



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 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

- PC World reports authorities in a number of states have reported instances of a new high-tech crime: Crooks replacing or rigging checkout keypads at grocery and convenience stores to record the credit card number or the personal identification number used for a debit card. (See item [8](#))
- The New York Times reports a proposal to build a parking garage within one foot of the federal courthouse in Akron, Ohio's downtown area has provoked a strong reaction from some judges who say it would allow potential terrorists to get dangerously close to their courtrooms. (See item [23](#))

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 17, North American Electric Reliability Corporation* — **NERC projects reliable electricity this summer, barring extreme weather.** Electricity capacity margins are expected to be adequate to ensure reliable electric service throughout North America this summer, under normal summer weather conditions, according to Rick Sergel of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). However, widespread and sustained hot and humid weather could threaten that reliability. “The numbers tell us we will be OK, but the weather has been

challenging in recent years. If areas of North America experience extended periods of extreme weather this summer, utilities may need to implement emergency procedures to reduce customer demand," said Sergel. Areas of the greatest concern, which NERC has put on its Summer Watch List, are: Southern California, which relies on significant amounts of imported power, transported across transmission lines that are heavily loaded during normal operation; the Greater Connecticut region, which relies heavily on imported power; and British Columbia, which faces the risk of severe flooding that could damage transmission equipment or require taking equipment out of service.

2007 Summer Assessment report:

ftp://www.nerc.com/pub/sys/all_updl/docs/pubs/2007-SA-051807.pdf

Source:

ftp://www.nerc.com/pub/sys/all_updl/docs/pressrel/05-17-07-Summer-Assessment-PR.pdf

2. *May 17, Associated Press* — **Green homeowners go off the power grid.** Off-the-grid living is edging into the American mainstream. It isn't there yet, but about 180,000 homes, mostly in the West, operate on it. National demand is soaring and the off-the-grid movement is yet to be felt in a significant way by the power industry, said Jim Owen of the Edison Energy Institute. In the short term at least, "I can't imagine any appreciable impact on the system." Nonetheless, the number of people going off the grid increases by about a third each year, said Richard Perez, who publishes Home Power magazine, dedicated to the topic, and Lori Ryker, who has written two books on the subject. Much of the growth is in California. Off-the-grid living is also growing in Texas, New Jersey and Wisconsin. "It pretty much tracks where the best rebates are" for the cost of the equipment, said Connie Said of Home Power. She said 80 percent of the magazine's subscriptions are in California. It's occurring mostly in the West because of people moving into remote areas that are beyond the reach of commercial power, because of ample sun and environmental conscientiousness, and possibly because of Westerners' traditional independent streak.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/17/AR2007051701725.html>

3. *May 17, Journal News (NY)* — **Indian Point alarms being repaired after storm damage.** More than two-dozen Indian Point emergency alert sirens near Buchanan, NY, were knocked out of commission by severe thunderstorms that swept through the region last night. As of Thursday, May 17, 12 sirens remained damaged, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). At the height of the storm, 26 of the system's 156 sirens were damaged, the NRC said. Neil Sheehan, a spokesperson for the regulatory agency, said there was also some damage to the plants' new emergency alert system, but that details were not presently available. The existing alert system is due to be phased out and replaced by a new system.

Source: http://www.nynews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070517/NE_WS02/705170450

4. *May 17, Associated Press* — **Answers sought on Alabama plant shutdown.** An overloaded computer network shut down a nuclear reactor in Alabama last year, and even nine months later, regulators cannot pinpoint the source of the failure. The incident occurred last August at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Browns Ferry plant. Since the September 11 strikes, Congress has been concerned that utilities and other high-risk facilities might be vulnerable to cyberattacks because of their reliance on computer networks to control operations. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) says the computer malfunction did not threaten plant safety.

Regulators are confident an outside hacker was not responsible. Nonetheless, the House Homeland Security Committee this week urged a broader investigation. Earlier this week, the NRC gave final approval for the TVA to restart a third reactor at Browns Ferry that had been shut down for 22 years due to concerns about safety and management. In a report last month, the commission said TVA officials shut down the Unit 3 reactor after "excessive traffic" on the computer network caused recirculation pumps to fail, creating a potentially unstable condition. The TVA has not determined the source of the data overload.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/17/AR2007051701853.html>

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

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *May 17, Times–Picayune (LA)* — **Gasoline spill at refinery prompts highway closure.** A 3,000–gallon gasoline spill at the Murphy Oil refinery shut down a stretch of St. Bernard Highway in St. Bernard Parish, LA, early Wednesday, May 16. But aside from causing some traffic congestion, authorities said the spill caused no other problems. The spill occurred when a tank being filled at the refinery overflowed. The gasoline was contained inside a small levee built around the storage tank, but the highway was shut down as a precaution.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/neworleans/index.ssf?/base/news-21/1179384339301370.xml&coll=1>

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *May 18, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–631: Defense Budget: Trends in Operation and Maintenance Costs and Support Services Contracting (Report).** The Department of Defense (DoD) spent about 40 percent of the total defense budget to operate and maintain the nation’s military forces in fiscal year 2005. Operation and maintenance (O&M) funding is considered one of the major components of funding for readiness. O&M appropriations fund the training, supply, and equipment maintenance of military units as well as the infrastructure of military bases. Over the past several years, DoD has increasingly used contractors, rather than uniformed or DoD civilian personnel, to provide O&M services in areas such as logistics, base operations support, information technology services, and administrative support. The House Appropriations Committee directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine growing O&M costs and support services contracting. This GAO report (1) identifies the trends in O&M costs and services contracts and the reasons for the trends, (2) discusses whether increased services contracting has exacerbated the growth of O&M costs, and (3) provides perspectives on the benefits and concerns associated with increased contracting for support services. GAO analyzed DoD’s O&M appropriations, budgets, and services contract costs over a 10–year period and developed case studies of outsourced O&M–related work at three installations. GAO is not making any recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07631high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-631>

7. *May 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-641: Military Base Closures: Management Strategy Needed to Mitigate Challenges and Improve Communication to Help Ensure Timely Implementation of Air National Guard Recommendations (Report)**. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations affected 62 percent of the flying units in the Air National Guard (ANG) with 14 units losing their flying mission, and others converting from one type of aircraft to another, or increasing or decreasing assigned aircraft. To implement the recommendations, ANG must relocate hundreds of aircraft and retrain or recruit about 15,000 personnel by 2011. In this report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) addresses the status of efforts to implement the ANG BRAC actions. GAO's objectives were to determine (1) the process to provide replacement missions to units losing flying missions, (2) the progress and challenges in implementing the BRAC actions, and (3) changes to the cost and savings estimates. This report, prepared under the Comptroller General's authority to conduct evaluations on his own initiative, is one in a series of reports related to 2005 BRAC recommendations. GAO conducted its work at the Air Force, ANG headquarters, and in 11 states affected by BRAC 2005. GAO is recommending that the Department of Defense develop a strategy to address challenges, enhance communication, and provide more transparent cost reporting.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07641high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-641>

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

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *May 18, PC World* — **Scammers bugging your store's keypad**. Data thieves eager to exploit U.S. consumers' dependence on plastic are targeting keypads that people don't think twice about swiping cards through. Authorities in a number of states have reported local instances of a new high-tech crime: Crooks replacing or "bugging" checkout keypads at grocery and convenience stores. The rigged keypads record credit card number or the personal identification number (PIN) that is used to key in when using a debit card. The crooks later return to collect the keypads and use the intercepted data to siphon large sums of money from unsuspecting store patrons. Usually, the keypad devices show no outward signs of tampering. But inside, authorities say, scammers attach skimming devices that pass along customer data to the merchant, but also collect and store every credit card number, name, and debit card PIN entered on them. The amounts that authorities suspect keypad thieves of stealing vary. Las Vegas police say that the total take in a crooked keypad scam in their jurisdiction may have been in the "millions of dollars"; representatives from the other affected states — California, Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island — put the estimated cost to consumers at around \$100,000 in each case.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/18/AR2007051800060_pf.html
9. *May 18, IDG News Service* — **Alcatel-Lucent reports employee data lost or stolen**. A CD containing personal information about thousands of Alcatel-Lucent employees and their dependants has been lost or stolen, the company said on Thursday, May 17. The disk contains the names, addresses, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and salary information for U.S.

employees who worked for Lucent prior to its merger with Alcatel, as well as Lucent retirees and dependents of both groups. The disk was prepared by Hewitt Associates, which administers Alcatel–Lucent's benefits plans, for delivery via United Parcel Service to another contractor, Aon. The company was informed by one of the contractors on May 7 that the disk had gone missing. The information on the disk was not encrypted, said Alcatel–Lucent spokesperson Mary Lou Ambrus. Alcatel–Lucent said it was not aware any of the data had been misused. Ambrus wouldn't say exactly how many people's data was lost or stolen, citing the investigation. But the letter to employees indicates that the total could be in the tens of thousands. The disk did not contain credit card numbers, bank account numbers, or some other types of sensitive information, the company said. It has opened an internal investigation and has contacted the U.S. Secret Service and state and local police.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/05/18/alcatel-lucent-dat-a-lost_1.html

10. *May 18, Stars and Stripes* — **New security feature adds protection for myPay users.** MyPay users now will have an extra layer of security to protect their personal information. The site, operated by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), allows service members and Department of Defense civilians to check their finances online. MyPay now features a “virtual keyboard” that requires Internet users to enter their personal identification number without typing on their actual keyboard, a DFAS news release says. “To enhance security, the keyboard layout changes or keys are displayed randomly every time the page is refreshed,” said Defense Department spokesperson Lt. Col. Brian Maka. The new security measure is intended to protect myPay users from malicious keylogging viruses, Maka wrote. In March, a DFAS official told Stars and Stripes that about two dozen myPay users had their personal information stolen over the previous eight months. Initial findings showed that neither myPay nor the myPay database had been hacked; rather, the information had been stolen from the users’ computers, probably from spyware.

Source: <http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=45966>

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

Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *May 18, Associated Press* — **Harmless object prompts LAX evacuation.** A terminal at Los Angeles International Airport was partially evacuated Thursday, May 17, when an item found in luggage triggered a security alert. The object turned out to be a sprinkler pipe. The item, in a checked bag, prompted the closure of a departure area, ticket counter and stores in the upper level of Terminal One shortly after 11:30 a.m. PDT, airport authorities said. A bomb squad was called and a 300-foot perimeter was set up around a screening machine that detected something resembling a pipe bomb, Nico Melendez, a federal Transportation Security Administration spokesperson. Eventually, the owner of the luggage was located and turned out to be a managing partner in a sprinkler company, airport spokesperson Marshall Lowe said. “He had one of his products in his checked luggage,” Lowe said. Melendez said the item was a telescoping pipe that attaches to a sprinkler head.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/05/17/airport.evacuation.ap/index.html>

12. *May 18, Associated Press* — **United Airlines to trim U.S. capacity.** United Airlines' parent company UAL Corp. said Thursday, May 17, it will trim its 2007 mainline domestic capacity

by up to three percent from prior-year levels as it adjusts to flagging growth in domestic traffic. The company said it will move some capacity to international routes, which have recently performed better than domestic routes. For example, United is adding Los Angeles–Hong Kong and Washington–Rio de Janeiro service in the fall. Analysts recently have said the airline industry would do well to cut back on domestic capacity. By limiting the number of available seats, the industry can boost its unit revenue and gain more pricing power. UAL executives had disclosed their intentions to cut capacity last month when announcing a first-quarter loss of \$152 million.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070517/ual_capacity.html?v=3

13. *May 18, Associated Press* — Judge approves bankruptcy exit for Northwest Airlines.

Northwest Airlines received approval on Friday, May 18, to emerge from bankruptcy, freeing it to move out of court protection from its creditors and into an industry besieged by higher fuel costs and crowded with competitors. The nation's fifth-largest airline has spent more than 20 months cutting costs and slashing jobs in its reorganization effort and said it expects to emerge from bankruptcy in June. Under the plan approved by Judge Allan Gropper after a two-day hearing, Northwest's secured creditors will be paid in full. Boyd notes that Northwest will be able to build its growth around a global hub in Detroit for access to China as well as a hub in Tokyo. Northwest has been operating in bankruptcy since September 14, 2005, when it sought the court's protection from quickly rising fuel prices and other cost burdens.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-05-18-northwest-bankruptcy-approval_N.htm

14. *May 18, Department of Transportation* — U.S. Department of Transportation approves Virgin America to begin flying.

The U.S. Department of Transportation on Friday, May 18, announced that it has issued an order granting Virgin America Airlines the authority to begin operation as a U.S. carrier, after the company agreed to take steps needed to meet airline requirements. This order means that once Virgin America receives the necessary safety permits from the Federal Aviation Administration and implements the changes it has agreed to make, the company is cleared to begin flying. Virgin America submitted a substantial revision to its application after the Department's initial tentative decision last year found that the company failed the citizenship test outlined in law. The Department found that since the airline revised its proposal and committed to meeting additional conditions set by the Department in March, the company now meets U.S. citizenship requirements. This includes providing advance notice to the Department should the carrier receive additional financing from non-U.S. investors. Under the Federal Aviation Act, to be licensed as a U.S. airline, a company must show that it is actually controlled by U.S. citizens, that the president and two-thirds of the board of directors are U.S. citizens, and that at least 75 percent of the voting interest is owned and controlled by U.S. citizens.

DOT's order and other documents in the case may be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>, docket OST-2005-23307.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot5007.htm>

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Agriculture Sector

15. *May 18, Agricultural Research Service* — Palm mite is red threat on the horizon. A tiny mite is creating a big stir in this hemisphere's tropics. Scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have joined a multinational effort to stop the red palm mite, an invasive pest that rides the wind and, until now, was mainly known for attacking coconut palms in the Eastern Hemisphere's tropical and subtropical regions. According to Ronald Ochoa, a mite expert at the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., the red palm mite has been found in the Caribbean region, including on U.S. soil in Puerto Rico and St. Thomas. The fast spread of this pest, which causes serious leaf damage, constitutes the biggest mite explosion ever observed in the Americas, according to Ochoa. He added that, in Trinidad, he and colleagues estimated there were 30 to 100 million mites per palm. At stake may be more than just the health of sectors of the ornamental plants industry and the palm trees that are synonymous with the tropical lifestyle. On Dominica, the mite has attacked banana plants, and a grower in Trinidad indicated that he anticipates a 50 percent loss in coconut production on his property, according to Ochoa. Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070518.htm>

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

Food Sector

16. *May 18, Associated Press* — No melamine found in fish at U.S. farms. Farmed fish that may have eaten food with imported Chinese ingredients show no traces of contamination and should be safe to eat, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Thursday, May 17. The two fish farms that used the feed kept their fish off the market until the tests could be completed. David Acheson, assistant commissioner for food protection, said fish being raised at American Gold in WA and at Kona Blue in HI were found negative for the chemical melamine. The questionable feed was also sold to 196 fish hatcheries. Because those fish are small and the feed has been recalled, Acheson said the FDA believes there no longer is any public–health concern from them.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003712065_melamine18m.html

17. *May 18, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — USDA releases poultry for processing. Testing confirms that meat from poultry fed rations supplemented with pet food scraps containing melamine and related compounds is safe for human consumption. Based on the validated test results, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will allow approximately 80,000 birds held on farms in Indiana to be released and approved for processing. Testing of meat from poultry exposed to the feed in question confirms that melamine does not accumulate in birds and is eliminated by the body quickly. The testing also reinforces the conclusions of a human health risk assessment that there is a very low risk of illness from the consumption of meat from animals exposed to the feed in question. The risk assessment concludes that in the most extreme risk assessment scenario, when scientists assumed that all the solid food a person consumes in

an entire day contained melamine and the melamine compound cyanuric acid at levels potentially present in the poultry meat, the potential exposure is about 250 times lower than the dose considered safe. This means that a person weighing 132 pounds would have to eat more than 800 pounds per day of food containing melamine and its compounds to approach a level of consumption that would cause a health concern.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/05/0147.xml>

18. *May 17, Reuters* — **China food scare threatens exports as test costs soar.** Foreign buyers of Chinese food are asking for safety tests following the melamine pet food debacle, threatening the country's competitive position in a wide range of markets, including organic ingredients. Industry officials said U.S. and other firms had demanded a certificate that farm products were free of melamine. Their comments came after a U.S. Food and Drug Administration team visited China to investigate how melamine, a chemical product, got into pet food, killing at least 16 pets in the U.S. and leading to a recall of more than 100 brands of pet food. Costs for such safety checks are expected to soar, especially as it would take time for the country to build up reliable nationwide quality controls. Industry officials said Japan, which accounts for about a quarter of China's farm product exports, had also recommended importers check for melamine in Chinese products. "The safety tests for raw materials are likely to get tougher," said a senior official from a Japanese food processing plant in China. "Eventually they could demand traceability similar to that for non-GMO products ... which would raise costs. Given higher costs and credibility, there's a question if you would still want to buy raw materials from China."

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSHKG29012520070517>

19. *May 17, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Chenango Valley Pet Foods expands recall.** Chenango Valley Pet Foods previously recalled dry pet foods manufactured with a shipment of rice protein concentrate supplied by Wilbur-Ellis that possibly contained melamine contamination. Chenango Valley Pet Foods is now expanding the recall action to include those pet foods that do not contain rice protein concentrate but were manufactured during periods when rice protein concentrate formulas were processed. The recall of these products is precautionary due to the possibility of cross-contamination.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/chenango05_07.html

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

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Public Health Sector

20. *May 18, World Health Organization* — **WHO delays destruction of smallpox virus.** The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday, May 18, delayed for at least four years any decision on when to destroy the world's last known stockpiles of smallpox, a deadly virus

eradicated nearly 30 years ago. There is no treatment for the virus that was killing millions of people a year as recently as the 1960s and left many more blind and scarred. In 1979, it became the first disease officially stamped out after a worldwide vaccination campaign. But the U.S. and Russia, which hold the only known stockpiles of the virus in high-security laboratories, have long resisted calls to destroy them in case smallpox is found to exist elsewhere. The 60th annual World Health Assembly, the top decision-taking body of the United Nations agency, reaffirmed a previous commitment to getting rid of the remaining stockpiles but agreed to postpone any decision on when this should happen until its 2011 meeting.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L1842027.htm>

21. *May 17, Reuters* — Toddler survives smallpox vaccine reaction. A two-year-old boy who developed a serious reaction to his father's smallpox vaccination has recovered but disease detectives found infectious virus all over his house, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported. The Indiana toddler developed a rare rash known as eczema vaccinatum after playing with his father, a soldier vaccinated for deployment in Iraq, reported John Marcinak of the University of Chicago and CDC experts. Experimental treatments helped the child, but the CDC said the incident showed that care must be taken by people who receive the smallpox vaccine. It was the first case of eczema vaccinatum reported in the United States since 1988, the CDC said. "Multiple swab samples obtained from the home (e.g., from a bathroom washcloth, a slipper, a toy drum, a night stand, a booster seat, and an ointment container) and from items brought to the child's hospital room (e.g., an infant drinking cup and a car seat) were positive for vaccinia virus DNA," the researchers said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN1744524120070518>

22. *May 17, Agence France-Press* — Bubonic plague kills nine in Tanzania. Bubonic plague has killed nine people in northern Tanzania since February, a regional official said Thursday, May 17. The plague outbreak was first reported in one village in late February, but has since spread to six others and infected 72 people, Salash Toure, a medical official in Manyara region, near the Kenyan border, said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070517/hl_afp/tanzaniahealthplague_070517161454;_ylt=Aj_AVcriYjoWMVmuPd4BWWqJOrgF

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

23. *May 17, New York Times* — Citing terror threat, judges criticize plans for Ohio garage. A proposal by the city to build a parking garage within one foot of the federal courthouse in Akron, OH's downtown has provoked a strong and uncommonly public reaction from some judges, who say it would allow potential terrorists to get dangerously close to their courtrooms. The chief judge of the Federal District Court here, James G. Carr, and the chief judge of the District Bankruptcy Court, Randolph Baxter, warned in a letter to Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic that unless the city changed course, they would move their offices and courtrooms elsewhere. "Federal courthouses, as the tragedy at Oklahoma City makes clear, are potentially a prime target for attack," the judges wrote in the letter. The disagreement over the parking garage reflects a broader unease among members of the federal judiciary after a number of violent events at courthouses and other federal buildings around the country. In 1995, 168 people died

in the bombing that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City; family members of a federal judge were murdered in Chicago two years ago; and a sniper wounded a family court judge last June in Reno, NV.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/20/us/nationalspecial3/20fear.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

- 24. *May 17, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-821T: Emergency Management: Status of School Districts' Planning and Preparedness (Testimony)**.** Events such as the recent shootings by armed intruders in schools across the nation, natural disasters, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and potential pandemics have heightened awareness for the need for school districts to be prepared to address a range of emergencies within and outside of schools buildings. Congress has raised concerns over school preparedness, with a particular interest in how federal agencies provide assistance to school districts. This testimony discusses preliminary findings related to the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) review of emergency management in school districts, including (1) the roles of federal and state governments in establishing requirements and providing resources to school districts for emergency management planning, (2) what school districts have done to plan and prepare for emergencies, and (3) the challenges school districts have experienced in planning for emergencies, and communicating and coordinating with first responders, parents, and students. To obtain this information, GAO interviewed federal officials, surveyed a stratified random sample of all public school districts, surveyed state agencies that administer federal grants that can be used for school emergency management planning, conducted site visits to school districts, and reviewed relevant documents.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07821thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-821T>

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

Emergency Services Sector

- 25. *May 18, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **DHS awards over one million to prevent fire death and injury**.** The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Friday, May 18, the third round of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants, awarding 25 grants totaling over \$1.2 million to fire departments and fire prevention organizations throughout the United States. Under the FY 2006 program, FP&S will award approximately 300 awards totaling \$27 million to fire departments and other eligible organizations to reduce losses from fire and fire-related hazards. FP&S projects focus on preventing fire-related injuries to children, seniors, firefighters, and other high-risk groups. FP&S also supports innovative fire prevention solutions and research on improving firefighter health and safety. FP&S awards support projects in two categories: 1) Fire Prevention and Safety, such as public education, arson prevention/awareness, code enforcement/awareness, wildfire prevention/education, juvenile fire setter intervention, burn prevention, media/PR campaigns, sprinkler awareness, or smoke alarm distribution; and 2) Firefighter Safety Research and Development, such as data collection and analysis projects; sociological projects and problem-focused technology studies that address firefighter safety, wellness, fitness, or health.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36400>

26. *May 16, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **GAO-07-579: IRS Emergency Planning: Headquarters Plans Supported Response to 2006 Flooding, but Additional Guidance Could Improve All Hazard Preparedness.** On June 25, 2006, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) headquarters building suffered flooding during a period of record rainfall and sustained extensive damage to its infrastructure. IRS officials ordered the closure of the building until December 2006 to allow for repairs to be completed. IRS headquarters officials reported activating several of the agency's emergency operations plans. Within one month of the flood, over 2,000 employees normally assigned to the headquarters building were relocated to other facilities throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to report on (1) how IRS emergency operations plans address federal guidance related to continuity planning and (2) the extent to which IRS emergency operations plans contributed to the actions taken by IRS officials in response to the flood. To address these objectives, GAO analyzed federal continuity guidance, reviewed IRS emergency plans, and interviewed IRS officials. GAO recommends that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue revise internal IRS guidance and emergency plans to fully reflect federal continuity guidance. The Commissioner agreed with our recommendations and stated that the agency will take the necessary steps to implement them and revise its emergency plans. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07579high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-579>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

27. *May 18, IDG News Service* — **Microsoft to buy aQuantive for \$6 billion.** Microsoft plans to acquire aQuantive, a digital marketing services agency, for around \$6 billion in order to grow its Internet advertising business, it was announced Friday, May 18. Microsoft said aQuantive's 2,600 employees will be incorporated into its online services business, dedicated to growing advertising on the company's MSN portal, its Windows Live online services, the Xbox Live gaming platform and Office Live services.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/05/18/microsoft-to-buy-a-quantive_1.html
28. *May 18, IDG News Service* — **Symantec: Chinese hackers grow in number, skills.** China's hacking scene appears poised for growth, as the number of Internet users rise with a commensurate interest in criminal hacking and government spying, according to a new Symantec study. "China's hacking scene is clearly an active one," the report said. "These individuals and groups are known for discovering vulnerabilities, writing exploit code, and developing sophisticated hacking techniques." China ranks second behind the U.S. as far as malicious activity on the Internet as a whole, Symantec said, citing its own data. The country had 131 million Internet users as of the end of 2006, accounting for about 10 percent of its population and 11 percent of the world's Internet users.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/05/18/chinese-hackers-grow-in-number_1.html
29. *May 17, eWeek* — **Critical flaws found in Java Development Kit.** Two vulnerabilities open to remote exploitation by hackers have been found in Java Development Kit (JDK), one of which could be used to take over a compromised system. JDK is a software development tool

made by Sun Microsystems specifically for Java users. The vulnerabilities were rated "critical" by the French Security Incident Response Team, a security research organization based in France. One flaw is caused by an integer overflow error in the image parser when processing ICC profiles embedded within JPEG images. The second vulnerability is caused by an error in the BMP image parser when processing malformed files on Unix/Linux systems, which could be exploited by attackers to cause a denial-of-service. Both flaws affect Sun JDK version 1.x. Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2132409,00.asp>

30. *May 17, eWeek* — Symantec fixes flaw in security software. Symantec has fixed a serious vulnerability with an ActiveX control used by Norton Personal Firewall 2004 and Norton Internet Security 2004 that could allow a hacker to execute code remotely on a vulnerable system. A buffer overflow can be triggered by an error that occurs in the Get () and Set () functions used by ISAlertDataCOM, part of ISLALERT.DLL. Successfully exploiting this vulnerability would allow an attacker to remotely execute malicious code on an unpatched system and give them the rights of the logged-in user, Symantec officials said. In order for an exploit to work, however, the hacker must first trick the user into viewing a specially crafted HTML document.

Symantec Advisory: <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/security/Content/2007.05.16.html>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2132245,00.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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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

31. *May 19, Associated Press* — Flood-prone New Orleans channel to be plugged. The Army Corps of Engineers says it wants to build an earthen dam to plug a navigation channel blamed for much of the flooding during Hurricane Katrina. The corps' decision was made public at a meeting Saturday, May 19, in Chalmette, a St. Bernard Parish refinery town just outside New Orleans where elected leaders and residents have clamored for the closing of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet for years. "It's about time," said Carlton Dufrechou, the executive director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, a group advocating the restoration of the lake system surrounding New Orleans. The corps will present a final plan to Congress by the end of the year.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/4819507.html>

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

General Sector

32. *May 18, Associated Press* — **Campers flee Southern California wildfire.** A fast-moving wildfire had burned more than 2,500 acres Sunday, May 20, and chased thousands of people from campsites near Los Padres National Forest, authorities said. No injuries were reported. The fire was 50 percent surrounded by early Sunday morning, said Los Angeles County fire Capt. Mike Brown. More than 3,000 people were evacuated from four campsites in the area, Brown said. The cause of the blaze was under investigation, authorities said.

Source: <http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/W/WILDFIRES?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT>

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

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