



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 October 2007

Current Nationwide



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- According to the *Associated Press*, the secretary of energy said Monday that government mandates are not ideal but might be a necessary part of efforts to boost the use of alternative fuels. Among the challenges in promoting alternative energy are making fossil fuels friendlier to the environment, and making renewable fuel production more affordable and easier to bring to market, said the official. (See items [3](#))
- The *Financial Times* reports that, according to security forces in Azerbaijan, the U.S. embassy there had been the target of a planned attack by a group of radical Islamist fighters captured outside Baku over the weekend. In Washington, the state department spokesman said the U.S. embassy took “precautionary steps” in response to some “threat information,” but declined to describe either the threats or the steps taken. (See item [24](#))

### **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; 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. *October 30, The News Journal* – (Delaware) **Regulators deal blow to wind farm.** On Monday, Delaware Public Service Commission staff released a report criticizing new plans for a wind farm off the coast of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware as too financially risky to ratepayers. The project, in its current form, could add as much as \$55 to Delmarva ratepayers’ monthly bills, the 91-page staff report said. “The original proposal would have cost ratepayers \$6.23 more per megawatt hour for wind power, above the cost of buying

traditional power from the grid, the staff reported. But the staff calculated the new proposal results in a premium of \$11.71 per megawatt hour. That's a conservative estimate, the staff suggested." The report comes a year and a half after Delmarva raised residential electricity rates by 59 percent, provoking lawmakers to order state agencies to find a way to stabilize electricity rates. A spokesman for Bluewater Wind, the company that proposed the plan, said the report holds out the possibility the company can submit a revised proposal.

Source:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071030/NEWS/710300357/1003/BUSINESS>

2. *October 30, Bloomberg* – (National) **Crude oil falls from a record on Goldman Sachs call to sell.** Crude oil for December delivery fell \$3.20, or 3.4 percent, to \$90.33 a barrel at the 2:30 p.m. close of floor trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange as traders followed a Goldman Sachs Group recommendation and took profits. Petroleos Mexicanos will review weather conditions and release updated production plans today, a spokesman said. The Mexican company cut output by 600,000 barrels a day starting October 28 on weather concerns. Brent crude oil for December settlement fell \$3.03, or 3.4 percent, to \$87.29 a barrel on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange. Brent reached \$90.49 a barrel yesterday, the highest since trading began in 1988. Oil has gained 48 percent this year as hedge funds and other large speculators increased bets on rising prices. Net-long positions in New York crude futures in the week ended August 3 jumped to the highest in more than a decade.

Source:

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a3SpbN1zZPbw&refer=latin\\_america](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a3SpbN1zZPbw&refer=latin_america)

3. *October 29, The Associated Press* – (National) **Energy secretary: Mandates may be needed.** The secretary of energy said Monday that government mandates are not ideal but might be a necessary part of efforts to boost the use of alternative fuels. The official said that, together with a senator, he plans to introduce legislation calling on refineries to blend 36 billion gallons of biofuels annually by 2022, and on automakers to make 80 percent of their production fleet as "flex fuel" vehicles by 2015. Earlier this year, President Bush called for reducing U.S. gasoline use by up to 20 percent by 2017, mainly by increasing alternative fuel production. Among the challenges in promoting alternative energy are making fossil fuels friendlier to the environment, and making renewable fuel production more affordable and easier to bring to market, said the official. One of these fuels is the E-85 fuel, a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. However, fewer than 2 percent of the nation's retail gas stations have E-85 pumps. In spite of the fact that E-85 fuel was found to have less energy value than regular unleaded gas, the secretary said he is confident that private industry will find a solution.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5255521.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *October 30, The Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Derailment evacuees allowed to return.** More than 350 people have been allowed to return home after the lifting of an evacuation order due to by an 80-car train derailment early Monday in Clara City, Minnesota. The derailment ruptured a tanker car that was carrying hydrochloric acid and sent a noxious vapor plume into the air, forcing the evacuation and school closures. The derailment was on the edge of a residential area on the southwest part of town near state Highways 7 and 23. Highway 7 reopened at Clara City shortly before 6 p.m., Monday night. Railroad officials said they hoped to have the main tracks through Clara City open by 5 a.m. Tuesday, but said it would take several days to remove the derailed cars.  
Source: [http://news.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews\\_story.asp?z=2&a=313776](http://news.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=2&a=313776)
5. *October 29, The Wichita Business Journal* – (Iowa) **Explosions, fire at Barton Solvents Iowa location.** According to the Des Moines Register newspaper Web site, fire crews from at least seven area fire departments were fighting a large fire at a Barton Solvents plant in Des Moines, Iowa on Tuesday. The fire caused the closure of parts of Interstate 80 and Interstate 35 in the northeastern part of the city. Many of the town's residents had to be evacuated because of potential danger from the thick, black smoke. All employees were evacuated safely, and the newspaper reported no injuries.  
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/stories/2007/10/29/daily6.html>

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

6. *October 30, Mid-Hudson News Network* – (New York) **EPA endorses schedule to stop leak at Indian Point spent fuel pool.** A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator Monday announced his endorsement of a schedule for stopping the source of the leak from the spent fuel pool in Unit No.1 (currently not operational) at the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Plant in Buchanan, New York. The work will be carried out in the summer of 2008 by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., the operator of the Indian Point plant, under the oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Spent fuel rods will be removed from the pool and the water in the pool and water that has leaked from the pool will be treated in a treatment facility and then pumped into the Hudson River. Since the discovery of the leak in the spent fuel pool, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has consulted regularly with the NRC and New York State. EPA has reviewed data related to the leak and confirmed with New York State that there have been no violations of federal drinking water standards for radionuclides in drinking water supplies.  
Source: [http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/IP\\_spent-30Oct07.html](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/IP_spent-30Oct07.html)
7. *October 30, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **TVA seeks OK on 2 reactors.** Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) officials and the NuStart consortium of energy companies gathered on Capitol Hill on Tuesday to announce their plans to submit an application for construction of a nuclear plant at Bellefonte, Alabama. The application submission is the first major step in the process of building a new reactor. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is expected to take up to four years to review the application for design and

construction of up to two reactors at Bellefonte. NuStart is seeking to build a model nuclear reactor designed by Westinghouse Electric Corp. The NuStart project is being supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, and the federal government is subsidizing \$25 million of the project, or about half the total cost, for licensing and design work on the new reactor

Source:

<http://www.al.com/business/huntsvilletimes/index.ssf?/base/business/119373588446400.xml>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *October 30, PR Newswire* – (National) **Navy approves Raytheon's Zumwalt Total Ship Computing Environment Infrastructure.** According to a Raytheon press release, the Raytheon Company has received a successful preliminary design review of the “Release 5” Total Ship Computing Environment Infrastructure (TSCEI) for the proposed Zumwalt-class of destroyers. TSCEI is an element of the ship’s overall Total Ship Computing Environment, which comprises six releases of software and more than 5 million lines of code. Each incremental TSCEI release adds additional mission capability Zumwalt’s computing infrastructure, upon which all applications will execute and interoperate. TSCEI combines with Zumwalt’s mission applications to provide an open architecture mission system designed to meet all DDG 1000 surface combatant requirements and is scalable to meet evolving operational needs. This architecture integrates all warfighting and peacetime operations into a single, common computing environment that encompasses combat systems and C4ISR (command, control, communications and computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance). TSCEI also integrates advanced security features for authentication, access control, network encryption and high-assurance guards to enable trusted operations and data sharing across multiple information security domains. Under the Navy’s DDG 1000 Detail Design and Integration contract awarded in 2005, Raytheon IDS serves as the prime mission systems equipment integrator for all electronic and combat systems for the Zumwalt-class destroyer program.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/NETU00530102007-1.htm>

9. *October 29, The Associated Press* – (National) **General Dynamics gets \$20M contract.** Defense contractor General Dynamics Corporation said Monday it has received a \$20 million contract by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base to analyze combat identification systems. Under the 64-month deal, General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems will conduct operational and technical analyses of advanced combat identification systems to determine which technologies perform best in realistic missions.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071029/general\\_dynamics\\_air\\_force\\_contract.html?v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071029/general_dynamics_air_force_contract.html?v=1)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *October 30, The Seacoast Online* – (New Hampshire) **Police warn against scam artists.** Hampton Falls police in New Hampshire released a warning against scam artists who come knocking on doors this time of year offering to repair the roof, clean the gutters or seal the driveway. The contractors especially prey on the elderly, said the police chief. A pair recently got \$1,000 from a local woman, he said. They showed up to replace the roofing shingles, and before the job was done, asked for more money, a sign that a scam artist, and not a real contractor, is at work. They also find other “problems,” such as a leaky chimney, and usually they will tell the homeowner they know a friend who can do the work. The police official offered the following tips on scam prevention: contractors who are legitimate generally wait for a phone call, and do not go knocking on doors; most contractors accept checks and do not ask for full payment up front; most are listed in the phone book; and legitimate contractors will provide references, when requested. Ask for references not only for recent work, but from jobs done within the past few months or a year.
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11. *October 29, Reuters* – (National) **Weight-loss scams top form of fraud: FTC.** According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), weight-loss scams, foreign lottery offers and buyers clubs were the top ways that scam artists separated 30 million Americans from their money in 2005. Overall, 13.5 percent of U.S. adults fell victim to fraud, the FTC said. An estimated 4.8 million Americans bought bogus weight-loss supplements, patches, creams or other products, making fat-fighting fraud the most common scam. Foreign lottery scams that inform people they won a lottery they did not enter claimed 3.2 million victims, the FTC said. Buyers clubs that bill consumers for membership in a club they did not join had a similar number. The director of the FTC’s consumer protection bureau, urged consumers to visit the agency’s Web site at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) to report fraud and to find out how to recognize scams.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2928753720071029>

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## **Transportation Sector**

12. *October 29, CBS 2, Los Angeles, California* – (California) **Airplane wheel catches fire at John Wayne Airport.** A tire on a business jet caught fire, closing the main runway at John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California for nearly 90 minutes and leading to the diversion of 10 aircraft on Monday, officials said. The plane was carrying six passengers and two crew members, when the tire under the left wing caught fire, sending flames and smoke into the air. Officials are not sure how many planes were delayed at take-off. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the cause of the fire.  
Source: [http://cbs2.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_302205441.html](http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_302205441.html)

13. *October 29, The Pioneer Press* – (Minnesota) **Bridge scare tangles 35W rush hour.** A problem with a temporary bridge, which passes over I-35W in Minnesota, forced an emergency closure of northbound Interstate 35W during rush hour Monday afternoon, backing up traffic for miles. The bridge was being built to help keep traffic flowing while reconstruction of a bottleneck. The span is about seven miles south of the site of the I-35W bridge that collapsed into the Mississippi River on August 1, killing 13. On Monday, a worker spotted one of the beams on the bridge’s undercarriage dipping out of place. Crews closed the bridge, stripped it of nearly all its asphalt and reopened the span a few hours later. “There was not any danger to the traveling public. ... It was just a safety measure, a precautionary closure,” said Minnesota Department of Transportation spokesman. The official announced that bridge inspectors will analyze the overpass Tuesday to decide what to do next.  
Source: [http://www.twincities.com/allheadlines/cj\\_7316595?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.twincities.com/allheadlines/cj_7316595?nclick_check=1)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

14. *October 29, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Suspicious package at post office was harmless.** A suspicious looking package suspected of being a bomb prompted the evacuation of the Northville Post Office on October 29. According to the postal inspector, a mail carrier had picked up the package from a mail box. Other postal employees handling became suspicious of its look and feel and notified inspectors. The inspectors x-rayed the package and saw items that gave them concern and called in the local police and the state police bomb squad. The post office was evacuated and streets in a one-block radius from the post office were temporarily closed. The package was rendered safe by the bomb squad. State police and postal inspectors have yet to determine if it was a bomb and the components in the package are now being studied. Postal inspectors will be handling the investigation.  
Source:  
<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071029/NEWS02/71029054/1060/SPORTS12>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

15. *October 30, The Union-Tribune* – (California) **S.D. county growers begin to tally losses from wildfires, winds.** According to the director of industry affairs for the California Avocado Commission, losses to the state’s avocado groves, though characterized as “serious” and projected to be in the tens of millions of dollars, were not as bad as initially feared. The fires destroyed 20 percent of San Diego County’s avocado crop, damaging or destroying at least 3,500 acres of the county’s 23,470 acres of avocado groves. There were reports last Monday and Tuesday, however, that as many as 20,000 acres of avocado groves had burned. It will be days, even weeks, before officials get accurate tallies of acreage and dollar losses, but it is clear the losses will still be significant. The county Department of Agriculture will be working throughout the week to compile damage

estimates for each of the seven fires. So far, the agency has an estimate only for the Rice Canyon fire in the Fallbrook area. That fire damaged or destroyed 927 acres of farmland and will cost the farming industry at least \$30 million.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20071030-9999-1b30ag.html>

16. *October 29, The Associated Press* – (National) **Drought to raise beef costs.** This year's Southeast drought has wiped out hay crops across the region, forcing cattlemen to sell large numbers of current and future breeding stock this fall. The region produces some 30 percent of the calves sent to U.S. feedlots and experts predict it will take three years or more for the nation's beef supply to recover. A National Cattlemen's Beef Association spokesman said effects will ripple through the industry until breeding animals are replaced. He added: "That will hurt consumers, because supply is a big factor in the price of beef." It is uncertain how much the drought will cost consumers because of other factors, such as grain prices. Meat prices have already climbed because of higher demand and rising grain prices. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says the price of ground beef rose 6 percent from January through September, roasts are up 5 percent, steak has risen 4.47 percent and all other beef is up 2.95 percent.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/5256396.html>

17. *October 29, Delta Farm Press* – (Mississippi) **High prices, yields hearten Mississippi peanut growers.** Higher peanut prices and solid yields so far this harvest, along with continued high nitrogen costs, could entice Mississippi farmers to plant more acres of peanuts this coming season. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, peanut acreage in the three largest U.S. peanut-producing states, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, declined by 10 percent, 9 percent and 15 percent, respectively, in 2007. U.S. peanut production has declined from 4.8 billion pounds in 2005, to 3.46 billion pounds in 2006, to a forecasted 3.42 billion pounds in 2007. Lower production in the Southeast, as well as reduced stocks and high grain prices are helping drive peanut prices higher. Supply has been limited as climbing wheat, corn, cotton, and soy bean prices have prompted farmers to move away from peanuts towards those crops. Now, with a limited supply, peanuts are selling for \$475 a ton, "which is \$120 more than" last year's price. Peanut farmers have benefited from shellers passing on storage and handling costs to consumers.

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/071029-peanut-growers/>

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## **Water Sector**

18. *October 30, The Union-Tribune* – (California) **Attempt at water recycling approved.** On Monday, the San Diego City Council voted 5-2 to initiate a pilot program to purify sewage water and deliver it to residents for general use. The city already uses treated water for activities such as landscaping. Though a test in 2005 showed that purified water "easily" met drinking water standards, the city's mayor opposes allowing people to use the water directly (for such things as drinking and bathing) and has threatened to veto the vote yesterday by the council. The City Council can override mayoral vetoes with a simple majority vote. If that happens, one of the mayor's spokesmen said the mayor will use "the

bully pulpit” to oppose human consumption of recycled water.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20071030-9999-1m30tap.html>

19. *October 28, The Decatur Daily News* – (Tennessee) **Could Tenn-Tom be tapped for drought relief?** Governors of Alabama and Georgia are looking at the 234-mile Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, which runs through parts of Alabama and Mississippi, as a potential source of municipal water. Only a few communities on either side currently draw municipal water from the waterway. In the last 10 years, Tupelo and Columbus, Mississippi began tapping the Tennessee Tombigbee for water, and officials in Northeast Mississippi have shown some interest in using the waterway as well. Both Mississippi and Alabama could, in theory, pull water from the waterway with proper approval as long as doing so does not interfere with navigation or pose threats to the environment, said the director of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority in Columbus, Mississippi. He added that, while “some issues would come up” with water sharing, he did not expect a “water war” like the current one between Alabama and Georgia.

Source: <http://www.decatordaily.com/decatordaily/news/071028/waterway.shtml>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

20. *October 29, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. consumer group flags more toys with lead.** Dishes, toys, jewelry and backpacks that have not yet been included in recent recalls all carry ‘worrisome’ levels of lead, the nonprofit Consumers Union said on Monday. Consumers Union said some of the products it tested included a Fisher-Price blood pressure cuff from a toy medical kit, caps from Elmer’s Glue Sticks and some duck-shaped backpacks. More than 20 million toys made in China have been recalled worldwide over the past four months due to potentially dangerous levels of lead and hazards posed by small magnets that can be swallowed.
- Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/consumerproducts-SP/idUSN2954556420071030?sp=true>
21. *October 29, The Associate Press* – (National) **Electronic health records get boost.** In a move towards meeting President Bush’s goal of nationwide adoption of electronic health records by 2014, the White House administration is recruiting about 1,200 doctors nationally to remove the paperwork from their medical practice in return for higher Medicare payments. “Medicare will pay the physicians extra for completing tasks online, such as when ordering prescriptions or recording the results of lab tests. The highest payments will go to those physicians who most aggressively use the technology and who score the highest in an annual evaluation.” Many health analysts believe widespread use of electronic health records will reduce medical errors and could potentially slow soaring health care expenses. Yet, only about 10 percent of doctors in solo or small-group practices use such records. This may be because many doctors feel that, while the systems are helpful to patients and insurance companies, financial returns for their practices will not justify the upfront costs of setting up necessary computer systems. Several bills have been introduced in Congress to speed adoption of electronic record keeping, but lawmakers have been unable to reach agreement on many key issues, namely the scope of

the federal government's role in paying for startup costs.

Source:

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jIEx560bsFbbGWHNBH\\_baKn6GeHgD8SJ5T800](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jIEx560bsFbbGWHNBH_baKn6GeHgD8SJ5T800)

22. *October 29, WAPT, 16, Jackson, Mississippi* – (Mississippi) **Four more cases of West Nile reported.** According to the Mississippi State Health Department, four new cases of West Nile have been reported there, bringing the total this year to 121, three of which resulted in death.

Source: <http://www.wapt.com/health/14451629/detail.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

23. *October 29, Northwest Arkansas Times* – (Arkansas) **Streets closed because of powder scare at federal building.** Several streets in Fayetteville, Arkansas were closed this morning, as emergency personnel responded to a call regarding a suspicious powder at a federal building. The powder was found at several spots along the street and in at least one spot in the building. Members of the hazardous materials team took photos and tried to determine what the powder was.

Source: [http://nwanews.com/story\\_breakingnews.php?id=114](http://nwanews.com/story_breakingnews.php?id=114)

24. *October 29, The Financial Times* – (International) **US Baku embassy ‘target of attack’.** Security forces in Azerbaijan said that the U.S. embassy there had been the target of a planned attack by a group of radical Islamist fighters captured outside Baku over the weekend. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy said, “We went to limited operations on Monday and plan to do so on Tuesday as well.” In Washington, the state department spokesman said the U.S. embassy took “precautionary steps” in response to some “threat information,” but declined to describe either the threats or the steps taken. He also said the embassy had not reduced staff, as the state department sometimes does following serious threats.

Source:

<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/provider/providerarticle.aspx?feed=FT&date=20071029&id=7713256>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

25. *October 30, Newsday* – (Connecticut) **New Haven hit with 911 calls from around the country.** A computer glitch is being blamed for New Haven, Connecticut's emergency center receiving some 519 calls within a 44-minute span Monday from as far away as Florida, Chicago, Texas and Puerto Rico, officials say. As far as authorities can determine, the problem was related to a Colorado-based company that serves Internet-based phone companies. State officials that oversee 911 answering points say AT&T fixed the problem.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/connecticut/ny-bc-ct--911glitch1030oct30,0,2232944.story>

26. *October 29, California Professional Firefighters* – (California) **Landmark Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.** On January 1, the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights (Assembly Bill 220) will come into effect in California. The bill “extends to firefighters the same fundamental on-the-job employee protections that now exist for police officers,” laying out a “consistent procedural standard for all first responders – police, firefighters and public agency EMS personnel – when they are the targets of investigation or interrogation by their superiors.” The full bill is available at: [http://ct2k2.capitoltrack.com/Bills/asm/ab\\_0201-0250/ab\\_220\\_bill\\_20070702\\_amended\\_sen\\_v97.html](http://ct2k2.capitoltrack.com/Bills/asm/ab_0201-0250/ab_220_bill_20070702_amended_sen_v97.html)  
Source: [http://www.cpf.org/default/whats\\_new/firefighters\\_bill\\_of\\_rights\\_signed\\_by\\_governor/index.cfm](http://www.cpf.org/default/whats_new/firefighters_bill_of_rights_signed_by_governor/index.cfm)
27. *October 29, News 4, Jacksonville* – (Florida) **System glitch compromises some 911 audio recordings.** The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office recently announced that it is dealing with a dispatch disconnect, after a computer glitch loft the recordings of some 911 calls. Officials said there have not been any problems with receiving and responding to 911 calls, but the voice recordings of several calls are missing. “Voice files were corrupted, inaudible and even, in some cases, lost,” said the Police Chief. Prosecutors and public defenders both said the glitch could affect their cases. 911 recordings “can be vital, and if they’re not there, it can hurt the prosecution or it could hurt the defense. We’ll be looking into how it happened, whether negligence or just a technical thing ... it’ll have impact, I’m sure, on one or more cases eventually,” said a public defender.  
Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/news/14450789/detail.html>

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## **Information Technology**

28. *October 30, ZDNet* – (National) **MessageLabs: Watch out for audio and video spam.** Email security company MessageLabs has warned that spammers are already modifying their tactics when it comes to the emerging trend of using audio rather than text attachments in unsolicited mail. In a statement, MessageLabs claimed that spammers are now moving on from simply attaching audio to mail to linking through to content hosted on multimedia sites such as YouTube. (Earlier this month, computer security firm Sophos reported that spammers were exploiting YouTube’s “invite your friends” function to send email spam containing a variant of the Storm worm). “This recent trend proves that spamming techniques are becoming more innovative,” said MessageLabs in its statement. On 17 October spammers used attached MP3 music files to try to “sneak messages past spam filters,” said MessageLabs. The spam run of 15 million emails lasted 36 hours and used Storm worm-infected computers for the purposes of dissemination. “The MP3 spam tactic is a natural progression for cybercriminals following runs of image, PDF and Excel junk mail earlier this year,” said a chief security analyst for MessageLabs. “As users become wary of certain file attachments, scammers will move on to their next tactic.” According to MessageLabs, spammers have recently been experimenting with different types of file attachments, including text, image, HTML, ZIP, RAR, RTF and PDF file

formats.

Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/security/0,1000000189,39290439,00.htm>

29. *October 29, Reuters* – (National) **Bogus FTC e-mail has virus.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) warned consumers on Monday not to open a bogus e-mail that appears to come from its fraud department because it carries an attachment that can download a virus that has the ability to steal passwords and account numbers. The e-mail says it is from “frauddep@ftc.gov” and has the FTC’s government seal. “We’ve received hundreds if not thousands of calls and complaints, this one may have had a large distribution,” said a source in the agency’s Bureau of Consumer Protection. The agency, which is one of several government agencies investigating cyber fraud, does not know how many people have received the e-mail.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071029/tc\\_nm/ftc\\_fraud\\_virus\\_dc;\\_ylt=AmyJdwbnj8gl3aTi3U5LmacWIr0F](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071029/tc_nm/ftc_fraud_virus_dc;_ylt=AmyJdwbnj8gl3aTi3U5LmacWIr0F)

### 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

30. *October 29, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Cut phone line strands Twin Cities businesses.** Thousands of small-business telephone customers in the Twin Cities were cut off from long-distance calls Monday morning when a Verizon Communications fiber-optic cable was severed somewhere between Minneapolis, Minnesota and Des Moines, Iowa. The reasons for the cable break were unclear, said a Verizon Business spokeswoman in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Repairs were complicated because the fiber-optic cable break was located next to a gas pipeline, but work was expected to be completed by late Monday or early Tuesday, she said. By Monday afternoon, Verizon employees were manually rerouting some phone calls to other lines, a move that was necessary because the rural cable that was severed did not have built-in redundancy, as many metro-area fiber lines do.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/535/story/1516320.html>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *October 29, The Post Standard* – (New York) **Bomb scare at the Landmark Theater ends appearance by former president of Mexico.** A Sunday night talk by former President of Mexico Vicente Fox in Syracuse, New York was cut short by a bomb scare at

the Landmark Theater, city police said. Fox ended his question and answer session and canceled a reception after someone called in the threat shortly before 9 p.m. The building was evacuated, and bomb-sniffing dogs were called in, but no bomb was found. Fox's appearance was sponsored by the Syracuse University Student Association, University Union and the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Source: [http://blog.syracuse.com/news/2007/10/bomb\\_scare\\_emptyies\\_the\\_landmar.html](http://blog.syracuse.com/news/2007/10/bomb_scare_emptyies_the_landmar.html)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

32. *October 29, Tahoe National Forest* – (California) **5 small fires in the Tahoe National Forest.** The Tahoe National Forest had 5 lightning caused fires, all of which were less than an acre. Although the Tahoe National Forest sent engines, handcrews and overhead to the fires in Southern California, the engines remaining have responded quickly to these local fires and relatively moist conditions have helped to slow the spread of the fires.

Source: [http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article\\_69090.shtml](http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article_69090.shtml)

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## **Dams Sector**

33. *October 29, The Press-Enterprise* – (California) **San Jacinto River levee extension being designed.** City officials are working to prevent a recurrence of the 1980 flood of the San Jacinto River in California by completing a \$25 million extension of the levee system the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers initiated decades ago. Simultaneously, the city hopes to free up more than 1,900 acres from flood plain status so it can be developed. The city engineer said the project probably will require the city to use its powers of eminent domain to obtain right-of-way for some land. Construction is expected to start around September 2009.

Source:

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_levee28.3d74fce.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_levee28.3d74fce.html)

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