



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 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 Department of State reports that by June the United States, Canada, and Mexico will develop a plan to further align and strengthen their energy efficiency standards, the first in a series of proposed efforts to advance cooperation on energy issues. (See item [2](#))
- The Courier–Post reports this summer, South Jersey emergency responders — local police, fire, Emergency Medical Services, and tow truck personnel — will test a plan called the Atlantic City Expressway Contra–Flow, to reverse the traffic flow along all the eastbound lanes on the Atlantic City Expressway. (See item [35](#))

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](#)

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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 25, Government Computer News* — **Energy reports losing 1,400 laptops in six years.**
The Department of Energy (DOE) notified Congress Thursday, May 24, that it has lost 1,427 laptop PCs over the past six years. The department said none of the laptops contained classified information. The figure represents approximately two percent of its current inventory of laptop computers, or approximately 71,874 units used either by agency personnel or contractors. The Energy Department statement broke down the missing laptops by year, with 144 reported missing for 2001, 248 in 2002, 256 in 2003, 258 in 2004, 223 in 2005 and 205 in 2006. Another

81 laptops were identified as missing, though the years those went missing were not disclosed. The agency revealed the information in response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by WTOP, a Washington, DC, news radio station. As a result of these findings, which track missing units up until June 2006, Energy secretary Samuel Bodman directed a full inventory of laptops, which subsequently recovered 100 of these units, Energy spokesperson Megan Barnett said.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/44344-1.html

- 2. *May 24, Department of State* — North American partners expand efforts to cooperate on energy.** The United States, Canada and Mexico are preparing to give North American energy efficiency a boost. By June the three countries will develop a plan to further align and strengthen their energy efficiency standards, the first in a series of proposed efforts to advance cooperation on energy issues, according to U.S. Department of Energy officials. The three countries also have agreed to look at harmonizing the specifications of programs such as the U.S. Energy Star that help businesses and consumers identify the most energy-efficient products and best energy-management techniques. The launch of the North American Energy Security Initiative in March 2006 by leaders of the three countries provided the impetus for closer and more specific energy collaboration. U.S., Canadian and Mexican energy officials have been working on issues ranging from interconnectedness of their electricity grids to the future of natural gas supplies to improvements in cross-border energy infrastructure and access to resources to energy sector reforms. Recently, energy efficiency and clean energy technologies have drawn their attention as oil and natural gas prices have risen and become more volatile and efforts to address concerns about climate change have been made.

Source: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=May&x=20070524135857saikceinawz0.2469904>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

- 3. *May 24, WZZM 13 (MI)* — Environmental cleanup necessary after tanker spill.** Emergency crews reopened a Newaygo County, MI, road Thursday night, May 24, after a tanker truck overturned and spilled fuel. The truck turned over on 80th St. west of Warner near Fremont Thursday morning. Investigators say the driver swerved to miss a deer. The truck rolled into a ditch spilling gasoline and ethanol. Emergency management leaders say the spilled fuel contaminated soil and a nearby stream. Crews closed 80th St. Friday to repair the damage.

Source: http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=75671

- 4. *May 23, WMUR 9 (NH)* — Route 31 reopened after propane leak.** Emergency crews remained at the scene Wednesday, May 23, of a propane leak in Wilton, NH, that forced the evacuation of a business and the closure of Route 31 for much of the day. The leak in the 14,000-gallon propane tank at PEP Direct, a direct mailing company, was discovered by employees who were painting the tank. The business was evacuated soon after. Public Service Co. of New Hampshire turned the power off along a two-mile stretch of Route 31 as a precaution. Employees of PEP Direct were not allowed to start their cars because of a fear that an ignition could spark an explosion.

Source: <http://www.wmur.com/news/13373271/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *May 24, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-745: Defense Acquisitions: Success of Advanced SEAL Delivery System Hinges on Establishing a Sound Contracting Strategy and Performance Criteria (Report)**. The Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS) is a hybrid combatant submersible providing clandestine delivery and extraction of Navy SEALs and equipment in high-threat environments. The first ASDS has had significant performance issues and has cost, to date, over \$885 million. In May 2006, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to review ASDS. This report examines (1) how the Navy managed ASDS risks through its contracts and (2) the status of major technical issues and program restructuring. GAO is making recommendations to the Secretary of Defense to help ensure that a decision to proceed with ASDS is based on acceptable cost, schedule, and performance criteria; that essential design changes are operationally tested prior to a program decision; and that the future contract strategy appropriately balances risk and promotes better accountability. The Department of Defense (DoD) partially concurred with GAO's first two recommendations and concurred with the third recommendation.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07745high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-745>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *May 25, Register (UK)* — **Strange spoofing technique evades antiphishing filters**. Newly published screen shots demonstrate a powerful phishing technique that's able to spoof eBay, PayPal and other top Web destinations without triggering antiphishing filters in IE 7 or Norton 360. Plenty of other PayPal users are experiencing the same ruse, according to search engine results. UK resident Matty Hall, after attempting to log in to a PayPal page that both IE and Norton had given a clean bill of health, was prompted for his date of birth, social security number, credit card details and other sensitive information. The message included poor grammar and awkward syntax. The scam method isn't limited to PayPal. Hall has supplied screen shots of something similar happening when he used IE to log on to his online account at HSBC, and he says he also experiences variations on that theme when trying to access Barclays and eBay. Roger Thompson, who tracks Web exploits for Exploit Prevention Labs, guesses those experiencing this attack have inadvertently installed an html injector. That means the victims' browsers are, in fact, visiting the PayPal Website or other intended URL, but that a dll file that attaches itself to IE is managing to read and modify the html while in transit.
Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2007/05/25/strange_spoofing_technique/
7. *May 25, Washington Post* — **Phishing attacks soar as scammer nets widen**. Typically, phishing scams involve phony e-mails and counterfeit bank Websites that try to lure unsuspecting users into disclosing user names and passwords. Lately, however, some of the more technically advanced phishers have started shifting their sights to higher-dollar targets.

The source of this latest twist in phishing is "Rock Phish." Rock Phish attackers are thought to have pioneered the use of images to bypass spam filters that flag scam and junk e-mails based mainly upon telltale text. So what organizations are being targeted by these attacks? Te Smith of MarkMonitor said that over the past two months the company has tracked a 100 percent increase in Rock Phish-style attacks against commercial banks, the kind that cater to comptrollers and accounts that businesses routinely use to transfer large sums of money. Smith said the new Rock Phish attacks "are trying to intercept credentials of people who have access to online services that provide very detailed credit and consumer data." In addition to targeting data brokers, Smith said, the Rock Phish scams also are going after commercial banks, those that service large and medium-sized businesses, in part because those institutions' thresholds for detecting fraud are higher than with consumer banks.

Source: http://blog.washingtonpost.com/securityfix/2007/05/phishing_attacks_soar_nets_wid_1.html

8. *May 25, Finextra (UK)* — **U.S. financial sector to test bird flu response.** The U.S. financial services industry is to conduct a market-wide business continuity and disaster recovery test to assess the sector's readiness for dealing with an avian flu pandemic. The sector-wide exercise, which will be the first of its kind in the U.S., will begin on September 24 and last for a number of weeks in order to simulate a full pandemic wave. Participants will take part in the tests from their own office locations using e-mail and a secure exercise Website. Goals of the exercise include identifying systemic risk to the sector, allowing participants to test individual plans against a realistic scenario and clarifying the ripple effects of a pandemic within the industry. All financial industry sub-sectors will be represented and the exercise will also involve advisory group representatives from sectors such as power and telecommunications, as well as critical agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (FSSCC) is sponsoring the event in partnership with the U.S. Treasury Department and the Financial and Banking Information Infrastructure Committee (FBIIC).

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16969>

9. *May 24, InformationWeek* — **Stronger credit card security prevails in Minnesota, fails in Texas.** As the Texas state Senate was this week shooting down a bill that would require businesses that collect personal information to use PCI to secure sensitive personal data, the Minnesota legislature passed its Plastic Card Security Act. Minnesota becomes the first state to create a law that shifts the costs associated with data breaches from financial institutions to the retailers who mishandle consumers' private financial data. The law, which passed by votes of 122-4 and 63-1 in the House and Senate, respectively, also gives retailers added incentive to protect consumers' information. It's fitting that Minnesota is the first state to come down on retailers and merchants who are sloppy with customer data. It's been reported that the compromise of TJX Companies' customer records, which have already led to numerous cases of fraud in Florida and other places, originated when thieves hacked into a wireless network at a Marshalls store near St. Paul. TJX is the parent company of Marshalls, TJ Maxx, and other retailers.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=SWECO1XWSN4ACQSNDLRCKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=199701966&articleID=199701966>

Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *May 26, Associated Press* — **Border Patrol may tighten Vermont village security.** The front door of the Haskell Library in Derby Line, VT, is in the United States. Walk across the carpeted floor to the circulation desk and it is Canada. The 106-year-old Romanesque building, which straddles the international border, has enjoyed a kind of informal immunity from border restrictions through the years. But a U.S. Border Patrol crackdown focusing on three unguarded streets linking Derby Line with Stanstead, Quebec, across the border, could soon change that. "There's been an increase in illegal activity, both north and south, in the last little while," said Mark Henry, the operations officer for the Border Patrol's Swanton sector, which runs across northern New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Under the crackdown, instead of parking their cars outside the library in Quebec and walking to the front door in the U.S., Canadian patrons would have to detour through one of two ports of entry linking the municipalities. Smugglers have learned the side streets are unguarded, and while surveillance cameras monitor activity on other streets, border agents on both sides can't always get there in time when illegal activity is spotted. Recently, two vans carrying 21 illegal immigrants were caught in the U.S. after having crossed over on one of the unguarded streets.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/B/BORDER_QUIRK?SITE=WUS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

11. *May 26, Reuters* — **Radiation fear derails Chinese train plan.** China has shelved a planned magnetic levitation rail route linking the cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou partly due to concerns among residents that the trains would emit radiation, state media reported on Saturday. The report came as Shanghai's talks with German suppliers, including Siemens AG, to extend the high-speed line to neighboring Hangzhou are already complicated by recent accidents involving maglev trains and cost concerns. Xinhua news agency said thousands of residents living along the proposed route had been petitioning for a suspension of the \$4.5 billion project, fearing the high-speed trains would produce radiation. Approved by the central government in March 2006, the planned \$4.5 billion maglev project was designed to have a length of 100 miles and trains on the track will run at a maximum speed of about 280 mph. Negotiations on the project have already been clouded by Chinese concerns over costs and recent maglev accidents. An alternative solution could be a high-speed rail link, which would be almost as fast as the maglev but cost only half as much, it said, citing a government researcher.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-05-26-chinatrain_N.htm

12. *May 25, Associated Press* — **Jet lands after report of engine flame.** On Friday, May 25, a United passenger jet on its way to Beijing returned to Washington, DC, shortly after it was reported to have flames coming out of one engine at takeoff, airport officials said. United Airlines flight 897 landed safely at about 2 p.m. EDT, said Dulles International Airport spokesperson Courtney Prebich. The plane had taken off from Dulles at 12:55, she said. Fire and rescue crews had been standing by to meet the Boeing 747, which had 330 passengers and 19 crewmembers on board. United spokesperson Megan McCarthy said the pilots decided to return to Dulles after they "identified an issue with one of the four engines." McCarthy said she could not elaborate on what the pilots observed. United will conduct an investigation into the

incident, McCarthy said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-05-25-dulles_N.htm

13. *May 25, Reuters* — **Swarm of bees forces British passenger plane to land.** A passenger plane was forced to land after flying into a swarm of British bees Thursday, May 24. The Palmair Boeing 737, with 90 passengers on board, had to return to Bournemouth Airport in southern England shortly after take-off following an engine surge. The pilot decided to abort the flight to Faro in Portugal and returned for safety checks. The plane's engine was thought to have become clogged with bees, the company said Friday.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/wtMostRead/idUSL2582663200705_25

14. *May 25, Associated Press* — **Launch of Hawaii Superferry delayed.** The Hawaii Superferry has delayed its scheduled July launch by at least a month as it goes through extensive inspections, the company said. The ferry, a 900-passenger, 250-car, four-story catamaran built in Mobile, AL, is expected to start service "later this summer," although a specific date hasn't been set. The ferry must complete a rigorous U.S. Coast Guard certification and inspection process, said Superferry president and CEO John Garibaldi. This is the first ship of its kind built by Austal USA. "The Coast Guard, Austal and Hawaii Superferry want to ensure that the vessel, its machinery and equipment, as well as its safety systems and plans, are thoroughly inspected and reviewed," Garibaldi said. The company declined to give specifics while the inspection process continues, said spokesperson Lori Abe.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-05-25-hawaii-superferry-delayed_N.htm

15. *May 25, Associated Press* — **Europe-wide high-speed rail closer to fruition.** Sleek and swift, two trains zoomed out of Germany on Friday toward a milestone in the long-held dream of a Europe-wide high-speed rail web — and pulled into Paris 35 minutes late. The journey was a symbolic but important step in preparations for a new high-speed line opening next month that will reach four countries — France, Germany, Switzerland, and Luxembourg. Eventually planners, including the French and German rail giants, foresee a network stretching from Barcelona to Budapest. Already the new TGV Est will cut travel time between Frankfurt and Paris almost in half, making it a 3½ hour downtown-to-downtown journey. That's not much more than the time it takes to cover the same distance by air, once the home-to-airport travel time and airport security measures are taken into account. Many European countries have their own high-speed trains, but developed their networks independently. Only limited international links exist. Technical differences between the trains have made cross-border links difficult. Rail officials are planning two high-speed axes that meet in Strasbourg: one running between Paris, Munich, Vienna and Budapest; the other linking Hamburg, Frankfurt, Lyon and Barcelona.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-05-25-highspeedrail_N.htm

16. *May 24, Associated Press* — **Egyptian Customs prevents snakes on a plane.** Customs officers at Cairo's airport on Thursday, May 24, detained a man bound for Saudi Arabia who was trying to smuggle 700 live snakes on a plane, airport authorities said. The officers were stunned when a passenger, identified as Yahia Rahim Tulba, told them his carryon bag contained live snakes after he was asked to open it. Tulba opened his bag to show the snakes to the police and asked the officers, who held a safe distance, not to come close. Among the

various snakes, hidden in small cloth sacks, were two poisonous cobras, authorities said. The Egyptian said he had hoped to sell the snakes in Saudi Arabia. Police confiscated the snakes and turned Tulba over to the prosecutor's office, accusing him of violating export laws and endangering the lives of other passengers.

Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/05/24/international/i061914D14.DTL>

17. *May 24, Associated Press* — **Hawaiian Airlines lays off 98 workers.** Hawaiian Airlines laid off 98 nonunion employees Thursday as part of an effort to cut \$4 million from its annual budget. The company also won't fill 38 vacant positions to save money, the company said in a news release. The move comes as Hawaiian faces soaring fuel prices and increased competition from go!, the new interisland market entrant run by Phoenix-based Mesa Airlines. The cuts include some 20 workers in the Hawaiian's information technology division, which the airline is outsourcing to vendors in India. About half of the layoffs -- or 47 -- involve management positions. That would leave the company with a management force of nearly 180 people. All three major interisland carriers posted multimillion dollar losses in recent quarters as they compete with each other by offering passengers low fares.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070524/hawaiian_airlines_layoffs.htm!?.v=1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *May 24, CBS/Associated Press* — **Pit Bulls lead to mail service suspension.** In one Detroit neighborhood the dog situation has gotten so bad that the U.S. Postal Service decided to indefinitely suspend mail deliveries. Residents of the four-block area on Detroit's northwest side have had to pick up their mail at the local post office since home deliveries were halted in mid-April. It wasn't only the dog attacks: Staged daytime dogfights also played a major role in the decision, the city postmaster said. "There was pit bull fighting two or three times a week," Postmaster Lloyd Wesley Jr. said on Thursday, May 24. Dog owners can be fined up to \$500 for allowing their pets to run loose. Wesley said he is waiting for the city to announce an anonymous tip line for callers to report loose dogs and dogfighting before he allows mail delivery to resume. There were 57 dog bite cases involving Detroit postal carriers in 2006. Nationwide 3,184 letter carriers were bitten by dogs last year, the Postal Service said, down slightly from 3,273 the year before.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/05/24/national/main2845559.shtml?source=mostpop_story

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Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

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Food Sector

19. *May 25, Reuters* — **China says stepping up checks on food exports.** China's customs authorities have begun checking food exports, like some proteins and glycerine which is used in toothpaste, after a series of health scares abroad involving tainted Chinese-made products. Companies are now required to tell Chinese customs when they export or import glycerine, and have it inspected, according to a notice published on the customs Website on Friday, May 25. Five proteins, including casein which is used as a food binding agent, are also on the list, as are citric and tartaric acid, other widely used food additives, molasses, maple syrup and even ginger biscuits. The rules have been effective since May 15, according to the notice.
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK46116.htm>
20. *May 25, Associated Press* — **Salad sprouts recalled for salmonella.** California health officials warned Thursday, May 24, that alfalfa sprouts sold by a Northern California company to stores and restaurants in California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington may be contaminated with salmonella bacteria. The company, Salad Cosmo USA Corp., of Dixon, announced a voluntary recall after routine tests found salmonella in alfalfa seeds.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_5980680
21. *May 25, Associated Press* — **Costa Rica seizes tainted toothpaste.** Health officials said Friday, May 25, they have seized more than 350 tubes of Chinese-made toothpaste tainted with a deadly chemical reportedly found in tubes sold elsewhere in the world. Health Secretary Maria Luisa Avila said 56 tubes of toothpaste containing diethylene glycol, a chemical commonly used in antifreeze and brake fluid, were found in the northern city of Liberia, and 306 more were seized from a warehouse in the capital of San Jose. China has formed a government task force to investigate after contaminated toothpaste was also found in Australia, the Dominican Republic and Panama. Diethylene glycol, or DEG, is a thickening agent used as a low-cost — but frequently deadly — substitute for glycerin, a sweetener commonly used in drugs.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-ap-costa-rica-deadly-toothpaste.1.4422450.story?coll=chi-news-hed>
22. *May 24, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA warning on mislabeled monkfish.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to buy or eat imported fish labeled as monkfish, which actually may be puffer fish, containing a potentially deadly toxin called tetrodotoxin. Eating puffer fish that contain this potent toxin can result in serious illness or death. The product was imported and distributed by Hong Chang Corp., Santa Fe Springs, CA. Two people in the Chicago area became ill after consuming homemade soup containing the fish. One was hospitalized due to severe illness. FDA's analysis of the fish confirmed the presence of potentially life-threatening levels of tetrodotoxin. A total of 282 22-pound boxes labeled as monkfish were distributed to wholesalers in Illinois, California and Hawaii beginning in September 2006. These fish were then sold to restaurants or sold in stores. FDA allows puffer fish to be imported into the U.S. only under strict provisions that minimize the risk of the toxin being present in the fish. The recalled fish were not imported in compliance with those restrictions. FDA is examining all entries from the Chinese supplier and will take additional action, if warranted.
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01639.html>

23.

May 23, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — **Pet food recalled.** Diamond Pet Foods announced that it has recalled a limited quantity of Nutra Nuggets 40 Lb. Lamb Meal and Rice Formula because of confirmatory testing that indicates the product may include traces of melamine resulting from cross contamination during manufacturing. No animal deaths have been reported. The recalled product was manufactured at the company's Lathrop, CA, facility. No other Nutra Nuggets products are affected.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/diamond05_07.html

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Water Sector

24. *May 26, Helena Independent Record (MT)* — Solvent mistaken for chlorine enters tribal water supply. A solvent mistaken for chlorine was accidentally put into the water system at the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation, and residents were advised to drink only bottled water, a tribal spokesperson said Friday, May 25. The degreaser from a container similar to that used for chlorine led to a fuel smell in the water, and alarmed consumers contacted tribal officials Wednesday, May 23, said Neal Rosette, executive administrative officer for the Chippewa Cree Tribe on the Rocky Boy reservation in northern Montana. Water service in the tribal system was shut off Thursday, May 24, Rosette said.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/05/26/ap-state-mt/d8pb_mk181.txt

25. *May 25, Charlotte Observer (NC)* — Water cutbacks ordered in North Carolina. Governor Mike Easley has ordered state agencies in the North Carolina mountains to stop nonessential uses of water and is urging residents across the state to conserve water, as dry weather continues across the Southeast. The situation is being made worse by a lack of clouds. Direct sun is evaporating moisture from the ground, which is causing the drought to worsen quickly. Severe drought conditions are in place across the mountains, and three mountain counties — Cherokee, Clay and Graham, in the westernmost part of the state — have been classified as experiencing "extreme drought" conditions. Easley on Thursday, May 24, ordered state agencies in 12 counties, where drought conditions are the worst, to stop using water unless it is essential. Those counties are Buncombe, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey.

Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/135149.html

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Public Health Sector

26. *May 26, Reuters* — China says soldier infected with bird flu. A Chinese soldier has contracted the H5N1 strain of bird flu, the Health Ministry said on Saturday, May 26. The 19-year-old soldier was diagnosed with the disease on May 18th and is receiving treatment at a military hospital, the ministry said in a statement. China's most recent reported human death from bird flu was in March. Worldwide, the virus has killed 186 people since 2003, including 15 in China, according to the World Health Organization.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SHA26784.htm>

27. *May 26, Agence France–Presse* — **Four people test positive for bird flu in Wales.** Four people have tested positive for bird flu linked to a low–risk strain found in chickens which died on a farm in north Wales, as samples were being taken Saturday, May 26, from another farm in the area. Christianne Glossop, chief veterinary officer for Wales, has said that the chickens at the first farm died from the H7N2 low pathogenic avian influenza strain, not the virulent H5N1 strain. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) "confirmed infections in four" of the samples taken from nine people who were associated with the infected or dead birds and reported flu–like symptoms, its chief executive Pat Troop said.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070526/hl_afp/healthflubritain_070526142238;_ylt=AtNDNoW4VKJY53qGwT5rwHqJOrgF
28. *May 25, Associated Press* — **Chinese bird flu samples have arrived in U.S.** Two out of three promised virus samples from recent human cases of bird flu in China have arrived in the U.S., the World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday, May 25. The samples are the first sent by Beijing in a year. They include specimens from a 2006 case in Xinjiang in China's far west, and a case in the southern province of Fujian in 2007. But a sample from a 24–year–old soldier who died in 2003 in Beijing was not part of the batch. The Health Ministry in April had promised one from that case, which was disclosed last year after new tests determined he had succumbed to the disease. China has already sent six bird flu virus samples from humans to WHO's designated laboratories. Two of them were dispatched in December 2005 and the others in May 2006, state media have reported. Since then, five new human cases have been reported in China. WHO does not mandate sharing virus samples, although they are needed to produce diagnostic tools and vaccines. The lack of cooperation, experts say, could slow efforts to track diseases and develop vaccines and other strategies to deal with them.
Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/05/25/asia/AS-GEN-China- Bird-Flu.php>
29. *May 16, Washington University School of Medicine* — **Study of unexplained respiratory infections leads researchers to new virus.** An ongoing effort to identify the microorganisms that make us sick has discovered a new virus potentially linked to unexplained respiratory infections. Clinicians can typically use a patient's symptoms to determine that a virus is the likely culprit in a respiratory infection. However, even with advanced testing they still can't pin the blame on a particular virus in roughly one–third of all such infections. Scientists can't yet prove that the new virus, known as the WU virus, is making patients sick. But senior author David Wang, of Washington University School of Medicine, is suspicious enough that he's started follow–up studies. "We've completed the first step required to link the WU virus to disease," explains Wang. For the study, collaborators at The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, provided samples from patients with respiratory infections. Despite an exhaustive battery of tests, Australian researchers had not been able to link the infections to any known pathogen.
Source: <http://mednews.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/9533.html>

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Government Sector

30.

May 24, Government Accountability Office — **GAO-07-895T: Federal Real Property: An Update on High-Risk Issues (Testimony)**. In January 2003, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated federal real property as a high-risk area due to long-standing problems with excess and underutilized property, deteriorating facilities, unreliable real property data, and costly space challenges. Federal agencies were also facing many challenges protecting their facilities due to the threat of terrorism. This testimony is based largely on GAO's April 2007 report on real property high-risk issues (GAO-07-349). The objectives of that report were to determine (1) what progress the administration and major real property-holding agencies had made in strategically managing real property and addressing long-standing problems and (2) what problems and obstacles, if any, remained to be addressed. GAO recommended in April 2007 that OMB, in conjunction with the Federal Real Property Council, (1) develop a framework to better ensure the validity and usefulness of key agency data; (2) develop an action plan for addressing key problems, including reliance on leasing, security challenges, and the effect of competing stakeholder interests; and (3) create a clearer link between agencies' efforts under the real property initiative and broader capital planning requirements. OMB agreed with the report and concurred with its recommendations. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07895thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-895T>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *May 25, Providence Journal (RI)* — **Hurricane drill offers lessons on readiness.** Rhode Island was overwhelmed by a massive hurricane that didn't happen, and the problems it created taught state emergency officials what they could be facing if the real thing comes along this season. Rhode Island could have more than 400,000 people evacuating from regions hit by a massive hurricane. Rhode Island doesn't have enough shelters to hold them all, nor does it have enough volunteers. Main roads and bridges would be wiped out, making it tricky for officials to figure out how to get resources to those stranded on places such as Aquidneck Island. These were some of the issues state officials said they found during the federal hurricane exercise run earlier this month. "Hurricane Yvette" followed the track of the 1938 hurricane during a drill run jointly by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, one of several large-scale national exercises under Operation Ardent Sentry-Northern Edge 2007. The exercises were meant to test how well-prepared the federal government, the military, and the states are at working together to handle a major disaster on the scale of Hurricane Katrina. Source: http://www.projo.com/news/content/yvette_report_05-25-07_IT5_P560.327f740.html

32. *May 25, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Hawaii earthquake and volcanic eruption.** On Thursday, May 24, at 3:13 p.m. EDT, a magnitude-4.7 earthquake was recorded by the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. It was located beneath the upper east rift zone of Kilauea volcano, near Puhimau crater. A magnitude 4.1 aftershock occurred at 3:33 p.m. EDT. At 4:41 p.m. EDT, a magnitude 3.3 aftershock struck near the same area, and a magnitude 3.9 event occurred at 4:51 p.m. EDT. These earthquakes are the largest so far in a flurry of earthquakes in the upper east and southwest rift zones that started May 12, 2007. The earthquake flurry has been accompanied by substantially increased lava flow from the crater. Since 1998, only a few earthquakes with magnitudes greater than 4.0 have occurred

at shallow depths beneath the upper east rift zone. Thursday's event was the largest in at least the last 50 years.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2007/nat052507.shtm>

- 33. *May 25, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disasters for Kentucky, Rhode Island, and Iowa.**** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), David Paulison, announced Friday, May 25, that federal disaster aid has been made available for Kentucky in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, mudslides and rockslides during the period of April 14 –15, 2007. Eligible counties are: Carter, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Leslie, Martin, Perry and Pike. Paulison also announced on Friday that federal disaster aid has been made available for Rhode Island to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and inland and coastal flooding in Newport County during the period of April 15 –16, 2007. Lastly, Paulison announced Friday that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Iowa to help people and communities recover from the effects of severe storms, flooding and tornadoes during the period of May 5–7, 2007. 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 affected individuals in Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby, Taylor and Union counties.

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

- 34. *May 25, Massachusetts National Guard* — **Guard teams conduct weapon of mass destruction exercise.**** National Guard teams from across New England conducted an exercise in Truro, MA, May 4–11, to test their ability to respond to a lengthy weapon of mass destruction event. The exercise simulated the release of a chemical or biological agent in a suburban area, and Guard teams had to respond in concert with each other and civilian first responders. Civil support teams from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont participated, as did the Massachusetts National Guard's CERF-P, a regional weapon of mass destruction response team, and the Massachusetts State Police Hazardous Devices Unit.

Source: http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/archives/2007/05/052507-WMD_Exercise.aspx

- 35. *May 24, Courier-Post (NJ)* — **New Jersey towns to test evacuation procedure.**** This summer, South Jersey emergency responders will test a plan to reverse the traffic flow along all the eastbound lanes on the Atlantic City Expressway. The plan is called the Atlantic City Expressway Contra-Flow. The exercise will involve local police, fire, Emergency Medical Services, and tow truck personnel in towns bordering the expressway between the Shore and Washington Township in Gloucester County, NJ. Conducting the exercise will be two highway emergency task forces: the I-295/I-76/NJ 42 Incident Management Task Force and the Atlantic City Expressway Incident Management Task Force. The two task force groups plan to meet jointly at least once a year to discuss mutual emergency response issues, said Robert Obarski, co-chairman of the joint group. The groups have been created, he said, to provide efficient emergency coordination among many overlapping response teams.

Source: <http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070524/NEWS01/70524036/1006>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *May 25, CNET News* — **Cisco patches security flaws in number of products.** Cisco Systems has released a security patch to fix vulnerabilities in a number of its products that are at risk of a denial of service attack. The vulnerabilities are found in a third-party cryptographic library in Cisco IOS, Cisco IOS XR, Cisco PIX and ASA Security Appliances, Cisco Firewall Module and Cisco Unified CallManager products, according to a security advisory issued by Cisco. The security flaws could allow attackers to send a few small packets through the routers to shut down the network in a DOS attack, said Johannes Ullrich, chief research officer for the Sans Institute. The vulnerabilities can be exploited without a valid username or password, given some of the older Cisco products have the cryptographic library set to default. And while attackers may be able to launch a DOS attack, they are not known to gain access to information that has already been encrypted, Cisco noted. In its advisory, Cisco includes various links for downloading fixes, as well as offering suggestions for potential workarounds.
Cisco Security Advisory: Vulnerability In Crypto Library:
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/products/products_security_advisory09186a0080847c5d.shtml
Source: http://news.com.com/Cisco+patches+security+flaws+in+number+of+products/2100-1002_3-6186446.html?tag=cd.top

37. *May 24, US-CERT* — **Apple releases security update to address multiple vulnerabilities in various products.** Apple has released Security Update 2007-005 to address multiple vulnerabilities in various products. The impacts of these vulnerabilities include denial of service, arbitrary code execution, information disclosure, and privilege escalation. US-CERT encourages users to apply the appropriate updates as soon as possible.
Security Update 2007-005: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=305530>
Source: http://www.us-cert.gov/current/index.html#apple_releases_security_update_to3

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.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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