



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 August 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- The Dallas Morning News reports that federal regulators have proposed \$7.1 million in fines against American Airlines for a string of violations that include deferring maintenance and violations of employee drug-testing rules. (See item [12](#))
- According to the Asbury Park Press, the Pentagon has suspended an Air Force plan to establish a Cyber Command that would protect the United States from attacks on its electronic infrastructure. (See item [30](#))

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. *August 15, Reuters* – (International) **Shell says no progress fixing Nigeria oil pipeline.** Repairs to a damaged oil pipeline in Nigeria have been struggling to make significant progress, Royal Dutch Shell said on Friday. Shell’s Nembe Creek trunkline was sabotaged in late-July. The Anglo-Dutch oil major declared force majeure on Bonny Light crude exports to free itself from meeting its contractual obligations through to September. “Repair work is not progressing as much as we want due to some security concerns. No real progress,” a Shell spokesman said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSL73336420080815>

2. *August 14, Washington Post* – (National) **Boom times for traditional energy sources.** There is little evidence that the old, conventional sources of energy are about to disappear, or that the free market by itself is going to drive a transition to clean, renewable power. With oil, gas, and coal near record prices, there is an obvious market incentive to invest in renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power. But those same high prices have also incited fossil-fuel companies to ramp up their drilling and mining. The Pennsylvania fossil-fuel boom points to a broader national reality: The old energy sources come from mature industries that have the infrastructure, know-how, and capital to put a big drilling rig in a hayfield at the snap of a finger. “We believe [fossil fuels] are going to predominate for at least 50 years,” said a coal expert at the Energy Department’s facility near Pittsburgh. The big plays here and around the country, though, will be in natural gas. Even as Congress debates whether to open offshore areas in the U.S. to oil drilling, natural gas companies are racing around the country, snapping up leases to drill into shale formations. A Penn State geologist who is a leading expert on the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania said, “...even natural gas will not be sustainable forever. We do need to switch to renewable resources. The gas buys time. I don’t believe that the market forces in this day and age will favor just an overnight conversion.”
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26211007/>
3. *August 14, Reuters* – (Alaska) **Trans Alaska Pipeline to shut Sat. for planned work.** The Trans Alaska Pipeline, which carries crude oil from the Alaska North Slope to an export terminal at Valdez, will shut for planned maintenance on Saturday, a spokesman for the pipeline operator said. The shutdown is expected to begin at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday and will last 36 hours. “This is the second of two major shutdowns that we have for this summer,” said the external affairs manager for Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. Alyeska plans to install about 1,700 feet of new mainline pipe to bypass a pump station that is no longer needed and replace a valve at the southern end of the pipeline in Valdez during the shutdown, he said. The bypass line will be the longest stretch of new mainline line installed in the last 20 years and will bypass Pump Station 2, a facility located 58 miles south of Prudhoe Bay that was put on standby in 1997.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1438163620080814>
4. *August 14, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Thousands without power in Tucson as storm hits.** Thousands of Tucson residents were still without power Thursday morning after a powerful storm hit the area. A Tucson Electric Power spokesman says electricity was knocked out to 35,000 homes and businesses during the overnight storm. By 7 a.m., power was still out to 12,000 customers. At least 26 power poles were downed. The National Weather Service says parts of midtown Tucson got as much as 2.2 inches of rain overnight.
Source: http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=8840979&nav=menu613_2_6
5. *August 14, Kansas City Star* – (Missouri) **Two men accused of stealing copper in NKC.** Clay County authorities Thursday charged two men with stealing about \$800 in copper wiring from a KCP&L electrical substation that momentarily affected service to several buildings, including the North Kansas City Hospital. The two men, both of

Kansas City, were each charged with one count of first-degree tampering and one count of stealing.

Source: http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking_news/story/748809.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *August 14, Oroville Mercury-Register* – (California) **Chemical spill trips up Redding traffic.** A chemical spill on a major highway into Redding’s downtown severely disrupted traffic Thursday. Highway 44 was closed in both directions west of Interstate 5 while teams cleaned up the spill from the collision, where a truck driver heading westbound on 44 collided with two other vehicles. The collision spilled an unknown amount of chemicals. An official said he did not know what type of chemical was spilled other than it was a pesticide or herbicide. He said officials were concerned about the inhalation hazard from the chemicals, but could not specify other health issues.
Source: http://www.orovillemr.com/news/ci_10204640
7. *August 14, WSBT 2 South Bend* – (Michigan) **Evacuated residents return after Michigan Composites chemical fire scare.** A fire at a Michigan factory Thursday grew out of control and sent chemicals into the air, forcing dozens of people from their homes. Fire investigators said sanding equipment may have caused the fire at Michigan Composites in Niles Township, Indiana. Eleven departments from Indiana and Michigan were battling the fire. Two chemicals changed the dynamics of the blaze. The fire chief said the two chemicals, known as isocyanates, are not extremely harmful alone, but they are hazardous when mixed together, causing breathing and skin irritation. Crews had to evacuate a three-mile radius around the area.
Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/26974544.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *August 14, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (North Carolina) **NRC staff proposes \$16,250 fine against Global Nuclear Fuels for violations at Wilmington nuclear fuel plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a \$16,250 civil penalty against Global Nuclear Fuel – Americas, L.L.C., for incorrectly categorizing an emergency level declaration during a January 30 incident at the plant’s low-enriched uranium processing line in Wilmington. NRC officials said violations occurred when moisture was introduced into a dry conversion process cooling hopper containing uranium dioxide powder, which was initially believed to be above safe critical mass limits. No actual consequences resulted from the event, and it did not result in a criticality accident. The company said it was determined that the hopper contained a safe amount of uranium dioxide, moisture in the powder was within normal limits, and that long-term corrective action had been taken to prevent recurrence. NRC officials said in this case corrective actions were prompt and comprehensive and that no civil penalty was being proposed. However, the NRC said another violation caused the agency to

propose the fine. It was associated with declaration by the company of an incorrect emergency action level. Company representatives told the NRC that an Alert was declared based on information available at the time of the event. However, the company initially declared the event as an “Off-Normal Condition” and upgraded it to an Alert 11 minutes later without obtaining any new information.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-042ii.html>

9. *August 14, World Nuclear News* – (Maryland; New York) **EdF may increase stake in Constellation.** The board of Electricite de France (EDF) has authorized management to increase the company’s stake in U.S. utility Constellation Energy from the current 4.97 percent to 9.9 percent. French energy giant EDF said that it has acquired its current stake in Constellation “on the open market over the course of the past year.” It said that it will “progressively exercise the next level of open market purchases given the opportunity presented by market conditions.” EDF may even increase its holding beyond the 9.9 percent level. However, EDF noted that “no current plan or proposal exists in that regards.” Constellation’s nuclear generation division operates five reactors at three sites (Nine Mile Point and R E Ginna in New York; and Calvert Cliffs in Maryland).

Source: http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/C-EdF_may_increase_stake_in_Constellation-1408084.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *August 15, CNN* – (International) **Poland, U.S. sign missile shield deal.** Poland and the United States have signed a preliminary deal to place part of a U.S. ballistic missile defense system in Poland. The interceptor rockets would be linked to an air-defense radar system in the Czech Republic; officials there agreed in April to take part in the system. The United States has also agreed to help Poland modernize its military, which it requested as a condition of its support for housing the missile defense system.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/08/15/poland.us.shield/index.html?iref=mpstoryview>

11. *August 14, Air Force Print News* – (National) **Transparent coating repels water, could reduce corrosion.** The development of a transparent coating that causes water to bead up into drops and roll or bounce off a surface will help protect and sustain Air Force systems by preventing corrosion and reducing ice formation on optical elements and aircraft. This application -- modeled after the Namib Desert beetle -- could provide a new method for collecting water without the use of energy and could benefit troops in areas where water is scarce. In order to produce and apply a coating with superhydrophobic, or extremely water-repellent, properties, the Brinker Nanostructures Research Group at the University of New Mexico and Sandia National Laboratories had to control coating roughness and surface chemistry on a small scale. The team drew from that research to develop a simple method for depositing the coating on every contour of a surface by spraying, spinning, or dipping. When water droplets roll along the coated surface, they pick up debris as they go, which might make the collection,

concentration, and identification of aerosol borne particles like anthrax possible. The research is also likely to transition to commercial applications such as protection of electronics and antiquities from water damage.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123110839>

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report

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Transportation Sector

12. *August 15, Dallas Morning News* – (National) **FAA seeks \$7.1 million in fines against American Airlines.** Federal regulators have proposed \$7.1 million in fines against American Airlines for a string of violations that include deferring maintenance and violations of employee drug-testing rules. The overall fine includes a \$4.4 million penalty for the way American diagnosed mechanical problems in December. The decisions allowed American to defer maintenance while operating 54 flights in violation of FAA rules. The carrier could face more penalties as the FAA reviews other maintenance problems that grounded much of the carrier’s fleet in April. Fort Worth-based American called the penalties “excessive” and signaled that it would appeal them to top officials at the FAA.

Source: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/nation/stories/DN-AAfine_15bus.ART.State.Edition2.4d48a6e.html

13. *August 15, Associated Press* – (International) **Engine access panel falls off Qantas flight.** An engine access panel fell off a Qantas Airways jumbo jet en route to Singapore from Melbourne, Australia, on Friday, the latest in a string of incidents for the airline. Inspectors conducting a routine check in Singapore on the Boeing 747-400 noticed the small panel had become detached, a Qantas spokeswoman said. The panel, which is used by engineers to access various parts of the engine for inspections, was replaced and the flight continued on to London after a delay of about six hours.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hyMwb2AkOW3y1vGZ9AJRPghSa4dQD92IFKVGO>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *August 15, KBCI 2 Boise* – (Idaho) **Powder found in Middleton letter not anthrax.** Thursday night, crews gave the ‘all clear’ after testing a white powder mailed to a Middleton home. The deputy chief of the Middleton Rural Fire District said they do not know what the substance actually is, but it is not anthrax or ricin. He said a Middleton

woman called authorities at 12:30 p.m. Thursday after she found a white, powdery substance in a threatening letter. She told investigators that it is the third threatening letter mailed to her address, but the first with powder inside.

Source: <http://www.2news.tv/news/26967724.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *August 15, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Groups seek to play role in park bison lawsuit.** Environmentalists and a group of property owners near Yellowstone National Park said Thursday they are seeking to intervene in a lawsuit over the capture and hazing of bison that wander outside the park. A group of ranchers in May asked a state judge to force the Department of Livestock to capture, kill, or haze any bison in an area west of the park by May 15 of every year. The ranchers, along with the Montana Stockgrowers Association, argue that the bison could spread the disease brucellosis, which causes cattle to abort their young. But no cattle graze on the land at the center of the dispute - the Horse Butte peninsula on Hebgen Lake near West Yellowstone. The Natural Resources Defense Council, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and eight nearby property owners want bison on the butte left alone. Although the groups seeking to intervene in the case have objected to the state's bison policies in the past, they contend that the ranchers' lawsuit would lock in those policies and block any opportunity for more bison tolerance. Beyond Horse Butte, state and federal officials rounded up 1,435 bison migrating outside the park last winter and sent them to slaughter.
Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/08/15/news/state/29-lawsuit.txt>
16. *August 14, NewsInferno* – (National) **Whole Foods Expands Beef Recall.** Whole Foods Market has expanded their recall of fresh ground beef to include additional states. This announcement follows reports of many illnesses linked to E. coli-tainted beef purchased at the high-end natural market. Illnesses have been reported in several states and Canada and the recall now includes stores in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, and Utah. The recall involves fresh ground beef products sold between June 2nd and August 6th. In addition to the newly added states, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Wisconsin, Washington D.C., and Canada have been impacted by the outbreak. Nebraska Beef has recalled millions of pounds of beef in ongoing recalls since May and issued another recall last week of an additional 1.2 million pounds of beef. According to the Washington Post, Nebraska Beef has received numerous sanitation violations over the past six years. Also, in 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture went to court to try to shut down Nebraska Beef's Omaha packing plant after citing it for numerous violations.
Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/3635>
17. *August 14, NewsInferno* – (Massachusetts) **Massachusetts expands Listeria-tainted tuna salad recall.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) expanded this week's tuna salad recall and is now advising consumers not to eat any deli-prepared

tuna salad purchased from July 26th to August 10th. The tuna salad was recalled over concerns of potential *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination in bulk tuna salad manufactured by wholesale distributor Home Made Brand Foods. The bulk distributor voluntarily recalled about 5,000 pounds of Ready-to-Eat Tuna Salad after routine sampling found the product had the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The recalled tuna salad has an expiration date of August 19th and was distributed to Stop and Shop Supermarkets and other retail supermarkets and delicatessens. Because Home Made Brand Foods is a bulk distributor and the tuna salad distribution is fairly widespread, the Massachusetts DPH is urging consumers to discard and not consume any tuna salad purchased from retail outlets between the two-three week period mentioned.

Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/3637>

18. *August 14, Reuters* – (Connecticut) **Connecticut to fight proposal for defense lab.**

Connecticut will fight a proposal to turn a federal laboratory known as the “Alcatraz for animal disease” into a facility to study deadly viruses, the state’s attorney general said on Thursday. New York’s Plum Island is one of six potential sites for a new facility that would study lethal diseases transmitted by animals along with biological agents that could harm food supplies. The facility would be the only biosafety level 4 animal laboratory in the country and could cost as much as \$750 million to build. The Connecticut attorney general said the proposed laboratory would make his state a potential target for terrorists and put human life at risk. Plum Island is two miles off the eastern tip of New York’s Long Island and about 8 miles south of Connecticut’s southern coast. Plans for the next-generation National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, slated to go online in 2015, include biosafety labs where scientists in outfits resembling spacesuits would research deadly diseases that can spread to people from animals, including those for which there are no known vaccine.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN14342553>

19. *August 14, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Whole Foods Market issues recall on 365 Organic Everyday Value Popcorn, Lightly Salted due to undeclared dairy allergen.**

Whole Foods Market today is recalling 365 Organic Everyday Value Popcorn, Lightly Salted because it may contain undeclared milk ingredients. The popcorn in these packages was incorrectly flavored with white cheddar seasoning which includes milk ingredients; the seasoning may not be visibly apparent. This product was distributed to and sold in Whole Foods Market retail stores in California, Arizona, Nevada, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Oregon, New Jersey, New York, and Washington. The recall was initiated after it was discovered that the product containing milk ingredients was incorrectly packaged in bags that did not reveal the presence of milk ingredients. Subsequent investigations indicate the problem was caused by a temporary breakdown in the producer’s packaging processes.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/wholefood08_08.html

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Water Sector

20. *August 14, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Used quarry water soon will become drinking water.** On Thursday, state officials announced a \$13 million construction project that will provide water to Burnsville and Savage and have the ability to serve the wider region. Currently, ten million gallons of surface water is discharged each day from a quarry in Burnsville into the Minnesota River. The project, which begins in summer 2009, converts four million gallons of that daily into drinking water for the communities. The project calls for drilling a pumping facility and building a transmission line for a water treatment plant.
Source: http://www.startribune.com/local/south/26999024.html?elr=KArks:DCiU1OiP:DiiUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU
21. *August 14, Reuters* – (New York) **NY needs \$50 billion of clean water investments: government.** New York State will have to spend more than \$50 billion over the next 20 years to protect its water supply to fulfill requirements the federal government is imposing without funding, the governor said on Thursday. A new task force has been charged with crafting a plan to raise the money that will be needed, the governor said in a statement. The governor has previously urged Washington to reinvigorate the national economy with new public works projects. New York's waste water treatment plants will need more than \$36 billion of repairs, while drinking water systems could need over \$20 billion, he estimated, blaming Washington for cutting federal aid by 70 percent over the past two decades. This has delayed needed maintenance, causing hundreds of sewage and waste water treatment plants to deteriorate, and triggered violations of the Clean Water Act, he said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN1449342720080814>
22. *August 14, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Colusa wastewater treatment plants draw fines.** A state water quality control board has lodged millions of dollars in fines against two municipal treatment plants in Colusa County for violating wastewater discharge limits. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued the tentative administrative civil liability orders Thursday against the Maxwell Public Utilities District and the Williams wastewater treatment plant. Maxwell PUC faces about \$1.6 million in penalties for violating effluent limits for ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, chlorine residual, total suspended solids, total coliform organisms, and turbidity from January 1, 2000, to April 30, a state water board news release stated. Williams faces \$2.1 million in penalties for violating effluent limitations for ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, pH, total coliform organisms, total suspended solids, and turbidity from January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2007, the release states. The state water code allows a publicly owned treatment works serving a small community with a financial hardship to complete a compliance project instead of paying the penalties. Both cities fall into that category. Maxwell is spending more than \$8 million to construct a new wastewater treatment plant to correct the violations. Williams is spending more than \$2.1 million to construct a new wastewater treatment plant.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/378/story/1155900.html>

23. *August 14, Buffalo News* – (New York) **Area’s aging sewage plants are beginning to break down.** Amherst’s sewage treatment facility experienced a number of problems this spring. Metal guide rails needed to help separate sludge were so rusted and broken that they resembled shark’s teeth. Three of the plant’s four primary clarifier tanks were also on the fritz, leaving the plant open to state permit violations for discharging water with unacceptably high levels of nitrogen. Months later, Amherst’s problems remain, and it is not the only plant with issues. Buffalo’s plant needs to be upgraded. The Town of Tonawanda is worried about its facility. The three plants cost taxpayers \$80 million to operate last year. But more alarming is the millions more being borrowed or raised to pay for mounting repair and replacement costs as these aging facilities reach their 30th birthdays. All three facilities were built or greatly expanded after the passage of the Clean Water Act of 1972. The federal program offered to reimburse municipalities that built waste water treatment plants for the majority of their construction costs. Many original components of the plants have reached the end of their life span.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/story/414246.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *August 14, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Amerigroup to pay \$225 mln Medicaid settlement.** Health insurer Amerigroup Corp. will pay \$225 million to settle federal and state claims of fraud in a government health insurance program, the company and the U.S. Justice Department said on Thursday. The pact, in coordination with Illinois officials, settles allegations that the company’s health plans excluded pregnant women and unhealthy patients in the Illinois Medicaid plan. Medicaid is the state-federal health plan for the poor. “A settlement of this magnitude sends the clear message that this office takes health care fraud very seriously,” said the U.S. attorney for the northern district of Illinois, in a statement. “This case also illustrated the perils a defendant faces in taking a case such as this to trial.” Amerigroup said it agreed to settle in order to lessen legal and financial uncertainty for the company. A jury found Amerigroup liable under federal and state law in October 2006, and the court entered a \$334 million judgment against Amerigroup.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN1451802120080814?sp=true>

25. *August 14, Reuters* – (Connecticut; New York) **Connecticut to fight proposal for defense lab.** Connecticut will fight a proposal to turn a federal laboratory known as the “Alcatraz for animal disease” into a facility to study deadly viruses, the state’s attorney general said on Thursday. New York’s Plum Island is one of six potential sites for a new facility that would study lethal diseases transmitted by animals along with biological agents that could harm food supplies. The facility would be the only biosafety level 4 animal laboratory in the country and could cost as much as \$750 million to build. Connecticut’s attorney general said the proposed laboratory would make his state a potential target for terrorists and put human life at risk. Plum Island is two miles off the eastern tip of New York’s Long Island and about 8 miles south of Connecticut’s southern coast.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN14342553>

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *August 14, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Possible Plum Island upgrade worries some shoreline residents.** Despite reports this week that the federal government is looking at Mississippi as its pick for a facility to study some of the world's deadliest biological threats, some shoreline residents wary of research conducted on Plum Island in Long Island Sound are concerned that the lab could still be built eight miles off the Connecticut coast. Five mainland locations are on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security list to house the new laboratory. Federal officials expect to pick a site by the end of the year. Homeland Security began looking for an alternative site to Plum Island two years ago because estimates showed it would cost more than \$750 million to build a new, more secure lab on the 840-acre island. Officials have said a new lab could be built on the mainland for about \$500 million, and it would be less expensive to run.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/community/news/mr/hc-plumisland0814.artaug14,0,6729789.story>

27. *August 14, KNDO/KNDU 23/25 Yakima* – (Washington) **Shooting threat at Columbia Basin College in Pasco.** Staff at Columbia Basin College (CBC) say that Thursday morning they got a call from a man saying someone was planning to shoot students at the school. Pasco police were immediately notified, and emergency management procedures were put in place. CBC staff sent a mass email to students and staff. They also put flyers on the doors of every building. There are about 2,000 students on campus right now. CBC staff say classes will keep going this week. The school was not put on lock down because police called this a low risk threat. Staff say Pasco police tracked down the call to a payphone in downtown Pasco.

Source: http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=8844950&nav=menu484_2_8

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *August 14, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Police: 2 arrests made in Dover, NH bomb threat.** The police chief in Dover, New Hampshire, says two men have been arrested after a firefighter found a device resembling a bomb in his car parked at a bank. Police arrested the men Thursday on charges of placement of simulated explosives and disorderly conduct. Both men were arraigned in Dover District Court and released on \$50,000 bail. They are scheduled for a hearing on August 26. Downtown Dover was shut down for four hours Saturday as police removed what looked like an authentic pipe bomb from the firefighter's car. Officials later determined that the victim knew the men, who work together at Gove Construction in Portsmouth, and that the incident was intended as a prank.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2008/08/14/police_2_arrests_made_in_dover_nh_bomb_threat/

29. *August 13, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Houston region facing test on response to terror tactic.** The kind of homemade bombs being used against U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan will likely be the weapon of choice in the event of a terrorist strike in the Houston area, officials with the Department of Homeland Security said. “They’re easy to build (and) they’re difficult to defeat,” said the assistant secretary for infrastructure protection at DHS, who called such improvised explosive devices “a tough nut to crack.” On Wednesday, he announced that Houston is the test site for a plan to gauge the vulnerability of potential targets, like oil refineries and chemical plants, against attacks from IEDs. Because potential targets in the Houston area cross several jurisdictional boundaries, a variety of agencies — both local and federal — will take part in the study, officials said.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/5942556.html>

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Information Technology

30. *August 15, Asbury Park Press* – (National) **Cyber Command plan, sought for McGuire, is suspended.** The Pentagon has suspended an Air Force plan to establish a Cyber Command that would protect the United States from attacks on its electronic infrastructure, for which McGuire Air Force Base was a potential headquarters. The initiative might be falling victim to a turf battle within the federal Department of Defense. A memo circulated this week announced that budget and personnel transfers for the project have been put on hold. Meanwhile, a senior military commander told the Associated Press that computer defense and offense would be better sited within U.S. Strategic Command, which has the military responsibility for cyberspace across all services and commands. The former secretary of the Air Force, who was fired earlier this year, had been the chief patron of creating a cyber command.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080815/NEWS03/808150407/1007>

31. *August 15, IDG News Service* – (National) **Peer-to-peer client UTorrent fixes serious vulnerability.** One of the most popular programs used by some to illegally share files under copyright has patched a serious software vulnerability. The problem affects the P-to-P (peer-to-peer) program uTorrent as well as BitTorrent Mainline, another program based on the uTorrent code. It has been classified as “highly critical,” the second most severe ranking of risk, by Secunia, a security vendor in Denmark. Both programs use the BitTorrent protocol, which has become the most popular method of file sharing worldwide, according to iPoque, a company based in Leipzig, Germany, that specializes in traffic-management appliances for ISPs. The programs collect pieces of a particular file from other computers around the world and assemble it. The vulnerability can be exploited if a user downloads a malicious torrent, which is a text file that coordinates the downloading of content. The problem causes a stack overflow, which can allow an

attacker to upload other malicious software to a PC. The bug was in the software for at least two years, wrote the researcher who is credited with the find and has written a short paper describing the problem.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/149853/peertopeer_client_utorrent_fixes_serious_vulnerability.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

32. *August 15, USA Today* – (International) **Dropped calls plague iPhone 3G, and not just in U.S.** Since the launch of the next-generation iPhone, Apple’s message boards have been flooded with complaints of dropped calls and poor 3G connectivity indicated by few or no “bars” on the phone’s display. From New York to Stockholm, 3G iPhone owners are complaining loudly about connection failures — sometimes repeatedly — during calls. The problem typically occurs when the device attempts to move from 3G to another network. According to people familiar with the matter, the culprit appears to be the 3G chipset provided by Infineon Technologies, a German chipmaker. Sources declined to be identified because they are not authorized to talk about the problem publicly. According to these sources, AT&T and Apple are working on a software fix. The fix, which will be available remotely via iTunes, could be ready as early as next week, they said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/wireless/phones/2008-08-14-iphone-3g-connectivity-problem_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

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Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *August 14, Post* – (Ohio) **3rd pipebombing suspect pleads not guilty.** The third of three men accused of setting off a pipe bomb in downtown Nelsonville has pleaded not guilty. An 18-year-old man from Nelsonville pleaded not guilty Friday to charges of arson, aggravated arson, and possession of unlawful ordnance. The three men are accused of planting pipe bombs that caused about \$2,500 worth of damage to Wilson’s Camera Shop in downtown Nelsonville. The trio is accused of planting similar bombs at the Nelsonville Elks lodge and Nelsonville-York high school.

Source: <http://www.thepost.ohiou.edu/Articles/News/2008/08/14/25156/>

34. *August 14, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Man arrested after Hollywood bomb**

scare. A man is in custody after a bomb scare near the Kodak Theatre. Investigators say the man claimed to have explosives and large rounds of ammunition in the trunk of his vehicle, which was parked at the Hollywood & Highland Center's parking structure in Hollywood, authorities said. The incident began shortly before 8:30 p.m. Wednesday when a man left his jacket at a restaurant where he had been dining, said a sergeant of the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollywood Station. Waiters discovered a handgun inside the jacket and called police, he said, adding that when the man returned for the garment, he was "arrested as an ex-con with a gun." The man told police his vehicle, which was parked in the parking structure along Highland Avenue, contained large rounds and explosives in the trunk, he said. A perimeter was set up as police and a bomb squad combed through the parking structure, leaving roughly 200 employees and patrons without access to their vehicles for hours, an officer at the LAPD's Hollywood Station said. Members of the bomb squad located the man's vehicle, opened the trunk and found nothing inside, he said.

Source: <http://ktla.trb.com/news/ktla-kodak-bomb-scare,0,423027.story>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *August 15, Arizona Daily Star* – (Arizona) **Report: Faulty design turned border fence into dam.** A 5.2-mile border fence recently constructed along Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument's southern border in southwestern Arizona became a dam in a recent flash flood, monument officials say. Organ Pipe officials issued a 17-page report this week detailing how the 15-foot-high wire mesh fence halted the natural flow of floodwater during a July 12 storm that dumped 1 to 2 inches of rain in 90 minutes around the border towns of Lukeville, Arizona, and Sonoyta, Sonora. Debris piled up against the fence, including in drainage gates designed to prevent flooding, and the 6-foot deep fence foundation stopped subsurface water flow, the report said. As a result, water pooled 2 to 7 feet high, depending on the area, causing water that usually flows north to south across the border in natural drainage washes to flow laterally, the report said. "As a consequence, natural resources of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and National Park Service infrastructure will be impacted, as well as resources and infrastructure on neighboring lands in the U.S. and Mexico," the report said. The report has been sent to the Border Patrol and its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, said the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument superintendent.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/252889>

36. *August 14, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Tribes object to fighting fire in sacred places.** Indian tribes from the Klamath River canyon are worried that the U.S. Forest Service is violating some of their sacred lands by fighting a remote wilderness wildfire rather than letting it burn naturally. "Talking with Forest Service firefighters, I have been saying this is the Sistine Chapel, the Mount Sinai, the Vatican," for the Yurok, Karuk and Tolowa tribes, the Yurok tribe's liaison with the Forest Service said from Arcata, California. Two fires have been burning for weeks through uninhabited forests and steep canyons in the Siskiyou Wilderness on the Six Rivers National Forest between the Klamath River and the Oregon border. Under protocols established years ago, the tribes

have been meeting with the Forest Service over the management of the fires, and Six Rivers National Forest supervisor said they are being sensitive to the tribes' concerns. While native people have for centuries set fires to manage natural resources, such as the oaks that produce acorns, the tribes are worried that the fires set by the Forest Service burn at higher intensity, destroying fisheries habitat and other resources, said Bill Tripp, eco-cultural restoration specialist for the Karuk tribe.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5grsq3fN5uJUCp-D2y-OM-JEEHfpAD92HUF82>

37. *August 13, Honolulu Advertiser and Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Navy can use sonar system near Hawaii, court rules.** The Navy will be allowed to use a powerful low-frequency sonar system closer to Hawai'i under a court settlement reached yesterday, but the agreement also establishes exclusion zones around the Islands and marine-rich waters including the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, environmentalists say. The Navy said the LFA system, which differs from more common mid-frequency sonar, is crucial to detecting a growing number of quiet diesel electric submarines at long distances. SURTASS is towed behind a ship and passively detects sounds made by submarines. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), however, said the low-frequency sonar blasts vast areas of ocean with levels of underwater noise that are harmful to whales and dolphins. The settlement approved yesterday by a U.S. District Court in San Francisco restricts the LFA sonar to certain military training areas of the Pacific Ocean, the NRDC said. In Hawai'i, LFA testing and training is prohibited near the Hawai'i Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and is limited to waters beyond 50 nautical miles off the main islands, "an area known to contain vital habitat for several unique marine mammal populations," the environmental group said. The Navy said it was "satisfied" with the settlement, and that it appreciated a mediator's efforts to help the parties come to agreement.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080813/NEWS01/808130402/1190/LOCALNEWSFRONT>

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Dams Sector

38. *August 14, KHQA 7 Keokuk* – (Illinois; Iowa; Missouri) **Comprehensive plan approved for improved levee system.** Dozens of community members, levee officials, and city leaders attended Thursday's meeting to hear the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. The report started after the flood of '93 and finished earlier this year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will present a plan to the commission, which will then vote on a recommendation to go to Congress, said the vice chairman of the Upper Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri Rivers Association (UMIMRA). In fact, that decision could be closer than ever. The commission approved a plan to build a flood protection system to a 500 year flood protection level. The UMIMRA vice chairman said that already this plan has picked up congressional support. Thursday's decision could very well be a step in the right direction, providing much needed flood relief to

hundreds of homeowners and acres farmland. All three governors in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri support the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. The recommendation will first go to the chief of engineers, for either acceptance or further study.

Source: http://www.khqa.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=175120

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