



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 July 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- More than 75 percent of the bank Web sites surveyed in a University of Michigan study had at least one design flaw that could make customers vulnerable to cyber thieves after their money or even their identity. (See item [10](#))
- The national stockpile of antidotes is being built, the federal government is working with companies to develop vaccines and antidotes to biological threats and more technology is needed to detect an airborne biological hazard. (See item [32](#))

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. *July 23, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Nigerian oil group admits paying millions to militants.** Nigerian oil group Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. (NNPC) has acknowledged paying \$12 million in protection fees to Niger Delta militants to enable the repair of a damaged key crude supply pipeline. “They said we should pay 100 million dollars. But we negotiated and came down to six million dollars” a month, an NNPC boss told a parliamentary hearing on Tuesday. He said the NNPC had to pay the money for two months. The protection payments came on top of already sky-high insurance premiums for operations in the restive delta region. “It is difficult to get expatriates to work in the area,” he added. Violent attacks and kidnappings targeting oil companies are a frequent occurrence throughout the Niger Delta. Some are carried out

by militants claiming to be fighting for a larger share of the region's oil wealth for local people, others by criminal gangs out to make ransom money. Several foreign firms, including French tire company Michelin and oil servicing firm Wilbros, have left the Niger Delta because of security problems. The unrest has reduced Nigeria's oil output by a quarter. The violence has contributed to the soaring price of crude in the world market.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080723/wl_africa_afp/nigeriaoilunrest;_ylt=Ak8DNFXKpRokHP07Og6vBUO96Q8F

2. *July 23, Reuters* – (National; Texas) **Stronger Dolly forces Texas refining cuts.** A stronger Hurricane Dolly slowly crossed the Texas coast on Wednesday, cutting production at some oil refineries but missing offshore oil and natural gas production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico. Valero Energy Corp. said the loss of crude supply, because tankers could not move through the Houston Ship Channel, led the company to reduce production between ten percent and 20 percent at its refineries in Houston and Port Arthur, Texas. The port serving the major refining center of Corpus Christi, Texas, was also closed to ship traffic, although refineries served by that waterway said operations were continuing. U.S. crude oil futures were unaffected by the Category 2 hurricane packing winds of 100 miles per hour. Oil companies working in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico had shut five percent of oil and natural gas output, after evacuating crews by Tuesday, but those outages were expected to be short lived. The companies said they were waiting for most of Dolly to cross the coastline before returning workers to platforms. Valero's Houston refinery processes 130,000 barrels per day, while the Port Arthur refinery handles 295,000 bpd. The Gulf accounts for about 25 percent of U.S. crude oil production and 15 percent of natural gas output.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2349160920080723?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *July 22, ProPublica* – (New York) **New York State tightens drilling controls.** New York State will require drilling companies to disclose all chemicals used to exploit natural gas deposits in upstate New York, according to the deputy secretary for the environment for New York's governor. A ProPublica and WNYC joint investigation into the state's regulatory and environmental oversight of the gas industry found that state environment officials were slow to learn that toxic chemicals were part of the gas drilling process and that those chemicals are typically held as competitive trade secrets by industry. It also found that the state does not have a comprehensive plan for supplying the vast quantities of water needed for drilling or treating that water once it is mixed with the chemicals.

Source: <http://www.propublica.org/article/new-york-state-tightens-drilling-controls-722/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *July 23, Reuters* – (Alabama) **Southern Ala. Farley 1 reactor shut – NRC.** Southern Co.'s Unit 1 at the Farley nuclear power station was shut as of early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said in a report. The unit, which was operating at full power early Tuesday, was shut due to the loss of two emergency diesel generators that would be used in the event of an off-site power outage, the company said in an event notification report. It was put in hot standby mode and was expected to be back in service on Wednesday, the report said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2341517320080723>

5. *July 22, Keene Sentinel* – (Vermont) **Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant back up to full power after repairs.** The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is back up to full power Tuesday after repairs to two cooling towers. A leak in a non-safety-related portion of one of the plant's two cooling towers was reported by Vermont Yankee officials July 11. Officials have determined the leak to be the result of the faulty design of repairs put into place in both towers after the partial collapse of one of the towers last year. The plant had been operating at reduced power.

Source:

<http://sentinelsource.com/articles/2008/07/22/news/local/free/doc4886449b97646347158980.txt>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *July 22 - Military & Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **Boeing completes preliminary design of beam control system for mobile laser weapon.** Boeing officials announced yesterday that the company successfully completed the preliminary design of a rugged beam control system for the U.S. Army's High Energy Laser Technology Demonstrator (HEL TD) program. The objective of the HEL TD program is to demonstrate that a mobile, solid-state laser weapon system can effectively counter rocket, artillery, and mortar projectiles, Boeing officials say. The program will support the transition to a full-fledged Army acquisition program. "While rocket, artillery, and mortar projectiles have traditionally been difficult threats to defeat, HEL TD's speed-of-light, ultra-precision capability will meet the warfighter's needs in this vital mission area," said the vice president and program director of Boeing Directed Energy Systems. The contract contains options that, if exercised, will call for Boeing to build, integrate, and test the beam control system equipped with a command-and-control system on an Army tactical military vehicle, as well as develop the system-engineering requirements for the entire HEL TD system.

Source:

http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ONEWS&PUBLICATI ON_ID=32&ARTICLE_ID=334974&C=ONEWS&dcmp=rss

7. *July 22, Air Force Print News* – (National) **MQ-9 Reaper enhances Air Force capabilities in Iraq.** The Air Force flew its first operational MQ-9 Reaper mission in supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom on July 18. The integration of the Reaper into theater-flight operations significantly enhances the strike and close-air-support capabilities of airpower forces in Iraq. The Reaper has a unique combination of long loiter times and large payloads, integrating and synchronizing with other air assets in the complex battlespace facing commanders. The Reaper’s powerful targeting pod is fully integrated into the existing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance architecture employed by the smaller MQ-1 Predator. Like the Predator, Reapers are primarily flown via satellite from the U.S. “The Reaper, as a close-air-support asset, expands beyond the concept of persistent stare to one of persistent strike. If the ground commander wants us to strike an enemy target, we can do that with precision weapons from the Reaper at the exact point where the ground commander wants a desired effect. It’s an incredibly powerful and flexible capability for the warfighting commander,” said the Combined Force Air Component commander.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123107434>

8. *July 22, Newswise* – (National) **Researchers could help military with explosive threats.** Researchers at University of California San Diego (UCSD) are using statistical pattern recognition and image processing to help the U.S. military better detect hidden roadside explosives. Under a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the National Science Foundation (NSF), a UCSD structural engineering professor is working on an imagery-based surveillance technique which uses visible and infrared images, analyzed by statistical pattern recognition algorithms, to detect and classify suspicious objects such as camouflaged bombs placed at roadside and in airports. The goal of the NSF program, called “Explosives and Related Threats: Frontiers in Prediction and Detection,” is to advance fundamental knowledge in new technologies for sensors and sensor networks, and in the use of sensor data in control and decision making, particularly in relation to the prediction and detection of explosives and related threats. As part of their current research, the professor and his team will collect both visible and infrared signatures of an object and then analyze the images and extract certain features like shape, texture, and material type. The third step will use statistical pattern recognition to determine whether an anomalous object is harmless or not.

Source: <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/542803/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *July 23, Deseret News* – (National) **FBI warns of new e-mail scam.** The Salt Lake City office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is warning of an e-mail scam purporting to come from the FBI director. It claims that a large amount of money has been deposited into customers’ bank account and that the FBI wants to know if it is terrorist-related. “The FBI advises the best thing to do if you receive this e-mail or one similar is to immediately file a complaint with the FBI, then delete it and ignore it,” an

FBI Special Agent said in a statement.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,700245267,00.html>

10. *July 23, Science Daily* – (National) **Potentially serious security flaws found in most bank websites.** More than 75 percent of the bank Web sites surveyed in a University of Michigan study had at least one design flaw that could make customers vulnerable to cyber thieves after their money or even their identity. The study examined the Web sites of 214 financial institutions in 2006. These design flaws stem from the flow and the layout of these Web sites, according to the study. The flaws include placing log-in boxes and contact information on insecure web pages as well as failing to keep users on the site they initially visited. A researcher said some banks may have taken steps to resolve these problems since this data was gathered, but overall he still sees much need for improvement. The flaws leave cracks in security that hackers could exploit to gain access to private information and accounts. The design flaws that the team looked for are: placing secure login boxes on insecure pages, putting contact information and security advice on insecure pages, having a breach in the chain of trust, allowing inadequate user IDs and passwords, and e-mailing security-sensitive information insecurely.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080722175802.htm>

11. *July 22, Web Host Industry Review* – (National) **Phishing attack uses Vegas theme.** Internet intelligence firm Envisional has warned online banking customers about a new Vegas-themed phishing fraud that dupes them into revealing credit card information through fraudulent emails. The criminals behind the attacks claim to be from Visa, MasterCard and American Express and offer email recipients the chance to win \$100,000 or an all-inclusive Las Vegas holiday package. Most phishing attacks come in the form of spam emails addressed to customers of a particular bank and manage to trick a few dozen victims. However, this new tactic threatens more victims, because it uses a single email to target online account holders with any one of 12 major banks, and appears to be more legitimate in that it allows the victim to personally select the right bank from a drop-down list. Envisional analysts say the latest email appears to be from an online travel website, with photos and write-ups depicting grand Las Vegas hotels. Those who click through to the website that offers further information are invited to choose their bank from a drop-down list, making them susceptible to phishing attacks. One further click takes them to a fraudulent web page that mimics the log-in page of the bank in question, with the username in one slot and password in the other.

Source:

http://www.thewhir.com/marketwatch/072208_Phishing_Attack_Uses_Vegas_Theme.cfm

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Transportation Sector

12. *July 23, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Chicago mass transit falls short in evacuation planning, federal report says.** An evacuation amid the chaos following a major terrorist attack or natural disaster in Chicago would leave the elderly and disabled

especially vulnerable, according to a federal report. The report, released Tuesday in Washington, looked at the adequacy of mass-transit emergency evacuation in 38 urban areas, but studied Chicago and four other metropolitan areas in depth. All five areas—Chicago, Houston, Tampa-St. Petersburg, New York and Los Angeles—fell short in some aspects of emergency transit planning, according to National Research Council’s Transportation Research Board. Challenges include limited transit capacity in Los Angeles and lack of public transit personnel during midday hours in Chicago. None of the transportation systems in the five metro areas is prepared to handle a short-notice evacuation of most of their population, the report concluded. Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles also have challenges with coordinating plans for large-scale evacuations because they include numerous cities, counties, even states in the case of the New York area, the report said.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-evacuation-transit_bothjul23,0,3918818.story

13. *July 23, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **House passes FAA safety legislation.** The House passed legislation that would overhaul the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) approach to airline safety, following disclosures of lax oversight by agency inspectors. The bill would force the FAA to adopt two safety recommendations it has resisted in recent weeks: periodically rotating supervisory inspectors to ensure they do not get cozy with airlines, and establishing an independent group to examine safety concerns raised by FAA employees.
Source:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121677609061675827.html?mod=googlenews_wsj
14. *July 23, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Continental flight with 7 congressmen makes emergency landing.** A Continental Airlines flight carrying members of Congress to Washington, District of Columbia, made an emergency landing in New Orleans on Tuesday after a loss in cabin pressure. No injuries were reported among the 128 crew and passengers. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said Flight 458 from Houston initiated a rapid descent to bring the plane to an altitude below where adding oxygen was necessary and was given priority to land at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The emergency landing was the third time in two days a plane was diverted over cabin pressure issues. A US Airways flight and a Northwest Airlines flight were diverted to airports in Kentucky and Wisconsin on Monday over pressure issues.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-07-22-new-orleans-emergency-landing_N.htm
15. *July 23, News Report* – (National) **TSA designates new standard for Performance Information Management System.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has designated the MicroStrategy-based Performance Information Management System (PIMS) as its aviation operations standard. This distinction allows TSA to leverage best practice performance standards using PIMS. PIMS is the TSA business intelligence system used to analyze and disseminate intelligence and information about threat-reduction programs to counter potential threats to people, cargo and commerce across the TSA. PIMS collects, analyzes and reports passenger and baggage screening data and

provides operational performance metrics, such as wait times at selected airports and screening equipment utilization. TSA uses PIMS to run over 1,000,000 reports per year across its user base of 12,000 employees. TSA headquarters and field executive employees use PIMS to streamline operations as well as validate security trends, uncover potential threats and resolve issues. PIMS is the source of the Management Objectives Report (MOR) scorecard, and is used by executives within TSA to monitor performance and adherence to goals for every airport in the nation.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/380063?topic=117691>

16. *July 23, Xinhua* – (International) **Xinjiang deploys explosives detectors at airports for Olympic security.** Chinese authorities have beefed up security checks at all airports in the northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region by deploying explosives detectors to foil possible terror attacks before and during the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics. A total of 42 explosives trace detectors (ETDs) were installed at all entrances to terminal buildings of the 13 airports in the region, said the head of the security check department with the Xinjiang Airport Group Co. Ltd. In addition to the routine security check before boarding a plane, passengers must also receive ETD checks first before entering terminals, he said. “That is to prevent terrorists from bringing explosives to airports.” He revealed that security staff found a bullet in the luggage of a passenger at the international airport in Urumqi, the regional capital. The passenger, who was heading for Bishkek, was detained by police and was now under investigation. ETDs are security equipment able to sniff out explosives of small magnitude or other chemicals. The equipment is used mainly in airports and other vulnerable areas considered susceptible to acts of unlawful interference.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/23/content_8756925.htm

17. *July 22, Department of Homeland Security* – (National) **Joint announcement from the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security on passport card production.** The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Tuesday that the new U.S. Passport Card is in full production and is now being distributed. The Passport Card is a convenient, wallet-sized document for land and sea travel between the United States and Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. It is not valid for international travel by air. Beginning in June 2009, travelers will be required to present a single Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative-compliant document denoting both citizenship and identity when entering the United States through a land or sea border. More than 350,000 Americans pre-ordered the U.S. Passport Cards since the State Department began taking orders on February 1. The passport card will facilitate the frequent travel of Americans living in border communities by utilizing a vicinity-read radio frequency identification (RFID) chip. For privacy protection, no personal information is stored on the electronic chip itself. The Passport Card is available for \$45 for first-time adult applicants and \$35 for children under 16. Adults who currently have valid passports can apply for the passport card by mail for \$20.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1216743005370.shtm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *July 23, USAgNet* – (National) **Food safety developments are in the air.** An experimental treatment from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) could one day help protect some fresh produce from potentially dangerous microbes such as Salmonella, Listeria, and Escherichia coli O157:H7. The treatment relies on cold plasma, which is generated when some form of concentrated energy is introduced into a gas until free electrons are torn from the gas's atoms. This plasma-forming process is related to the technology used to create plasma for computer chips. But in addition to increasing conductivity, the process of turning gas into plasma has an antimicrobial effect. The ARS researchers use air to make plasma. In addition to its economic benefits, air does not need to be confined to a closed chamber during plasma production. Consequently, this particular method of plasma treatment could be done continuously, on a conveyor belt, which would translate to better efficiency and increased cost savings. The scientists observed that any exposure to the plasma resulted in a significant reduction in pathogen numbers without harming the apples. Raising the air flow rate and length of exposure increased the antimicrobial activity.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=1716&yr=2008>

19. *July 23, Western Farmer-Stockman* – (Colorado) **Colorado Ag Dept. expands food safety tests.** The Colorado Department of Agriculture's (CDA) Inspection and Consumer Services Division will receive a federal grant to help detect contamination in the U.S. food supply. CDA's facility is one of only four such units to win the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) award nationally. FERN is a network of laboratories across the U.S. that works quickly in response to food-related emergencies. The funding will take effect in October and will expand current CDA testing on fresh produce and include validation studies, method development, and related research for food-borne pathogens, contaminants, and adulterants. According to FERN, the goal of the cooperative agreement is to "enhance and expand the capabilities and capacities of the FERN laboratories to be able to analyze various food matrices for microbiological threat agents utilizing FERN methods in order to be able to quickly and accurately respond to any potential threats to the nation's food supply." CDA's biochemistry lab provides analyses on a variety of matrices, including animal feeds, fertilizers, soil, vegetation, and water. The facility also includes a microbiology section which employs techniques to analyze human and animal foods for harmful bacteria, and examines animal feeds for the presence of antibiotics and prohibited materials.

Source:

<http://westernfarmerstockman.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=34947&fpstid=2>

20. *July 23, Reuters* – (National) **"Greenhouse" bees spread disease to wild bees.** Disease

spread to wild bees from commercially bred bees used for pollination in agriculture greenhouses may be playing a role in the mysterious decline in North American bee populations, researchers said on Tuesday. Experts warn the bee disappearance eventually could harm agriculture and the food supply. Canadian researchers studied another type of bee, the bumblebee, near two large greenhouse operations in southern Ontario where commercially reared pollination bees are used in the growing of crops such. The researchers devised a mathematical model to predict how disease might spread from this “spillover” of runaway commercial bees to their wild cousins. The researchers then sampled wild bumblebee populations around the greenhouses, catching bees in butterfly nets and taking them back to a laboratory to screen for pathogens, including testing their feces. Most of the parasites in the wild bumblebees were found to be at normal levels except for one intestinal parasite known as *Crithidia bombi* that is common in commercial bee colonies, but typically absent in wild bumblebees. The researchers found that up to half of wild bumblebees near the greenhouses were infected with this parasite.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSN2232266420080723?feedType=RSS&feedName=scienceNews&sp=true>

21. *July 22, Reuters* – (International) **Japan feeds animals recycled leftovers.** With animal feed and fertilizer prices at record highs, Japan’s food recycling industry is seeing greater demand for pellets for pigs and poultry made from recycled leftovers. Japan disposes of some 20 millions tons of food waste a year, five times as much as world food aid to the poor in 2007. The leftovers used to be dumped in land fills where they decomposed and produced the greenhouse gas methane. Government legislation since 2001 has spurred a recycling industry that turns food scraps into animal feed and fertilizer, or ships leftovers off to facilities where the methane gas produced by rotting food is harnessed to power industrial plants. The feed is not used for cattle or sheep due to strict health regulations to prevent Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or Mad Cow’s disease. Japan’s food industry recycles more than 70 percent of leftovers. About half is turned into feed, less than five percent into methane, and the rest into fertilizer.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUST21465920080723?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews&sp=true>

22. *July 21, KSWO 7 Lawton* - (Oklahoma) **Altus officials plan for potential “agro-terrorism” attacks.** The Oklahoma Extension Service and the Oklahoma Department of Food and Forestry partnered to educate the community to make it through a potential disaster with minimal impact. Altus County Commissioners, Sheriff and Police Departments, and Emergency Management officials, came together to develop a plan to prepare for a potential attack on their community. A Food, Animal Quality, and Health specialist says that if crops and livestock were attacked, the U.S. economy would plummet. He said that safeguarding crops and livestock is impossible at this point. The cost to eradicate a disease can cost \$1 million per day, and it would take resources at every level to pay for it. He said, “Agriculture is a critical infrastructure that means it

risers to the top immediately. If something happens it will be deemed a national emergency.” Oklahoma is an ideal target for “agro-terrorism. Anywhere that agriculture is important is a potential target,” he said. “Oklahoma is a major beef cattle state as well as crop production. It’s also a major transportation center and crossroads for a lot of livestock movement.” He said an attack’s impact would be incalculable. “The cost of the disease outbreak would be proportional to the time it takes to contain it.”

Source: <http://www.kswo.com/Global/story.asp?S=8711076>

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Water Sector

23. *July 23, Gannett News Service* – (New York) **Water supplies to be monitored.** To help protect public water supplies, an early warning system is being implemented in the Southern Tier of New York, officials said Tuesday at a news conference. Elmira and Binghamton water suppliers are joining a network of four others in Pennsylvania that are already participating in the system. “Not only will the water suppliers know what’s in the water but how long it will take for each intake pipe to be affected,” the executive director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission said during the news conference. The commission has been installing and testing the final pieces of equipment needed to deploy the early warning system for the Southern Tier water supplies, he said. Once implemented, the monitoring stations can track pH levels, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen levels, conductivity, and organic contaminants in real time. Catastrophic spills do not occur frequently, but spills do occur more often than people would think. There were more than 500 recorded spill incidents in the Chemung and Upper Susquehanna regions in 2005. The general manager of the Elmira Water Board said the early warning system will augment security upgrades implemented after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that include alarm systems in facilities, fencing, cameras, and increased monitoring of remote sites by employees.

Source:

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080723/NEWS01/8072309/1006>

24. *July 22, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **More than 120 fish found dead in reservoir.** More than 120 sucker fish were found dead in the Dillon Reservoir in Colorado. All the fish were found near the Meadow Creek inlet which sits under Highway 9 in the town of Frisco. Early on, investigators thought the fish might have died from a lack of oxygen, but that has been ruled out. Working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Division of Wildlife (DOW) now believes the fish kill may be the result of some sort of spill in Meadow Creek. If it was a chemical, the DOW says it is gone now and no other fish have been affected. The Dillon Reservoir is a major source of water for the city of Denver. A Denver Water spokesperson says there is no evidence that the water has been affected by the fish kill. It is also unclear if the spill might be related to the closure of the Dillon Dam Road. After Denver Water closed the road, many in Denver and in Summit County expressed anger over one of only three east-west roads in Summit County being closed.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=96259&catid=339>

25. *July 21, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Hundreds of cities lack sewers, lawmakers told.** State lawmakers discussed Monday whether the state should do more to address problems raised by the roughly 600 Iowa cities that lack sewers. The issue is getting attention now in light of this year’s massive floods. Many rural communities have built wastewater systems that dump untreated water into Iowa rivers or ditches. Untreated water often contains high levels of pollutants, including bacteria and pathogens that can make people sick or die. Most communities that lack sewers have lagoon or septic systems that dilute the pollutants before they reach Iowa waterways. Even so, proper sewer systems are needed, state officials have said. Roughly 12 communities each year are added to a multi-year system of planning and grant appropriations, state environmental officials told lawmakers Monday. In addition, cities like Des Moines are gearing up for massive sewer improvements that will cost hundreds of millions of dollars for such changes as a separation of sanitary and storm water systems. Some lawmakers fear that such mammoth projects could siphon millions of state and federal grants from the communities without sewers and, ultimately, delay progress even further.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080721/NEWS/80721027/1001>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *July 22, Bloomberg* – (National) **Immigrants to U.S. from Africa, Asia should be screened for TB.** Immigrants to the U.S. from Africa and Southeast Asia should be tested and treated for tuberculosis (TB) before they arrive to prevent importing the disease, according to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said screening immigrants and refugees from the Philippines and Vietnam would have detected almost half the average 250 TB cases brought into the U.S. each year from 2001 to 2006. The study may help U.S. health officials design policies to prevent more cases of TB by focusing screening on the highest-risk groups, the authors said. Most cases of the lethal respiratory disease among those born outside the U.S. occur when latent forms of the disease they are carrying become active and contagious, according to the study. Researchers with the CDC’s division of tuberculosis elimination analyzed data from the U.S. National TB Surveillance System and found almost 47,000 cases of the disease among foreign-born people in the U.S. from 2001 to 2006. Of those, 28 percent had entered the country within two years of the disease’s detection.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=a7ZG5Ft2vQH8&refer=home>

27. *July 22, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Missouri health care system to pay \$60 million to settle False Claims Act allegations.** Lester E. Cox Medical Centers, a health care system headquartered in Springfield, Missouri, has agreed to pay the U.S.

\$60 million to settle claims that it violated the False Claims Act, the Anti-Kickback Statute, and the Stark Statute between 1996 and 2005, by entering into certain financial relationships with referring doctors at a local physician group and engaging in improper billing practices with respect to Medicare. Under the Stark Statute, Medicare providers like Cox are prohibited from billing the federal health care program for referrals from doctors with whom the providers have a financial relationship, unless that relationship falls within certain exceptions. The United States contended that certain relationships between Cox and physicians ran afoul of the Anti-Kickback Statute, which prohibits offering inducements to providers in return for patient referrals, and the Stark statute. Additional claims being resolved concern Cox's inclusion of non-reimbursable costs on its Medicare cost reports and improper billings for services provided to dialysis patients. Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/missouri-health-care-system-pay/story.aspx?guid=%7BCC084AE9-3BFA-42C4-B3DC-B3491D33B371%7D&dist=hppr>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *July 23, KTVU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **Major security breach at SF city agency exposed.** A KTVU 2 San Francisco investigation has uncovered a potentially serious security breach from a San Francisco city agency that has put some people's personal data out on the street. Potentially thousands of people's personal information was exposed after a San Francisco agency left confidential files in unsecured curbside garbage and recycling bins. In some cases, entire case files were discarded. Blown up copies of social security cards, driver's licenses, passports, bank statements, and other sensitive personal information were all left in these unlocked bins. Almost immediately after KTVU discovered the security breach, San Francisco officials imposed a number of reforms, including many more secure waste paper disposal sites, new training for employees, and a new policy of never placing any garbage cans out on the street at the Department of Human Services. Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/16961916/detail.html>
29. *July 23, Brookline TAB* – (Massachusetts) **Security tightened at Brookline DPW yards after meter theft.** Four months after an employee allegedly stole 250 pounds of scrap metal from a Massachusetts town's garage, officials said they have taken new steps to heighten security and prevent future thefts. According to the commissioner, the Department of Public Works has installed eight new cameras at the Water Department garage, where the water meter allegedly was stolen and plans to install additional cameras at the department's other facilities. Meanwhile, police are investigating whether other employees were involved in the theft. A video surveillance system was in place at the time of the theft, but the new cameras were added "so that we can touch on the spots that weren't covered." Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/brookline/news/x1470910551/Security-tightened-at-Brookline-DPW-yards-after-meter-theft>
30. *July 22, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Explosive device falls from man's knapsack**

near UMB. A man who was stopped Tuesday morning and questioned by a police officer near the University of Maryland's Baltimore campus was arrested after a makeshift explosive device fell from his knapsack when he fought with the officer, authorities said. The man was being questioned by detectives, and charges had not been filed Tuesday evening. The spokesman would not describe the device further, saying only that it "would have been unable to do serious damage." About 11:30 a.m., Baltimore police bomb squad members detonated the device. Police from the University of Maryland, Baltimore are expected to file assault charges, and city police would charge the man with possessing an explosive device. The suspect was arrested about one block west of the main downtown campus, and the motive "does not appear to [be] anything related to the university."

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-explosive0722,0,3502583.story?track=rss

31. *July 22, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Prison for 2 in Charlotte school bomb plan.** Two men who were part of a plot to detonate a bomb near a Charlotte school to divert police away from a proposed bank robbery have been sentenced to prison for their roles. Police arrested the men on the morning of their planned robbery last August. The men planned to rob the Founders Federal Credit Union and decided to build and detonate two pipe bombs near a school, or some other public facility, to get the attention of police and allow them to pull off the robbery more easily. But a tip to the York County Sheriff's Office allowed police to arrest the four men on the morning of the planned robbery. Federal officials say police found two pipe bombs inside the house.

Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/723750.html

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *July 23, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island; National) **U.S. stockpiling antidotes to counter a biological threat.** The assistant secretary for health affairs and chief medical officer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security testified about the possibility of a biological threat in the country and how prepared health and Homeland Security officials were to handle it. A field hearing of the House Subcommittee of Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, Science, and Technology convened at the Rhode Island State House Tuesday gauged the progress of the state and nation's preparedness for a biological threat. State and federal officials told the subcommittee that plans and preparation had progressed, but more work needed to be done. The national stockpile of antidotes is being built, the federal government is working with companies to develop vaccines and antidotes to biological threats and more technology is needed to detect an airborne biological hazard. The assistant secretary indicated that if a virus or a biological attack such as airborne anthrax spread through a mid-sized city, it may not be detected for several days. Consequently, many people would suddenly flood into doctors' offices and hospital emergency rooms, overwhelming the health-care providers attempting to treat the ill and find out the cause. By then, the illness would have progressed and spread, become difficult to treat and its effect would be felt at every level of society.

Source: http://www.projo.com/news/politics/content/langevin_homeland_security_07-23-08_SCAUVG9_v14.3f62f4b.html

33. *July 23, New Jersey Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Fake terror attack gives county real edge.** More than 150 emergency responders took part in a Homeland Security drill at Codey Arena in West Orange, New Jersey Tuesday morning. Essex County officials, who ran the drill, said it gave local, state, and national responders a chance to practice in case of an actual emergency. In the mock scenario, West Orange police received a 911 call about noxious fumes inside the Codey Arena. People were removed from the arena, decontaminated, and taken to area hospitals. The county’s hazardous materials team arrived and once the incident was determined to be a terrorist attack, state and federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and National Guard, were brought in to assist. The drill involved the county’s hazardous materials squad, K-9 dogs, bomb squad, local fire and police departments, and emergency squads, as well as Boy Scouts volunteers who served as “victims” of the gas attack and various state agencies.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-5/1216787749283240.xml&coll=1>

34. *July 22, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Audit of states’ pandemic plans finds more work needed.** A Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit of states’ influenza pandemic plans found that while they all had developed a plan in accordance with federal pandemic funding requirements, “on average the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) found that states’ plans had ‘many major gaps’ in 16 of 22 priority areas, like policy process for school closure and communication.” In its audit of the five states and ten localities that have developed pandemic plans, GAO also found that state and local “officials ... would welcome additional guidance from the federal government in a number of areas to help them to better plan and exercise for an influenza pandemic, in areas such as community containment.” GAO stated in its report on the audit that “three of these areas were also identified as having “many major gaps” in states’ plans nationally in the HHS-led review.

Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/4355/149/>

35. *July 22, Muncie Star Press* – (Indiana) **EMA official loses \$8,300 weapons detector.** A Delaware County Emergency Management official lost a chemical weapon detector worth \$8,300 last month, reporting that it fell out his truck. Delaware County sheriff’s investigators reported no leads recently in the case where the EMA deputy director, reported the device lost while he was driving home to Anderson. The incident happened June 20. He said a fellow motorist told him the rear door of his county hazardous materials truck was open. He checked and found the chemical weapons detector was missing, and reported it to county sheriff’s department. The device resembles a large, yellow radar gun with an electronic device housed in a black plastic case. The EMA has about \$250,000 worth of equipment used for detecting chemical, biological, and radioactive materials. Much of the equipment was bought after 9/11 with federal homeland security funds.

Source:

<http://www.thestarpress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080722/NEWS01/807220318/1002>

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Information Technology

36. *July 23, Independent* – (International) **Virus ‘has infected major Government websites’**. Key U.K. Government websites have been infected by a virus that allows cyber-criminals to steal browsers’ personal details, it was reported today. More than a thousand government and consumer sites are said to have been hit, including some run by the National Health Service and a local council. The Times Online said the hackers are Eastern European and that security experts estimate at least two million computers worldwide have been affected. It reports that the Asprox virus is unlike other viruses; it sits undetected on mainstream sites and automatically installs itself on a user’s computer potentially allowing the hackers to have access to financial information. The director of malware research at SecureWorks, said Asprox “appears to be trying to build up the size of the botnet, infecting people through web pages by adding an IFRAME.” According to securecomputing.net, the attacks occur on websites that are running Microsoft SQL-SVR (Server) that already have some sort of vulnerability.

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/virus-has-infected-major-government-websites-875306.html>

37. *July 23, IDG News Service* – (California) **San Francisco’s mayor gets back keys to the network**. San Francisco’s mayor met with a jailed IT administrator on Monday, convincing him to hand over the administrative passwords to the city’s multimillion-dollar wide-area network (WAN). The man made headlines last week when he was arrested and charged with four counts of computer tampering, after he refused to give over passwords to the Cisco Systems switches and routers used on the city’s FiberWAN network, which carries about 60 percent of the municipal government’s network traffic. Childs, who managed the network before his arrest, has been locked up in the county jail since July 13. The mayor secured the passwords without first telling Department of Telecommunications and Information Services (DTIS) about the meeting, according to DTIS’ chief administrative officer. The department now has full administrative control of the network, he said in an interview Tuesday night.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110520&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

38. *July 23, IDG News Service* – (National) **With DNS flaw now public, attack code imminent**. One day after a security company accidentally posted details of a serious flaw in the Internet’s Domain Name System (DNS), hackers are saying that software that exploits this flaw is sure to pop up soon. Several hackers are almost certainly already developing attack code for the bug, and it will most likely crop up within the next few days, said the chief technology officer at security vendor Immunity Inc. His company will eventually develop sample code for its Canvas security testing software

too, a task he expects to take about a day, given the simplicity of the attack. The author of one widely used hacking tool said he expected to have an exploit by the end of Tuesday. In a telephone interview, the author of the Metasploit penetration testing software agreed that the attack code was not going to be difficult to write.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110521&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

39. *July 23, Buffalo News* – (New York) **Strike possible Aug. 2 at Verizon.** Union workers at Verizon have authorized a strike if talks fail to reach an agreement with the phone company by August 2, when the current contract expires. The Communications Workers of America (CWA) approved the strike authorization by a 91 percent vote, the union said Monday. Another phone-workers union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), previously authorized a strike on July 11 if talks fail. The CWA and the IBEW are in talks with Verizon to replace their current five-year contracts. A total of 65,000 union workers from Virginia to Maine are covered by contracts that expire August 2. In Western New York, the two unions represent nearly 2,800 workers who install lines, maintain equipment and answer customer service calls at Verizon. Verizon said that contingency plans are in place to continue phone service in the event of a strike, and called the authorization votes a routine action.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/145/story/397752.html>

40. *July 23, Tech Herald* – (National) **RIM offers critical patch for BlackBerry.** Research in Motion (RIM) has released a security patch for businesses that rely on its BlackBerry PDA. The patch addresses vulnerabilities in BlackBerry Enterprise Server versions 4.1.3 through 4.1.5 and BlackBerry Professional Software 4.1.4.A vulnerability exists in the PDF distiller of some versions of the BlackBerry Attachment Service. An e-mail message containing a specially crafted PDF file, which, when opened for viewing on a BlackBerry, could cause memory corruption and possibly lead to arbitrary code execution on the computer that the BlackBerry Attachment Service runs on. Rated 'Critical,' with a Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) score of 9.0, RIM advises everyone to patch as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.thetechherald.com/article.php/200830/1554/RIM-offers-critical-patch-for-BlackBerry-Brief>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *July 22, Daily Sentinel* – (Colorado) **97 forest leases could go through despite Ritter plan.** A plan backed by Colorado’s governor aimed at preventing drilling on western Colorado national forests will allow 97 leases to be developed, an environmental group said. The plan drawn up by a task force dealing with drilling on roadless areas in national forests backfired, according to the Pew Environmental Trust. A loophole allows the possibility of drilling most of those leases on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison national forests, according to the group. Recoverable oil and gas from the leases are small, the report said. Colorado’s national forest lands, however, “could end up as the country’s least protected national forests and become a target for drilling and other development,” said the public-lands program director for the Pew group. Clear Fork Divide on the Gunnison National Forest contains wildlife corridors and black-bear habitat that needs to be protected, said the director of organizing for the Western Colorado Congress. The report apparently failed to take into account requirements by the roadless task force that there be no surface occupancy on the areas, a state senator said. No-surface-occupancy provisions require techniques that allow drilling companies to reach gas reserves by directional, not vertical, drilling.

Source:

http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2008/07/22/072308_3a_GMUG_drilling.html

42. *July 22, KSBW 9 Monterey* – (California) **Basin complex wildfire keeps growing.** Firefighters said the Basin Complex wildfire in the Los Padres National Forest grew by another 960 acres Tuesday morning. The fire has scorched 138,000 acres since it started with a lightning strike on June 21. Firefighters said the fire was 72 percent contained on Tuesday. They expect it to be fully contained in about a week.

Source: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/16960936/detail.html>

43. *July 22, KXTV 10 Sacramento; Associated Press* – (National) **Union Pacific to pay \$102 million for wildfire damage.** Union Pacific Railroad Co. will pay \$102 million for causing the Storrie Fire in California’s Plumas and Lassen National Forests in 2000. This settlement represents the U.S. Forest Service’s largest-ever damage recovery for a wildfire. The blaze burned 52,000 acres of federal forest land, taking three weeks and costing \$22 million to put out. Sacramento’s U.S. attorney said the case is groundbreaking because prosecutors in his office used new formulas to calculate the loss to taxpayers in a federally protected wilderness area. He said the loss is not just in timber, but in the recreational value. A Union Pacific spokeswoman said Tuesday that the Omaha, Nebraska-based company agreed to settle after a federal judge ruled against it in February. She said employees thought they had extinguished the blaze.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=45195&provider=top>

44. *July 22, Emmetsburg Reporter* – (Iowa) **Arrests made in statue vandalism.** On June 21 Emmetsburg Police officers arrested three Emmetsburg juveniles late last week. According to the Emmetsburg Police chief, juvenile referrals were issued to the three juveniles, aged nine and ten, on charges of Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony. The arrests are in connection with the destruction of two statues at the Veterans’ Memorial in Emmetsburg. An officer on patrol discovered three of the four statues tipped over during the early morning hours of June 21. Two of the three statues were damaged beyond repair, while the third and fourth statues were not damaged. Damages to the statues were estimated at approximately \$4,000.

Source: <http://www.emmetsburgnews.com/page/content.detail/id/500439.html>

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Dams Sector

45. *July 23, MSNBC* – (Texas) **Hurricane Dolly hits near South Padre Island.** Hurricane Dolly strengthened early Wednesday as it approached the Gulf Coast near the Texas-Mexico. The center of the Category 1 hurricane was expected to make landfall later Wednesday and dump up to 15 inches of rain, threatening flooding that could breach levees in the heavily populated Rio Grande valley. Texas officials urged residents to move away from the Rio Grande levees because if Dolly continues to follow the same path as 1967’s Hurricane Beulah, “the levees are not going to hold that much water,” said Cameron County’s Emergency Management coordinator. The storm, combined with levees that have deteriorated in the 41 years since Beulah swept up the Rio Grande, pose a major flooding threat. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), which operates a series of levees, dams, and floodways in the lower Rio Grande Valley, put its personnel on standby alert. If needed, the IBWC will begin patrolling the levees around the clock looking for seepage and erosion, said a spokeswoman. The IBWC made significant improvements to the levee system after Beulah and its studies showed that a 100-year flood in Cameron County would not top the levees. Levees upstream in Hidalgo County are in the midst of improvements, but the river could spill over sections in a 100-year flood.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25783373/>

46. *July 22, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Crews race to shore up levees along Kent Valley.** Work crews are busy shoring up the levees through the Kent Valley in Washington. The emergency repair work is being done in a hurry. The crews are tearing down the old levees and putting in new stronger ones. They are ahead of schedule, which is important because they have to be done by mid-September to get ahead of the autumn rain and to get done before the spawning fish start coming up river. The problems they are fixing showed up following the storms of 2006 when cracks appeared on the levees through the Kent Valley.

Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/25782129.html>

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