



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 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

- United Press International reports a new study from Congressional Research Service says terrorists are increasingly relying on criminal activity to finance their operations, as State-sponsorship is declining and terrorist groups are increasingly decentralized and more amateur. (See item [6](#))
- Agence France-Press reports China is to introduce new rules requiring food companies to take back products found to pose a health risk after poisoning of thousands of animals in the U.S., one of a series of incidents that have exposed lax controls in Beijing's food quality control system. (See item [15](#))
- The International Herald Tribune reports public health officials have urged the passengers and crew of two recent trans-Atlantic flights to get checked for tuberculosis, after learning that a man with an exceptionally drug-resistant form of the disease had flown on the planes. (See item [19](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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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>]

May 30, Tribune (CA) — **Nuclear storage said to be safe from terrorism.** The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has reaffirmed its original finding that an above-ground storage facility for highly radioactive nuclear waste at Diablo Canyon Power Plant is safe in the event of a terrorist attack. The preliminary decision means the agency does not intend to require that plant owners Pacific Gas and Electric Co. make any changes to the facility. The ruling will not become final for 90 days, which includes a 30-day public comment period that began today, said Victor Dricks, NRC spokesperson. PG&E is building the facility because its below-ground storage pools are nearly full. The main conclusion in the report is that “a terrorist attack that would result in a significant release of radiation affecting the public is not reasonably expected to occur.” It went on to find that if an attack did result in a radiological release, the dose that any member of the public would receive would be well below the maximum a nuclear plant worker is allowed to receive in a year.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/story/53710.html>

- May 29, MediaNews* — **Refinery upgrades could fuel Bay Area economy.** Several oil giants have plunked down a collective billion-dollar-bet on East Bay refinery upgrades in California's San Francisco Bay area that they believe will help consumers, bolster fuel supplies, and increase reliability. Each project differs in scope and details. Some refineries will gain more capabilities to process "heavy" crude oils and crude laced with sulfur. The plants also will become more reliable. Oil company representatives say if the refineries gain more flexibility in the type of oil they can handle, and the factories can operate with less down time and fewer malfunctions, supplies of gasoline on the West Coast could become more predictable. This could also mean more of California's crude oil, which is primarily of the heavy variety, could be refined for use in the state. ConocoPhillips expects to be able to increase refinery production by one million gallons a day, through the project, said Mark Hughes of Conoco. The expansion effort would allow production to jump 30 percent. The sharp increases in gas prices in California argue for projects that increase the reliability of fuel supplies, oil industry officials say.

Source: http://origin.insidebayarea.com/business/ci_6011637

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

- May 30, WSFA 12 (AL)* — **Train derails, leaks chemical.** Work was underway Tuesday night, May 29, to remove nine rail cars that jumped their tracks in Conecuh County, AL. Two of the cars were leaking a potentially hazardous chemical called Phenol. The derailment happened around noon Tuesday in the small town of Castleberry, just off Highway 31. The CSX freight train was on its way from Mobile to Montgomery. No one on board was hurt. A number of roads were closed, including Highway 31, and an area within a half-mile of the site was evacuated. It included around 175 people.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=6584225&nav=0RdE>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. **May 30, Government Accountability Office — GAO-07-593R: Information on Selected Issues Concerning Banking Activities (Report).** The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a follow-up letter to a report conducted for Senator Bernard Sanders per his request for information on selected federal expenditures, policies, and programs that affect the U.S. banking industry; and certain banking industry trends. These include the savings and loan industry crisis, trade finance, tax policies, and profits and executive compensation. GAO presented its preliminary briefing on December 11, 2006. This letter summarizes and updates the information presented at the briefing.
GAO letter: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07593r.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-07-593R>

5. **May 29, Computerworld — Phishing URLs skyrocket.** The number of phishing Web URLs nearly tripled from March to April, as cybercriminals returned to a late-2006 tactic designed to do an end run around browser-based antiphishing filters. In one month, the number of unique sites soared 166 percent, from 20,871 in March to 55,643 in April, said the Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG). "They're trying to overwhelm the filtering mechanisms" in browsers and antiphishing toolbars, said Peter Cassidy of APWG, "by using many, many URLs, some which may resolve to the very same phishing site." Phishers using the tactic don't register any more domains than usual but simply craft unique URLs by randomizing the subdomain to create new addresses. "The idea is to come up with unique URLs that have not been reported and end-running the filters," Cassidy said.
Report: [http://www.antiphishing.org/reports/apwg_report_april_2007.p df](http://www.antiphishing.org/reports/apwg_report_april_2007.pdf)
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=printArticleBasic&articleId=9021641>

6. **May 29, United Press International — CRS: Terrorists increasingly rely on crime.** Terrorists are increasingly relying on criminal activity to finance their operations, a new study from Congressional Research Service (CRS) says. State-sponsorship is declining and terrorists groups are increasingly decentralized and more amateur, CRS finds, which leads the cells to crime. The terrorists who carried out the London bus bombings did so for less than \$10,000. The most common method of raising funds is the creation of front organizations to raise and launder money, sometimes as businesses, charities and other non-governmental organizations. Counterfeiting money is another method of raising funds within the United States. Increasingly, terrorist groups are selling counterfeited goods. Narcotics are also believed to be a terrorist revenue stream. Violent crimes like armed robbery and small-scale credit card, food stamps and benefits fraud are also reportedly linked to terrorist financing streams. There is a paucity of data to determine whether and to what extent criminal activity in the United States finances terrorist activities.
CRS report: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/RL34014.pdf>
Source: http://www.upi.com/Security_Terrorism/Briefing/2007/05/29/cr_s_terrorists_increasingly_rely_on_crime/9676/

7. *May 29, SC Magazine* — **Thousands exposed to fraud following database theft.** Thousands of customer details have been used by scammers following the theft of a Cable & Wireless database, an investigation has found. It was snatched when an employee went on a business trip to Pakistan in 2005. The data has since been used illegally in call centers in the country, where customers in the UK were duped into disclosing credit card details, according to an enquiry by the BBC. Internet service provider Bulldog, a former subsidiary of the telecommunications firm, owned the database at the time of the robbery. It stored more than 100,000 customer details, including names, home addresses and financial data. Some customers have become victims of credit card fraud and identity theft with thousands more exposed to financial scams. Source: <http://www.scmagazine.com/uk/news/article/660467/thousands-exposed-fraud-following-database-theft/>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *May 30, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-928R: Responses to Questions for the Record; Hearing on the Future of Air Traffic Control Modernization (Correspondence).** This letter responds to the May 10, 2007, request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) address questions submitted for the record related to the May 9, 2007, hearing entitled The Future of Air Traffic Control Modernization. GAO's answers to your questions are attached. GAO's responses are based on previous work, preliminary results of ongoing work, and our knowledge of the areas addressed by the questions. GAO prepared its responses during May 2007 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. We are sending copies of this letter to the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Director, Joint Planning and Development Office. We will make copies available to others on request. This letter is also available on GAO's Website at <http://www.gao.gov>. Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-928R>
9. *May 30, Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* — **Flight attendants approve deal with Northwest.** Flight attendants at Northwest Airlines Corp. narrowly approved cuts in pay and benefits in a new contract on Tuesday, May 29, clearing the way for the airline to exit Chapter 11 this week with new, less costly labor deals with all its unions. The Eagan-based carrier was set to exit bankruptcy May 31 whether the flight attendants approved the cuts or not — the union was already working under an imposed contract by Northwest that was backed by a bankruptcy court. But the deal will allow the Association of Flight Attendants to take part in a \$182 million bankruptcy claim, which could be worth \$15,000 for each flight attendant. Even so, the measure barely passed — just 50.89 percent voted for the deal, with 49.11 opposing it. In a response after the vote, Northwest officials said they were pleased that the company had been able to win cost-saving deals with all its unions. Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070530/1469337.html?.v=2>
10. *May 30, KVOA (AZ)* — **Man arrested after pipe bomb found on Arizona I-10.** On Tuesday morning, May 29, Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers pulled over 26 year old Anatolio Cano Jr. who was behind the wheel of a white Dodge Neon, on I-10 between Ina and Cortaro

Roads. Officers soon learned he had three outstanding arrest warrants. Officers searched the vehicle he was in and found a pipe bomb in the glove box. Cano confirmed the pipe bomb was real. DPS immediately called in the bomb squad. DPS says a female passenger in the vehicle was also apprehended as an investigative lead. She was later released and is not facing charges. The entire incident disrupted traffic on the interstate for several hours. In fact, the device stopped all traffic on the interstate and frontage roads, causing a major headache for commuters. Bomb squad members took the device from the glove box, set it into the median and then neutralized the pipe bomb with water. They also set sand bags around the bomb before setting it off. DPS says the pipe bomb contained three .44 bullets and gun powder.

Source: http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=6582240&nav=menu216_3_1

- 11. *May 29, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-918R: Responses to Questions for the Record; Hearing on JPDO and the Next Generation Air Transportation System: Status and Issues (Correspondence).** This letter responds to the April 24, 2007, request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) address questions submitted for the record by Members of the Subcommittee related to the March 29, 2007, hearing entitled JPDO and the Next Generation Air Transportation System: Status and Issues. In addition to the responses that GAO provided on May 18, 2007, to two of the questions regarding the role of JPDO, GAO is answering the remaining questions submitted by Representative Calvert on behalf of the Minority Members of the Committee. GAO's attached responses to these questions are based on previous and ongoing work and knowledge of the areas addressed by the questions. GAO is sending copies of this report to the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Director, Joint Planning and Development Office. We will make copies available to others on request. The report is also available on GAO's Website at <http://www.gao.gov/>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-918R>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

- 12. *May 29, Agricultural Research Service* — New USDA research facility to open in Hawaii.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists who conduct research on Hawaii's exotic tropical crops now have a modern facility here in which to carry out their farmer — and consumer — oriented work. The new facility will formally open Tuesday, May 29. The 35,000-square-foot office and laboratory structure is part of the U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). In recent years, collaboration between ARS and university scientists resulted in papaya plants that resist attack by the devastating papaya ringspot virus. In other collaborations with university cooperators and growers, ARS scientists provided leadership, expertise and workable technologies to control several of the tropical fruit flies that can hinder growers' ability to produce premium crops for local, mainland U.S. and export markets. In other developments,

scientists refined what's known as a "hot–forced–air" treatment for packinghouse use, to ensure that papayas shipped from Hawaii are free of living fruit flies.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070529.htm>

13. *May 26, Valley Voice (CA)* — **Citrus disease hits research station.** Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV) has hit the University of California Lindcove Research Center hard this Spring with the find that the aphid–spread disease has infected 44 trees on the 175–acre station along with four trees on the highly guarded Citrus Cloning Protection Program (CCPP) block of trees used for budwood distribution to citrus nurseries. This block is protected as disease–free but now that protection is in doubt. Every tree at this station is tested annually each spring to insure the trees are disease free. Unlike past years, this year's results were startling. "This is more than a fourfold jump in the incidence of tristeza at Lindcove," says Citrus Research Board President Ted Batkin. "We saw three trees that were positive for tristeza in 2004, one tree in 2005 and three in 2006 to 44 in spring of 2007."

Source: http://www.valleyvoicenewspaper.com/vv/stories/citrustristeza_virus.htm

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Food Sector

14. *May 30, Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)* — **Soaring pork prices cause fear of unrest.** A mystery virus that is killing millions of pigs in southern China is responsible for soaring pork prices that have the senior leadership worried about inflation and social unrest. The Premier, Wen Jiabao, took the unusual step of visiting supermarkets and pig farms in Shaanxi province to show the central Government's concern about the price of one of China's staple foods and its most affordable source of protein. Prices that have been as low as nine yuan a kilogram have soared to 28 yuan. In Beijing, prices have doubled since March. The Agriculture Ministry said the wholesale price of pork had soared by 71.3 per cent since April, pushed up by rising prices for pig feed (such as corn) and the epidemic of "blue ear" disease — officially called porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome — along with existing foot–and–mouth disease. Statistics on pig deaths are difficult to obtain but an industry official told London's Financial Times that he had heard up to 20 million of China's 500 million pigs had been wiped out by blue ear disease.

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/soaring-pork-prices-cause-fear-of-unrest/2007/05/29/1180205251356.html>

15. *May 29, Agence France–Presse* — **China to introduce new food safety rules.** China is to introduce new rules requiring food companies to take back products found to pose a health risk, state press reported on Tuesday, May 29. The move follows the poisoning of thousands of animals in the U.S. from pet food additives made in China, one of a series of incidents that have laid bare lax controls in Beijing's food quality control system. The China Daily newspaper said the new rules would be introduced by year–end. Wu Jianping, a top official with China's quality–control watchdog, told the paper they would apply to both domestic and foreign companies and would be in line with international practices. Li Yuanping, another director–general with the administration, warned foreign businesses not to import Chinese food products that did not have proper export approvals. Li said some countries such as the U.S. did not require that imported products come from officially–registered plants accompanied by

official certifications. The State Food and Drug Administration plans to blacklist food producers that break rules, barring serious violators from the market.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070529/hl_afp/chinahealthfoodl_awsrecall_070529062433;_ylt=ApCti3O60EeYgnu10NxX546JOrgF

16. *May 29, Associated Press* — **Department of Agriculture fights plan to test all cattle for mad cow.** The Bush administration said Tuesday, May 29, it will fight to keep meatpackers from testing all their animals for mad cow disease. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) tests less than one percent of slaughtered cows for the disease. But Kansas-based Creekstone Farms Premium Beef wants to test all of its cows. Other meat companies feared that move because, if Creekstone tested its meat and advertised it as safe, they might have to perform the expensive test, too. The USDA regulates the test and argued that widespread testing could lead to a false positive that would harm the meat industry. A federal judge ruled in March that such tests must be allowed. U.S. District Judge James Robertson noted that Creekstone sought to use the same test the government relies on and said the government didn't have the authority to restrict it. The ruling was to take effect June 1, but the USDA said Tuesday it would appeal — delaying the testing until the court challenge plays out.
- Source: <http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/4844583.html>

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Water Sector

17. *May 29, Associated Press* — **Lake Okeechobee's low water levels threaten South Florida water supply.** Lake Okeechobee's water levels were poised Tuesday, May 29, to drop to their lowest on record as South Florida's worst known drought continued into the rainy season, threatening a key water supply for nearly five million people and the Everglades. Only an above-average rainy season would help replenish the lake, officials said. While the summer-through-fall downpours have started in parts of South Florida, weather forecasters say significant drought relief is not likely until September at the earliest. Lake Okeechobee's water levels held at nine feet Tuesday. The average water level for this time of year should be around 13 feet. The months-long drought has led to severe water restrictions for homes and businesses across the state, and the lake's low water levels reflect groundwater levels throughout South Florida, officials said. The region is largely dependent on the lake during dry periods, when it can be used as a reservoir. Four coastal wells in Palm Beach and Broward counties have been closed as their levels dropped to prevent contamination from salt water, putting more pressure on wells farther inland.
- Source: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/sfl-0529lakeo_0.655517.story?coll=sfla-news-florida

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Public Health Sector

18. *May 30, Reuters* — **Device detects avian flu strains.** A new device can quickly detect 92 different viruses, including several strains of the feared H5N1 avian flu virus or other emerging

new infections, U.S. researchers reported on Tuesday, May 30. They said their mass spectrometer device can also be used in big hospitals to watch for outbreaks of dangerous drug-resistant infections. Flu is difficult to monitor because spot tests cannot identify the precise strain. When testing people for the H5N1 flu virus, the World Health Organization uses specialized labs that can spend weeks first growing and then testing tiny samples of virus. The new detector, called the T5000, works in just four hours to identify the precise strain.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/technologyNews/idUSN293678512_0070530

19. *May 29, International Herald Tribune* — **Drug-resistant TB case prompts international alert.** Public health officials on Tuesday, May 29, urged the passengers and crew of two recent trans-Atlantic flights to get checked for tuberculosis (TB), after learning that a man with an exceptionally drug-resistant form of the disease had flown on the planes. The man, an American who was not identified, flew on May 12 from Atlanta, GA, to Paris, France, then traveled on May 24 from Prague, Czech Republic, to Montreal, Canada, before driving back to the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced. He is currently hospitalized in an isolation ward. While tuberculosis is not highly transmissible, the deadliness of this strain -- and the ease of modern transportation -- underscored the need for rapid response. A federal quarantine order was issued -- the first since 1963 -- and the CDC is working with state and local health departments, airline officials, international health ministries and the World Health Organization.

Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/05/29/news/health.php>

20. *May 29, Associated Press* — **Taiwan health agency reports improper research with bioterror bacteria.** A Taiwanese scientist who improperly obtained bacteria that could be used in a biochemical weapon was uncovered because the island's biosafety measures are reliable, a senior health official said Tuesday, May 29. "The system is working effectively and transparently, which is good," said Steve Hsu-Sung Kuo, director of Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control. CDC Vice Director Su Hsun-pi ordered six samples of the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*—a from a hospital for research on an agency-funded project, Kuo said. *Burkholderia* is considered a biothreat, although the infectious disease it causes is not normally transmitted from person to person. Su's order for the controlled substance was filled because she used the agency's stationary, Kuo said. The security breach was discovered in January during a routine inventory check -- part of the biosecurity system implemented by the CDC in 2003. However, there was no security risk in her action, Kuo said. The organism had been properly disposed of, and an investigation confirmed that the bacteria had not left CDC control.

Source: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/latestnews/46469.htm>

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Government Sector

21. *May 29, Associated Press* — **South Dakota high school evacuated after small explosion.** Authorities evacuated Rapid City Central High School Tuesday afternoon, May 29, after a small explosion in a student's locker. Students went across the street to the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center while the Ellsworth Air Force Base bomb squad and a police team entered the school. The school was to have been the location for a meeting Tuesday evening with Justice

Department officials to discuss racial tensions after an American Indian student had a confrontation with security officials. The meeting was held at City Hall instead.

Source: http://www.kotatv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6582951&nav=menu411_2

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *May 29, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — Weather radios for Indiana mobile homes. The Governor of Indiana signed a bill into law last month requiring mobile homes to come equipped with emergency weather radios. The always-on radios broadcast National Weather Service warnings on special frequencies when severe weather is nearby. The first-of-its-kind law, which applies to mobile homes installed at mobile home parks after June 30, is part of a push among tornado-stricken states to bolster severe weather warnings by going beyond traditional storm sirens and television alerts. From 2000 to 2005, mobile home residents accounted for more than half of tornado-related deaths.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2007/nat052907.shtm>

23. *May 29, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — FEMA trains 700 responders on Homeland Security equipment at New Orleans conference. More than 700 emergency responders from 47 states and Puerto Rico will travel to New Orleans this week to receive training on equipment their departments will receive through the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2006 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program. This includes representatives from 19 departments who will receive accelerated training and equipment delivery because they are located in areas at high risk for hurricanes, tornados, or wildfires. Representatives from the 19 "high-risk" departments will receive training on equipment to improve incident communications, either an incident commanders' radio interface or radio interoperability system. Other responders will be trained on thermal imagers, devices used to detect humans and other warm-blooded creatures through building walls, a smoke-filled room, or in darkness.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36592>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

24. *May 30, Government Computer News* — NIST readies guidance on IT security assessments. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has finished the third and possibly final draft of its revised guidelines for assessing the adequacy of IT security. Special Publication 800-53A, Guide for Assessing the Security Controls in Federal Information Systems, will be released for comment June 4. Comments on the current version will be accepted by the Computer Security Division of NIST's IT Laboratory through July 31. Comments can be e-mailed to sec-cert@nist.gov. All of the FISMA-related security standards and guidelines can be found at <http://csrc.nist.gov/sec-cert>. Final publication of SP 800-53A is expected early next year. NIST will decide on whether additional public drafts are needed based on comments received on the present draft.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/44383-1.html

25. *May 29, US-CERT* — Apple Releases a Security Update for QuickTime 7.1.6 to Address Multiple Vulnerabilities. Apple has released a Security Update for QuickTime 7.1.6 to address multiple vulnerabilities in Apple QuickTime for Java. The impacts of these vulnerabilities include arbitrary code execution and information disclosure.

US-CERT recommends users install the QuickTime 7.1.6 Security Update:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=305531>

Instructions for disabling Java may be found here:

http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/browser_security.html

Source: http://www.us-cert.gov/current/index.html#apple_releases_a_security_update

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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

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Contact DHS

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

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