



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 September 2007

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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

- The Associated Press is reporting that a terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport has reopened after an unattended package forced its closure. It was unclear why the package was considered suspicious, but the terminal's check-in lobby and baggage claim were evacuated, and traffic to an adjacent parking garage was diverted, according to reports on local TV and radio. (See item [13](#))
- According to several reports, Hurricane Humberto weakened to a tropical storm over southwestern Louisiana today after crashing into the Texas coast with 85-mile-an-hour winds, killing one person and knocking, closing refineries and leaving at least 100,000 without power. (See items [1](#) and [42](#))

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 13, Bloomberg* – **Hurricane Humberto knocks out power, closes oil refineries.** Hurricane Humberto weakened to a tropical storm over southwestern Louisiana today after crashing into the Texas coast with 85-mile-an-hour winds, killing one person and knocking out power. “More than 100,000 customers are without power,” according to the communications manager for Entergy Corporation. Most of the damage was localized in Jefferson and Orange counties along the Texas-Louisiana line, Kaplan said. Entergy aims to restore all power within three days and has 1,000 people assessing and repairing the damage, the spokeswoman said. In

Louisiana, about 4,000 customers are without power. Three oil refineries in Port Arthur, about 16 miles southeast of Beaumont, were closed because of power outages.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aPPLN4DCmro0&refer=energy>

2. *September 13, Bloomberg* – **Gasoline jumps after Valero Energy closes Port Arthur refinery.** Gasoline for October delivery rose as much as 1.68 percent, or 3.39 cents, to \$2.0499 a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange after Valero Energy Corp. closed its Port Arthur refinery in Texas because of Hurricane Humberto. Crude oil for October delivery pared earlier losses to trade down 3 cents at \$79.88 a barrel.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aJC6EHddpWnU&refer=energy>

3. *September 13, Reuters* – **Dirty energy threatens health of 2 billion.** The health of about 2 billion of the world's poor is being damaged because they lack access to clean energy, like electricity, and face exposure to smoke from open fires, scientists said on Thursday. Dangerous levels of indoor air pollutants from badly ventilated cooking fires are a common hazard, while lack of electricity deprives many of the benefits of refrigeration. An expert from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said the world's richest populations use up to 20 times more energy per head than those from poor countries, posing a challenge to improve energy supply without pollution. Writing in the Lancet medical journal, he and his colleagues estimated 2.4 billion people worldwide were exposed to pollution from inefficient burning of solid fuels like wood, coal and dried cow dung. This causes around 1.6 million premature deaths each year, and many more non-fatal cases of respiratory diseases.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20757537/>

4. *September 12, The Washington Post* – **Virginia Governor sets forth goals for energy.** The governor of Virginia unveiled a plan Wednesday that would dramatically reduce energy consumption. The plan, developed in conjunction with the Republican-controlled General Assembly, marks the first time that Virginia would have a comprehensive approach to reducing energy consumption. It calls for a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. One aspect of the plan calls for the state to reduce the energy it uses by 40 percent over the next decade. To do that, the report recommends that the state expand programs that pay for low-income residents to weatherize their homes, bolster consumer education about energy use and increase tax credits for energy-efficient appliances. The state should reach out to private businesses to encourage them to conserve more energy, the report says. Colleges and universities and local governments will be encouraged to develop ways to reduce energy consumption. Virginia may have to invest \$100 million a year in energy conservation programs to meet the goal, the report says.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/12/AR2007091202573.html>

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

Chemical Industry

5. *September 13, Lexington Herald Leader* – **Disposal of chemical arms could come earlier.**

Two steps in Congress could speed up the timetable for disposing of thousands of aging and possibly dangerous chemical weapons stored at Blue Grass Army Depot near Richmond, Kentucky. Under the Defense Department's current funding profile, disposal of the weapons at Richmond would not begin until about 2017 and wouldn't be completed until 2023. But the Senate Appropriations Committee has adopted a proposal to set a 2017 deadline for completing the disposal of all chemical weapons in the U.S. arsenal, including those at Richmond. If the amendments win final approval, chemical weapons at Richmond could be gone six years earlier than now projected, according to the executive director of the Berea-based Chemical Weapons Working Group, which backs chemical disposal of the weapons.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/178/story/175347.html>

6. *September 13, WSAZ* – **No danger in chemical leak in West Virginia.** A hazmat crew responded to a small chemical leak at the Olive Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant in West Virginia Thursday morning. The Carter County 911 Director acknowledged that a small amount of sulfur dioxide leaked from a tank with a loose valve. A worker had changed tanks when it began to leak. The worker was able to quickly evacuate the building. A hazmat crew from Boyd County was called-in to shut off the leak.
Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/home/headlines/9757757.html>

7. *September 12, South Bend Tribune* – **Chemical fumes interrupt band practice.** The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is investigating a possible release of chemical fumes that bothered members of the Plymouth High School marching band during a practice session this morning. According to a report from the Plymouth Police Department, a parent contacted the department after hearing that some members of the band complained about fumes in the air while practicing this morning at the high school, which is located in Plymouth. Police investigating the report determined that the source of the fumes may have been the Indiana Heat Transfer plant, which uses hydrobromic acid in a process at the facility. No students required hospitalization as a result of the incident. According to the federal Material Safety Data Sheet for the chemical, hydrobromic acid is a corrosive material that can cause burns if it comes into contact with the skin, and is also a respiratory irritant that can cause chemical burns to the respiratory tract if inhaled in a high concentration.
Source:
<http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070912/News01/70912049>

8. *September 13, Richmond Register* – **Citizens to endure fifth chemical study.** Some members of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) expressed exasperation Tuesday after being told that the government would conduct yet another study of one phase of the process for destroying the 523 tons of chemical weapons agent stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot. The CDCAB received a periodic update from the Defense Department's acting manager for neutralization of the chemical agent stored there and at another depot in Colorado. The group also heard from the programs local site manager and the contractor's local project manager. The acting manager for the Pentagon's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program said the National Research Council and a private contractor would look at whether off-site treatment of the waste generated by neutralization could save money and or shorten the project. After the chemical agent is demilitarized by mixing it with sodium hydroxide, a toxic waste will result. Previously the government had proposed to treat the waste on site with a

process caused super-critical water oxidation.

Source: http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews/local_story_255073323.html

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

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

9. *September 13, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – **Feds get tough on Alabama nuclear plant.** As Atlanta-based Southern Co. proceeds with plans for two more nuclear reactors in Georgia, the company faces a serious federal enforcement action against an existing reactor in Alabama—where regulators say a faulty cooling system valve, in a worst-case scenario, could have endangered the public. And more trouble could be coming, as Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspectors continue to review the Farley nuclear plant near Dothan. Officials from Southern’s Birmingham-based nuclear subsidiary came to Atlanta’s NRC offices on Wednesday to defend themselves related to one problem at Farley, while NRC inspectors were back at Farley to look at a second problem involving the recent failure of circuit breakers. Neither problem put the public or plant personnel in danger, according to both Southern Co. and the NRC. But both could give Southern's nuclear program an unusual regulatory black eye at a time when the company is working to expand that program.

Source:

<http://www.ajc.com/services/content/business/stories/2007/09/13/southern0913.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=6>

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *September 13, Associated Press* – **Defense contractor Rockwell Collins sells GPS units commercially.** Defense contractor Rockwell Collins says its global positioning system devices now used by thousands of soldiers worldwide will be sold commercially. Cedar Rapids-based Rockwell Collins says it is making its Polaris-branded handheld or vehicle mounted GPS devices available for use by federal, civilian, military or international organizations requiring real-time positioning data. Potential customers might include disaster response or search and rescue crews, border patrol officers and people who monitor seaports, lakes and rivers. The GPS units have the same function and durability as the military versions. The company says it has delivered more than 156,000 units to military customers and has orders for 50,000 more. Rockwell Collins officials made the announcement Wednesday at a defense equipment exhibition in London.

Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/9747012.html>

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

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 13, Consumer Affairs* – **FTC warns many mortgage ads are deceptive.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released a warning to media outlets, which host ‘deceptive’ mortgage advertisements claiming extremely low rates and payments. FTC officials sent letters to 200 advertisers informing them that these types of ads are in violation of the Truth in

Lending Act and encouraged them to “review their ads, and to read business and consumer education materials on the FTC’s Web site to learn about relevant laws and requirements.”

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2007/09/ftc_mortgages.html

12. *September 12, Computerworld* – **Pennsylvania welfare agency hit by breach.** Following the theft of two of their computers on August 22, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) officials sent notification letters to 375,000 people informing them that their personal data has been compromised. DPW insisted the computers were protected by numerous passwords and the information they contained was codified. However, according to the department, the compromised information did include names and Social Security numbers for approximately 1,819. The DPW incident followed a series of state stolen systems—the most recent in Connecticut and Maryland—protected by passwords, but not encrypted.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9036119&intsrc=news_ts_head

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

Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *September 13, Associated Press* – **Suspect package temporarily shuts air terminal.** Following the discovery of a suspicious and unattended package in a baggage area at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, authorities evacuated the McNamara Terminal, according to local TV and radio reports. Although officials did not provide any information on why the package was considered suspicious, the terminal, which hosts Northwest, Continental, and Delta airlines, was closed immediately. Authorities reopened the terminal on Thursday, according to Northwest Airlines.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20758496/>
14. *September 13, International Herald Tribune* – **U.S. judge backs state law mandating cuts in automotive emissions of greenhouse gases.** Following years of fierce debate over the legal ramifications involving greenhouse gases, a Vermont federal judge ruled against automakers’ claims that states violate federal legislation when they require cuts in carbon dioxide emissions. The ruling followed the U.S. Supreme Court decision that “the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases as air pollutants.” The controversy surrounding the states’ legal rights to impose a reduction in greenhouse gases started in 2002 when California, followed later by other states, adopted a law requiring automakers to begin cutting carbon dioxide emissions. In spite of automakers’ arguments, the Vermont judge decided they failed to compile a strong case proving that the law “will limit consumer choice, create economic hardship for the automobile industry, cause significant job loss or undermine safety.” In relation to this case, experts stated their skepticism that the goals set for the reduction of greenhouse gases will be met because of engineering and economic implications.
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/09/13/business/envIRON.php>
15. *September 13, Star Telegram* – **Bill seeks to keep commercial pilots flying after age 60.** The Senate approved Wednesday a new provision raising the retirement age of pilots for U.S.

commercial carriers from 60 to 65. The large majority vote took place during hearings held to discuss the Federal Aviation Administration spending bills. However, because the provision is included in the transportation bill as a whole, it needs approval from the White House's, which promised to veto the bill in a statement released earlier this week. The proposal has offered hope to pilots who planned to extend their working years to compensate for the financial losses taken after airline bankruptcies caused pension plans to be canceled.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/business/story/233666.html>

16. *September 12, Bizjournals* – **Senate approves \$142M for Colorado transportation projects.** On Wednesday, the U.S. Senate approved the 2008 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, according to which Colorado will receive \$142 million for transportation programs. More specifically, the money will be divided among four major projects: the new West Corridor light-rail line, the T-REX project, preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition for the access to the Fitzsimons redevelopment project, and the Wadsworth and Colorado Highway 128 interchange in Broomfield. The bill is still subject to a conference committee review with the U.S. House of Representatives, and ultimately to President's Bush approval.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2007/09/10/daily26.html>

17. *September 12, MyFox Twin Cities* – **Senator secures \$306.5 million for Minnesota transportation projects.** As part of the newly approved Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill, Minnesota will receive over \$306.5 million for 10 projects. That sum includes \$250 million for the replacement of the I-35 bridge, which collapsed last August. Earlier this week, the Senate pledged the first \$55 million for the bridge construction. Part of the allotment will go towards the Northstar Corridor Rail Project between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis, which includes a commuter rail between the Twin Cities and Big Lake. Other transportation projects involve an extension of the Hiawatha light-rail train line and engineering studies for the Hiawatha light-rail train line linking downtown St. Paul, downtown Minneapolis via the State Capitol, Midway, and the University of Minnesota.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=4336735&version=2&ocale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

18. *September 12, Associated Press* – **Seven North Dakota bridges closed after inspections.** Following state inspections, county officials closed seven bridges in North Dakota, which have been previously designated as structurally deficient. None of the bridges were located in high traffic-flow areas, thus posing little inconvenience on travelers, according to county officials. The same source stated there are no specific future plans for these bridges. If counties choose to replace the bridges, they will be eligible for financial assistance from the state. As a rule, the government grants \$9 million for bridge replacements in North Dakota.

Source:

<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2007/09/12/news/update/doc46e8130db397b756522968.txt>

19. *September 12, U.S. Customs and Border Protection* – **U.S. Border Patrol agents in Laredo seize more than 1,300 pounds of marijuana.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border

Patrol agents intercepted a total of 1,321 pounds of marijuana in two separate incidents in the Laredo Sector of Texas. In the first, agents operating at the Freer checkpoint found almost 800 pounds of drugs hidden in a tractor-trailer. Later, agents from the Hebronville station seized more than 521 pounds of marijuana from a ranch. The street value of the drugs is estimated at more than a million dollars.

Source: http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/09122007_3.xml

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *September 13, Reuters* – **Shipping must act on air emissions.** Although aviation is the main industry targeted by environmentalists for causing global climate change, the maritime industry could soon come under attack as well. Air travel causes approximately two percent of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions and the shipping industry is estimated to cause a bit less. The International Maritime Organization of the United Nations is studying the impact of the shipping industry’s carbon dioxide emissions and should have their conclusions by the end of the year. In addition to carbon dioxide emissions, the industry also accounts for ten percent of global sulfur dioxide emissions and significant nitrous oxide and particulate emissions. Industry groups are trying to develop their own standards, before government and environmental groups do so.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/tnBasicIndustries-SP/idUSL1286905420070913?sp=true>

21. *September 12, The Los Angeles Times* – **Cargo inspections not enough, official says.** After a tour of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated that he was “even more persuaded that we cannot inspect our way to safety.” This came a day after a 12-agency task force presented the President with a report on the safety of imports. The Secretary concluded that the government has too few inspectors to monitor all points of entry and the inspectors from different agencies have difficulty communicating with one another. Ideally, more inspection would be done at the point of origin, so that port of entry inspectors know what to look for. A system is being tested, which will assign a score to each country of origin; this in turn indicates which imports need to be more carefully monitored. The Secretary is visiting several seaports, airports, and border crossings throughout the U.S.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-leavitt12sep12,1,5093438.story?coll=la-headlines-business&ctrack=1&cset=true>

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

Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *September 12, Associated Press* – **South Korea finds banned bones in U.S. beef shipment for third time this month.** South Korea found banned bones in a 16.15 ton U.S. beef shipment for the third time this month and plans to send the entire shipment back to the U.S., an Agriculture and Forestry Ministry official said Wednesday. The shipment arrived in South Korea on August 5. While the official declined to identify the U.S. facility that processed the

beef, he said Seoul had already suspended the facility from shipping meat to South Korea and revoked its import approval because of similar violations in recent months. Two other incidents happened last week when rib bones were found in beef shipments from two U.S. meatpackers. Last year, South Korea agreed to import only boneless U.S. meat from cattle under 30 months old, lifting an almost three-year ban imposed after mad cow disease was discovered in the U.S. South Korea was the third-largest foreign market for American beef before it banned imports in December 2003.

Source:

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5iGZcGnSeR5uxYaP27cj84WxV4T4Q>

23. *September 12, CNN* – **Regulators wrestle over how to ensure safe salad.** Government regulators did not act on calls for stepped-up inspections of leafy greens after last year's deadly E. coli spinach outbreak, leaving the U.S. leafy greens industry self-regulated, an Associated Press investigation has found. The regulations governing farms in central California remain much as they were when bacteria from a cattle ranch infected spinach that killed three people and sickened more than 200. AP's review of data obtained through the Freedom of Information Act found that, while some congressional proposals call for quarterly inspection, federal officials only inspect companies growing and processing salad greens an average of once every 3.9 years. In California, the source of three-quarters of the nation's greens, processors have created a new inspection system with voluntary guidelines, but that system did not detect the bagged spinach tainted with salmonella that reached stores last month. Despite widespread calls for spot-testing of processing plants handling leafy greens, California public health inspectors have not been given the authority to conduct such tests.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/09/12/salad.safety.ap/index.html?eref=rss_health

24. *September 12, The Sureka Reporter* – **California Department of Public Health warns against eating INDY Dedos Spicy and Sour candy.** The director of the California Department of Public Health is warning consumers not to eat INDY Dedos Spicy and Sour candy imported from Mexico, according to a news release from the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services. Tests found levels of lead that could cause health problems.

Source: <http://chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5128029.html>

25. *September 11, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation* – **State creates new invasive species council.** Wednesday, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State's Agriculture Commissioner announced the creation of a new council charged with implementing specific initiatives to protect native species and prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals. The New York Invasive Species Council, recently signed into law, will coordinate statewide efforts to control invasive species. "Invasive species pose an ever-growing risk to the health and diversity of our native ecosystems," the Environmental Conservation Commissioner said. "The establishment of the Invasive Species Council will continue the work begun by the Task Force and will ensure that the recommendations developed with our many partners will be implemented. The Council and its Advisory Committee will enhance our ability to fight this growing threat to New York's biodiversity, food supply, recreation, commerce and industry."

Source: <http://readme.readmedia.com/news/show/State-Creates-New-Invasive-Species->

Water Sector

26. *September 13, San Francisco Examiner* – **Traces of lead persist in Redwood City water.** Redwood City, California, city officials discovered that 45 percent of sampled local homes have a lead content exceeding the state’s goal of two parts per billion. In all of the samples, however, the lead content was under the Environmental Protection Agency’s limit of 15 parts per billion. The lead is thought to originate in older pipes and fixtures in the homes, as the city removed all pipes containing lead several years ago. Local officials stated that the levels are not cause for concern, but advised the residents to replace their older pipes and fixtures.
Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-932309~Traces_of_lead_persist_in_Redwood_City_water.html?cid=rss-San_Francisco
27. *September 13, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – **Farms pouring too much pollution into Everglades, report says.** For the first time in 11 years, the reduction of phosphorous, flowing off fields in South Florida and into the Everglades, failed to meet the 25% yearly decrease demanded by the Everglades Forever Act. The sugar cane farmers attributed this to the ongoing drought and pollution entering Lake Okeechobee from the north. The active hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, which stirred up the bottom of the lake, also likely released contaminants and contributed to the elevated phosphorous levels. Phosphorous causes the growth of cattails in the Everglades, which crowd out other plants, thereby damaging the ecosystem. Funding of \$100 million for Everglades restoration was approved this year, which will go towards building water storage and treatment areas to clean the water before it enters the Everglades.
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-flpeea0913pssep13,0,90010.story>
28. *September 12, The Florida Times-Union* – **Keeping the genie in the bottle.** A plume of brine contaminated with mercury, arsenic, and chromium is suspended in groundwater 600 feet above the Floridan aquifer, which supplies a Georgian county with drinking water. Although the plume has not yet reached the aquifer, it has begun to dissolve the sandstone below it. In an effort to prevent the plume from entering drinking water, the owners of the site will begin cleanup later this month. The site formerly housed the LCP Chemical plant, which produced chlorine and caustic soda. While in operation, LCP illegally discharged heavy metals into nearby streams, inadequately maintained their production buildings so that mercury and caustic soda leaked from them, and formed the caustic brine pool. In 1994, the state Environmental Protection Division forced the plant to close and six LCP officials were found guilty of violating federal laws. Since then, various cleanup programs have been undertaken and the Environmental Protection Agency is finalizing a clean up plan for the soil and marshes. Cleanup of the brine plume is estimated to take three years.
Source: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/091207/geo_198795753.shtml
29. *September 12, El Paso Times* – **Canutillo water wells contaminated.** The well water used by many residents in the town of Canutillo, Texas is contaminated with coliform bacteria. Water

from cesspools and septic tanks has entered many wells which were dug too shallowly. Residents who use the water have experienced stomach and skin problems. The community is working with a NGO, a church, and a U.S. Congressman to resolve the problem.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci_6866528

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

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *September 12, Associated Press* – **U.S. deaths rise by 50,000 in 2005, a disappointing reversal.** According to new mortality data released Wednesday in a preliminary report by the National Center for Health Statistics, the number of deaths in the United States rose in 2005 after a sharp decline the year earlier, a reversal that suggests the 2004 numbers were an anomaly. However, U.S. life expectancy did increase slightly to 77.9 years from 77.8 years, recorded for 2004. The increase was more dramatic in contrast with 1995, when life expectancy was 75.8, and 1955, when it was 69.6. The U.S. still ranks beneath at least 40 other nations. Researchers also noted continued differences by race and sex. Life expectancy for whites in 2005 was 78.3, the same as in 2004. Black life expectancy rose from 73.1 in 2004 to 73.2 in 2005, but it was still nearly five years lower than the white figure. Life expectancy for women continues to be five years longer than for men, the report also found. The infant mortality rate remained roughly the same as the previous year, about 6.9 per 1,000 live births. Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/09/12/america/NA-MED-US-Life-Expectancy.php>
31. *September 11, Associated Press* – **Shortfalls hinder flu pandemic readiness.** Federal investigators said Monday that the nation's preparedness for a potential influenza pandemic is hindered by a lack of training and testing. The Government Accountability Office said that while the Bush administration's bird flu plan provides a broad description of the responsibilities of federal agencies, there would undoubtedly be overlapping responsibilities that are not clearly defined. Since the release of the plan in May 2006, national pandemic exercises involving multiple agencies have not been conducted. Such exercises would show which agencies understand their responsibilities, the GAO said. Officials at the Department of Homeland Security said they concurred with the recommendations. The department has already taken action on many of the shortfalls highlighted in the report, and it is working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a series of pandemic exercises, officials said in a written response to the investigators. Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j93mOy5DbQ-FY0hQ7gQTofiAwfAA>
32. *September 11, HealthDay News* – **U.S. health initiative targets aging Hispanics.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) are sponsoring the new HHS Hispanic Elders Health Initiative, a federal effort aimed at bettering the health of Hispanic seniors, with a special focus on diabetes care. The goals of the program include helping older Hispanics increase their access to health benefits such as the new Medicare prescription drug program and low-cost evidence-based preventive care. The project is a response to findings from the National Healthcare Disparities Report 2006 that persistent and growing health disparities exist among Hispanic/Latino elders compared to the majority, non-Hispanic white elderly population. Hispanics comprise the

largest minority group in the United States, and the number of older Hispanics is growing rapidly. By 2050, Hispanics will be the fastest growing population in the 65-and-over age group, reaching 15 million. The pilot community programs will take place in metropolitan Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City; San Diego, and the Texas cities of McAllen and San Antonio.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/forbeslife/health/feeds/hscout/2007/09/11/hscout607878.html>

33. *September 11, Action 3 News, Omaha* – **State officials report 12 more West Nile cases.**

Twelve more cases of West Nile virus are being reported in Nebraska, bringing the total to 82. There have also been three deaths. The state Health Department has confirmed cases in 40 counties.

Source: http://www.action3news.com/Global/story.asp?S=7066107&nav=menu550_2

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

Government Facilities Sector

34. *September 12, Arkansas Leader* – **\$1 billion invested on base.** Little Rock Air Force Base could soon have half a billion dollars in construction projects and upgrades once Congress approves \$22.4 million in funding, in addition to hundreds of millions of dollars worth of new aircraft the base will see in the coming years. Current construction projects at LRAFB total around \$28 million – \$7 million for a new headquarters building for the 463rd Airlift Group, \$10 million for a C-130J corrosion-control facility, \$7 million for a new dining facility and \$3.9 million for a new child development center. There will be a net gain of 22 airplanes and a possible 315 airmen at the base. The additional \$22.4 million in appropriations could be completed by October and should include money not just for a new runway, but also for a new joint-education center, as well as money to modernize the base's aerospace ground equipment and engine facility.

Source: <http://www.arkansasleader.com/2007/09/top-story-1b-invested-on-base.html>

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

Emergency Services Sector

35. *September 13, Business Wire* – **Spacenet introduces a specialized emergency communications and disaster recovery vehicle.** Spacenet today introduced its new mobile Emergency Communications Vehicle (ECV) for disaster recovery and first responder organizations. The vehicle serves as a transportable command post that can typically be deployed in ten minutes or less and provides converged data, voice and video communications. The ECV represents Spacenet's new service offering for custom mobile emergency response vehicles. Spacenet presented the vehicle at a recent event near Washington D.C. attended by local dignitaries and plans to demonstrate the vehicle at other upcoming events. Spacenet's ECV can include a fully integrated high-performance satellite communications link; LAN (Local Area Network) communications gear including a digital phone, Land Mobile Radio (LMR) units, laptop PC, and video surveillance equipment; and multiple power interfaces for a generator or other standby power. With the introduction of its new ECV, Spacenet now provides services to design and produce custom mobile satellite communications systems

incorporated into vehicles for disaster recovery and first responder organizations.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/070913/20070913005094.html?v=1>

36. *September 12, naplesnews.com* – **Emergency services site to be hardened.** As Collier County’s new Emergency Services Center steadily rises from the construction site and takes shape, community and state leaders are taking notice. When completed, the center will house numerous agencies including a new 9-1-1 dispatch center, an East Naples sheriff’s substation, Emergency Medical Services administrative offices and supply warehouse, backup information and technology systems, offices for the Bureau of Emergency Services and the Emergency Management Department, and a new county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with provisions to manage and orchestrate the county’s multi-faceted disaster response activities. In 2006, House Bill 7121 provided a mixture of state and federal grant money to support new ‘hardened’ EOCs in Florida. Collier County is scheduled to receive up to \$3.16 million toward the EOC portion of the new facility. When completed in late 2008, the EOC will be resistant to a category 5 hurricane, withstanding winds greater than 155 mph and storm surge flooding of more than 22 feet. Additionally, it will have many backup systems that will ensure communication and power for many days after an event.

Source:

http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2007/sep/12/emergency_services_site_be_hardened/

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

Information Technology

37. *September 13, Reuters* – **Germany arrests 10 in global Internet scam raids.** German police have arrested 10 people suspected of being involved in an international Internet scam which could have cost victims hundreds of thousands, Germany’s Federal Police Office said on Thursday. An 18-month-long probe resulted in raids in several German cities and the arrests of 10 Russians, Ukrainians and Germans who police think were involved in “phishing” – or tricking people into revealing personal or financial details. The group targeted bank customers, who received emails purportedly from organizations like eBay Inc. and Deutsche Telekom, said the office. Attached to the emails was so-called Trojan horse software which records data entered in computers. “This case shows that criminal organizations are using the Internet more and more to gain enormous amounts of money with a supposedly low risk of being caught,” said the Crime Office’s President in a statement.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070913/wr_nm/germany_crime_internet_dc;_ylt=Aq_VHCvLy7hT0Dg5..czD7cjtBAF

38. *September 13, Computerworld* – **Despite 9/11, IT is ‘overconfident’ about disaster recovery.** Six years after the events of 9/11, many corporate IT operations are overconfident about their ability to handle a disaster, according to a Forrester Research, Inc. report released on Tuesday. The survey of 189 data center decision makers found a severe lack of IT preparation for natural and manmade disasters. For example, the report found that 27 percent of the respondents’ data centers in North America and Europe do not run a failover site to recover data in the event of a disaster. About 23 percent of respondents said they do not test disaster recovery plans, while 40 percent test their plans at least once a year. About 33 percent of respondents described their operations as “very prepared” for a manmade or natural disaster

while 37 percent called their sites simply “prepared” for such events. A senior analyst at Forrester said she was surprised at how “overly confident” enterprises are about their ability to confront disasters when their preparation is actually minimal. “Without regular testing, the chance that your disaster recovery plan will execute flawlessly during a disaster is pretty slim,” said the report’s author.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036099&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

39. *September 13, Computerworld* – **Exploit code appears for Microsoft Agent bug.** It took less than 24 hours for attackers to crank out proof-of-concept code targeting the one critical vulnerability disclosed – and patched – Tuesday morning by Microsoft, security researchers warned. Early Wednesday, analysts with Symantec Corp.'s DeepSight threat network alerted customers the JavaScript exploit code for the critical vulnerability in Windows 2000 that was revealed in Microsoft's monthly patch cycle. The proof-of-concept was posted to the Internet by someone with a Brazilian e-mail address. An hour-and-a-half later, Symantec updated its alert to say that additional exploit code was also available to users of Immunity Inc.'s popular CANVAS penetration testing (“pentest”) software. To call attention to the added danger, Symantec also raised the vulnerability's threat score from Tuesday's initial 7.1 (out of a possible 10) to 8.5 today. The Windows 2000 bug – the only one rated critical of the four patched Tuesday – is in Windows Agent, the component that drives the operating system's interactive animated help characters. Symantec advised users who were unable to immediately apply the patch to disable their browser's script-handling capabilities.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036218&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

40. *September 12, Computerworld* – **Landmark data breach bill awaits California Governor’s OK.** A closely watched California data breach bill that would require retailers to reimburse data breach-related costs to banks and credit unions is now one signature away from becoming state law. On Monday, the California State Assembly unanimously ratified amendments to the bill that were incorporated by the state Senate last week. The Consumer Data Protection Act, as the bill is known, now heads to the governor’s desk for approval. Analysts expect the California bill, if signed into law by the governor, to have the same ripple effect on data breach laws as the state's data breach notification law. That law was one of the first such notification laws in the country and has been adopted and imitated in one form or the other by several other states. The amended measure would take effect in July 2008 – not in January as originally proposed, thereby giving retailers more time to implement the security controls required under the law. The California law is just one of several data breach laws being eyed by multiple states in the wake of a string of high-profile retail security breaches earlier this year. Minnesota has already passed a law similar to the one in California.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9035899&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

41. *September 13, RCR Wireless News* – **FCC rules on E-911 spark broad debates.** The Federal Communications Commission took dramatic steps to improve the location accuracy of wireless 911 services, but the mobile-phone industry and some telecom regulators complained the agency was taking action before the completion of FCC studies on emergency calling. The agency clarified that cellular carriers must meet enhanced 911 location accuracy requirements at the public-safety answering point service-area level, directing them to meet interim and annual benchmarks over the next five years to ensure full compliance by Sept. 11, 2011. Public-safety groups aggressively lobbied for PSAP-level E-911 compliance to remove confusion over wireless carriers' embrace of statewide-averaging to meet FCC requirements. The FCC, cellular carriers and the public-safety community have been struggling to improve wireless E-911 for more than a decade, a situation complicated by technological capability, local and state budgets and shifting trends that have Americans increasingly making mobile phones their primary communications devices. Cellular operators today must locate emergency callers anywhere between 50 meters and 300 meters, depending on whether GPS handset or network-based E-911 technology is used. The FCC has fined a number of national mobile phone operators in recent years for failure to meet E-911 obligations. But the cellular industry and several FCC members, including those who voted for the changes, voiced concern about the government effectively imposing a new E-911 regime without considering a range of factors.

Source: <http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070912/FREE/70912003/1005>

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

Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *September 13, Houston Chronicle* – **Humberto claims 1 in East Texas.** Hurricane Humberto claimed the life of an Orange County man as the storm made landfall in East Texas early this morning. In Beaumont, police said winds destroyed a new roof on the landmark Julie Rogers Theater, caused leaks in the police headquarters and damaged other buildings. Uprooted trees caused at least two suspected natural gas line breaks that were being investigated by firefighters, according to a local police officer. Traffic signals lost power and police were dealing with several accidents at intersections where drivers failed to stop and look before crossing, she said. Most area schools were closed as power company Entergy reported more than 110,000 customers without power. Power was out in most of Bridge City and Orange County as well. On the south end of Bridge City's Texas Avenue, wind ripped metal from the

roof of a shopping center. A spokeswoman from the power company Entergy said the company knew of at least 50 power poles that were damaged or destroyed and the damage assessment was not complete.

Source: <http://chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5128029.html>

43. *September 12, The Notre Dame Observer* – **‘Priest’ dupes fans, security.** A man posing as a priest fooled football fans and security personnel Sept. 1 when he and his two-man camera crew marched into Notre Dame Stadium—and onto the field—without credentials as an unauthorized prank during the Georgia Tech season opener. A school official said field credentials or pre-game field passes are required to have access to these places. While the three men did not have either type of clearance, the official stressed that the usher's failure to check their credentials was an isolated incident and should not prompt questions about the stadium's security procedures.

Source:

<http://media.www.ndsmcobserver.com/media/storage/paper660/news/2007/09/13/News/priest.Dupes.Fans.Security-2966682.shtml>

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

National Monuments & Icons Sector

44. *September 12, The Canadian Press* – **U.S. Senator tries to strike Peace Garden funding, Man. government promises cash.** A Senator from Oklahoma was unsuccessful in removing an earmark for \$450,000 in federal funding for the International Peace Garden between North Dakota and Manitoba. This funding is included in a transportation spending bill. The garden is a symbol of peace between the U.S. and Canada and was dedicated over 70 years ago. Canada's government recently pledged \$40,000 to carry out needed repairs due to high winds earlier this summer.

Source:

http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5io2FD2CHvA4Fpqq_hXC8Dd15ZNmQ

45. *September 12, San Diego Union-Tribune* – **Brush fire near Pine Valley burns 1,750 acres.** A fire started Wednesday in the Cleveland National Forest and quickly spread to over 1,750 acres. 350 people were battling it on Wednesday night; containment is expected by Thursday evening.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20070912-2049-bn12pinefire.html>

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

Dams Sector

46. *September 13, Miami Herald* – **New dike for Everglades restoration called unsafe.** Leaks and structural flaws have already been discovered at a new Florida reservoir built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is estimated that the dike needs at least \$13 million in repairs and even then will fall short of promised capacity. If it is not repaired, several recently built homes are at risk. The dam is safe as long as the reservoir remains at 22 feet; however at this low level the environmental benefits promised would not be achieved. The Corps blamed a contractor for

the errors and remains committed to rectifying them; however the Corps has hit the project's budget cap. They should receive further funding in a \$21 billion water bill, \$2 billion of which would go to the Everglades, if the president does not follow through on his promise of a veto. Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami_dade/story/235738.html

47. *September 13, WBKO (Bowling Green, Kentucky)* – **Rochester dam erosion threatens water supply.** Eroding rocks on a Kentucky dam threaten the water supply to 46,000 people in three counties. If erosion continues, the dam could be breached. County officials have requested help from the Corps of Engineers and they are “hoping to weld the lock gates shut, and fill the lock chambers with stone to stabilize the gates.” Other counties in the area would be unable to provide water due to this summer's drought.

Source: <http://www.wbko.com/news/headlines/9746147.html>

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

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.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.