



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 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 Hawaii Channel reports a pilot landing at Kalaeloa on Monday night, May 7, reported having a green laser beam shot into his cabin; it is the fourth time this year that pilots have encountered the potentially disastrous situation. (See item [18](#))
- The Chicago Tribune reports David Acheson, the assistant Food and Drug Administration Commissioner for food protection, said during a hearing that the government lacks the resources to do comprehensive investigations and must repair its flawed food safety inspection. (See item [23](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security announced on Thursday, May 10, final awards totaling \$445 million in grant programs that strengthen the ability of ports, transit, and intercity bus systems to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. (See item [33](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 10, Associated Press* — **EU gets warning system for energy supply.** The European Union (EU) is launching an early warning system to identify threats to oil and gas flows to the

27–nation bloc. It reflects how rapidly the issue of secure and affordable energy supplies has surged to the top of the EU agenda. The Network of Energy Security Correspondents is to monitor and assess potential threats to external energy supplies. It will comprise the EU's 130 delegations worldwide, EU governments, several energy advisory panels and the European Commission's external relations "crisis room". EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero–Waldner calls the network "a crucial part" of the EU's efforts to develop a credible long–term energy policy by giving early notice of brewing political and others crises far beyond the EU borders. The network will provide "a continuous monitoring and exchange of information" through a dedicated Web portal with secure communications.

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/World/EU-gets-warning-system-for-energy-supply/2007/05/10/1178390438579.html>

2. *May 10, Associated Press* — **Louisa Generating Plant taken off–line after explosion and fire.** The Louisa Generating Station was off–line on Thursday, May 10, after an explosion and fire at one of MidAmerican Energy's major coal–fueled power plants. The explosion happened about 5:20 p.m. CDT on Wednesday inside a 25,000 volt auxiliary transformer, spokesperson Allan Urlis said. The transformer is located outside the actual plant in Muscatine, IA, but on the plant's property, he said Thursday. "Something failed inside the transformer and there was an explosion and subsequent fire," he said. "What was burning was oil inside the transformer." No one was injured and no customers lost power, Urlis said. The transformer provides power to run the coal plant, but there are backup auxiliary transformers. "The plant is off–line right now while we assess damage. It's a major piece of equipment," he said. Urlis did not know how long the Muscatine plant would be off–line. "It's not going to affect our ability to provide customers power," he said.

Source: http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2007/05/10/news/latest_news/6daf68675a891099862572d70049f576.txt

3. *May 09, Lancaster New Era (PA)* — **What's worst–case scenario at nuke plants?** The Peach Bottom nuclear plant in Lancaster and York counties, PA, will be the focal point for determining just how bad a worst–case nuclear accident could be at all nuclear plants. Peach Bottom and the Surry plant in Virginia will be used for a computer–based analysis to "realistically" predict the health and safety consequences from potential accidents at the nation's nuclear plants, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has announced. Since September 11, 2001, the NRC has been smarting over accident projections contained in a 26–year–old study that the agency says are too conservative and have been misinterpreted. The previous accident–scenario study was based on the Peach Bottom and Surry plants also, as was the federal government's first such study, released in 1975. The upcoming study centers on Peach Bottom, a boiling–water reactor, and Surry, a pressurized–water reactor. The upcoming study will not look at possible causes of a nuclear accident, such as a suicide crashing of a plane into a reactor, or sabotage by terrorists. Rather, the study dwells on consequences, not causes. The study will use site–specific weather and population data to determine the plants' effects on public health and safety. The results will be announced in 2009.

Source: <http://local.lancasteronline.com/4/203984>

4. *May 09, Associated Press* — **Bangkok goes dark briefly to save energy.** Sections of Thailand's capital went dark for 15 minutes Wednesday, May 9, as part of a campaign to raise awareness about energy conservation. Mall storefronts and households across the city of ten

million switched off lights and appliances for 15 minutes. The campaign —similar to earlier ones in Sydney, Paris, Rome and Athens — is projected to reduce Thailand's greenhouse gas emissions by 4,800 tons, city officials said. Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayothin led off the festivities at one of the city's most luxurious malls, Central World Plaza. Apirak said: "This is not only about saving energy for this night...It will raise continued awareness about energy conservation and I would like to encourage people to do it everyday." The brief blackout also didn't cause the panic and looting that some officials feared ahead of the event.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/w-asia/2007/may/09/050905393.html>

5. *May 09, Department of Energy* — **DOE offers \$60 million to spur industry engagement in Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.** The Department of Energy (DOE) Deputy Secretary Clay Sell Wednesday, May 9, announced that DOE will provide up to \$60 million, over two years (FY'07-'08), to engage industry experts in the conceptual design of the initial nuclear fuel recycling center and advanced recycling reactor as part of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). Funding recipients will provide conceptual design studies, technology roadmaps, and business and communications plans essential to GNEP's initial development. In conjunction with the conceptual design studies, the recipients of funding will also develop technology development roadmaps to describe the state of the current technology, perform a technology "gap" analysis, and define the methods and plans to acquire technology needed to achieve the GNEP goals. The business plans will address how the market may facilitate DOE plans to develop and commercialize the advanced fuel cycle technologies and facilities. The communications plans will address the dissemination of scientific, technical, and practical information relating to nuclear energy and closing the nuclear fuel cycle.

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/5043.htm>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *May 09, Reuters* — **House panel slashes Army modernization plan.** The House of Representatives Armed Services Committee voted Wednesday, May 9, to slash \$867 million — one-quarter of President George W. Bush's request — from the Army's top modernization project and recommended killing a troubled scout helicopter program. The panel voted to force the Department of Defense to fund a controversial second engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the costliest arms acquisition project ever.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/09/AR2007050901516.html>

7. *May 09, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-827T: Stabilizing and Rebuilding Iraq: Coalition Support and International Donor Commitments (Testimony).** In March 2003, a U.S.-led multinational force began operations in Iraq. At that time, 48 nations,

identified as a “coalition of the willing,” offered political, military, and financial support for U.S. efforts in Iraq, with 38 nations other than the United States providing troops. In addition, international donors met in Madrid in October 2003 to pledge funding for the reconstruction of Iraq’s infrastructure, which had deteriorated after multiple wars and decades of neglect under the previous regime. This testimony discusses (1) the troop commitments other countries have made to operations in Iraq, (2) the funding the United States has provided to support other countries’ participation in the multinational force, and (3) the financial support international donors have provided to Iraq reconstruction efforts. This testimony is based on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) prior work and data collected for this hearing. Although GAO reviewed both classified and unclassified documents, the information in this statement is based only on unclassified documents. GAO completed this work in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07827thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-827T>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *May 10, Pittsburgh Post–Gazette* — **Two charged with swiping ATM info, then cash.** Two Romanian nationals were indicted by a federal grand jury this week on charges of using counterfeit ATM cards to withdraw more than \$14,000 from local banks. Vasile Ciocan, 29, and Romulus Pasca, 36, who live in Canada, were found with 20 counterfeit cards on them when they were first arrested by Monroeville, PA police on April 13, authorities said. They were arrested after a passer–by noticed them acting suspiciously at an ATM. ATM skimming has been around since at least the late 1990s, said Kurt Helwig of the Electronic Funds Transfer Association. There are about 400,000 ATMs in the U.S., which dispense \$1 trillion annually. Of that, Helwig said, about \$50 million each year is lost to fraud. Even with the recent cases, Helwig does not believe the crime is expanding, and when it does occur, it is often caught quickly. In one of the most unsophisticated instances of ATM skimming, a person in Florida wrote on a piece of notebook paper taped to the machine, "Don't use this card reader, use this one," and had an arrow pointed to a card reader slapped onto the front, Helwig said.
Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07130/784846-85.stm>

9. *May 09, NBC2 (FL)* — **News group investigates credit card skimming.** A credit card skimming machine fits inside the palm of your hand and with one swipe can wipe out your bank account. NBC2 investigators in Florida showed how easy it is to purchase a skimmer and how it’s used to rip off card holders. The skimmer is a pocket–sized fraud factory that thieves use to steal not only money but also identities. Once the cards are skimmed, all a crook has to do is hook the skimmer up to a computer and it's an instant pay day. The same is true for driver's licenses. When it is scanned, all of the information on the license number pops up. "I've seen cases where driver licenses have credit card info because somebody went behind and erased the data on the driver's license and encoded somebody's credit card information," said Detective Matt Willard. Type the word "skimmer" in a search engine and dozens of Websites come up. One site even sells blank cards and an embossing machine to make them look real. Skimmers sell anywhere from \$300 to over \$600. Running hotel key cards through skimmers to see if any personal information is stored on them revealed nothing.

Source: <http://www.nbc-2.com/articles/readarticle.asp?articleid=12489&z=3&p=>

10. *May 09, InformationWeek* — **Second hack at university exposes info on 22,000 students.** For the second time this year, the computer system at the University of Missouri has been hacked into and student's personal information was stolen. University officials posted an online advisory on Tuesday, May 9, about a recent attack on a database by an unknown hacker. The names and Social Security numbers of 22,396 people were stolen. Those affected were employees of any campus within the UM System during calendar year 2004 who were also current or former students at the Columbia campus. The school's IT staff first noted unusual activity on a software application on Thursday, May 3. Then university technicians identified a large series of errors caused by faulty queries to the application and an associated database. The errors were first assumed to be caused by a problem with a system used to track computer help desk repair calls using the same database. Investigators then found that an account was being used by two overseas IP addresses to access the database from China and Australia. In January hackers broke into the university's system through a Web-based application that did not have updated safeguards. A university spokesperson said it was "on a much smaller scale" than the recent attack.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RGMTGULHG3PDGQSNLPCJKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=199500214&articleID=199500214>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *May 10, Baltimore Sun* — **Baltimore port funds cut.** Designated a second-tier port by the Department of Homeland Security, Baltimore will get \$1.9 million, a cut of 60 percent from the current year, according to members of the Maryland congressional delegation and a Homeland Security official. Baltimore ranked 33rd in the latest round of port grants, according to government figures to be made public today. All eight Tier I port areas, such as the New York/New Jersey port, which received \$27.3 million, got much larger grants, as did most other Tier II port areas, such as Pittsburgh and Hampton Roads, VA, and several lower-risk Tier III ports, including San Juan, Puerto Rico, which received \$4.7 million. Ports have long been considered a prime target for terrorists, said Stephen Flynn, a security specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations. But nearly six years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the government lacks a national plan to ensure a minimum level of security at America's ports. This year for the first time, the department ranked ports loosely into three tiers based on their significance to national security. Baltimore was assigned to the second tier.

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-te_port10may10,0,6668897.story

12. *May 10, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-812T: Public Transportation: Preliminary Analysis of Changes to and Trends in FTA's New Starts and Small Starts Programs (Testimony).** Through the New Starts program, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) identifies and recommends new fixed-guideway transit projects for funding—including heavy, light, and commuter rail; ferry; and certain bus projects. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorized

the New Starts program through fiscal year 2009 and made a number of changes to the program, including creating a separate program commonly called Small Starts. This program is intended to offer an expedited and streamlined evaluation and rating process for smaller-scale transit projects. FTA subsequently introduced a separate eligibility category within the Small Starts program for "Very Small Starts" projects. Very Small Starts projects are simple, low-risk projects that FTA has determined qualify for a simplified evaluation and rating process. This testimony discusses the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) preliminary findings on (1) FTA's implementation of SAFETEA-LU changes to the New Starts program, (2) the extent to which the New Starts pipeline (i.e., projects in the preliminary engineering and final design phases) has changed over time, and (3) future trends for the New Starts and Small Starts pipelines. To address these objectives, GAO surveyed 215 project sponsors and interviewed FTA officials, 15 project sponsors, and three industry groups.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07812thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-812T>

- 13. *May 10, Associated Press* — Delta CFO says airline's focus is on Asia.** Delta Air Lines Inc. will cut domestic capacity over the next several years as it focuses more attention on expanding its international service, and it has its eyes set on Asia, Chief Financial Officer Ed Bastian said Wednesday, May 9. Bastian said at a New York investor conference that the majority of the Atlanta-based airline's international growth will be in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Delta, the third-largest carrier in the U.S., has long sought to gain a foothold in China. It is banking on an "open skies" agreement being put in place to allow it to fly there. He said the majority of the airline's growth in other parts of the world will be "self-funded" by redeploying assets from the domestic side to the international side.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070509/delta.html?.v=2>

- 14. *May 10, Daily Press (VA)* — Virginia ports to consider leasing operations.** The new executive director of the Virginia Port Authority said this week that he would be willing to consider leasing the state's three Hampton Roads marine terminals to a private company. Jerry Bridges, who just took over as the head of the agency earlier this year, said that if a private outfit — whether it be a terminal operator, a bank, an insurance company or anyone else — offered the right price, it would behoove the state to look into it. An increasing number of private companies are entering the U.S. container terminal business, and it could well happen here, Bridges said. "We could lease our property rights to a private company if they came forward with the appropriate offer and the board of port commissioners and the governor signed off on it," said Bridges, who headed up Oakland, CA's port operation before taking the helm here. Such a deal, he said, could bring in several billions of dollars into state coffers that could be spent on roads, bridges or anything else. Bridges added that a private company would pay corporate taxes to the state, unlike Virginia International Terminals, the state-created, tax-exempt company that runs the terminals now.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/business/local/dp-9074sy0may10.0.275259.story?coll=dp-business-localheads>

- 15. *May 09, WSVN (FL)* — Man arrested for knife possession at airport.** Police are investigating a man's intentions after he was arrested for packing a knife in his luggage at Miami International Airport. Miami-Dade Police arrested Ross Eric Rosenberg of Fort Lauderdale after airport security screeners scanned his bag at Miami International Airport and found a knife

at the bottom of it. The knife was concealed at the bottom of his luggage in several pieces. When authorities asked Rosenberg about the weapon he denied knowing anything about it. Source: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI47158/>

16. *May 09, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* — PennDOT works to keep motorists moving. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is installing more cameras along highways and at intersections throughout Western Pennsylvania as it prepares to operate a 24-hour traffic control center aimed at improving traffic flow. The agency had 15 cameras in the region in 1999 but now operates more than 90. It plans to add more cameras along interstates 70 and 79, the Parkway North, Route 28, Routes 22/30, Route 60 in Beaver and Lawrence Counties and at the intersection of routes 88 and 51 in Overbrook. "We're working toward being able to operate our traffic management center 24/7," said Todd Kravits, PennDOT's District 11 traffic engineer. The extra cameras are part of an international movement to modernize highways, city streets, and mass transit systems by installing high-tech equipment. That includes traffic cameras, red light ticketing cameras, E-ZPass systems, and emissions monitors. "Our overall goal is to take advantage of technologies to improve transportation mobility and safety," said PennDOT spokesperson Rich Kirkpatrick. Source: <http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregions/506708.html>

17. *May 09, WTPO (DC)* — Lax notification after monument blackout. A blackout at the Washington Monument caused a potential flight safety risk in the District overnight on Tuesday, May 8. The lights illuminating the Washington Monument and the emergency beacons that are supposed to warn pilots were off from 7:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday until 1:20 a.m. Wednesday. Pepco says work on a generator several blocks away caused the blackout at the monument. However, no one at Pepco realized the outage, so they never informed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Pepco spokesperson Bob Dobkin says. The FAA says someone called headquarters to report an outage, but the caller was instructed to contact the operations center that warns pilots. Apparently, the person never made the second call. The Washington Monument is a no-fly zone for passenger planes, so theoretically only helicopters were at direct risk. Source: <http://www.wtopnews.com/index.php?nid=596&sid=1136603>

18. *May 09, TheHawaiiChannel* — Plane landing at Kalaeloa hit by laser. A pilot landing at Kalaeloa on Monday night, May 7, reported having a green laser beam shot into his cabin. It is the fourth time this year that pilots have encountered the situation. The green laser beam was shown into the cockpit of a military C-17 cargo plane landing at Kalaeloa. "Lasers can blind people temporarily and I think studies have shown it can cause permanent eye damage so it's a very irresponsible thing to do and it can lead to disastrous consequences," Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson Ian Gregor said. The Coast Guard, which was targeted twice, is offering a reward for information leading to an arrest. Source: <http://www.thehawaiichannel.com/news/13286152/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

19. *May 10, Los Angeles Times* — **Mass poisoning swamps marine animal rehab centers.** The current outbreak of toxic algae off the Los Angeles Harbor is the most virulent on record, scientists say, so overburdening animal rehabilitation centers that some sickened sea lions are temporarily left to fend for themselves on Los Angeles County beaches. California sea lions, dolphins, porpoises, sea otters, pelicans, cormorants and other seabirds pick up the neurotoxin known as domoic acid by eating anchovies, sardines or shellfish that consume the algae that produce it. The accumulation of the toxin in shellfish has prompted California health authorities to issue a public warning not to collect and eat mussels, clams or other shellfish from Southern California waters. They can be contaminated with domoic acid and cause amnesiac shellfish poisoning. Commercial catches sold in stores are closely monitored for the toxin and deemed safe for human consumption. Although the algae, called *Pseudo-nitzschia* have long been in ocean waters in diluted concentrations, a shift occurred in 1998 when dense, virulent blooms were followed by waves of sick marine mammals and seabirds washing ashore in Central and Southern California. Similar episodes have recurred every year since, producing unusual growths of the algae that sometimes produce more of the toxin.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-acid10may10.0.250880.3.full.story?coll=la-home-center>

20. *May 09, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **USDA declares extraordinary emergency in Michigan and New York due to plum pox virus.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns Wednesday, May 9, declared an extraordinary emergency in Michigan and New York and made funds available on a cost-share basis to assist with plum pox virus (PPV) eradication efforts in both states. “If left unchecked, PPV could have devastating effects on our Nation’s fruit growers,” said Johanns. Both the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYDAM) requested federal assistance to help eradicate the disease. Through a cooperative survey, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and NYDAM confirmed PPV in two commercial orchards in Niagara County, NY, in July 2006. In August 2006, MDA detected the disease at a single location in southwestern Michigan. PPV affects a number of *Prunus* species, including peaches, nectarines, apricots and plums. Infection eventually results in severely reduced fruit production and poor fruit quality. There is no cure or treatment for the disease; accordingly, infected trees must be destroyed.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/05/ppoxfund.shtml>

21. *May 09, GateHouse News Service* — **Two birds test positive for West Nile Virus in Massachusetts.** Two dead birds found in Holbrook, MA, have tested positive for the West Nile Virus. Board of Health Member Donna Dewar told the board of selectmen on May 8 that the rainy spring has brought out an early onslaught of mosquitoes and the danger of spreading Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus from their bites to humans and animals. “This year, probably because we had a lot of rain, the ticks and mosquitoes are prevalent already,” she said. The carcasses are sent to a state lab and tested for West Nile only, not EEE. According to a letter from Health Agent Robert Casper, Jr., birds infected with EEE survive the infection, making the monitoring of EEE in dead birds moot. Casper noted that any

community that has two or birds testing positive for West Nile is considered an infected town. Dewar said that last year, the state tested 313 carcasses and 57 of those were positive for West Nile. She also said that 16 horses were infected.

Source: <http://www.townonline.com/holbrook/homepage/x1032228572>

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Food Sector

22. *May 10, Cattle Network* — **Korea to adjust distribution system for U.S. beef.** Seoul, Korea, will establish new policies to help domestic cattle producers cope with an influx of U.S. beef imports to follow an expected approval of a free-trade pact between the two countries. Yonhap News reported that officials from the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service and related ministries met Wednesday, May 9, to discuss the measures, including an enhanced distribution system and tightened labeling policy. Korea's agriculture ministry has indicated it wants to require more restaurants to disclose the country of origin of the beef they serve.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=128568>

23. *May 10, Chicago Tribune* — **Food czar: Inspections flawed, lack resources.** The federal government's new "food czar" conceded during a hearing Wednesday, May 9, that the government lacks the resources to do comprehensive investigations and must repair its flawed food safety inspection. The recent contamination of pet food that led to the deaths of cats and dogs was seen by some skeptical members of Congress as sounding a broader alarm for food consumed by humans. David Acheson, the assistant Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner for food protection, tried to assure lawmakers that the food supply was safe, yet he acknowledged that the FDA has not collected all the evidence of possible food contamination in recent cases and called for more resources to police the rising amounts of imported food. Currently, the FDA inspects only about one percent of the \$60 billion in food imported annually to the U.S. The FDA initially came up with the wrong source for the recent contamination of pet food, raising questions in Congress about the agency's ability to police the food supply, and especially food that is imported.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0705091352may10.1.2113201.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>

24. *May 10, Delta Farm Press* — **Illegal antibiotics in more Chinese catfish.** Lab tests on imported Chinese catfish samples pulled from Mississippi grocery store shelves have found seven additional positive hits for illegal antibiotics. According to a Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce press release, as of May 8, 16 samples had been collected for testing with 11 of those samples testing positive for the banned antibiotics ciprofloxacin and enrofloxacin. A "stop sale order" was issued to the grocery stores carrying these items when laboratory results were confirmed. The latest positive tests came from imported Chinese catfish being sold in the following Mississippi grocery stores: Mac's Meat Market in Starkville, D&T Supermarket in Clarksdale, Save-A-Lot in Gulfport and Clarksdale, Sunflower Food Store in Poplarville, Southern Family Market in Meridian, and Walden's Big Star in Booneville.

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/070510-chinese-catfish/>

25. *May 09, Cattle Network* — **Minnesota officials investigate E. Coli infections linked to ground beef.** Health officials in Minnesota are investigating seven cases of E. coli infection that have been traced to ground beef purchased at Lunds or Byerly's grocery stores in the Twin Cities metro area. Five adults and two children were sickened between April 21 and April 28. Three were hospitalized. The Minnesota Health Department found the illnesses were all caused by E. coli 0157:H7 with the same DNA footprint. All involved ground beef purchased at Byerly's stores in St. Louis Park, Minnetonka and Chanhassen and at Lunds in Edina. The stores bought their ground beef from PM Beef in Windom, MN. Meat from other stores may be involved because Lund Food Holdings, the stores' parent company, uses only one processing plant for its ground beef.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=128456>

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Water Sector

26. *May 10, New York Times* — **Elevated levels of chemical found in Queens, New York, drinking water.** Slightly elevated levels of an industrial chemical have been found in the water supply of as many as 64,000 Queens, NY, residents, prompting officials to recommend the use of bottled water for drinking and cooking until the source is determined. Investigators believe the chemical, tetrachloroethylene, may be seeping into the water from a business, like a dry cleaner or an auto repair shop. The chemical, also called perchloroethylene or perc, is commonly used as dry-cleaning fluid and as a degreasing agent for machines. The city's Department of Health said there is no reason to believe that short-term exposure to slightly elevated levels will cause long-term health damage.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/10/nyregion/10water.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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Public Health Sector

27. *May 09, Reuters* — **Myanmar battles first polio outbreak in seven years.** Polio has infected two children in western Myanmar, the country's first outbreak of the paralyzing disease in seven years, a senior Health Ministry official said on Wednesday, May 9. A vaccination campaign would begin next week in Rakhine State where the children lived in a township near the Bangladesh border, the official said. The outbreak of the Type 1 wild polio virus was the first since Myanmar declared itself polio-free in 2000, the official said.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP273749.htm>

28. *May 09, World Health Organization* — **Rift Valley Fever in Kenya, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania.** From January 13 to May 3, 2007, a total of 264 cases including 109 deaths of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) was reported in Tanzania. Twelve cases were reported in Arusha region, one in Dar es Salaam, 156 in Dodoma, four in Iringa, six in Manyara, 50 in Morogoro, five in Mwanza, five in the Pwani, 24 in Singida, and one in Tanga regions. Of the 264 cases, 154 were laboratory confirmed. From November 30, 2006 to March 12, 2007, a total of 684 cases including 155 deaths of RVF was reported in Kenya. Where all 333 cases were

reported in North Eastern Province, 183 in Rift Valley Province, 141 in the Coast Province, 14 in Central Province, and 13 in the Eastern Province. Of the 684 reported cases, 234 were laboratory confirmed. From December 19, 2006 to February 20, 2007, a total of 114 cases including 51 deaths of RVF were reported in Somalia. Seventy-three cases were reported in Lower Juba region, 26 in Gedo region, seven cases in Hiran region, two cases in Middle Juba region, four cases in Middle Shabelle region, and one case in Lower Shabelle region. Of the 114 reported cases, three were laboratory confirmed.

Source: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007_05_09/en/index.html

29. *May 09, News-Medical.Net (Australia)* — **Project unites U.S., Singapore and Indonesia in the fight against bird flu.** Indonesia the nation worst hit by bird flu is clearly struggling to cope with the deadly virus but has now joined with close neighbor Singapore to control the spread of the H5N1 virus. This week Indonesia has inaugurated an integrated bird flu center as part of renewed efforts to contain a potential human outbreak of the deadly virus; the project was jointly established by the governments of Indonesia, Singapore and the United States. The center is part of a pilot project and is located in Tangerang in Banten province in West Java, the worst-affected region; if it is successful, more centers are planned in other areas of the vast sprawling archipelago. The three-year project also involves a number of international agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Indonesia is contributing 2.25 million dollars to the project, Singapore 1.5 million dollars as well as manpower and expertise, and the United States 900,000 dollars.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=24947>

30. *May 09, All Headline News* — **Shigellosis outbreak in St. Louis infects over 1,600; only nine cases last year.** Young children, mostly under the age of four, have been the target of an outbreak of shigellosis for the past six months in St. Louis, MO. Shigellosis is an infectious disease that isn't fatal, but can cause severe flu-like symptoms. An estimated of 1,648 people statewide have become ill, with most of the patients age four and younger. The disease has also hit parents and teachers, as well as kids and adults to visit day-care centers. All but about 100 were in the region that includes St. Louis and surrounding counties, according to reports from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Before November, only nine cases were reported last year in the St. Louis area.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7007295850>

31. *May 09, News-Medical.Net (Australia)* — **Hydrogel to tackle H5N1.** Researchers at the University of Maryland's A. James Clark School of Engineering have created a "virus sponge" that could filter a patient's blood in a process similar to kidney dialysis, removing the virus from the patient's body. The concept could also be used to make vaccine production more efficient and in a pill to reduce glucose levels in diabetics, among other applications. The virus sponge is based on a technology called molecular imprinting. In molecular imprinting, researchers stamp a molecule's shape into a substance (in this case, a hydrogel — a sponge-like material). When the specific molecule filters through the hydrogel, it fits in the imprint hole and is trapped. The research group of Peter Kofinas, a professor in the Clark School's Fischell Department of Bioengineering, is the first to apply molecular imprinting to the capture of viruses, and to show that this approach is possible using an inexpensive hydrogel. Kofinas' team has so far used this technique on plant viruses and Human Parvovirus B19, which causes "fifth disease" in babies, and has now begun work on the H5N1 influenza virus.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=24941>

32. *May 09, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* — **Crowded hospital partly blamed for C. difficile spread.** Overcrowding may have been partly to blame in the rash of deaths caused by C. difficile at a hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, a coroner's report says. The hospital-borne Clostridium difficile bacteria caused 10 deaths and contributed to eight others between April and November 2006 at Sault Area Hospital. Deputy chief coroner Dr. Bonita Porter's report Wednesday, May 9, suggests the aging building and an overcrowded hospital may have played a role in the outbreak, since both factors limited the hospital staff's ability to isolate patients. Widespread use of antibiotics was also partly blamed.
Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/ottawa/story/2007/05/09/saultstemarie-cdifficile-report.html>

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Government Sector

33. *May 10, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS awards \$445 million to secure nation's critical infrastructure.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Thursday, May 10, final awards totaling \$445 million in grant programs that strengthen the ability of ports, transit, and intercity bus systems to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. The awards are part of the fiscal year 2007 Infrastructure Protection Program, which has provided nearly \$2 billion in grants to strengthen critical infrastructure facilities and transportation systems. "These grants will help to protect our nation's critical infrastructure from threats and hazards that could cause major loss of life, economic impact, and disruption of services," said Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson. "These risk-based investments will increase security for vital assets such as ports, mass transit systems, long-distance bus carriers, chemical facilities, and nuclear power plants." Funding was directly allocated in January to Tier I Transit grants, the Buffer Zone Protection Program and the Trucking Security Program. This announcement outlines the final competitively-bid portions of these grants, which includes Port Security grants, Tier II Transit Security grants, and Intercity Bus Security grants.

For the list of individual grants and further information on the Infrastructure Protection Program: <http://www.dhs.gov>

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1178811654577.shtm

34. *May 10, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-833T: Homeland Security: Management and Programmatic Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland Security (Testimony).** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plays a key role in leading and coordinating—with stakeholders in the federal, state, local, and private sectors—the nation's homeland security efforts. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has conducted numerous reviews of DHS management functions as well as programs including transportation and border security, immigration enforcement and service delivery, and disaster preparation and response. This testimony addresses: (1) why GAO designated DHS's implementation and transformation as a high-risk area, (2) specific management challenges that DHS continues to face, (3) examples of the program challenges that DHS faces, and (4) actions DHS should take to strengthen its implementation and transformation efforts. While this

testimony contains no new recommendations, GAO has made numerous prior recommendations to DHS in reports addressing the issues identified in this statement. DHS generally concurred with these recommendations; however it is not clear to what extent these recommendations are being implemented.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07833thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-833T>

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *May 11, WKBT-TV (WI)* — First responders in Wisconsin try out new training facility .

Wisconsin first responders have a new tool that can help them save lives. A new training facility was unveiled at Volk Field on Wednesday, May 9, that will be available for use all year round. It's called the Regional Emergency All-Climate Training Center, or R.E.A.C.T. It's a huge multi-complex facility to help train emergency responders how to get to victims in a disaster situation and do so in a safe manner. The building is designed to look like a bomb went off inside, and trainees practice moving inside the building in a safe manner to rescue victims. Responders practice stabilizing floors, windows, staircases, and buildings to make sure nothing collapses on them. At the end of the 80 hours of training they apply what they've learned to the giant rubble pile. The training center offers seven different disaster scenarios including a school, office, apartment, motel, bank, tavern and retail store. It also offers bomb and weapons training for local bomb squads.

Source: <http://wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=6494069>

36. *May 09, Federal Computer Week* — DHS launches project portal for first responders. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is offering to use as much as \$8 million on projects that first responders specifically request. Under the Science and Technology Directorate's TechSolutions portal launched last month, fire, police, emergency medical services, and other first responders can submit a question, problem, challenge or technology to address mission capability gaps.

Source: <http://fcw.com/article102671-05-09-07-Web>

37. *May 09, Post Chronicle (NJ)* — ESA supports health early warning system. The European Space Agency (ESA) is supporting a Health Early Warning System (HEWS), designed to allow governments to coordinate actions during emergencies. By identifying and mapping occurrences such as tsunamis, earthquakes, and hurricanes -- as well as medical emergencies -- agencies can relieve suffering more quickly and contain a situation more efficiently, the ESA said. HEWS establishes a satellite communication network to survey and monitor risk indicators. Data is collected, analyzed and then distributed to emergency teams in the field. The ESA said what will make HEWS critical to disaster relief agencies is that it is satellite based. Disasters may disrupt or even destroy local infrastructure, but satellites are immune to such problems. The system will be tested in two exercises. An African test will involve a simulated infectious disease incident, while the European scenario will simulate a terrorist attack.

Source: http://www.postchronicle.com/news/health/article_21279674.shtml

38. *May 09, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — First named storm forms in the Atlantic. Although hurricane season begins June 1, subtropical storm Andrea has already formed in the Atlantic three weeks early. Forecasters are not viewing this storm as a significant threat to the southeast United States, however, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is advising residents living in hurricane prone areas to prepare now for the upcoming hurricane season. FEMA is urging individuals to take on preparedness as their own personal responsibility. "Preparedness is a responsibility that FEMA not only aggressively promotes across state, local and federal government, but at a personal level as well." said FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison. "Individuals have to take responsibility though for their own personal safety and have vital resources like food, water, and medicine during critical periods when local first responders may not be there to offer immediate assistance."

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36145>

39. *May 08, Associated Press* — Mississippi to test hurricane plan. A simulated Category 3 hurricane will bear down on the Mississippi Gulf Coast Wednesday, May 8, and emergency operations officials say the drill could highlight the strengths and weaknesses in the state's hurricane plan. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will coordinate the two-day hurricane preparedness drill involving hundreds of emergency officials and support personnel from every major state agency, said MEMA Director Mike Womack. MEMA officials will track and evaluate a mock storm that will have an intensity similar to Hurricane Ivan, a Category 3 hurricane that pounded Alabama and the Florida Panhandle in 2004. Womack said some 300 to 500 people will participate in the exercise, which will occur largely behind the scenes. There won't be any major movement of equipment, but the drill will give officials the opportunity to test lines of communication between the state and local emergency operations centers.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/218/story/48681.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

40. *May 10, SC Magazine* — Cisco discloses IOS FTP Server flaws. Cisco revealed multiple vulnerabilities in its IOS FTP Server this week. The flaws can result in DoS attacks or malicious users gaining unauthorized privileges. Cisco products running IOS and configured for FTP server functionality are affected by the flaw, according to a company security advisory released Wednesday, May 9. Successful exploitation can allow remote users access to the IOS device's file system, which can lead to DoS attacks, according to Cisco, which advised network administrators to disable the FTP server feature as a workaround. The vulnerabilities exist in IOS versions 11 and 12, according to Cisco.

Cisco Security Advisory: http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_security_advisory09186a00808399d0.shtml

Source: <http://scmagazine.com/us/news/article/656879/cisco-discloses-ftp-server-flaws/>

41. *May 10, CRN* — McAfee, Symantec exterminate ActiveX bugs. Two ActiveX vulnerabilities were reported this week, one in McAfee Security Center, a management interface for its antivirus and antispam software, and the other in Symantec's Norton Antivirus product. The

"McSubMgr.DLL" ActiveX control in McAfee Security Center contains a flaw that could enable an attacker to corrupt memory by sending an excessive amount of data, opening the door to remote code execution, Symantec said Wednesday, May 9. McAfee said the flaw affects products that are managed through Security Center, including Total Protection 2007, VirusScan 8.x, 9.x, 10.x, and VirusScan Plus 2007. McAfee said it fixed the vulnerability in March with Security Center updates 7.2.147 and 6.0.25, which many of its customers received automatically. Symantec this week acknowledged a buffer overflow vulnerability in the ActiveX control that ships with its popular Norton Antivirus software. Symantec said it has released an update for Norton that fixes the flaw and has made it available to customers through its LiveUpdate service.

McAfee Security Bulletin: McAfee SecurityCenter 7.2.147 or higher fixes vulnerability:

<http://ts.mcafeehelp.com/faq3.asp?docid=419189>

Symantec COM object security bypass:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/security/Content/2007.05.09.html>

Source: <http://www.crn.com/security/199500662>

42. *May 10, InformationWeek* — Study: 45 percent of workers steal data when changing jobs.

Nearly half of professionals from across a wide range of industries admit they have taken data with them — everything from documents and lists to sales proposals and contracts — when they've changed jobs. According to the international Information Security Survey, users polled said they don't see their companies' IT security practices as obstacles to accessing data from outside company walls or to walking out the door with it in their bag or thumb drive. They're also aware that if they're capable of taking critical information home with them, others are, too. The survey showed that 39 percent of workers have printed a document out rather than forward it on electronically to try to minimize the number of paths it could take out of the building. The study, which was commissioned by enterprise rights management company Liquid Machines, was conducted by online survey services provider Zoomerang. More than 900 professionals, with 84 percent in the United States, were polled over a one-month period earlier this year.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=199500629>

43. *May 09, Billings Gazette (WY)* — Severed cable causing Verizon outage. Wireless service for Verizon customers in the Billings area and south into Cody and Powell, WY, was interrupted Wednesday morning, May 9, when contractors at the rail yard in Livingston apparently drilled through a fiber optic cable. The cable contained fiber connections for Sprint and for 360 Networks in Butte. Verizon spokesperson Bob Kelley in Denver said that wireless companies like his use land lines to send calls from cell towers back to routing switches. So, wireless service is tied into traditional telecommunications cable networks. "It's affecting a total of nine of our cell sites in Billings, Cody and Powell," he said.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/05/09/news/stat e/42-verizon.txt>

44. *May 09, Security Focus* — Experts scramble to quash IPv6 flaw. A flawed feature that could amplify denial-of-service attacks on next-generation networks has vendors and engineers rushing to eliminate the potential security issue. This week, experts sent two drafts to the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)—the technical standards-setting body for the Internet—proposing different ways of fixing a problem in the way that Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) allows the source of network data to determine its path through the network. The drafts recommend that the IPv6 feature should either be eliminated or, at the very least,

disabled by default. The specification, known as the Type 0 Routing Header (RH0), allows computers to tell IPv6 routers to send data by a specific route. Originally envisioned as a way to let mobile users to retain a single IP for their devices, the feature has significant security implications. During a presentation at the CanSecWest conference on April 18, researchers Philippe Biondi and Arnaud Ebalard pointed out that RH0 support allows attackers to amplify denial-of-service attacks on IPv6 infrastructure by a factor of at least 80.

IETF: <http://www.ietf.org/>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/11463>

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

45. *May 09, The Gazette (MD)* — Maryland day-laborer center fire ruled a hate crime. An early morning fire set Friday, May 4, at Montgomery County's new day-laborer center near Shady Grove Road in Derwood is being investigated as a hate crime, county police say. While damage to the double-wide trailers on Crabbs Branch Way was minimal and the center opened within a few hours, the incident has re-ignited the immigration debate as the center heads toward a status report mandated by the Montgomery County Planning Board. Friday's fire was the first attack against the county's three day-laborer centers, and a stream of threatening e-mails has increased recently, said Gustavo Torres, executive director of Casa of Maryland, the immigrant advocacy group that manages the Derwood day-laborer center with \$115,000 in county funding. Police have stopped by the center at least once a day since it opened April 16, and officers from every police district have been encouraged to fill out paperwork there, said Capt. James A. Fenner Jr., director of county police's community services division. Police also refuel their cruisers next door.

Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/050907/olnnew210300_32324.sh tml

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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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