



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 November 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 *Reuters* report Thursday, the U.S. government may tap emergency oil reserves after the deadly pipeline explosion in Minnesota Wednesday cut off 10 percent of U.S. foreign oil supplies. The DHS cited no known links to terrorism in the fire, and two of the four pipelines linking Ontario and the Central US reopened Thursday. Nevertheless, the system’s throughput will likely be reduced for weeks. (See item [1](#))
- According to the *Associated Press* and a GAO report released Wednesday, the nation’s nuclear weapons laboratories need tougher safety oversight to fix a recent track record that includes dozens of lapses, accidents and near misses. The report found a lax attitude toward safety procedures, weaknesses in identifying and correcting safety problems, and inadequate oversight by the National Nuclear Security Administration. The review cited nearly 60 serious accidents or near misses since 2000. (See item [7](#))

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](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 29, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. readies emergency oil after Enbridge pipe blast.** The government may tap emergency oil reserves to offset Canadian imports lost after a deadly Minnesota pipeline explosion briefly choked off more than 10 percent of foreign supplies to the world’s top consumer. Enbridge Inc. restarted two of the four pipelines on the system linking Ontario to the Central United States on Thursday, with the biggest line expected back up later in the day and the last line seen back up in two to

three days. But throughput at the 1.5 million-barrel-per-day (bpd) Enbridge pipeline system will likely be reduced for weeks as the Department of Transportation investigates the Wednesday blast in Clearbrook, Minnesota, which killed two workers. U.S. oil surged more than \$2 a barrel as Midwest refiners scrambled to find alternate supplies on concerns about a prolonged crimp in Canadian crude flows. The Department of Energy said it was contacting refiners in the region to see if they needed oil from the emergency stockpile, which could force companies to throttle back runs when they traditionally would be bolstering heating oil inventories ahead of winter. The U.S. Homeland Security Department said there were no known links to terrorism in the fire, which was extinguished on Thursday, allowing two of the four Enbridge pipelines to be restarted.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/29/AR2007112900263.html>

2. *November 29, Bloomberg* – (National) **Citgo says Illinois refinery unaffected by oil-pipeline blast.** Citgo Petroleum Corp., the U.S. refining arm of Venezuela’s state-owned oil company, said fuel production at its refinery near Chicago was unaffected by a pipeline blast that cut some shipments of Canadian oil. “Our operations are currently normal,” said a Houston-based spokesman for Citgo. “Contingency supply plans are in place if and when they might become necessary.” However, the spokesman declined to say how much of the refinery’s crude supply comes through the Enbridge Inc. pipeline that caught fire yesterday.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=am.E7L6G_Pmw&refer=energy
3. *November 29, Associated Press* – (International) **Pemex: Oil leak might take months to fix.** An oil platform leak that has spilled thousands of barrels of crude into the Gulf of Mexico could take several more months to repair, state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos said Wednesday. Since a drilling rig slammed into a production platform on October 23, killing at least 21 workers, a total of 11,700 barrels of oil have seeped into the gulf, according to the Pemex Assistant Director for Exploration and Production. Pemex previously estimated the spill at nearly 13,000 barrels. A fire was still raging Wednesday at the damaged well, about 20 miles offshore from the port of Dos Bocas in the Gulf coast state of Tabasco, but only faint traces of crude could be seen shimmering on the water. The company plans to install a new valve assembly to replace a damaged one on the well, but Pemex’s Assistant Director for Exploration and Production said officials are not sure that will stop the leak. Pemex has promised both internal and external investigations of the collision in high seas between the platform and a drilling rig operated by a subcontractor.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/29/AR2007112900144.html>
4. *November 29, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Supervisors delay action on proposed power line.** The Prince William Board of County Supervisors indefinitely delayed action Tuesday on whether to study burying a proposed Dominion power line – because,

supervisors said, voting one way or another would indicate that the line is needed. Dominion officials have said the controversial transmission line, which would wind through four separate counties, is necessary to avoid blackouts in Northern Virginia in the next five years. The board was scheduled to vote on the study last week but deferred action. Now supervisors say they are not sure whether they will take it up again before the State Corporation Commission, which approves power lines, has a hearing on the project early next year. Dominion has submitted an application to the commission to build the high-voltage line through a 65-mile stretch of rural Northern Virginia. The 500-kilovolt transmission line is a joint venture between Dominion and the Pennsylvania-based Allegheny Power. It would carry electricity from coal-fired plants in the Midwest to fast-growing Northern Virginia.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/27/AR2007112702906.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *November 28, Rocky Mountain News* – (Colorado) **11 hurt in chemical mishap.** Eleven people were transported to area hospitals with respiratory problems after a chemical mishap at a high-tech manufacturing company in unincorporated Douglas County. Hazmat teams, medics and police officers were dispatched to the scene just after noon. The building was evacuated, but workers were eventually allowed back in, said a spokeswoman for the Parker Fire Protection District. The spokeswoman said someone threw water on chemical mixture that was producing heat, creating vapors that made some people sick.

Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2007/nov/28/chemical-vapors-send-11-area-hospitals/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *November 29, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Nuclear plant in Ohio shut down.** A water system problem caused an automatic shutdown of a nuclear power plant Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the plant said. The Perry Nuclear Power Plant shut down about 7:30 a.m. when problems with the system that provides water to the reactor malfunctioned, according to the spokeswoman. Water level inside the reactor was adequately maintained, but the plant remained off-line Wednesday evening. A special inspection team from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will try to determine what caused the problem. Workers shut down the plant last December because of a fluctuation in the water system. However, an investigation later determined that the problem was caused by a leak in a system that controls air-operated valves. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after conducting a special review of the plant, said in 2005 that it rated the plant safe but noted a string of problems and said it would continue heightened supervision.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071129/oh_nuclear_plant_shutdown.html?.v=1

7. *November 29, Associated Press* – (National) **GAO wants more oversight of nuclear labs.** The nation’s nuclear weapons laboratories need tougher safety oversight to fix a recent track record that includes dozens of lapses, accidents and near misses, according to a government report released Wednesday. The Government Accountability Office review of New Mexico’s Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and Sandia National Laboratories came in response to security breaches and safety concerns at Los Alamos. The GAO, an investigative arm of Congress, said it found a lax attitude toward safety procedures, weaknesses in identifying and correcting safety problems, and inadequate oversight by the National Nuclear Security Administration, a division of the Department of Energy. The review cited nearly 60 serious accidents or near misses since 2000.
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gqAfdXTurUKqBzqM0afBzyJDYskQD8T72O480>
8. *November 28, Richmond-Times Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Virginia Power files application for new reactor.** Dominion Virginia Power said today that it filed an application Tuesday afternoon with federal authorities for a new reactor at its North Anna Power Station. It is the third company in the U.S. to file a complete application and the first investor-owned utility to do so, the Richmond-based company said. Last week, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved a site permit for a third reactor at the Louisa County plant. Dominion Virginia Power placed an order this year for parts for a third reactor at the plant and has said it will file an application for a combined construction and operating permit for a third reactor before the end of this year. Dominion Virginia Power officials have said that filing the application is meant to keep its option to build a reactor open and does not mean it will follow through with plans to build.
Source: <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/news/business.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2007-11-28-0196.html>
9. *November 28, Columbia Tribune* – (Missouri) **MU poised to meet demand in nuclear field.** The University of Missouri-Columbia is leading a “nuclear renaissance” at a time of increased demand for engineering graduates with nuclear training according to industry experts and representatives from the Callaway Nuclear Plant southeast of Fulton. MU ranked number one nationwide for its program in nuclear engineering, according to a faculty productivity index of top research universities recently published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The survey measured the productivity of faculty members by books and journal publications, citations of their journal articles by other scholars, federal grant dollars, and honors and awards. The professor and director of research at MU’s nuclear science and engineering institute said the report of the ranking is especially timely considering the high demand nationwide for engineers with nuclear training as baby boomers retire and applications are expected for the construction of at least 30 new nuclear plants.
Source: <http://www.columbiatribune.com/2007/Nov/20071128News007.asp>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *November 28, Newsday* – (National) **EDO gets \$54 million contract for Lockheed jet project.** EDO Corp. said Wednesday it has received a \$54.4 million contract from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. to continue manufacturing a weapons-release system for the Air Force's F-22 Raptor fighter jet. Lockheed Martin is the prime contractor for the F-22, a fighter that utilizes stealth technology to evade radar detection. The latest order from Lockheed Martin covers several production lots, plus spare parts and associated engineering. The production lots will bring the total number of F-22 aircraft to 191, EDO said in an announcement. All of them will be equipped with EDO's Vertical Ejection Launcher system. EDO said that its weapons-release design minimizes the time the fighter's weapons-bay doors are opened, which helps maintain the airplane's hard-to-detect profile on radar.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-bzedo1129,0,1799061.story?track=rss>

11. *November 28, Government Computer News* – (National) **Army taps General Dynamics for new WIN-T order.** The Army recently placed a \$75 million order with General Dynamics C4 Systems for computers and network equipment to be used in the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical program, General Dynamics announced today. The order is part of the government's Common Hardware/Software 3 (CHS-3) contract that includes hardware and software for WIN-T. Separately, the Defense Department reported to Congress in late November that the first two phases of WIN-T will carry a combined price tag of \$7.8 billion. The estimate for WIN-T was part of the Army's revisions of the cost, schedule and performance of its programs contained in the Selected Acquisition Reports it submitted to Congress for the September 2007 reporting period. In the reports, the Army gives Congress updates on significant changes in the status of its programs, including departures from its original estimates of their cost, schedule or performance.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/45475-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *November 29, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Eleven accused of taking part in check-cashing scam.** Eleven people are accused of participating in a bogus check-cashing scam that targeted six banks and caused more than \$400,000 in losses, federal authorities announced Wednesday. Two of the men were identified by federal officials as recruiting homeless people and drug addicts to cash counterfeit checks, paying them with crack cocaine for their work. Prosecutors said the men's scheme, running March to August, involved the use of bogus checks that looked as if they were drawn on real bank accounts belonging to businesses. Each of the checks, authorities said, were made payable to their nine co-defendants, who would cash the checks at different bank branches.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/news/119632806671440.xml>

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Transportation Sector

13. *November 29, USA Today* – (National) **TSA plan to gather more data protested.** A government proposal to start collecting birth dates and genders of people reserving airline flights is drawing protests from major airlines and travel agencies that say it would be invasive, confusing and “useless.” The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) wants passengers to give the additional personal information so it can do more precise background checks that it says will result in fewer travelers being mistaken for terrorists. Travelers currently must provide only a last name and a first initial. Airlines say that asking a passenger’s birth date and gender “would create a new level of complication for completing air reservations.” The TSA expects to take over background checks next year, though many airlines said the agency’s plans do not give them enough time to change their reservation systems and enable the switch. Under a TSA proposal published in August, airlines and travel agents would be required to ask people reserving flights for their birth date, gender and full name. Travelers, however, would not be required to give the new information.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-11-29-secure-flights_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

14. *November 28, KTUU 2 Alaska* – (Alaska) **In-air bomb threat causes airport scare.** On Wednesday, more than 150 passengers on an Alaska Airlines flight were safe after a man on board their plane apparently began yelling religious phrases and mentioned the word “bomb.” A spokeswoman for Alaska Airlines stated that when the man said the word “bomb,” the flight deck was locked and security on the ground notified. All 156 passengers, two pilots and four flight attendants were de-boarded safely, according to Alaska Airlines officials, and the passenger who made the threat has been arrested. According to the airline, the man was questioned by the FBI.

Source: http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=7423795&nav=menu510_2

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *November 29, Science Daily* – (Kansas) **Foot-and-mouth disease could cost Kansas nearly a billion dollars.** Agricultural economists at Kansas State University say a large-scale foot-and-mouth outbreak in the region could have as much as a \$945 million impact on Kansas’ economy. The team researchers analyzed a 14-county region in

southwest Kansas that has a high concentration of large cattle feeding operations, as well as other livestock enterprises and beef processing plants. They considered three scenarios: one where the disease was introduced at a single cow-calf operation; one where a medium-sized feedlot, 10,000 to 20,000 head of cattle, was initially infected; and one where five large feedlots, each with more than 40,000 head of cattle, were simultaneously exposed. A researcher said the first two scenarios were used to predict what could happen if the disease were introduced accidentally, while the larger scenario shows what could happen were there an intentional release. Under the small cow-calf scenario, researchers predicted that 126,000 head of livestock would have to be destroyed and that a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak would last 29 days, costing \$23-36 million. In the medium-sized operation, those numbers went up to 407,000 animals and 39 days, costing \$140-199 million. In the scenario where five large feedlots were exposed at the same time, researchers predicted that 1.7 million head of livestock would have to be destroyed and that an outbreak would last nearly three months, costing \$685-945 million. "Contagious foreign animal diseases like foot-and-mouth are of considerable alarm," a researcher said, citing the impact of globalization, extensive international travel, outbreaks in other countries and heightened concerns about bioterrorism.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/11/071128151806.htm>

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Water Sector

16. *November 28, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Engineer: Plans overlooked water fears.** Developers of a proposed oil pipeline may have overlooked the possibility that it could pollute Lake Ashtabula and the Sheyenne River, which the city of Fargo uses for drinking water, an engineer says. TransCanada Corp. planners decided to route part of the Keystone pipeline near the lake and river to avoid going through wetlands, said a project manager for Houston Engineering Inc. He spoke Tuesday at a state Public Service Commission hearing about the proposed location of the Keystone pipeline, which its developers want to build through eight eastern North Dakota counties. It would carry more than 400,000 barrels of crude oil daily from Alberta to locations in Illinois and Oklahoma. An expert hired by Keystone has testified that an oil leak from that section of pipeline would need to occur within a specific length to cause a spill into Lake Ashtabula. The section is less than three miles long. The city of Fargo's enterprise director said in separate testimony Tuesday that despite the city's worries about the location of a proposed oil pipeline, officials have not complained about other pipelines that could pollute Fargo's water. Under questioning from a TransCanada attorney the enterprise director said the city has not objected to a fuel pipeline that already runs beneath Lake Ashtabula, or to another pipeline near the Red River that supplies gasoline to Fargo and Grand Forks. At points along its proposed route, the Keystone pipeline approaches the Sheyenne River and Lake Ashtabula, which Fargo uses as a backup water supply. The route goes beneath the Sheyenne near Fort Ransom, in North Dakota's southeastern corner. Fargo officials worry a leak could cause crude oil to spill into the lake or the Sheyenne. The Red River is Fargo's principal source of water, but the city occasionally draws water directly from the Sheyenne. The public service

commission also refused a request from a resident, who lives in Burlington, but has property along the pipeline's route, to formally intervene in the case. This individual has peppered the commission with vituperative e-mail messages about the Keystone pipeline, and once suggested it could be blown up with the proper mix of fertilizer and diesel fuel. The threat prompted an investigation by the state Highway Patrol and the FBI.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5335627.html>

17. *November 28, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Bit of rain, less release lift lake.** As of Wednesday morning, Lake Lanier held about 132 days of stored water available for drinking, power production and wastewater needs, based on analysis of federal data by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Rain and reduction in releases has made a difference for the lake, which just nine days ago hit its lowest level since it was constructed in the 1950s. The biggest help did not come from rain that fell directly into the lake, but from precipitation downstream in Columbus. That rainfall boosted the flow to Florida's Apalachicola River, reducing the amount of Lake Lanier water needed downstream.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/gwinnett/stories/2007/11/28/lanierweb_1129.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *November 29, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Feds put 54 nursing homes on notice.** Fifty-four nursing homes are being told by the federal government that they are among the worst in their states in an effort to goad them into improving patient care. Lawmakers and advocacy groups have pushed the Bush administration to make it easier for consumers to identify poorly performing nursing homes. They complain that too many homes get cited for serious deficiencies, but do not make adequate improvements, or do so only temporarily. The administration agreed, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services listed the homes Thursday on its Web site, <http://www.medicare.gov>. Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/chi-nursing_homes_natnov29,1,4178675.story
19. *November 28, New York Times* – (New York) **Survey sees rise in children's asthma from 9/11 dust.** A survey of post-9/11 effects on children conducted by the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and released Wednesday found that children exposed to the dust cloud following the collapse of the twin towers were twice as likely to be diagnosed with asthma as those not caught in the dust cloud. In general, children under 5 years old had an elevated likelihood of being diagnosed with asthma in the two to three years after the event, though not as sharp an increase as the rescue workers, who were 12 times as likely to be diagnosed as the general population. The survey draws data from about 3,100 children under 18 years of age on September 11, 2001, who lived or went to school south of Canal Street or were south of Chambers Street on 9/11. According to the survey, half of the children surveyed developed at least one new or

worsened respiratory symptom, like a cough, between September 11 and the time of the interview. The reported asthma rates among the children were on par with national and regional rates before September 11, but an additional 6 percent of enrolled children in the survey had received a new asthma diagnosis by the time of the survey. About 3 percent of the children surveyed had symptoms suggestive of post-traumatic stress disorder at the time of the interview, about on par with children elsewhere. As with asthma, however, children who were caught in the dust cloud experienced higher levels of stress.

Source: <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/11/28/survey-sees-rise-in-childrens-asthma-from-911-dust/>

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Government Facilities Sector

20. *November 30, The Australian* – (International) **‘Terrorist plot’ on Aussie U.S. base.** An al-Qaeda leader who visited Australia on a lecture tour in the late 1990s was involved in a plot to attack a U.S. military base on Australian soil, according to secret documents made public for the first time this week. An Algerian terrorist and his associates allegedly revealed their plans to the former Guantanamo Bay detainee, when he was in Afghanistan just weeks before the September 11 attacks. The detainee revealed his knowledge of the alleged plot in a number of interviews with U.S. officials after his arrest in Pakistan in October 2001. Questioned by ASIO agents during his detention at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba in 2002, he said the Algerian terrorist had recruited people to go to Australia to carry out the operation and that the Algerian terrorist had also asked the detainee to smuggle dangerous chemicals into Australia, but he had refused. The detainee claimed the Algerian terrorist’s associates had talked to him about their plans to launch a strike on a U.S. facility somewhere in Australia. He said he could not recall where the targeted base was, but he thought it was either in Perth, Darwin or Brisbane. There are no U.S. military bases in the three cities, although there could be smaller facilities with some U.S. military staff. He could not remember if the biggest U.S. base in Australia, Pine Gap near Alice Springs, had been targeted.
Source: <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,22844897-2,00.html>

21. *November 29, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Ex-sailor accused of plotting to attack San Diego base.** A former U.S. Navy sailor, already charged with divulging classified ship movements to British extremists linked to Al Qaeda, also discussed details of a previously undisclosed plan to attack a San Diego military base in late 2006 with at least two other men, authorities said Wednesday. The alleged plan was to shoot up a barracks or cafeteria where military personnel would likely be unarmed, and then pick off people with sniper fire as they fled, according to Wednesday’s testimony and the court filing. Prosecutors said the plans never got far, in part because the former sailor’s partner became more interested in attacking holiday shoppers in Illinois with grenades that he planned to drop in garbage bins in a shopping mall. Then the former sailor was arrested in March.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-sailor29nov29,1,2982790.story?coll=la-headlines-nation>

Emergency Services Sector

22. *November 29, KARE 11 Twin Cities* – (Minnesota) **Trauma translates to lessons in disaster management.** Two history making disasters in August taught emergency managers in Minnesota and around the nation what works and what does not when the unthinkable becomes reality. Now lawmakers want to tap into that knowledge as the state gears up for the next big one. “State and local efforts need to be well-coordinated, ready to move at a moment’s notice and prepared to see the long-term recovery process through to the end, a state congressman said Wednesday at a legislative working group on disaster planning at the Capitol. Most of what they heard was positive news, which is that training and interagency coordination paid off during the traumatic events of 2007. We had our collapsed structure team on site within 8 minutes,” testified the former Minneapolis fire chief who now heads the city’s emergency preparedness office. He ran the emergency operations center which was the nerve center of the massive rescue effort after the collapse of the 35-W bridge. “We had victims in the water, we had victims in the debris, we had victims on the banks, and we had victims on the bridge itself,” he said. He also said that if the bridge had fallen down five years earlier it would have been a much more chaotic situation. But on that night, years of planning, training and building strong relationships with other agencies paid off for the survivors. “Through mutual aid we were able to take our force of 100 firefighters to about 600 firefighters in a matter of about a half hour.” He said the city’s investment in 800 megahertz radios enabled unprecedented communication among emergency responders from different jurisdictions.

Source: http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=270562

23. *November 28, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **Virtual Alabama helps responders find disaster sites.** State officials today planned to show off a Google Earth computer tool called Virtual Alabama to help emergency workers deal with fires, explosions and other disasters. The capabilities of Virtual Alabama will be demonstrated at a news conference by the state’s governor, Google Earth’s chief technology officer, and Alabama’s Homeland Security director. Virtual Alabama will enable the state’s Department of Homeland Security to model where plumes from hazardous explosions might drift, build three-dimensional models of schools, bridges and other critical structures, said the director. First responders, county planners and others can use the images to acquire geographic views overlaid with important information. Firefighters could use such information before they enter a burning building. Virtual Alabama can overlay those models and satellite-aerial imagery with the locations of fire hydrants, gas pipelines, hazardous chemical data, and other key data that can help emergency personnel. Virtual Alabama could also help with emergency evacuation routing. At the governor’s direction in 2003, Homeland Security asked the Geospatial Training and Application Center at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center to assess options for the system the state needed. According to Google Earth’s Web site, the program needed to be “relatively inexpensive” so it could be offered free of charge to county governments. In turn, each of the county governments would be motivated to share and upload local information to

the program. Since it was launched, Virtual Alabama has grown to about 400 users from 75 departments across the state.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/huntsvilletimes/index.ssf?/base/news/1196245307232940.xml&coll=1>

24. *November 28, BetaNews – (New Jersey; National)* **New Jersey eyes VoIP network for emergency response.** Federal and state governments are actively considering broadband VoIP systems with optional video as a more reliable communications system in emergency situations than radio. For faster and better emergency response when disaster strikes, a number of state and local authorities nationwide are now taking a serious look at building new “interoperable communications systems.” One such interested party is the State of New Jersey, which plans to move behind its current 800 MHz radio system to a wireless system running voice, data and video over IP, speakers said today at the Maritime Security Expo. Since the devastation wrought by the 9/11 tragedy, New Jersey has already taken steps to expand its current 800 MHz voice system for first responders such as police, firefighters, and other emergency workers, said the state’s director of transportation security, during a presentation today. In addition to caching its 800 MHz system, New Jersey has purchased additional 800 MHz channels, he said. Now, though, New Jersey plans to start running voice together with data and video on a system to be used by both local and state emergency agencies, for shared communications during natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina as well as any future man-made attacks. Specifically, the new system will run on an existing state-run fiber network, with a handoff to a microwave cellular network. Through the use of microwave, the system will be better able to direct where a call is going, he explained. Speaking on the same panel, the director of the Office of Policy and Program Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency pointed to several other regions of the country that are also eyeing interoperable emergency response systems right now, including the ports of Los Angeles, California, and Puget Sound, Washington.

Source:

http://www.betanews.com/article/New_Jersey_eyes_VoIP_network_for_emergency_response/1196282330

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Information Technology

25. *November 29, CNN – (National)* **FBI: Millions of computers roped into criminal “robot networks.”** More than 1 million computers in the last five months have become part of robot networks, or “botnets,” in which hackers take over computers without their owners’ knowledge and use them in criminal campaigns, the FBI said Thursday. The bureau in June announced Operation Bot Roast to stop this emerging type of cyber attack, which the FBI estimates has resulted in \$20 million in losses and theft. More than 1 million computers were infected with botnets when the FBI launched Bot Roast, and another million have been identified since then. Industry numbers suggest there are millions more. According to an FBI news release, since New Zealand authorities in

tandem with the FBI searched the home of an individual whose “elite international botnet coding group” is suspected of infecting more than 1 million computers, 13 additional search warrants have been served around the world, and eight individuals -- in Washington, Pennsylvania, Florida, California and Kentucky -- have been indicted or found guilty of crimes related to botnets. Such crimes include fraud, identity theft and denial of service attacks in which computer Web sites and other resources are made unavailable. The schemes target more than individual computer users. The FBI in a news release said recent attacks have ensnared a major financial institution in the Midwest and the University of Pennsylvania. According to a September report from Symantec Corp., China had the most infected computers at 29 percent, followed by the United States at 13 percent. However, Symantec said, 43 percent of all command-and-control servers -- which botnet operators use to relay commands to infected computers in their network -- were located in the United States. Symantec reported that in the first half of 2007 it had detected more than 5 million computers that had been used to carry out at least one cyber attack a day. The number represented a 17 percent drop since the previous reporting period, Symantec said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/11/29/fbi.botnets/index.html>

26. *November 29, Reuters* – (International) **World faces “cyber cold war” threat.** A “cyber cold war” waged over the world’s computers threatens to become one of the biggest threats to security in the next decade, according to a report published by McAfee on Thursday. About 120 countries are developing ways to use the Internet as a weapon to target financial markets, government computer systems and utilities, an Internet security company said, adding that intelligence agencies already routinely test other states’ networks looking for weaknesses and their techniques are growing more sophisticated every year. The report said China, which has been blamed for attacks in the United States, India and Germany, is at the forefront of the cyber war. It said China has been blamed for attacks in the United States, India and Germany. China has repeatedly denied such claims. The McAfee report predicted that future attacks would be even more sophisticated. The report is online at

www.mcafee.com/us/research/criminology_report/default.html

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSL2932083320071129?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

27. *November 28, Infoworld* – (National) **Cost of data breaches keeps rising.** In its third annual study into the financial impact of data breaches, Ponemon Institute reports the episodes are costing an average of \$197 per lost or stolen customer record during 2007, a slight bump from the figure of \$182 per exposed record that it tracked one year ago, and a significant gain over the estimate of \$128 per record that the research firm published in its initial 2005 survey. Based on interviews conducted with 35 organizations that experienced data incidents in the last year, the Ponemon study found the average total cost of the breaches rose to \$6.3 million in 2007, compared to an average of \$4.8 million in 2006. The average number of records exposed in the breaches Ponemon studied was roughly 20,000 per incident, although among those organizations surveyed the incidents ranged from as few as 4,000 records to more than 125,000

records. However, while the cost of breaches has continued to rise, the research company contends that many organizations have improved their ability to react to the events. Even those firms who have experienced repeated incidents seem to have woken up to the idea of planning ahead and trying to prepare for the situation, said the research firm's founder and chairman.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/11/28/Cost-of-data-breaches-keeps-rising_1.html

28. *November 28, IDG New Service* – (National) **Web apps, Office among top security headaches, says SANS.** Web-based applications and security holes in Microsoft Office are among the biggest threats faced by Internet users today, according to the SANS Institute's annual security report, which compiles information on security threats from governments, security companies, and academics. Developers are not using secure coding techniques to create Web applications, giving hackers an opportunity to tap the rich databases of information connected to them, according to SANS, a computer training and security organization. The report also found fault with Microsoft Office. Vulnerabilities in the applications suite jumped almost 300 percent between 2006 and 2007, notably because of new flaws in Excel that allow hackers to construct documents that, when opened, can infect a computer with malicious software. The hackers attach those malicious documents to e-mail and use social engineering techniques, like attaching a file with an enticing name, to trick recipients into believing the document is important or comes from someone they know. Also on the rise this year was spyware, or programs that surreptitiously collect data on a user's computer. Webroot, one of the security companies that contributed to the SANS report, said the number of Web sites rigged with spyware increased 187 percent this year.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/11/28/Web-apps-Office-top-security-headaches_1.html

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

29. *November 29, Reuters* – (International) **Global cell phone use at 50 percent.** Worldwide mobile telephone subscriptions reached 3.3 billion -- equivalent to half the global population -- on Thursday, 26 years after the first cellular network was launched, research firm Informa said. In recent years the industry has seen surging growth in the outskirts of China and India, helped by constantly falling phone and call prices, with cellphone vendors already eyeing inroads into Africa's countryside to continue the growth. But although mobile subscriptions have reached the equivalent of 50 percent of

the population, this does not mean that half the people in the world now have a mobile phone, since Informa said 59 countries have mobile penetration of over 100 percent -- where some owners have more than one phone.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/29/AR2007112901242.html>

30. *November 29, IDG News Service* – (International) **Cell phone battery explodes in the night.** A New Zealand man was woken in the middle of the night when his cell phone battery exploded and burst into flames, the second exploding battery incident reported this week. The phone had been charging while he was asleep. The phone was made by Nokia, which asked the man to turn over the battery and charger so it can investigate. In August, Nokia issued an advisory about faulty batteries in some of its phones. It said 46 million Nokia-branded BL-5C batteries were vulnerable to a short circuit that could cause them to overheat while recharging, and offered to replace them for customers who are concerned. Also, on Wednesday, police in South Korea said a worker may have died because his cell phone battery exploded in his pocket, the *Associated Press* reported. The man was found dead at his workplace in a quarry with a melted cell phone battery in his shirt pocket, according to the report.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,140101-c,cellphones/article.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *November 29, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Blast reported at Ga. metals plant.** An explosion was reported Thursday at a metals plant in Manchester, Georgia, which is about 60 miles south of Atlanta. Police said at least three people were injured.
Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8T7CP4G0&show_article=1&catnum=1
32. *November 28, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Buildings evacuated at Northwestern, UIC.** In Illinois, two Northwestern University employees were taken to the hospital as a precaution this afternoon after they were exposed to an unidentified powdery substance in an Evanston campus building, prompting its evacuation. Although officials have not figured out what the substance was, it was determined to be non-hazardous, according to a university spokesman. University police decided to evacuate the building after the incident. Separately, a building on the University of Illinois at Chicago campus was evacuated about two hours later after an alarm sounded when a ceiling sprinkler broke down.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-uic_webnov29,0,423202.story
33. *November 28, WCCO 4 Minnesota* – (Minnesota) **2 car bombs shake, scare Oakdale neighborhood.** An Oakdale, Minnesota, family and their neighbors fear for their safety after two car bombs went off on the same day there more than a month ago. They exploded in the driveway on the 2700 block of Grenada Avenue. Police are still following leads, but they say no suspects stand out right now.
Source: <http://wcco.com/local/car.bombs.neighborhood.2.598323.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *November 29, Record* – (California) **Manteca Child’s memorial plaque brazenly stolen from park.** A 20-by-36-inch bronze plaque at the entrance of a community park in Manteca, California, remembering a 5-year-old boy who died in a car accident six years ago, was stolen last weekend. Police have no leads in the theft but suspect it was stolen because of its precious metal. Theft of copper and other metals has long been a significant problem in the Central Valley; thieves often disable farm and railroad equipment in search of metal that can be cashed in for a quick buck.
Source: http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071129/A_NEWS/711290327
35. *November 29, Malibu Surfside News* – (California) **Historic buildings in Solstice Canyon are burned: Park is closed.** The Corral Fire destroyed four historic buildings, which served as landmarks and occasional residences for National Park Service employees, in Solstice Canyon, California. The structures include the Matthew Keller House, a stone cottage that was originally constructed in 1865 and is visible from Solstice Canyon Trail. It is considered to be the oldest stone building in Malibu. NPS spokespersons said it is too soon to determine whether the buildings can be restored and put back into service.
Source: <http://malibusurfsidenews.com/stories/200711/20071129001.html>

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Dams Sector

36. *November 29, Tri-Valley Herald* – (California) **FEMA gives local district 2 years to certify levees.** In a June 19 letter sent to the mayors of Lathrop and Manteca, the California Department of Water Resources deputy director wrote that two studies calculated unacceptably low factors of safety for under-seepage gradients through the local levee. There is recent and significant evidence that the levees do not provide a 100-year-level of flood protection. Earlier this month, officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued temporary accreditation status to the Reclamation District, the agency that maintains and owns easements for the levees, giving the district 24 months to provide documentation that the levees can withstand 100-year flood standards. As a result, levee protected areas in the southern San Joaquin region will show only a moderate risk of flooding when FEMA releases new flood-risk maps in early 2008. The permit also required notifying those living behind the levees that the strength of the levees is in question. The FEMA partial accreditation gives the state and district a chance to look at all potential weaknesses.
Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/ci_7588534
37. *November 28, TWEAN 8 Austin* – (Texas) **Opening the floodgates: Growth affects dam safety.** Texas has been growing and, although state and municipal governments are

working to keep up with population growth by building new roads, sewer lines and water lines, more should be done to monitor how growth affects area dams. “We have seen a lot of encroachment with hundreds or thousands of homes below some of our dams,” the general manager of the Upper Brushy Creek Water Control Improvement District said. Brushy Creek dams were built for agricultural and farming purposes in the 1970s. Now they are surrounded by subdivisions. The dams are also being used for flood control, which means they need to be updated and raised to hold more water. It is up to the owners of dams in growing neighborhoods to pay for these improvements, even if they did not ask for the growth. While most cities and counties discourage growth downstream from dams, few regulate it. Unlike the Lower Colorado River Authority, which has spent millions to upgrade the Highland Lake dams and the federally funded Army Corps of Engineers, which owns and operates 28 of Texas’ largest dams, private owners may not have millions of dollars in revenue to upgrade their dams.

Source: <http://www.news8austin.com/content/headlines/?ArID=195950&SecID=2>

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

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

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