



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 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

- The Maui News reports a Transportation Security Administration screener at Lanai Airport found a duffel bag with forged IDs including that of a Maui police lieutenant whose name, address, Social Security number, and birth date were stolen last year from missing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs records. (See item [21](#))
- The Miami Herald reports Florida water managers ordered the deepest water–use cutbacks ever across South Florida on Thursday, April 12, and started the formal process of extending restrictions year–round in an effort to halt rapidly worsening conditions. (See item [31](#))
- The Baltimore Sun reports a two–year–old boy was severely burned Saturday afternoon, April 14, at the playground of a Middle River, Maryland, elementary school after going down a slide doused in sulfuric acid and landing in a pool of the corrosive liquid; this follows a similar incident in Texas. (See item [37](#))

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. *April 15, Associated Press* — **DWP works to restore power to Los Angeles homes still blacked out.** Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) crews worked early Sunday,

April 15, to restore power to some 2,000 customers blacked out since a Thursday windstorm. Powerful winds knocked down utility poles and snapped power lines Thursday, leaving a total of 107,000 DWP customers in the dark. The utility also is looking into whether a broken power line ignited overgrown brush on its property and touched off a wildfire that damaged three Beverly Hills homes. Southern California Edison, which provides power to most of the rest of the region, had restored power Saturday to all its 137,000 customers who had been blacked out. Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_5672972

2. *April 13, Journal News (NY)* — **Indian Point sirens fail final test before federal deadline.**

Indian Point's new \$15 million emergency siren system failed its biggest test yesterday, forcing nuclear plant officials to seek an extension of the Sunday, April 15 installation deadline rather than try to fix it on the fly. After five tests Wednesday and yesterday passed federal requirements with more than 135 of 150 sirens sounding successfully, officials from Indian Point's owner, Entergy Nuclear Northeast, were hopeful the last test of the day would mean final approval. That wasn't to be, as the most difficult radio-controlled activation left all of Putnam County's 14 sirens inoperable, as well as 16 others failing among Orange Westchester and Rockland counties. In total, 30 sirens failed, a 20 percent rate – twice what the federal government allows. Entergy spokesperson Jim Steets said the company also found out that Federal Emergency Management Agency sound audits showed siren volumes that were lower in spots than the company's siren vendor had measured.

Source: <http://www.nyjournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070413/NEWS01/704130370>

3. *April 12, American Wind Energy Association* — **Four billion in investment, installed capacity of 11,600 MW: AWEA releases annual wind power rankings.**

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) released its annual rankings of wind energy development in the United States. The U.S. wind energy industry installed over 2,400 megawatts (MW) of new power generation in the country, an investment of about \$4 billion. Total installed U.S. wind power capacity is over 11,600 MW. The rankings include the states that generate the most electricity from wind, the nation's largest wind farms, leading suppliers of wind turbines, largest owners of wind projects, utilities that use the most wind power for their customers, and other industry information. Following a growing number of inquiries, this year's rankings also feature the new category "Congressional districts with most wind power installed." "These wind power rankings tell the story of a vibrant industry that is growing fast, competing hard, gaining market share, and all the while powering a cleaner, stronger America," said AWEA executive director Randall Swisher.

Source: [http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/289724/22/ARTCL/non e/none/\\$4-billion-in-investment,-installed-capacity-of-11,600-MW:-AWEA-releases-annual-wind-power-rankings/](http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/289724/22/ARTCL/non e/none/$4-billion-in-investment,-installed-capacity-of-11,600-MW:-AWEA-releases-annual-wind-power-rankings/)

4. *April 12, Department of Energy* — **DOE to invest up to \$8.2 million for hydrogen storage research.**

Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman Thursday, April 12, announced DOE plans to provide up to \$8.2 million, over four years (FY'07-'10), for six hydrogen storage research projects, directly supporting President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative (AEI). The AEI aims to increase our energy security and reduce our reliance on imported oil by changing the way we power our cars, homes and businesses. These projects, subject to negotiation of scope and funding, are also integral to the President's Hydrogen Fuel

Initiative (HFI). “As a clean energy technology, hydrogen has great potential to help reduce our reliance on imported oil and serve as an integral part of our nation’s energy mix,” Secretary Bodman said. The HFI accelerates research and development of hydrogen technologies including hydrogen storage, production, and polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells, which deliver high–power density and offer low–weight and volume, compared to other fuel cells. DOE’s Hydrogen Program: <http://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/>
Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/4944.htm>

5. *April 12, Press Associates* — **Fatal refinery blast shows wider problems in industry, safety official says.** The fatal March 23, 2005, explosion at British Petroleum's Texas City, TX, refinery exposed problems in regulation of U.S. industry, including the petrochemical industry, that stretch far beyond one company and its culture of ignoring safety, a top federal prober of the blast says. Testifying before the House Education and Labor Committee, Carolyn Merritt of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, had harsh words for BP, the petrochemical industry and regulators. The big problem, she said, is that companies focus on probing accidents after the fact and talk about individual workers and violations, which have been declining. But they ignore what are called "process safety management" violations — long histories of problems in safety processes at one site, such as Texas City. Those sagas are precursors of fatal accidents, as well as patterns of violations that could tip off both the firms and regulators about looming disasters. Firms also ignore or don't keep track of "near misses" at other industrial sites that escaped fatal consequences only by luck. And the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has had the authority for 11 years to conduct "process safety" inspections of industrial sites, but has never done so, she said.
Source: http://www.workdayminnesota.org/index.php?news_6_3028

6. *April 11, Associated Press* — **New solar panel design traps more light.** A new solar panel unveiled this month by the Georgia Tech Research Institute hopes to brighten the future of the energy source. The difference is in the design. Traditional solar panels are often flat and bulky. The new design features an array of nano–towers — like microscopic blades of grass — that add surface area and trap more sunlight. "It allows more opportunities for the photon to hit the part of the cell that creates electricity," said Jud Ready, the senior research engineer who invented the panel. And that has resulted in a big jump in current generated. Ready said the three–dimensional panels produce about 60 times more than traditional solar cells. But current is only half the equation. To generate electricity, a cell has to churn out voltage as well. And so far, that’s where Ready’s invention has fallen short. There’s still too much resistance within the cell to produce the type of electricity that’s needed. But he said he’ll now focus on reworking the interface to smooth out the kinks.
Source: <http://business.bostonherald.com/technologyNews/view.bg?articleid=194159>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *April 13, Statesman Journal (OR)* — **Hit gas line erupts fire.** A piece of construction equipment hit a gas line and burst into flames Thursday afternoon, April 12, on a Keizer Station, OR, property, causing a fire that closed an intersection and could be seen for miles. Two construction employees were taken to Salem Hospital for burn injuries. The 6–inch gas

line continued to feed the fire for about 45 minutes until NW Natural crews turned off the main. The spectacle created a few fender-bender vehicle crashes along Chemawa Road across from the fire.

Source: http://159.54.226.83/apps/pbes.dll/article?AID=/20070413/NEW_S/704130338/1001

8. *April 13, Click2Houston* — **Two hurt in explosion at water plant.** Two workers were injured in an explosion at a water plant in Lake Conroe, TX. Chemicals the workers were using to clean pipes exploded at the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District water plant on F.M. 830 near Seven Coves Road on Thursday, April 12. Both workers were transported by helicopter to Memorial Hermann Hospital in critical condition. Their identities were not released. Residents were asked to shelter-in-place for a short time.

Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/11814451/detail.html>

9. *April 10, Houston Chronicle* — **Leak at BP's Texas City plant prompts shelter-in-place.** Texas City residents were ordered to shelter-in-place for an hour Tuesday, April 10, after a dust-like substance called catalyst began pouring from a tower at the trouble-plagued BP oil refinery. No one was injured as the dust blew mainly across the southeastern part of the city in high winds. No danger to residents remained after the shelter-in-place order was lifted. Because of swirling winds officials called a city-wide shelter-in-place instead of limiting the warning to a certain part of the city.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/chronicle/4702321.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *April 12, U.S. Air Force* — **Air Force Chief of Staff speaks on future of space operations.**

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley delivered a speech to a crowd of more than 400 at the 23rd National Space Symposium Wednesday, April 11. The general's speech to a group of military, civilian and industry space professionals focused on the important part space plays in the defense of the nation and about Air Force issues in the past, present and future.

General Moseley said that space capabilities are a vital tool in the war on terrorism. He said an important part of keeping space as a vital tool is to keep improving the technology. The general identified two areas in particular that will play a big role in the future of space operations. "All of our satellite systems need to be modernized and require recapitalization over the next decade," General Moseley said. "To make modernization work we have to stay combat focused."

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123048492>

11. *April 12, Associated Press* — **Pentagon limits gear in surplus auctions.** The Department of Defense's effort to block Iran from obtaining much-needed hardware for its fleet of F-14 Tomcat fighter jets has led the military to pull far more than parts from F-14s out of its surplus auctions. The Pentagon's retired F-14s contain roughly 76,000 components. Many of those parts are usable on other planes and until this year, were sold by the military on the surplus market. The DoD in January halted the sale of all parts from its Tomcats. On Thursday, April 12, it disclosed that the suspension went far beyond items from F-14s, and actually sweeps in

163,000 types of components, including parts from other planes and any support equipment that could be used in connection with Tomcats. "You're talking about things like the nuts and bolts...to military-unique and -specific things, to ground equipment, to igniters and engine parts," said Dawn Dearden, spokesperson for the Defense Logistics Agency. The Pentagon surplus security review will likely be completed this year, Dearden said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/12/AR2007041201465.html>

12. *April 12, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-546: Defense Acquisitions: Status and Challenges of Joint Forces Command's Limited Acquisition Authority (Report)*. Over three years ago, Congress granted limited acquisition authority (LAA) — subject to delegation by the Secretary of Defense — to U.S. Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) for a three-year period to expedite development and acquisition of certain warfighter equipment. Congress directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on JFCOM LAA implementation. GAO's report, issued in November 2005, said JFCOM finished five LAA projects and was working on a sixth project, and that JFCOM had experienced difficulty finding funding to develop, acquire, and sustain LAA projects. Last year, Congress extended LAA through September 2008 and again directed GAO to report on LAA. This report updates the status of JFCOM LAA efforts since the authority was enacted and key LAA challenges. GAO recommends that the Secretary of Defense reassess the role of JFCOM LAA in light of changes contemplated for the Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell (JRAC) process, to determine whether and how JFCOM LAA should play a role in meeting joint urgent needs; to the extent JFCOM LAA is to continue to play a role, assess and resolve the challenges identified in this report; and inform Congress of the results of the assessment and decisions.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07546high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-546>

13. *April 11, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-727T: Defense Acquisitions: Missile Defense Needs a Better Balance between Flexibility and Accountability (Testimony)*. Over the next five years the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) expects to invest \$49 billion in the BMD system's development and fielding. MDA's strategy is to field new capabilities in two-year blocks. In January 2006, MDA initiated its second block — Block 2006 — to protect against attacks from North Korea and the Middle East. Congress requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess MDA's progress annually. GAO's March 2007 report addressed MDA's progress during fiscal year 2006 and followed up on program oversight issues and the current status of MDA's quality assurance program. GAO assessed the progress of each element being developed by MDA, examined acquisition laws applicable to major acquisition programs, and reviewed the impact of implemented quality initiatives. GAO continues to encourage the Department of Defense (DoD) to act on prior recommendations to implement a knowledge-based acquisition strategy for all BMDS elements and to adopt more transparent criteria for reporting each element's quantities, cost, and performance. In March 2007, GAO recommended that DoD adopt firm baselines, use procurement funds for operational assets, and adopt other measures to better track cost and outcomes against goals. DoD did not agree to an element-based reporting approach, but is investigating other ways to provide more program transparency.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07727thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-727T>

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

Banking and Finance Sector

14. *April 13, InformationWeek* — Social Security Administration worker charged in identity theft scheme. A former Social Security Administration employee surrendered to federal authorities Wednesday, April 11, to face charges of illegally disclosing personal information she took off a government computer that was then used in an identity theft scheme that racked up \$2.5 million in credit card charges. Jennifer Batiste, of Leimert Park, CA, is charged with conspiracy, accessing a protected computer to conduct fraud, and disclosure of a Social Security number. The indictment alleges that Batiste conspired with her cohort Craig Harris and others by agreeing to access the Social Security Administration's computer system to run search queries for Harris. Harris, a 50-year-old Los Angeles resident, pleaded guilty in September to conspiracy and unlawful possession of a means of identification. The government contends that Harris would give Batiste some identifying piece of information about someone — either a name or Social Security number — and Batiste would then query the government system to pull up enough other identifying information to put the person's identity at risk. According to a government report, Bastiste allegedly was paid \$20 for every search query she ran on the government computer system to obtain information for Harris.

Source: http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=199000813&cid=RSSfeed_IWK_News

15. *April 13, Washington Post* — SEC shift may lead to lower penalties. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is changing how it negotiates settlements with companies in a way that could reduce the number and size of financial penalties that businesses pay, current and former officials said Thursday, April 12. Under the change, which has not been made public, SEC enforcement lawyers must seek approval from the agency's five commissioners before they begin settlement talks that involve fining corporations, including seeking ranges for possible fines. Currently, staff members have the authority to negotiate with businesses and draft settlements in principle before they take the deals to the agency leaders for final approval. The shift marks the latest development in a heated debate over whether companies or individual wrongdoers should bear the brunt of blame for legal violations. The pilot program will affect a relatively small percentage of cases and will result in more productive and fast-tracked negotiations between business and enforcers, according to spokesperson John Nester.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/12/AR2007041202188.html>

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

Transportation and Border Security Sector

16. *April 15, Associated Press* — Nor'easter bears down on East Coast, flights canceled. Three hundred flights were canceled early Sunday, April 15, as a hard-blowing nor'easter bore down on New York and threatened to deliver some of the worst flooding in coastal Long Island in 14 years. The cancellations at the area's three major airports affected most carriers, said Steve

Coleman, a spokesperson for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. More cancellations were expected throughout the day. Forecasters expected sustained winds of 40 mph and a storm-surge between three and five feet, a combination that could cause as much damage as a winter storm that wreaked havoc on the island in late 1992, New York Governor Eliot Spitzer said. The Northeast braced for strong wind, heavy rain and unseasonable snow as the storm blew across the Plains. The storm has been blamed for five deaths.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/2007-04-14-severestorms_N.htm

17. *April 14, Associated Press* — **Engineers want Europe-Africa train.** Engineers have dreamed of linking Europe and Africa. Now, after seemingly endless studies, a project for a high-speed rail tunnel connecting the continents is gathering momentum, raising the prospect of an engineering marvel on par with the Panama Canal or the Channel Tunnel between Britain and France. This tube for passengers, cars, and freight would bore deep under the Strait of Gibraltar, the narrow waterway where the Atlantic flows into the Mediterranean, and run from Tangier, Morocco, to the Spanish town of Tarifa at Europe's southernmost tip, possibly extending further both ways in the future. "I think this project is a utopia that is becoming a reality," said Angel Aparicio, president of the Spanish government agency overseeing the endeavor with Moroccan partners. Aside from fueling economies on both sides of the strait, planners are excited by the symbolically powerful feat of bridging two continents as far apart socially and culturally as they are close geographically. But the technological challenges are mammoth. To the challenges of extreme depth and uncooperative terrain, is the concern over whether the project would be economically viable. One key study underway aims to determine if Africa's poverty would make the tunnel busy in one direction but largely idle in the other.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-04-14-tunnel_N.htm

18. *April 14, Associated Press* — **Indian missile test forces Indonesian flight to divert.** An Indonesian jet carrying hundreds of passengers was forced to turn around over Indian airspace after a nuclear-capable ballistic missile streaked across the sky, the Foreign Ministry said Friday, April 13. Indonesia has demanded an explanation from New Delhi, which insisted that aviation authorities were informed about Thursday's test launch well in advance. The Garuda Indonesia Boeing 747 was en route from Jakarta to Saudi Arabia when the Indian control tower told pilots the missile had been launched, said Ari Sapari, the national carrier's director. The plane carrying 413 people immediately returned to Jakarta and took off again for Jeddah seven hours later, he said. Another Garuda plane bound for Riyadh also had to delay its departure Thursday because of the test. Indonesia -- which is struggling to defend its transportation safety record after a series of deadly air, train and ferry accidents -- said it would summon a diplomat from India to seek clarification.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-13-missile-test-diverts-flight_N.htm

19. *April 13, Associated Press* — **Cheney plane undamaged in collision with bird near Chicago.** Air Force Two carrying Vice President Dick Cheney struck a bird as the plane neared O'Hare International Airport on Friday, April 13. The aircraft landed safely. Mechanics checked the plane while Cheney spoke at a conference, but the incident did not delay his departure from the airport to return to Washington.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/04/13/cheney.plane.bird.ap/index.html>

20. *April 13, TheBostonChannel* — **SUV crashes through MBTA tunnel barrier.** Boston police are looking for the driver of a sport utility vehicle (SUV) that drove into the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Silver Line tunnel in South Boston. NewsCenter 5's Jorge Quiroga reported that security barriers prevented a potential tragedy, and surveillance cameras captured the incident on tape. At 10 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 12, a white Jeep Cherokee drove through a security gate and into the Silver Line bus tunnel. "There's a lot of lights at the entrance to the tunnel. This person literally burst through the gates and continued at an accelerated speed to the bottom," said MBTA General Manager Dan Grabauskas. After crashing through the gate, the Jeep finally stopped when sensors triggered metal crash barriers to pop-up from the road. The Silver Line extends from Logan Airport through South Boston. Because the entrance is clearly marked, officials are trying to determine if the breach was a mistake or intentional. Officials said the incident showed that the Silver Line tunnel's elaborate \$25 million security system worked as planned.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/11862026/detail.html>

21. *April 13, Maui News (HI)* — **Suspect found with forged IDs by TSA screener in Hawaii.** The name on the duffel bag read Robert Folsom. But when a federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screener looked through the bag March 29 at Lanai Airport, she found a Hawaii driver's license with a different name. As she continued to examine the traveler's belongings, she turned up 43 Hawaii driver's licenses, each with photos of the same man but with 35 different names, addresses and Social Security numbers, said Deputy Prosecutor John Tam. The suspect's is Shane James Deighan, a 33-year-old Honolulu resident with a prior forgery conviction. Also found in his baggage were 19 credit cards, 11 of them matching one of the Hawaii driver's licenses, with four of the credit cards signed on the back; three other apparently stolen Hawaii driver's licenses with other people's names and photos; two apparently stolen Texas driver's licenses with other people's names and photos; three Social Security cards, two blank checks, one military identification and a Canadian birth certificate. Deighan also had the personal information of a Maui police lieutenant whose name, address, Social Security number, and birth date were written in a notebook, possibly stolen last year from missing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs records.

Source: <http://www.mauinews.com/story.aspx?id=29469>

22. *April 12, USA TODAY* — **FAA split on close calls at runways.** A controversial air traffic procedure has nearly caused midair collisions during takeoffs and landings around the nation and brought a stern warning from U.S. safety investigators, who this month ordered the practice halted at Memphis International Airport, according to federal records, controllers and pilots. Passenger jets arriving at Memphis and several other airports routinely fly directly over the top of planes landing on another nearby runway. Earlier this year, a midair collision between a Northwest Airlines DC-9 and a commuter plane was narrowly averted in Memphis, according to a report on the incident. Dangerous configurations where planes travel on crossing runways or nearby runways with intersecting flight paths can also be found at other airports, such as Minneapolis-St. Paul, Las Vegas and Philadelphia, said Capt. Larry Newman, chairman of the Air Line Pilots Association's air traffic group. Close calls in Memphis have prompted a pitched battle within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The agency's Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service, an independent investigative arm, demanded that Memphis managers stop the practice: "This ongoing lack of compliance with FAA regulations ... is unacceptable." But the agency's air traffic division has ignored the demand. Spokesperson Laura Brown said the

FAA is working to address safety concerns.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-04-12-runway-close-calls_N.htm

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

23. *April 12, Atlanta Business Chronicle* — UPS building hub in Shanghai. United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS) is continuing its expansion in China, building the first U.S. air hub in that nation in the city of Shanghai. The Atlanta-based package shipper on Thursday, April 12, reported plans for the UPS International Air Hub at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai, which will open next year. The hub will be the first in China built by a U.S. carrier and will link all of China via Shanghai to UPS' international network with direct service to the Americas, Europe and Asia. It also will connect points served in China by UPS through a dedicated service provided by Yangtze River Express, a Chinese all-cargo airline. UPS said the hub will make it easier to expand its international and Chinese networks and will provide new flexibility in the scheduling flights. Over the past five years, UPS has invested \$600 million in China, becoming the first wholly owned foreign express carrier in that country.

Source: <http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2007/04/09/daily28.html>

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

Agriculture Sector

24. *April 13, Agricultural Research Service* — Fungus eyed as stopper of ash-killing beetle. *Beauveria bassiana*, a soilborne fungus already used for keeping many insect pests in check, is being eyed as a possible control for an invasive beetle that has already killed more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Ontario, Canada. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) entomologist John Vandenberg and colleagues want to know how well a commercial strain of *B. bassiana* stands up to the emerald ash borer after repeated applications. They are also seeing if this strain — called GHA — will work better if used with the commercial insecticide imidacloprid. *B. bassiana* spores kill insects by attaching to them, germinating, and penetrating their hosts' bodies. The spores can survive to infect later pest generations. *B. bassiana* is used against a variety of insects, including termites and whiteflies. The emerald ash borer is thought to have entered North America during the 1990s in solid woodpacking material from Asia. Its immature larvae feed on the vascular-system tissue of ash trees.

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

25. *April 12, Associated Press* — Freeze caused crop losses in North Carolina. An unusually frosty Easter weekend will cost North Carolina at least \$112 million in crop losses, according to early estimates released Thursday, April 12, by the state Agriculture Department. The worst losses were to nursery crops, which suffered \$57.9 million in damage. Fruit and vegetable growers lost an estimated \$26.5 million, while corn, wheat, barley and Irish potato crops also were hurt, the Agriculture Department said. "This is a staggering preliminary estimate," Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said. "The Easter weekend freeze affected crops in the

mountains, at the coast and everywhere in between. It could be days, even weeks, before we know the true extent of the damage."

Source: http://dwb.newsobserver.com/news/ncwire_news/story/3024839p-9444202c.html

26. *April 02, Grower* — **Tomato disease found in California.** For the first time in California, agricultural officials confirmed finding tomato yellow leaf curl virus. "It's a significant threat to tomato growers in the state," says Bob Gilbertson, a University of California plant pathologist. "Right now, all of the varieties in California should be considered susceptible." Florida and Georgia growers have battled the viral disease since the early 1990s, and breeders have developed resistant varieties for Southeastern markets, he says. Cooperative Extension farm advisor Eric Natwick discovered the disease in a high school greenhouse in Brawley in the Imperial Valley. The plants had been grown from seed, and none had been moved outside. Because the virus is not seed transmitted, Gibertson says infested silverleaf whiteflies most likely brought it into the greenhouse.

Source: <http://www.growermagazine.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=59BE4EC7CAE94C589D343A626E396D80>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

27. *April 13, Associated Press* — **China's food safety woes expand overseas.** The list of Chinese food exports rejected at American ports reads like a chef's nightmare: pesticide-laden pea pods, drug-laced catfish, filthy plums and crawfish contaminated with salmonella. Yet, it took a much more obscure item, contaminated wheat gluten, to focus U.S. public attention on the fact: China's chronic food safety woes are now an international concern. In recent weeks, scores of cats and dogs in America have died of kidney failure blamed on eating pet food containing gluten from China that was tainted with melamine, a chemical used in plastics, fertilizers and flame retardants. Just as with manufactured goods, exports of meat, produce, and processed foods from China have soared in recent years. Worried about losing access to foreign markets and stung by tainted food products scandals at home, China has in recent years tried to improve inspections, with limited success. The problems the government faces are legion. Pesticides and chemical fertilizers are used in excess to boost yields while harmful antibiotics are widely administered to control disease in seafood and livestock. Rampant industrial pollution risks introducing heavy metals into the food chain.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/04/12/ap/world/main2678946.shtml>

28. *April 12, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA warns consumers that retailers may still have recalled pet food on shelves.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is advising pet owners that recalled pet food may still be on the shelves in some retail establishments. FDA urges retailers across the country to be vigilant in removing all products associated with the pet food recall, which began on March 16, 2007. To verify the effectiveness of the recall, FDA has conducted approximately 400 checks of retail stores across the country. Based on the checks, FDA believes most companies have removed the recalled product; however, some have not. FDA will continue to monitor retailers' efforts to remove these items from the shelves.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01605.html>

29. *April 12, Associated Press* — **Nestle to buy Gerber.** Nestle SA said Thursday, April 12, it will buy baby-food maker Gerber Products Co. from pharmaceutical giant Novartis for \$5.5 billion, pushing it to number one in the baby-food market. The deal is expected to be completed during the second half of 2007.

Source: http://www.spokesmanreview.com/ap/story.asp?AP_ID=D8OEUPAO1

30. *April 12, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* — **Report highlights growing foodborne illness challenges E. coli O157, Salmonella and Vibrio among notable concerns.**

A report released Thursday, April 12, by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows a leveling of cases for some foodborne infections after a period of decline. For others, incidences of infection which had declined appear to be returning to earlier levels. The findings are from 2006 data reported to the CDC as part of the agency's Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (also known as FoodNet). FoodNet monitors foodborne disease and related epidemiologic studies to help health officials better understand the epidemiology of foodborne diseases in the U.S. Campylobacter, Listeria, Shigella and Yersinia show a sustained decline in incidence compared to baseline data from 1996–1998, but most of the decrease occurred between 1999 and 2002. The FoodNet data showed there continues to be little change in the incidence of Salmonella cases, and progress made in 2003 and 2004 in reducing the number of cases of with E. coli O157 infections has been lost. Vibrio infections, which are often related to the consumption of raw shellfish, have increased to the highest level since FoodNet began conducting surveillance.

Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5614a4.htm>

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/2007/r070412.htm>

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

Water Sector

31. *April 13, Miami Herald* — **Florida approves tighter water restrictions.** Florida water managers ordered the deepest water-use cutbacks ever across South Florida on Thursday, April 12, and started the formal process of extending restrictions year-round. But they warned that might not be enough to stop rapidly worsening conditions that threaten to destroy crops, spark wildfires, taint coastal drinking water wells from Lake Worth to Homestead and drain life from lakes, rivers and the marshes of the Everglades. Homeowners in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties must give up another day of landscape watering, getting just two each week. Golf courses, nurseries and other commercial users also must reduce use by 30 percent, double the current demand. Sugar growers and other farms southeast of Lake Okeechobee already are watching crops wilt, and water supplies are expected to be slashed nearly in half.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/467/story/72350.html>

32. *April 12, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* — **EPA issues determination on eleven contaminants.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made a preliminary determination not to regulate 11 contaminants on the second drinking water contaminant

candidate list (CCL). Two other contaminants – perchlorate and MTBE — require additional investigation to ascertain total human exposure and health risks. A regulatory determination is a formal decision on whether EPA should develop a national primary drinking water regulation for a specific contaminant. The 11 contaminants include naturally occurring substances, pesticides, herbicides and chemicals used (or once used) in manufacturing. EPA monitored eight of the contaminants during the first round of the unregulated contaminant monitoring program and the remaining three during previous occurrence surveys. While none of the contaminants were found nationally at levels of public health concern, EPA is recommending that health advisories for seven of the contaminants be updated to provide local officials with current health information for situations where the contaminants may occur. The 11 contaminants are: boron, Dacthal mono- and Di-acid degradates, 1,1-dichloro-2,2-bis(p-chlorophenyl) ethylene (DDE), dichloropropene (Telone), 2,4-dinitrotoluene, and 2,6-dinitrotoluene, s-ethyl propyl thiocarbamate (EPTC), Fonofos, Terbacil, and 1,2,2-tetrachloroethane.

Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/fdeef3661eb3b846852572a00065683e/d595d12e9bddd708852572bb0063cd61!OpenDocument>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

33. *April 13, New York Times* — Agency urges change in antibiotics for gonorrhea. The rates of drug-resistant gonorrhea in the U.S. have increased so greatly in the last five years that doctors should now treat the infection with a different class of antibiotics, the last line of defense for the sexually transmitted disease, officials said Thursday, April 12. The percentage of drug-resistant gonorrhea cases among heterosexual men jumped, to 6.7 percent in 2006 compared with 0.6 percent in 2001, officials from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Standard monitoring of gonorrhea cases is conducted among men who go to STD clinics. New data from such sites in 26 cities show that rates of drug-resistant gonorrhea among heterosexual men at the clinics last year reached 26 percent in Philadelphia and more than 20 percent in Honolulu and four areas in California, Long Beach, Orange County, San Diego and San Francisco. Among gay men at the clinics, the rates of the bacterial infection jumped, to 38 percent in the first half of 2006 from 1.6 percent in 2001. “Now we are down to one class of drugs,” said Gail Bolan, an expert in sexually transmitted diseases at the California Department of Health Services. “That’s a very perilous situation to be in.”

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/13/health/13disease.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

34. *April 13, Reuters* — Bovine tuberculosis may spread between people. British investigators describe 20 cases of humans being infected with *Mycobacterium bovis*, a type of tuberculosis (TB) normally confined to cattle. In six instances, the outbreak appears to have resulted from person-to-person transmission. The researchers performed DNA fingerprinting of all tuberculosis cases that arose in central England between 2001 and 2005. Of the 20 cases that were due to *M. bovis*, a cluster of six were genetically identical. The infection involved the lungs in five patients and caused meningitis in one patient, who died. The patients had shared social links through bars in two areas. The lack of contact with animals or dairy consumption in all but one of the individuals helped make the case for person-to-person transmission of the infection.

Bovine TB information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahps/tb/>

Source: http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKCOL356040200704_13

- 35. April 13, Reuters — Chagas spread to U.S., Europe via blood banks.** Chagas, a parasitic disease which can kill victims decades after infection, has spread from Latin America to the U.S. and Europe due to inadequate blood screening, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, April 13. The WHO said it was expanding its program to eliminate Chagas, which has become a "global problem", with the help of Bayer HealthCare. Bayer's donation of 2.5 million tablets of Lampit, known generically as nifurtimox, will help treat an estimated 30,000 patients over the next five years, covering new acute cases among youngsters, it said. Chagas, which currently affects an estimated nine million people, mainly children in rural areas of Latin America, has emerged in the U.S., Spain and several other European countries after large-scale migrations, the WHO said.

Chagas information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/chagasdisease/default.htm>

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSL1335742620070413>

- 36. April 12, Agence France–Presse — Taiwan prepares to mass produce new bird flu vaccine.** Taiwanese scientists are preparing to mass produce a bird flu vaccine developed using a novel cell-based technology to battle any possible epidemic of the deadly H5N1 virus. Unlike most countries or companies which use chicken eggs as a medium for cultivating their vaccines, the Taiwanese team uses the so-called Madin–Darby canine kidney cell. One of the reasons the researchers chose not to use egg-based technology was the possible shortage of eggs in case of a bird flu outbreak. Taiwan's vaccine is intended to provide the island with an indigenous defense against a possible epidemic of bird flu which has claimed at least 171 lives worldwide since 2003, most of them in Asia. It is expected to undergo human clinical trials next year. The researchers are able to produce about 7,000 doses a month in the laboratory and hope to increase this tenfold after construction of a pilot plant is completed before the end of this year.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070413/hl_afp/healthflutaiwanvaccine_070413025211;_ylt=AoELvTWJ1GeokOnM59MY9X6JOrgF

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

Government Sector

- 37. April 15, Baltimore Sun — Maryland boy burned by acid on school slide.** A 2 1/2 –year–old boy was severely burned Saturday afternoon, April 14, at the playground of a Middle River, MD, elementary school after going down a slide doused in sulfuric acid and landing in a pool of the corrosive liquid. Authorities said they believe vandals stole the industrial–strength drain cleaner from a storage closet at Victory Villa Elementary School and poured it over pieces of playground equipment. The boy, who lives less than a quarter–mile from the school, was in fair condition last night at Johns Hopkins Hospital's pediatric burn unit. He was being treated for third–degree chemical burns — the acid having penetrated three layers of skin. "We found this liquid on everything — the jungle gym, the monkey bars — everything," said Baltimore County Police Department spokesperson Sgt. Vickie Warehime. This incident came just two days after a similar one in Texas. A two–year–old girl there suffered minor burns on her left forearm and buttocks after she got on a playground slide. Investigators in the Austin suburb of Leander said they believe someone sprayed the slide, benches and the grass at a community

park with hydrochloric acid stolen from a community pool, according to media reports.

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_county/baltimore.md.burn15apr15.0.6097505.story?coll=bal-home-headlines

[[Return to top](#)]

Emergency Services Sector

38. *April 13, KTKA-TV (KS)* — Anti-terrorism facilities coming to Kansas. Training for disaster is just part of being a soldier, and many times Kansas National Guard soldiers have to travel to other states to get the pre-deployment training they need. In the future, state-of-the-art training facilities in Kansas could change that. Adjutant General Tod Bunting, along with Governor Kathleen Sebelius, hopes to put five facilities in Kansas. These facilities would also be available for first responders like police and fire departments across the state to hold their training exercises. The Governor hopes to use the state's bonding authority to pay for the estimated \$32 million project. The plan is to have all five centers up and running within three years.

Source: http://www.49abcnews.com/news/2007/apr/13/antiterrorism_facilities_coming_kansas/

39. *April 13, Toledo Free Press (OH)* — Center for emergency preparedness to open in Ohio. Owens Community College in Toledo, OH, will open its \$20.5 million state-of-the-art Center for Emergency Preparedness April 29, to offer concurrent training for multiple first responder agencies. The Center for Emergency Preparedness is built around different kinds of emergencies and accidents that most commonly occur and types of disasters Homeland Security handles, said Dr. Paul Unger, Owens executive vice president and provost. The center can provide an “unlimited” number of training scenarios that allow first responders to “engage in real life applications during their training.” The center will feature full-size training props. These will include a flashover simulator, five-story burn building, tanker truck fire simulator, propane tank burn simulator, collapsed building tunnel system, confined space rescue area, gas station with car burn, dive and rescue pond and car extrication. Additional phases will consist of an emergency operations center, command and simulation center, mock city with retail, business and residential facades and (other) simulation scenarios. Unger said the center would also include Ohio's Third Frontier Network: a national fiber-optic network used for research, education and economic development, which will allow area agencies to simulate exercises on emergency hazards, natural disasters and terrorist incidents through distance learning.

Source: <http://www.toledofreepress.com/?id=5307>

40. *April 13, Government Technology* — New 911 system enhances Minneapolis' ability to respond to emergencies. Minneapolis, MN, has a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system that is up and running, providing 911 operators and emergency responders with powerful new ways to respond smarter and faster to emergency calls. The system is a nationwide model and is part of Minneapolis' ongoing commitment to finding new and innovative ways to make the city a safe place to call home. The new technology also makes the most of our public safety dollars. One of the most powerful features of the new CAD system is an Automatic Vehicle Location system that allows dispatchers to see on a map the locations of police cars, fire trucks, and ambulances throughout the city, even when they're on the move. That allows dispatchers to

send the closest vehicle to the scene of an incident, regardless of where the vehicle is normally stationed. Not only can 911 dispatchers see the vehicle location information, but 193 police squad cars also have the CAD system on laptop computers that allows officers responding to an incident to see their location, as well as the locations of other nearby responders.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=104956>

41. *April 12, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-698T: Hurricane Katrina: Agency Contracting Data Should Be More Complete Regarding Subcontracting Opportunities for Small Businesses.** In response to Hurricane Katrina, the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Defense (DoD), the General Services Administration (GSA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) were responsible for over 90 percent of the federal funds awarded for relief efforts via contracting as of March 2007. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) initiated work and completed a report under the Comptroller General's authority last month describing the extent to which small businesses participated in these contracting opportunities. This testimony, which summarizes information from that report, discusses (1) the amounts that small and local businesses received directly from contracts with DHS, GSA, DoD, and the Corps for relief and recovery efforts related to Hurricane Katrina and (2) the extent to which small businesses received subcontracts for relief and recovery efforts. GAO recommended in its March 2007 report that DHS, GSA, and DoD take steps designed to ensure compliance with federal contracting regulations and more transparently disclose the extent to which subcontracting opportunities are available to small businesses.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07698thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-698T>

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

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

42. *April 13, Reuters* — **Deadly virus phone threat causes Pakistan panic.** Mobile service providers in Pakistan have been inundated by calls from subscribers worried by a prank message that they could die of a deadly virus being transmitted via their phones. The rumor was so effective that some mosques in the country's biggest city, Karachi, made announcements that people were being killed by a mobile virus and they should be aware of God's wrath. In a prank reminiscent of the plot in the hit Hollywood movie "The Ring" in which people die within a week after watching a video, the prankster warned users that a deadly virus transmitted through phones had killed 20 people. There are more than 52 million mobile users among 160 million people in Pakistan.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070413/tc_nm/pakistan_phone_dc:_ylt=AsEfdMg_gX7xP1thzwiNbcAjtBAF

43. *April 13, CNET News* — **Storm Worm variant ignites e-mail virus activity.** Postini has reported that Thursday, April 12, likely marked the largest proliferation of e-mail virus attacks in more than a year. The e-mail security company indicated that two variations of the Storm Worm virus, which originally spread across the Internet in January, had driven global virus levels 60 times higher than their daily average. E-mail users were warned to be alert for messages with "love"-related subject lines and an executable attachment that would contain a Trojan virus, as well as messages with "Worm Alert!" subject lines that contained a .zip file full

of malicious code. According to warning notices from Postini as well as VeriSign, which also has been following the threat, clicking on the executable file in one of the new Storm Worm e-mails installs a rootkit with anti-security measures in order to mask the malicious software's presence from virus scans and shut down security programs that may be running. The virus then taps into a private peer-to-peer network where it can download new updates and upload personal information from the compromised computer. Additionally, the virus scans the machine's hard drive to locate e-mail addresses to which it can replicate itself.

Source: http://news.com.com/Storm+Worm+variant+ignites+e-mail+virus+activity/2100-7349_3-6175785.html?tag=nefd.top

- 44. April 13, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team — US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-103A: Microsoft Windows DNS RPC Buffer Overflow.** A buffer overflow in the Remote Procedure Call (RPC) management interface used by the Microsoft Windows Domain Name Service (DNS) service is actively being exploited. This vulnerability may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code with SYSTEM privileges. Systems affected: Microsoft Windows 2003 Server and Microsoft Windows 2000 Server. Solution: US-CERT is unaware of a complete solution to this vulnerability. Until a fix is available, there are workarounds that may reduce the chances of exploitation. It is important to understand your network's configuration and service requirements before deciding what changes are appropriate. For instance, disabling the RPC interface of the DNS service may prevent administrators from being able to remotely manage a Microsoft Windows DNS server. Consider this when implementing the following workarounds: a) Disable the RPC interface used by the Microsoft Windows DNS service; b) Block or restrict access to RPC services. Refer to source for details.

Microsoft Security Advisory: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/935964.mspx>

Source: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-103A.html>

- 45. April 12, eWeek — Spammers increase efforts to exploit animated cursor flaw.** IT organizations are being urged to deploy a patch for a bug affecting how Microsoft Windows handles animated cursors as spammers step up their efforts to exploit the flaw — this time with a promise of lewd pictures of celebrity hotel heiress Paris Hilton. The spammed e-mail messages have subject lines such as "Hot pictures of Paris Hilton nude" but actually contain an embedded image of adult film star and entrepreneur Jenna Jameson. When clicked on, the image links to a Website containing the malicious Troj/Iffy-B Trojan horse, which in turn points to another piece of malware targeting the Microsoft vulnerability.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2113470,00.asp>

- 46. April 12, IDG News Service — Cisco fixes wireless security holes.** Cisco has patched a number of security flaws in the software used to manage its wireless networking products. The company issued two sets of patches Thursday, April 12. One fixes flaws in the Wireless Control System software used to manage the company's Aironet Lightweight Access Points, Wireless LAN Controllers, and Wireless Location Appliance. A second set of patches fixes bugs in the Wireless LAN Controller, which controls Aironet access points as well as flaws in the access points themselves, Cisco said.

Security advisory: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_security_advisory09186a008081e18d.shtml

Second security advisory: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_security_advisory09186a008081e189.shtml

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/04/12/HNciscofixesholes_1.html

- 47. April 12, InformationWeek — New Bug reported in Windows help files.** Another Microsoft vulnerability has been disclosed, along with proof-of-concept code. The so-called heap-overflow vulnerability affects Windows help files in multiple versions of Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows NT, and Windows 2000. Researchers at SecurityFocus reported that the Help File viewer is prone to a heap-overflow vulnerability because it fails to perform boundary checks before copying user-supplied data into insufficiently sized memory buffers. The problem arises when the application handles a malformed or malicious Windows Help File. Hon Lau, a member of the Security Response Team at Symantec, wrote in a blog entry on Thursday that researchers there have not seen the vulnerability being actively exploited. Lau said Symantec analyzed a sample of the proof-of-concept code and released the Bloodhound.Exploit.135 to detect threats that exploit the vulnerability.

Symantec blog: http://www.symantec.com/enterprise/security_response/weblog/2007/04/new_vulnerability_in_windows_h.html

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/windows/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=KYCMCXCQZZSKOQSNLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=199000619>

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/>.

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

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

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Nothing to report.

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

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