



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 September 2007

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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

- *DelawareOnline* reports that a State of Emergency has been declared after a tanker carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline hit a utility pole causing the fuel to leak on N.J. 70 in New Jersey. Officials announced the road will remain closed until Tuesday evening and power will be shut down at times to facilitate a safe fuel removal. (See item [14](#))
- *The Journal of New England Technology* reports that firefighters and police officers in New Hampshire have won a \$93,760 federal grant to purchase communications technology that allows first responders to talk over radios using different frequencies. (See item [35](#))

### 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 18, Associated Press* – **Oil hits new record ahead of Federal Reserve meeting.** Oil futures jumped to new records Tuesday as traders bet that a Federal Reserve interest rate cut could stimulate economic growth and increase demand at a time when crude oil and gasoline inventories are tight. An attack on an oil pipeline in Iraq also supported prices, analysts said. Moreover, many analysts see a weaker dollar as a natural side effect of lower rates, and that could promote buying of oil contracts by foreign investors. Beyond the Fed decision, energy investors are looking ahead to Wednesday's inventory report by the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration, which is expected to show that inventories

and refinery activity declined last week. A bomb attack on a pipeline near the northern Iraqi city of Beiji on Tuesday, which caused crude oil to spill into the Tigris River, contributed to Tuesday's advance. Light, sweet crude for October delivery rose 82 cents to \$81.39 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after fluctuating between gains and losses and then rising to a record \$81.80 earlier.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/18/AR2007091800339.html>

2. *September 18, Associated Press* – **Increase in oil, gas drilling projected.** Oil and gas drilling on federal lands across the Rocky Mountain West could increase by more than 160 percent over the next two decades according to a report by an environmental group. The Washington, D.C.-based Wilderness Society analyzed drilling plans and said oil and gas exploration was poised to push into some of the West's most environmentally sensitive areas. That includes plans to drill in Colorado's Roan Plateau, the Upper Green River Basin in Wyoming and Montana's portion of the Powder River Basin. At least one federal official questioned the accuracy of the report, arguing that it appeared to be based partially on plans that are not yet final. The report comes amid a bitter debate in Washington over the national security benefits of domestic drilling versus its potential effects on water, air quality and wildlife.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/18/AR2007091800139.html>

3. *September 18, Bloomberg* – **American Electric, MidAmerican form venture.** American Electric Power Co. and MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co. formed a joint venture that will invest in high-voltage lines, their second alliance aimed at tapping growth in U.S. electricity demand. The venture will build and own North American transmission lines outside the territory of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said Columbus, American Electric said today in a statement. Columbus, Ohio-based American Electric, owner of the largest U.S. network of high-voltage power lines, previously announced a venture with MidAmerican that proposed \$3 billion of transmission investments to meet rising electricity demand in Texas. Peak demand in the U.S. was expected to rise by 19 percent over 10 years, while total transmission miles climb by less than 7 percent, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation said in a report last year.

Source:

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=agPka2Sn\\_wi4&refer=energy](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=agPka2Sn_wi4&refer=energy)

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## **Chemical Industry**

4. *September 18, Associated Press* – **Settlement ends first BP explosion trial.** The first trial stemming from the deadly explosion at BP PLC's Texas City refinery ended in a settlement Tuesday. The trial over the 2005 accident—which killed 15 people, injured 170 and was the worst accident in the gas and chemical industry in almost 15 years—began September 5<sup>th</sup>. It was the only one of hundreds of lawsuits from the blast to reach the courtroom. BP declined to provide details on the suit. More than 1,600 other suits have been settled and about 1,200 are pending, a BP spokesman said. Before the latest settlement, the explosion cost the London oil company at least \$2 billion in compensation payouts, repairs and lost profit. The explosion at

the plant, located about 40 miles southeast of Houston, occurred after a piece of equipment called a blowdown drum overfilled with highly flammable liquid hydrocarbons. The excess liquid and vapor hydrocarbons were then vented from the drum and ignited as the isomerization unit—a device that boosts the octane in gasoline—started up. Alarms and gauges that were supposed to warn of the overfilled equipment didn't work properly. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, one of several agencies that probed the accident, found BP fostered bad management at the plant and that cost-cutting moves by BP were factors in the explosion.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/18/AR2007091800846.html>

5. *September 18, Associated Press* – **Senate approves deadline and money to destroy chemical weapons.** The Senate has approved an amendment that would give the Army 10 years and \$32 million to destroy lethal chemical weapons stored in Pueblo and in Richmond, Ky. An amendment to a Defense Department appropriations bill sets the December 31, 2017, deadline. The full bill is expected to be approved next week. It would then go to a conference committee to reconcile differences from the House version. A chemical weapons treaty signed by the U.S. and nearly 180 other countries calls for the chemical weapons to be destroyed by 2012, but the Army has said it will not finish by then. The Pueblo Chemical Depot stores 2,611 tons of mustard agent in projectiles and cartridges. The Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky stores 532 tons of nerve and blister agents in rockets and projectiles.

Source:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070918/UPDATES01/70918010>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste**

6. *September 18, Platts* – **Sixteen countries sign on to the founding principles of GNEP.** Sixteen countries signed on to the founding principles of the US-inspired Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, or GNEP, in Vienna September 16. They included the five original GNEP partners – the U.S., France, Russia, Japan and China – and 11 new members. The GNEP principles are meant to help expand use of nuclear energy, ensure reliable fuel supply and foster reprocessing and recycle with new technologies to minimize proliferation risks. Whereas the U.S. originally saw GNEP as requiring non-fuel-cycle states to renounce enrichment and reprocessing, this week's statement sets no such prerequisite. The U.S. Energy Secretary, host of the GNEP Ministerial Conference, emphasized the “positive story” of GNEP at a press conference after the signing ceremony. The countries also agreed to a governance structure whereby decisions will be made by consensus. The new members are Australia, Bulgaria, Ghana, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/8261344.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

7. *September 18, Associated Press* – **Utilities press for new nuclear future.** The current turmoil in credit markets is unlikely to derail plans by power companies to begin ordering the first new nuclear plants since cost overruns and public opposition virtually killed the industry three

decades ago. Nearly 30 years after Three Mile Island, Entergy Corp., Dominion Resources Inc., Exelon Corp. and the Tennessee Valley Authority are expected to be among the first to seek regulatory approval to build new plants. Constellation Energy Group has already filed a partial application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which expects up to seven requests this year and 28 by 2009. The first plants could be online by 2014 or 2015. Utilities see in nuclear plants an opportunity to affordably meet demand for electricity, which the Energy Information Administration is forecasting will grow by 42 percent by 2030. High natural gas prices and the prospect of taxes or constraints on greenhouse gases are making gas or coal-fired plants less attractive.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070918/new\\_nukes.html?.v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070918/new_nukes.html?.v=1)

8. *September 18, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – **FPL proposes nuclear boost at Homestead, St. Lucie power plants.** Florida's largest electric utility is proposing a nuclear boost of about 400 megawatts — enough power for about 230,000 homes — through new energy-efficient technology at its power plants at Turkey Point near Homestead and on Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County. Florida Power and Light (FPL) filed plans on Monday to add to its nuclear power capacity at existing plants by the end of 2012, if approved by the Florida Public Service Commission. Turkey Point and St. Lucie nuclear plants now produce more than 3,000 megawatts of electricity. Adding another 400 megawatts of power generation at the two nuclear sites would cost \$1.8 billion, but provide long-term cost savings to customers of \$122 million to \$873 million, according to FPL's filing. Additional power capacity is necessary to meet demand for electricity statewide, the utility said. In its 10-year power generation plan submitted to the state earlier this year, FPL said its customer base was expected to expand to 5.9 million by 2016, from 4.4 million today.

Source:

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/sfl-flzfp10918nbsep18,0,1741986.story?track=rss>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *September 18, MSN Money* – **Aerojet gets \$3.5 million contract extension.** Aerojet has been awarded \$3.5 million by Raytheon Missile Systems to build rocket engines for the U.S. missile defense system. The Rancho Cordova-based company, a division of GenCorp., will continue developing a less-toxic propellant than traditional rocket fuels.

Source:

<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/provider/providerarticle.aspx?Feed=ACBJ&Date=20070918&ID=7490500>

10. *September 18, Prime Newswire* – **Kratos Defense and Security awarded contract to support Space and Missile Systems Center.** Kratos Defense and Security Solutions, Inc., a leading national defense and security solutions provider, announced today that it has been awarded a five-year Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract to support the Department of the Air Force at the Los Angeles Air Force Base Space and Missile Command (AFSPC). The contract is valued in total at approximately \$5 million over the five-year IDIQ term. Services to be performed under this IDIQ include Systems Acquisition Support (SAS) services, including acquisition planning, training and administration, configuration and data

management and contracting support for the protection and maintenance of tools, processes, guidelines, models, simulations, databases and other key operational support elements.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/primenewswire/126857.htm>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *September 18, CCH Wall Street* – **SEC cuts off telecom stock fraud.** The U.S. Security and Exchange Commission filed a lawsuit against high ranking officials of Homeland Communications Corporation for cashing in \$1.3 billion from fraudulent securities sales to 93 investors. The company is accused of misrepresenting a public offering, mishandling investor's funds, supplying false information about the company's assets and acquisitions, and disseminating funds to officials' private accounts.

Source: <http://www1.cchwallstreet.com/ws-portal/content/news/container.jsp?fn=09-18-07>

12. *September 18, WCNC* – **BBB releases warning about scalped tickets.** The football season brought to light fraudulent practices involving game tickets. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) released a warning to football fans advising them to only purchase tickets from people they know because there are many counterfeiters selling fake tickets. The so-called "secondary ticket market" has been booming and extended even to the online realm where Ebay subscribers were often revealed to have sold fake tickets. BBB cited and recommended the use of websites like StubHub and RazorGator, which "require ticket sellers to provide their credit card numbers, and charge the cards for replacements if the tickets are fake." Secondary ticket sales are a \$10 billion-a-year industry, according to BBB's vice-president.

Source:

[http://www.wcnc.com/localsports/stories/wcnc-091607-mrn-panthertix-no\\_tc.e1ccdc83.html](http://www.wcnc.com/localsports/stories/wcnc-091607-mrn-panthertix-no_tc.e1ccdc83.html)

13. *September 17, Herald-Citizen* – **Bomb threat scam hits Cookeville.** Another bomb-scare phone call was placed at a convenience store in Cookeville, Tennessee. The store's clerk reported the incident and believed the caller had a foreign accent when claiming a bomb planted in the store would go off if his requests to have money wired to a certain account were not met. As in several similar situations, which took place earlier this month, the clerk obeyed the command and wired the money as requested. A detective handling the case confirmed the transfer of money, but did not disclose the exact amount. Similar crimes took place over the last several weeks across the country and officials believe that the Cookeville incident is related. Local law enforcement authorities released a warning to all business owners and workers not to wire any money if they find themselves in that type of scenario. They also suggested leaving the phone off the hook even after the caller hangs up.

Source:

[http://www.herald-citizen.com/NF/omf.wnm/herald/news\\_story.html?rkey=0046236+cr=gdh](http://www.herald-citizen.com/NF/omf.wnm/herald/news_story.html?rkey=0046236+cr=gdh)

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

14. *September 18, DelawareOnline* – **State of emergency declared after N.J. tanker spill.** A

tanker carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline hit a utility pole causing the fuel to leak on N.J. 70. Officials declared a local state of emergency and announced the road will remain closed until Tuesday evening and power will be shut down at times to facilitate a safe fuel removal. The driver suffered minor injuries, according to the police report.

Source:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070918/NEWS/70918035>

15. *September 18, DesertNews* – **Life and the border: Get-tough approach.** Border patrol has become a dangerous and costly practice in the last several years. According to the Border Patrol spokeswoman for the Yuma, Ariz., sector, 185 attacks on agents were reported last year at that particular crossing point, while the number of illegal immigrants intercepted trying to cross the border decreased by 68 percent. The government is trying to combat illegal immigration in various ways, including strengthening the borders by building a fence and deploying 18,000 National Guard officers, changing legislation such as the proposed STRIVE Act, which would facilitate illegal immigrants in obtaining a legal status, and supporting the Mexican economy through funds and loans, thus increasing financial incentives for those planning on leaving Mexico. At the local level, reports estimate that 1,404 new immigration measures, such as English-only laws and bans on landlords lending properties to illegal immigrants, have been implemented by several states. According to a report released by the Pew Hispanic Center, 500,000 undocumented immigrants have arrived in the United States each year since 2000.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695208254,00.html>

16. *September 17, USA Today* – **Northwest CEO worries fixing late flights could raise airfares.** In response to last week’s statement made by a Federal Aviation Administrator, who advised airlines to “take a step back on scheduling practices that are at times out of line with reality.” Northwestern Airlines’ CEO argued that reducing flight delays by diminishing the number of flights will lead to pricier tickets. Furthermore, airlines need to establish together how many flights each will cut in order to eliminate the possibility of unfair losses in markets, the official said. The official’s reaction followed the FAA’s public concerns about this year’s record-breaking delays, which totaled 1.1 million in the first seven months, according to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2007-09-17-northwest\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2007-09-17-northwest_N.htm)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *September 18, The Sun-Sentinel* – **South Florida seaports sound mayday as shipping business plummets.** As security costs rise, congestion increases, and funding is delayed, the ports of South Florida lose ground. Most of their trans-shipment business has already moved to less expensive countries, and without better rail links the ports of South Florida are in danger of losing more business. These topics were discussed at the annual Sea Cargo Americas conference in Miami. If South Florida wants to maintain its role in the ever-growing shipping industry, concluded representatives from shipping lines, they must boost efficiency at ports and ease congestion. The officials also concluded that, as problems with the shipping industry can have negative effects on the entire economy and growth, the federal government should

develop a “national transportation policy and make transport a priority for growth.” Last year most of the shipping lines lost money and, despite improvements, profits remain minimal.  
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/sfl-zshipping0918nbsep18,0,6483691.story>

18. *September 17, Associated Press* – **Global shippers debate cost of rising port security, especially by US.** The recent decision by the U.S. government to require “100 percent screening of U.S.-bound cargo containers at hundreds of foreign starting points” was a major discussion point at a shipping industry conference in Asia. Most shippers currently think that present measures, including manifest inspections and radiation monitoring, are adequate and, until better technology is developed, the new regulations will disrupt trade. As the biggest market for most of Asia is the U.S., the new rules are a significant source of concern.  
Source:  
<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/09/18/asia/AS-GEN-Malaysia-World-Shippers.php>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *September 18, PTI* – **UN warns risk of disease transmission from animals to humans.** The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has expressed the fear that ongoing major transformation in global food production could lead to a higher risk of disease transmission from animals to humans. "There is no doubt that the world has to depend on some of the technologies of intensive animal food production systems," FAO's livestock policy expert said during a policy brief. "But excessive concentration of animals in large scale industrial production units should be avoided and adequate investments should be made in heightened bio-security and improved disease monitoring to safeguard public health." To satisfy higher demand for meat as the population continues to rise, livestock production and densities have significantly increased, the agency said, adding that industrial animal production has become more concentrated, using fewer but more productive livestock breeds.  
Source: <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/000200709181240.htm>
20. *September 17, McClatchy Newspapers* – **Chiquita pays fine for supporting Colombian terrorist group.** On Monday, Cincinnati-based Chiquita Brands International made the first \$5 million installment on a \$25 million fine that it has agreed to pay as part of a guilty plea to charges that it supported a right-wing terrorist group in Colombia. In addition to the fine, the plea agreement places the corporation on five years probation and requires that it set up an internal ethics training program. The Department of Justice prosecutor for the case said Chiquita's payments first went to left-wing guerrilla groups and then, after 1997, to right-wing paramilitary organizations known by their Spanish acronym as AUC. The company made more than 100 payments to the AUC, totaling \$1.7 million, until they were stopped in February 2004. The payments were illegal after September 2001, when the State Department declared the AUC a terrorist organization. Last week, the Justice Department decided that no Chiquita executives would be charged.  
Source:  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/mcclatchy/20070917/wl\\_mcclatchy/20070917bccolombiachiquita\\_att\\_n\\_national\\_foreign\\_editors\\_ytop\\_1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/mcclatchy/20070917/wl_mcclatchy/20070917bccolombiachiquita_att_n_national_foreign_editors_ytop_1)

21. *September 17, CattleNetwork.com* – **Possible metal contamination leads to ground beef recall.** Stone Meats Inc., based in Pleasant View, Utah, is voluntarily recalling approximately 11,250 pounds of fresh ground beef products that may contain pieces of metal. The following products are subject to recall: 5-pound packages (chubs) of "Ground Beef 73% Lean- 27% Fat." Each label bears a "sell-by" date of "09/19/07" and followed by "EST#6214 7," "EST#6214 8," "EST#6214 9," or "EST#6214 10." The products were produced on September 5, and were distributed to retail grocery stores in Utah and Mesquite, Nevada. These products should no longer be available in grocery stores. One injury has been reported from handling these products.  
Source: <http://www.cattleNetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=160626>
22. *September 17, Newsday.com* – **Schumer asks USDA to block Australian bee imports.** Citing new research on the nationwide disappearance of honeybees, a NY senator, asked the federal Department of Agriculture to temporarily halt the importation of Australian honeybees, until scientists determine the cause of colony collapse disorder. A spokeswoman for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the USDA, said an analysis done before the restriction was lifted showed Australian honeybees were safe. She added that the agency was evaluating a recent study and would decide whether to change its policy on Australian bees before the U.S. import season begins in December.  
Source: [http://www.newsday.com/business/local/ny-bzbees0918,0,4374830.story?coll=ny\\_home\\_rail\\_headlines](http://www.newsday.com/business/local/ny-bzbees0918,0,4374830.story?coll=ny_home_rail_headlines)
23. *September 16, Associated Press* – **China recalls tainted leukemia drugs, announces discovery of tainted U.S., Canadian meat.** Chinese authorities have ordered the recall of tainted leukemia drugs blamed for causing leg pains and other problems, state media reported Sunday. The announcement came as Chinese food, drugs and other products ranging from toothpaste to seafood are under intense scrutiny because they have been found to contain potentially deadly substances. China has been eager to cast itself as a victim too of unsafe imports and Xinhua on Saturday announced that inspectors recently found residue of the banned stimulant ractopamine in frozen pig kidney imported from the United States and frozen pork spareribs from Canada. Ractopamine is forbidden for use as veterinary medicine in China. The 18.37 tons of frozen pork kidney and 24 tons of frozen pork ribs had been returned to the exporters, said the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. Ractopamine, a hormone that promotes the growth of lean meat in pigs and cattle, is banned by China and most other countries as a health hazard, although its use in stock animals is permitted in the United States. China has also banned imports of U.S. meat contaminated with salmonella, additives, and prohibited veterinary drugs.  
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/09/16/asia/AS-GEN-China-Tainted-Products.php>

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## **Water Sector**

24. *September 18, Chicago Tribune* – **Forum to focus on water woes in Lake County.** If Lake County, Illinois continues to grow, and new water sources are not found, a water crisis is expected within 25 years. Currently, the county draws its water from Illinois' northern aquifer system. A group of experts will meet at a conference today to discuss population growth and

how much water can be tapped from the aquifer daily without depleting it. An ongoing, three-year study conducted by the State Geological Survey and the State Water Survey will be completed in 2009 and should present a “water supply plan that draws on aquifers and Lake Michigan to satisfy population projections until 2050.”

Source:

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/west/chi-lakewater\\_18sep18,1,7459911.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/west/chi-lakewater_18sep18,1,7459911.story)

25. *September 17, Lifescience.com* – **Pollutants take toll on freshwater mussels.** According to *lifescience.com*, pollution and the changes in physical habitat wrought by dam construction, dredging, and the introduction of exotic species, are threatening the native population of mussels in North America. Of the estimated 300 species found in North America, 35 are already extinct, with another 70 listed as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Still another 180 species are critically imperiled or vulnerable. Recent studies, detailed in a special section of the latest issue of the journal *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*, have narrowed down the pollution and habitat factors, finding that mussels are particularly sensitive to copper, ammonia and several pesticides, which can wash into streams from surrounding land. In addition to being a food source, mussels are an important part of the ecosystem; they help to cycle nutrients and energy in streams and lakes by filtering algae, bacteria, and organic matter.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20823440/>

26. *September 16, The Seattle Times* – **Cities offer to buy Lake Tapps for \$33 million.** Three Washington cities have joined to offer to buy Lake Tapps from Puget Sound Energy. The cities intend to use the lake to meet the water needs of their residents. Two years ago, the Cascade Water Alliance “secured exclusive rights to negotiate a deal to buy Lake Tapps and surrounding property along the White River,” but the deal has not yet been finalized. Native American tribes and area cities have blocked efforts of the alliance to secure water rights to Lake Tapps, which was created in the early 1900s to run a hydroelectric project. The dam closed in 2004, and Puget Sound Energy hopes to sell the plant, lake, and related properties. Officials for Puget Sound Energy stated that, although they are finalizing the sale to the Cascade Water Alliance, they will still consider the cities’ bid.

Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/southeastkingcountynews/2003884808\\_laketapps16s.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/southeastkingcountynews/2003884808_laketapps16s.html)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

27. *September 18, The Harvard Crimson* – **West Nile virus found in Cambridge.** State health officials have discovered West Nile Virus in Cambridge mosquito populations, and yesterday announced that two new human cases have been identified in Massachusetts. Three cases of human infection had been found in Massachusetts earlier in the summer, but the new cases differed in that state health officials believe the residents contracted the disease in Massachusetts. Despite the recent cases, and the discovery earlier this month of infected mosquito populations north of Mount Auburn Cemetery, the University’s West Nile Virus Task Force does not consider it an immediate threat.

Source: <http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=519549>

28. *September 18, Associated Press* – **Merck sued for Medicaid fraud.** The state and city of New York sued Merck & Co. Inc. on Monday, accusing the drug-maker of defrauding Medicaid and other government insurance programs by hiding the risks of heart problems associated with its pain medication Vioxx. The lawsuit alleges that Merck "undertook a concerted and tenacious campaign of false and fraudulent statements to minimize the import and seriousness" of the possible association between Vioxx and heart problems, and that tens of millions of dollars were paid for prescriptions for patients with preexisting heart conditions. Those funds would not have been spent had the risks associated with Vioxx been known, court papers say.  
Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iHf3k4vwB4VWrnTWIBd\\_MSLXXdsw](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iHf3k4vwB4VWrnTWIBd_MSLXXdsw)
29. *September 17, Associated Press* – **Shot may be boosting ear infection germs.** A new subtype of a strain of streptococcus bacteria, called 19A, has caused ear infections in nine Rochester children, ages 6 months to 18 months, and was, according to a microbiologist at the University of Rochester, resistant to all pediatric medications. (Some of the children did recover after treatment with a newer, powerful antibiotic whose safety in children has not been established). The strain of bacteria is not included in the pneumococcal vaccine, Wyeth's Prevnar, which came on the market in 2000. A study of the bacteria showed a 15 percent increase in case from 2005 to 2006, up from 4 percent in the previous three years. "It is very worrying," said an infectious diseases specialist at Emory University. "With the eradication of all the other [strains] in the vaccine, this one is emerging."  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20825107/>
30. *September 17, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – **Normal saline flush syringes recalled by B. Braun Medical.** B. Braun Medical Inc. has issued a recall for more than 1 million Normal Saline Flush syringes because the company has received customer complaints that the saline contains medical grade silicon particulate. If the silicone is introduced into the blood stream, it could result in phlebitis or damage to other vital organs, including the brain, heart, kidneys, and lungs. It could cause the development of a pulmonary embolism or silicone embolism syndrome, which could lead to death. B. Braun says that it has notified the FDA of the recall, which affects syringes with lot numbers ending in "SFR". The recall affects normal saline 3mL in 12mL syringes with the product code 518584 and normal saline 10mL in 12mL syringes with product code 51387. Between June 18 and July 18, 2007, B. Braun distributed about 33,000 units of the product code 513584 and 1.2 million units of the product code 513587 to hospitals and distributors. All of the lot numbers on the recalled syringes end in "SFR." As of now, no injuries have been linked to the recalled B. Braun Normal Saline Flush syringes.  
Source: <http://www.emaxhealth.com/24/16079.html>
31. *September 17, Associated Press* – **Mysterious outbreak at Houston school scares parents, teachers.** Since the first day of school on Aug. 27, more than 15 teachers and seven custodians have suffered from severe headaches, chest pains, breathing problems and vomiting while inside Francis Scott Key Middle School in Houston, Texas. Last Wednesday, several teachers were taken by ambulance to a hospital. Others — under doctor's orders — have missed days of work. A lab contracted by the school district found the presence of aspergillus and penicillium

— both forms of mold— but concluded the school's air quality was acceptable. The Houston Health Department also conducted an inspection at the request of a city councilman, said spokeswoman Kathy Barton. That inspection also gave the building an all-clear, although inspectors recommended closing two classrooms. The Houston Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Response Team also monitored for chemical hazards and found none. A professor at the University of Texas School of public health said: “Older buildings sometimes have indoor air quality issues. In most cases, the problem can be traced to poor maintenance, water intrusion or inadequate ventilation. The teachers' symptoms are consistent with air quality issues. If I were coming in from the outside and had a 50-year-old building with these concerns, that's what I would look at.”

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5141867.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

32. *September 18, Burlington County Times* – **Shots fired at elementary school.** Yesterday, around 11:30 am, shots were fired and several bullets struck Garfield East Elementary School. One of the bullets shattered a fourth-grade classroom window, which was empty of students, at the time. The superintendent did not consider the school to be the target. The school was locked down following the incident and reopened shortly before 2 pm.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/112-09182007-1409359.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

33. *September 18, Asbury Park Press* – **Plant drill to test emergency response.** Federal officials will be evaluating local emergency officials tonight to see if they can effectively manage a potentially catastrophic scenario involving the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey, New Jersey. The one-night exercise then will be graded by observers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is responsible for making sure that residents around every U.S. nuclear plant will be protected during the threat of a radioactive release. Emergency responders from various levels of government — volunteer and full-time workers — are expected to participate in the drill, which happens annually but is only graded by FEMA every two years. Smaller drills specific to certain aspects of a response — such as protecting schoolchildren — already have been completed leading up to tonight, said the deputy emergency management coordinator for the Ocean County Sheriff's Department. FEMA will announce preliminary results from tonight's exercise in a presentation Friday, after which the public will be allowed to ask questions pertaining to the exercise.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070918/NEWS02/709180379>

34. *September 18, The Canton Daily Ledger* – Search and rescue drill conducted by area, state agencies near Middlegrove, IL. Fulton County, Schuyler County, Adams County Area Emergency Agencies in conjunction with The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and Illinois State Police District 14 conducted a Search and Rescue Drill at a campground, known as Camp Big Sky, just south of Middlegrove on Sept. 15. A not for profit

organization, Camp Big Sky aims to make accessible fishing, camping, boating and other related outdoor recreation for children and adults with disabilities, utilizing 102 acres of land, including two lakes. The drill tested area agencies' response to a Search and Rescue call. The event also tested coordination among area agencies and search and rescue techniques. An Illinois State Police Air Unit was called in to help aide the search teams in finding the missing person. In total, there were approximately 30 responders at the drill. The Incident Commander called the drill successful, saying that the cooperation across many agencies was a good learning opportunity.

Source: <http://www.cantondailyledger.com/articles/2007/09/18/news/news01.txt>

35. *September 18, The Journal of New England Technology* – **Defense contractor helps connect N.H. first responders.** Firefighters and police officers in New Hampshire have won a \$93,760 federal grant to purchase technology built by a Granite State defense contractor. A Nashua, N.H.-based business unit of BAE Systems Inc. has developed a radio communications system for first responders in the New Hampshire communities of Amherst, Bedford and Merrimack, according to the company. BAE developed a device that allows operators to talk over radios using different frequencies.

Source:

[http://www.bizjournals.com/masshightech/stories/2007/09/17/daily12.html?ana=from\\_rss](http://www.bizjournals.com/masshightech/stories/2007/09/17/daily12.html?ana=from_rss)

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## **Information Technology**

36. *September 18, Infoworld* – **Infrastructure threats: Botnet attacks overtake DoS attacks.** Arbor Networks published the results of its third-annual Infrastructure Security Report on Monday -- a survey of 75 large ISPs, hosting companies, and other providers -- which found for the first time that Malware-infected botnet PCs currently outrank denial-of-service (DoS) threats as the most serious concern for the firms. Tens of millions of PCs are likely infected with botnet programs worldwide, according to survey results, and Arbor researchers said the ISPs they questioned admitted to spending more time and resources battling botnets than ever before. Infrastructure providers are finding botnets hard to pin down, as the people responsible for controlling the zombie machines are increasingly employing more advanced detection evasion techniques, said the chief scientist at Arbor. As they cannot accurately gauge the size of the problem, he said, infrastructure providers are afraid they are only scraping the tip of the iceberg in tackling on the botnet phenomenon. By using the same peer-to-peer botnet propagation strategy that has made the so-called Storm worm a recurring problem in terms of generating subsequent infections, the sophisticated botnet community is moving forward at a rapid pace, according to Arbor. At the same time (DoS) attacks -- which have long-ranked as the primary concern of ISPs and their brethren -- have not disappeared, but rather become more targeted and efficient in the application of their resources, making them even more damaging to their individual targets, according to the report.

Source:

[http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/18/Infrastructure-threats:-Bots-show-DoS-who's-boss\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/18/Infrastructure-threats:-Bots-show-DoS-who's-boss_1.html)

37. *September 18, IDG News Service* – **Fraud infests e-cards.** The e-card industry began seeing

some pretty unfriendly greetings this past June. That is when scammers started flooding e-mail in-boxes with fake greeting cards. The goal is always the same: trick the victim into visiting an untrustworthy Web site, and then try to hijack his computer and make it part of a larger botnet network that can be pressed into service for a variety of nefarious purposes. By July, Symnatec Corp. tracked more than 250 million fake cards, and soon the mainstream press had picked up on the story. On August 23, the Today Show ran a segment highlighting the problem, warning its viewers to be wary of the cards they open. All of that bad publicity has had at least a short-term effect on the public's willingness to use e-cards, according to the general manager of Hallmark Interactive. "Overall we've probably seen a 10 percent decline in e-card sends," he said. E-card use at Hallmark is starting to recover, and while the industry is now making some changes to respond to this problem, the fraud will probably not affect the e-card suppliers' bottom line, said a spokeswoman with The Greeting Card Association. "I'm not sure that it's having that much impact other than the real need for the industry to make sure that consumers are aware of how to avoid e-mail fraud." she said. Two of the largest e-card distributors in the U.S. have begun forcing e-card senders to include their first and last names in an effort to make it easier for recipients to tell when these cards are coming from someone they know.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,137293-c,scamshoaxes/article.html>

38. *September 17, Computerworld* – **Malware becoming more sophisticated, warns IBM.**

IBM has reported an increase in malware volume and sophistication as part of its security statistics report for the first half of the year. So far this year, IBM's X-Force research and development team has identified and analyzed more than 210,000 new malware samples, which is more than the total number of malware samples observed over the entirety of last year. According to IBM, the "exploits as a service" industry continues to thrive, with the new practice of "exploit leasing" added to the repertoire of criminals. By leasing an exploit, attackers can now test exploitation techniques with a smaller initial investment, making this underground market an even more attractive option for malicious perpetrators. According to the report, Trojans (seemingly legitimate files that are actually malware) are the most common form of malware this year, accounting for 28 percent of the total. Last year, Downloaders was the most common category. A downloader is a low-profile piece of malware that installs itself so that it can later download and install a more sophisticated malware agent. On the other hand, X-Force reports a slight decrease in the overall number of vulnerabilities uncovered in the first half of 2007 versus the first half of 2006. A total of 3,273 vulnerabilities were identified in the first half of this year, down 3.3 percent year-on-year. However, the percentage of high-impact vulnerabilities has gone up, from 16 percent in the first half of 2006 to 21 percent for the first half of this year. A similarly unexpected trend in the report is the decrease in spam message size. IBM said the fall corresponded with a decrease in image-based spam.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036961&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036961&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

39. *September 17, Computerworld* – **Hackers leak antipiracy vendor's e-mails to Net.**

Thousands of e-mails detailing the operations of MediaDefender Inc., a company hired by movie studios and record labels to flood file-sharing networks with fake files of pirated films and albums, have leaked to the Internet. A group calling itself "MediaDefender-Defenders" claimed responsibility for posting more 6,000 messages purportedly from MediaDefender. "By

releasing these e-mails we hope to secure the privacy and personal integrity of all peer-to-peer users," MediaDefender-Defenders said in a text file bundled with the compressed messages. "The e-mails contains [sic] information about the various tactics and technical solutions for tracking p2p users, and disrupt [sic] p2p services." The group said it hacked the Gmail account of a MediaDefender employee who had forwarded his work mail to his personal Google email service address. A file containing the e-mail messages quickly spread via BitTorrent, and its contents have also been extracted and converted into HTML, then published on at least one Web site. In the e-mails, which covered a period from mid-December 2006 to September. 10, company executives discussed a planned Web site, dubbed WiiVii.com that would pose as a pirate site that offered downloads of copyrighted movies and music but would actually track users who accessed it, then report their IP addresses back to MediaDefender.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036938&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036938&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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://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

40. *September 18, RCR Wireless News* – **Cell phone bill of rights legislation gets backing.** The nation's top consumer groups threw their weight behind new legislation to set federal standards for contracts, early termination fees, billing, disclosure and other mobile-phone industry practices that have sparked controversy and lawsuits in recent years. "Most wireless carriers advertise a price significantly lower than the bill consumers pay each month, adding mysterious regulatory charges and other junk fees. If this legislation is passed it would go a long ways toward eliminating those shenanigans," said the senior counsel for Consumers Union. The wireless industry opposes the bill, arguing Congress should not be considering new federal mandates at a time when wireless complaints to the Federal Communications Commission are declining. One of the senators sponsoring the bill replies that FCC consumer data tell only part of the story. She said wireless subscribers also vent their frustrations with state agencies, the Better Business Bureau and other entities. The research director for the Consumer Federation of America said that, "for most wireless users, their wireless company is also their local telephone monopoly, and nobody can offer the same bundle of wireless, local phone and high-speed Internet." Though the wireless industry claims fair competition, he called for oversight in response to what are, in his view, the industry's anti-consumer practices. Source: <http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070918/FREE/70918006/1005>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *September 18, The Technician Online* – **Event staff to continue cameras, inspections Saturday.** Despite the fact that students at North Carolina State have complained of event staff patting them down at Carter-Finley Stadium before this season's football games, the same security procedures will be in effect this week, according to the chief of Campus Police. Event staff at the games has confiscated a box-full of illegal material -- including liquor, knives, corkscrews and bike chains, he said. The security checks stem from a check the National Guard performed in 2004 that aimed at identifying potential terrorist targets. "We have one of the largest concentrations of people at the same time in the state. There are about two other stadiums that seat as much as we do," the police chief said, adding that the National Guard had recommended that event staff do full pat-downs. A University task force decided against the recommendation.

Source:

<http://media.www.technicianonline.com/media/storage/paper848/news/2007/09/18/News/Event.Staff.To.Continue.Cameras.Inspections.Saturday-2974181.shtml>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

42. *September 18, Washington Post* – **Oily substance on wall was vandalism, not accident, police say.** The U.S. Park Police announced yesterday that the unidentified substance found on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial earlier this month was vandalism, not an accident. Clean up of the monument is estimated to take over a week, but officials are certain that all of the stains will be removed. A reward has been offered for information leading to arrest and conviction.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/17/AR2007091700973.html>

43. *September 18, Associated Press* – **Wildfire season far from over.** More acres have burned this year in Idaho than anywhere else in the U.S., according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. Significant fires include those in the Boise, Payette, and Salmon-Challis national forests, as well as Yellowstone National Park, and experts predict that the wildfire season is not yet over.

Source: <http://www.idahopress.com/news/?id=748>

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## **Dams Sector**

44. *September 17, Daily News* – **\$100 million dam upgrade to boost groundwater.** A \$100 million retrofitting project on the Big Tujunga Dam will begin in November. Estimated to take five years, the repairs will bring the dam up to current seismic standards, which will allow the dam to hold its full capacity of 6,000 acre feet. After the Sylmar Earthquake in 1971, the 76-year-old dam was deemed seismically unsafe and allowed to hold only 25% of its capacity. Once the retrofit is completed, the dam will be able to release the water into the Big Tujunga Wash, where it will soak into the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin. The basin is the source of most of Los Angeles' drinking water. Increasing the supply of groundwater is

especially important now, due to the current water import restrictions facing Los Angeles.  
Source: [http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci\\_6922637](http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_6922637)

45. *September 17, CBS 13, Sacramento, California* – **Local water dam gets safe structural overhaul.** The Stony Gorge Dam in Northern California is currently receiving \$24 million in repairs designed to strengthen the dam and allow it to handle a 6.5 magnitude earthquake. The dam is 80-years-old and provides water for agriculture. Without the repairs, in the event of a large earthquake, the dam could fail and flood the valley and the town of Elk Creek. During the three year project, the dam will operate as normal for those who depend on it for water, electricity, and recreation.  
Source: [http://cbs13.com/seenon/local\\_story\\_260190410.html](http://cbs13.com/seenon/local_story_260190410.html)

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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