



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 July 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 Associated Press reports Wednesday, July 25, a series of explosions at a facility that sells liquefied natural gas sent flaming debris raining onto highways and buildings near downtown Dallas; at least two people were seriously injured. (See item [1](#))
- The Transportation Security Administration has sent an alert to airport security officers around the nation to look out for terrorists practicing to carry explosive components onto aircraft; this information is based on four curious seizures at airports since last September. (See item [12](#))

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](#)

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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. *July 25, Associated Press* — **Natural gas tanks explode in Dallas.** On Wednesday, July 25, a series of explosions at a facility that sells liquefied natural gas sent flaming debris raining onto highways and buildings near downtown Dallas. At least two people were seriously injured, hospital officials said. Authorities evacuated a half-mile area surrounding the Southwest Industrial Gases Inc. facility and shut down parts of two of the area's busiest highways, Interstates 30 and 35 as the explosions continued for more than half an hour.. Video footage showed numerous small fires burning in the area as stacks of gas cylinders caught fire and exploded. Three hours after the explosions started, fire crews were hosing down the charred

metal wreckage. About a dozen cars in a parking lot and a grassy highway median were damaged. Fire Department Lt. Joel Lavender said it started around 9:30 a.m. with a malfunctioning connector used to join acetylene tanks during the filling process. He said the three people injured included the manager, a worker at the facility and a truck driver.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/07/25/dallas.blasts.ap/index.html>

2. *July 25, Associated Press* — **GE Energy wins \$1.8b in Mideast pacts.** GE Energy — parent is General Electric Co — on Wednesday, July 25, said it has received contracts worth more than \$1.8 billion to supply 32 gas turbines and additional equipment for power plant projects in Kuwait and Qatar. The projects will add more than five gigawatts of capacity to help meet the Middle East's growing demand for electricity, the company said. With the new deals, GE Energy said it has received orders and commitments totaling more than \$3.5 billion for Middle East projects since December.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070725/ge_contract.html?v=1
3. *July 24, Associated Press* — **Barcelona residents still in the dark.** Shops operated with gas-powered lamps, traffic lights remained blank and courthouses turned to battery power during Day Two of a major power outage in Spain's most cosmopolitan city. The blackout began Monday morning, July 23, hitting public transport, hospitals, homes and businesses, affecting 350,000 customers in all. Power company Fecsa-Endesa said 50,000 customers were still without power late Tuesday. Firefighters reported a flood of calls from people stuck in elevators, and police officers were sent to major intersections to direct traffic. Spain's second-largest city, Barcelona has a population of 1.6 million but attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists all year round. The outage is a huge embarrassment for a city that considers itself more European than the rest of Spain and proudly points to the 1992 Summer Olympics as one of its finest moments. Trials were called off Tuesday at court buildings where workers were forced to use battery-powered lamps, and some clerks gave up on the spotty computer service and just kept records by hand, the regional Justice Department said. Large hotels hooked up generators, small ones did without, and tourists were stymied at some major landmarks. The Barcelona airport was not affected.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-07-24-barcelona-dark_N.htm
4. *July 24, Associated Press* — **Missing gauge contains radioactive material.** Maryland state environmental officials said Tuesday, July 24, that a piece of equipment containing radioactive material has been stolen from a Charles County construction site. The Department of the Environment warned the public that a missing moisture density gauge containing radioactive material has gone missing from a contractor's worksite in Waldorf, MD. The gauge is about three feet tall in a locked yellow case. Officials say that as long as the gauge isn't opened, no one could be harmed. They say the Cesium-137 inside would pose a risk only to someone handling it for extended periods.
Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=61112
5. *July 24, Associated Press* — **Power failures darken San Francisco.** Sporadic power failures Tuesday afternoon, July 24, darkened a broad swath of downtown San Francisco, an area dotted with Internet companies whose servers rely on a steady supply of electricity. About 51,000 homes and businesses lacked electricity at the height of the failure, which started at about 2 p.m. PDT, said Pacific Gas & Electric spokesperson Darlene Chiu. Many were rerouted to

backup circuits, but about 30,000 customers remained in the dark an hour later as PG&E crews worked to identify the failure's cause, Chiu said. "Our priority now is to restore service back to our customers as fast as we can," she said. AT&T Park, home of the Giants, was also affected hours before a scheduled night game. Gregg Fishman, a spokesperson for California's Independent System Operator, which manages the state's power grid, said there had been no reports of widespread failures outside San Francisco.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070724/power_outage.html?v=2

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *July 24, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-943T: Defense Acquisitions: Realistic Business Cases Needed to Execute Navy Shipbuilding Programs (Testimony).**

The Navy is beset with long-standing problems that affect its ability to accomplish ambitious goals for its shipbuilding portfolio. Significant cost growth and long schedule delays are persistent problems. Making headway on these problems is essential in light of the serious budget pressures facing the nation. This testimony focuses on (1) cost growth in shipbuilding, (2) acquisition approaches in the LPD 17, Littoral Combat Ship, DDG 1000 and CVN 78 programs and (3) steps the Navy can take to improve its acquisition decision-making, particularly the adoption of a knowledge-based framework. While the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is making no new recommendations in this testimony, GAO has made numerous recommendations through the years to improve business cases for Navy acquisitions as well as other Department of Defense weapon acquisitions. The Department's acquisition policies largely incorporate these recommendations, but they have not been implemented on actual programs.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07943thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-943T>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *July 25, IDG News Service* — **Vulnerability in BIND 9 leaves users open to pharming attacks.** A security researcher has reported a serious vulnerability in BIND 9. BIND 9, or Berkeley Internet Name Domain 9, is among the most widely used software packages used on DNS servers. For security purposes, when a browser queries a DNS server, a random 16-bit transaction ID is used to verify the response from the server. However, according to Amit Klein, chief technology officer at security vendor Trusteer Ltd., the transaction ID is not random at all. The vulnerability in BIND 9 could allow an attacker to force the DNS server to return an incorrect Website to a user, a trick known as DNS cache poisoning, or pharming.

Most DNS servers cache queries. But if an attacker requests a Web address that is not stored in the server's cache, a hacker could flood the cache with false information — such as the address of a different Website — which would then be returned for future DNS queries. That means a user could be directed to a fraudulent Website, even though the user typed the correct address in their browser. The site could then try to exploit other security weaknesses in a user's PC, or trick them into providing sensitive information.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/07/25/serious-hole-in-BIND-9-DNS-server_1.html

8. *July 25, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Clear Mountain Bank.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Clear Mountain Bank. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message claiming that their account has been temporarily suspended due to a billing failure. The e-mail provides a link to a phishing site, which attempts to collect personal and account information. This phishing site is hosted in Hong Kong and was down at the time of this alert.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=790>

9. *July 24, Agence France-Presse* — **Lithuania refuses extradition to U.S. for cyber-crime suspect.** A Lithuanian court said Tuesday, July 24, that it had rejected a U.S. extradition request for a suspected cyber-criminal accused of defrauding online stores. In a statement, the Baltic country's appeals court said it had turned down the joint demand by U.S. justice authorities and Lithuania's chief prosecutor, on the grounds that Paulius Kalpokas' alleged offenses took place within Lithuania. Kalpokas, a 24-year-old Lithuanian citizen, was arrested in his home country in the autumn of 2006 in a joint operation by Lithuanian and U.S. officials. He has remained behind bars since then. He is charged with the illegal appropriation and exchange of credit card data and money via the sites of Internet stores, whose names were not revealed by the court. The appeals court said that after a hearing it had decided that Lithuania's legislation did not provide grounds for extraditing Kalpokas to the United States.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070724/tc_afp/lithuaniausinter.net;_ylt=AufrHROsEkaj0WzCjSRB4psjtBAF

10. *July 24, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-1100T: Veterans Affairs: Lack of Accountability and Control Weaknesses over IT Equipment at Selected VA Locations (Testimony).** In July 2004, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that the six Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers it audited lacked a reliable property control database and had problems with implementation of VA inventory policies and procedures. Fewer than half the items GAO selected for testing could be located. Most of the missing items were information technology (IT) equipment. In light of these concerns and recent thefts of laptops and data breaches at VA, this testimony focuses on (1) the risk of theft, loss, or misappropriation of IT equipment at selected locations; (2) whether selected locations have adequate procedures in place to assure accountability and physical security of IT equipment in the excess property disposal process; and (3) what actions VA management has taken to address identified IT inventory control weaknesses. GAO statistically tested inventory controls at four case study locations. GAO's companion report (GAO-07-505), includes 12 recommendations to improve VA-wide policies and procedures with respect to controls over IT equipment, including recordkeeping requirements, physical inventories, user-level accountability, and physical security. VA agreed with GAO's findings, noted significant actions

under way, and concurred on the 12 recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d071100thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-1100T>

- 11. *July 16, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-505: Veterans Affairs: Inadequate Controls over IT Equipment at Selected VA Locations Pose Continuing Risk of Theft, Loss, and Misappropriation (Report).** In July 2004, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that the six Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers it audited lacked a reliable property control database and had problems with implementation of VA inventory policies and procedures. Fewer than half the items GAO selected for testing could be located. Most of the missing items were information technology (IT) equipment. Given recent thefts of laptops and data breaches, the requesters were concerned about the adequacy of physical inventory controls over VA IT equipment. GAO was asked to determine (1) the risk of theft, loss, or misappropriation of IT equipment at selected locations; (2) whether selected locations have adequate procedures in place to assure accountability and physical security of IT equipment in the excess property disposal process; and (3) what actions VA management has taken to address identified IT inventory control weaknesses. GAO statistically tested inventory controls at four case study locations. GAO makes 12 recommendations to improve VA-wide policies and procedures with respect to controls over IT equipment, including recordkeeping requirements, physical inventories, user-level accountability, and physical security. VA agreed with GAO's findings, noted significant actions under way, and concurred on the 12 recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07505high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-505>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

- 12. *July 25, Associated Press* — Screeners seize possible bomb-making materials at Maryland's BWI-Marshall and other airports.** Airport security officers around the nation have been alerted by federal officials to look out for terrorists practicing to carry explosive components onto aircraft, based on four curious seizures at airports since last September. The unclassified alert was distributed on July 20 by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to federal air marshals, its own transportation security officers, and other law enforcement agencies. The seizures at airports in San Diego, Milwaukee, Houston and Baltimore included "wires, switches, pipes or tubes, cell phone components and dense clay-like substances," including block cheese, the bulletin said. "The unusual nature and increase in number of these improvised items raise concern." Security officers were urged to keep an eye out for "ordinary items that look like improvised explosive device components." "There is no credible, specific threat here," TSA spokesperson Ellen Howe said Tuesday, July 24. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Russ Knocke described the notice as the latest copy of a routine informational bulletin for TSA workers, airport employees and law enforcement officials.

TSA Statement Regarding Intelligence Bulletin on Suspicious Incidents at U.S. Airports:

http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/intelligence_bulletin.sh tm

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=61142

13. *July 25, Reuters* — **Lawmakers agree on cargo screening bill.** U.S. lawmakers agreed Wednesday, July 25, on legislation that would require screening of all cargo headed to U.S. ports and other measures aimed at preventing another September 11–type attack. The bill would implement many of the recommendations of the bipartisan commission created after the September 11 attacks and impose some new measures. It aims to enable state and local governments to better share information with federal authorities and provide money to help communities upgrade their communications systems. The bill also seeks to ensure that the lion's share federal anti–terrorism grant money goes to high–risk areas. The bill requires that within five years all U.S.–bound cargo be inspected before it is loaded on ships. The bill also requires that all cargo carried on passenger airplanes be screened within three years and authorizes more than \$4 billion in grants for rail, transit and bus security. The administration has expressed concerns about the cargo screening provision, and spokesperson Scott Stanzel said the White House would review the legislation before making a decision.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/25/AR2007072501571.html>

14. *July 24, Pacific Business News* — **Air New Zealand signs contract with Hawaiian Air.** Air New Zealand announced Tuesday, July 24, it has signed a \$45 million heavy maintenance contract for Boeing 767 aircraft in the Hawaiian Airlines fleet. The contract is for five years, and the first of 18 Hawaiian Boeing 767s will arrive in Auckland in mid–August. Maintenance on the aircraft was previously performed in the United States, according to the New Zealand Press Association. Hawaiian routes include flights to Sydney and American Samoa.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070724/1495723.html?.v=1>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *July 25, Atlanta Business Chronicle* — **UPS Express Critical debuts.** United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS) has begun a new service that provides a single point of contact for all same–day and urgent packages, no matter the size of the package. Atlanta–based UPS is calling the new service "UPS Express Critical," which it says combines all its same–day and urgent capabilities. UPS customers will get a single point of contact if they're shipping a small package or sending a 1,000 pound machine part via air or ground, domestic or international. Customers now have a single call center, one bill and one Website to begin and track urgent shipments, UPS said.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070725/1496065.html?.v=1>

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Agriculture Sector

16. *July 24, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA changes Idaho's brucellosis status.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending its brucellosis regulations concerning the interstate movement of cattle by

changing Idaho's classification from Class A to Class Free. APHIS has determined that Idaho has met the standards for Class Free status. Class Free status is based on a state finding no brucellosis in cattle for the 12 months preceding designation as Class Free. Restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle become less stringent as a state approaches or achieves Class Free status. This action relieves certain restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle from Idaho. Brucellosis is a contagious, costly disease of ruminants and other animals that can also affect humans. It is mainly a threat to cattle, bison and swine. The disease causes decreased milk production, weight loss in animals, loss of young, infertility and lameness. There is no known treatment. Depopulation of infected and exposed animals is the only effective means of disease containment and eradication.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/07/bruidfre.shtml>

17. *July 24, Associated Press* — **Officials design agriculture emergency plan for Central Valley.** The California counties of Fresno and Stanislaus have developed a coordinated plan to protect the region's agriculture industry from disasters. The "All-Hazards Food and Agricultural Emergency Response Template" spells out specific roles for local, state and federal agencies if there is an agricultural emergency. The plan was crafted from \$117,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and has been adopted by the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, officials said Monday, July 23. The template has piqued the interest of other states seeking to consolidate government efforts in emergencies, said Carla Thomas, deputy director of the western region of the National Plant Diagnostic Network.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_6452231?nlick_check=1

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Food Sector

18. *July 24, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA announces availability of four pest risk analyses for the importation of fruits and vegetables from Africa.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Tuesday, July 24, announced the availability of four pest risk analyses, for review and comment. On July 18, USDA published a final rule that established a risk-based process for approving the importation of certain fruits and vegetables. Under the new process, a notice announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis is published in the Federal Register with the opportunity for public comment. After the comment period ends, all comments are considered, and if appropriate, a notice is published in the Federal Register announcing that USDA will begin issuing import permits for the commodity. The pest risk analyses completed for peeled baby carrots and baby corn from Kenya, Ribes species from South Africa and peppers, eggplant and okra from Ghana conclude that these commodities can be safely imported into the U.S. subject to one or more of five designated phytosanitary measures, and therefore are eligible for the new notice-based approval process.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/07/fourpra.s.html>

19. *July 24, Associated Press* — **European Union: China hasn't kept promise to give report on manufacturers of recalled goods.** China has not followed through on an agreement to provide information on actions taken against makers of products recalled in Europe, a top European

Union (EU) consumer goods official said Tuesday, July 24. The commitment to giving detailed quarterly reports was made in January 2006, but Beijing has only delivered twice since, said EU Consumer Commissioner Meglena Kuneva. Kuneva, who met with the head of the China's product safety watchdog on Monday, July 23, said they reached an agreement for Beijing to submit by October a report on prevention and follow up actions to European alerts.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/07/24/business/AS-GEN-China-Tainted-Products.php>

20. July 23, Associated Press — Leafy greens audits start in California. The bulk of the California's lettuce and spinach growers, shippers and processors will submit to audits starting Monday, July 23, designed to assure customers their products are safe, agriculture officials said. Ninety-nine percent of the leafy greens industry has signed up for the voluntary inspections as part of their membership in a leafy greens marketing agreement, state Department of Food and Agriculture officials said. The agreement was drawn up by the salad greens industry in an effort to restore consumer confidence following last year's E. coli outbreak linked to fresh California spinach. The bacteria caused the deaths of three people and sickened about 200 others.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20070723-1129-ca-brf-sjvalley-leafygreens.html>

21. July 23, CBS News — Botulism investigation closes food plant. Castleberry Food Co. is recalling every product manufactured on a specific production line in the past two years in response to four cases of botulism poisoning in Texas and Indiana. The production line is one of "four or five" in its Augusta, GA, facility. On Saturday, July 21, the company also shut down the entire plant for one week while it investigates the cause of the botulism poisoning. Castleberry recalled 10 hot dog chili sauce products on July 18 after 16 of 17 cans tested were found contaminated with botulism toxin. The cans were manufactured on one production line between April 30 and May 22 of this year. The company says the apparent cause of the contamination is that the product was undercooked and therefore not sterilized. Castleberry says no other products have tested positive for botulism. Nonetheless, the company is recalling more than 80 food products intended for humans sold under more than 25 brand names and manufactured on the production line in question. Also produced on the line, and also recalled, are a number of pet food products. The company says the products are sold in more than 17,000 stores nationwide and in Canada.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/07/23/health/main3089107.shtml>

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Water Sector

22. July 24, University of Georgia — Study finds contaminated water reaching Florida's offshore keys. A new University of Georgia study finds that sewage-contaminated groundwater is reaching the offshore reefs of the Upper Florida Keys, possibly threatening corals and human health. "The widespread use of in-ground waste disposal through septic tanks and injection wells appears to be leading to the contamination of submarine groundwater even up to six miles offshore," said study author Erin Lipp. Lipp and doctoral student Carrie Futch, along with Dale Griffin of the U.S. Geological Survey, sampled surface water, groundwater and corals from five sites from nearshore to offshore beginning outside of Port

Largo Canal and ending near Molasses Reef. Their three-year study revealed common fecal indicator bacteria and human viruses. The fecal indicator bacteria, which are not pathogens themselves but rather serve as surrogates for other disease-causing microbes found in sewage, declined with distance from shore but tended to be elevated in the surface layers of coral mucus relative to the surrounding water. Genetic material from enteric viruses, which cause disease in humans but are only found in infected human feces and urine, also were commonly found throughout the sampled area, including ground water more than six miles offshore.

Source: http://www.uga.edu/news/artman/publish/070724_Florida_sOffshoreKeys.shtml

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Public Health Sector

23. July 25, *Associated Press* — Massachusetts warns bus riders of possible TB risk. Passengers on a bus from Boston, MA, to Montreal, Canada, in early May might have been exposed to tuberculosis (TB) but it's unlikely they were infected, Massachusetts health officials said Tuesday, July 24. The passengers were being notified that another passenger on the bus had the disease. Al DeMaria, director of communicable disease control for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, said these types of notifications of passengers happen "all the time." Chris Andreasson, general manager of Vermont Transit Co. Inc., said last week that the company's bus drivers had been tested and cleared of the disease. The Boston Public Health Commission had a Boston passenger and bus driver tested for the disease, said spokesperson Ann Scales. The test results were confidential, she said.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/07/25/state_warns_bus_riders_of_possible_tb_risk/

24. July 24, *United Kingdom Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council* — Anthrax bacterium's deadly secrets probed. New insights into why the bug that causes anthrax behaves in the unusual way that it does have come to light thanks to a development under the United Kingdom's e-Science Program. Researchers at the North East Regional e-Science Center have found that the proteins the anthrax bacterium secretes equip it to grow only in an animal host and not in the soil. This finding sheds light on why *Bacillus anthracis* does not grow in soil, even though in many ways it resembles a soil-growing bacterium. It has the ability to lie dormant in soil for, in some cases, hundreds of years and then to cause a rapid, often fatal, illness when ingested by a suitable animal host. Bioterrorists have exploited this ability to deadly effect. Anil Wipat, Professor Colin Harwood and colleagues at the North East Regional e-Science Center revealed the new insights after developing a method for deducing and characterising the proteins a bacterium secretes simply from a knowledge of its genome sequence.

Source: <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/13144>

25. July 23, *Star (Canada)* — One-third of Ontario health units lack specialized doctors. Despite years of trying, Ontario, Canada, has failed to fill nearly one-third of the province's top public health jobs, leaving numerous communities without permanent medical officers of health. Critics argue the public health system wouldn't have enough qualified people in place in the event of a health-care crisis such as a flu pandemic or another SARS. Ten of Ontario's 36 health units do not have specially trained, full-time medical officers of health. They have

acting officers, with a few upgrading their education to possibly take over, said health ministry spokesperson David Jensen. Public health units handle everything from fighting infectious disease outbreaks to inspecting premises where food is prepared and running health promotion programs. Vacancies in top public health jobs are an ongoing problem, stretching back to the 1990s. Meanwhile, Ontario is experiencing a doctor shortage. Many are aging, taking on fewer hours and patients. Nearly one million Ontarians are without a family physician.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com/News/Ontario/article/238755>

- 26. July 18, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — New international health regulations enter into force in the U.S.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt announced that the revised International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) enter into force Wednesday, July 18, for the U.S. The International Health Regulations are an international legal instrument that governs the roles of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its member countries (Member States) in relation to disease outbreaks and other public health events with international impact. They establish a framework for countries that are party to the regulations to promptly and transparently report on and to respond effectively to health events that present a risk of spread to other countries and potentially require a coordinated international response. Under the revised regulations, countries that have accepted the IHR have a much broader responsibility to take preventive measures against, as well as detect, report on, and respond to, public health emergencies of international concern. The regulations give the WHO clearer authority to recommend to its Member States measures that will help contain the international spread of disease, including public health actions at ports, airports, land borders and on means of transport that involve international travel.

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/07/pr20070718a.html>

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Government Sector

- 27. July 25, Associated Press — Illinois student accused of terrorist threat.** A university student was arrested after he allegedly threatened a "murderous rampage" similar to the Virginia Tech shootings that left 32 people and the gunman dead, authorities said. A gun dealer had alerted federal authorities about the man, saying he had seemed overly anxious to get a shipment of semiautomatic weapons, according to an affidavit filed in court by a police detective. Olutosin Oduwole, who was taking summer classes at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, was charged Tuesday, July 24, with attempting to make a terrorist threat, a felony. According to the affidavit, the 22-year-old wrote a note demanding that money be deposited to a PayPal account, threatening that "if this account doesn't reach \$50,000 in the next seven days then a murderous rampage similar to the VT shooting will occur at another highly populated university. THIS IS NOT A JOKE!" Authorities found the note Friday in Oduwole's car on campus, said university spokesperson Greg Conroy. Police also said they found a loaded gun in Oduwole's dorm room. The detective said in the affidavit that Oduwole, of Maplewood, NJ, had recently bought three .38-caliber semiautomatic guns online but had not yet received them, and also had ordered a .45-caliber semiautomatic gun similar to an Uzi.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/STUDENT_THREAT_CHARGE?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Emergency Services Sector

28. July 25, WEAU-TV (WI) — High-tech firefighter training in Wisconsin. In the event of a natural disaster or terror attack, first responders have the paramount task of rescue and recovery. But with the ever-changing landscape of threats and the uncertainty of a large-scale event, it's important for firefighters to train constantly, learn new tactics and keep up with the times. That's why firefighters from all over the state of Wisconsin are training at a high-tech center in Juneau County, learning to handle any situation that comes their way. Instructors say the two-week course at the Regional Emergency All-Climate Training Center on Camp Williams Military Reservation is the first training program of its kind in the area. The training includes ten-hour days, where students learn the geometry and engineering of buildings and how to carefully cut through concrete, steel and wood with high-powered tools, to ultimately know how to save a structure from further collapse and rescue victims from the rubble. The first responders also practice working together, learning how best to communicate with each other, but also using techniques like hand signals to communicate with train and crane operators.

Source: <http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/8689927.html>

29. July 25, Reuters — Computer glitches hamper Thai tsunami drill. Computer glitches marred Thailand's biggest tsunami evacuation drill since the 2004 Indian Ocean disaster on Wednesday, July 24. Sirens blared as thousands of Thais and foreigners ran to higher ground during the one-day exercise in six southern provinces hit by the December 2004 tsunami which killed nearly 5,400 people in Thailand, including 1,953 foreigners. Smith Dharamsoroja, head of the National Disaster Warning Center, said he was not happy with a 20-minute gap between the first report of an undersea earthquake and signals sent to 79 warning towers in the region. "It should be 10 minutes. We are a bit slow so we have to improve," said Smith, who for years had warned Thailand to prepare for a tsunami and has said another big quake is likely within several years. The towers, based on models from Taiwan and Hawaii, broadcast warnings in five languages — English, German, Thai, Chinese and Japanese — to ensure tourists understand the threat and flee to higher ground. When construction is completed next year, Thailand will have 300 warning towers as part of its national disaster warning system, officials said.

Source: http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-2864742007_0725

30. July 24, Federal Emergency Management Agency — President declares major disaster for Nebraska. The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for Nebraska to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding during the period of May 28 to June 2, 2007. FEMA Administrator David Paulison said federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms and flooding. Areas covered by the declaration include Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Greeley, Hayes, Hitchcock, Howard, Kearney, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, Valley, and Wheeler counties.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=38129>

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. July 25, IDG News Service — Researchers: Forensics software can be hacked. The software that police and enterprise security teams use to investigate wrongdoing on computers is not as secure as it should be, according to researchers with Isec Partners. The San Francisco security company has spent the past six months investigating two forensic investigation programs, Guidance Software's EnCase, and an open-source product called The Sleuth Kit. They have discovered about a dozen bugs that could be used to crash the programs or possibly even install unauthorized software on an investigator's machine, according to Alex Stamos, a researcher and founding partner with Isec Partners. Researchers have been hacking forensics tools for years, but have traditionally focused on techniques that intruders could use to cover their tracks and thwart forensic investigations. The Isec team has taken a different tack, however, creating hacking tools that can be used to pound the software with data, looking for flaws. Based on their findings, Stamos's team believes that the EnCase software is not written as securely as it should and could theoretically be exploited by an attacker.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/07/25/Forensics-software-can-be-hacked_1.html

32. July 25, Sophos — Sophos report reveals record number of new Web-borne threats in 2007. Sophos has published new research into the first six months of cybercrime in 2007. The Sophos Security Threat Report examines existing and emerging security trends and has identified a sharp rise in the number of Web threats, as well as the countries and server types hosting the most infected sites. The first half of 2007 has seen an explosion in threats spread via the Web, which has now taken over from e-mail as the preferred vector of attack for financially motivated cybercriminals. In June alone Sophos uncovered a record number of new infected Webpages — approximately 29,700 — each day. In contrast, earlier in 2007, the number of malicious pages detected stood as low as just 5,000 per day.

Sophos Security Threat Report (registration required):

<http://www.sophos.com/security/whitepapers/sophos-security-t hreats-update-2007-wsrus>

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/07/secu rityrep.html>

33. July 24, eWeek — Power outage hits San Francisco data center, Websites. An explosion beneath a manhole cover on Mission Street in downtown San Francisco Tuesday, July 24, knocked out power and cut service to customers and a major IT co-location center. The 365 Main data center, a city-block-size hosting facility that houses servers for a number of major Websites, was heavily affected by the outage and immediately switched to backup generator power, a company spokesperson told eWEEK. 365 Main hosts Craigslist, Cnet.com, Technorati, Typepad, LiveJournal, Yelp, RedEnvelope, SecondLife.com, and a portion of Charles Schwab's financial transactions, among other companies. Sun Microsystems also utilizes a portion of 365 Main's facility for its grid utility service. All of those Websites went offline for at least a portion of the afternoon due to the outage.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2162216,00.asp>

34.

July 24, InformationWeek — **Storm worm erupts into worst virus attack in two years.** The Storm worm authors are waging a multi-pronged attack and generating the largest virus attack some researchers say they've seen in two years. "We are basically in the midst of an incredibly large attack," said Adam Swidler, a senior manager with security company Postini. "It's the most sustained attack that we've seen. There's been nine to 10 days straight days of attack at this level." Swidler said in an interview with InformationWeek that the attack started a little more than a week ago, and Postini since then has recorded 200 million spam e-mails luring users to malicious Websites. The viruses are not embedded in the e-mails or in attachments. The e-mails, many of them otherwise empty, contain a link to a compromised Website where machines are infected with a generic downloader. This helps pull the computers into the malware authors' growing botnet, while also leaving them open for further infection at a later date.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=AGU1WLLXDECCIQSNDLOSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=201200849>

35. July 24, InformationWeek — **Cisco warns of bugs in Wireless LAN Controllers.** Cisco Systems released a security advisory on Tuesday afternoon, July 24, to address several vulnerabilities in its Wireless LAN Controllers that could enable hackers to cause a denial-of-service on the affected network. The flaws lie in the handling of Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) packets. The advisory noted that a unicast ARP request may be flooded on the LAN links between Wireless LAN Controllers in a mobility group. A vulnerable WLC may mishandle unicast ARP requests from a wireless client, leading to an ARP storm. The bugs affect versions 4.1, 4.0, 3.2, and prior versions of the Wireless LAN Controller software, according to the advisory.

Cisco advisory: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20070724-arp.shtml>

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/software/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=AGU1WLLXDECCIQSNDLOSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=201200878>

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

36. July 25, Associated Press — **FBI: Air Force mechanic threatened base.** An aircraft mechanic sent e-mails to the FBI claiming he had planted explosives at Utah's Hill Air Force Base and

planned to take six hostages in Idaho, authorities said Wednesday, July 25. Five buildings were evacuated Tuesday, July 24, after the e-mails began surfacing, but the threat turned out to be false and no hostages were taken, FBI agent Tim Fuhrman said. William Stiffler, 39, was unarmed when he was arrested Tuesday in Malad, ID, as he prepared to board an employee shuttle to the base, Fuhrman said. Stiffler has worked on C-130 planes at Hill since 2001.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AIR_FORCE_BASE_THREAT?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

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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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