



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 September 2007

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- *Voice of America* reports a growing concern that the nation's Western agriculture infrastructure is vulnerable to a terrorist attack that could easily disrupt food supplies and commerce. (See item [22](#))
- The *Associated Press* writes that CDC researchers, working in tandem with a lab in Gabon, Africa, have confirmed an outbreak of the Ebola virus in Congo. See item [30](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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. *September 11, Reuters* – **OPEC to raise oil output.** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has agreed to increase its oil output by 500,000 barrels per day starting November 1, according to Qatari Oil. The move is seen as a gesture to consumer nations worried by diminishing fuel stocks and the economic impact of \$77 oil.
Source:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/11/AR2007091100510.html>
2. *September 10, U.S. Department of Energy* – **Construction begins on first-of-its-kind advanced clean coal electric generating facility.** Officials representing the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Southern Company, KBR Inc. and the Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) today broke ground on construction of an advanced 285-megawatt integrated gasification

combined cycle (IGCC) facility near Orlando, Florida. The new generating station will be among the cleanest, most efficient coal-fueled power plants in the world. Southern Company will operate the facility through its Southern Power subsidiary, which builds, owns, and manages the company's competitive generation assets. The station will be located at OUC's Stanton Energy Center in Orange County, and will help meet OUC's growing energy needs. Commercial operation is scheduled for June 2010. "This groundbreaking represents a significant milestone in the President's Clean Coal Power Initiative, which aims to reduce emissions and improve the efficiency of existing and new coal-based power plants," said U.S. Department of Energy Secretary.

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/5474.htm>

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

Chemical Industry

3. *September 11, Daily Comet* – **Almost one-third of the Army's chemical munitions destroyed.** The Army says almost one-third of its stockpile of chemical weapons in Anniston, Alabama has been destroyed. Disposal operations began in August 2003. Officials said in a statement yesterday that the entire GB nerve agent was incinerated by March 2006. Now employees are working on the VX stockpile. They've destroyed all the VX filled rockets and are currently dismantling and destroying 155 millimeter artillery shells containing the chemical agent. More than 1,500 artillery shells and 1,200 gallons of liquid VX were destroyed last week. The Army expects it to take several more years to completely eliminate all the chemical munitions stored in Anniston.

Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20070911/APN/709110601>

4. *September 11, New Haven Register* – **Officials say chemical spill in Milford, Connecticut no problem.** Local and state officials said that the spill of a cleaning agent this summer at the former site of Robertshaw Controls Co. was handled properly, and that the spill was not hazardous and it did not require door-to-door notification. The aldermanic Public Safety and Welfare Committee meeting Monday evening drew a host of top local officials and four state Department of Environmental Protection representatives. The meeting was called on concerns of how the spill was handled and why residents were not immediately informed. Local politicians relayed reports about children playing where the cleaning agent was found. However, at Monday's hearing, every official who testified said the cleaning agent's presence was so insignificant that it could not be classified as hazardous, and there was no justification to go door-to-door and notify residents.

Source:

http://www.nhregister.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18803369&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept_id=517514&rfi=6

5. *September 11, Chemical Online, Reaction Design* – **Reaction Design tapped for DOE FreedomCAR biofuels project.** Reaction Design, a clean technology company, recently announced that it has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for a two-year study of the chemical and transport phenomena that take place during biofuel combustion. Reaction Design will lead a team of researchers from Chevron and the University of Southern California (USC) to create computer simulation tools that will speed the development process

for engine designers and fuel manufacturers as they strive to integrate biofuels into their products. The development and validation of the detailed chemical mechanisms that govern biofuel combustion will focus on US domestic alternatives that show promise in reducing dependence upon foreign petroleum. Project funding comes from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies (OFCVT) with a mission to develop more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly highway transportation technologies that enable America to use less petroleum.

Source: <http://www.chemicalonline.com/content/news/article.asp?docid=4b0aeae0-a3c0-49f9-b7b1-c4edb953435a&atc~c=771+s=773+r=001+l=a>

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

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

6. *September 11, Salt Lake Tribune* – **Nation's nuclear waste storage industry in a jam.** The nuclear waste industry is preoccupied with one big question these days: What to do with trainloads of low-level nuclear waste that soon won't have anywhere to go. "This is a national problem, requiring a national solution," said the technical director for utilities, academic institutions and other low-level waste generators in California. This was a problem that received much attention last week at a conference of regulators and contractors in the business of arranging for disposal of radioactive rubbish from reactors, medical tests and procedures and research - not the highly contaminated spent fuel rods. Utah finds itself at the center of the discussion. One reason is Salt Lake City-based EnergySolutions, the country's biggest nuclear waste company is being phased out. Another reason is that EnergySolutions operates the busiest of the nation's three commercial landfills for radioactive waste, in Tooele County. EnergySolutions dropped plans to take hotter Class B and C waste in Utah four years ago. Two years after that, the Legislature outlawed the stuff altogether and dashed the hopes of a solution for the storage of low-level radioactive waste from nuclear plants, hospitals, universities and other users of hazardous radioactive material in 36 states. Those waste generators need new options to dispose of Class B waste, which is composed of leftovers from medical tests and nuclear operations that is gauged to be largely harmless after about 300 years, under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's classification program. They also want an alternative for Class C waste, which loses its hazard potential after about 500 years. Under a national system that has been in place nearly two decades, radiologically hazardous Class B and C materials can't go to ordinary landfills but only certified ones - and access to those landfills is tightly limited. No new ones have been constructed since the Tooele County facility, back in 1988. Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6859318?source=rss

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *September 11, AP* – **Raytheon delivers non-lethal defense system to U.S. Air Force.** Defense contractor Raytheon Co. said Tuesday it delivered a non-lethal defense system to the U.S. Air Force. The system, called Active Denial System 2, uses wave energy to repel people without injuring them. The system emits a focused beam of millimeter-wave energy that slightly penetrates the skin producing an "intolerable heating sensation" that causes a person to

flee, Raytheon said. Raytheon built the system for the Air Force under the Office of the Secretary of Defense's advanced concept technology demonstration program.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070911/raytheon_product.html?.v=1

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

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *September 10, Information Week* – **Americans: Hands off our social security numbers.** According to a new *Consumer Reports* National Research Center survey, 89% of Americans think that state and federal lawmakers should pass laws restricting the availability and use of Social Security numbers. “The widespread use of Social Security numbers has made it easier for crooks to commit fraud and contributes to the estimated 10 million cases of identity theft every year,” said a senior policy analyst with Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of *Consumer Reports*. The poll found that 87% of consumers have been asked in the past year to provide their Social Security number in whole or in part by a business or government agency. Requests, the researchers noted, also come from a wide variety of businesses for purposes beyond credit, employment, or tax compliance. Many inquiries reportedly come from businesses that have no clear need to collect these numbers. The poll showed that 91% of those surveyed agreed they are more vulnerable to identity theft when a business has their number, and 89% said companies should stop using Social Security numbers to identify customers.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/shared/printableArticleSrc.jhtml?articleID=201805228>

9. *September 11, The Connecticut Post* – **Mailbox new source for identity theft.** Police in Fairfield Connecticut are warning residents to think twice before leaving letters with checks enclosed in their mailboxes for pickup by letter carriers. They caution that thieves routinely steal people's identity from mail taken from mailboxes, using data on personal checks to assume that person's identity and steal their money. The Police Department's advisory about mail comes on the heels of an incident Saturday afternoon in which local woman had two checks stolen from her mailbox.

Source: http://www.connpost.com/localnews/ci_6856923

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

Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *September 11, The AP* – **Senate OKs \$1b to repair US bridges.** The Senate approved a \$1 billion grant Monday for bridge repairs and replacements across the country. It also began debate over next year's housing and transportation budget, including a proposal to increase by 20 percent funding for bridge repairs and replacement. The measures are aimed to begin tackling the \$65 billion backlog of bridge repairs identified by the Department of Transportation.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jZPDFwTg48i7GtZvuYRCb3OTD4YQ>

11. *September 11, The New York Times* – **F.A.A. urges pilots to use a digital transmitter.** Following the disappearance of a plane last week, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

decided it will no longer monitor signals coming from electronic locator transmitters because they are “antiquated and unreliable.” FAA officials advised plane owners to switch to digital transmitters capable of sending identification numbers to identify plane owners in case of emergency. Those opt out of the change by February 2009 will have to “rely on their distress signals being picked up by planes flying overhead, rather than by the satellites that monitor such signals.” The change in systems could cost plane owners more than \$4,000. Presently, only 10 percent of the planes in the United States operate digital transmitters.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/11/us/11fossett.html?_r=2&ref=us&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

12. *September 11, United Press International* – **U.S. tightens small plane security rules.** New regulations coming from the Department of Homeland Security were implemented Tuesday for small aircraft flying from foreign destinations. According to a *USA Today* report, “rules requiring pilots of private planes to radio the information in one hour before landing would change Tuesday to require the information be sent one hour before taking off.” The precautionary security measure is intended to allow Customs and Immigration agents more time to screen passengers and crews.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2007/09/11/us_tightens_small_plane_security_rules/4326/

13. *September 11, The AP* – **Passports needed for Canada, Mexico and Caribbean.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ruling allowing passengers traveling to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean to show proof of a pending passport application will be waived this month, according to a *Travel Weekly* report. DHS confirmed the change in a press release, saying “the temporary Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative accommodation allowing U.S. citizens to travel by air within the Western Hemisphere using a Department of State official proof of passport application receipt will end as scheduled at midnight on September 30.”

Source: <http://news.cheapflights.com/airlines/2007/09/passports-neede.html>

14. *September 11, AP* – **Highway contractor faces prison for substandard guardrails.** On Monday, a U.S. district court judge sentenced a New Jersey contractor to prison for supplying substandard guardrails for Pennsylvania highway projects. The contractor pleaded guilty to defrauding the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation of more than \$683,000 on projects involving parts of Woodhaven Road in northeast Philadelphia, the West Chester Bypass in Chester County, and Pottstown Pike in Montgomery County. Doing business as Statewide Hi-Way Safety Inc., Smith used factory seconds and reconditioned steel to make guardrails for the projects, but provided false certification forms saying the materials were manufactured by a PennDOT-authorized supplier to contract specifications, court papers said. The contractor was ordered to make restitution of \$634,586 to PennDOT and \$15,598 to the state Office of Inspector General.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/news/state/story/203994.html>

15. *September 10, AP* – **Overweight trucks damage infrastructure.** Experts worry that heavy

trucks are damaging the nation's roads and bridges as many of them exceed the required weight limits, according to interviews conducted by *The Associated Press*. Investigators suspect that one cause of the Minneapolis bridge collapse may have been weakened steel and concrete. The effects of overweight trucks on roads' and bridges' infrastructure were described in a government study which stated that "one 40-ton truck does as much damage to the road as 9,600 cars." Some states, however, grant permits to trucks over the normal limit by as much as 2 tons. According to the *AP* report, 500,000 overweight trucks were granted a year-long permission in 2006.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070911/ap_on_re_us/overweight_trucks;_ylt=AnJGnGET1O1b8UD56L_eb3es0NUE

16. *September 10, CNN Money* – **Atlantic City International Airport to use new system to detect explosives.** A new undercarriage vehicle screening system was introduced at the Atlantic City International Airport to detect explosives or contraband hidden under vehicles. The system was purchased with funds from a \$22,500 grant from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and is used by law enforcement officers from the Egg Harbor Township Police Department and the State Police. The features of the new system include "a four-inch ramp equipped with a series of cameras and lights that transmit an image of the undercarriage of the vehicle to a security screen located in a mobile vehicle parked nearby." Faced with an estimated 1.2 million passengers going through the airport in 2007, airport officials are currently undergoing a series of upgrades including "the construction of a 1,400-space, six-story parking garage, interior cosmetic upgrades and the installation of new escalators and elevators to improve passenger traffic flow inside the terminal."
Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/marketwire/0299955.htm>
17. *September 10, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – **\$66.5 billion transportation plan clears hurdle.** A committee from the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Transportation Coordinating Committee, approved on Friday a \$66.5 billion transportation plan which includes a the 25-year list of transportation projects for the 18 counties of metro Atlanta. The final approval of the plan is expected by late fall.
Source: http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/09/10/metro_transportation_0910.html
18. *September 10, Government Executive.com* – **Government agrees to minor changes in traveler risk assessments.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced that it will reduce the time that its computer systems store threat assessments of each American national traveling abroad from 40 years to 15 years. The assessments are designed to detect terrorist threats. DHS has also decided to stop sharing the assessments with "federal, state and local officials who are deciding whether a person gets a job, a security clearance, a license to do business or a government contract." Federal agents will still have access to a wide range of information on individual travelers including "meal choices, the names of possible companions, and the number of hotel beds requested." These data are then compared with government watch lists of known and suspected terrorists and criminals. The changes were welcomed by members of Congress, business travel associations, and civil liberties groups, which claim that the system is error-prone and that wrongly labeled individuals have trouble

clearing their names. DHS defends the system and claims it is a useful tool to keep the nation safe.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37974&sid=60

19. *September 10, KRGV News* – **Passengers allowed back in Texas airport.** The McAllen Miller International Airport in Texas was evacuated after officials received two bomb threats over the weekend. On Tuesday, airport activities were back to normal and passengers were granted access to their terminals. The McAllen Police Chief believes that the two threats as well as an earlier threat received on August 22, came from a base in northern Mexico near the border. The McAllen police department and the FBI are collaborating to find the source of the threat.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.tv/2007/9/10/979336/Passengers-Being-Allowed-Back-in-Airport>

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *September 11, Security Products* – **Tracking the elusive shipping container.** The Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate facilitated the development of a new product, the MATTS – Marine Asset Tag Tracking System, which will be used to monitor shipping containers. This small device integrates “a miniature sensor, data logging computer, radio transceiver, and GPS tracking system,” and will indicate the approximate location of the container and whether any part of it has been opened. It is hoped the device will make it more difficult for terrorists to use the device to smuggle goods or carry out an attack.

Source: <http://www.secprodonline.com/articles/50190/>

21. *September 8, Washington Post* – **Democrats, TSA scuffle on who inspects cargo.** Congress and the Transportation Security Administration differ on who should inspect the more than 7,500 tons of cargo loaded onto passenger planes daily. Currently, a percentage is screened preceding each flight, but according to a law passed in July, within the next three years all cargo must be screened. While congress would like the screeners to be government employees, TSA believes that the shippers, manufacturers, and other companies should be allowed to conduct the inspections, as long as certain government standards are met and a secure chain of custody is maintained.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/07/AR2007090702430.html>

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

Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *September 10, Voice of America* – **Concern growing in US west over agroterrorism.** There is growing concern that farms and ranches in the western U.S. could become the target of agroterrorism. The devastating outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Britain and continental Europe have state officials in the U.S. concerned that a terrorist could disrupt food supply with a chemical or biological agent. According to the report, a foreign disease agent maliciously

introduced into a dairy herd could quickly spread throughout a state or region with devastating results. The Wyoming Livestock Board Veterinarian said that introducing an agent like foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax or cholera into the state would be as easy as “going over to one of the third world countries that has foot-and-mouth disease in their native population, taking a handkerchief and wiping the nose of a pig that is actively shedding the virus, putting that handkerchief in a plastic bag, putting it into your suitcase, and flying over to the United States and throwing that handkerchief into a feed lot, or sale barn situation, something like that. You could expose a lot of animals that way.” While the Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security believes that there is little chance of a foreign terrorist group striking in Wyoming, he says the Livestock Board there has received threats from domestic animal rights groups.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-09-10-voa53.cfm>

23. *September 10, The Salt Lake City Tribune* – **Emergency grazing lands open for livestock.** Federal "grass banks" in five Utah counties have been released for emergency grazing as ranchers struggle to feed their livestock after record wildfires and drought. Ranchers who have taken their land out of production in exchange for government payments will soon be able to open property for their own livestock and their neighbors' cattle in Juab, Cache, Box Elder, Millard and San Juan counties. The number of conservation lands to be released and how long cattle can graze will be determined by local managers.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_6850013
24. *September 10, Feedstuffs.com* – **Montana sheep suspected of bluetongue outbreak.** The Montana Department of Livestock announced Monday that sheep producers in Musselshell County are not allowed to transport sheep anywhere within or beyond county lines for the next 30 days because of a recent possible outbreak of bluetongue. The State veterinarian authorized the hold order in an effort to reduce potential transmission of the virus. According to the announcement, about 100 sheep in Musselshell County have died within the past two weeks. Several initially tested positive for the virus in a screening test and when whitetail deer were also tentatively diagnosed, the State Veterinarian decided to protect other livestock with the hold order. Confirmation of the test results are expected this week. According to the article, the presence of bluetongue viruses in the U.S. has blocked the export of U.S. cattle, sheep and goats to many major world markets for more than 25 years. Canada accepts U.S. cattle, but requires rigorous testing before the animals cross the border.
Source:
<http://www.feedstuffs.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=F4D1A9DFCD974EAD8CD5205E15C1CB42&nm=Breaking+News&type=news&mod=News&mid=A3D60400B4204079A76C4B1B129CB433&tier=3&nid=F401DE2C55B54C25A6271F9909530CA0>

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

Water Sector

25. *September 11, The Gainesville Times* – **Is this water clean enough? Proposed rule change worries environmentalists.** Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division proposed a new rule, which would allow them to grant variances if “allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are

located.” Though permitted under the federal Clean Water Act, environmental advocacy groups fear that it will allow pollution to increase throughout the state. An Environmental Protection Division official stated that the proposal is in response to the current state of affairs in Savannah Harbor. The harbor users want to have it dredged, which would decrease the already low levels of oxygen in the water. Businesses further upstream are also affected. Treatment plants cannot pump waste water into the river, as this would further decrease oxygen levels. A public meeting regarding this topic is scheduled for early next week.

Source: <http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/stories/20070911/localnews/195867.shtml>

26. *September 11, San Diego Union-Tribune* – **Serious about saving water.** The San Diego County Water Authority is developing a new program to help owners of large properties (those with 5,000 square feet or more of landscaping) conserve water. The program, which combines satellite imagery, weather information, and software, is especially important in light of the recent ruling on the Sacramento Delta, the low snow pack, and the drought affecting the Colorado River. Several other water agencies in California offer similar programs, but they are voluntary and generally on a smaller scale. The program will analyze properties and recommend water conservation techniques. Penalizing customers who use too much water is a future possibility. Analysis of the first 3,200 parcels will begin in 2008.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20070911-9999-1m11water.html>

27. *September 10, South Florida Business Journal* – **Lake Okeechobee levels continue to decline.** The South Florida Water Management District said that Lake Okeechobee, the largest body of water in the regional water management system, reached a historic low this week. This indicates that the region may have consecutive years of water shortages for the first time since the early 1980s. Continued water shortages will affect food prices and the economic health of the state.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2007/09/10/daily7.html>

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

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *September 11, Associated Press* – **Mississippi reports 15 new cases of West Nile virus.** The State Health Department is reporting 15 new cases of West Nile virus in Mississippi, bringing the total cases this year to 59. The new cases were found in Madison County (3 cases), Leflore County (2 cases), and single cases in Copiah, Hinds, Lamar, Neshoba, Pearl River, Rankin, Warren, Washington, Wayne and Yazoo counties.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/218/story/139499.html>

29. *September 11, Associated Press* – **Expert says climate change will spread global disease.** Climate change will have an overwhelmingly negative impact on health, an expert told a regional meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday. He cited China's Jiangsu province, where the winter freezing zone has moved northwards, causing the water snail that transmits schistosomiasis to also shift northwards, thereby putting perhaps 20 million people at risk for the parasitic disease. He also said that changes in temperature and rainfall would make it far harder to control dengue fever. "Empirical modeling suggests the climate that is likely to apply in 2085 will put an extra billion people at risk of dengue worldwide," he

said.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5j92QhDDZZ0bJzDL5wBUYYPysrdnA>

30. *September 10, Associated Press* – **Congo officials confirm Ebola outbreak.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and another lab in Gabon confirmed an outbreak as Ebola, Congo's Health Minister said on national television. More than 100 people have died of illness since late August in the affected Mweka region, where about 140,000 people live. The Minister did not say whether the outbreak had been contained. By the end of August, four villages had been affected and 217 people had contracted the illness, including 103 who died. Congo's last major Ebola outbreak struck in Kikwit in 1995, killing 245 people. Kikwit is about 185 miles from the site of the current purported outbreak.

Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8RIS8F00&show_article=1

31. *September 10, Reuters* – **U.S. not ready for bird flu, other disasters: reports.** The General Accountability Office (GAO), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), each issued a report Monday echoing a congressional report released the same day which found that the U.S. is poorly defended against imported infectious diseases. The report follows an incident in which a tuberculosis-infected man walked past U.S. border controls in May. The GAO report showed that various U.S. agencies have still not fully worked out who would make decisions in case of a pandemic, noting that U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security all missed opportunities to stop the man in question, who had been cautioned not to travel. The NACCHO report showed that federal funding for local entities fell 20 percent last year, forcing 28 percent of local health departments to reduce the time their staff spent on preparedness and 40 percent to delay or cancel acquisition of equipment and supplies.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1035758720070910?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

32. *September 10, AP* – **Md. biotech to develop malaria vaccine for military.** GenVec Inc., a Gaithersburg, MD-based biotech firm, has signed a research and development pact with the Military Malaria Vaccine Program at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. It will be responsible for the development and preclinical testing of a vaccine for Plasmodium vivax, a strain of malaria that can cause recurrent illness years after infection. Financial details of the contract were not disclosed. GenVec is already working with the Military Malaria Vaccine Program on vaccines for P. falciparum, the most deadly strain of malaria.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/stories/2007/09/10/daily6.html>

33. *September 10, Medical News Today* – **Community superbug is a growing danger across U.S.** A community-based resistant staph bacterium normally contracted in hospitals is posing a growing danger to healthy people, especially children, across the U.S. Called CA-MRSA (Community Acquired-Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus), the bacterium is said to be more virulent than the hospital acquired strain. MRSA, the strain that occurs most frequently in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities (for instance dialysis centers) where patients tend to have weakened immune systems, is resistant to methicillin and other common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin and amoxicillin. CA-MRSA on the other

hand is acquired outside of these environments, in the community, by otherwise healthy people who have not been hospitalized or had medical procedures such as surgery, dialysis or had a catheter insertion within twelve months prior to the infection. CA-MRSA usually manifests as pimples and boils. The bacteria enter the body through open wounds on the skin and emerge as a boil or abscess that can look like a bite from a spider. The bacteria can get into the bloodstream, bones, joints, muscles and lungs, causing serious damage. According to an expert, CA-MRSA is much more virulent than normal MRSA. Outbreaks of CA-MRSA occur frequently in jails around the US. For instance, the Los Angeles County Jail has a high rate of CA-MRSA, and outbreaks have been reported on a regular basis since 2002, totaling some 8,500 cases. Once inmates are released, they spread the bacteria to the rest of the community. Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/82005.php>

34. *September 10, State of California* – **Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger orders enhancements to fight West Nile virus.** California’s Governor issued an executive order on Monday calling for additional actions to fight the West Nile Virus and broadening the purposes for which previously allocated funding of \$10 million can be used. Last month, the Governor issued executive orders allocating funds to fight the virus with mosquito abatement, surveillance, vegetation management and other means. So far this year, 35 counties have received nearly \$4.5 million in funds. Monday’s executive order will fund efforts by local jurisdictions to expand public education, enhance outreach to the medical community and include aggressive surveillance by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) of areas with elevated risk of transmission. On August 2, 2007 in Bakersfield, the Governor declared a State of Emergency in the counties of Kern, Colusa and San Joaquin, which have experienced a significant number of incidents. The Governor subsequently ordered CDPH to allocate up to \$10 million in funding to fight the virus. The funding pays for local vector control agencies to identify mosquito habitats, treat areas to prevent the spread of the virus and conduct surveillance and warning operations so that counties can effectively fight the health threat. Source: http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/48731754_california_gov_arnold_schwarzenegger_orders_enhancements_fight_west_nile_virus
35. *September, 9, WSB TV* – **Woman dies after eating oysters at Atlanta restaurant.** Health officials said Monday that a Fulton County woman died after eating raw oysters at an Atlanta restaurant in August. A corporate chef with Spondivits Seafood and Steaks in Hapeville confirmed that health officials are investigating the restaurant. Officials said the woman’s death and possible link to oysters had been under investigation for several weeks. Authorities warn people against eating raw shellfish because of the possibility it could be contaminated with *Vibrio vulnificus* -- the bacteria linked to the woman’s death. Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/14084188/detail.html>
36. *September 9, The Dallas Morning News* – **Study: Vaccine protects against poisoning from inhaled, ingested ricin.** An experimental vaccine against the deadly toxin ricin protects mice when the toxin is either inhaled or ingested, Dallas researchers have reported. While previous research showed that the vaccine would prevent death from ricin injection, the new findings are important as bioterrorists would probably spray ricin into the air or on food. Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/090907dnmetricin.429bfd.d.html>

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

Government Facilities Sector

37. *September 10, United Press International* – **Santa Susana lab facing major cleanup.** A bill forcing Boeing and NASA to remove their radioactive and chemical waste from their Santa Susana Field Lab is under consideration by the governor of California. A judge ordered the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct a new study on contamination at the former nuclear research facility near Los Angeles. In an order signed last month, Boeing, the DOE, and NASA were given a deadline of 2017 to complete the cleanup.
Source:
http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2007/09/10/santa_susana_lab_facing_major_cleanup/9167/
38. *September 11, CNN.com* – **9/11 bomb threat at U.S. Air Base.** Monday evening, officials at a U.S. Air Force base in Germany received a phone call, warning of a bomb. The caller spoke accented German and authorities are working on tracing the call. Vehicles entering the base are being subjected to more in depth inspections; otherwise it is “business as usual.”
Source:
http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/09/11/germany.threat/index.html?eref=rss_latest

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

Emergency Services Sector

39. *September 10, GovernmentExecutive.com* – **Homeland Security clarifies disaster response roles.** State officials will step in and help local communities if they are overwhelmed during a disaster -- as they were in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit -- according to a new Homeland Security Department plan that tries to clarify who is in charge during emergencies. However, local officials remain in charge of the response before, during and after disasters, the revised plan states. After Hurricane Katrina slammed into the gulf coast in 2005, some New Orleans and Louisiana officials were not clear on who was responsible for evacuating and sheltering people or maintaining law and order. This was in part because of the catastrophic nature of the disaster, but it did not help that many officials had not read the lengthy emergency response plan written by the Homeland Security Department. As a result, the 488-page National Response Plan -- created after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to coordinate local, state and federal response to disasters -- has been undergoing revisions for the past two years. The department's new plan, obtained by The Associated Press before its release Monday, specifies who's in charge of what. Lawmakers were being briefed on the plan Monday, and the document will go out for a 30-day public comment period.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=37971&sid=60
40. *September 11, Bangor Daily News* – **Maine improving its emergency communications.** When it comes to emergency communications in Maine, all of the arrows seem pointed in the

right direction, although much more training needs to take place. The director of the Waldo County Emergency Management sees signs of steady progress statewide in the upgrading of communications networks and in more comprehensive emergency response training. For example, Waldo County later this month will hold a four-day, large-scale-disaster response drill involving seven sites across two counties and six communities. Bangor's communications infrastructure and radio upgrades since 2004 include deployment of five new VHF receiver sites with fiber-optic connectivity and seven new mobile data transmission sites. Dozens of older radios have been replaced with newer devices featuring added channel capacity. The Bangor Fire Department operates one of Maine's four mobile command posts: trucks equipped with sophisticated communications gear, including satellite links.

Source: <http://bangordailynews.com/news/t/news.aspx?articleid=154109&zoneid=500>

41. *September 11, WiscNews.com, Portage Daily Register* – **Disaster scenario measures emergency response.** Canadian Pacific Railway sponsored a massive disaster response drill in Portage, Wisconsin that involved 35 federal, state and local agencies and 200 to 300 officials, responders and volunteers. The scenario presented a number of challenges that officials in Portage are not normally faced with. Police, firefighters, and EMTs responded as if a criminal act had caused a train to derail in the railyard, puncturing a tanker containing 29,000 gallons of the poisonous gas anhydrous ammonia. In addition to trying to save residents from the fictional plume of white anhydrous ammonia gas, responders also had to track down and apprehend the supposed culprit behind the attack. The scenario dictated that the derailment was caused by an unknown suspect who parked a truck on the railroad tracks, and necessitated a tactical response by a Columbia County SWAT force. City officials seemed happy with the overall results of the drill. All mock resident casualties were tended to, and the suspect was apprehended quickly.

Source: <http://www.wiscnews.com/pdr/news//index.php?ntid=231937>

42. *September 11, themorningcall.com* – **In event of biological weapons attack, could region take influx?** Six years after the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil, Pennsylvania emergency managers are still debating how they would handle the westward stream of people if terrorists attack New York City with biological weapons, a state counterterrorism official told a congressional panel Monday in Bethlehem. "We've been kicking around the idea of a quarantine. That's a subject that is up for debate and will continue to be up for debate," said the program manager of the Northeast Pennsylvania Counter-Terrorism Task Force. The program manager's testimony on such a worst-case scenario came during a two-hour hearing for the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security's emergency communications, preparedness and response subcommittee. Two possible means of controlling the flow of people into the region would be to set up checkpoints at the Delaware River crossings or to close interstate exit ramps to force people farther west, he said. However, river checkpoints would probably create a traffic jam that would extend all the way to New York while closing exit ramps would deny many Monroe County residents access to their homes. In either case, there is also a likelihood that motorists would end up stranded on an interstate after running out of gas. Regular meetings that have included participation from the New Jersey and New York state police departments have worked on hashing out these problems.

Source: http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/state/all-a5_disaster.6037343sep11,0,1957038.story?track=rss

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

Information Technology

43. *September 10, Computerworld* – **Offshore worker breaks into Caterpillar server in U.S, steals 4,000 documents.** An IT engineer working for Caterpillar Inc.'s engineering design center in India allegedly used another employee's username and password to access and steal about 4,000 confidential documents from a company server in the U.S. The individual behind the attack was arrested by the Cyber Crime Cell of India's Criminal Investigations Department in late July. He was charged with hacking into a server and stealing confidential data under the country's Information Technology Act of 2000. A Caterpillar spokeswoman confirmed the incident and said that a former Caterpillar employee had been arrested by local authorities.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9035278&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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

Communications Sector

44. *September 11, IDG News Service* – **Broadcasters continue fight against wireless Net.** The association of television broadcasters launched a campaign on Monday designed to persuade the Federal Communications Commission not to allow portable wireless Internet services in the so-called "white spaces" of TV spectrum. The move pits powerful broadcasters against some of the biggest names in technology. The broadcasters argue that enabling portable wireless Internet services in the white spaces will degrade TV service for consumers just as they spend billions of dollars buying new digital TV sets. "This investment should not be jeopardized by the introduction of unlicensed personal and portable devices that are sure to interfere with television reception," said the NAB in an open letter to the FCC. The campaign comes in response to an FCC report detailing its testing of prototype devices from technology giants which are working together as the White Space Coalition. The companies had submitted prototypes of products that could operate in the portion of a spectrum band that a TV broadcaster doesn't use, known as white space. The devices were designed to look for broadcasts in the spectrum and then transmit only if the spectrum was free. But the FCC found that the devices didn't consistently detect the signals and could sometimes cause interference. The FCC has already approved transmission in the spectrum for fixed devices. The prototypes submitted by the technology companies were of portable products.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/11/Broadcasters-fight-against-wireless-Net_1.html

45. *September 11, The Associated Press* – **FCC wants to guarantee smooth shift to digital-only**

transmission. It is a digital divide that has the cable industry up against the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. An estimated 32 million cable subscribers in the U.S. are not equipped to receive a digital TV signal. That could mean problems when broadcasters shift to digital-only transmission in 2009. The cable TV industry promises customers will still receive a picture when the change happens. But the FCC's chairman wants rules passed that will force the industry to stick to its word. The FCC is scheduled to vote on the issue today. The greatest impact of the digital conversion will be on viewers of non-digital televisions who receive their signals over the air. Beginning in early 2009, they will be forced to buy a special converter box, subsidized by the government, to receive their channels.

Source: <http://www.wndu.com/news/headlines/9712397.html>

46. *September 10, Computerworld* – **Google Earth, Amazon tools aid in search for missing aviator.** Tools from Google Earth and Amazon.com are being used in the effort to find aviator and adventurer Steve Fossett who has been missing since taking off in a private plane in Nevada last week. He has been missing since September 3, when he took off from a private airstrip 80 miles southeast of Reno, Nevada, in a small single-engine airplane. The area of Nevada where he went missing is rugged terrain, and rescuers have been unable to locate Fossett or his plane. The administrator of an unofficial Google Earth blog wrote that Amazon has set up a Web site so users can help in the search effort. New satellite imagery has been taken by GeoEye, a company that owns and operates three imaging satellites, and Amazon.com Inc.'s Mechanical Turk Web service has been used to produce a Web site so users can search for his plane using the satellite imagery. Mechanical Turk is a Web service that integrates information gathered by people performing a certain task. To participate, users can sign up at the site and provide their addresses. They will be shown a single satellite image and should flag any images that contain foreign objects that may resemble Fossett's airplane or parts of a plane. Users are also asked to download Google Earth. "The plane will show up as a regular object with sharp edges, white or nearly white, about 21 pixels long and 30 pixels in wingspan," according to the Web site. "Marked images will be sent to a team of specialists who will determine if they contain information on the whereabouts of Steve Fossett." "This is an approach to more rapidly search a large area of imagery using many eyeballs of people around the world," said the site administrator.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9035338&intsrc=hm_list

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

Commercial Facilities Sector

No news to report.

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

National Monuments & Icons Sector

47. *September 11, Washington Times* – **Vandals feared at memorial.** On Saturday, National Park Service rangers discovered a "'light, oily' substance" on part of the Vietnam Veterans

Memorial on the National Mall. The National Park Service staff is attempting to remove the substance without permanently damaging the memorial, while U.S. Park Police investigate the incident.

Source:

<http://washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070911/METRO/109110043/1004>

48. *September 11, Los Angeles Times* – **Deputies kill gunman at pot farm near Lytle Creek.** On Monday, sheriff's deputies working with the U.S. Forest Service fatally shot a man in the San Bernardino National Forest. Shots were fired as the deputies prepared to destroy a marijuana field. California state officials have recently seen a steep increase in marijuana farms, especially in national forests and parks. These areas are difficult to patrol adequately and, as they are public lands, the growers do not risk having their property confiscated. Two men fled the scene on foot and were not found in the subsequent search.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-pot11sep11,1,1983643.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>
49. *September 10, AP* – **Forest chief: Use trees to make ethanol, offset gas use.** The head of the U.S. Forest Service proposed the seemingly contradictory goals of replacing 15 percent of the nation's gasoline with ethanol made from wood, while concurrently doubling the amount of carbon dioxide emissions absorbed by forests. She advocated using renewable biofuels made from brush and other forest products, as these must be cleared in order to comply with the new "healthy forests" law. Currently, our nation's forests offset approximately 10% of our carbon emissions, and she proposed that more be planted "in areas cleared out by wildfires, floods and other calamities of nature" in order to offset more carbon dioxide emissions.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/science/09/10/forests.ethanol.ap/>

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

Dams Sector

50. *September 11, The Times Picayune* – **Corps targets trees, fences near canal.** Property owners on both sides of the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans will receive letters informing them what trees, vegetation or small structures, such as backyard fences, must be removed to maintain levee safety. The encroachments are located in either the levee slope, a right of way, or within a vegetation-free safety zone that extends 6 feet out from the levee toe, Army Corps of Engineers officials said. An assortment of outbuildings on both sides of the canal, and potentially some residences, might ultimately need removing if a geotechnical analysis determines the structures could threaten levee stability. Corps officials said they will not handle that process and that much engineering work remains to be done before those decisions are made.
Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-23/1189491833132260.xml&coll=1>
51. *September 10, KSBI TV* – **Officials question dams.** Officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are questioning a proposal to build low-water dams along the Arkansas River in Tulsa County, Oklahoma. While a report says the dams will not harm the environment, a biologist says that analysis assumes an unrealistically high average flow of water on the river.

Source: <http://www.ksbitv.com/home/9691102.html>

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

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