



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 September 2007

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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

- *The Boston Globe* is reporting that Boston's Public Health Preparedness Office will send small, white boxes, representing antibiotics, to a cross-section of local households on September 23rd. The exercise is aimed at measuring the postal system's capability to distribute antibiotics in the event of a bioterrorism attack. (See item [20](#))
- *The Christian Science Monitor* reports that a recent ruling on the distribution of water from California's Sacramento Delta will have wide ranging effects on the state's economy. The chairman of the board of directors for the Western Growers Association stated that significant layoffs in agricultural and related industries are expected. (See item [26](#))

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](#)

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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. *September 12, The Washington Post, Reuters* – **Oil hits record high over \$80 on tight supply.** Crude oil prices vaulted to a record high \$80 a barrel on Wednesday as dealers focused on tight inventories in top consumer the United States ahead of peak winter demand. A rash of fires at BP's oil fields in Alaska's North Slope added to the record run, though BP said the accidents had minimal impact to production that was already being curtailed by routine maintenance. The surge in oil prices came a day after OPEC agreed to a small production hike in an effort to soothe consumer nations' fears that soaring crude costs could slow economic growth. U.S. light crude for October delivery was up \$1.62 at \$79.85 per barrel at 2:30 p.m. EDT after setting a record high of \$80.18 a barrel earlier. London Brent crude was up \$1.12 at

\$77.50 a barrel. Adjusted for inflation, prices are still below the \$90-a-barrel peaks of the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and the start of the Iran-Iraq war the following year.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/12/AR2007091200855.html>

2. *September 12, U.S. Department of Energy* – **DOE commits \$610,000 to support NGA.** The U.S. Energy Secretary announced that DOE will provide \$610,000 during the 2007 Fiscal Year to support the National Governors Association's (NGA) work to enact meaningful energy policies at the state level, furthering the Department's ongoing commitment to increase state and federal cooperation and collaboration. DOE will invest \$550,000 in NGA's Securing a Clean Energy Future Initiative and \$60,000 in support of NGA's critical efforts to increase electricity assurance. NGA's Securing a Clean Energy Future will promote comprehensive clean energy policies at the state level that use existing energy resources more efficiently. Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/5489.htm>

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Chemical Industry

3. *September 12, dailynebraskan.com* – **University to cleanup buried chemical waste.** Chemical waste buried by the University of Nebraska in the late 1970s and early 1980s will be removed in the coming eight to 12 weeks. The university's Agricultural Research and Development Center in Mead was home to agricultural-related animal and plant testing that used chemicals like toluene and xylene, which are known to cause health problems in humans when they are exposed to high doses. The waste was disposed of in accordance with standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that mainly concerned the proper burial of contaminated materials. The university produced chemical waste, low-level radiological waste and biological tissue waste, including animal carcasses. The materials will be removed from the several pits that were dug to contain the waste at the Mead site. Once removed, the materials will be analyzed to determine their classification, said an official from the EPA. Based on its toxicity, the material may be shipped to various disposal sites across the United States. If it is not determined to be hazardous, it may be placed in local landfills. Source: <http://media.www.dailynebraskan.com/media/storage/paper857/news/2007/09/12/News/University.To.Cleanup.Buried.Chemical.Waste-2963320.shtml>
4. *September 12, The Sault Star* – **Scientists look to us to reduce chemical discharges.** Scientists say an intense challenge lies ahead as a three-decade effort to rid Lake Superior of chemical discharges such as mercury and dioxin nears the two-thirds mark. Still, those working on the zero-discharge program say there is reason to believe significant progress will continue in the unprecedented attempt to virtually stop the release of persistent, toxic substances into the largest of the Great Lakes by the 2020 target. In 1990, U.S. and Canadian government agencies, along with aboriginal organizations, started a 30-year experiment targeting discharges of nine key hazardous chemicals in the Lake Superior watershed. The Lake Superior Zero Discharge Demonstration Program was launched partly due to the northern lake's relatively low levels of discharge. As of the most recent milestone date, in 2005, the zero-discharge program had reduced mercury discharges by 71 percent and dioxin by between

76 and 79 percent, the two chemicals targeted most vigorously by the program.

Source: <http://www.saultstar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=690348&auth=Michael+Purvis>

5. *September 12, TheStarPress.com* – **Chemical spill prompts evacuation at university.** The Cooper Science Complex at Ball State University campus was evacuated after a small chemical spill. The spill was a mixture of a benzene compound like mothballs with an ammonia solution that caused gas to fill a basement classroom, according to the director of the Delaware County Emergency Management Agency. No injuries or illnesses were related to the gas were reported.

Source:

<http://www.thestarpress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070912/NEWS01/709120326>

6. *September 11, WPTZ.com* – **Crews clean up chemical spill.** Hazmat crews cleaned up a chemical spill Tuesday night at a chemical supply company in Plattsburgh, New York. The District 3 Fire Chief said an employee was taken to the hospital to be treated. Fire and hazmat crews worked through the night to contain it. Responders determined that it was one liter of benzoic acid that spilled.

Source: <http://www.wptz.com/news/14094899/detail.html?rss=pla&psp=news>

7. *September 11, Tennessean.com* – **Liberty Creek neighbors angered by chemical clean-up plan.** Leaked chemicals will keep flowing underground into the Harpeth River indefinitely as part of the clean-up plan for the Egyptian Lacquer Manufacturing Co. chemical spill. Because of the difficulty of extracting chemicals across such a large expanse of ground, engineers at TriAd Environmental Consultants are recommending allowing the chemicals to continue to drain into the river until depleted. Chemicals are being intercepted by huge trenches dug near Liberty Creek, which flows into the river. How long the drainage will last depends on the amount of chemicals underground as well as on the volume of water moving through the system, according to the report. The report, which has been filed with state Department of Environment and Conservation officials for consideration, states there is "minimal risk" to human health from the leaking chemicals, acetone and toluene, which are not considered highly toxic. However, the clean-up proposal, filed in late August, has alarmed local environmentalists and nearby residents who live near the paint-making plant.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070911/COUNTY090101/70911034>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

8. *September 12, The Birmingham News* – **NRC to review bid on two new reactors.** Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials will spend an estimated 100,000 hours reviewing an application they expect to receive next month asking permission to build two modern nuclear reactors in Jackson County, Alabama, an agency official said Tuesday. A review of an application from the Tennessee Valley Authority for a 40-year license to build and operate a nuclear plant at the abandoned Bellefonte Nuclear Plant site would take about three to four years. The review would examine the design, security, emergency preparedness and the potential for impact on the environment, NRC officials said. The public will have a chance to

comment at different times during the process.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1189607244232690.xml&coll=2>

9. *September 12, Free Times* – **Heat builds on DHEC over Barnwell pollution.** The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is conducting an internal review to determine whether the agency hid information about unsafe levels of radioactive tritium at a state-owned nuclear waste dump in Barnwell County. Environmental groups and recent reports in *The State* newspaper prompted the review. The question is whether the South Carolina Attorney General or the General Assembly will launch an investigation into the matter. In an August 19 story, a journalist for *The State* reported on maps he obtained from DHEC under the S.C. Freedom of Information Act. The maps show that tritium levels in groundwater at the nuclear waste dump, and near a small community adjacent to it, exceeded federal safe drinking standards, sometimes by a factor of hundreds.

Source: <http://www.free->

[times.com/index.php?cat=1992912064017974&ShowArticle_ID=11461109070984920](http://www.free-times.com/index.php?cat=1992912064017974&ShowArticle_ID=11461109070984920)

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *September 12, AP* – **General Dynamics gets \$7 million order from U.S. Navy.** Defense contractor General Dynamics announced Wednesday that its electric boat subsidiary received a \$7 million contract modification from the U.S. Navy to manage and support nuclear-maintenance work for submarines. The contract was initially awarded in 2005 and has a potential value of \$62 million over three years, the company said. Under the terms of the modification, the subsidiary will continue operating the Navy's Nuclear Regional Maintenance Department at its submarine base in Groton, Connecticut. About 25 electric boat employees are assigned to the maintenance department, General Dynamics said.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070912/general_dynamics_contract.html?.v=1

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 12, Asbury Park Press* – **County again warns of deed scam.** Officials in Ocean County, New Jersey warned local residents of a local company offering certified copies of legal property documents at a price eight times that of the Clerk's Office. The company, National Deed Service, Inc., located in Northbrook, Ill, sent numerous mail and electronic advertisements to homeowners, offering its services for a \$79.95 fee. In order to deceive the homeowners and tie its name to the government, the company listed its address on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. Moreover, in its advertisement, the company claimed that "the U.S. Government Federal Citizen Information Center Web site recommends that property owners should have an official or certified copy of their deed. If you don't already have this important document, you may obtain one now. This document provides evidence that your property was transferred to you." Local police officials called the company's product an

“ethical fraud” and advised residents to purchase their legal copies from the local Clerk office for only \$3 to \$4.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070912/NEWS02/709120381/1070/NEWS02>

12. *September 12, CCH Wall Street* – **SEC charges grifters behind \$428M scam.** The U.S. Security and Exchange Commission filed a lawsuit against the headmasters of a lease scam, which raised \$428 million from nationwide investors. The fraudulent company, Universal Leases, promised its clients leases which they said were the equivalent of timeshares in a number of Cancun hotels. The “leases” included a pre-arranged rental agreement that promised to deliver investors consistent, high returns. A *CCH Wall Street* report states that more than \$136 million of the stolen funds were raised from IRA accounts and thus primarily from retirees. The head of the company and its associates conducted the six year scam from Cancun, Mexico, through several foreign companies in Mexico and Panama, SEC explained.
Source: <http://www1.cchwallstreet.com/ws-portal/content/news/container.jsp?fn=09-11-07>
13. *September 12, Chicago Tribune* – **Bank freezes millions in BCI deposits.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and Illinois banking regulators are investigating Bridgeview Bank, lender to BCI Aircraft Leasing Inc, which the U.S. security and Exchange Commission (SEC) accused of civil securities fraud. Following a meeting of investigators, bank officials, and BCI representatives, the bank froze the company’s assets. Although bank officials deny any connection between the FDIC and the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation officials’ visit to the bank and the bank’s decision to freeze the BCI funds, BCI’s lawyers remain suspicious of the coincidence. The company is accused of using a pyramid-style scam to defraud over 100 investors of tens of millions of dollars, according to SEC. Furthermore, SEC claims BCI’s chief executive “improperly loaned himself about \$8.2 million in company funds -- with no interest and no documentation -- to purchase expensive cars and homes.” The chief executive has denied all allegations brought against him and his company.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-wed_bridgeviewsep12,0,609629.story
14. *September 12, Tire Review* – **Consumer check fraud warning comes from Michelin.** Michelin North America released a warning that fake Michelin checks accompanying “Consumer Prize Award Notifications” letters, were sent to customers in 9 states. The letters asked the customers “to deposit the enclosed Michelin check and then issue a new check in the same amount from the consumer’s bank account to cover the supposed taxes and administrative fees associated with their prize.” The scammers promised the recipients another check and more information on their prize winnings. The company insists those checks are fake and advises consumers to ignore all other “communications of this type.”
Source:
<http://www.tirereview.com/default.aspx?type=wm&module=4&id=2&state=DisplayFullText&item=9166>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

15. *September 12, San Diego Union-Tribune* – **Senate passes trucking measure.** The senate voted to bar funding on the new pilot program, which allows up to 100, pre-approved Mexican trucks access to the continental U.S. The prohibition is part of a spending bill, which the House already passed and the Senate should vote on this week. The President has stated that he will veto the bill, due to the prohibition. Those endorsing the prohibition claim that Mexican trucks are unsafe, while those opposed state that Canadian trucks are not held to that standard and that the U.S. is falling short of its NAFTA obligations.
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20070912-9999-1b12mextruck.html>
16. *September 11, The Oregonian* – **U.S. names I-5 Columbia bridge crossing a top priority.** U.S. Department of Transportation officials consider the Interstate 5 bridge over the Columbia River, Oregon, a top transportation priority. The officials are determined to speed up the process of granting the \$2 billion to \$6 billion funds necessary for repairs to the bridge connecting Portland with Vancouver, Wash. In fact, DOT confirmed a first pledge of \$15 million to the project, which will facilitate repairs on Interstate 5, one of the recently approved Corridors of the Future. The road, which crosses through Oregon, Washington, and California, was one of the 6 finalists in a national competition comprising 38 urban regions. Currently, specialists are compiling environmental and traffic studies, which are necessary for the approval of the construction.
Source:
http://blog.oregonlive.com/breakingnews/2007/09/us_names_i5_columbia_bridge_cr.html
17. *September 11, The Houston Chronicle* – **Feds seize millions worth of cocaine.** On Tuesday, border patrol agents intercepted 173 pounds of cocaine hidden in a vehicle abandoned near the Rio Grande River. The agents spotted two cars near the banks of the river, but the cars fled before agents could reach them. Later, the driver of the vehicle containing the drugs abandoned the car and swam to Mexico. The cocaine’s street value is estimated at \$5.5 million. In a separate incident, Customs officers seized 40 pounds of cocaine at the Falcon Dam port of entry, where a drug sniffing dog detected the drugs hidden in a compartment of an SUV. The driver transporting the \$1.2 million worth of narcotics was arrested on the spot.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5126811.html>
18. *September 11, U.S. Customs and Border Protection* – **CBP expands access to its modernized trade processing system.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials announced that nearly all entities conducting business in the U.S. are now able to establish an Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Secure Data Portal account. “This expansion is made possible by the deployment of Master Data and Enhanced Accounts, known as A1, the first set of ACE entry summary, accounts, and revenue (ESAR) capabilities,” according to a CBP press release. Furthermore, A1 features new capabilities, which are now accessible to most types of commercial entities. According to CBP officials, the new ACE system will “enhance border security and expedite trade.”
Source: http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/09112007.xml
19. *September 11, National Transportation Safety Board* – **Proposed legislation for mandatory motorcycle helmet.** On Tuesday, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released a proposal for a nationwide mandatory requirement of the Department of Transportation

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218-compliant helmets. Concerned by number of deadly motorcycle incidents caused by head injuries, NTSB is recommending that all states implement a universal law obliging both drivers and passengers to wear helmets when riding motorcycle. The Board advocates the use of the FMVSS 218-compliant helmets specifically because “they are designed with a hard outer shell, an impact-attenuating liner, and a retention system to protect the head, especially the brain, in a variety of impact scenarios.” NTSB made an appeal to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, and to all states to develop guidelines and implement laws mandating the use of these helmets. Last year, motorcyclists comprised 10 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities.

Source: <http://www.nts.gov/Pressrel/2007/091107b.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *September 12, Chicago Tribune* – **Bioterror test is in the mail.** Small, white boxes, simulating antibiotics, will be delivered to over 23,000 Boston households on September 23. This exercise is to test how effective the postal delivery system would be in the event of a major bioterror attack. The neighborhoods chosen represent a mix of populations, ethnicities, and delivery methods. Seattle and Philadelphia have already participated in similar exercises. The exercise will involve mail carriers, police officers, and public-health specialists. Police officers will accompany each mail carrier, because, in an actual emergency, there may be attempts to steal medication from the carrier.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/chi-bioterrer_12sep12,1,5262816.story

21. *September 12, The Intelligencer*– **Police warn of an updated mail scam.** Police warn of a new scam in which a letter announcing that the victim has won a lotto sweepstakes is received. A check for thousands of dollars is enclosed, with instructions to cash the check and send the amount via Moneygram to Canada in order to expedite processing and cover taxes. The letter includes a phone number, where the victim receives instructions on how to send the money. The goal is for the money to be sent before the check bounces. Investigation has shown that the checks themselves are real; they were stolen from a California-based company, which is working to cancel them.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/25-09122007-1406267.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *September 12, Bloomberg* – **Wheat price rises to record \$9 a bushel on global crop concerns.** Wheat surpassed \$9 a bushel for the first time as a drought in Australia cut production, pushing global stockpiles toward a 26-year low. The U.S. Department of Agriculture today cut its estimate of Australia's crop to 21 million metric tons from last month's estimate of 23 million. Stockpiles in Canada, the world's second-largest wheat exporter, plunged 29 percent at the end of July from a year earlier, the government said

yesterday. Increasing demand from Egypt to India and weather damage to Canadian and Australian crops have driven up global prices by 81 percent this year. Companies using wheat as an ingredient in their products have responded by raising prices, fueling inflation. According to the USDA, global wheat supplies are expected to fall to 112.4 million tons by the end of the marketing year on May 31, 2008, down from last month's estimate of 114.8 million tons. The U.S. is the world's biggest wheat exporter.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=axM_yzW7QK44&refer=us

23. *September 12, Helena Air* – **Baucus pushes for permanent agriculture disaster relief fund.** On Tuesday, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee unveiled a proposal to establish a permanent agriculture disaster relief fund as part of the farm bill, but immediately faced opposition from the head of the Agriculture Committee. The Chairman wants to create a permanent fund in order to remove farmer's uncertainty over federal aid. He proposes putting between \$4 billion and \$5 billion into the fund, which would be paid for with savings found in other areas overseen by the Finance Committee. The Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee said that a permanent fund would not be a good idea as there are better ways to protect farmers. The full House has already passed a \$286 billion, five-year version of the farm bill, but the Senate Agriculture Committee has not yet taken up the Senate version.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/09/12/montana/a050912_01.txt

24. *September 12, Atlanta Journal Constitution* – **Agriculture cuts would risk security.** A U.S. representative from the state of Georgia points out that, according to the Georgia Farm Bureau, 1 in 7 Georgians is employed in the agriculture, forestry, or a related sector. He argues that not including commodity subsidies in the 2007 farm bill would not only cost the state jobs and revenue, but would also make American consumers more reliant on foreign producers, which have much less rigorous safety and inspection standards. Georgia leads the nation in peanut, poultry and pecan production, and is among the top producers of cotton, corn, eggs and tomatoes.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/opinion/stories/2007/09/11/bishoped_0912.html

25. *September 12, The New Observer* – **Drought hits hay crop, too.** State agriculture specialists, nonprofits and other farmers in North Carolina are worried that the recent drought and hay shortage will sway many of the state's 25,000 cattle farmers to sell their increasingly valuable farm land to developers if they do not get financial help this winter. In light of this, the state's Agriculture Commissioner announced two programs Tuesday to help some of them pay for the transportation of hay and alternative feed crops until 2008. "Agriculture is a \$66 billion business in North Carolina. When farmers suffer in this state, the effects trickle down through the economy," the Commissioner said.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/700879.html>

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Water Sector

26. *September 12, The Christian Science Monitor* – **Water crisis squeezes California's economy.** The recent ruling on the distribution of water from California's Sacramento Delta will have

wide ranging effects on the state's economy. Farmers will be most affected. The chairman of the board of directors for the Western Growers Association stated that significant layoffs in agricultural and related industries are expected. However others see an opportunity to reevaluate the choice of crops grown and methods used. He noted that "just three common crops – rice, cotton, and alfalfa – as well as irrigated pastures for cows use about half of the agricultural sector's allotment but earn a fraction of agricultural income." It is estimated that rationing will affect two out of three Californians. The state government is evaluating different methods of dealing with the shortage including building more dams and levees in an effort to increase water storage.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0912/p02s01-ussc.html>

27. *September 12, Curry Coastal Pilot* – **Cycle of high fecal bacteria levels continues to plague Brookings' Beaches.** Over the past few weeks, Harris Beach State Park in Oregon was closed multiple times due to high levels of enterococcus and E-coli. The exact source is unknown, but scientists suspect that the bacteria originated upstream, possibly from runoff, sewer overflows, failing septic systems, and animal waste. Although Oregon receives funding through the Beach Act of 2000, the amount remains low and funding for further testing on the exact source of the bacteria is sought.

Source: http://www.currypilot.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=15886

28. *September 12, The Daily Advertiser* – **Study: Farm runoff feeds dead zone.** This year, the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, created by runoff and soil erosion from farms along the Mississippi River, is predicted to be the third largest on record. Dead zones are created when a large quantity of algae create a lack of oxygen in the water. These areas threaten area fisheries and habitat. Farms along the Mississippi have done little since 1995 to reduce erosion and runoff and federal funding for conservation efforts remains low. As ethanol becomes more popular, corn crops multiply. As corn requires more fertilizer than other crops, the levels of fertilizer runoff into the Mississippi have been increasing.

Source:

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070912/NEWS01/709120332/1002>

29. *September 11, The New York Times* – **Great Lakes waters are overdue for cleanup.** Despite the Great Lakes being the source of drinking water for 40 million Americans and Canadians, they are "abused by polluters, invaded by unwanted species and are overdue for a cleanup." Unlike the Florida Everglades, the Great Lakes have not received significant federal funding for restoration. A recent report estimated that the restoration of the lakes would result in a significant property value increase, healthier fisheries, and fewer beach closures. Swimming bans have become commonplace. Due to the significant presence of E-coli, an indicator of other pathogens, swim bans were implemented at Chicago beaches 34 times before midsummer. There are numerous causes of the elevated E-coli levels, among them are runoff from overloaded sewer and septic systems, urban streets, and fields using liquefied manure. Efforts have been made to repair the sewage systems, but hundreds of lake front communities remain with inadequate ones. In addition to viruses, the lake also hosts toxins like mercury and asbestos.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/world/lifestyle-greatlakes.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *September 12, The Wall Street Journal* – **China to ban lead paint in toys.** U.S. and Chinese regulators moved to ban the use of lead paint in toys and promised changes to the way Chinese imports to the U.S. are scrutinized for safety compliance. An agreement, signed yesterday by officials of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) will prohibit the use of lead paint in toys. Neither government offered details about how such a ban would be enforced. China's central government faces challenges in implementing its directives because local governments often seek to protect local businesses, even if those businesses break the law. In addition, many of China's export industries are dominated by “smaller companies that often aren't familiar with basic safety standards or aren't able or willing to meet them.” Consumer and safety groups yesterday praised the agreements as a good first step, but said the key would be follow-through and enforcement.

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118953497049724022.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

31. *September 11, Forbes* – **U.S. panel calls for enhanced safety of imported goods.** According to the *Associated Press*, a report, released Monday by an advisory commission established in July by President Bush in response to a number of recalls of Chinese products, has found that the U.S. government needs to improve methods of identifying risks and preventing problems associated with imported goods before they reach the United States. In its first report to the president, the commission said the federal government must work more closely with the private sector and improve information sharing in order to ensure that products are safe before they are imported.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/forbeslife/health/feeds/hscout/2007/09/11/hscout608133.html>

32. *September 12, News Sun* – **LaGrange County officials warned of rare but deadly mosquito-borne virus.** State officials in LaGrange, Indiana say a horse in Elkhart County has been diagnosed with Eastern Equine Encephalitis and that recent rains in northeast Indiana have caused a rapid increase of the mosquitoes that carry the virus. They advised Elkhart, LaGrange, LaPorte and St. Joseph County residents to eliminate mosquito breeding areas and dress protectively. Although the virus is rare, health officials say about 30 percent of people who develop the disease may die and about half of those who survive the illness face permanent neurological problems.

Source:

http://www.kpcnews.com/articles/2007/09/12/news/today/news_sun/doc46e7be251dfd8721061140.txt

33. *September 12, The Wall Street Journal* – **Study shows steep rise in adverse drug reactions.** A study, published in Monday's *Archives of Internal Medicine*, which looked at reports of serious drug-related illnesses from 1998 to 2005, found that the number of serious drug side-effects and deaths reported to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration more than doubled over an eight-year period. As part of the agency's so-called MedWatch reporting system, drug companies, health-care professionals and the public can file reports when they think a drug is

connected to a side-effect or fatality. Drug companies are required to file such reports while they are voluntary for health-care professionals. From 1998 to 2005, there were 467,809 serious adverse events reported. The annual number of reports rose from 34,966 in 1998 to 89,842 in 2005 while the number of fatal adverse drug events increased from 5,519 to 15,107 in the same time frame. The study noted that, overall, the relative increase in serious reports was four times faster than the growth in total U.S. outpatient prescriptions, which grew in the same period from 2.7 billion to 3.8 billion. The study found the two top drugs listed in fatal reports were powerful painkillers oxycodone and fentanyl and were attributed to about 9,000 deaths. Other drugs in a list of top 15 drugs cited in death reports included anti-psychotics and acetaminophen, the active ingredient in over-the-counter pain drugs like Tylenol as well as prescription drugs. These data show a marked increase in reported deaths and serious injuries associated with drug therapy over the study period, the study's authors wrote. "The results highlight the importance of this public-health problem and illustrate the need for improved systems to manage the risks of prescription drugs."

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118945426353322894.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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Government Facilities Sector

34. *September 12, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – **Fire destroys six school buses in Coulee Dam.** A suspicious fire destroyed six school buses in the Grand Coulee Dam School District's fleet, Saturday morning. The fire began in a bus at the bus garage, but the damage was so extensive that investigators have been unable to state what caused the fire.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420AP_WA_School_Bus_Fire.html

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *September 12, Gaylord Herald Times* – **Emergency radio group hosting free emergency training classes.** As part of local National Preparedness Month activities, the Northern Michigan Amateur Radio Emergency Services group (NMARES) will host four free emergency training classes. During those classes attendees will obtain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training and receive emergency preparedness information. The courses are being provided at no charge and provide preparation for FEMA certification.

Source:

http://www.gaylordheraldtimes.com/articles/2007/09/12/news/local_news/doc46e6aee8bddae974921909.txt

36. *September 11, News 14 Carolina* – **Emergency radios changed after 9-11.** The 9-11 Commission Report said one of the biggest problems with emergency response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001 was emergency personnel from different agencies could not communicate with each other. The report also stated that lives could have been saved if police officers, fire fighters and rescue crews were able to talk on one radio frequency. Since then, North Carolina has invested nearly \$90 million to create an updated statewide radio network for emergency communication. It's called the VIPER Network, which stands for

Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders. 39 counties in the state are on the new VIPER radio network. The system allows all the different agencies in the county, including law enforcement, fire, and rescue crews, to talk directly to each other in an emergency.

Source:

http://news14.com/content/local_news/triangle/587088/emergency-radios-changed-after-9-11/Default.aspx

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Information Technology

37. *September 12, Computerworld* – **Hacker / security expert / hacker charged with massive credit card theft.** A California man who served jail time for hacking hundreds of military and government computers nine years ago was charged yesterday with new computer crimes: stealing tens of thousands of credit card accounts by breaking into bank and card processing networks. Known by his alias Max Vision and by his online nicknames of Iceman, Digits and Aphex, the man was indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Pittsburgh on three counts of wire fraud and two counts of transferring stolen identity information. Arrested last week in California, where he remains, he could face up to 40 years in prison and a \$1.5 million fine if he is convicted on all five counts. According to the indictment, he hacked multiple computer networks of financial institutions and card processing firms, sold the account and identity information he stole from those systems, and even received a percentage of the money that others made selling merchandise they'd purchased with the stolen card numbers. The U.S. Secret Service ran the investigation into the hacks and resulting scams, which took place between June 2005 and September of this year. The man was charged in Pittsburgh because he'd sold data on 103 credit card accounts to a Pennsylvanian who was cooperating with authorities. He and others also operated a Web site used as a meeting place for criminals who bought and sold credit card and personal identity information.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9035818&intsrc=hm_list

38. *September 12, IDG News Service* – **Keyloggers proposed to fight terrorist use of cybercafés.** A nonprofit organization in Mumbai, India has proposed that police use keylogging software at cybercafés to keep track of communications between terrorists. Public computers at cybercafés offer terrorists the anonymity they require, said the president of the Foundation for Information Security and Technology (FIST) in Mumbai in an interview Tuesday. Terrorists are known to use instant messaging (IM) services from companies like Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc., and these companies do not share information from IM chats with the police, he added. Keyloggers are software on a computer that record a user's key strokes—whatever the user types—on a computer keyboard. Data from keyloggers would be uploaded to centralized servers where it would be available to the police for scrutiny. Mumbai police have yet to give their approval. The keyloggers would be activated centrally when a suspect walks into a cybercafé or when suspicious activity is noted, though it is unclear who would determine activity to be suspicious. Though some have criticized the proposal, fearing that it will endanger the privacy of ordinary citizens, the nonprofit and others say it is a small price to pay to protect against loss of life from terrorism. In July last year, seven bombs planted

in Mumbai's suburban trains killed over 200 people and injured another 700. Terrorists are increasingly using the Internet to communicate with one another as they are aware that telephone and mobile phones connections are under Indian government surveillance, according to the nonprofit's president.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9035739&intsrc=hm_list

39. *September 12, Networkworld* – **FBI cybercrime fighter lauds CAN SPAM, international efforts.** While fighting cybercrime has become a bigger problem for law enforcement over the past 10 years, given increased involvement from organized-crime groups, officials are seeing some results from recent legislation and international coordination efforts. Although the CAN SPAM Act garnered criticism for not having enough teeth since it was passed in 2003, federal law enforcement is finding it effective in fighting spam of late, says the supervisory special agent with the FBI's National Cyber-Forensics and Training Alliance, who spoke at the Security Standard conference in Chicago on Monday. "It's a relatively new law that hasn't really been tested, but in the last year we've had a number of major" cases come up against it, he says. "CAN SPAM is turning out to be a very effective tool for us." There are a variety of other laws that federal officials also rely upon to catch cybercriminals, he adds. "Our approach is we will use whatever legal tools we can to get these guys." One of the major challenges to U.S. law enforcement is the fact that so many cybercriminals operate overseas. But the agent says there have been developments in international coordination as well. "There's a lot that's changed over the last 10 years," he says. "It used to be if you trace an IP address back to Romania, you're not going to get somewhere with it. That's changed; we now have task forces working with these people overseas, and Eastern European police forces are aggressively going after this, because the problem is starting to affect them, too."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9035740&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

40. *September 11, Computerworld* – **Hackers update malware tool kit, add first zero-day attack code.** A new version of the IcePack hacker exploit tool kit has been released, security researchers warned today, and for the first time it includes attack code designed to exploit an unpatched, or zero-day, Microsoft vulnerability. Three of IcePack's eight exploit tools are new, said the chief technology officer at Exploit Prevention Labs Inc. That alone is noteworthy, he said. "The mix of old and new exploits is to be expected, but three new ones in one update is pretty impressive," he noted. But the new tool kit also sports a first. "The latest iteration has done something original," he said, pointing to an exploit that attacks a zero-day vulnerability in Microsoft's DirectX software development kit (SDK). "The closest to a tool-kit zero-day exploit [before] was for the ANI [animated cursor] vulnerability," he said, referring to a Windows bug that surfaced in early April.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9035659&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

41. *September 11, Computerworld* – **Man charged with impersonating a lawyer to take over**

domain names. A Las Vegas man has agreed to plead guilty to wire fraud for impersonating an intellectual property lawyer and threatening to sue owners of certain Internet domain names. The man, 28, will be arraigned in [U.S. District Court](#) in Los Angeles on the charge in the coming weeks. According to court documents, from June 26, 2006, to July 6, 2006, the man used an alias to set up an e-mail account from which he sent e-mails to various domain name owners claiming to be an intellectual property lawyer. He threatened in the emails to file \$100,000 trademark infringement lawsuits against the owners of the Web site names unless they gave up their domain name registrations within two days. In some of the e-mails he claimed to be an attorney affiliated with a law firm in New York. In other e-mails, he said he was a lawyer located in central California. "These statements would reasonably influence the registered owners to part with the URLs and at least one owner did, in fact, part with a URL that she rightfully owned," according to the court documents. "As part of the scheme, on or about June 29, 2006, defendant caused the interstate transmission by wire of one such fraudulent e-mail from Nevada to Colorado." In his plea agreement, the man admitted that he intended to obtain the domain names for his own personal financial gain. The maximum statutory sentence for the wire fraud charge is 20 years in federal prison. However, prosecutors have recommended a sentence ranging from probation to six months in prison. As part of the plea agreement, the defendant will need the approval of his probation officer to use a computer, a handheld device, a cell phone or any other piece of equipment to access the Internet, or to access an Internet service provider.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9035678&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/>.

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Communications Sector

42. *September 12, The AP* – **FCC OKs digital cable transition rules.** The Federal Communications Commission approved rules Tuesday night that it says will ensure that millions of cable subscribers will still be able to watch broadcast programming after the digital television transition in 2009. The FCC says approximately 40 million households are analog-only cable subscribers. Tuesday's ruling will require cable operators to guarantee analog cable customers will receive broadcast channels until February 2012. While the greatest impact of the digital television transition will be on viewers of non-digital televisions who receive their signals over the air, non-digital cable subscribers have also been a concern to the commission. Beginning Feb. 18, 2009, broadcasters will stop transmitting old-style analog signals to over-the-air customers and to cable companies. Over-the-air customers will have to buy a converter box. As for the nation's analog cable subscribers, cable operators must either convert the digital

signal to analog at the point where the cable signal originates or supply customers with a “down converter” device that will change digital signals to analog at the TV set. The cable industry pledged to do this voluntarily and launched a \$200 million advertising campaign last week to reassure subscribers. The new FCC rules make compliance mandatory.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070912/ap_on_go_ot/digital_cable_8

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Commercial Facilities Sector

43. *September 11, Davis County Clipper* – **Police seek pipe bomb suspect.** Police in Layton, Utah are looking for an individual who left about 40 explosive devices at a car wash on Main Street last Wednesday. Police evacuated about a dozen businesses and closed down Main Street around 9:30 a.m. while officers determined the pipe bombs were explosive and then rendered them safe. Things were not back to normal until 9 p.m. that night..

Source:

<http://www.clippertoday.com/default.asp?sourceid=&smenu=1&twindow=&mad=&sdetail=22974&wpage=1&skeyword=&sidate=&ccat=&ccatm=&restate=&restatus=&reoption=&retype=&repmin=&repmax=&rebed=&rebath=&subname=&pform=&sc=1005&hn=clippertoday&he=.com>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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Dams Sector

44. *September 11, KXAN Austin, TX* – **Dam safety information classified amid security concerns.** Since 9/11, knowledge of the structural integrity of dams has become a matter of national security, argues an Army Corps of Engineers official. Various dams that are structurally safe have seen tightened security measures in the past six years. Information about the safety and integrity of dams has been held back from the public at large, but emergency management agencies and others who need it are granted access to relevant information.

Source: <http://www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=7060760&nav=0s3d>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

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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