



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 7 May 2008

Current Nationwide

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

- The Wall Street journal reports that, according to a recent agency assessment, the Federal Aviation Administration has failed to perform more than 100 recommended safety reviews at major airlines in recent years. (See item [15](#))
- According to the Los Angeles Times, a recent examination by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has found that, in the event of a major terrorist attack, hospitals in seven major U.S. cities would be poorly equipped or unable to treat the number of patients such an event would create. (See item [26](#))

**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. *May 6, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Oil price strikes 122 dollars for first time.** Oil prices hit a record high \$122 on Tuesday as the market was driven by recent unrest in key producer Nigeria and a struggling U.S. currency, traders said. New York’s main oil futures contract, light sweet crude for June delivery, hit the historic peak in late afternoon European deals. London’s Brent North Sea crude also reached an all-time high of \$120.41. Both records beat high points set earlier in the day.  
Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gUh2AVKg51gB7RDltZXYU2dJWk5A>
2. *May 5, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Exxon offers to buy homes built on toxic soil.** Exxon Mobil is offering financial assistance to 19 homeowners after toxic chemicals were found in the soil of a neighborhood near its Torrance, California,

gasoline refinery. The oil giant is offering to buy ten homes in an area where elevated soil vapor levels were found. The company is also offering nine other nearby homeowners a “price protection program.” Investigations of the vapor levels in the neighborhood have so far yielded results of up to 160,000 parts per billion for benzene and up to 500,000 parts per million for methane, according to an engineer with the state Department of Toxic Substances Control. Those are well above the screening level of ten parts per billion for benzene and 5,000 parts per million for methane set by the department. Other toxicants found in the neighborhood include toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene, all byproducts of gasoline production.

Source: <http://ktla.trb.com/news/ktla-toxicsoil,0,1047077.story>

3. *May 5, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Exxon to build carbon-capture test plant.** Exxon Mobil Corp. plans to spend more than \$100 million to build a plant in Wyoming that will allow it to finish developing and test technology that could make capturing and storing carbon dioxide more affordable and open up vast new sources of natural gas. The company said Monday it will build the plant near LaBarge, Wyoming, beginning this summer. Startup is scheduled for late 2009 and testing is expected to take place over a couple of years. The plant will employ Exxon Mobil’s Controlled Freeze Zone (CFZ) technology, which uses cryogenics to remove carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, and other unwanted compounds from methane. Exxon Mobil said CFZ technology involves a single-step removal process, which makes it far simpler and, as such, far less costly. “This technology will assist in the development of additional gas resources...and facilitate the application of carbon capture and storage to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said an Exxon Mobil executive.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24471014/>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *May 5, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **A helpful chemical reaction.** The massive explosion in a paint and ink factory that leveled a Danvers, Massachusetts, neighborhood in November 2006 revealed perilous gaps in the regulation and inspection of chemical processing plants across the state. Now it falls to state lawmakers to address the incendiary situation. A bill sponsored by the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts seeks to provide oversight of hundreds of companies, large and small, where the mixing of chemicals now takes place without adequate checks. Large chemical processors that already comply with federal and state regulations are not likely to welcome an added layer of regulation. But many smaller mixing facilities appear to be operating with little regard for uniform standards or safety plans, according to the fire chiefs. And local safety inspectors are often clueless when companies exceed authorized limits for the storage and processing of chemicals. That was the case in Danvers, according to the state fire marshal’s office, where CAI Inc. and Arnel Co. had stored twice the amount of flammable chemicals allowed by the town. Passage of the bill should help to prevent future blow-ups by creating a database of companies involved in chemical processing; establishing a schedule of inspections; and staffing the fire marshal’s office with a small cadre of chemical safety engineers to assist local fire

departments. An opportunity to strengthen the bill could come as early as May 13, when the federal Chemical Safety Board, which investigates chemical accidents, releases its final report on the Danvers explosion. The report is expected to include recommendations on site inspections, fire code modernization, and other safety factors. Source:

[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/05/05/a\\_helpful\\_chemical\\_reaction/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/05/05/a_helpful_chemical_reaction/)

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

5. *May 6, Salt Lake Tribune* – (National) **EnergySolutions sues to stop state’s bid to block Italian nuke waste.** EnergySolutions has gone to court to protect its plan to import low-level nuclear waste from Italy. The company filed a lawsuit Monday asking the U.S. District Court in Utah to rule that the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management has no authority over its Utah disposal site. At a meeting planned for Thursday in Boise, Idaho, the eight member states of the compact are to consider whether to give explicit approval for the importation of foreign waste to the EnergySolutions disposal facility in Tooele County. Because of a vow made last month by Utah’s governor, Utah is set to use its deciding vote to block the Italy waste. The chief executive officer of EnergySolutions defended the company’s march to court and pledged to limit international waste at the Tooele County site to five percent of the remaining capacity at the mile-square facility.

Source: [http://www.sltrib.com/ci\\_9168533](http://www.sltrib.com/ci_9168533)

6. *May 5, Platts* – (National) **U.S. NRC chief says three-year wait for nuclear reactor vessels.** Japan Steel Works, the only company in the world that produces heavy steel forgings for nuclear reactor vessels, has a three-year waiting list, said the chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission last week. The line for the forgings is long and getting longer, reflecting new interest in nuclear power. He said he believes other manufacturers will eventually revive the capabilities they once had to make the forgings.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6869754.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

7. *May 4, Strategy Page* – (National) **Army tries it the Air Force way.** The U.S. Air Force has managed to install lightweight satellite communications gear in U.S. Army RQ-7 Shadow 200 unmanned aerial vehicles, enabling control via an operator back in the U.S. This is how the Air Force operates its MQ-1 Predators. The Army and Air Force are cooperating on developing and maintaining the Predator replacement, the slightly larger and more capable MQ-1C Sky Warrior. The Air Force will be operating their Sky Warriors from the U.S. and is trying to convince the Army that this would be

the way for them to go. Keeping operators in the U.S. is increasingly popular with the military. The Army is developing unmanned ground vehicles and these could be run by stateside operators as well. All this is part of the trend towards increasing automation and remote-control in warfare. Combat has increasingly become a matter of issuing the command, “send in the droids,” and leave the people at home.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htairfo/articles/20080504.aspx>

8. *May 2008, National Defense Magazine* – (National) **New ships are breaking the bank so the Navy is fixing its old ones.** The ballooning costs of new ships are forcing the Navy to reevaluate its plans to boost the fleet size from 280 to 313 ships in the coming decade. Navy officials are weighing the possibility of extending the service life of dozens of surface combatants that typically would have been decommissioned. To modernize a surface combatant costs a fifth of what it takes to build a new ship. As cruisers and destroyers reach their midlife years, the Navy plans to upgrade those ships so they remain in the fleet for their full 35 years, officials say. The Navy is planning upgrades to its DDG-51 destroyers to enable smaller-size crews to sail them out to their full service life – and potentially beyond. Because the final two ships of the class have yet to be built, the Navy is in the unprecedented position of being able to upgrade its oldest ships with technologies being developed for the newest hulls.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/May/NewShips.htm>

9. *May 2008, National Defense Magazine* – (National) **Uncertainty about budgets, workforce shape future of U.S. weapons industry.** The U.S. government must carefully consider how to best protect domestic industrial capacity to produce a broad range of weapons and to ensure there is a technologically skilled workforce to support future needs, concludes a study completed last year by a group of military officers and government civilians at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. The industrial base for developing and sustaining modern systems is shrinking, says the study. The government must recognize this and deal with the possibility that the armed forces might reach a point where the weapons on hand today cannot be adequately maintained by a shrunken base. One issue of concern, the study points out, is the capability of the U.S. industrial base to rapidly surge the production of critical systems. Currently, there is little capability for a fast large surge in production because of what the study describes as the “dormant state of excess capacity.”

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/May/Uncertain.htm>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *May 6, Calgary Herald* – (Florida) **Florida board faces SEC probe.** Florida’s investments in securities hurt by the subprime mortgage collapse have been targeted in a probe by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC, in a letter February 22, asked Florida’s state Board of Administration, which oversees pension funds and the Local Government Investment Pool, to turn over documents related to investments in Countrywide Financial Corp., Axon Financial Funding, KKR Atlantic Funding Trust and at least eight other securities. The Bond Buyer reported the investigation Monday.

Source:

<http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/calgarybusiness/story.html?id=c42dea22-ad56-4616-a6a8-704489d5f478>

11. *May 6, HedgeCo.Net* – (California) **SEC freezes hedge fund assets, seeks injunctions.** A group of California hedge funds is being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission on suspicion of illegal practices. The “Premium Returns Funds,” which have been operating since May 2004, were supposedly using a covered call options trading strategy. The hedge funds, which were run by investment manager Plus Money Inc., supposedly abandoned this strategy in late 2007, cleaned out the fund’s accounts, and dissipated the money through various transfers. “Our complaint alleges that the defendants defrauded unsuspecting investors in a purported hedge fund,” said the director of the SEC’s Division of Enforcement. The funds raised \$30 million from over 300 investors, but stopped paying investors monthly returns beginning early this year. Source: <http://www.hedgeco.net/news/05/2008/sec-freezes-hedge-fund-assets-seeks-injunctions.html>
  
12. *May 6, WSB 750AM Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Atlanta Visa service scam.** The FBI is in the process of notifying as many as 1,000 customers of metro Atlanta-based International Visa Service that they may be the victims of identity theft. An employee of the service has been arrested and charged with stealing the personal information of people who were applying for a passport. The man is accused of sending the information to his brother in Miami, who sold the identities on the black market for up to \$7,500 each. Source: <http://wsbradio.com/news/050608visascam3a.html>
  
13. *May 5, IDG News Service* – (National) **Safest way to bank online? Your cell phone.** Using a mobile handset for the most sensitive online act, online banking, might sound counterintuitive, given that phones are prone to being lost or stolen, but cell phones might be safer than computers for paying bills or checking bank statements online. Some phone malware does exist, and examples tend to make headlines due to their novelty. But the main threats to online security, such as keyloggers, Trojan horses, and other data-stealing software, do not exist for phones – yet. “The risk of being infected on a mobile phone is tiny in comparison [with a PC],” notes the security firm Sophos in its annual threat report. Security firms have long marketed antimalware products for mobile phones. One such company, Kaspersky, acknowledges the lack of threat from mobile malware (at least in the United States). Cell phones dodge malware because they run many different operating systems. Security experts agree that crooks stand to steal much more by investing their time in writing a new Windows virus that is capable of infecting millions of PCs than in constructing a Trojan horse that can target only a certain type of phone. But that may change. The fact that little mobile malware exists does not mean that cell phones are completely safe, of course. Banking and payment systems require passwords and/or PINs, so someone cannot just pick up your phone and start transferring money out of an account. But there is still plenty of personal information that someone could obtain through your phone. If mobile banking and personal payments catch on, phone-specific risks with malware and phishing may go up as well.

Source: <http://news.idg.no/pcw/art.cfm?id=BA90DDA9-17A4-0F78-3129A02686D4D37F>

14. *May 5, Wall Street Journal* – (New York) **EDNY forms federal task force to clean up mortgage mess.** Prosecutors in the Brooklyn-based Eastern District of New York have formed a task force of federal, state and local agencies, involving as many as 15 law-enforcement agents and investigators that will focus on Wall Street firms and mortgage lenders. The U.S. attorney for the office who supervises about 150 prosecutors, said that, while the “jury is still out” on just how much criminal activity the office might find, the newly-formed task force will look into potential crimes ranging from mortgage fraud by brokers to securities fraud, insider trading and accounting fraud. According to the Wall Street Journal, the investigations into mortgage lenders focus on whether officials made misrepresentations in securities filings about a company’s financial position and the quality of its mortgage loans, including failing to disclose a rising number of loan defaults, or engaged in questionable accounting to hide losses. Prosecutors also are looking at whether companies doctored information about borrowers, such as credit histories, before making loans and selling those loans to banks or Wall Street firms, which packaged them into securities and sold them to investors. The task force also includes officials and agents from the FBI’s financial-institutions fraud unit known as C3; the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; financial-crimes investigators from the U.S. Secret Service; and investigators and representatives of the New York State Banking Department, the New York City Department of Investigation and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2008/05/05/edny-forms-federal-task-force-to-clean-up-mortgage-mess/>

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## **Transportation Sector**

15. *May 6, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FAA skipped more than 100 safety reviews.** The Federal Aviation Administration has failed to perform more than 100 recommended safety reviews at major airlines in recent years, according to a recent assessment by the agency. The reviews in question are top-to-bottom examinations of dozens of different airline safety systems -- ranging from flight-crew training to deicing programs -- that are supposed to be completed at least once every five years. The goal is to ensure that airlines have the right systems in place to identify potential hazards and deal appropriately with any they find.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121003396022569297.html?mod=fox\\_austrian](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121003396022569297.html?mod=fox_austrian)

16. *May 6, EurActiv.com* – (International) **EU backs down on air security plans.** Planned measures to limit the size of baggage that European Union travelers may take on board aircraft have been withdrawn for fear of provoking similar chaos at European airports to that caused by the ban on liquids. The Commission announced on 5 May 2008 that it would not go ahead with plans to introduce a regulation limiting the maximum size of cabin. The measure, originally due to be introduced back in May 2007, was one of a raft

of rules to tighten security on flights adopted in the summer of 2006 after a terrorist plot to smuggle liquid explosives onto an aircraft flying from London's Heathrow airport to the U.S. was exposed. After a year of studies, the Commission now says it "considers that the effectiveness of this measure does not justify the additional costs and inconvenience to airline passengers".

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/eu-backs-air-security-plans/article-172160>

17. *May 5, KOB 4 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Man storms past airport security.** Police are investigating how a man got past three doors and two alarms at the Albuquerque International Sunport Airport, New Mexico, Saturday morning. Officers eventually caught up with the man in the aircraft operation area. Police say around 5:30 on Saturday morning the man entered a secure area through an employee door. He then got past an alarmed security door where he set off the first alarm. Finally, he made it through a third door and into the area where both commercial and military planes are located, where he set off a silent alarm. Police say the man was running straight for the planes when officers finally caught up with him. Investigators say the suspect was not very cooperative when they asked him what he was doing, he simply told them that he wanted an up close look at the planes. Police say the man was not armed.

Source: <http://kob.com/article/stories/S434575.shtml?cat=519>

18. *May 5, Loveland Connection* – (Colorado) **Airplane overshoots runway, passengers unhurt.** A planeload of Northern Colorado residents coming home from Las Vegas were unhurt Sunday afternoon when an Allegiant Air flight overshot the runway at Fort Collins/Loveland Airport. The pilot slammed on the brakes after touchdown but not in time to keep the MD80 aircraft on the runway. The aircraft's front wheel stopped about 10 feet off the runway, according to reports. None of the 145 passengers or five crew members on board were hurt.

Source:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080505/LOVELAND01/305050003/1002/CUSTOMERSERVICE02>

19. *May 5, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **US Airways jet makes emergency landing in Knoxville.** A US Airways regional jet landed safely in Knoxville after developing mechanical problems en route from Washington, District of Columbia, to Nashville, Tennessee. The twin-engine Bombardier CRJ200 regional jet made an emergency landing at Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport. PSA Flight 2489 had 40 passengers and three crew members. No one was injured.

Source: [http://www.wztv.com/template/inews\\_wire/wires.regional.tn/3dd783f3-www.fox17.com.shtml](http://www.wztv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tn/3dd783f3-www.fox17.com.shtml)

20. *May 4, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Two trains derail in Westmoreland County.** Twenty-two cars from two freight trains derailed in South Huntingdon Township, Pennsylvania, Sunday morning. CSX said it happened when a westbound train jumped the tracks, spilling 10 of its cars. Shortly after that derailment, an eastbound freight train struck one of the derailed cars, causing 12 of its cars to go off the

tracks. CSX said there were no injuries. It said crews were trying to keep a leak from a car containing paint additives from flowing into a nearby creek. There is no word yet from CSX on the cause of the derailment or how long it will take to remove the railroads cars.

Source: <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/16156190/detail.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

21. *May 6, Reuters* – (International) **S. Korea to beef up import inspections on U.S. beef.** On May 15, South Korea resumes quarantine inspection on all cuts of U.S. beef from animals of any age, which will start imports flowing again and lift a blanket ban Seoul had imposed in 2003 following a U.S. outbreak of mad cow disease. South Korea agreed last month to open its market wider to American beef after U.S. lawmakers have said a separate, sweeping bilateral free trade deal would not make it through Congress until Seoul made concessions. Under the new guidelines, South Korea will open a greater percentage of U.S. beef imports for testing and send teams of experts to U.S. slaughterhouses to inspect conditions. At present, South Korea, once the third-largest import market for U.S. beef, admits only boneless beef from cattle younger than 30 months old. But that trade has stalled last year as Seoul suspended inspection after prohibited bone chips showed up in several U.S. shipments. There are about 5,300 tons of U.S. beef waiting in South Korea to clear quarantine inspection.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSSEO151030>
  
22. *May 6, ScienceDaily* – (National) **TB strain may be linked to unpasteurized dairy, study suggests.** The incidence of a strain of tuberculosis (TB) called *Mycobacterium bovis*, or *M. bovis*, associated more often with cattle than humans, is increasing in San Diego and is concentrated mostly in Hispanics of Mexican origin, according to a study conducted by researchers at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine in collaboration with San Diego County public health officials. Their analysis shows that changing patterns of TB in the U.S. are increasingly being driven by conditions outside of the country, especially in binational communities. The researchers analyzed regional data for TB cases in San Diego County. In their review of 3,291 culture-positive cases of TB covering 1994 to 2005, *M. bovis* was isolated in only eight percent of cases, but the strain accounted for 45 percent of TB cases in children under the age of 15, with almost all *M. bovis* cases from 2001 to 2005 found in persons of Hispanic ethnicity. “This strain of TB is thought to be primarily spread to humans through consumption of raw dairy products from infected cattle, with only minimal human-to-human contagion,” the study’s lead author said. “Some raw dairy products from Mexico, for instance, unpasteurized cheese like the popular queso fresco, have been found to

contain *M. bovis* and should be considered unsafe.”

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080505223744.htm>

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## **Water Sector**

23. *May 6, Associated Press* – (California) **Thieves breaking into plant blamed for chemical spill.** Thieves breaking into a manufacturing plant are being blamed for a spill that sent 3,000 gallons of a chemical solvent into San Francisco Bay. Authorities say after a break-in at Reaction Products in Richmond, the toxic solvent toluene flowed into a storm drain, making its way to San Pablo Bay. A shelter-in-place warning was briefly issued to 1,500 homes Monday afternoon after the spill was reported. Investigators believe that thieves were trying to steal parts of a tank when they compromised it, causing the spill.  
Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_9168488?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_9168488?nclick_check=1)
  
24. *May 5, Reuters* – (Florida) **Florida moves to curb ocean sewage dumping.** Off the coast of Florida, three counties pump into the Atlantic Ocean a total of at least 300 million gallons of partially treated urban waste water. Bowing to pressure from environmental groups, the Florida Senate recently passed a bill backed by Florida’s governor that would eventually shut down six pipes that carry waste water into the Atlantic from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. The state House of Representatives is expected to clear the bill soon. The head of water resource management at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection acknowledges that it will likely take 16 more years before the pipes are totally closed, at an estimated cost of up to \$3 billion. State officials have argued for years that the waste dissipates at sea and causes little or no near-shore pollution because it is quickly carried north in the Gulfstream current. Marine scientists, however, say the minimally treated effluent is potentially harmful to humans, especially small children, the elderly, and anyone with a weakened immune system. They also argue that it is hurting coastal ecosystems since it contains high levels of nitrogen, ammonia, and other contaminants associated with the algae blooms that periodically suffocate coral reefs.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24277051/>
  
25. *May 5, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Phoenix tap water is free of pharmaceuticals.** Phoenix drinking water received a clean bill of health Monday after extensive testing found no pharmaceuticals in the water supply. Tests conducted by an independent laboratory at each of Phoenix’s six water-treatment plants showed no traces of drugs and met all standards of the Environmental Protection Agency, officials said at a news conference. Officials decided to test the water after a series of stories by the Associated Press said that at least nine trace pharmaceuticals have been identified in Lake Mead’s water, some of which eventually reaches Phoenix via the Central Arizona Project. The chemicals were in tiny quantities, the articles said. Phoenix gets most of its water from the Salt River Project and the Central Arizona Project (CAP). Tucson, which reported finding three pharmaceuticals in its water, also gets a portion of its supply from the CAP, but it is unknown whether the drugs were in CAP water. Phoenix has no plans to

test the water again but is working with organizations that are developing testing standards for pharmaceuticals, said a water-department spokesman.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0505phxwater0506.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

26. *May 6, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Terror attack would overwhelm L.A., D.C. hospitals, expert says.** A terrorist attack similar to the 2004 commuter train bombings in Madrid would be even more catastrophic in Los Angeles or Washington, D.C., because the injured would overwhelm strained emergency services, experts told a congressional hearing Monday. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform examined conditions at 34 hospitals in seven cities on an arbitrarily chosen date and time to gauge how they could have handled such an influx of patients. The survey focused on hospitals with level 1 trauma centers, which handle the most serious injuries. None of the hospitals surveyed in New York City, Chicago, Houston, Denver, and Minneapolis had enough ER beds, intensive-care beds, and regular beds to treat the number of patients that arrived at Madrid hospitals. Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., had the most acute shortages. The emergency rooms at three of the five Los Angeles County hospitals surveyed were turning away ambulances that afternoon because there was no place to put new patients. In the other two hospitals combined, just six ER beds were available. Two of the five hospitals had no intensive care beds available. On average, each had fewer than 30 regular beds free.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/politics/cal/la-me-ersurge6-2008may06,0,2066270.story>
27. *May 6, Associated Press* – (International) **South Korea reports first bird flu outbreak in capital.** South Korea reported the first bird flu outbreak in its capital Tuesday, prompting health authorities to kill birds at zoos in and around the city. Bird flu began sweeping southern parts of the country last month for the first time in more than a year, forcing the slaughter of about 6.5 million poultry. The Agriculture Ministry said initial tests confirmed an outbreak on the compound of a local government office in eastern Seoul, and further tests were under way to determine whether it was caused by the virulent H5N1 virus. Results were expected later Tuesday, the ministry said.  
Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2008/05/06/asia/AS-GEN-SKorea-Bird-Flu.php>
28. *May 6, Reuters* – (International) **Risk of bird flu pandemic probably growing.** The risk of a human influenza pandemic remains real and is probably growing as the bird flu virus becomes entrenched in poultry in more countries, health officials warned on Tuesday. Some 150 experts are attending a meeting hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) to update its guidance to countries on how to boost their defenses against a deadly global epidemic. The H5N1 avian flu virus has infected flocks in much of Asia, Africa, and parts of Europe. Experts fear it could mutate into a form that passes easily from person to person, sparking an influenza pandemic that could kill millions. The timing of a pandemic “remains speculative,” a disease control expert at Thailand’s

health ministry said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSL0615943120080506?sp=true>

29. *May 6, in-PharmaTechnologist.com* – (National) **Double-strength digoxin recalled in US.** Digitek (digoxin), a heart medication sold by Mylan Laboratories in the U.S. has had to be recalled, after it emerged that some doses may contain twice the intended dose of active ingredient. In a statement, Actavis Totowa, which manufactures the product on a contract basis for Mylan, said that double strength tablets could pose a risk of toxicity, particularly in patients with renal failure. The problem stems from some tablets being made at twice the thickness than the specification. A company spokesperson said that the investigation into the problem was still ongoing, but at the moment there was no further information on the cause and how many tablets were involved.

Source: <http://www.in-pharmatechnologist.com/news/ng.asp?n=85099-actavis-totowa-mylan-contract-manufacturing-digoxin-digitek>

30. *May 6, Bloomberg* – (International) **Baxter didn't fully cooperate with probe, China says.** Baxter International Inc., the world's largest maker of blood-disease treatments, did not fully cooperate with China's probe into a blood thinner linked to 81 deaths in the U.S., the nation's drug regulator said. Baxter did not give requested samples and information on the manufacturing of suspect heparin batches to Chinese investigators when they visited the company's production facility in New Jersey on April 22, China's State Food and Drug Administration said in a statement distributed in Beijing today. Baxter, in a statement, said it had cooperated with the probe. Allergic reactions to Baxter's heparin led to a U.S. recall in January and February and an investigation by regulators in both the U.S. and China, where the drug's main ingredient was made.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=185811>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

31. *May 5, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Maryland teen arrested after homemade chemical bomb detonates in classroom.** A Prince George's County, Maryland, high school student has been charged with taking an explosive to school after it went off unexpectedly in class. A Fire Department spokesman said the 15-year-old showed other students at the bus stop an explosive device he made, but it did not detonate. So he put it in his bag and carried it to his chemistry class, where it exploded unexpectedly. The school had to be evacuated. There were no reported injuries. Investigators say the student learned how to make the explosive online, but they do not believe he meant to hurt anyone.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,354229,00.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

32. *May 6, Examiner* – (California) **Funding for 911 could disappear.** In San Francisco,

phone bills include a monthly fee to pay for 911 emergency communications that this fiscal year generated \$43 million, covering the cost of 85 percent of the cost of the city's emergency communications system. That funding source, however, is now in legal jeopardy since a state appeals court struck down a similar fee in nearby Union City. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to meet Tuesday in closed session with the city attorney to discuss the legal ruling, as the city could face a lawsuit about its 911 fee. City officials said there is no other funding source currently identified to replace the fee. The possibility of losing millions of dollars also comes as San Francisco faces a projected \$338 million budget deficit for next fiscal year. Other cities in California impose similar charges for 911 services, including San Jose, Santa Cruz, and Stockton  
Source: [http://www.examiner.com/a-1376868~Funding\\_for\\_911\\_could\\_disappear.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1376868~Funding_for_911_could_disappear.html)

33. *May 6, Rankin Ledger* – (Mississippi) **MEMA drill preps state's first responders.** Dozens of Mississippi state personnel took part in a statewide disaster simulation in which a tornado pummeled Biloxi with 100 mile per hour winds and a 20-foot storm surge, forcing many in the below-sea-level city into storm shelters. The training took place at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Emergency Operations Center last week. The exercise went well, though a Department of Human Services official admitted there were a “few kinks in the hose that needed to be worked out.”  
Source: <http://www.rankinledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080506/NEWS/805060305/1001>
34. *May 5, KOMO 4 Seattle and Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Feds hold major disaster drill at Fort Lewis.** At Fort Lewis, Washington, more than a thousand people participated in a drill Monday to see whether federal officials have learned how to speed up the process of getting to the people in need. In the drill scenario, the Alaskan Way Viaduct had been hit by an explosion and a chemical truck full of deadly gas had burst. Specially-trained Marines moved through the crowd, looking for victims of a terrorist attack as looters ran rampant. Some victims were willing to be helped while others barricaded themselves indoors, fearful of the looters and the people in masks. There were more than 30 simulated deaths including some of the first fire crews due to deadly gas. But the special military operational command post was flown in within 24 hours. On Tuesday the exercise moves to Whatcom County, where Ferndale will be the scene of another huge disaster drill in which a truck containing 4,000 gallons of a toxic chemical en route to the BP Cherry Point Refinery or Alcoa Intalco Works aluminum plant will explode, injuring or killing hundreds. The Northwest Washington Fair and Events Center in Lynden and St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham will be part of the drill there along with the Washington National Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Army officials.  
Source: <http://www.komotv.com/news/local/18671264.html> and <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/256/story/401104.html>

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## Information Technology

35. *May 6, Business Wire* – (National) **Crimeware double threat menaces internet.** The public private anti-phishing coalition, APWG, announced today that its January survey shows a new record high in the number of unique keylogger crimeware variants detected – while the number crimeware-spreading URLs rose to nearly its old record attained in November of last year. The number of unique keylogger variants detected in January reached a new high of 364, an increase of 1.4 percent from the previous high in October, 2007. The number of websites found to be hosting keylogging crimeware systems rose by over 1,100 from December, reaching 3,362, the second highest number recorded in the preceding 12 months. Websense Security Labs believes much of the increase in crimeware-spreading URLs is due to attackers’ increasing ability to co-opt sites. Websense’s Vice President of Security Research said, “The attackers appear to be getting better at infecting good sites through automation and tools.” Some highlights from the APWG January Phishing Trends Report include: the total number of unique phishing reports submitted to APWG in January 2008 was 29,284, an increase of over 3,600 reports from the previous month; the number of brands targeted by phishers in January reported decreased by more than 10 brands to 131; the number of unique phishing websites detected by APWG was 20,305 in January 2008, a decrease of over 5,000 from the month of December 2007. The full text of the report is available at: [http://www.antiphishing.org/reports/apwg\\_report\\_jan\\_2008.pdf](http://www.antiphishing.org/reports/apwg_report_jan_2008.pdf)

Source:

[http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20080505006571&newsLang=en](http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20080505006571&newsLang=en)

36. *May 6, IDG News Service* – (National) **Yahoo uses McAfee SiteAdvisor to filter evil Web sites.** Starting Tuesday, there will be a few less Web sites popping up in Yahoo searches. That is because Yahoo plans to start filtering out malicious Web sites using McAfee’s SiteAdvisor software, which warns Web surfers if they are about to visit a Web site that has been linked to spam, phishing, or malicious software. SiteAdvisor can be downloaded as a plug-in to Firefox or Internet explorer, but Yahoo has been working since late last year to integrate McAfee’s Web site rating technology into their search engine servers, according to a Yahoo director of product management. Web sites associated with malware will be dropped from search results altogether and Yahoo searchers will now see red warning labels warning them of sites that SiteAdvisor has linked with things like dangerous downloads or unsolicited e-mail. Yahoo calls its version of the service SearchScan, and plans to turn it on by default for all users in the U.S., U.K., Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The company will eventually roll SearchScan out in all of the countries it serves, with Asian and Latin American launches coming next, the Yahoo developer said. He estimated that the dropped Web sites were getting as many as one million clicks from Yahoo searchers per day, adding: “A lot of users were getting exposed to this without any knowledge.”

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/05/06/Yahoo-uses-McAfee-SiteAdvisor\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/05/06/Yahoo-uses-McAfee-SiteAdvisor_1.html)

37. *May 5, Wired Blogs* – (National) **Pentagon wants cyberwar range to ‘replicate**

**human behavior and frailties’**. The Pentagon’s researchers do not just want to build an Internet simulator, to test out cyberwar tactics. They want the range’s operators to “realistically replicate human behavior and frailties,” too. Congress has ordered the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa) to put together a National Cyber Range, as part of a massive \$30 billion, government-wide effort better prep for battle online. The project is now considered a top priority for the Agency. To make sure the facility is as true-to-life as possible, Darpa wants the contractors running the Range to be able to “replicate realistic human behavior on nodes,” a request for proposals, released today, reveals. Several examples of the specifics the Agency wants to have from its contractors include: provide robust technologies to emulate human behavior on all nodes of the range for testing all aspects of range behavior; replicants will produce realistic chain of events between many users without explicit scripting behavior; replicants must be capable of implementing multiple user roles similar to roles found on operational networks; replicants will interact with authenticate systems, including but not limited to DoD authentication systems (common access cards – CAC), identity tokens. These mock people have to be able to “demonstrate human-level behavior on 80 percent of all events,” the Agency adds. And mimicking humans is only one of a wide array of tasks Darpa wants to see operators of the National Cyber Range pull off. The facility should also feature a “realistic, sophisticated, nation-state quality offensive and defensive opposition forces” that can fight military info-warriors in mock combat. Source: <http://blog.wired.com/defense/2008/05/the-pentagons-w.html>

### **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: <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**

Nothing to Report.

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### **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report.

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### **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

38. *May 6, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Army Corps finds munitions at park, keeps searching**. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue to search Border Field State Park near the U.S.-Mexico border, after finding spent ammunition there. The park was once home to a Navy gunnery and a practice bombing range. They are two of

17 former military sites in the county to be reviewed by the U.S. Department of Defense. No explosives were found in any inspections, a Corps project manager who oversees the program said yesterday. Surfers have long contended that sand from the border area contains munitions.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20080506-9999-1m6border.html>

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## **Dams Sector**

39. *May 5, Glens Falls Post-Star* – (New York) **Corinth added to Conklingville Dam alert system.** In New York, an early warning system designed to alert residents in the event of a break at the Conklingville Dam will include Corinth, after officials there voiced concerns they were being excluded and left vulnerable. Getting the plans approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and constructing the system will likely take at least 18 months, said the regulating district’s chief engineer. “In my mind, there is no reason for cause for concern,” the engineer said. “Right now, the structure is quite safe.”  
Source: <http://www.poststar.com/articles/2008/05/05/news/local/13563067.txt>
  
40. *May 4, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Army Corps of Engineers finalizes plan to keep Lake Okeechobee lower.** Instead of stockpiling for future droughts, a new plan to keep less water in Lake Okeechobee seeks to ease the strain on an aging dike. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Monday finalized a plan two years in the making to keep the lake a foot lower than normal year round. Safety concerns about the Herbert Hoover Dike, in the midst of a costly rehab, prompted the shift to holding less water in the 730-square-mile lake that serves as south Florida’s primary backup water supply. Dike safety concerns drove the push to start keeping the lake lower. The Corps has named the dike as one of the six dams at highest risk in the country. Work is under way on a wall being built through the middle of the dike and a supporting berm around the outside to reinforce the structure and stop erosion that threatens to lead to breaches and flooding. Completing the project could take until 2030 and cost more than \$856 million, according to the Corps.  
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/services/newspaper/printedition/local/sfl-flplakeo0504sbmay04,0,3974900.story>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto: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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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