



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 May 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports a man operated a "warehouse bank" out of his home in the south Seattle suburbs, taking at least \$28 million from people around the country who wanted the discretion of a Swiss bank account without going to Switzerland. (See item [6](#))
- The Associated Press reports four JetBlue employees and a New York City corrections officer have been charged with stealing credit card numbers from several unsuspecting airline passengers. (See item [13](#))
- According to a Rand Corporation report, shopping malls are becoming increasing targets of violence, and since 1988 more than 60 attacks have occurred at shopping centers around the world. (See item [38](#))

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](#)

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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. *May 01, Associated Press* — **NRC tightens security at university research reactors.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced tighter security requirements Tuesday, May 1, for research and test reactors, located mostly at universities. Under the new rules, any person seeking unescorted access to a research or test reactor facility must be fingerprinted and

undergo an FBI background check. In the past such checks were required only for reactor facility employees with access to sensitive security information. There are 33 research and test reactors under NRC regulations. Most are at universities, although a few are operated by government agencies. Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, there has been concern that terrorists might target the smaller research reactors that do not have the same level of protection as commercial nuclear power plants.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/05/02/america/NA-GEN-US-Reactors-Security.php>

- 2. *May 01, Platts Energy Bulletin* — Thefts of copper, gear at mines costly in materials' replacement.** Two individuals recently attempted to steal copper from one of Massey steel company's old and idled mines. While incidents such as this one are rare in active deep mines, theft of copper and other valuable materials is more common at surface mining operations and in old and idled mines, coal producers say. The two individuals did not appear to succeed in stealing anything, but copper theft was apparently the reason they entered the mine. Massey spokesperson Jeff Gillenwater said the incident occurred at the Stockton mine in Kanawha County, WV. Massey has encountered multiple incidents in recent months in which thieves have illegally entered old mines. Rescue efforts can be costly because they take away valuable production man-hours, while workers are reassigned from daily operations to rescue work. Other coal producers have been affected by thieves and taking numerous precautions to prevent people from entering mine premises without authorization, especially at large and active mining complexes. "We have problems with people trying to steal copper from remote surface facilities, such as substations," said Thomas Hoffman of Consol Energy. Rio Tinto Energy America has security systems in place at each of its mine sites in the U.S., said spokesperson Bob Green.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6380003.xml?sub=Coal&p=Coal/News>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

- 3. *April 29, Associated Press* — No one injured in gas pipeline explosion.** Authorities say a 24-inch natural gas pipeline ruptured and caught fire early Sunday morning, April 29, in a rural area near Pawnee — just southeast of Springfield, IL. Although there were no injuries, emergency workers evacuated between 50 and 75 people from their nearby homes as a precaution. The initial explosion sent an orange fireball about 200 feet into the sky and was visible for several miles.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=5255518>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

- 4. *May 02, Aviation Week* — Next decade's Air Force bomber to be subsonic, manned.** The Air Force's long-range strike aircraft set to be deployed by 2018 will be subsonic and manned, said Brig. Gen. Mark Matthews, director of plans and programs, headquarters, Air Combat

Command, Langley Air Force Base, VA. But it would be wrong to characterize the aircraft as being entirely devoid of current technology, Matthews said Tuesday, May 1, during a panel discussion "Return of the Bomber: The Future of Long Range Strike," presented by the Eaker Institute. "There is new technology associated with this," Matthews said. For example, the Air Force is looking at technological advancements in low observability, sensors and engine development, he said. The 2018 deadline for a new bomber aircraft was set by the Quadrennial Defense Review to address a perceived gap in strike capability. In later years, the Air Force is slated to procure and deploy more advanced bombers. The service is looking now at some directed energy technology to make the aircraft more survivable, Matthews said.

Source: <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/NEXT050207.xml&headline=Next%20decade%27s%20AF%20bomber%20to%20be%20subsonic.%20manned&channel=defense>

5. *April 30, U.S. Army* — **Services chart course for new vessel.** Representatives of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the shipbuilding industry met last week to discuss the current status of the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV), a new type of fast logistic-support ship that will ultimately be acquired by all three services. Held at Quantico Marine Corps Base outside Washington, the meeting allowed the service representatives to update prospective contractors on the vessel's design requirements. The JHSV's specifications and capabilities are based on lessons the services learned from operating four leased, commercial high-speed vessels over the past five years. Capt. Patricia M. Sudol, the Navy's program manager for support ships, boats and craft, and the officer in charge of the Navy-led joint acquisition program, and her staff are currently waiting for the Department of Defense to approve their acquisition strategy for the JHSV, she said, and very shortly after that approval is granted her office will release a request for proposals.

Source: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2007/04/30/2898-services-chart-course-for-new-vessel/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *May 02, Associated Press* — **Man accused of running 'warehouse' bank.** A man operated a "warehouse bank" out of his home in the south Seattle suburbs, taking at least \$28 million from people around the country who wanted the discretion of a Swiss bank account without going to Switzerland, according to court documents unsealed Tuesday, May 1. Robert Arant, of Des Moines, had hundreds of customers, many of whom apparently used the bank to conceal assets for the purpose of evading taxes, IRS agent Susan Killingsworth wrote. U.S. District Court has frozen the assets of his bank, Olympic Business Systems LLC. Arant is charged with promoting abusive tax shelters and unlawfully interfering with internal revenue laws. Arant took customers' money — promising to keep their identities private — and pooled it in six accounts at Bank of America, U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo Bank. He would then pay the customers' bills from those commercial bank accounts. He charged about \$75 a year in fees for the service. For \$30, customers could buy debit cards to access their money more easily; otherwise, they could access it by check, money order or wire transfer. On his Website, he advertised his services to those "who would rather not deal directly with the banking system."

Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20070502/D8OS6AEO0.html>

7. *May 01, Orange County Register (CA)* — **Blowtorch used to empty ATM.** Instead of a PIN, a blowtorch was used to extract cash from a shopping center ATM sometime late evening Monday, April 30, or early Tuesday, May 1, authorities said. The entire contents of an ATM in a shopping center in the 2400 block of Alicia Parkway in Mission Viejo, CA, were emptied out after someone broke into an empty suite and then used a blow torch to open the machine, said Orange County Sheriff's Department spokesperson Jim Amormino. It is unknown how many people were involved in the burglary. The thief or thieves got into the vacant suite through a hole cut in the back wall, Amormino said. Once inside the vacant suite, thieves gained access to the back of the Wells Fargo ATM and used to a blowtorch to open the reinforced steel body of the machine. Authorities were notified of the theft at about 7 a.m. PDT by a Brinks security guard who noticed the ATM was empty, Amormino said.
Source: http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/news/local/crimecourts/article_1675392.php

8. *May 01, United Press International* — **How terrorists send money.** Advanced mobile technology, cooperation between international mobile communications providers and international financial institutions and the lack of regulations make for a swift, cheap, mostly untraceable money transfer — known as "m-payments" — anywhere, anytime, by anyone with a mobile telephone. Members of the GSM Association and MasterCard are developing an m-payment service to enable 200 million international migrant workers and the poor who lack bank accounts to transfer money domestically and internationally. According to the World Bank, 175 million migrants transferred at least \$230 billion in international remittances in 2005. A recent U.N.-sponsored South African study found that m-banking can be up to one-third cheaper for customers than the current banking alternatives. However, the spread of m-payments in less developed countries, which often lack functioning anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regulatory frameworks, and where corruption is rife, will likely increase money laundering and terrorist financing. The abuse of the m-payments is easy when the stored value card is used. It does not require a bank account, credit card or two forms of government-approved identification to activate and use. It just requires cash.
Source: [http://www.upi.com/International_Intelligence/Analysis/2007/05/01/outside view how terrorists send money/](http://www.upi.com/International_Intelligence/Analysis/2007/05/01/outside_view_how_terrorists_send_money/)

9. *May 01, Finextra (UK)* — **Chinese banks get together to tackle online banking fraud.** Sixteen banks and the China Financial Certification Association are working together on anti-fraud mechanisms to improve security for online banking customers. The banks involved are Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Bank of Communications, CITIC Bank, China Everbright Bank, Huaxia Bank, China Minsheng Bank, China Merchants Bank, Guangdong Development Bank, Shenzhen Development Bank, Shanghai Pudong Development Bank, Industrial Bank, Beijing City Commercial Bank, Nanjing Bank, and Tianjin Bank. They have agreed to create and share an online banking "blacklist", and to cooperate on any investigations of fraudulent activity. They also propose working together to monitor the latest security technology developments and will organize seminars and forums to share information.
Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16876>

10. *May 01, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-399: Financial Market Preparedness: Significant Progress Has Been Made, but Pandemic Planning and Other**

Challenges Remain (Report). The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) third report since the September 11 terrorist attacks, this assesses progress that market participants and regulators have made to ensure the security and resiliency of our securities markets. This report examined actions taken to improve the markets' capabilities to prevent and recover from attacks; actions taken to improve disaster response and increase telecommunications resiliency; and financial regulators' efforts to ensure market resiliency. GAO inspected physical and electronic security measures and business continuity capabilities using regulatory, government, and industry-established criteria and discussed improvement efforts with broker dealers, banks, regulators, telecommunications carriers, and trade associations. To improve the readiness of the securities markets to withstand potential disease pandemics, securities and banking regulators should consider taking additional actions, including providing formal expectations that market participants' plans address even severe pandemic outbreaks and setting a date by which such plans should be completed. Banking and securities regulators indicated they believe organizations are adequately addressing this risk, but will consider taking the recommended actions if progress lags. GAO believes that giving greater consideration now would better assure market readiness.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07399high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov>

11. *May 01, Wichita Eagle (KS)* — **Counterfeit \$100s very convincing.** The \$100 bills fooled workers used to handling money. But they were, indeed, fake Ben Franklins — and they reflect another scam originating out of Nigeria and other African nations, Wichita, KS police said Monday, April 30. While previous scams have typically used fraudulent checks or money orders, Haynes said, this is the first time local officials have seen counterfeit currency being shipped. Capt. Darrell Haynes said, "This is probably the best counterfeit money that I have encountered." A Wichita man was sent \$10,000 in \$100 bills as part of a proposed business venture. He was asked to send cash to Nigeria via Western Union. But when the victim went to a Bank of America branch to deposit some of the money, the money turned out to be counterfeit. The fake money didn't have the color-shifting ink or the microprinting that is used on genuine bills. The fake money was able to fool the markers many banks and merchants use to detect counterfeits. Many of the counterfeit bills found were marked with the color-changing pens frequently used to verify bills.

Source: <http://www.kansas.com/212/story/58678.html>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *May 03, Associated Press* — **Tests on MacArthur Maze due Wednesday.** Bay Area commuters will know how soon they will be able to travel on part of the closed portion of the MacArthur Maze. The California Department of Transportation, Caltrans, expects to get the results of core samples taken from the Maze connector collapse Wednesday, May 2. The tests on support columns and girders left standing after the fiery accident this weekend will let engineers know whether the Interstate 880 portion of the Maze can be repaired, or if it needs to be replaced. Meanwhile police and the California Highway Patrol are fine-tuning traffic detours through West Oakland, with more law enforcement will be patrolling Oakland streets to deal with the influx of drivers diverted from the highway. State and local officials are hoping

the federal government will help pay for the costs of cleaning up and repairing parts of the interchange.

Source: http://cbs5.com/topstories/local_story_122105617.html

13. *May 02, Associated Press* — JetBlue workers accused of using passengers' credit cards.

Four JetBlue employees and a New York City corrections officer have been charged with stealing credit card numbers from several unsuspecting airline passengers. Prosecutors said the five used the cards to go on a spending spree at restaurants, liquor stores, and shops.

Investigators began looking at the group after one traveler rushing to catch a flight accidentally left his credit card behind at a JetBlue counter at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Later, someone used the card to run up \$508 in charges, the Manhattan district attorney's office said. Three of the suspects are JetBlue customer service customer service agents. One was a flight attendant.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-05-01-credit-card-scam_N.htm

14. *May 02, Associated Press* — Iowa releases plan to reduce highway deaths. Iowa Department of Transportation officials have released a plan aimed at reducing the number of highway deaths by more than 10 percent by 2015. The safety plan calls for greater restrictions on young drivers, a motorcycle helmet law, and expanding the seatbelt law to include back seat passengers. Two other recommendations are increased funding for traffic law enforcement and boosting state funding for road improvements related to safety. According to the report, Iowa could reduce traffic fatalities by 45, or nearly 10 percent, by 2015 if the recommendations are followed. All would require legislative action.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/13241389/detail.html>

15. *May 02, Associated Press* — Train with shuttle parts derailed. A freight train carrying segments of the solid rocket boosters for the space shuttle derailed Wednesday, May 2, after a bridge in Alabama collapsed, authorities said. Six people were reported injured. NASA spokesperson Kyle Herring said the space agency sent teams to check on the whether the equipment, which was on its way to Florida, was damaged. He said the booster segments was not scheduled for use during the next shuttle flight, set for launch June 8, but for missions in October and December. The cause of the bridge collapse was under investigation. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency said that none of the cargo spilled. The train landed on its side in a wooded area, and there appeared to be no fire.

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

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *May 02, DM News* — Chicago USPS poor mail delivery at issue. A congressional subcommittee charged with overseeing the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will meet in Chicago on May 31 to explore the city's mail delivery problems. U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL), chairman of the newly reconstituted House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and District of Columbia, made the announcement last week. For many years, Chicago

has had mail delivery problems, but recently the problems have escalated. In March, for example, postal officials said 91 percent of letters mailed to other addresses within the city were delivered within a day, compared with the national average of 95 percent. Postal insiders have attributed the problems to lack of staff as well as a need for upgraded equipment and the need for a general overhaul of processes.

Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/direct-mail/40939.html>

17. *May 01, Augusta Chronicle (GA)* — Unexploded bomb rolls out of Fed Ex drop-off box.

Authorities said on Tuesday morning, May 1, they are investigating an unexploded, homemade bomb found Monday night in a Fed Ex drop-off box in Augusta, GA. A delivery driver was emptying the bin when six Powerade bottles taped together and filled with gunpowder and nails rolled out, a Richmond County sheriff's report said. The Richmond County Bomb Squad was called and crime scene technicians searched for any other evidence, Maj. Ken Autry said. The bottles had what appeared to be a rag soaked in gasoline as a fuse but Maj. Autry said they were not yet sure whether it was lit before the bottles were put in the drop off box.

Source: http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/latest/lat_050107_bombfound.shtml

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Agriculture Sector

18. *May 02, Associated Press* — Agents push bison back into park. State and federal wildlife managers began hazing hundreds of bison back into Yellowstone National Park Tuesday, May 1, ahead of a May 15 deadline, after which any bison outside the park likely will be sent to slaughter. For the first time in recent years, bison had been allowed to linger outside the park this spring, on U.S. Forest Service land about 10 miles north of West Yellowstone, MT, said Melissa Frost with the Montana Department of Fish, Parks and Wildlife. Because they carry brucellosis, and ranchers are concerned it could be spread to cattle, the bison must be off that land and any private property outside the park so cattle can return to their summer ranges in the West Yellowstone Basin. "Any bison outside of the park after May 15 will likely be lethally removed," Frost said. Yellowstone's 3,600 bison make up the world's largest surviving herd of the animal. State officials contend that when hazing the bison fails, they have no option but slaughter given the threat brucellosis poses to the cattle industry. Brucellosis causes cattle to abort.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2007/05/02/news/wyoming/245df6321fbfb42c872572ce007eeba8.txt>

19. *May 01, Southeast Farm Press* — Dry weather delays Southeast crop planting, progress.

Even though all weather stations in Alabama reported receiving rainfall during the week ending April 29, areas of severe and extreme drought conditions continue to spread. The lack of soil moisture is a grave concern for peanut and cotton farmers who have yet to plant their crops. Drought conditions persist across Georgia, according to the USDA, NASS, Georgia Field Office. Crop conditions have declined rapidly over the past month due to the Easter freeze and the worsening drought conditions. Pastures and forage crops have suffered tremendously, causing a critical situation for livestock owners. Virtually all areas in Florida remain dry with no precipitation in most counties across the state during the week of April 23 through April 29. Some growers in Jackson County have delayed cotton and corn planting due to continued

drought conditions. Tennessee corn growers were hard at work last week finishing up replanting caused by the Easter freeze. As a result, by week's end, planting progress was on pace with normal and only slightly behind last year. South Carolina is continuing to experience below average precipitation for the year. Soils continue to dry from lack of precipitation and above average daytime temperatures.

Source: <http://southeastfarmpress.com/news/050107-southeast-crops/>

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Food Sector

20. *May 01, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — First shipments of Indian mangoes arrive in U.S.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns on Tuesday, May 1, welcomed the first shipments of irradiated Indian mangoes arriving through U.S. ports-of-entry. Indian mangoes are the first fruit irradiated at an overseas site and approved for importation into the U.S. Irradiation became an approved treatment on all pests for fruits and vegetables entering the U.S. in 2002. Last year, a generic dose was recognized for a wider range of commodities. The use of irradiation provides an alternative to other pest control methods, such as fumigation, cold and heat treatments. "This is a significant milestone that paves the way for the future use of irradiation technology to protect against the introduction of plant pests," said Secretary Mike Johanns. To ensure that plant pests of quarantine significance do not enter the U.S. through the importation, the mangoes must be treated with specified doses of irradiation prior to export at a certified facility. Each shipment must be accompanied by a certificate certifying that the treatment and inspection of the mangoes was made in accordance with U.S. regulations. Inspectors with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection may further inspect precleared commodities at the arrival port.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB/.cmd/a.d/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/ce/7.2.5JM/p/5.2.4TQ/d/0/th/J.2.9D/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?PC.7.2.5JM.contentid=2007%2F05%2F0123.xml&PC.7.2.5JM.parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC.7.2.5JM.navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7.2.5JM

21. *May 01, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — California firm recalls ready-to-eat turkey products for possible listeria contamination. Diestel Turkey Ranch of California is voluntarily recalling approximately 6,907 pounds of ready-to-eat turkey products that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced today Tuesday, May 1. The following products are subject to recall:

6-7 –pound packages of Herbed Oven Roasted Turkey Breast with a Sell-by date of 5-28-07.

6-7 –pound approximate weight plastic-wrapped packages of Chipotle Peppered Turkey Breast with a Sell-by date of 5-28-07.

6-7 –pound packages of Naturally Smoked Boneless Turkey Breast with a Sell-by date of 5-28-07.

6-7 –pound approximate weight plastic-wrapped packages of Peppered Oven Roasted Turkey Breast with a Sell-by date of 5-28-07.

6-7 –pound approximate weight plastic-wrapped packages of Naturally Smoked, Uncured, Turkey Breast with Pastrami Seasonings with a Sell-by date of 5-28-07.

1–pound packages of Uncured Turkey Breast with Pastrami Seasoning with a Sell–by date of 5–23–07. Each label bears the establishment number "P–9332A" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The turkey products were produced on April 20, 2007 and were distributed to retail establishments in Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, Texas and Washington. There are no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_021_2007_Release/index.asp

22. *May 01, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy* — **New FDA job to focus on food safety strategy.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Tuesday, May 1, announced the creation of a new assistant commissioner position to provide guidance on food safety and defense strategies. David Acheson, MD, will be assigned to the new job, said FDA Commissioner Andrew C. von Eschenbach. Acheson is chief medical officer and director of the Office of Food Defense, Communication and Emergency Response at the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Acheson will advise on "strategic and substantive food safety and food defense matters," an FDA news release states. One of Acheson's first jobs will be to develop an "agency–wide, visionary strategy for food safety and defense." "The strategy will identify and characterize changes in the global food safety and defense system, and identify current and future challenges and opportunities," the FDA said. "It will also name potential barriers, gaps, and most critical needs in a food safety and defense system. The strategy will serve as the framework in helping the agency prioritize and address food safety and defense challenges." Acheson will work with the FDA product centers and its Office of Regulatory Affairs to coordinate the agency's food safety and defense assignments and commitments. FDA news release: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01622.html>
Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/biosecurity/food-biosec/news/may0107fda.html>

23. *May 01, HealthDay* — **FDA: Millions of chickens fed contaminated pet food.** Up to three million broiler chickens were fed melamine–tainted pet food and then sold on the U.S. market beginning in early February, U.S. health officials said in a press conference held late Tuesday, May 1. The contaminated pet product made its way into poultry feed at 38 Indiana farms, 30 of which produced broiler chickens destined for restaurants and supermarkets, said officials at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Approximately 2.5 million to three million chickens fed contaminated pet food have already been sold, Kenneth Peterson, assistant administrator for field operations at the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said. "That's out of a total of nine billion broilers processed in the U.S. each year," he noted. Experts from both agencies downplayed any potential threat to human health. "We still have no evidence of harm to humans or to swine" from the use of the tainted pet product, said Dr. David Acheson, who began his tenure as the FDA's new assistant commissioner for food protection on Tuesday. Acheson said that the contaminated food constituted only about five percent of the total feed at the farms. "The risk to humans is small," he said.
Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/healthday/fdamillionsofchickensfedcontaminatedpetfood:_ylt=Av3fR67qTy1GZv2QB3AA9Uuz5xcB

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Water Sector

24. *May 02, Associated Press* — **Dire drought may mean year-round water rules.** Florida's worsening drought conditions — one of the driest periods on record — could result in year-round water restrictions for residents and farmers as forecasters say no real relief is in sight. Lake Okeechobee, a backup drinking water source for millions in South Florida and the lifeblood of the Everglades, is nearing a record low at 9.6 feet, four feet below average. "Maybe the time is right to look at year-round restrictions," Chip Merriam, deputy executive director of the South Florida Water Management District, said Tuesday, May 1. Last month, the district instituted temporary water restrictions aimed at cutting residential use by up to 30 percent, mostly outside watering of lawns and gardens. Farmers have had to cut back 50 percent. The state also announced that the fragile Everglades ecosystem would be cut off for any new or additional water supplies, meaning utilities will have to find new sources of water to supply demand for population growth.

Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070502/NEWS/705020455/1004>

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Public Health Sector

25. *May 02, U.TV (Ireland)* — **Five cases of Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome in Ireland.**

The first ever outbreak in Ireland of a skin infection in infants is under investigation at the Mid Western Regional Maternity Hospital in Limerick. Infection control measures have been tightened at the hospital following the outbreak of Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome. Four confirmed and one suspected case of Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome have been discovered at the Limerick Maternity Hospital. The cases arose in infants born at the Ennis Road hospital since February. The illness is characterized by red blistering that looks like burn marks. Children under the age of five, particularly newborns, are most at risk. This is the first known recorded outbreak of the disease in Ireland and only a small number of outbreaks are reported internationally.

Source: <http://u.tv/newsroom/indepth.asp?id=81908&pt=n>

26. *May 01, Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA warns consumers about counterfeit drugs from multiple Internet sellers.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is cautioning U.S. consumers about dangers associated with buying prescription drugs over the Internet. This alert is being issued based on information the agency received showing that 24 apparently related Websites may be involved in the distribution of counterfeit prescription drugs. On three occasions during recent months, FDA received information that counterfeit versions of Xenical 120 mg capsules, a drug manufactured by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. (Roche), were obtained by three consumers from two different Websites. Xenical is an FDA-approved drug used to help obese individuals who meet certain weight and height requirements lose weight and maintain weight loss. None of the capsules ordered off the Websites contained orlistat, the active ingredient in authentic Xenical. In fact, laboratory analysis conducted by Roche and submitted to the FDA confirmed that one capsule contained sibutramine. Other samples of drug product obtained from two of the Internet orders were composed of only talc and starch. According to Roche, these two samples displayed a valid Roche lot number of B2306 and were labeled with an expiration date of April 2007. The correct expiration date for this lot number is actually

March 2005.

Pictures of the counterfeit Xenical capsules:

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/photos/xenical.html>

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01623.html>

27. *May 01, Reuters* — Indonesia still wants WHO virus–sharing assurances. Indonesia has delayed sending bird flu samples to the World Health Organization (WHO) pending guarantees on how they are used, a senior health ministry official said on Wednesday, May 2. Indonesia, which has the highest human death toll from bird flu in the world, agreed at an international meeting in March to resume sending virus samples to the WHO after controversially halting the transfer late last year. The meeting also agreed to a mechanism for developing nations to have fair access to bird flu vaccines and for transparent use of specimens, especially for commercial purposes. But Triono Soendoro, the head of the health ministry's research and development agency, said that more than one month later the new mechanism was still being hammered out by WHO member countries. Jakarta stopped sending specimens to WHO laboratories in December, arguing that it was concerned the samples, which can be used to make vaccines, would be used commercially and only rich countries would benefit from any resultant vaccines. Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/174706:ylt=A11WuIWNRk_dBg6rF6N_jgY6mxbAB

28. *May 01, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital* — Peramivir protects mice from lethal H5N1 infection. The antiviral drug peramivir might offer humans significant protection during a pandemic of the avian influenza virus H5N1, according to results of mouse studies conducted by investigators at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Peramivir, an antiviral drug, blocks the ability of influenza viruses to use an enzyme called neuraminidase, thus preventing the release of new virus particles and their spread from one infected cell to another. The St. Jude team studied different approaches to treating infected mice according to duration of administration (one day versus eight days); route of administration of peramivir (intramuscular injections alone versus intramuscular injections followed by oral administration) and frequency of administration on the first day of treatment (once versus twice). In all cases, the investigators administered peramivir to mice one hour after nasally administering a lethal Vietnam strain of H5N1 influenza virus. The researchers reported 100 percent survival among 10 infected mice given intramuscular injections of peramivir daily for eight days. The drug also inhibited replication of the deadly strain of H5N1 virus in the lung, brain and spleen. The key to the high survival rate was treating the infected mice within 24 hours after infection with H5N1 and continuing the treatment for eight days. Source: http://www.stjude.org/media/0.2561.453_4187_23020.00.html

29. *May 01, Government Health IT* — FDA, NIH seek expertise for e–platform for drug product data. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) seek information on forming a public/private partnership to establish and maintain a common electronic platform for exchanging research data collected during clinical trials and submitting, receiving and managing regulatory product information. The recent request for information posted on the Federal Business Opportunities Website states that a platform for managing data about medical products should make use of available bioinformatic technology to systematize the exchange of information from the earliest stage of clinical research through approval and post–market surveillance. Responses are due May 31. That approach would enhance the efficiency of exchanging information about medical products among interested

parties and increase their safety and effectiveness. NIH is particularly interested in an interface for drug development and research.

Source: <http://www.govhealthit.com/article102599-05-01-07-Web>

- 30. April 30, World Health Organization — Afghan President meets WHO chief on polio eradication.** Days after Afghanistan vaccinated more than seven million children against polio, the world's top health official and Afghan President Hamid Karzai pledged to capitalize swiftly on the country's remarkable progress towards eradicating the disease. Of the four remaining countries which have never stopped polio, Afghanistan is the only one which has not reported any case so far this year. The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan was in Afghanistan Monday, April 30, on the first leg of a two-part journey to Afghanistan and Pakistan to encourage high-level and combined efforts on the part of both countries to stop the final chains of polio transmission, which straddle their common border. President Karzai and Dr. Chan discussed exploiting the current epidemiological situation by focusing on the specific next steps to stop polio in Afghanistan. These include the mapping of various mobile communities so that migrant, nomadic and displaced children can be reached with vaccine, synchronized plans with Pakistan to stem cross-border transmission of the virus and ways to alleviate the impact of security conditions on polio eradication efforts.

Source: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2007/chan_afghanis_tan/en/index.html

- 31. April 26, Public Health Agency of Canada — Canadian National Summary: Update on mumps outbreak.** Increased mumps activity is currently being reported in three Canadian provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island). As of Thursday, April 26, 183 confirmed cases of mumps had been reported from the three affected provinces. Confirmed cases include both laboratory-confirmed cases, as well as, clinically confirmed cases that are linked to laboratory-confirmed cases. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the majority of cases were reported from only one or two public health authorities with limited activity seen elsewhere in these provinces. Approximately 90 percent and 25 percent of the cases in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick respectively, are associated with university settings. The viral strain in these outbreaks is identical to the strain (genotype G) detected from the 2005-06 Nova Scotia outbreaks, the United States' multi-state outbreak in 2006 and the United Kingdom epidemic between 2004 and 2006.

Source: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/mumps-oreillons/prof_e.html#ns

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

- 32. May 02, KHOU-TV (TX) — Texas City emergency alert system goes live.** When disaster strikes, emergency dispatchers are often overwhelmed with calls from people wanting to know what's going on. That, said the Director of Homeland Security for Texas City, TX, Bruce

Clawson, is not what the 911 system was set up to do. A new system goes on line Thursday, May 3, that Clawson hopes will alleviate that problem. The new system adds another layer to the way the city communicates emergency information to its residents. George Fuller, the city's Assistant Director of Homeland Security, said the Connect-CTY system includes a phone contact alert as well as e-mail and text messaging capabilities. With the new alert system, every land phone line in Texas City is automatically included in the phone call list said Fuller. So even if you have an unregistered phone number and have never applied to be included in the city's alert system the next time an incident occurs at one of the plants you will get a phone call said Fuller. If a resident wants to receive a text message, e-mail, or a call to his or her mobile phone, they will have to register.

Source: http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou070501_tj_tcalert.2ac70393.html#

- 33. *May 01, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disasters for West Virginia and Texas.**** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Monday, May 1, that federal disaster aid has been made available for West Virginia to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides during the period of April 14–18, 2007. FEMA Administrator David Paulison said federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides in the counties of Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne, and Wyoming. Paulison also announced Monday that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Texas to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes during the period of April 21–24, 2007. The assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state of Texas by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Maverick, Moore, and Swisher counties.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/recentnews.fema>

- 34. *May 01, Frederick News Post (MD)* — **Robots are being developed for future battleground rescue efforts.**** An improvised explosive device detonates in Iraq, taking down a U.S. service member. Troops, rather than sending one or two medics to drag him to safety, deploy an unmanned robotic extraction vehicle. The robot pulls the wounded service member onto a board and drives him to a first responder. The scenario sounds futuristic, but it's not. Researchers headquartered at Fort Detrick in Frederick, MD, and others around the country are gaining headway on making extraction robots a reality. Ideally, robotic extraction wouldn't require human participation. Robotic casualty evacuation is needed not only to shield medics from harm but to involve fewer medics in basic operations, freeing them up for urgent work. Robotic extraction, though reducing risks to medics and other first responders, isn't without its challenges, said Gary Gilbert, the robotics program manager at the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC). The robots must be sensitive so they don't cause further injury to wounded troops and maintain a level of bedside manner, providing comfort to the service member in the same way a human medic would.

Source: <http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/business/display.htm?StoryID=59604>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35. *May 02, US-CERT* — **Cisco releases security advisory to address multiple vulnerabilities in ASA and PIX appliances.** Cisco has released Security Advisory cisco-sa-20070502-asa to address multiple vulnerabilities in Cisco ASA and PIX appliances. These vulnerabilities include two authentication bypass vulnerabilities affecting the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) authentication system and two denial-of-service (DoS) vulnerabilities affecting Virtual Private Networks (VPNs).
US-CERT recommends administrators apply the workarounds and patches as described in Cisco Security Advisory cisco-sa-20070502-asa:
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_security_advisory09186a0080833166.shtml
Source: http://www.us-cert.gov/current/index.html#cisco_releases_security_advisory_to
36. *May 02, InfoWorld* — **Document shell code attacks loom large.** Targeted attacks that utilize vulnerabilities in popular document file formats and execute via hard-to-find shell code are becoming an increasingly popular menace, according to researchers at IBM's Internet Security Systems (ISS) division. Among the types of files most frequently assailed in the attacks are the most common types of documents passed around many organizations today, including Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint formats, as well as Adobe PDF files. Many times, the infected documents are being distributed inside specific organizations by hackers who disguise the threats as legitimate files being disseminated within a business via e-mail. Unlike many Web-based threats, the seemingly-innocuous documents typically give no warning that they actually carry malware code.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/05/02/shell-code-attacks-loom_1.html
37. *May 01, CNET News* — **Apple plugs QuickTime zero-day flaw.** Apple on Tuesday, May 1, released a QuickTime update to fix a security flaw that was used to breach a MacBook Pro at a recent security conference. The media player vulnerability lies in QuickTime for Java, Apple said in a security alert. The hole could be exploited through a rigged Web site and let an attacker commandeer computers running both Mac OS X and Windows, the Mac maker said. Security monitoring company Secunia deems the flaw "highly critical," one notch below its most serious rating. The update, QuickTime 7.1.6, repairs the problem by performing additional checking.
QuickTime 7.1.6: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=305446>
Source: http://news.com.com/Apple+plugs+QuickTime+zero-day+flaw/2100-1002_3-6180679.html?tag=cd.lede

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

38. *May 02, Associated Press* — **Shopping malls become increasing targets of violence.** When an already wounded David Logsdon stormed into the parking lot of Ward Parkway Center in Kansas City on Sunday, April 29, and started shooting, killing two people before he was gunned down by police, he infiltrated a seemingly safe facet of American society: the shopping mall. But horrific rampages like Logsdon's have become more frequent. The Rand Corp., a nonprofit policy group in Santa Monica, CA, reports that since 1988 more than 60 attacks have occurred at shopping centers around the world. There were also "specific warnings" about attack threats in 2004 at shopping centers in West Los Angeles and Columbus, OH, said Tom LaTourrette, author of the Rand report. One reason malls are targets is because they are public places that people are familiar with and know well, said Malachy Kavanagh, spokesperson for the International Council of Shopping Centers, a trade association based in New York. In a 2006 study for the U.S. Justice Department, the National Criminal Reference Justice Service reported that although malls have taken steps to improve security since the 2001 terrorist attacks, some "security gaps" remain.

Rand report: <http://www.rand.org/publications/randreview/issues/spring2007/news.html>

Source: http://www.therolladailynews.com/articles/2007/05/02/state_news/state08.txt

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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

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