchanan, NY: First, problems with a siren test Monday, April 2, and then an unplanned reactor shutdown Tuesday. The nuclear plants ran into what Indian Point officials hope was a glitch when 123 of the new 150 emergency sirens failed to successfully complete an operational test. The sirens are required to be ready by April 15 and county emergency officials said they had not expected to see a step backward so close to the deadline. About 4:15 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Indian Point 3 workers shut down that nuclear reactor as it was going back to full power from a 24-day refueling outage. There were low water levels in the plant's steam generators, where steam is used to help produce electricity. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and local emergency officials commended nuclear workers for their quick action. The latest stoppage puts Indian Point 3 near its limit for unplanned shutdowns per hours of operations. Another shutdown between now and June 30 would push Indian Point up to a white rating from green, the safest of four operational categories.

Source: <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070404/NEWS01/704040310/1006/NEWS01>

4. *April 03, Ottawa Citizen (Canada)* — **Canadian Defense report underlines terrorist threat to oil refineries.** Oil refineries could become a key target in terrorist efforts to cripple economies around the globe, warns a Canadian Department of National Defense report. The October 2005 study by the department's analysts points to a lack of refinery capacity as a key security weakness in the world's oil supply chain. Even a shutdown of several days can hurt the

global oil supply, it adds. A September 2006 Defense Department study notes some analysts believe the threat that terrorists might disrupt the global oil supply has already caused oil prices to rise by \$10 to \$15 US a barrel. Canada's growing status in the energy business has also caught the attention of terrorist groups, such as the al Qaeda organization in the Arabian Peninsula. In February, that group called on al Qaeda operatives to attack oil targets in Saudi Arabia, Canada, Mexico and Venezuela, suggesting attacks on oilfields, pipelines, loading platforms and carriers. "We should strike petroleum interests in all areas which supply the United States ... like Canada," the group stated. Facilities outside of Canada could also be at risk, according to one of the studies, including ships that transit the Panama Canal, Suez Canal, the Strait of Hormuz and other waterways.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/story.html?id=5168f265-68da-43e9-a1a9-31106c18a3ef&k=72293>

5. *April 03, CBC News (Canada)* — **Ontario customers save enough power for a whole town.** By making small changes like switching to fluorescent light bulbs, Ontario residents saved enough electricity to power a town last year, the province's six largest electricity distributors estimate. Ottawa Hydro presented awards to Ottawa businesses and individuals who have made an especially big difference on Tuesday, April 3, the same day the Coalition of Large Distributors released a report calculating that southern and eastern Ontario residents saved enough electricity last year to power 33,511 homes. That number was estimated by adding up the theoretical impact of many small changes made by 1.7 million customers of Enersource Hydro Mississauga, Horizon Utilities, Hydro Ottawa, PowerStream, Toronto Hydro–Electric System and Veridian Connections and assuming that each household uses the Ontario average of 750 kilowatt hours a month.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/toronto/story/2007/04/03/hydro-0704.03.html>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

6. *April 04, WTOL-TV (OH)* — **Propane leak prompts evacuation.** The wind took care of what could have been a huge problem on South Bass Island in Lake Erie. Ottawa County emergency managers had to send extra firefighters on a ferry boat Tuesday night, April 3, after a huge propane leak in the village of Put-In-Bay, OH. Somehow a valve on a 2200-gallon delivery truck owned by the OE Meyer company would not close and a billowing cloud of propane started to form. Ottawa County Emergency Management Deputy Director Fred Petersen says firefighters evacuated everyone in a half-mile radius, forcing about 75 families from their homes. Fortunately, all the gas leaked out and dissipated into the air. Those who responded said this leak was a serious threat.

Source: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=6323228>

7. *April 04, Tribune (CO)* — **Diesel fuel spilled at collision.** Two semi trucks collided at Weld County Roads 392 and 51, about six miles east of Lucerne, CO. One of the trucks was a tanker trailer and dumped about 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The road was closed by law enforcement officials.

Source: <http://www.greeleytrib.com/article/20070404/NEWS/70404004>

8. *April 04, KOCO Oklahoma City* — **Chemistry explosion at school forces evacuation.** A chemistry experiment exploded inside an Oklahoma City school on Wednesday, April 4, forcing a brief evacuation. Authorities said crews were called to the ASTEC Charter School at Shepherd Mall at 2401 NW 23rd Street. The southeast corner of the mall was evacuated, but people were allowed to return soon after.  
Source: <http://www.koco.com/news/11519291/detail.html>
  
9. *April 04, Associated Press* — **Boys contaminate West Virginia town with mercury.** A group of boys playing with mercury swiped from a dental office created an environmental headache for Clendenin, WV, after tracking it into their school, homes and church and up the steps of the public library. Five of the 25 students who handled the poisonous substance showed high levels of exposure, but none suffered serious health risk, health officials said Wednesday, April 4. The fourth- and fifth-graders took about four pounds of mercury, used in some dental fillings, from the vacant and apparently unlocked office early last week. They played with the toxic substance for several days, with one student reportedly trading a pair of sneakers for some, before school officials learned about it Friday, said Clendenin Elementary School Principal Karen Scheer. Health officials spent the weekend removing contaminated items from the steps of a public library, two classrooms at the school and a gazebo at a public park. About 200 people were expected to be screened for exposure.  
Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/04/04/national/a110110D68.DTL>
  
10. *April 03, Daily Times (NM)* — **Liquid oxygen leak prompts evacuation.** Liquid oxygen spewed from a 1,500-gallon tank Monday morning, April 2, prompting an explosion hazard and an evacuation of a nearby hotel and business in central Farmington, NM. The Farmington Fire Department was dispatched to Noel's Inc. on Scott Avenue for a tank leaking liquid oxygen from a frozen valve. It took the tank more than two hours to empty, creating a low gas cloud near the area. The La Quinta Inn and the Pancake House restaurant were both evacuated as a precaution. Hotels adjacent to the property were notified and asked to keep guests inside. Drivers were also instructed not to start their vehicles because of the potential danger.  
Source: [http://daily-times.com/news/ci\\_5580342](http://daily-times.com/news/ci_5580342)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *April 04, Associated Press* — **More than 125 Jackson Hewitt offices face fraud suits.** The government said Tuesday, April 3, that it is trying to shut down more than 125 Jackson Hewitt tax preparation stores in four states for systematic "tax-fraud schemes." In lawsuits filed in federal courts in Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, and Raleigh, NC, the Department of Justice accuses the franchises of bilking the government out of more than \$70 million through fraudulent practices such as using phony W-2 forms, bogus deductions and fuel tax credits, and false

claims regarding the earned income tax credit. Jackson Hewitt Tax Services Inc., with more than 6,500 franchises, is the nation's second-largest tax preparer, after H&R Block Inc. The accused franchises were either totally or partially owned by Farrukh Sohail, the Department of Justice Department said, and involved "a pervasive and massive series of tax-fraud schemes," according to court filings. Employees allegedly were encouraged to ignore telltale signs of fraudulent information and to file claims even when it was obvious customers were using fake W-2 forms or false deductions. The suits also allege that managers and employees at the Jackson Hewitt franchises took kickbacks for filing fraudulent returns.

Source: [http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-0704030495apr04.0\\_3666289.story?coll=chi-business-hed](http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-0704030495apr04.0_3666289.story?coll=chi-business-hed)

12. *April 04, Business 2.0* — **Smart tech fights counterfeit goods.** Though official numbers are scarce, online protection company MarkMonitor says a record \$119 billion in knockoff goods will be sold on the Web in 2007, up from \$84 billion last year—everything from counterfeit watches to fraudulent pharmaceuticals. But just as fake goods are enjoying a heyday online, so are virtual sleuths. New tech firms are arming brand holders with a smart solution: Web-crawling software that detects fraud and sends warnings to apparent violators, often with minimal human action. About two-dozen companies are using Web-crawling technology to search for counterfeit storefronts and sales. They detect scammers who set up shop using domain names similar to legitimate brands or who plaster brands' trademarks and logos on their online storefronts. The companies also monitor counterfeit sales, looking for keywords like "cheap," "discount," "authentic," and "factory variants." They flag colors that the original product wasn't made in and prices that are far too low.

Source: [http://money.cnn.com/magazines/business2/business2\\_archive/2\\_007/03/01/8401026/](http://money.cnn.com/magazines/business2/business2_archive/2_007/03/01/8401026/)

13. *April 03, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-673: Internal Revenue Service: Interim Results of the 2007 Tax Filing Season and Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request.** The Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) tax filing season performance is a key indicator of how well IRS serves taxpayers. This year's filing season was expected to be risky because of tax system changes, including the telephone excise tax refund (TETR). IRS's fiscal year (FY) 2008 budget request shows its spending proposal for taxpayer service, enforcement, and Business Systems Modernization (BSM). The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to (1) describe IRS's 2007 filing season performance, (2) determine how IRS's proposed FY 2008 budget compares to prior years', provides information on how proposals may impact the tax gap, justifies new spending, and whether there are opportunities to reduce or reallocate resources, and (3) evaluate the status of IRS's efforts to develop and implement BSM. GAO is not making any new recommendations, but notes relevant past recommendations, their implementation status, and where our previous work has identified opportunities for additional savings. Despite progress made in implementing BSM projects and improving modernization management controls and capabilities, significant challenges and serious risks remain, and IRS has more to do to fully address our prior recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07673high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-673>

14. *April 02, KLAS-TV (NV)* — **Asian organized crime on the rise in Las Vegas.** Law enforcement officers from all over the United States and the world are in Las Vegas, NV. They're trying to find solutions to the growing problem of Asian organized crime. Experts say

these gangs are absolutely connected to specific types of crimes. They say these Asian gang members focus on crimes where a lot of money is involved including — selling methamphetamine, counterfeiting, and human smuggling. The draw of Las Vegas, for Asian organized crime gangs, is money. And for them, it comes in a number of different ways. The gang members are known to try to clean their dirty money, or launder it, by gambling and betting on sports. They're also responsible for infusing counterfeit money into the economy, and they have a hand in the illegal businesses of human smuggling and dealing methamphetamine. Rich Staka, with the St. Paul, MN, Police Department, is in Las Vegas to teach police officers about Asian gangs. Experts say these gang members are technologically sophisticated, good at planning and communicating their orders by computers.

Source: <http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6315668>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

**15. *April 04, Associated Press* — California considers French high-speed train.** The state of California is considering France's high-speed train for a planned link between San Francisco and San Diego, the speaker of its state assembly said on Tuesday, April 3, during a visit to France. "We are contemplating in California the possibility of a high speed train that would go from the San Francisco Bay area to Los Angeles and San Diego, in South California. We're here to study the rail system," speaker Fabian Nunez said. France's TGV set a new world speed record for a train on rails, at 357.2 miles per hour. Nunez, who was holding talks with the Alstom company and French railway officials, said California was also looking at other trains, but had a particular interest in the French model. The planned high-speed train link would go from Sacramento to San Diego via San Francisco and Los Angeles, covering a distance of 683 miles. The time of the trip between San Francisco and Los Angeles would be reduced to two and a half hours.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-04-04-california-high-speed-train\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-04-04-california-high-speed-train_N.htm)

**16. *April 04, Associated Press* — Hawaii-bound flight diverted after unruly passenger strikes pilot.** A Honolulu-bound Delta Air Lines jet was diverted to San Francisco on Tuesday, April 3, when a female passenger became unruly after smoking in the lavatory, federal officials said. Delta Flight 511, a non-stop from Cincinnati, was over the Pacific Ocean when the passenger had "a complete meltdown freakout," said a fellow passenger who called the Associated Press from the tarmac at San Francisco International Airport. The flight was turned around after the woman hit a pilot who had left the cockpit to quell the disturbance, said Elizabeth Oglesby of Atlanta. The woman was given oxygen and was taken to the hospital by ambulance after the plane landed. Officials with the Transportation Security Administration and Federal Aviation Administration did not immediately release the name of the passenger and it was not clear if she would face criminal charges. It's a federal crime to smoke on a commercial flight.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-03-passenger-strikes-pilot\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-03-passenger-strikes-pilot_N.htm)

**17. *April 04, USA TODAY* — United vows to pay abandoned fliers.** Nearly four months after they were left stranded in Cheyenne, WY, angry United Express passengers may finally be getting the compensation they demand. United Airlines says it will fully reimburse the expenses of 110

passengers on two flights operated by its contractor, Shuttle America, that diverted to Cheyenne after a blizzard hit the Denver airport on December 20. Passengers spent tens of thousands of dollars for hotel rooms, meals, rental cars, and new plane tickets to resume their trips after the jets that had brought them from Cedar Rapids, IA, and Columbus, OH, left Cheyenne without them on December 21. John Tague, United's executive vice president and chief revenue officer, said the airline will provide "full reimbursement" for all expenses related to the diverted Cheyenne flight, including meals, hotels, car rentals, other transportation and airline tickets. United will also consider reimbursing expenses paid in cash, or those without receipts.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-03-cheyenne-u\\_sat\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-03-cheyenne-u_sat_N.htm)

- 18. April 04, *Government Technology* — FCC terminates proceeding on use of cell phones on aircraft.** On Tuesday, April 3, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Memorandum Opinion and Order that terminates its proceeding on the use of cellular phones on airplanes. In December 2004, the FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to examine the existing rule that requires cellular phones to be turned off once an aircraft leaves the ground in order to avoid interfering with cellular network systems on the ground. Federal Aviation Administration regulations also restrict the use of cellular phones and other portable electronic devices (PEDs) onboard aircraft to ensure against interference with the aircraft's navigation and communication systems. The comments filed in response to the NPRM provide insufficient technical information on whether the use of cellular phones onboard aircraft may cause harmful interference to terrestrial networks, said the FCC in a release. Further, because airlines, manufacturers, and wireless providers are still researching the use of cell phones and other PEDs onboard aircraft, the FCC found that it would be premature to seek further comment at this juncture.

Memorandum Opinion and Order:

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-47A\\_1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-07-47A_1.pdf)

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=104777>

- 19. April 04, *Government Computer Week* — TSA RFI seeks input on new airport security system.** The next-generation security system for U.S. airports may include seamless, continuous tracking of passengers and their baggage from the time of reservation to arrival at their destination, according to a new notice posted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). TSA published a request for information (RFI) on Tuesday, April 3, to invite vendor ideas for such a system and its IT architecture. The system will include credential verification, identity management and tracking of passengers and their baggage. It must be able to integrate with existing systems, including sensors and threat detection and command and control systems. Vendors are expected to discuss biometrics, scanning, smart cards, portals, and kiosks, radio frequency identification, video surveillance, and passenger identification and credentialing systems in their solicitations, the TSA notice stated. They also must include information on integrating with other systems, user interfaces, data exchange methods, system management, bandwidth use, system performance and life-cycle costs.

RFI: [http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DHS/TSA/HQTSA/HSTS04-07-H-SEB407/Atta\\_chments.html](http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DHS/TSA/HQTSA/HSTS04-07-H-SEB407/Atta_chments.html)

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1\\_no1/43428-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/43428-1.html)

- 20. April 04, *Reuters* — Railroads concerned over Hazmat liability.** The major railroad companies say they are legally obliged to carry dangerous materials — often toxic chemicals from chlorine to propane — while facing unlimited liability for damages in the event of an

accident. They complain it's unfair that over 50 percent of their insurance costs go for hazardous materials, which make up just 0.3 percent of the freight they haul. "We're in an untenable position," said Tom White, spokesperson for the Association of American Railroads. "We need a Hazmat liability limit, or remove the obligation to haul it." The railroads are, therefore, asking Congress to introduce liability limits and create financial support for serious accidents, action analysts say is overdue. With imminent government action unlikely, however, some railroads are looking for ways to cut shipments of hazardous materials — or Hazmat — rather than wait. "We are looking for alternative solutions to hauling materials that represent a significant risk to our business," said Robert Grimaila, vice president of safety, security, and environment at Union Pacific Corp. The company is working with plastics and chemicals giant Dow Chemical Co. to develop safer rail cars and reduce Hazmat volumes on the tracks through better planning — using pipelines wherever possible, or looking to find chemical sources closer to customers.

Source: <http://www.businessinsurance.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?newsId=9925>

**21. *April 03, Star Bulletin (HI)* — Perpetrators who pointed lasers at planes in Hawaii sought.**

The Coast Guard is looking for those responsible for pointing a green laser at airplanes landing in Barbers Point in two incidents this year. After the incidents in late February and early March, the Coast Guard flight crews were checked immediately at Tripler Army Medical Center. They were not injured. "Landing is a precarious operation," said Cmdr. Chris Moss, the operations officer at Air Station Barbers Point. "To be distracted by the laser is dangerous in itself, but the eye damage from the laser can be instantaneous and permanent." There were three reports of airplanes being targeted by lasers this year in Hawaii, two of which were the Coast Guard planes, said Ian Gregor, Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson. These were the first incidents in Hawaii in a year, he said. In January 2005, there were at least three reports of commercial airplanes being targeted by green lasers while landing at Honolulu Airport. These incidents were among several that were reported around the nation that year. The Coast Guard is offering a reward for information leading to the person or persons responsible.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2007/04/03/news/story03.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**22. *April 03, Honolulu Star Bulletin* — Disease quarantines Kahuku farm's shrimp.** The Hawaii Department of Agriculture has ordered a quarantine at a Kahuku shrimp farm after laboratory testing found a potentially serious shrimp disease in one pond. Discovery of the virus may threaten survival of the only remaining shrimp-raising business in Kahuku, according to an owner. No shrimp may be moved to or from the premises of the Ming Dynasty Fish and Shrimp Co. under the order issued Friday, March 30, by state veterinarian James Foppoli. Laboratory tests revealed that six of 12 shrimp samples taken March 16 from an above-ground concrete

pond tested positive. The Taura syndrome virus typically spreads among shrimp stock and kills them quickly, the state said. The shrimp farm has not sold shrimp in more than a year, said Nicolas Lynn, co-owner of Ming Dynasty Fish and Shrimp Co. When the virus was found nearly two years ago, "I had to kill all the shrimp," Lynn said. "No other farms survived in Hawaii; all the others are already gone," Lynn said. "If this doesn't work, we might have to close it up and raise something else instead of shrimp."

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2007/04/03/news/story10.html>

23. *April 03, New Scientist* — **Billions at risk from wheat super-blight.** The disease is Ug99, a virulent strain of black stem rust fungus (*Puccinia graminis*), discovered in Uganda in 1999. Since the Green Revolution, farmers everywhere have grown wheat varieties that resist stem rust, but Ug99 has evolved to take advantage of those varieties, and almost no wheat crops anywhere are resistant to it. The strain has spread slowly across east Africa, but in January this year spores blew across to Yemen, and north into Sudan. Scientists who have tracked similar airborne spores in this part of the world say it will now blow into Egypt, Turkey and the Middle East, and on to India, lands where a billion people depend on wheat. There is hope: this week scientists are assessing the first Ug99-resistant varieties of wheat that might be used for crops. However, it will take another five to eight years to breed up enough seed to plant all our wheat fields. Black stem rust has been a major blight on wheat production since the rise of agriculture. It can reduce a field of grain to a dead, tangled mass, and vast outbreaks regularly used to rip through wheat regions. The last to hit the North America, in 1954, wiped out 40 percent of the crop.

Source: <http://environment.newscientist.com/channel/earth/mg19425983.700>

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## **Food Sector**

24. *April 03, Los Angeles Times* — **Seven who dined at Orange County eatery get E. coli.** Seven people who ate at an Orange County, CA, restaurant have become ill with the E. coli bacteria — three of them seriously enough to be hospitalized, health officials said Monday, April 2. Authorities said the victims ate at the Foothill Ranch Souplantation. Six of them dined there March 23 or 24. The seventh, a restaurant spokesperson said, is believed to have eaten there March 25. Health officials said they had not determined the source of the contamination. The type of E. coli involved is particularly dangerous because it adheres to the intestinal wall and emits a toxic material that can dissolve it, causing bloody diarrhea, extreme cramping and, in severe cases, kidney failure and death. Souplantation specializes in a soups and salads at 100 restaurants nationwide, including 34 in Southern California.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-ec-oli3apr03.1.3541603.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>

25. *April 03, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Wheat gluten recalled.** ChemNutra Inc., of Las Vegas, NV, Monday, April 2, recalled all wheat gluten it had imported from one of its three Chinese wheat gluten suppliers — Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Co. Ltd. The wheat gluten ChemNutra recalled was all shipped from China in 25 kg. paper bags, and distributed to customers in the same unopened bags. ChemNutra shipped from its Kansas City, MO, warehouse to three pet food manufacturers and one distributor who supplies wheat gluten

only to the pet food industry. ChemNutra's shipments commenced November 9, 2006 and ended March 8, 2007. ChemNutra did not ship to facilities that manufacture food for human consumption, and the distributor ChemNutra shipped to supplies wheat gluten only to pet food manufacturers. The total quantity of Xuzhou Anying wheat gluten shipped was 792 metric tons. ChemNutra learned on March 8 from one pet food manufacturer that the wheat gluten it had sold them — all from the Xuzhou Anying — was among ingredients suspected as a potential cause of pet food problems.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/chemnutra04\\_07.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/chemnutra04_07.html)

26. *April 03, Agence France–Presse* — **Thirty–three countries in food crisis.** Despite projections of a bumper grain crop this year, 33 countries will not have enough food, the United Nations food agency said Tuesday, April 3. Countries with "widespread lack of access to food" include Afghanistan, North Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger and Sierra Leone. Hardest hit, with an "exceptional shortfall" in food production and supplies, are Iraq, Lesotho, the Philippines, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070403/hl\\_afp/unfaofood\\_070403\\_180427](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070403/hl_afp/unfaofood_070403_180427)

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## Water Sector

27. *April 04, New York Times* — **An arid West no longer waits for rain.** A Western drought that began in 1999 has continued after the respite of a couple of wet years. But this time people in the driest states are not just scanning the skies and hoping for rescue. Some \$2.5 billion in water projects are planned or under way in four states, the biggest expansion in the West's quest for water in decades. Among them is a proposed 280–mile pipeline that would direct water to Las Vegas from northern Nevada. A proposed reservoir just north of the California–Mexico border would correct an inefficient water delivery system that allows excess water to pass to Mexico. In Yuma, AZ, federal officials have restarted an idled desalination plant, long seen as a white elephant from a bygone era, partly in the hope of purifying salty underground water for neighboring towns. The scramble for water is driven by the realities of population growth, political pressure and the hard truth that the Colorado River, a 1,400–mile–long silver thread of snowmelt and a lifeline for more than 20 million people in seven states, is providing much less water than it had. In only one year of the last seven, 2005, has the runoff been above average.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/04/us/04drought.html?ei=5065&en=cc6e5df7f4d1404e&ex=1176264000&partner=MYWAY&pagewanted=print>

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## Public Health Sector

28. *April 04, Reuters* — **Indonesian woman dies of bird flu.** A Jakarta housemaid who had looked after a pet eagle has died from bird flu, marking Indonesia's 72nd confirmed death from the virus, a health ministry official said on Wednesday, April 4. Indonesia, the world's fourth–most–populous country, has had more deaths from the H5N1 strain of avian influenza

than any other nation. An additional 20 people confirmed to have the virus have not died. Muhammad Nadirin of the health ministry's bird flu center told Reuters that two tests on the 23-year-old housemaid from south Jakarta, who died on April 1, confirmed she had bird flu. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK126339.htm>

29. *April 03, Reuters* — **Study finds drug-resistant flu virus in Japan.** Type B flu viruses, which usually cause smaller epidemics than type A, developed partial resistance to two front-line anti-viral drugs used to combat seasonal influenza, according to a study. While there has been evidence of some type A flu viruses developing a resistance to anti-viral drugs, researchers at the University of Tokyo said until their study there has been only limited information involving type B. The research involved Tamiflu, an antiviral drug made by Roche and Gilead Sciences, and Relenza, made by GlaxoSmithKline, and known generically as zanamivir. Tamiflu, also known as oseltamivir, is the first choice against both seasonal flu and the H5N1 avian influenza. The findings come from Japan where both drugs to prevent and treat seasonal flu are used more extensively than anywhere else in the world. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N03249222.htm>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

30. *April 04, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Active hurricane season predicted for 2007.** The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season should be "very active," with nine hurricanes. There is a good chance that at least one major hurricane will hit the U.S. coast, top researcher Dr. William Gray said Tuesday, April 3. He has spent more than 40 years in tropical weather research, and heads the Tropical Meteorology Project at Colorado State. A leading expert in forecasting hurricanes, Gray and his team expect 17 named storms this year and nine hurricanes, five of them major hurricanes with sustained winds of 111 mph or greater. The probability of a major hurricane making landfall on the U.S. coast this year is 74 percent, compared with the average of 52 percent over the past century, he said. The team's forecasts are based on global oceanic and atmospheric conditions. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2007/nat040407.shtm>

31. *April 03, Associated Press* — **Emergency preparedness trailer stolen in New Mexico.** The New Mexico state Department of Health says its emergency preparedness trailer has been stolen from a parking lot in Albuquerque. The trailer contained training materials, including decontamination showers, personal protective equipment, training mannequins and a secure box of quarter-sized samples of plutonium, cesium and strontium. The radioactive sources in the trailer were small enough that they do not pose a health threat to residents. Source: <http://www.kobtv.com/index.cfm?viewer=storyviewer&id=31440&c>

32. *April 03, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center* — **Report: Community participation is key to handling health emergencies.** Citizen preparedness for health emergencies must look beyond the individual and the home. So says a blue ribbon panel whose report was published Tuesday, April 3, in the *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism Journal*. The Working Group on Community Engagement in Health Emergency Planning challenges the conventional wisdom that boils down citizen readiness to a checklist of canned goods, drinking water, medicine, and phone numbers in case of an emergency. The report, “Community Engagement: Leadership Tool for Catastrophic Health Events,” instructs mayors, governors, and health and safety officials in why and how to involve community partners in disaster-related policymaking. Among the findings of the Working Group: 1) Members of the public are “first responders,” too—family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors are often the first people on the scene and provide rescue efforts; 2) The civic infrastructure should be involved in emergency planning and act before, during, and after an event; 3) Good leaders will actively engage the community before an event. Communication must be two-way, not just leaders sending out information and directions; 4) Outreach to the community must include groups who are usually not at the table; 5) The community needs strong health and safety institutions with which to partner. Source: [http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/center/newsroom/2007-04-04\\_communityparticipationkey.html](http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/center/newsroom/2007-04-04_communityparticipationkey.html)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

33. *April 04, SecurityFocus* — **Developers warned to secure AJAX design.** Security firm Fortify Software has warned Website developers that most frameworks for deploying interactive functionality use JavaScript in a way that could lead to their applications leaking user data. The problem, dubbed JavaScript hijacking by the firm, occurs because popular asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX) toolkits use the scripting language as a transport mechanism without due consideration to security. The basic threat is that malicious Websites could use cross-site request forgery (XSRF) to steal data from other AJAX-enabled Web applications. Fortify suggested that any defense that prevents cross-site request forgery (XSRF) attacks would also defeat JavaScript hijacking, the firm said. The best way to implement the defense would be to include a hard-to-discover token with every request, so that URLs are not easily guessable. Another way to fix the issue would be to have the client and server include extraneous code in the JavaScript request that have to first be removed, otherwise execution would be halted. Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/11456>
34. *April 04, CNET News* — **Windows cursor patch causing trouble.** Installing Microsoft's Tuesday, April 3, patch for a "critical" Windows vulnerability is causing trouble for some users. Microsoft broke with its monthly patch cycle to repair a bug in the way Windows handles animated cursors. Cybercrooks had been using the hole since last week to attack Windows PCs. But the fix is not compatible with software that runs audio and networking components from Realtek Semiconductor, some Windows users have found. An additional update is available from Microsoft to remedy the problem, according to the company's Website. Microsoft is not

aware of networking issues, a representative said.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Windows+cursor+patch+causing+trouble/2100-1002\\_3-6173413.html?tag=cd.led](http://news.com.com/Windows+cursor+patch+causing+trouble/2100-1002_3-6173413.html?tag=cd.led)

- 35. April 04, Secunia — Yahoo! Messenger AudioConf ActiveX Control Buffer Overflow.** A vulnerability has been reported in Yahoo! Messenger, which can be exploited by malicious people to compromise a user's system. The vulnerability is caused due to a boundary error within the AudioConf ActiveX control (yacscm.dll) component of Yahoo! Messenger. This can be exploited to cause a stack-based buffer overflow by setting the "socksHostname" and "hostName" properties to an overly large string and then calling the "createAndJoinConference()" method. Successful exploitation allows execution of arbitrary code when a user visits a malicious web site. The vulnerability is reported in version 8.x. Other versions may also be affected.

Update to the latest version: <http://messenger.yahoo.com>

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/24742/>

- 36. April 03, US-CERT — Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-093B: MIT Kerberos Vulnerabilities.** The MIT Kerberos 5 implementation contains several vulnerabilities. One of these vulnerabilities (VU#220816) could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to log in via telnet (23/tcp) with elevated privileges. The other vulnerabilities (VU#704024, VU#419344) could allow a remote, authenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code on a Key Distribution Center (KDC). Users should check with vendors for patches or updates. Alternatively, apply the appropriate source code patches referenced in MITKRB5-SA-2007-001, MITKRB5-SA-2007-002, and MITKRB5-SA-2007-003 and recompile. These vulnerabilities will also be addressed in krb5-1.6.1.

US-CERT Vulnerability Note VU#220816: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/220816>

US-CERT Vulnerability Note VU#704024: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/704024>

US-CERT Vulnerability Note VU#419344: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/419344>

MIT krb5 Security Advisory 2007-001:

<http://web.mit.edu/kerberos/www/advisories/MITKRB5-SA-2007-001-telnetd.txt>

MIT krb5 Security Advisory 2007-002:

<http://web.mit.edu/kerberos/www/advisories/MITKRB5-SA-2007-002-syslog.txt>

MIT krb5 Security Advisory 2007-003:

<http://web.mit.edu/kerberos/www/advisories/MITKRB5-SA-2007-003.txt>

Source: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-093B.html>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://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

**37. April 04, KATV 7 (AR) — Morrilton dam bomb threat.** Multiple law enforcement agencies responded to a Conway County Lock and Dam Tuesday morning, April 3, following suspicious activity. The incident happened at the Ormond Lock and Dam near Morrilton, AR. Dam employees reported seeing an individual in a suspicious vehicle place a note in a mailbox. The note was later determined to be a written bomb threat. Local authorities along with FBI and Department of Homeland Security officials were called in to investigate. The area was cordoned off for several hours as authorities combed the area. But no explosives were found. Source: <http://www.katv.com/news/stories/0407/411238.html>

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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#### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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