



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 September 2007

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to a *USA Today* report, DHS believes that the Great River Bridge crossing the Mississippi River between Iowa and Illinois represents a potential terrorist target. The span was listed among 44 other cable-stayed bridges in an analysis conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Homeland Security workers. The purpose of the study is to find innovative methods to protect bridge cables and connections from explosives (See item [13](#))
- *The Los Angeles Times* reports that, in a move away from seeking federal funding or funding from specific water consumers, the governor of California is proposing a \$9 billion bond package to help fund three dam and other water-related programs. California has been struggling with drought conditions and a federal court decision that has cut off a major source of water to large sections of the state (See item [22](#))

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 19, The Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Governor approves wind-power project.** Citing the growing importance of clean energy, the Governor of Washington took the unprecedented step of overruling local opposition to a wind-power project near Ellensburg. The decision to allow the Kittitas Valley Wind Power project means as many as 65 towering wind turbines could line hillsides northwest of Ellensburg, despite a vote against the project by

the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners. The case was closely watched by environmentalists, energy companies and local governments as a sign of whether wind projects near populated areas would be allowed in Washington, and of whether the state would flex its muscles to force a project past local objections. This is the first time a governor has overturned a local decision about a power plant, using a 1970 law to clear the way for controversial nuclear-power projects. In 2006, Washington voters approved an initiative requiring that 15 percent of all electricity used by major utilities come from renewable sources by 2020. Most of that is expected to come from wind turbines.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003891604_wind19m.html

2. *September 19, Thomson Financial* – (Nationwide) **Oil retreats after hitting new record.** Oil struck a record high after the US Department of Energy (DoE) said crude stocks fell by more than the market had expected, helping prices to extend a four week rally. The US, which consumes around 25 pct of global oil, said crude stocks fell for the tenth week in a row by 3.8 million barrels against market calls for a 2 million barrel drop in the week to September 14. At 4.08 pm, New York crude contracts for October delivery, which expires tomorrow, rose 50 cents to \$82.01 per barrel, having earlier struck \$82.51, a historic peak. The November delivery contract was up 42 cents at \$80.65. Meanwhile, London's benchmark Brent crude contracts for November delivery rose 43 cents at \$78.02 per barrel. Oil has hit a series of fresh record highs for the past five consecutive working days.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/newstex/AFX-0013-19686713.htm>

3. *September 18, Bloomberg* – (International) **Shell evacuates gulf workers on storm threat.** Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's biggest oil company, evacuated 300 non-essential workers from the Gulf of Mexico because of the threat of a tropical storm. About 400 more workers will be evacuated tomorrow “based on the potential development of Tropical Disturbance #50,” the Hague-based company said in an e-mailed statement. Production is currently not affected, Shell said. Thunderstorms and clouds extending from Florida's east coast to the western Atlantic and the Bahamas have the potential to become a tropical storm over the next few days, U.S. National Hurricane Center forecasts show. Shell holds interests in about 459 federal offshore leases in the Gulf, most of which are in the deeper waters. Production from the company's Gulf fields averages about 370,000 barrels of oil a day, according to Shell's Web site.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aTQII9gKw5Fk&refer=energy>

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Chemical Industry

4. *September 19, The Post-Crescent* – (Wisconsin) **Overheated chemical leads to Neenah plant evacuation.** A Neenah manufacturing plant was evacuated for about three hours beginning late Tuesday after an overheated chemical product caused health and safety concerns. Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue responded to the incident. Firefighters said a resin compound overheated during the manufacturing process. While there was no fire, officials were concerned because they could not confirm what chemicals were inside. A hazardous materials team from the

Oshkosh Fire Department assisted in efforts to identify the chemicals. Those in the immediate area of the plant were told to remain in their homes. No one was injured due to the incident. Firefighters allowed the company to resume operations after determining there were no health hazards.

Source:

<http://www.postcrescent.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070919/APC0101/70919036>

5. *September 19, ChicoER.com* – (California) **I-5 shut down, evacuations in effect, due to chemical leak.** A tanker truck leaking the corrosive chemical sodium hydroxide has prompted the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to close down Interstate 5 north of Orland. The highway has been closed at the County Road 7 according to emergency radio traffic. The overpass was also closed. Fire department and hazardous materials crews were dispatched to the scene. Officials evacuated anyone within 150 feet of the chemical spill, and kept traffic at least that far from the tanker truck. CHP officers noticed odors from the spill and investigated. The CHP said it is preparing for an extended closure time.

Source: http://www.chicoer.com/ci_6929801?source=rss

6. *September 19, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Manufacturer fined \$36,300 for illegal chemical emission.** State officials say a Montgomery County metal tubing manufacturer has been fined \$36,300 for a July 10 release of vapor from a degreasing chemical and probable carcinogen. Superior Tube officials have blamed an equipment malfunction for the July 10 release from their Colleagueville facility. Instead of the 15 pounds per hour of trichloroethylene vapor the plant would have been allowed to release, Department of Environmental Protection officials say about 2,440 pounds of TCE vapor was released in about two hours.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/103-09182007-1409403.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

7. *September 19, The Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Nuclear plant to be explored.** Lawmakers are exploring how to make it easier to build Utah's first nuclear power plant. Supporters and opponents are taking their respective places behind a bill that the Legislature's Interim Public Utilities and Technology Committee is considering today. The environmental group joined forces Tuesday with the Utah Ratepayers Association in a news conference that described the bill as a gift to industry to be paid for by consumers. Meanwhile, the Utah Mining Association said it backs mining, whether for the coal that Utah relies on now or the uranium that might be used in a nuclear plant. Legislators have been eyeing nuclear power for a couple of years. They kept it on the back burner while the state fought plans to operate a high-level nuclear waste storage site on the Skull Valley Goshutes Reservation in Tooele County, but the storage plan's defeat has opened the door for the idea to be reconsidered, lawmakers say.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6934591?source=rss

8. *September 18, Platts* – (Wisconsin) **Wisconsin PSC approves \$998-mil Point Beach nuclear plant sale to FPL.** The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) on Tuesday approved the sale of Wisconsin Energy's 1,036-MW Point Beach nuclear power plant to FPL Energy for nearly \$1 billion. Wisconsin Energy's We Energies subsidiary will receive about \$998 million

for the plant. Not counting fuel, inventory and other items, Juno Beach, Florida-based FPL is paying \$783 million, or \$758/kW, for the plant. The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have approved the sale. The Michigan PSC must still vote on the transaction. We Energies expects the deal to close by the end of September. FPL plans to increase the plant's capacity by 134 MW and the PSC voted to give the parties the option of giving We Energies all the green credits for the plant's current capacity, but splitting credits connected to any capacity increase.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6482095.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *September 19, AFP* – (Louisiana) **U.S. Air Force sets up Cyber Command.** The U.S. Air Force established a provisional Cyber Command Tuesday as part of an expanding mission to prepare for wars in cyberspace, officials said. The move comes amid concerns over a wave of hacker attacks originating in China against western governments and a crippling attack in May against Estonia amid a dispute with Russia. The Secretary of the Air Force announced the creation of the new command at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, where the Air Force's existing cyber warfare operations are centered. Officials said the provisional command will pave the way within a year for the creation of the first major command devoted to cyberwarfare operations. The full Air Force Cyber Command “will train and equip forces to conduct sustained global operations in and through cyberspace, fully integrated with air and space operations,” said a senior Air Force Officer. The U.S. 8th Air Force, headquartered at Barksdale, will continue to conduct day-to-day cyber operations until the Cyber Command is fully operational, officials said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070919/ts_alt_afp/usmilitarycyber_070919014751;_ylt=AhMN Eyv8rCmypynUK0ozAG_Ya7gF

10. *September 18, Reuters* – (Washington, D.C.) **Pentagon shifts to GPS with no signal reduction.** The Pentagon no longer needs to hamper the entire Global Positioning System (GPS) when facing a threat in one part of the world and will stop buying satellites that enable it do so, the military said on Tuesday. The U.S. government can now reduce the accuracy of signals received by civilians within a much smaller area, said a Pentagon spokesman. That means the next generation of GPS satellites will not require the capability to degrade the entire system. GPS was developed by the Defense Department during the Cold War for precision targeting. Built into the system was the ability for the Pentagon to reduce the accuracy of signals by about 10 percent to protect against targeting by enemies. The military switched off its signal reduction capability in 2000 under an order by former President Clinton, who cited the needs of the commercial sector. That decision boosted accuracy from 100 meters to about 10 meters. The Pentagon said its decision to stop buying satellites that include the signal reduction capability should eliminate any lingering concern about potential U.S. government meddling with GPS signals. The decision was approved by President George W. Bush. It will affect the next generation of satellites due to launch in 2013, according to the spokesman.

Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp. are competing for the contract to provide those satellites.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1847029020070918?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 19, Boston Herald* – (Massachusetts) **Scam uses spam to pose as banks, financial cos.** Massachusetts' secretary of state released a warning to all state residents to be vigilant when opening emails because scammers are targeting TD Ameritrade and TD Banknorth customers. Following a breach in the Ameritrade system, online fraudsters sent phishing emails to the banks' customers asking for personal and bank-account information. Other sources also reported that criminals using look-alike logos from various banks targeted the same customers urging them to set up accounts with their 'banks.' The state's secretary advised people to ignore all these emails and never provide bank-account or Social Security numbers to unsolicited individuals or companies.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/business/general/view.bg?articleid=1032529>

12. *September 18, CBS Channel 47* – (International) **International check fraud scam busted by Fresno Police.** Fresno police officials announced the arrest of six individuals involved in an international check fraud scam including money laundering, real estate fraud, and identity theft, which robbed Florida and California businesses of \$3 million. The list of the victims reveals well-known names such as Bank of America and Washington Mutual. One of the criminals' operating methods was to ask a person to write a check from their account, then go to the originating bank and claim the checks had been stolen and that fraudsters were issuing checks in their names. Following the complaint, the banks would refund the money. It took the law enforcement officials a year to solve the case, which involved numerous individuals -- some believed to reside in the Republic of Georgia -- and hundreds of scams. The suspects face sentences of 10 to 20 years in prison.

Source:

http://www.cbs47.tv/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=9a6b4802-d888-476c-abbd-eb930e8f337e

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *September 19, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa, Illinois) **Officials: Iowa span vulnerable to attack.** According to a *USA Today* report, the Great River Bridge crossing the Mississippi River between Iowa and Illinois represents a potential terrorist target in the eyes of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The span was listed among 44 other cable-stayed bridges that were part of an analysis conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Homeland Security workers. The purpose of the study is to find innovative methods to protect bridge cables and connections from explosives. "Terrorists are out there, they're blowing up bridges in

Iraq, and we need to be preparing ourselves to make sure we protect our bridges and our people,” said a research chief in the department's Science and Technology Division. The specific concerns about the Great River Bridge, which is crossed by 10,000 vehicles daily, are not yet shared by the local police, who are not taking any particular measures against possible terrorist acts on the bridge, according to the spokesman of the Burlington Police Department. However, the Iowa Department of Transportation spokeswoman insists that the department has been preparing contingency plans in the event of a terrorist attack on the Great River Bridge and has also explored different types of security risk assessments. What prompted the Homeland Security officials’ concerns is the fact that “unlike suspension bridges, cable-stayed spans have only one set of cables that connect directly to a highway. That gives anyone aiming to weaken or take down a bridge with explosives ready access to key parts of the structure holding it up,” *USA Today* reported. Iowa has been a leader in identifying possible terrorism targets in the wake of the September 2001 attacks, listing 1,100 “critical assets” statewide.

Source:

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070919/NEWS/709190365/1001/ENT04>

14. *September 19, Industry Week* – (Nationwide) **Five strategies to avoid port congestion.** A market economist with *Global Insight* forecasted a 4 percent increase in traffic at major U.S. ports for the month of October -- the busiest month of the year for container ports. The researcher suggested several tactics for shipping companies to ameliorate the expected traffic congestion such as cargo redistribution to carriers, which are frequent operators at multiple ports, and improved transportation demand planning. Similarly, “monitoring supply and demand during inland transit at the origin or destination can yield greater flexibility,” according to the same source. The last suggested operating measure aiming to avoid port congestion is to alternate the use of various ports, especially those experiencing less traffic. Source: <http://www.industryweek.com/ReadArticle.aspx?ArticleID=15001&SectionID=2>
15. *September 18, Logistics Management* – (Nationwide) **Transportation infrastructure: New study says U.S. traffic congestion still on a rough road.** The 2007 Urban Mobility Report published by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and released yesterday, revealed significant information on congestion in the urban areas in the United States. According to the TTI study, the 4.2 billion hours of travel delay in 2005 coupled with the 2.9 billion gallons of fuel consumed by travelers stuck in traffic, cost the economy \$78.2 billion. Moreover, this figure seemed to have had increased from 2004 by \$5.1 billion. When divided individually, an average driver spent 30 hours waiting in traffic and consumed 38 gallons of additional fuel, resulting in a \$710 loss. Nevertheless, as a *Logistics Management* official pointed out, these estimated costs do not include the financial loss associated with the transport of perishable goods -- lost productivity time, higher prices for products, and fuel expenses. The causes of traffic congestion are multiple, according to researchers: “trips taking longer; congestion affecting more of the day; and the fact that trip travel times have become more unreliable, among others.” Nevertheless, the study also points to several measures people can implement to ameliorate the situation: travelers should take advantage of public means of transportation as much as possible; new road and transit systems; additional high occupancy toll lanes; and the implementation of container fees at ports.

Source:

<http://www.logisticsmgmt.com/index.asp?layout=article&articleid=CA6479564&industry=3PL&industryid=2028>

16. *September 18, SignonSanDiego* – (Nationwide) **Mexican trucks show better safety records than U.S. counterparts.** Following a fierce debate on whether Mexican trucks should be allowed to access U.S. roads, transportation officials released a study showing that Mexican long-haul trucks had better safety records than their U.S. counterparts between 2003 and 2006. Only 1.21 percent of the Mexican drivers failed roadside inspections during that period, a number much smaller than the 7.06 percent of U.S. drivers, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The study's findings benefit the case of the Bush Administration, which strongly promoted the program allowing the Mexican trucks to operate in the U.S. At the same time, the figures seem to dismiss the Senate's safety concerns, which were the primary reason why the officials cut the funding for the controversial program -- the final legislation is still pending in Congress. However, the director at Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety claims the study does not reflect reality because Mexican drivers knew in advance they were going to be scrutinized and therefore, performed better. Overall, 21.29 percent of long-haul trucks were removed from service in Mexico and 23.5 percent in the U.S. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/nation/20070918-1748-cnsmextruck.html>

17. *September 18, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Local forces join to try to ground airport fee increase.** Houston area congressmen and several airline and aviation industry officials joined forces to oppose the proposed plan to increase the passenger facility charge from \$4.50 to \$7. The bill will be up for discussion Thursday when the House debates whether this plan is the optimal solution to raise the \$2.2 billion necessary for improvements at U.S. airports. Some Texas politicians advocate blocking any fee increases, in spite of the fact that last year's hike led to a \$4.8 billion fund, which was used for new runways, terminal expansions and other construction. "Airports large and small have numerous funding sources for appropriate airport improvements. They do not need an additional \$2.2 billion from airline passengers," said an official. Opposing the same bill, employees from Continental, Delta and United gathered on Tuesday for a rally at Capitol Hill. However, the Airports Council International-North America voiced their support of the fee arguing that "the nation's aviation infrastructure is 'stretched to the breaking point' and that congestion will only worsen if improvements aren't made." Texas politicians rejected this point of view and claimed that the congestion issue would be solved by a new satellite-based air traffic control system. Political representatives are not the only parties expressing split opinions. Houston area airline officials are also divided about the implementation of the passenger fee. For example, Southwest Airlines supports the fee, while Continental and Intercontinental oppose it. However, the Houston Airport System spokesman released a statement confirming that the agency favors the fee. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/5146871.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *September 19, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Shipping industry sees more consolidation ahead.** Expect to see further consolidation in the bulk-shipping industry over the next few years. Following the model of oil tankers, more bulk-shipping companies are

merging, and the market cap is rising. Dissenters from this theory point out that consolidation in the oil tanker industry was driven (at least in part) by the mandatory move to double-hulled tankers after the Exxon Valdez spill, which forced “smaller, less-capitalized players” out of the market. Nevertheless, most analysts agree with the shipping industry that “with global trade intensifying, the prospects for a long-term consolidation seem good.”

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119017075626932117.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *September 19, Associated Press* – (California) **Changes sought in olive oil labeling.** The *Associated Press* reports that while U.S. sales of olive oil have doubled in the last decade, as consumers look for healthier food options, the U.S. uses an outdated classification system. Oil produced in Spain, Italy and other Mediterranean countries are classified under international standards the U.S. has not adopted. Additionally, the terms used to classify U.S. produced olive oil have no regulatory weight, “so unscrupulous producers here and abroad can get away with branding olive oil bound for U.S. grocery shelves as extra virgin — the highest and most expensive grade — even if it is of lesser quality.” The California Olive Oil Council, an industry group, petitioned the USDA in 2004 to replace its outmoded classification system and the agency expects to solicit public input by the end of this year, according to a spokesman. A final decision will come after that. California is by far the leading U.S. producer. Olive oil production here rose from about 250,000 gallons in 2001-2002 to about 400,000 gallons in 2004-2005.

Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jTWiy2mC9Fr8jHxMmsNWKakCf_Xw

20. *September 19, Capital Press* – (Idaho) **Low Idaho and global wheat supplies impacting market.** Wheat growers across Idaho have been differently by drought, irrigation water supplies, late spring frosts and an extremely hot summer, thus putting the state’s wheat situation “on a par with that of the nation and the world,” Idaho’s Wheat Commission administrator during a regular September 13-14 meeting. Rising demand and declining world wheat stockpiles have a number of buyers trying to lock in supplies, paying high prices to ensure having enough wheat in the coming months, according to two University of Idaho agricultural economists, who said that wheat prices soared by near 50 percent in recent months, trading recently for over \$9 a bushel for the first time.

Source:

<http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=94&SubSectionID=801&ArticleID=35366&TM=8906.402>

21. *September 19, The Denver Channel* – (Colorado) **Health officials to inspect food safety at San Luis Valley farm.** Following another food recall prompted by the discovery of E. coli bacteria in a package of salad from a store in Canada, federal officials are expected to join state agricultural and state health officials in the San Luis Valley on Wednesday to inspect the food safety operation at a vegetable farm. “We don’t know where the contamination came from,” said Colorado’s deputy commissioner of agriculture. “The FDA will join state health and agriculture inspectors in the San Luis Valley to inspect operations at the farm where the Colorado lettuce was grown. They’ll check the fields, cooling shed and the packing house.”

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/14145800/detail.html>

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Water Sector

22. *September 19, The Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Schwarzenegger urges \$9 billion in water bonds.** As drought and court-imposed cutbacks in California’s water supply emerge, the governor revealed a \$9 billion bond package, which would fund three dam and other water-related programs. The goal is to have the bond package on the February 5 ballot. The heavy reliance on creating and expanding dams in the governor’s plan differ from the mostly Democratic State Legislature, who think that cleaning polluted groundwater, recycling water, and conserving water will result in greater savings to the state of California. The bond measure is also significant, in that this is one of the few to break with the tradition of the federal government or specific water users paying for projects. One of the governor’s advisors stated that the bond “would invest tax dollars only where the state at large stood to gain and only to pay up to 50% of the cost of a dam project. Water users would have to pay the rest.” A special legislative session was called last week, which will force the legislators to continue working on water issues though their break.

Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/politics/cal/la-me-water19sep19,1,749965.story?coll=la-news-politics-california>

23. *September 19, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **'It is amazing how much we don't know' about our water sources; House panel aims to fill in the blanks.** There is little information available to evaluate ground water throughout Minnesota. Detailed geological information is especially important for tracking pollution and determining aquifer replenishment rates. Hearings on groundwater issues are expected in the state legislature throughout the next year. Geologic data gathering has slowed in recent years due to budget cuts forcing a significant reduction in their number of geologists at the state Geological Survey.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/587/story/1431670.html>

24. *September 19, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Report: Coal ash contaminating Pa. water.** The Clean Air Task Force, an Indianapolis-based environmental group, released a report Tuesday, detailing the effect of coal ash on groundwater. According to the report, “levels of arsenic, lead, cadmium and selenium and other pollutants were above safe standards in groundwater and streams near 10 of 15 mines where coal ash or coal combustion waste was used as fill.” The Pennsylvania state Department of Environmental Protection has not seen the report, but maintains that they have used coal ash for over twenty years without the problems listed in the report. A spokesman for the DEP stated that officials would read the report and carry out any necessary follow-up

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5147785.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *September 19, Wall Street Journal* – (Nationwide) **Rapid blood test cleared.** The Food and Drug Administration approved the first rapid test to detect bacterial contamination in blood platelets prior to transfusion. The rapid test is a disposable strip that would be used in hospitals to test blood shortly before a patient receives platelets; it is intended to supplement current blood tests. The test, known as the Platelet Pan Genera Detection, or PGD, Test System, is made by Verax Biomedical Inc., of Worcester, Mass. The FDA said bacterial contamination of platelets is the leading infectious cause of transfusion-related deaths. The risk of a patient receiving a transfusion contaminated with bacteria is 1 in 5,000.
Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119014351543231369.html?mod=googlenews_wsj
26. *September 19, The Examiner* – (Nationwide) **New treatment speeds up tuberculosis recovery.** Tuberculosis experts at Johns Hopkins and in Brazil found evidence that substituting the antibiotic moxifloxacin for one of the drugs used to treat the highly contagious lung disease can cut treatment time from six months to four. “Beyond the obvious value of healing patients more quickly, a shorter treatment time could also cut down on the transmission of the disease to others and the spread of drug resistant strains,” the director of Johns Hopkins’ Center for Tuberculosis Research said.
Source:
http://www.examiner.com/a-943057~New_treatment_speeds_up_tuberculosis_recovery.html
27. *September 19, The New York Times* – (Nationwide) **More U.S. retailers found to have lead tainted items.** Congressional investigators have determined that major U.S. retailers, including Target Corp., Limited Too and Dollar General, have found more lead-contaminated children's products in their inventories but have not yet notified the public, according to *The New York Times*. The products have been taken off shelves, documents released on Tuesday by the investigators show, but no recalls have yet been issued, while the Consumer Product Safety Commission investigates or negotiates recall terms.
Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/more-us-retailers-found-have/story.aspx?guid=%7BE5020B30-9395-4B68-89BE-5ACF1597E26F%7D>
28. *September 19, Washington Post, Foreign Service* – (International) **Congo’s Ebola outbreak could be worst in years.** International medical personnel and supplies are being airlifted to a remote region of central Congo to combat what threatens to become the world's most serious outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in years. Medical authorities suspect the virus has killed 168 people and sickened 375 others across a heavily forested region where villages are linked only by deeply rutted dirt roads. Health officials said it is possible that new cases will continue to emerge over the coming months. "It's a serious outbreak," said an official with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who toured the area last weekend. "Every day there is a new town with a reported suspect case." The WHO also has called for international help to control the outbreak.
Source:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/18/AR2007091801047.html>
29. *September 19, Washington Post Foreign Service* – (International) **China rushes to halt Bird Flu among ducks.** The *Washington Post* reports that there are concerns about the speed and transparency with which the Chinese government is handling the recent outbreak of bird flu on

a duck farm in the Panyu district of the southern province of Guangzhou. The Agriculture Ministry in Beijing, Panyu district officials in Guangzhou and other local officials have all refused to answer specific questions, saying they would have to wait until a uniform statement was prepared. That statement was not released. In Guangzhou, reporters and editors were told not to cover the outbreak themselves, but to use only the version provided by the official New China News Agency. A Hong Kong newspaper criticized the central government's lack of speed in dealing with the outbreak, saying that birds began to die in large numbers in Panyu on September 5, but that it was not until last Wednesday that local officials told the Panyu government of the outbreak and not until Thursday that Guangdong provincial authorities learned of it.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/18/AR2007091801445.html?hpid=sec-health>

30. *September 18, Associated Press* – (Nationwide) **Glaxo signs contract with the U.S. government.** British drug maker GlaxoSmithKline said Tuesday the company signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense to pursue a new class of antibacterials targeting potential biothreat outbreaks and hospital-acquired infections. The company said the research will focus on bacteria infections that are increasingly resistant to all known classes of antibiotics and which can cause a significant threat to patients, particularly those in hospital intensive care units. The agreement awards GlaxoSmithKline up to \$41 million over a five-year period, with the pharmaceutical company providing supplemental staff and covering other program costs.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8RNUAVO0.htm>

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Government Facilities Sector

31. *September 19, KCCI 8 Des Moines, Iowa* – (Iowa) **Chemical spill near school evacuates students.** A truck spilled chemicals used in fertilizer after hitting a utility pole in Des Moines, Iowa on Wednesday morning. A nearby middle school was evacuated. The faculty and students returned after the site was declared safe by a hazardous materials crew.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/14149926/detail.html?rss=des&psp=news>

32. *September 18, The Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Water main break closes federal, D.C. courts.** A water main break Tuesday morning closed the U.S. District and D.C. Superior courts. Courts will reopen on Wednesday to hear Tuesday's and Wednesday's cases.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/18/AR2007091801241.html>

33. *September 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Bio-defense lab offers job possibilities but raises fears.** Five states (North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Kansas, and Mississippi) are under consideration to house a \$450 million bio-defense laboratory with 500 permanent jobs. The laboratory would deal with possible biological threats, with about ten percent of the lab being set aside for viruses with no known cures. Some residents in surrounding communities are nervous about hosting the lab, and concerns about safety were raised at a Department of

Homeland Security public meeting. DHS will select a site late next year, and construction is scheduled to begin in 2009.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070918/APN/709181025&template=apart>

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *September 19, Marshfield News-Herald* – (Wisconsin) **Marshfield emergency services undergoing drill.** Marshfield emergency services are holding a drill this morning with a vehicle versus school bus crash at Veterans Parkway and Palmetto Avenue. The drill was called out at 8:50 a.m. and involves Marshfield Police Department, Marshfield Fire and Rescue, Marshfield Utilities and the Street Department. Traffic is being redirected off of Veterans Parkway at South Vine Avenue.
Source:
<http://www.marshfieldnewsheald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070919/MNH/70919039>
35. *September 19, The Progress Index* – (Virginia) **Anti-terror training: Preparing for the worst at Fort Lee.** Soldiers, Fort Lee Fire and Emergency Services as well as the Provost Marshals all cooperated during Talon Strike, an exercise to prepare the base in case of a terrorist attack. A group of privates from the 23rd Brigade acted as victims in a terrorist attack, in which the attacker drove a truck onto base and released a harmful gas. Fire and Emergency Services and the Provost Marshal's Office responded to the exercise, setting up areas for "gross decon," or the initial decontamination of the affected soldiers. After all the soldiers were brought back to the safe area, they were decontaminated, and the most serious injuries would be taken to the nearest hospital after a second decontamination. Others awaited their chance to go through a more thorough cleansing. The day's exercise lasted well into the afternoon with the FBI and other organizations coming onto post, as if the situation were real.
Source:
http://www.progress-index.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18830747&BRD=2271&PAG=461&dept_id=612178&rfi=6
36. *September 19, The Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Red Cross chapter to offer emergency training programs.** September is National Preparedness Month, an initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The American Red Cross has participated in National Preparedness Month efforts from its inception. The Pioneer Valley Chapter offers a variety of preparedness and training programs that will help area residents be prepared throughout the year. Courses range from baby-sitting training, CPR and first aid, to Massachusetts first-responder training. On September 24, the Disaster Action Team will participate in outreach activities at the Big E and will hand out preparedness cards to encourage our communities to "Be Red Cross Ready." It is an initiative to encourage disaster preparedness, outlining simple steps to get ready for emergencies. The Disaster Services Department is holding several training programs throughout this month.

Source:

<http://www.masslive.com/news/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1190188587141720.xml&coll=1>

37. *September 19, The Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Louisville county receives \$680,000 in homeland-security grants.** Bullitt County received about \$680,000 in homeland security grants the governor’s office announced Tuesday. It’s the largest amount of homeland security money the county has received since it began applying in 2003, said the director for Bullitt County Emergency Management Services. The county received \$454,387 for radio equipment and \$225,489 for mobile-data computers. Phillips said the radio equipment will be used by first responders across the county so that different departments can be on a uniform system in case of emergencies. The computers also will be used by first responders, including police officers.

Source:

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070919/ZONE10/70919014>

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Information Technology

38. *September 19, Infoworld* – (International) **EU commissioner slams DOJ reaction to Microsoft antitrust ruling.** The European Union Competition Commissioner has slammed comments from the U.S. Department of Justice about Monday’s European court ruling on an antitrust judgment against Microsoft. The commissioner described the criticism of the ruling as “totally unacceptable” during a news conference in Brussels on Wednesday. The DOJ’s Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust criticized the ruling sharply on Monday, warning that it could “have the unfortunate consequence of harming consumers by chilling innovation and discouraging competition.” In a Brussels news conference Wednesday the commissioner fired back: “I think it’s totally unacceptable [that a representative of the U.S. government] should criticize an independent court’s decision. The Commission doesn’t pass judgment on rulings in U.S. courts. We expect the same respect,” she said. On Monday the Court of First Instance, Europe’s second-highest court, dismissed an appeal by Microsoft against the Commission’s 2004 antitrust ruling against the company.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/19/EC-slams-DOJ-reaction-to-Microsoft-ruling_1.html

39. *September 18, IDG News Service* – (Nationwide) **Group says e-voting paper trail wouldn’t improve security.** Requiring print-outs as a back-up to electronic voting machines would not improve security but would increase costs of U.S. voting systems, according to a report released Tuesday. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), a tech-oriented think tank, said so-called voter-verified paper trail ballots used in conjunction with e-voting machines would “prevent the use of innovative voting technology that offers voters more security, transparency, and reliability” than paper-only balloting systems. The U.S. House has before it a bill that would require paper-trail ballots to be used with direct recording electronic voting machines. However, a paper trail would create several problems, according to the report. Paper audit trails would create an “even bigger dispute” than past elections with missing electronic votes, because the “people wouldn’t know which record was accurate -- the paper or the electronic record.” Paper-trail ballots would also increase the cost of elections,

because of potential printer and counting machine malfunctions and the introduction of the human element to counting, the report said. The same study claims that U.S. residents trust computers to run many other “critical applications” in banking, medicine and aviation. Nonetheless, supporters of paper-trail audits disputed the report's findings. “The argument that people trust computers in other places is specious -- safety-critical systems have been developed in other contexts using rigorous standards that are not applied to voting machines,” said the chairman of the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM's) U.S. policy committee. ACM has not called for e-voting machines to be scrapped, but instead for the machines to go through two levels of audit, paper trails and random machine audits, he noted.

Search:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9037399&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

40. *September 18, Computerworld* – (Nationwide) **Facebook, MySpace users will trade privacy for features.** Facebook and MySpace users are willing to let the sites sell their personal data in return for access to the sites' social networking features, according to new research from Pace University. Researchers at the university queried users of Facebook and MySpace in August, asking for their views of the privacy protections offered by the sites and their feelings about how much personal information they are willing to post on social networking sites. A professor at Pace who worked on the study noted that most Facebook and MySpace users said that they're willing to develop online relationships even though they believe that trust and privacy safeguards are weak. Users seem to view the social networking sites as a way to obtain online profiles, photos and the like for free while the sites “can take all their data and do whatever they want with it,” she noted. “Both sites are really interested in monetizing this information as much as possible,” according to the professor. “They don't exist to give people ways to upload photos.” Of those surveyed, less than 5 percent of MySpace users, and slightly more than 5 percent of Facebook users said they believe that the personal information they put on the sites is strongly protected. Still, the respondents told researchers that they are willing to share personal details with others on the sites. More than 85 percent of respondents in both groups reported that they would share a photo of themselves on a social networking site, and 91 percent of Facebook users and 62 percent of MySpace users said they use their real name on such sites, according to the study. In addition, 87 percent of Facebook users and 41 percent of MySpace users post their personal e-mail addresses on the sites.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9037379&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

41. *September 19, Associated Press* – (Nationwide) **AG opposes satellite merger.** Wisconsin's attorney general (AG) asked the federal government Tuesday to block the combination of the nation's only two satellite radio companies. In a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice, the state's AG said the deal between Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. and XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. would create a monopoly that would not benefit their consumers. "The proposed merger would eliminate competition in the satellite radio industry and the combined XM-Sirius companies would be free to raise prices, stifle innovation, and reduce program diversity," he wrote. Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. announced in February that it would acquire XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. for \$4.7 billion. The combination requires approval from the Justice Department's antitrust regulators and the Federal Communications Commission. Sirius said in a regulatory filing this month that it expects the deal to be approved by the end of this year. The companies claim they would not be a monopoly since they compete with traditional broadcast radio and other forms of audio entertainment.
Source: <http://www.madison.com/tct/news/246817>
42. *September 19, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Telecom to inspect wooden utility poles in Colorado after injury lawsuit.** Qwest Communications International Inc. will inspect its wooden poles in Colorado for decay and other deterioration after a jury found the company liable for a 2004 accident that paralyzed a utility lineman. The Denver-based telecommunications company said in recent court filings that it will replace or reinforce defective poles during the review starting this month. Qwest has about 157,000 poles across the state. During the inspection, employees of Qwest and an outside firm will check its poles for lightning damage, cracks, woodpecker holes, broken wires and other warning signs. In May, a Denver District Court jury awarded nearly \$40 million to an Xcel Energy Inc employee, who was injured when a Qwest-owned pole he was working on fell in suburban Adams County.
Source: <http://www.9news.com/money/article.aspx?storyid=77578>
43. *September 18, IDG News Service* – (Nationwide) **Hacker publishes notorious Apple Wi-Fi attack.** More than a year after claiming to have found a way to take over a Macintosh computer using a flaw in the system's wireless card, a controversial hacker has published details of his exploit. The details were included in a paper published in the September issue of Uninformed.org, an online hacking magazine. The lengthy paper describes how to run unauthorized software on a Macintosh by taking advantage of a flaw in Apple's AirPort wireless drivers. Apple patched the bug in September 2006 without crediting the hacker for discovering the problem. Instead, Apple's engineers found the bug during an internal audit, the company said. The man and another researcher first described this type of problem during an August 2006 presentation at the Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas, though he was widely criticized by the Apple community for failing to back up his claims with technical details. He is releasing the paper now, he stated, because he is no longer bound by a nondisclosure agreement, which had prevented him from doing so a year ago. By going public with the information, Maynor hopes to help other Apple researchers with new documentation on things like Wi-Fi debugging and the Mac OS X kernel core dumping facility. "There's a lot of interesting information in the paper that, if you're doing vulnerability research on Apple, you'd find useful."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9037438&intsrc=hm_list

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *September 19, Fox 11* – (Wisconsin) **Lambeau field security meeting.** Officials met yesterday to discuss security concerns that arose before the start of the Packer’s home opener on September 9 at Lambeau Field. Just minutes before the game was set to begin, over-heating at a concession stand prompted a stadium wide alert that asked fans to evacuate. While the incident turned out to be a false alarm, officials were concerned by the majority of fans who ignored the warnings. One official said that he did not think fans were “engaged in security measures.”

Source:

<http://www.myfoxnewisconsin.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=4392402&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

45. *September 19, The New York Times* – (New York) **For safety, Lady Liberty’s crown will stay closed, Park Service says.** The Statue of Liberty’s crown will not reopen, according to the National Park Service. Closed since the 9/11 attacks, the crown poses a “potentially catastrophic fire hazard.” Public visitation of the statue was not part of the original design. The stairs leading to the crown were intended for maintenance workers and do not meet any fire or building codes. There remains the possibility that the statue could be declared exempt from codes and small groups would be allowed to continue visiting the crown.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/19/nyregion/19crown.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

46. *September 18, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Plane to help protect Hawaii coral reefs.** A small, unmanned airplane will assist in surveying the coral reefs in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument next spring. These aircraft will transmit streaming video to a research ship, which will then identify and collect debris that may harm wildlife. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funded development of the aircraft and the design company hopes to reduce the price to \$15,000. Eventually they hope that the craft will be used by various government and non-profit organizations to “accomplish a variety of missions, from at-sea marine debris detection, to surveillance for enforcement purposes, to protected species surveys, to mapping.”

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jGFBaN-PWqlRHDrpKWH8n8loESA>

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Dams Sector

47. *September 18, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Proposed reservoir could seep toward**

Hanford. A proposed reservoir near Hanford, Washington could raise the water table enough for the radioactive waste from a former weapons production site to reach the Columbia River, according to a new report by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. During the Cold War, Hanford produced nuclear weapons and, since closing, it has become the “nation's most contaminated nuclear site.” The nearby Yakima Valley in central Washington is drought-prone and the farmers there have sought to improve irrigation. Already, \$14 million has been spent studying two proposals: the creation of the Black Rock reservoir and of the Wymer Dam. The Black Rock reservoir would pump water from the Columbia River to the reservoir, which would then provide water to irrigators. The recently released study concluded that the flow direction of the expected seepage from the reservoir is east towards the Hanford site, where the groundwater is already contaminated. An environmental impact study on the proposed reservoir is expected early next year.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420AP_WST_Water_Storage.html

48. *September 18, Sierra Sun* – (California) **Feds investigate Martis dam integrity.** The Martis Creek Dam near Truckee, California has been closed so that the U.S. Corps of Engineers can begin their investigation into its condition. “Seepage, spillway capacity and seismic conditions” will be analyzed. Concerns about the integrity of the dam were first raised in 2005, resulting in the Corps labeling the dam “extremely high risk.” Previous problems have been reported by the Corps, but a Corps spokesman stated that failure of the dam would only occur in “very extreme conditions.” Due to past concerns, the dam currently holds only four percent of its total capacity. The study is estimated to last between two and three years. In addition to investigating the actual dam, the floodplain in the Reno area will also be mapped and the potential damage from a breach assessed.

Source: <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/SS/20070918/NEWS/70918010>

49. *September 18, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Judge: Stop New Madrid Floodway work.** A project to build a major flood control project in Missouri’s Bootheel has been halted by a U.S. District Court Judge, who found in favor of two environmental groups. The plan would have closed a gap in the Mississippi River Levee and created a system of pumps and gates to move the water more efficiently. The environmental groups argued that the system would sever one of Missouri’s last pieces of connected floodplain from the river, as well as destroy a habitat used by fish and migrating birds. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers argued that the project was crucial to protect the communities and agriculture in the area. Area residents are disappointed with the outcome of the case. The Corps has not yet decided if they will appeal.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/missouristateneews/story/AFF2AC0B5A2C828C8625735A0073D4FD?OpenDocument>

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