



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 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/>

- Software, called Intellipur, monitors the quality of food and drinks as they move from harvesting or production to grocery store shelves. It also regulates food quality in storage or transit with the use of ozone. (See item [23](#))
- The Committee on the Role of Public Transportation in Emergency Evacuation National Academy of Sciences this week released a study, which provides the most comprehensive review to date of the readiness, or lack thereof, of major public transit systems. (See item [42](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

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

1. *July 25, Reuters* – (National; Texas) **Dolly's impact on Gulf of Mexico oil sector.** Companies were returning workers to U.S. Gulf of Mexico oil and gas platforms and restoring output shut due to Dolly. Shut-in gas was 5.5 percent of Gulf output Thursday, July 24, down from 7.9 percent July 23, and shut-in oil was 1.4 percent of Gulf output, down from 4.5 percent July 23. Dolly became a hurricane Tuesday afternoon and came ashore north of Port Isabel, Texas, about midday Wednesday. It dumped flooding rain over south Texas before breaking up near the Texas-Mexico border late Thursday. The Gulf provides 25 percent of U.S. oil output and 15 percent of U.S. natural gas production.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2262065920080725>

2. *July 24, Reuters* – (International) **Greenpeace protest targets Syncrude oil sands mine.** Greenpeace protesters targeted a waste-water pipe at a Syncrude Canada Ltd oil sands project on Thursday, demanding a halt to rising crude production in the region, which they say is devastating the environment. Greenpeace said in a release that protesters put a cap on the pipe to a toxic waste-water pond at the Aurora North mine at Syncrude's project site near Fort McMurray in northern Alberta, Canada. They also raised a banner that read "World's Dirtiest Oil: Stop the Tar Sands," and put a skull-and-crossbones flag atop yet another pipe into the tailings pond. Syncrude said the incident did not interfere with its operations, but added that the protesters broke into the area through a locked gate. Greenpeace said 11 protesters were arrested by police, ticketed for trespassing, and released.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2445072420080724?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=10218>

3. *July 24, Reuters* – (National; Louisiana) **Spill closes Miss. River, shuts off exports.** The largest petroleum spill to hit the Mississippi River since 2005's Hurricane Katrina snarled ship traffic on Thursday from New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico and brought flows of key exports to a standstill. A major coal shipping terminal south of New Orleans, United Bulk Terminal, which sends coal to other parts of the U.S. and overseas, declared force majeure on deliveries. Coast Guard officials were working to prioritize shipments, and "refineries are high on the list," the captain said. Three refineries are located in the area of the spill along with two major coal-loading terminals, United and one operated by Kinder Morgan. There were no reports of impacts on the refineries. The refineries are operated by ConocoPhillips, Murphy Oil, and Chalmette Refining LLC. "We get most of our crude via pipeline, so that means that we can operate without issues for a couple of days," said a ConocoPhillips spokesman.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2428093720080724?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

4. *July 24, Reuters* – (Texas) **Texas grid damage seen after Dolly.** American Electric Power Co. (AEP) said 22 high-voltage power lines were shut Thursday in south Texas, a day after Hurricane Dolly came ashore with 100 miles per hour wind. AEP lines accounted for most of the 28 lines the Texas grid operator said were out of service Thursday in the Rio Grande Valley. Two 345-kilovolt (kv) lines belonging to AEP were shut in Cameron County, said a spokesman, along with a dozen 138-kv lines and eight 69-kv lines. He said it was too soon to determine whether the storm damaged transmission tower structures or simply knocked lines out of service. High wind from the remnants of the storm prevented aerial inspection of the lines early Thursday. Across the storm-damaged area, four 345-kv lines were shut after the storm, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which said the lack of transmission posed no reliability problems Thursday. However, the agency issued an emergency notice for the Brownsville area, saying 50,000 more customers could lose power if the remaining

transmission line serving the area shut. Late Thursday, AEP said the number of customers without power fell to 155,500, down from more than 200,000 earlier in the day.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ELECTU/idUSN2411776420080725>

5. *July 24, Platts* – (Alaska) **Alaska’s main cities at ‘crossroads’ in electricity needs: study.** Six Alaska utilities, which service the state’s main population centers known as the Railbelt region, should join together to form a state power authority that would oversee regional generation and transmission operations, according to a draft report released late Wednesday. Black & Veatch developed the study for the Alaska Legislature. Under the proposal, the utilities – Anchorage Municipal Light & Power, Golden Valley Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association, Chugach Electric Association, Homer Electric Association, and the Seward Electric System – would become distribution utilities. The Railbelt region is at a “crossroads” with the need to invest \$5.8 billion over the next 30 years on new generation, the report estimates. Forming a state power authority would let utilities issue tax-exempt bonds and also possibly receive state funding for the expansion, the report said. The proposed state power authority would provide independent, coordinated operation of the Railbelt electric transmission system as well as economic dispatch of the Railbelt region’s generation facilities, the report said. It would be responsible for regional planning and joint development of new facilities. The Railbelt utilities would continue to own their existing assets under the plan.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6926716.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

6. *July 24, CNN* – (Utah) **Feds blame mine operator for fatal collapse.** The U.S. government Thursday announced its highest penalty for coal mine safety violations, \$1.85 million, for a collapse that killed six miners in Utah last year. Insufficient pillar support and activity in areas that should not have been mined caused the August Crandall Canyon mine collapse, federal investigators found. The government fined the mine operator, Genwal Resources, \$1.34 million “for violations that directly contributed to the deaths of six miners last year,” plus nearly \$300,000 for other violations. The government also levied a \$220,000 fine against a mining consultant, Agapito Associates, “for faulty analysis of the mine’s design.”

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/07/24/mine.collapse/index.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *July 25, Reuters* – (International) **Indian villagers burn Dow Chemical building site.** About 100 people worried about industrial pollution set fire to a construction site of a local unit of Dow Chemical Co in western India on Friday, police and a Dow official said. The company is setting up a research and development centre with an initial investment of \$90 million near Shinde village, about 120 miles from Mumbai. For many Indians, Dow is synonymous with the catastrophic industrial accident in Bhopal in

central India in 1984, when tones of toxic gas leaked from a pesticide plant owned at the time by Union Carbide. Nearly 3,800 people died soon after exposure to the gas, while tens of thousands more people were made sick. Union Carbide later became a subsidiary of Dow. There is still argument over who should clean up the site, which remains polluted. Intruders broke into the construction site at around 8.30 a.m. and set an office and two vehicles on fire, said a superintendent of police in the area. No one was injured. Four people have been arrested. "It was an act of vandalism," said a spokesman for Dow India. The extent of the damage was being assessed. Dow Chemical Co is the largest U.S. chemical maker. Dow says the new research centre will open in 2008 and house 500 scientists by 2010, looking into energy conservation, water purification and pharmaceuticals.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSBOM25940220080725>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *July 25, WFFF 44 Burlington* – (Vermont) **Yankee hearing wraps up.** Representatives of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) faced questioning from a panel of judges weighing a citizen group's challenge to the proposed relicensing of Vermont Yankee nuclear plant. The three-member panel of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, which has been holding a hearing all week in Newfane, grilled NRC staff and representatives of Entergy Nuclear on Thursday, about a computer model that is supposed to determine the effects of aging in the piping of the 36-year-old power plant. A former Entergy Nuclear engineer told the panel the computer model, called ChecWorks, would be better if it were updated regularly with recent data. The New England Coalition, which brought the challenge being heard, says the computer program is outdated and inadequate for predicting future piping problems.

Source: <http://www.fox44.net/Global/story.asp?S=8734258>

9. *July 24, Platts* – (New Jersey) **U.S. NRC panel denies challenge to Oyster Creek license renewal.** A review of challenges to the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant's license renewal request will not be reopened to consider metal fatigue issues, a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board panel said in a Thursday order. Nuclear Information and Resource Service and five other groups petitioned the panel in April to reopen its proceedings, which were concluded in December, to consider whether to accept a newly filed contention. The contention, said that new information from NRC, suggested that a metal fatigue methodology may have been inaccurately applied by licensee AmerGen, an Exelon subsidiary that operates the Oyster Creek plant, in analyses used to support its application for a 20-year extension of the station's license, which expires in April 2009. In its order, in which two judges concurred, the panel said the groups had failed "to demonstrate that the newly proffered contention raises a significant safety issue" and did not "demonstrate that consideration of its evidence would likely result in a materially different outcome in the license renewal process."

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6927145.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *July 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Navy: No more DDG-1000s.** The Navy confirmed Thursday it is terminating the costly next-generation Zumwalt DDG-1000 destroyer. The Navy secretary and other top Navy leaders have been on Capitol Hill this week to explain plans to scrap the costly Zumwalt after the initial two are built. Instead, the Navy hopes to build eight more DDG-51 Arleigh Burke destroyers, which cost half as much per ship. Breaking the Navy's silence, a lieutenant said Thursday that advances made in the Zumwalt will pay dividends later as the technology is used in future ships. By Navy figures, the cost of the Zumwalt is estimated to be more than double the \$1.2 billion price tag of current destroyers, while congressional budget analysts put the bill even higher at \$5 billion each. Under the long-range shipbuilding plan that is still officially on the books, the Navy intended to buy only seven DDG-1000s. The Zumwalt was conceived as a stealth warship with massive firepower to pave the way for Marines to make their way ashore. It features advanced technology, composite materials, an unconventional wave-piercing hull, and a smaller crew.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/1216977348265960.xml&coll=3>

11. *July 24, CNN* – (National) **Air Force says officers fell asleep with nuke code.** Three Air Force officers fell asleep while in control of an electronic component that contained old launch codes for nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles, a violation of procedure, Air Force officials said Thursday. The Air Force said the launch codes had been deactivated before the incident, but it was still a violation of protocol, prompting an investigation. One of the parts, a code component, is for storage and processing. It is considered classified by the Air Force. A code component was removed from the equipment at the remote missile-control facility and replaced with a new code component. That made the old component inoperable, but an Air Force source said old launch codes were still contained in the part. The component was later returned to the Minot base, and the investigations of procedural violations were started by Missile Command, Space Command, the 20th Air Force and the National Security Agency. The investigation revealed the codes were not compromised, according to the Air Force. The codes had remained secured, and the crew was inside an area protected by Air Force security at all times, the investigation concluded. It is the fourth incident in the past year involving problems with secure handling of components of America's nuclear weapons.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/07/24/missile.error/index.html>

12. *July 24, Air Force Link* – (Alaska) **Eielson possible home for alternative fuels facility.** Federal, state, and local government leaders met July 18 in Fairbanks, Alaska, to plan Alaska's energy future. During the summit, organizers presented a construction proposal

to have a coal-to-liquid fuel facility built here. Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) is one of three locations being researched as the possible home for this alternative fuels facility. Once operational the facility could expand domestic resources and reduce the U.S. dependency on foreign oil. The 354th Fighter Wing spent \$12.5 million alone in 2007 on jet fuel at a rate of \$2.20 a gallon. “Currently we have added \$10 million to the defense budget to help develop this project,” a senator in attendance said. The senator said he hopes once the facility is operational, it will produce approximately 20,000 to 40,000 barrels per day depending on the size of the final facility. While Eielson AFB would be a key consumer of this product, using it for jet fuel and ground vehicles, surplus product would enhance energy needs throughout the state. During the summit the committee estimated construction of this facility would cost \$3.5 to \$6 billion, the final costs will be determined by the size of the facility. Currently, the Air Force has tested and certified a synthetic and JP-8 fuel blend on the B-52 Stratofortress, C-17 Globemaster III, and B-1B Lancer. “The Air Force has made a commitment to certify our entire fleet to fly on a 50/50 blend of synthetic and JP-8 fuel,” the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health said.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123107974>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *July 25, Itweb.co.za* – (National) **Hackers attack businesses, Sophos security report reveals.** IT security and control firm Sophos has published new research into the first six months of cybercrime in 2008. The Sophos Security Threat Report examines existing and emerging security trends and has identified that criminals have honed their attacks to take advantage of weaknesses in the corporate workplace. At the same time, 2008 has seen unprecedented numbers of attacks against company Web sites, designed to infect visiting customers. The firm’s report reveals that corporate executives have been put at risk during the first six months of 2008 with targeted attacks, known as spear-phishing, designed to steal information from individuals at specific corporations rather than the internet community at large. In April, there was a specifically targeted malware campaign emailed to CEOs of various companies, all pretending to be subpoenas from U.S. federal courts, trying to frighten the hand-picked recipients into opening the dangerous attachment.

Source: <http://www.crime-research.org/news/25.07.2008/3475/>

14. *July 25, Greenville Sun* – (National) **Phone scam hit us, other U.S. areas as well.** Greene County, Tennessee, was not the only area of the country hit by an international telephone scam designed to drain the bank accounts of the unwary. A resident agent in charge of the Knoxville office of the U.S. Secret Service said some 8 to 10 areas of the country were targeted recently by an international organized crime group. The organized crime group, the official said, routed recorded messages to U.S. phone numbers through an Iowa telephone company where the group had leased a block of telephone numbers. Thousands of Greene County residents received telephone calls on Wednesday night and Thursday morning that claimed to be from Andrew Johnson Bank and which warned the

recipients that their bank cards had been canceled. The recorded messages directed persons to call a Des Moines, Iowa, telephone number, supposedly to get their bank cards reinstated. When that number was called, residents heard another recorded message that directed them to key in their bank account and PIN numbers. He also noted that Andrew Johnson Bank's own records were not compromised by the scam. He said the criminals did not obtain telephone numbers of local residents from the bank. Instead, he said, the criminals apparently used computer software to sequentially generate calls to many telephone numbers in the 423 area code on Wednesday and Thursday. That, he said, is why many people who had no banking relationship with Andrew Johnson Bank received the automated telephone calls. One of the other areas affected by a similar scam was in central Missouri, according to an article posted on the Web site of KRCC in Jefferson City, Missouri. The July 18 article said Central Bank there had been targeted in similar fashion to Andrew Johnson Bank.

Source: <http://www.greenevillesun.com/story/296659>

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Transportation Sector

15. *July 25, International Herald Tribune* – (International) **Hole in Qantas jet forces emergency landing.** A Qantas airliner en route from Hong Kong to Melbourne made an emergency landing in Manila on Friday, after a hole was ripped in its fuselage, causing the plane to lose cabin pressure. All 346 passengers and 19 crew members aboard the plane, Qantas Flight 30, which originated in London, left the plane without injury, the airline and Australian investigators said. Passengers described hearing a loud bang and seeing debris fly into the cabin before the plane, a Boeing 747-400, started a controlled descent to a lower altitude and changed course for Manila. The Australian Air Transport Safety Board, in a statement on its Web site Friday, described the event as “a serious incident” that had taken place at almost 9,000 meters, or 29,000 feet, when the plane presumably would have been climbing to its cruising altitude.

Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2008/07/25/asia/plane.php>

16. *July 25, USA Today* – (National) **Billions needed to shore up nation's bridges.** The fatal collapse of a bridge in Minneapolis a year ago jolted states into better inspections of the nation's 600,000 bridges, but they are not coming up with the billions of dollars needed to ensure that all of them are sound. It would cost \$9.4 billion a year for 20 years to eliminate all bridge deficiencies in the U.S., according to the latest estimate, made in 2005, by the American Society of Civil Engineers. A USA Today review found that beefed-up inspections since the collapse led 16 states to close bridges, reduce weight limits, or make immediate repairs. All states inspected bridges designed like the one that fell. Some, including Arizona, Delaware, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, and Tennessee, conducted broader reviews to identify bridges needing the most work. States are fixing bridges that are in the worst shape, but long-term repairs and upkeep will still suffer unless funding increases, says a University of Pittsburgh engineering professor. Thursday, the House of Representatives sent to the Senate a bill that would give states \$1 billion in emergency funds for bridge repair. States are looking for other financing. Nine are issuing bonds, raising taxes, hiking fees, or shifting funds

from other road projects.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-07-24-bridges_N.htm

17. *July 24, USA Today* – (National) **Some states close bridge inspection data to public.** Bridge ratings are available from states and the federal government, but in many states, the detailed inspection reports are off-limits over terrorism concerns. A spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security says it is up to states to follow their own laws but “we definitely provide guidance to the local governments to be aware and vigilant” for people who “might be developing some type of plan to attack the bridge.” Policies vary from one state to the next, and how much information they release about bridges “is different across the board,” said an official with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Among states that do not allow full report access are Florida, Iowa, and South Dakota. States that allow access include Kansas, Ohio, and West Virginia.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-07-24-bridgereports_N.htm
18. *July 24, KMSP 9 Twin Cities* – (National) **House approves bridge bill to improve nation’s bridges; landslide vote was 367 to 55.** In a landslide vote Thursday, the House of Representatives passed a bill aimed at improving the safety of the nation’s bridges, nearly a year after the deadly I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis. Approved by a margin of 367 to 55, the bill, called the National Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act, requires the Federal Highway Administration to develop better bridge inspection standards and improve bridge infrastructure. A recent study by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reveals that many states have been diverting bridge funds meant for maintaining, repairing, and replacing bridges, to other projects. The legislation authorizes that an additional \$1 billion will be spent to rebuild structurally-deficit bridges, and require states to put plans in place on how to fix such bridges. Minnesota’s share of that funding is \$7.3 million in fiscal year 2009. The White House has said it will oppose the bill unless the \$1 billion provision is removed.
Source:
<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7057884&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>
19. *July 24, KINY 800 AM Juneau* – (Alaska) **FAA shuts down Juneau airline.** An airline serving small communities in Southeast Alaska has been grounded by the federal government for an indefinite period of time because of continuing maintenance problems. A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration says the agency served an emergency revocation Thursday of L.A.B. Flying Service’s operating permit. A L.A.B. director of operations says the shutdown came as a surprise, and they had no indication anything was in the works. The company cannot resume flying operations until it is issued a new certificate. L.A.B. serves Juneau, Haines, Skagway, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Craig and Klawock on Prince of Wales Island, Excursion Inlet, Gustavus, Hoonah, and Kake.
Source: <http://www.fortmilltimes.com/124/story/235907.html>
20. *July 24, NBC News* – (National) **TSA chief chides airlines for ‘watch list’ errors.**

Airlines are often to blame when passengers are pulled aside for additional screening for potential matches to names on a government terror watch list, the head of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said Thursday. He told the House Aviation Safety subcommittee that airlines have not made the investment needed for pre-screening passenger name lists. But a representative of U.S. airlines faulted the TSA for not providing clear guidance earlier to resolve potential false matches. The federal government plans to take over early next year the task of checking passenger names against the government's list of people to be blocked from flights or subjected to more security screening. The official suggested that airlines are avoiding improvements to their own systems, knowing that TSA will soon assume the responsibility. He sharply criticized airlines for telling some passengers that they are subject to extra security because they are on a TSA watch list. But a group representing passengers said instead of blaming the airlines, TSA should have taken over the pre-screening function long ago. Since April, TSA has encouraged passengers who believe they are wrongly flagged for enhanced security to give their birth dates to airlines when making a reservation. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25835893/>

21. *July 24, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Airport locked down after security breach.** A man who left the secure area of Charlotte's airport to change his ticket bypassed security checkpoints to get back in, prompting a 45-minute lockdown and search of the airport. The man apparently used an exit-only walkway to get back to the concourse at 6:56 p.m., said a Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman. He was caught on video, prompting the airport-wide search. Planes were not allowed to take off during the lockdown. Thursday's incident came just weeks after more than 100 people on a Charlotte-bound flight were evacuated at the airport because someone called in a bomb threat to a plane.

Source: <http://www.charlotte.com/112/story/727212.html>

22. *July 24, Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Federal security cameras not working at Norfolk airport.** Homeland Security cameras at Norfolk International Airport have not been working since a recent storm and will not be back in operation until the end of the year, a federal official said Wednesday. However, the airport's own surveillance system, which has more than 100 cameras and covers a broader area of the airport, continues to operate, said an airport spokesman. The camera shutdown is not cause for concern, said a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration.

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2008/07/norfolk-airports-security-cameras-are-broken-wont-be-fixed>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *July 25, CNET News* – (National) **Tracking food safety with clean tech.** Purfresh, a food and water ozone-purification company, makes software called Intellipur to monitor the quality of food and drinks as they move from harvesting or production to grocery store shelves. It also regulates food quality in storage or transit with the use of ozone. The logistics software has been around since December, but Purfresh's chief executive officer said that Intellipur in transportation devices is the fastest growing piece of his company's business because of demand for tracking and quality controls for shipped food and water. Food- and water-related products have become one of the growing segments of the clean-tech market. Organic produce sales are rising, and because organic produce cannot be treated with chemicals, growers and retailers have started to invest in things like ozone purification and biopesticides to kill bugs and pests. Purfresh's systems are also used to disinfect a growing number of nonorganic foods and water products. Ordinary oxygen molecules consist of only two atoms. The third atom in ozone only stays attached until it can react with, or oxidize, another substance. If that substance is a bacteria cell or fungi, the atom will neutralize it. So Purfresh pipes ozone in minute amounts into water for purification, or sprays it as a gas over fruits and vegetables. Because large concentrations of ozone can be harmful to people, sensors monitor the flow of ozone so that it stays within a minimal range of 100 to 300 parts per billion.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-9998884-54.html

24. *July 25, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **Disease spreads among palms.** A bacterial relative of lethal yellowing disease, spread by an unknown insect, is killing sabal palms in southern Hillsborough and northern Manatee counties. Experts fear it could wreak havoc on the sabal population in the wild. It is especially worrisome because the tree is a valuable fixture in Florida ecology, said an urban forester with University of Florida's (UF) Hillsborough County Extension office. It provides a sanctuary for birds, bats, snakes, and lizards. The antibiotic oxytetracycline injected in the trunk can thwart the spread of the disease, Texas Phoenix Palm Decline, in suburbia. But injecting palms in the wild is not feasible, so pesticides may have to be used to kill the bug that carries the pathogen. First, though, scientists have to identify the bug, likely some sort of plant hopper, bugs that pierce the leaf tissue of plants with their mouth parts and feed on the sap. Authorities would also have to make sure the pesticide does not damage the ecosystem that the sabal palm supports. A UF professor of plant pathology and a lead investigator on the case raises another potential problem: The insect may be a native Florida species. "So, do you wipe out the native insect to save a native tree?"

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/jul/25/me-disease-spreads-among-palms/>

25. *July 25, Associated Press* – (New York) **State offering free genetic testing to NY sheep owners.** Sheep owners in New York State can now get free genetic testing for their animals until the end of the year. The State Agriculture commissioner said the free testing is aimed at enhancing flock resistance to "scrapie." The fatal, degenerative disease affects the nervous systems of goats and sheep. Research has shown that certain genes in sheep DNA play a role in the development of scrapie. A simple DNA test from

a blood sample can reveal the resistance or susceptibility of sheep to the disease. The testing is made available through the New York Ram Project. The commissioner said that by providing producers with genetic information on their rams, they will be able to knowingly breed more resistance to the disease in the flock. The tests are available through veterinarians.

Source: http://www.rnntv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8733818&nav=menu566_2

26. *July 25, Jackson Hole Daily* – (Idaho; Montana; Wyoming) **Feedgrounds under fire.** A Bridger-Teton National Forest decision to continue state-run feedgrounds around Jackson Hole puts Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho at increased risk of transmitting brucellosis to livestock, the governor of Montana said. In a letter July 18 to U.S. Department of Agriculture secretary the governor said he was disappointed with Bridger-Teton National Forest supervisor's decision to continue to allow the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to feed elk on five feedgrounds, three of which are in the Gros Ventre drainage near Jackson. Cattle in Montana's Paradise Valley and in Pinedale southeast of Jackson have recently tested positive for brucellosis. In the letter, the governor said evidence points to elk-to-cattle transmission of the disease, a bacterial infection that causes elk, cattle, and bison to abort their fetuses. In humans, brucellosis causes undulant fever. The governor said inconsistent policies among federal agencies continue to confound efforts to eradicate brucellosis in the three states.

Source: http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=3354

27. *July 24, WJLA 7 Arlington* – (Virginia) **I-Team: Organic food contamination.** Much of Whole Foods organic "365" products are locally grown. But an internal document ABC 7's "I-Team" obtained showed Whole Foods obtains a long list of organic products from other countries, including China. After sending some of Whole Foods' "365" products to a certified laboratory, the frozen vegetables came back "pesticide free." But the powdered ginger was contaminated with a toxic pesticide called Aldicarb. A leading authority on toxic substances revealed, "It would definitely fail the organic standard. It would also fail the regular standard for ginger. Ginger with Aldicarb is not legal food." As a result, Whole Foods pulled their store brand ginger off shelves nationwide. Whole Foods relies on a company called Quality Assurance International (QAI) to certify its ginger. But QAI relies on two other certifiers to do the work in China.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0708/538424.html>

28. *July 24, Environmental Working Group* – (National) **One pesticide classified as unsafe.** Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded that carbofuran, already registered as a restricted use pesticide, poses dietary, worker, and ecological risks. In addition, EPA concluded that products containing carbofuran cause unreasonable adverse effects and do not meet safety standards. Carbofuran is a pesticide registered for control of soil and foliar pests on a variety of fruit and vegetables.

Source: <http://www.ewg.org/node/26928>

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Water Sector

29. *July 25, ScienceDaily* – (National) **EPA acts to reduce toxic pesticide – Carbofuran – residue in food.** Due to considerable risks associated with the pesticide carbofuran in food and drinking water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is revoking the regulations that allow carbofuran residues in food. Carbofuran is used to control insects in a wide variety of crops, including soybeans, potatoes, and corn. It is a systemic insecticide, which means that the plant absorbs it through the roots, distributing it primarily to vessels, stems, and leaves. Even though carbofuran is used on a small percentage of the U.S. food supply and therefore the likelihood of exposure through food is low, EPA has identified risks that do not meet the EPA food safety standards. As part of this effort, EPA is also releasing its response to the peer review conducted by the independent Scientific Advisory Panel and the agency's response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's comments on the effect of the cancellation of carbofuran on the agricultural economy.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080725080827.htm>

30. *July 24, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA determines regulation not needed for 11 potential drinking water contaminants.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made a final determination not to regulate 11 contaminants on the second drinking water contaminant candidate list (CCL 2). The agency has concluded that the contaminants do not occur nationally in public water systems, or occur at levels below a public health concern. The agency's final regulatory determination is based on extensive review of health effects, occurrence data, and public comments. The 11 contaminants include naturally occurring substances, pesticides, herbicides, and chemicals used (or once used) in manufacturing. While none of the contaminants were found nationally at levels of public health concern in public water systems, EPA is updating health advisories for seven of the contaminants to provide current health information to local officials for situations where the contaminants may be present. A regulatory determination is a formal decision on whether EPA should initiate a rulemaking process to develop a national primary drinking water regulation for a specific contaminant. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, every five years EPA develops a CCL and then makes a regulatory determination for at least five contaminants on the list.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/D80FD6BAD5F072F68525749000607580>

31. *July 24, Florida Times-Union* – (National) **Cement emissions raise mercury in rivers, groups say.** A collection of environmental groups warned Wednesday that airborne mercury released from cement factories poses unrecognized risks in states with mercury-rich rivers. Groups sounding that warning said about 150 cement kilns nationwide release at least 23,000 pounds of mercury each year. That is nearly twice the amount that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated those plants released in 2006. A cement industry representative said plant operators expect EPA to recommend new anti-pollution rules within months. Papers filed in a court case indicate that could happen by September. Mercury is a toxic metal that can cause nerve damage and poses

special risks for children's development. Cement is the main ingredient in concrete used to make countless buildings, roads, and bridges. Cement factories have kilns that heat limestone and clay to extreme temperatures to create lumps of partly melted minerals that are ground up to make cement. Limestone heated in the kilns contains mercury that turns to vapor in high temperatures, and some of the fuel burned at kilns can contain mercury, too. Some vapor escapes through smokestacks and generally settles to the ground less than 100 miles from the factory. The emission estimates cited by environmentalists Wednesday are based largely on information the EPA began collecting recently from some factories as a step toward creating new rules.

Source: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/072408/met_308684880.shtml

32. *July 24, Natchez Democrat* – (Louisiana) **Jonesville residents without water.** The 2,600 residents and 400 businesses of Jonesville, Louisiana, have found themselves without drinking water, a situation that will not likely change before Saturday. The town has three wells, two of which were operational until either late Monday night or early Tuesday morning, the mayor said. One of those wells failed then, however, and so water pressure slowed to such a point that the town was required to issue a boil water notice by the Department of Health and Human Services. The town is currently in conversation with the Department of Homeland Security, and Louisiana National Guard tankers are trucking in water so residents can have a few gallons of water a day for hygienic purposes. It was discovered Thursday morning that the well's pump motor – which was installed approximately three weeks ago – burned out. A new motor and pump will hopefully be assembled today, at which point the wells will have to be replenished and then drain down. During that time, the system can be used for hygienic purposes, but it will still be under a boil water notice until the water can be analyzed, and the analysis is not expected to be completed until either Saturday or Monday.

Source: <http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/news/2008/jul/24/joneville-residents-without-water/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *July 25, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **D.A. charges 21 with defrauding in-home care agency of \$2 million.** Charges have been filed against 21 people accused of fraudulently obtaining more than two million dollars in benefits from a state-funded program designed to help the disabled or elderly receive in-home care, the Los Angeles County District Attorney announced Thursday. A growing number of fake identities are being used to scam the \$1.6 billion program, called In-Home Supportive Services, which is administered by the county, he said. The fraud is committed both by people posing as recipients and by those posing as providers. At least a dozen of the 21 charged were arrested Thursday morning by investigators. He called for identity checks on people receiving the benefits, including photographing, fingerprinting, and criminal background checks, citing a recent civil grand jury report that said such fraud can be prevented with these measures.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-fraud25-2008jul25,0,1281867.story?track=rss>

34. *July 24, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Schwarzenegger signs law that bans insurers from linking employee bonuses to health insurance coverage limits, cancellations.** California's governor on Tuesday signed legislation AB 1150 that prohibits health insurance companies from rewarding employees who cancel or limit an enrollee's coverage, the Los Angeles Times reports. The measure was introduced after the Times reported that insurer Health Net based employee bonuses in part on meeting or exceeding targets for rescinding individual health insurance policies. Some critics say that health insurers use confusing applications so that when a plan member begins filing claims for coverage, the insurer can find mistakes that can be used to justify a cancellation or rescission.
Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=40245>
35. *July 24, Associated Press* – (National) **1,013 Americans overdosed on illegal painkiller.** Between early April 2005 and late March 2007, 1,013 Americans died after overdosing on an illegal version of the powerful prescription painkiller fentanyl, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report published Thursday. "This was really an epidemic," the report's co-author and executive director of New Jersey's poison control center, told the Associated Press. The number of deaths slowed after a fentanyl operation in Toluca, Mexico, was shut down by authorities in May 2006. The study appears in this week's issue of the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.
Source: <http://www.ajc.com/health/content/shared-auto/healthnews/prss/617785.html>
36. *July 24, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **West Nile confirmed in L.A. County.** Los Angeles (L.A.) County health officials have four confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus. The cases are the first in L.A. County this year. Of those victims, two adult men and one child were being treated for meningitis when the virus was discovered. Officials are now finding that the meningitis cases were related to West Nile. The fourth victim was an adult male. The virus was detected when he was donating blood. Officials are saying all the victims all live in the eastern and southeastern areas of L.A. County. So far this year there have been 11 people infected with West Nile virus in California.
Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=6285879
37. *July 23, CIDRAP News* – (National) **New pandemic vaccine plan keeps focus on critical workers.** Federal health officials Wednesday released their official guidance on allocating vaccine during an influenza pandemic, with few changes from a previous draft that put military personnel, critical health and emergency workers, pregnant women, and small children at the head of the line. The 25-page guidance document is intended to help state and local leaders allocate scarce vaccine supplies in a pandemic, especially the early stages. The goals are to blunt the effects of a pandemic on public health and the economy and to limit general social disruption. The new document, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is a revision of one that was released in October 2007. It was developed by a federal interagency working group, which gathered two rounds of input from the public and various stakeholders, including business and community

organizations.

Source:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jul2308vaccine.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

38. *July 25, Advocate* – (Louisiana) **Man arrested in bomb threat at BRCC.** A man was arrested Thursday in the March 5 bomb threat that forced Baton Rouge Community College officials to evacuate campus and cancel classes for a day. The Denham Springs resident, who had been arrested two weeks earlier in another terrorizing incident involving the school, is accused of placing the phone call from a convenience store that led law enforcement K-9 divisions to search the campus on March 5, an arrest warrant says.
Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/suburban/25885069.html>
39. *July 24, Warwick Beacon* – (National) **More must be done to prepare for bio terrorist attack.** A Congressional Field Hearing in Rhode Island was held as an attempt to raise awareness about the biological and terrorist threats facing the nation and to provide oversight of the plans that respond to biological attacks. The chairman of the Homeland Security Committee’s subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology chaired the hearing. He said mid-sized cities should not become complacent about the possibility of terrorist attacks, particularly biological attacks using substances like anthrax. The chief medical officer of the Department of Homeland Security agreed, saying that preparedness and increasing the government and private sector’s ability to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack must increasingly become an even bigger priority. He said although progress has been made in several significant areas, including increasing stockpiles of drugs and equipment; increasing the country’s planning efforts; and improving communications between the public and private sectors, “We are not ready yet.”
Source:
http://warwickonline.com/warwickonline/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=38040&Itemid=30
40. *July 24, Examiner* – (Maryland) **Marine vessel to help protect Anne Arundel County against terrorist attacks.** Anne Arundel, Maryland, police and fire authorities have secured funding for a new marine vessel that will patrol and safeguard county waterways in the event of a terrorist attack. “This vessel will allow us to meet our homeland security responsibility from a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and etiological nature,” an Anne Arundel fire spokesman said. A county executive recently directed the Office of Emergency Management to secure state and federal grant funding for a maritime vessel to respond in water emergencies, including terrorist attacks with weapons of mass destruction. The 35-foot-long vessel, which is still being designed, will be equipped with emergency response teams from both the police and fire departments, said the commander of the marine unit. It will safeguard the county’s 533 linear miles of shoreline, which is more than any other political subdivision in the U.S., and provide

support for special operations teams, water rescues, and water-related emergencies that require fire, medical, or law enforcement assistance. The new vessel is expected to be completed by summer 2009, but until then, a whaler vessel will serve as the substitute.

Source: [http://www.examiner.com/a-](http://www.examiner.com/a-1502803~Marine_vessel_to_help_protect_Anne_Arundel_County_against_terrorist_attacks.html?cid=temp-popular)

[1502803~Marine vessel to help protect Anne Arundel County against terrorist attacks.html?cid=temp-popular](http://www.examiner.com/a-1502803~Marine_vessel_to_help_protect_Anne_Arundel_County_against_terrorist_attacks.html?cid=temp-popular)

41. *July 24, Examiner* – (District of Columbia) **Homeland Security facilities getting new access system.** More than 15 Department of Homeland Security facilities in the Washington, D.C., area are hoping to speed up the time it takes for thousands of civilian employees to clear the campus' access gates with a new security system. Facilities are starting to implement the RapidGate program, with "full lockdown" expected to be completed in September, said an outside spokesman for Eid Passport Inc., the company that created the system. The system requires that companies whose employees work in the facilities conduct criminal background checks to screen for felonies, sexual offenses, and find out whether employees are on any terror watch lists. Then, a single credential is provided to the employees that, in theory, would save companies man-hours in time spent waiting at security checkpoints. Security is able to instantly scan personalized badges, rather than check and re-check various identification documents. The system is already working in facilities run by the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, with plans to add it to Homeland Security's Nebraska Avenue complex, among other locations. The goal is to have RapidGate in place throughout the country within a few years.

Source: [http://www.examiner.com/a-](http://www.examiner.com/a-1502835~Homeland_Security_facilities_getting_new_access_system.html)

[1502835~Homeland Security facilities getting new access system.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1502835~Homeland_Security_facilities_getting_new_access_system.html)

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Emergency Services Sector

42. *July 25, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Emergency "surge capacity" needed for mass transit.** The Committee on the Role of Public Transportation in Emergency Evacuation National Academy of Sciences this week released a study, *The Role of Transit in Emergency Evacuation*, which provides the most comprehensive review to date of the readiness, or lack thereof, of major public transit systems. The study, requested by Congress and funded by the Federal Transit Administration and the Transit Cooperative Research Program, explores the capacity of transit systems serving the nation's 38 largest urbanized areas to accommodate the evacuation, egress, or ingress of people from or to critical locations in times of emergency. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Transportation conducted two comprehensive, peer-reviewed national assessments of emergency preparedness. They found that 85 percent of the emergency operations plans of the 75 largest urbanized areas it reviewed were only partially sufficient to manage a catastrophe. Only a fraction of plans estimated the time required to evacuate those located in different risk zones or incorporated all available modes of transportation; just eight and seven percent of plans, respectively, were rated "sufficient" on these two measures. Another disturbing finding of the report was that even among localities with

evacuation plans, few have provided for a major disaster that could involve multiple jurisdictions or multiple states in a region and necessitate the evacuation of a large fraction of the population.

Source:

http://hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4414&Itemid=149

43. *July 24, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Democrats urge suspension of new threat alert system.** Responding to warnings in a government audit, some congressional representatives are calling on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to suspend a new threat alert system until the program is retooled to meet state and local needs. A department spokesman said Thursday that the department does not plan to put the program on hold. The new system, which is to be the main way the department communicates regular threat information to local and private sector officials, has had a troubled history. The department scrapped a \$91 million system, dubbed the Homeland Security Information Network or HSIN, after reports found that the program lacked critical security and structural functions that made it unworkable. It's been placed on life support until it can be replaced by "HSIN Next Gen," which is due to be completed next September with an estimated price tag of \$62 million. Investing money in the program, given its inadequate planning thus far, "puts the project at risk" of failure, Government Accountability Office concluded. The spokesman acknowledged that earlier efforts have had problems but said DHS has developed a strategy to respond to GAO's concerns while delivering the new system quickly.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121693824624682635.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

44. *July 24, Medical News Today* – (National) **Emergency evacuation planning for special needs populations inadequate.** Millions of people each day rely on transit, yet few urban area emergency plans have focused on its role in an emergency evacuation, says a new report from the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board. Transit systems could play a significant role in transporting car-less and special needs populations in times of emergency, but these groups are inadequately addressed in most local emergency plans and evacuating them could easily exceed limited transit resources. After reviewing 38 urban areas' emergency response and evacuation plans, the committee found that transit has a role to play in each of the four major elements that make up an emergency response plan -- mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The committee then conducted in-depth case studies of Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City/northern New Jersey, and Tampa, Florida. The five case studies illustrate the roles transit could play in an evacuation, including transporting those without a car to area shelters or outside the affected area, bringing emergency responders and equipment to emergency incident sites, returning evacuees to their original destinations, and restoring service as expeditiously as possible.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/115919.php>

45. *July 23, Northwest Arkansas Times* – (National) **Hospitals, agencies to play roles in disaster drill.** Area hospitals and emergency response agencies participated in a

regional disaster drill Wednesday to test their preparedness. Six counties were involved in the simulated disaster, which portrayed the aftermath of massive destruction by tornadoes. The director of marketing and community relations for Northwest Health System, said the Northwest Regional Hospital Preparedness Group, a coalition of hospitals and emergency response agencies, received a federal Department of Health & Human Services grant as part of the federal Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program.

Source: <http://nwanews.com/nwat/News/67424/>

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Information Technology

46. *July 25, ITNews* – (International) **Fake ‘Yahoo sold to Microsoft’ spam boosts Rustock botnet.** Security vendor Marshal is warning that a growing large-scale botnet – called Rustock - is forwarding spam containing exploitive headlines in an attempt to infect users and grow its network. Numerous small businesses and private web sites, so far predominantly in U.S. and China, have been targeted in the campaign, claimed Marshal. The security vendor warned a variety of headlines are being used to lure victims into clicking on a malicious link. They include: “Yahoo sold to Microsoft, record price;” “Bush Down to 8 Friends on Myspace;” “Al Qaeda Reports Declining Revenues in Fiscal ‘08.” “Some of the headlines are hard to take seriously and some of them are believably enticing,” said the lead threat analyst for Marshal’s TRACE Team. He said the spammers appear to be experimenting to see which types of headlines solicit the most hits from recipients. Marshal’s records revealed that Rustock is estimated to comprise over 150,000 infected PCs and distributes close to 30 billion spam messages daily which in terms of volume makes it one of the biggest malicious spam campaigns ever seen.

Source:

<http://www.itnews.com.au/News/81143,fake-yahoo-sold-to-microsoft-spam-boosts-rustock-botnet.aspx>

47. *July 24, Breitbart* – (International) **Hackers get hold of critical Internet flaw.** Internet security researchers on Thursday warned that hackers have caught on to a “critical” flaw that lets them control traffic on the Internet. An elite squad of computer industry engineers that labored in secret to solve the problem released a software “patch” two weeks ago and sought to keep details of the vulnerability hidden at least a month to give people time to protect computers from attacks. DNS is used by every computer that links to the Internet and works similar to a telephone system routing calls to proper numbers, in this case the online numerical addresses of websites. The vulnerability allows “cache poisoning” attacks that tinker with data stored in computer memory caches that relay Internet traffic to destinations.

Source:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=080724230931.2rdnlz0a&show_article=1

48. *July 24, Computerworld* – (International) **Mozilla fixes nine flaws in Thunderbird.** Mozilla Messaging patched nine security vulnerabilities in Thunderbird yesterday, the

first time it has plugged holes in the e-mail software since early May. Thunderbird 2.0.0.16, which was added to Mozilla's download servers late Wednesday, quashes nine bugs, including one that was patched last week in Firefox, the company's open-source browser. The remainder fixes flaws that were first addressed in early July when Mozilla updated Firefox to Version 2.0.0.15. Seven of the nine bugs were rated "moderate" by Mozilla, the second-lowest of the four rankings in its threat system. The other two were pegged as "low." The bug patched in Thunderbird yesterday that was fixed in Firefox last week was in the browser rendering engine's CSSValue array data structure. According to Mozilla, the vulnerability could be used by hackers to force a crash, and from there run malicious code. Several other just-patched Thunderbird vulnerabilities could also be used by attackers to execute code remotely.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9110643&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

49. *July 25, Upstate Today* – (South Carolina) **Internet, phones down across Seneca.**

Many residents in the greater Seneca area found themselves without Internet and phone service Thursday when an outage occurred about 4:30 p.m. A Technology Solutions official confirmed a "widespread" outage of service due to a construction mishap. A main AT&T fiber optic cable was severed when a construction crew at the former Tiger Tails property dug up the line with a bulldozer in haste to make progress on a construction project. AT&T has been notified of the situation, but that does not mean a solution could be expected anytime soon, the official said. A fiber optics fusion and splice team has been sent to the site to repair the cable. The last time such an event occurred that required the fiber optics team to be sent, it took 17 hours for service to be restored.

Source: <http://www.upstatetoday.com/news/2008/jul/25/internet-phones-down-across-seneca/>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *July 24, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **China cracks terror cell planning**

Games attack. Police in Shanghai have cracked a terrorist cell planning to attack an Olympic football venue in the Chinese financial hub, state media reported Thursday.

The report came as China ramps up security ahead of the Summer Games, set to begin on August 8 in the capital Beijing and several other cities including Shanghai, amid what it described as an unprecedented terror threat. “We have obtained information that international terrorist organizations would likely launch an attack against an Olympic venue in the city during the Games,” Xinhua news agency quoted the head of Shanghai’s Olympic security office as saying. He said the Olympic football venue in Shanghai, as well as players’ housing, were now “at a safe level,” adding: “But the threat of terror attack still exists.” Shanghai is set to host 12 Olympic football matches during next month’s Summer Games. The venue has been closed since Sunday, with police conducting around-the-clock patrols, Xinhua said. The Xinhua report did not specify when the operation had taken place or how many suspects had been detained, and state television made no mention of it on local or national evening news.
Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5g0QzJ8EcMvEx0vKwriiCTbsE1djA>

51. *July 24, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYPD, Port Authority agree on WTC security plan.** The New York Police Department (NYPD) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey agreed to devise a strategy to police streets, private office towers, and public facilities, including a September 11 memorial. Police and Port Authority officials were still working out the details. Under the agreement, a special NYPD unit of 600 officers will patrol the site, manage security operations, and oversee screening and vehicle access. The Port Authority will have primary responsibility for security at the PATH train station and will oversee the installation and maintenance of all security equipment at the World Trade Center. City officials said the agreement would accelerate the rebuilding effort. Plans for five office towers, the memorial, a transit hub, and a performing arts center were announced five years ago, but all of the projects are behind schedule. The NYPD’s concerns about the risk of truck bomb attacks against landmark sites forced the 2005 redesign of the project’s signature Freedom Tower after police said the 1,776-foot skyscraper’s open lobby and street proximity made it a likely terrorist target. The building, which had a cornerstone in place that had to be moved, was delayed by three years and redesigned for millions of dollars. The timing of the security agreement depends on how quickly the trade center site is rebuilt. All elements of the redevelopment are behind schedule, and Ward expects to make new estimates in September. An advisory committee will meet regularly to discuss site security. The group is to include representatives from the city, Port Authority, and New York and New Jersey governor’ offices.
Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h7_Qj0ep2MhMp8KgG2HiC-nQoCBwD924HIN00

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

52. *July 24, Associated Press* – (National) **White House reverses experts on Yellowstone policy.** The National Park Service wanted to close a section of Yellowstone Park in the wintertime because of the risk of avalanche. Businesses in Cody, Wyoming, protested because they wanted to promote more tourism. The Bush White House intervened late last year and sided with the businesses, according to officials familiar with the fight. A

final decision, announced Monday by the Park Service regional director, will keep the park's eastern entrance open to snow-going vehicles throughout the winter. The cost to taxpayers could run into the millions of dollars for a decision to accommodate a small number of tourists. The Park Service had studied the winter closure issue for a decade. Government scientists and experts contend the current presidential administration frequently has overruled their work and imposed politically driven policies that benefit powerful economic interests, on issues from global warming to endangered species.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20080724/ap_tr_ge/fighting_over_yellowstone;_ylt=AvkS4fX5VcxbhgvAaKThfCus0NUE

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Dams Sector

53. *July 24, WSHM 3 Springfield* – (Massachusetts) **Wyola Dam project washed away.** Shutesbury, Massachusetts, officials have been planning the Wyola Dam project for years. They thought they would get the money this summer, but a veto put the repairs on hold again. Day after day of rain last week concerned residents, who know the dam needs repairs. The dam has been on a state watch list for ten years. But the community is still waiting to get the money needed for repairs. The dam is considered a high hazard dam because of the large number of homes that would be affected in a flood.

Source: <http://www.cbs3springfield.com/news/local/25874874.html>

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