



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 May 2007

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

- The Los Angeles Times reports a jumbo jet barreling down a runway at Los Angeles International Airport came as close as 50 feet to a turboprop on a nearby taxiway, in the latest such incident to point up safety concerns with the airfield's layout. (See item [11](#))
- President Bush signed a directive, called National Security Presidential Directive 51 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 20, outlining a strategy for preparing the federal government to continue running during a national emergency such as a terrorist attack or a natural disaster. (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](#)

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

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

Energy Sector

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

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

1. *May 11, Associated Press* — **KeySpan to pay \$125,000 over security breach at Massachusetts LNG plant.** KeySpan Corp. has agreed to pay \$125,000 for safety violations at a liquefied natural gas storage plant in Lynn, MA, where two people cut through security fences and climbed atop a storage tank last summer. State regulators initially imposed a \$250,000 fine, which KeySpan appealed. The fine was reduced after KeySpan showed that it had tightened security, according to the state's Department of Public Utilities. "We've made significant upgrades to monitoring and other procedures and are in regular contact with public safety

officials," company spokesperson Carmen Fields said. A state investigation found the security lapses allowed the break-in to go undetected for five days after it occurred. The Lynn incident prompted the state to review security at all 20 state LNG plants over which Massachusetts has jurisdiction. Inspectors found the plants were substantially in compliance with state and federal safety and security regulations.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=1000763>

2. *May 11, Southwest Nebraska News* — **NPPD: Storm reconstruction complete.** At 4:31 p.m. CDT Thursday, May 10, the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) placed into service the last of 37 transmission line segments damaged or destroyed by the late December ice storm. This accomplishment comes six weeks ahead of the original reconstruction schedule. To strengthen electric grid reliability and reduce the risk of such significant damage in the future, NPPD replaced its two pole structures with five pole "storm structures" every six to eight miles. NPPD also replaced some pole structures with custom-made laminated poles, designed to bend, but not break. In addition, the telecommunication lines that NPPD lost in several areas due to the initial storm were buried to eliminate future outages. Several of NPPD's hired contractor groups, who work on high-voltage transmission line projects across the United States, commented they had never seen one storm cause one utility such extensive transmission system damage. Utility personnel also said it was the worst storm in public power's history. At the height of the storm, NPPD and its public power utility wholesale customers lost service to more than 40,000 customers, primarily in Central Nebraska. While costs continue to be finalized, total expenses for restoration and reconstruction currently stand at \$123.7 million.

Source: http://www.swnebr.net/newspaper/cgi-bin/articles/articlearch_iver.pl?160645

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

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *May 11, WJZ (MD)* — **High school evacuated after chemical mix.** A teacher was taken Friday, May 11, to a hospital, suffering from dizziness, and authorities evacuated Dulaney High School in Cockeysville, MD, after a report that a mixture of a gas and alcohol affected a portion of the school. At least 1,800 students and staff were evacuated. A plastic container with a strange mixture was found in the second floor men's room adjacent to the chemistry lab. Firefighters found the unknown liquid in a trash can exuding an odor they could not immediately identify. The ill teacher was taken to Greater Baltimore Medical Center. No other injuries were reported.

Source: http://wjz.com/topstories/local_story_131083018.html

4. *May 10, News-Gazette (IL)* — **Stuck valve causes ammonia leak.** Valves frozen open on an anhydrous ammonia tank in a farm field west of town created a cloud over a portion of southwest Champaign, IL, Thursday morning, May 10. The cloud occurred near the construction site of the Interstate 57 interchange with Curtis Road. Champaign police and county sheriff's deputies blocked traffic in the area as a precaution, and occupants of the church were advised to stay inside until the cloud dissipated. The leak involved a tank that was being used to apply anhydrous ammonia as fertilizer to fields, but the blade valves became stuck open.

Source: http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2007/05/10/stuck_valv

[e causes ammonia leak in southwest champaign](#)

5. *May 10, Associated Press* — **Tanker truck driver killed in fiery interstate crash.** A gasoline tanker truck driver was killed Thursday, May 10, in a fiery accident on Interstate 195 in Monmouth County, NJ. State police said the westbound tanker truck was struck by a car that had collided with a dump truck in the eastbound lanes and then crossed over the median. Steven A. Garratano Jr., 22, and his passenger, Nicole Cox, 20, were injured in the crash. Both were taken to Jersey Shore Regional Medical Center in Neptune. The truck driver, whose name was not released pending notification of family, was crossing the Allaire Road overpass at the time of the crash and apparently tried to avoid the car. However, the truck — which was carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline — struck a guard rail and rolled over at least once before it burst into flames, trapping the driver inside. The cause of the initial crash remained under investigation. Traffic was snarled in the area for several hours Thursday night, as the highway was closed in both directions and traffic was being detoured onto nearby roads.

Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/newjersey/story/7478_180p-7373067c.html

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *May 14, Finextra (UK)* — **E-security firm calls for banks to get .safe domain name.** The introduction of a new .safe domain name that can only be registered by banks and other financial services firms would help protect customers from bogus phishing sites, says digital security firm F-Secure. F-Secure has called on Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) — the organization responsible for the global coordination of the Web's system of unique identifiers — to introduce the .safe domain. Mikko Hyppönen of F-Secure says customers have no good way of automatically being able to tell whether or not a bank Website belongs to the bank. He says the introduction of a .safe domain would provide online customers the reassurance they need that banking via the Internet is safe. The availability of a .safe or .sure domain would also enable security providers to create better software and products, he says. "If .safe or .sure is locked down, then security companies would have a much better set of assumptions to start with when filtering e-mail and Web traffic," adds Hyppönen. Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16915>

7. *May 11, Finextra (UK)* — **FSA fines BNP Paribas \$472,000 for anti-fraud failures.** French investment bank BNP Paribas has been fined by the UK's Financial Services Authority (FSA) for systems and control failures at its London-based private banking unit that allowed a senior manager to steal from client accounts. The employee, who worked at BNP Paribas Private Bank, managed to transfer the cash haul out of client accounts in 13 separate fraudulent transactions between February 2002 and March 2005 using forged signatures and instructions and by falsifying change of address documents. During its investigation, the FSA found that a

flaw in the bank's IT system allowed the senior employee to by-pass normal middle office processes, which meant that basic authorization and signatory checks were not carried out on internal cash transfers between different customer accounts. Furthermore, BNPP Private Bank did not have an effective review process for transactions over \$13,000 from clients' accounts. The regulator also found that the bank's procedures were not clear about the role of senior management in checking significant transfers prior to payment.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16914>

8. *May 10, Channel Register (UK)* — **Credit card fraud fears cloud Operation Ore.** Operation Ore, the UK's biggest ever child pornography investigation, involved the prosecution of 2,000 suspects among 7,000 Brits whose credit cards were used to pay for access to images of child abuse via a U.S.-based portal run by Landslide Inc. Nearly half a million people worldwide paid to access the depraved material. Lawyers and computer security experts suspect that many of those arrested may have been victims of credit card fraud. The police admit the possibility that third parties used fraudulently obtained credit card details to pay for child porn. U.S. authorities raiding Landslide found a list of credit card purchases on its servers. They passed over the details of UK suspects to British police, prompting the launch of Operation Ore in May 2002. Experts argue that the police failed to carry out proper checks designed to determine whether the suspects might have been victims of fraud. "The police just didn't look for and didn't understand the evidence of wholesale card fraud," Ross Anderson of Cambridge University told the BBC. "And as a result, hundreds of people... have been put through a terrible mill with threats of prosecution for child pornography."

Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2007/05/10/ore_credit_card_fraud/

9. *May 10, InformationWeek* — **Cyberthieves getting good at connecting the dots, expert reports.** Recent reports indicate that the cyberthieves who raided the IT systems of T.J. Maxx parent company TJX for customer data likely first gained entry to the systems by plucking poorly protected wireless data out of the air. The resulting scenario shows a rapidly maturing cybercriminal element that's grown patient enough to quietly defeat IT security obstacles one at a time in order to avoid detection. Even more troubling, the theft of TJX customer data demonstrates the danger of focusing security efforts more on controlling admission into IT environments and less on managing users once they've been granted access. Today's more sophisticated cyberthieves understand the value of scoring pieces of information that lead to the bigger picture. "They aren't just focused on the information, such as customer information stored on a stolen laptop," says Lloyd Hession of BT Radianz. This latest twist in the TJX case sheds some light on the early stages of criminal activity that later lead to identity theft. It can begin as simply as an attempt to poach wireless data out of the air using a tactic known as "wardriving," which requires only a laptop, a telescope antenna, and an 802.11 wireless LAN adapter.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/management/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=OB4M4PI1YWGDS4QSNDLOSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=199500851&articleID=199500851>

10. *May 10, CNET News* — **Cybercrooks add QuickTime, WinZip flaws to arsenal.** Cybercrooks are trying to breach PCs through previously unexploited security holes in QuickTime and WinZip, security firm Symantec warned on Thursday, May 10. The attacks involve malicious Websites rigged with multiple exploits, Symantec said. The sites appear to be

that of a trusted financial institution, but instead attempt to silently install keystroke–logging software, according to Symantec. Links to the sites are likely advertised in spam, it said. Symantec discovered the attacks when one of the PCs that it uses as bait was breached earlier this week. "This compromise was especially interesting, because the site made use of a QuickTime vulnerability discovered in January 2007 and a WinZip vulnerability discovered in November 2006," Symantec said. "Before our analysis, it was not known that these issues were being exploited in the wild." In addition to the QuickTime and WinZip flaws, the miscreants tried to breach the Symantec system via a pair of holes in Microsoft software, Symantec said. Fixes for all the vulnerabilities are available.

Source: http://news.com.com/Cybercrooks+add+QuickTime%2C+WinZip+flaw+s+to+arsenal/2100-1002_3-6182981.html?tag=cd.top

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *May 12, Los Angeles Times* — FAA probes new close call at LAX. A jumbo jet barreling down a runway at up to 100 mph at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) came as close as 50 feet to a turboprop on a nearby taxiway, officials said, in the latest such incident to point up safety concerns with the airfield's layout. Virgin Atlantic Airways Flight 23 sped by while SkyWest Airlines Flight 1006 breached a safety zone that separates the outer runway on the airport's north side from a taxiway leading toward the terminals. The incident on Sunday, May 6, occurred after a SkyWest pilot made a wrong turn during the evening rush hour, officials said Friday, May 11. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) preliminarily determined that the two arriving aircraft may have come within 50 feet of each other, but emphasized that it was still investigating the incident. However, a computer–assisted reconstruction of the incident developed by airport officials shows the larger jet's wing may have come as close as 21 feet to the smaller aircraft. This incident was the third such close call between aircraft on the ground at LAX this year, and led officials to reiterate their position that the north airfield must be reconfigured to prevent close calls between aircraft.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-runway12may12.0,3651602.story?coll=la-home-center>

12. *May 12, Associated Press* — Europe, U.S. plan to share travel data. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff met with his European counterparts Saturday, May 12, to work out the details of a new agreement to share airline passenger data for terrorism investigations. Chertoff also discussed changes to the U.S. visa–waiver program during the meeting with security officials from Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Poland. A deal on the airline data must be reached by July to avoid problems for both airlines and U.S.–bound passengers. European governments are worried about protecting their strict privacy laws, a legacy of the continent's history with totalitarian and authoritarian regimes. The two sides disagree on how long U.S. authorities can use data, when it should be destroyed and which agencies should have access to the information. The United States also wants the authority to pull data directly from airline computers, but European countries insist airlines must transmit the information.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-05-12-sharing_N.htm

13. *May 12, CNN* — **Wildfire smoke closes two Interstates in Florida.** Dense smoke generated by huge wildfires burning in northern Florida and southern Georgia closed parts of two major Interstate highways. Interstate 75 remained closed from Valdosta, GA, south to Lake City, FL, said Col. Chris Knight, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. Interstate 10 was closed from Sanderson, FL, eastward to Live Oak. The Florida Highway Patrol intermittently reopened sections Saturday afternoon, May 12, to relieve traffic snarls as some of the smoke cleared. However, the roads remained officially closed. Traffic was being diverted onto alternate routes where visibility was better. The fires have scorched at least 212,000 acres, according to the joint information center, a coalition of state and federal agencies.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/05/12/wildfires/index.html>
14. *May 11, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-729: Aviation Security: Foreign Airport Assessments and Air Carrier Inspections Help Enhance Security, but Oversight of These Efforts Can Be Strengthened (Report).** The Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) efforts to evaluate the security of foreign airports and air carriers that service the United States are of great importance, particularly considering that flights bound for the United States from foreign countries continue to be targets of coordinated terrorist activity, as demonstrated by the alleged August 2006 liquid explosives terrorist plot. For this review, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluated the results of foreign airport and air carrier evaluations; actions taken and assistance provided by TSA when security deficiencies were identified; TSA's oversight of its foreign airport and air carrier evaluation programs; and TSA's efforts to address challenges in conducting foreign airport and air carrier evaluations. To conduct this work, GAO reviewed foreign airport and air carrier evaluation results and interviewed TSA officials, foreign aviation security officials, and air carrier representatives. In an April 2007 report that contained sensitive information, GAO recommended, and the Department of Homeland Security agreed, that TSA develop controls for tracking and documenting information and establish outcome-based performance measures to strengthen oversight of its foreign airport and air carrier evaluation programs.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07729high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-729>
15. *May 11, Associated Press* — **FBI arrests airline passenger for lunging at stewardess.** Authorities arrested a Northwest Airlines passenger after he lunged at a flight attendant, FBI officials said Thursday, May 10. The FBI said 49-year-old Rafael Alberto Holazo of Oklahoma City began swearing and harassing other passengers three hours into a Wednesday flight from Detroit to Nagoya, Japan. When a flight attendant showed him a violation card and asked that he return to his seat, Holazo grew agitated and lunged at the attendant, FBI Special Agent Toni Fogle said in a prepared statement. After Holazo allegedly grabbed the attendant's shoulder, two other passengers pulled him off. The flight was diverted to the Anchorage international airport, where airport police and FBI agents arrested him.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-05-11-flight-dis-turbance_N.htm
16. *May 11, USA TODAY* — **European discount airlines expand in U.S.** Trans-Atlantic airfares are sky-high for summer travel, but a number of low-fare, Europe-based carriers could offer some relief for intrepid U.S. travelers trying to cut costs. A handful of airlines that, for the most part, have flown under the radar of Americans' consciousness, are revving up service on this side of the Atlantic. The upside: Their fares generally are lower. They offer meals and

entertainment (though sometimes for a fee). Most have premium-class compartments, which can offer even greater savings over major carriers. The downside: They come with a lot of caveats. Because these airlines target European leisure travelers, they fly to a limited number of U.S. cities (most notably Orlando, Las Vegas, and New York). Some flights are seasonal (usually May through October), and frequency varies. Because of their limited capacity and spotty brand identity, the low-fare carriers are likely to appeal mostly to what aviation consultant Michael Boyd calls the "backpack lunatic fringe."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-05-10-budget-european-airlines_N.htm

17. *May 11, Baltimore Sun* — Chesapeake Bay Bridge collision kills three. Three people were killed and five others injured Thursday, May 10, as seven vehicles collided on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Bridge — the deadliest accident there in more than a decade and one of the worst in its history. The pileup occurred just after 4 p.m. EDT on the newer, three-lane span after a trailer being towed by a sport utility vehicle broke loose, and other drivers swerved to avoid impacts. Also involved were two pickup trucks, a flatbed truck, tractor-trailer tanker rig, work van and a car. At a news conference Thursday night, Marcus L. Brown, chief of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, said the trailer careened into the path of westbound traffic at a bend about a mile from the western end. Sarah K. Harrison, spokesperson for the Queen Anne's County emergency operations department, said more than 50 police officers and emergency and highway workers were at the scene in the hours after the crash, sorting out the mess and directing cars in the miles-long, bumper-to-bumper standstill.

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/traffic/bal-md.crash11may11_0.1847710.story?coll=bal-home-headlines

18. *May 10, Reuters* — Delta developing LAX as a future hub. Delta Air Lines said Wednesday, May 9, it will add 21 new daily flights at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which it plans to turn into a future hub for service to Asia and Latin America. With the expansion, which begins July 1, Delta will have up to 100 daily departures to 48 cities from LAX. The new flights will be served by ExpressJet's 50-passenger planes, which will be flying as a Delta Connection carrier. ExpressJet said it will be responsible for pricing and revenue management on the flights and maintenance of the planes. The arrangement limits Delta's risks on the new routes.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-05-10-delta-lax-hub_N.htm

19. *May 09, KDKA (PA)* — Security breach probed at Pittsburgh airport. The Transportation Safety Administration (TSA), Allegheny County Police, and Airport Operations are trying to figure out how a man scaled a fence at the Pittsburgh International Airport and enter a secured area without getting caught. KDKA Investigator Marty Griffin reports it happened on April 24 in the cargo area. The police report indicates the incident happened at 1:36 a.m. EDT. The TSA was called immediately; however, the report states county police were called at 1:50 a.m. But that 14-minute gap may have allowed the suspect to disappear in the darkness less than 100 yards from the runway. County police searched the area for five hours that morning but found no one. If disciplinary action happens, it will be taken against two employees of the operations division at the airport for not contacting county police immediately. Regarding the investigation, sources say they are looking at a possible suspect.

Source: http://kdk.com/topstories/local_story_129212946.html

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *May 13, Associated Press* — **Size and shape influence new postal rates.** Beginning Monday, May 14, the U.S. Postal Service will be charging by the shape of the mail. The new regulations mean larger envelopes and packages will automatically cost more than smaller mail. Currently, postage is determined by weight, unless it's an especially large or odd-shaped package that warrants special handling. And, there are new thickness restrictions. For first-class, letter envelopes, the allowed thickness is a quarter inch. If over a quarter inch, there will be more costly large envelope or parcel rates. Postal Service spokesperson Dave Partenheimer said the new rates take shape into account because it requires more effort to process a larger piece of mail. Details of the new rates are available at <http://www.usps.com> or (800) 275-8777. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/05/13/mail.shape.ap/index.html>

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

Agriculture Sector

21. *May 11, Ag Professional* — **ARS discovers new possible biological control for whiteflies.** An unusually durable fungus that was first spotted on tiny insects feeding on eggplants in Texas may become a new biological control for the widespread and costly agricultural pests known as whiteflies. The silverleaf whitefly, *Bemisia argentifolii* (previously known as *B. tabaci* biotype B), may be small in stature, but it can be deadly as a pest — sucking and feeding on the juices of a myriad of host plants. Heavy feeding can give plants under attack a yellow, mottled look and eventually kill them. Whiteflies cause major crop losses, both directly by feeding and indirectly by transmitting plant viruses. Pesticides have been ineffective for controlling whiteflies because of a built-in natural resistance, the need for repeated applications and the potential hazard some insecticides may pose to the environment, animal life or humans. Isolated by Cabanillas in 2001, the new fungal species has been named *Isaria propawskii*. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, it has been shown to kill both larval and adult stages of silverleaf whitefly. In fact, since 2001, it has periodically wiped out whiteflies at the ARS insect-rearing facilities in Weslaco. Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=46786

22. *May 11, StopSoybeanRust* — **Soybean rust found on kudzu in Louisiana; more expected.** The first Asian soybean rust of 2007 for Louisiana has been confirmed in a kudzu patch in New Iberia Parish, in south-central Louisiana. The find this early and in a place that could be a source of rust for the Midwest is of concern, officials said. Clayton A. Hollier of Louisiana State University said in an advisory Friday, May 11, that his associate, Rose Berggren, found the rust on May 8 in a patch that was infected last year. The find joins 20 other reports of soybean rust in four other states so far this year. "This observation is 53 days ahead of last year's first find," in Louisiana, Hollier said, "which brings up many questions about the initial inoculum source and the overall implications for the soybean crop in Louisiana and the rest of

the mid–section of the country."

USDA alert: <http://www.sbrusa.net/>

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=1034>

23. *May 11, Cumberland Times–News (WV)* — **Three more deer test positive for CWD in Hampshire County, West Virginia.** Three more free–ranging white–tailed deer in Hampshire County, WV, have tested positive for chronic wasting disease, bringing the total of chronic wasting disease (CWD)–positive deer found in that county to 13, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) announced Friday, May 11. These most recent samples were collected from 101 adult deer taken in March and April by DNR personnel as part of an ongoing and intensive CWD surveillance effort. The three CWD–positive deer were collected within the CWD Containment Area located north of U.S. Route 50 in Hampshire County. The laboratory testing was conducted by the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine. CWD was first confirmed in Hampshire County in September 2005. “Our initial CWD surveillance data suggests the disease is located within a relatively small geographic area located near Slanesville,” said DNR Director Frank Jezioro. “This is encouraging news. Based upon these findings, we have implemented appropriate management actions designed to control the spread of this disease, prevent further introduction of the disease and possibly eliminate the disease from the state,” Jezioro added.

Source: http://www.times–news.com/local/local_story_132093832.html

24. *May 10, American–Statesman (TX)* — **Texas county dealing with rash of rabies cases.** Burnet County, TX, residents are concerned about rabies, says Dr. Dan McBride of the Burnet Vet Clinic. After confirming four cases in 2005 and 14 last year, the Hill Country county that adjoins Travis on the northwest already has 11 confirmed cases in 2007, most of them in skunks. "We're way ahead of schedule," said McBride, who serves as the county's animal health officer. "There's a high varmint population right now. They run in cycles, and we're at an all–time high." McBride and Burnet County Health Authority Dr. Juliette Madrigal are cautioning not only county residents but all Central Texas residents to vaccinate their pets and some domestic livestock against rabies and to be careful about approaching wild or feral animals. In Harris County, 26 rabies cases have been reported this year, all of them in bats. Nearby Wharton County has 30 confirmed cases, 28 of them in skunks. Travis County has seen 105 cases the past two years, 97 of them in bats. A more recent rabies problem has developed in feral cats, which have proved impossible to vaccinate.

Source: <http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/05/10/10rabies.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

25. *May 10, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Minnesota firm recalls beef trim due to possible E.Coli O157:H7 contamination.** PM Beef Holdings, a Windom, MN, establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 117,500 pounds of beef trim products used to make ground beef, due to possible contamination with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service announced Thursday, May 10. The trim was produced on March 27, 2007 and was shipped to distributors and retail outlets in Arizona,

Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin. Each box on recall bears the establishment number “Est. 683” as well as a net weight declaration. The possible contamination was discovered by the Minnesota Department of Health as part of an illness investigation.

Products subject to recall: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Recall_022_2007_Release.pdf

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Recall_022_2007_Release.pdf

- 26. *May 10, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture warns consumers of tainted raw milk.**** Consumers who have purchased raw milk from Misty Meadow Farm in Bernville, Berks County, PA, any time after April 16, 2007, should discard it immediately due to the risk of *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff said Thursday, May 10. "During routine inspection, a preliminary test showed the presence of *Listeria* bacteria in some of the raw milk samples taken from the Misty Mountain dairy," said Wolff. "If consumers have raw milk from this farm, they should discard it immediately." There have been no illnesses reported because of the potential contamination. Raw milk is milk that has not been pasteurized or homogenized. The Department of Agriculture has suspended sales of raw milk at the dairy and is ensuring that corrective action is taken. Samples were taken from the farm during routine testing on May 7, and tested positive for *Listeria* on May 10.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/mistymeadow05_07.html

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

Water Sector

- 27. *May 11, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-276: Defense Health Care: Activities Related to Past Drinking Water Contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (Report).**** In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were discovered in some of the water systems serving housing areas on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. In 1999, the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) began a study to examine whether individuals who were exposed in utero to the contaminated drinking water are more likely to have developed certain childhood cancers or birth defects. ATSDR has projected a December 2007 completion date for the study. In this report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) describes (1) efforts to identify and address the past contamination, (2) activities resulting from concerns about possible adverse health effects and government actions related to the past contamination, and (3) the design of the current ATSDR study, including the study's population, time frame, selected health effects, and the reasonableness of the projected completion date. GAO reviewed documents, interviewed officials and former residents, and contracted with the National Academy of Sciences to convene an expert panel to assess the design of the current ATSDR study. Members of the expert panel that the National Academy of Sciences convened generally agreed that many parameters of ATSDR's current study are appropriate.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07276high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-276>

- 28. *May 10, Associated Press* — **Florida strengthens water restrictions.**** South Florida residents and golf courses were placed under the region's most severe water restrictions on record

Thursday, May 10, as officials try to cut use by up to 45 percent to offset unprecedented drought conditions. "The seriousness of this drought and the public's role in cutting back cannot be overstated," said Carol Wehle, executive director of the South Florida Water Management District. The new rules mean outside watering will be cut to once a week in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Residents in Martin and St. Lucie counties will be allowed to water outside plants and lawns only twice a week. Pumping from four coastal wells in Lantana, Lake Worth, Hallandale and Dania Beach will be cut back or eliminated as officials try to stave off saltwater intrusion that could taint the freshwater sources. More than 90 other wells are also in jeopardy and are being monitored. "If we don't shut them down and the salt gets in the wells, they won't recover for decades," said district spokesperson Julie Huber. The state has been plagued with some of the worst drought conditions on record.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/05/10/ap3708700.html>

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

Public Health Sector

29. *May 11, BBC* — Neonatal unit closed by infection in United Kingdom. Three babies are seriously ill after picking up an infection at the Royal Maternity Hospital in Belfast, United Kingdom. The neonatal unit at the hospital has been temporarily closed. The hospital said the multi-resistant enterobacter infection can affect vulnerable babies being treated in special care units. Strong antibiotics are being used to treat the babies, who have been isolated and are being closely monitored by specially trained nurses.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/6645479.stm

30. *May 10, Government Health IT* — FBI nets 38 in Medicare anti-fraud sweep. The FBI arrested 24 people Tuesday, May 8, in the first wave of a new strike force created to go after people and health care companies that fraudulently bill Medicare. The arrests in South Florida were the result of data sifting by the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, put together in March to pursue organizations the FBI said had collectively billed the Medicare program \$142 million. The arrests bring to 38 the number of people arrested in the sweep so far. The strike force identified the cases via real-time analysis of Medicare billing and claims data, according to the FBI. The arrested are associated with medical-equipment supply companies that tried to defraud Medicare based on fraudulent prescriptions, the FBI said.

Source: <http://www.govhealthit.com/article102680-05-10-07-Web>

31. *May 09, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research* — Scientists identify prion's infectious secret. Researchers have known for decades that certain neurodegenerative diseases, such as mad cow disease or its human equivalent, Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease, result from a kind of infectious protein called a prion. Remarkably, in recent years researchers also have discovered non-pathogenic prions that play beneficial roles in biology, and prions even may act as essential elements in learning and memory. But although prions have received a great deal of scrutiny, scientists still don't understand many of the most fundamental mechanisms of how prions form, replicate and cross from one species to another. Now, through studying non-toxic yeast prions, scientists at Whitehead Institute have discovered small but critical regions within prions that determine much of their behavior. "We've seen just one small part of this prion inducing proteins to fold," says Whitehead Member Susan Lindquist. "This is an entirely new

concept...These findings provide a new framework for us to begin exploring properties of prion biology that, up until now, have proven difficult to investigate," says Whitehead Member and MIT biology professor Susan Lindquist, senior author on the paper, which appeared in the May 9 online issue of Nature.

Source: http://www.wi.mit.edu/news/archives/2007/sl_0509.html

- 32. *May 08, Center for Advancement of Health (Washington, DC)* — Vaccination laws for health care workers vary widely by state.** A new study shows wide state-to-state variations in laws regulating vaccinations for health care workers and patients, setting the stage for future research to determine whether more laws could serve as effective tools to combat infectious diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study does not offer conclusions as to whether more state laws would mean lead to better protection for the population. The authors write that school entry laws nationwide have succeeded in maintaining high vaccination levels among children, thus reducing the incidence of diseases that vaccines can prevent. State laws geared toward immunization of other population segments are inconsistent. There are no federal immunization laws. The next step would be to conduct research that “really will provide evidence that laws are an effective tool for ensuring coverage of vaccines for health care workers and others,” said Megan Lindley, lead author of the study. The study, which appears in the June issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, says it is the first to review laws mandating immunization of health care workers and patients in a variety of settings in all 50 states and Washington, DC.

Source: <http://www.hbns.org/getDocument.cfm?documentID=1501>

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

Government Sector

- 33. *May 10, Government Executive* — Bush orders agencies to develop emergency operations plans.** President Bush signed a directive Wednesday, May 9, outlining a strategy for preparing the federal government to continue running during a national emergency such as a terrorist attack or a natural disaster. In the order — called National Security Presidential Directive 51 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 20 — Bush designated the assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism as the national continuity coordinator. Frances Townsend currently holds that position. Bush also ordered the development of a national continuity plan within 90 days. The new directive requires that continuity plans be incorporated into the daily operations of all federal agencies and emphasis be placed on geographic dispersion of agency leadership, staff and infrastructure to keep key government services operating during an emergency. Under the order, the director of the Office of Management and Budget is required to conduct an annual assessment of agency continuity funding requests and performance data to monitor progress in the implementation of the plan.

Directive: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/print/200705_09-12.html

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36884&dcn=to_daysnews

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

Emergency Services Sector

34. *May 11, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disaster for Connecticut.** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Friday, May 11, that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Connecticut to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding during the period of April 15–27, 2007. FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding 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 and flooding in the counties of Fairfield and Litchfield.
Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36200>
35. *May 11, EMS Responder* — **President signs trauma care bill into law.** A bill to upgrade the nation's trauma centers became law on Friday, May 4, when President George W. Bush signed into law the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–23). The Trauma Care Systems Act reauthorizes funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Trauma–EMS Program through fiscal year 2012 to all 50 states. This legislation is intended to help more local communities establish statewide and regional trauma systems. The bill will also create a new competitive grant program for states that have already begun the process of establishing a trauma care system using national standards.
Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection= 1&id=5344>
36. *May 10, Associated Press* — **Pentagon rejects bid to let governors direct military in emergencies.** Defense Secretary Robert Gates has rejected a proposal to let governors command active duty troops responding to disasters, officials said Wednesday, May 9, though the Pentagon will grant National Guard leaders more authority to coordinate with other military and homeland security agencies. Gates told Congress Wednesday he had approved 20 of the 23 changes recommended recently by an independent commission in an effort to improve Guard funding, equipment and coordination in emergencies. His comments came just days after tornadoes in Kansas highlighted deficiencies with Guard equipment and gaps in planning that were exposed by the Gulf hurricanes more than 18 months ago. The governors have authority over their own National Guard troops during state disasters, but the U.S. military takes command if the Guard is federalized by the president, such as in major crises such as the 9/11 attacks. The governors cannot command regular, active-duty forces. Gates also rejected a proposal that would require that at all times either the commander or deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command be a Guard or Reserve officer, and a change that would elevate the Guard to a joint military command.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0507/051007ap2.htm>
37. *May 10, Government Technology* — **New Website for hazardous materials responders.** Created by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration, CAMEO Chemicals, is the latest component of NOAA's popular CAMEO (Computer–Aided Management of Emergency Operations) software suite, and the first to be available for use online. Over the past two decades, the CAMEO suite has brought first responders from an era in which they gleaned emergency response information from maps and reference books spread out on the hoods of their trucks to a time when up-to-date,

comprehensive information on chemical plumes, toxicity risks and susceptibility of chemical mixtures to burn or explode can be displayed with a few strokes on a computer keyboard.

Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/105412

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

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. *May 11, SC Magazine* — Apple fixes two Darwin Streamer flaws. Apple on Thursday, May 10, released fixes for two critical vulnerabilities in its open-source server technology designed for developers who need to stream media across platforms. The Cupertino, CA-based computing giant said the flaws, affecting Darwin Streamer Server 5.5.4 and all prior versions, may allow remote attackers to cause a system crash or execute arbitrary code.

Additional information is available from Apple:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=305495>

Source: <http://scmagazine.com/us/news/article/656972/apple-fixes-two-darwin-streamer-flaws/>

39. *May 10, Computerworld* — Hackers hijack Windows Update's downloader. Hackers are using the file transfer component used by Windows Update to sneak malware past firewalls, Symantec researchers said Thursday, May 10. The Background Intelligent Transfer Service (BITS) is used by Microsoft Corp.'s operating systems to deliver patches via Windows Update. BITS, which debuted in Windows XP and is baked into Windows Server 2003 and Windows Vista, is an asynchronous file transfer service with automatic throttling—so downloads don't impact other network chores. It automatically resumes if the connection is broken. Although BITS powers the downloads delivered by Microsoft's Windows Update service, Oliver Friedrichs, director of Symantec's security response group, said that there was no risk to the service itself. "There's no evidence to suspect that Windows Update can be compromised. If it has a weakness, someone would have found it by now. Microsoft was unable to immediately respond to questions about unauthorized BITS use.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9019118&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

40. *May 11, CBS News/Associated Press* — Missouri's flooding problems continue. Levee breaks along the Missouri River flooded farms, highways and railroad tracks, and left dozens of homes

surrounded by water, as the flooding that has inundated the region was expected to peak in some spots this weekend. Near-record flood levels dropped in parts of Missouri, but rose in northwest and central parts of the state, as worried residents removed valuables from their homes and filled sandbags to protect river communities. The Platte River is one of several that could crest this weekend, reported CBS News correspondent Peter King. The most recent levee break occurred Thursday afternoon, May 10, between the towns of DeWitt and Brunswick, flooding farmland, slowing traffic on U.S. 24 and damaging railroad tracks. The rain-swollen rivers and streams that make up the Missouri River system are causing damage in different spots as the water makes its way eastward toward St. Louis, where the Missouri River meets the Mississippi, said Suzanne Fortin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/05/11/national/main27896_48.shtml

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

General Sector

Nothing to report.

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

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<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

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Contact DHS

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

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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