



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 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/>

- According to Reuters, PG&E Corp.’s Unit 2 at Diablo Canyon nuclear power station in California automatically shut on Sunday due to a fire that damaged a transformer. (See item [11](#))
- CNN reports that authorities halted the evacuation Sunday night of a few hundred people who were initially thought to be in danger after rain breached an earthen dam at the Grand Canyon. (See item [49](#))

**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 18, Dow Jones Newswires* – (International) **Azeri oil exports on Georgian railways suspended – BP.** Oil exports of around 50,000-70,000 barrels a day from Azerbaijan by rail through Georgia have been suspended after the destruction of a key rail bridge in Georgia, a spokesman for BP PLC said Monday. The Georgian rail authorities are looking for alternative routes, but the ongoing shutdown of the Baku-Supsa and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipelines means that the 100,000 barrel a day Baku-Novorossiisk pipeline is the only western export route for Azeri crude, the spokesman said. A person familiar with the situation in Georgia told Dow Jones Newswires that there is another rail track running over an older bridge not far from the

one that was destroyed. It should be possible to freight oil by that track to Batumi in a matter of days, the person said. Saturday, Georgian officials said Russian troops blew up an important bridge, cutting the east-west rail route that carries oil from Azerbaijan to Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djhighlights/200808180704DOWJONESDJONLINE000172.htm>

2. *August 18, Houston Chronicle* – (National) **Tropical storm unlikely to affect offshore operations.** Gulf of Mexico oil and natural gas producers say they are not expecting Tropical Storm Fay to have much impact on their operations. Shell Oil evacuated 425 workers from offshore platforms over the weekend but by this morning had suspended that process when forecasts put the storm on a northerly track over Florida. Offshore driller Transocean evacuated about 75 non-essential personnel from two deepwater rigs off the coast of southern Louisiana, a company spokesman said, but was not planning to bring any more workers ashore. Offshore drilling contractors Pride International and Noble Drilling, along with producer Chevron, said they were continuing to monitor the storm but had not evacuated workers. BP said in a recorded message it did not expect the storm to affect any of its offshore operations.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/biz/5950446.html>

3. *August 18, Bristol Herald Courier* – (Virginia) **Carbon storage test called key to coal's future.** With a formal site groundbreaking Monday, researchers are preparing to test a technology that would allow carbon dioxide to be stored underground instead of released into the air. "This is a major event in securing the future of coal nationally," said a U.S. representative, who often has discussed federal climate change legislation on the near horizon that will limit carbon dioxide emissions. He says having a place to store the gas will be essential to the continued use of coal when such regulations are imposed. The two-month-long Russell County, Virginia, test will inject 1,000 tons of carbon dioxide into unminable coal seams, said the project manager of the test for the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research. The test, which will use an existing coalbed methane well to inject the CO<sub>2</sub>, is the second of three phases in a project to demonstrate the viability of carbon storage technology for commercial use. It will be the first such test in the central Appalachian region. The project manager said the first phase, a characterization study, shows a storage capacity of up to 1.34 billion tons – or enough to store more than 100 years worth of carbon dioxide emissions from the power plants in Carbo and Virginia City. The third phase would be a larger scale test to demonstrate the technology.

Source:

[http://www.tricities.com/tri/news/local/article/carbon\\_storage\\_test\\_called\\_key\\_to\\_coals\\_future/12834/](http://www.tricities.com/tri/news/local/article/carbon_storage_test_called_key_to_coals_future/12834/)

4. *August 18, USA Today* – (California) **Pacific Gas deal will nearly double United States' solar power.** Electric utilities are warming to solar power in a shift that promises to turbocharge a technology that has been hindered by high prices and slow consumer adoption. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) in California announced last week

it will buy 800 megawatts of solar-generated electricity from two companies, enough to light 239,000 homes. Within three years, PG&E will buy its solar energy from OptiSolar and SunPower, which plan to build the world's two largest solar farms in California as part of the deal. It would nearly double the United States' entire solar-panel capacity. Driving the trend are solar's falling costs and state alternative-energy mandates.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-17-solar-electric\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-17-solar-electric_N.htm)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *August 18, NECN/WPRI 12 Rhode Island* – (Rhode Island) **Fire erupts at recycling plant, causes unrest in Johnston, RI.** Environmental crews were on the scene of a fire at a recycling plant to check for toxic fumes and smoke near Providence on Sunday. The Metals Recycling plant had been under investigation for hazardous waste violations in the past and there have been several fires there, including in 2002 and in 2003. The town's council even asked the mayor to shut down the plant in 2003. This time around officials warned residents in the town to stay inside and keep windows and doors shut as officials test the air quality. Firefighters were continuing to handle hot spots as of Sunday evening. There are no reports of any injuries. The cause is under investigation. Source: <http://www.necn.com/Boston/New-England/Fire-erupts-at-recycling-plant-causes-unrest-in-Johnston/1219029918.html>
6. *August 17, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Train derailment destroys nearby buildings.** A train derailment had emergency crews bracing for the worst after 17 CSX cars came off the tracks Sunday morning in Sumner County. There were no dangerous chemicals, spills or leakage, but emergency workers were concerned about three nearby metal buildings destroyed Sunday morning when the 17 cars derailed. One of those buildings stores chemicals for the White House Utility district. Run-off from that building was quickly contained. CSX now must get the cars up, piggy-back them on flatbed rail cars, and repair the track. Emergency crews said it will be up to CSX to investigate and pinpoint what caused those cars to jump the tracks. Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=8854866>
7. *August 17, KARK 4 Little Rock* – (Arkansas) **Searcy plant destroyed in chemical fire.** A late night fire devastated a Searcy chemical plant on Saturday night. Amateur video from a witness shows the severity of the chemical fire. The plant makes drilling fluids used by companies involved in the Fayetteville shale gas exploration. The Searcy fire marshal tells KARK, there is nothing left of the plant and that it took six hours to contain the fire. Sunday afternoon, hazmat crews are still at the scene monitoring air quality. No one was hurt and there is no official explanation as to what started the blaze. Source: <http://arkansasmatters.com/content/fulltext/news/?cid=100602>
8. *August 16, Chronicle-Telegram* – (Ohio) **Quest for meth material causes poison scare.** On Thursday night, emergency crews discovered an attempt to steal an agricultural chemical commonly used to make crystal meth. Wellington, Ohio, fire

crews responded to the emergency after a man was overcome by fumes leaking from a nearby anhydrous ammonia tank. The tank, used to store a nitrogen-based fertilizer for crops, sat roughly 50 yards behind the man's house, and — when safety crews arrived — they found a 20-pound propane grill cylinder had been attached to the tank by way of a low-grade rubber hose, which had been melted away by the chemical, a Wellington fire official said. The road was closed off and more than 10 homes were evacuated to help protect residents from the chemical, which the official said can severely damage the eyes and respiratory system. A fact sheet detailing the theft of anhydrous ammonia from the Ohio State University (OSU) said the chemical has been used as a low-cost, highly effective fertilizer for many years. Drug dealers, however, also have discovered that it can be used to manufacture the illegal drug methamphetamine, also known as crystal meth, and have targeted farm tanks as a source. To help prevent thefts, OSU recommends the purchase or rental of locking devices for tank valves, in addition to keeping a close watch on them.

Source: [http://www.chroniclet.com/2008/08/16/quest-for-meth-material-causes-poison-scare\\_122/](http://www.chroniclet.com/2008/08/16/quest-for-meth-material-causes-poison-scare_122/)

9. *August 16, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Woods Cross refinery workers are evacuated after acid leaks from pipe.** Between 600 and 700 employees were evacuated from an oil refinery in Woods Cross on Friday afternoon when hydrofluoric acid began leaking from a broken pipe. No injuries were reported and employees of Holly Corp. were able to suppress the acid vapor quickly, said the South Davis Metro Fire Department Chief. It was unknown how much acid leaked. Crews working near the area were evaluated by emergency personnel and released. The refinery, which processes approximately 26,000 barrels of crude oil a day, produces around 15 percent of the state's gasoline.

Source: [http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_10222580](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_10222580)

10. *August 15, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Neighborhoods evacuated after biodiesel plant explosion.** An early morning fire at a biodiesel plant sent families scrambling to safety in Decatur County. No one was hurt. It was about a year ago when Biofuel of Tennessee expanded. It was capable of producing 8 to 10 million gallons of biodiesel a year. The plant has been in shut down mode for the last four months. No one is sure what caused the explosion that shook up Broadway's community. "We had a lot of methanol, unused methanol that they used in the process," said the Decatur County Fire Chief. "We had some acid products." There were no reported injuries. Hazard materials crews remained on the scene and cleaned up methanol, a colorless and odorless and slightly flammable liquid. It is believed the chemical never reached a nearby creek so there is hope the explosion will not cause environmental problems. Families who evacuated returned to their homes.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=8849949>

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

11. *August 18, Reuters* – (California) **PG&E Calif. Diablo Canyon 2 reactor shut due to fire.** PG&E Corp.'s Unit 2 at Diablo Canyon nuclear power station automatically shut

on Sunday due to a fire that damaged a transformer, a spokeswoman for the company said. She could not say when the unit would return to service since workers were still investigating the cause of the fire and developing a repair plan. She said the fire started about midnight and lasted about 30 minutes and forced the company to declare an unusual event. PG&E terminated the unusual event within two hours. The spokeswoman said the company does have another transformer on site that can replace the damaged transformer if necessary. Unit 1 was not affected by the fire and continued to operate at full power.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN1826696820080818?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

12. *August 18, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **FPL reactor taken off-line.** One of the two nuclear reactors at Turkey Point has been taken off-line because of a leak, nuclear regulators reported Monday. A spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said the problem was caused by a small leak in a pipe. The shut down started on Friday afternoon and was completed on Sunday after several discussions between NRC staff and Florida Power & Light (FPL). A repair crew for FPL originally believed that they could fix the leak while the reactor remained on-line, he said. But phone conversations with the NRC convinced them such a move was a “misapplication of a tech spec,” meaning the manual of specifications under which the plant is supposed to be conducted. An FPL spokesman said the action was taken on Unit 4 “to repair a connection between two small pipes leading to a valve that we use for equipment testing when the units are off-line for refueling.” The pipe and connector are inside the containment building, and there was never any danger to the public, the FPL spokesman said. The event report filed by the NRC said the shut-down was “required by technical specifications” after a leak developed from a “structural weld crack... The cause of the crack is being evaluated.”

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/breaking-news/story/646534.html>

13. *August 18, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Exelon Ill. Dresden 3 reactor up to 99 pct power.** Exelon Corp.’s Unit 3 at the Dresden nuclear power station ramped up to 99 percent power by early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. On August 17, the company reduced the unit from full power to about 30 percent due to an inability to perform required reactor coolant system leak rate verification. Before fixing the problem, the company was required to shut the unit.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1844503120080818>

14. *August 18, Reuters* – (Michigan) **AEP shuts Mich. Cook 2 reactor for work.** American Electric Power Co. Inc. shut Unit 2 at the Cook nuclear power station on August 16 for maintenance, a spokesman for the plant said Monday. Electricity traders guessed the unit would return within a week. The spokesman said plant personnel were working on the turbine control system. On Friday, the unit was operating at full power.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN1832363320080818?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

15. *August 17, Telegraph* – (International) **Georgia: Terror fears over whereabouts of region’s nuclear material.** Georgia’s conflict with Russia has raised fresh concerns over the whereabouts of the region’s nuclear material that could be used by terrorists to make a “dirty bomb.” When the breakaway region of Abkhazia split from Georgia in 1993, the world’s only known case of enriched uranium going missing was reported after up to five pounds of the potentially devastating material was stolen from a laboratory. There are now fears that the organized criminal gangs that are rife in the region could exploit the confusion of the current conflict to loot other stocks. Security services are worried that terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda could purchase weapons grade uranium and mix it with a detonator as basic as fertilizer to make a deadly device. While an estimated 33 pounds of uranium is needed to make a nuclear bomb, just a small amount is needed for an unconventional device. “There is no fear of a nuclear bomb coming out of this region but the bigger danger is that a small amount of uranium combined with conventional explosive terrorists could make a dirty bomb that would make an area the size of the City’s Square Mile unusable for 30 or 40 years,” said a security source.  
Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/georgia/2575223/Georgia-Terror-fears-over-whereabouts-of-regions-nuclear-material.html>
16. *August 16, Eureka Reporter* – (California) **PG&E begins relocation of spent nuclear fuel rods.** It is being described as a major step forward in the safe storage of the Humboldt Bay Power Plant’s spent nuclear fuel. The Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) announced Friday that the first of five massive containers of nuclear rods has been secured in the underground storage facility the power company began building at its King Salmon site in April. The Humboldt Bay Power Plant Unit 3 was shut down for seismic modifications in 1976 and remained closed until 1983, when PG&E determined that the required seismic modifications no longer made the plant economically feasible. The first 80 of the plant’s 390 spent fuel rods, which have been resting in a water cooling pool for decades, made the short trip up the hill Friday. “This entire cask design is unique in the world,” said PG&E’s director and plant manager for the nuclear power plant. The director said all the casks are expected to be sealed in the state-of-the-art storage facility by November and will be protected by a “robust” security system until the U.S. Department of Energy takes possession of the material.  
Source: <http://www.eurekareporter.com/article/080815-pge-begins-relocation-of-spent-nuclear-fuel-rods>
17. *August 16, Royal Gazette* – (New Jersey) **Asbestos and radioactive shipment returns.** Asbestos and radioactive material accidentally sent to the U.S. from the Club Med site is now back in Bermuda and being dealt with, a government official said Friday night. An inquiry was launched after U.S. authorities discovered the materials on a ship that arrived in New Jersey earlier this month. They sent them back to Bermuda amid safety concerns. The permanent secretary to the Ministry of Works and Engineering confirmed that the containers arrived back on the Island on Sunday August 10.

Source:

<http://www.royalgazette.com/siftology.royalgazette/Article/article.jsp?articleId=7d8882f30030007&sectionId=60>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

18. *August 16, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Workers overcook nuclear warheads at Y-12.** A federal spokesman confirmed that Oak Ridge workers overcooked some nuclear warhead components during a drying process to such an extent that the parts could no longer be “used as intended.” The incident at the Y-12 National Security Complex was revealed in a June 20 report by staff of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The timing was about a month after the Oak Ridge plant received approval to restart production work on W76 warheads, which had been delayed for more than a year because of technical issues. The safety board’s report said the components - known as canned subassemblies - were mistakenly dried at a “much higher temperature” than intended. The safety board report said Y-12 workers who put the subassemblies in the can did not fill out a required form identifying the items. Later, a different operator, who was not involved in the canning, filled out those forms, but used incorrect information based on “verbal input” from the other workers, the safety staffers wrote in their report to board headquarters in Washington. A representative of the National Nuclear Security Administration said the parts were deemed acceptable for an “alternate use” but said they had to be rebuilt. He would not disclose the future use or say if it was a weapons mission. The Oak Ridge plant specializes in the manufacture and dismantlement of so-called secondaries, which are the second stage of thermonuclear weapons. The parts also are referred to as canned subassemblies, and they are fabricated with highly enriched uranium and other materials.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/aug/16/workers-overcook-warheads-at-y-12/>

19. *August 15, Reuters* – (National) **Auditors urge Pentagon to improve radio system.** Government auditors are urging the Pentagon to improve its oversight of a troubled program to produce new military radios, warning that delays and immediate radio replacement needs have more than doubled costs. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) said the Defense Department (DOD) needed to overcome technology hurdles, manage its investments in the more expensive new radios, and phase them in without prematurely retiring a relatively young inventory of current equipment. “DOD does not have a strategy to meet these challenges and thus runs the risk of having its future communication capabilities decided ad hoc,” said the GAO report released on Friday. The Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) is a family of advanced software-based communications aimed at replacing current radios throughout the U.S. military. It promises secure Internet-like capabilities and networking for voice, text, audio, and video. GAO said that over the past five years only an enhanced handheld radio had been fielded with no JTRS networking radio produced. Over 2003-2007, about \$3.2 billion was due to be spent on JTRS and legacy radios for the Army and Marine Corps. Instead, GAO said, about \$8.3 billion was actually spent, with \$5.7 billion going to legacy radios

and \$2.5 billion spent on JTRS development.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1544792020080815?sp=true>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

20. *August 18, Computerworld* – (National) **Wells Fargo codes used to access personal information.** Wells Fargo Bank NA is notifying some 7,000 people that their Social Security numbers and other personal information may have been accessed by thieves using the financial services firm’s access codes. The bank learned of the compromise on July 1 from MicroBilt Corp., a reseller of consumer data, according to a Wells Fargo spokeswoman. MicroBilt notified Wells Fargo of suspicious transactions made on its site using the bank’s access codes, she said. The codes are used by certain Wells Fargo employees to access MicroBilt’s consumer credit data. The spokeswoman noted that the accessed records belonged to “random individuals,” only a small number of whom were Wells Fargo customers. In the letter, Wells Fargo’s senior corporate counsel disclosed that “a significant number of unauthorized transactions had been made using Wells Fargo’s codes.” He said that Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, driver’s license numbers and, in some cases, credit account information had been accessed. The letter also said that the bank has contact information for only about 2,400 of the affected individuals.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=324500&intsrc=news\\_ts\\_head](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=324500&intsrc=news_ts_head)

21. *August 18, Washington Post* – (National) **CEOs launch web site to protect short sellers.** Three business men launched RegSHO.com, which is a Web-based, real-time electronic stock lending and location service that provides tools to help sellers and brokerage firms comply with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules governing naked short selling – the practice the agency sought to prevent – and regular short sales of stocks. The Web site matches traders with available stocks that can be borrowed for short sales and offers immediate data on the short-sell market. It is named after the SEC’s order regulating such trades, Regulation SHO. The emergency order required short sellers to borrow shares before initiating a short sale in the stocks of 19 major companies, including Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch, along with mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Issued July 15, the order expired August 12, with SEC officials saying they were moving toward introducing a permanent rule that could cover the entire market. RegSHO.com’s executives say their company can help reduce costs because transactions are done electronically and traders never have to take the time to pick up the phone. Access to RegSHO.com includes access to LocateStock.com, a real-time lending-borrow marketplace specializing in hard-to-borrow stocks, and Buyins.net, which specializes in identifying demand for borrowed stocks and features a historical database of more than 2.1 billion short sale transactions. The three founders said that membership in the sites has increased by at least 30 to 40

percent since the SEC's announcement of its order.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/17/AR2008081702014.html?hpid=sec-business>

22. *August 15, Associated Press* – (National) **UBS faces fraud charge in New Hampshire.** New Hampshire securities regulators on Thursday accused banking giant UBS of defrauding the state's leading issuer of student loans. In a civil complaint, the Bureau of Securities Regulation said that while UBS Securities LLC was steering bigger clients out of the auction-rate securities market last winter because of signs the market would collapse, it was advising the New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corp. to stay in. UBS denied defrauding anyone. The regulators seek unspecified fines and restitution and a halt to the alleged misconduct. They said a hearing examiner will be appointed for proceedings that could easily take months. The bureau director said UBS and other big banks should act on their own to shore up the lending capacity of programs such as New Hampshire's. He said student loan issuers and borrowers in other states are in similar jams. The lender's president said his company handles 80 to 85 percent of the student loans in the state worth about \$250 million annually. Using other banks and credit unions, it has continued handling federal student loans totaling about \$90 million. UBS Securities, UBS' investment banking branch, has been the longtime financial adviser and underwriter to New Hampshire's program.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/15/BURU12B6VQ.DTL>

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## **Transportation Sector**

23. *August 18, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Atlanta's airport not gun-free.** Officials at the world's busiest airport apparently overstated their case last month when they declared Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International a "gun-free" zone. Truth is, hunters, competitive shooters and other fliers tote hundreds of guns — some of them high-powered weapons — and thousands of rounds of ammunition through nonsecure areas of Hartsfield-Jackson every year. Federal regulations stipulate that the guns and ammo must be carried in a locked, hard-sided case, and they must be checked as baggage. Each passenger is permitted to carry up to 11 pounds of ammunition. Weapons, which must be unloaded, and ammo must be declared to gate agents. Neither the Federal Aviation Administration nor the Transportation Security Administration keep statistics on how many guns passengers check at Hartsfield-Jackson, said representatives of both agencies. However, Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines, the airport's biggest carrier, estimates that about 700 or so guns — rifles, shotguns, pistols — are brought into the airport every year to be checked as luggage by its passengers. Some gun-rights advocates argue the fact that people now legally carry guns into the airport undermines the city's contention that legally carried, concealed weapons will make Hartsfield-Jackson less safe. The Airport General Manager said his focus is on keeping the airport's 89 million yearly passengers safe. He has threatened to have anyone carrying a gun at Hartsfield-Jackson arrested. Both sides agree guns should be banned in the "secure" areas beyond the metal detectors and security gates. City and airport

officials claim the airport falls under the “public gatherings” statute, and they believe guns are still forbidden at the airport, despite the new law.

Source:

[http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/08/18/guns\\_in\\_airport.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/08/18/guns_in_airport.html)

24. *August 18, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Texas getting a floating oil port.** A Houston partnership between Enterprise Products Partners and TEPPCO Partners is spending \$2 billion to prepare for an energy future that inevitably will include oil imports. The team will announce Monday that it plans to build and operate an oil terminal 36 miles off the coast of Freeport. The project, the Texas Offshore Port System — TOPS, would include two floating connections for supertankers to unload crude, 160-miles of pipelines to bring the oil onshore and along the coast to refineries in Houston, Port Arthur and Beaumont, as well as new onshore storage for more than 5 million barrels of crude. Exxon Mobil Corp. and Motiva have committed to take shipments through the system for their coastal refineries. When it begins operations, which could be as early as 2010, the \$1.8 billion project will be able to unload up to 1.8 million barrels per day, about 18 percent of the current U.S. oil imports. Texas ports are not deep enough to accommodate the largest oil tankers, so oil arriving from the Middle East, Nigeria, Venezuela and other foreign sites on supertankers must be transferred to smaller ships for transport to the refineries, a process called lightering. The largest supertankers carry about 2 million barrels of oil and typically offload to four smaller tankers. The TOPS project would be in 115 feet of water, so even the largest tankers will be able to anchor next to a buoy with pipes connecting it to a pumping station that will move the oil to shore. The offshore terminal also is less likely than a coastal port to be shut down by fog and can operate around the clock. In addition to cutting back on tanker traffic in ports, the terminal may help reduce the risk of oil spills. The offshore terminal will require approval by the U.S. Coast Guard, while the onshore pipeline and storage facilities will be subject to review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Transportation.

Source: <http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/front/5949751.html>

25. *August 17, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **La Crosse Airport adds layer of security.** The La Crosse Municipal Airport has implemented one of Homeland Security’s latest programs, called Visual Intermodal Prevention and Response teams, or VIPR. The goal of the program is to increase the visual presence of law enforcement in order to deter those who might be thinking of plotting an attack. A Transportation Security Administration official said the VIPR teams bring together federal air marshals and local law enforcement to show an increased level of security. The extra security also includes occasional checks of vehicles entering airport property. The official said they will check the inside of the vehicle for possible explosives. The VIPR teams have already worked at other airports in Wisconsin, including Madison and Milwaukee.

Source:

[http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1523596/la\\_crosse\\_airport\\_adds\\_layer\\_of\\_security/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1523596/la_crosse_airport_adds_layer_of_security/)

26. *August 15, Reuters* – (National) **FAA seeks payment of \$10.2 mln Southwest fine.** Regulators upheld a record \$10.2 million fine against Southwest Airlines Co for alleged safety violations, and they want payment this month, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration said on Friday. The agency said it would turn the matter over to the Justice Department if payment was not received by August 29. The FAA said Southwest had failed to inspect Boeing 737s for structural cracks and continued to fly those aircraft even after notifying the agency that it had missed a deadline to complete the work. Southwest, the biggest U.S. airline by market value and the healthiest financially among major carriers, said it responded appropriately to the problem and never compromised flight safety. The FAA said no safety incidents resulted from the missed inspections. Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1551406020080815>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

27. *August 17, Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **Anthrax confirmed in three S.D. cattle herds.** Anthrax has been detected in three cattle herds in Douglas and Hutchinson counties in South Dakota. The Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at South Dakota State University (SDSU) is closely tracking the outbreak of anthrax in those herds. “It is one of the oldest diseases known to man,” says a South Dakota state veterinarian. “We are in what is known as an anthrax belt, from Canada to Texas. Historically, the soil in this part of the country is known to be contaminated with spores of the bacteria.” He said the anthrax spores that afflicted the South Dakota cattle are large and difficult to inhale. “The human health concern is handling carcasses without protective clothing such as long-sleeve shirts,” he says. Human exposure to anthrax spores in this manner typically results in “rather nasty skin infections” but usually is not fatal, said an extension veterinarian and SDSU assistant professor. He said the positive tests from the three South Dakota herds indicate a relatively small outbreak. He describes the mechanism of infection as cattle ingesting anthrax spores while grazing in pastures containing the bacteria. Once an outbreak is detected, the state veterinarian said, his staff contacts nearby livestock owners and urges them to vaccinate their animals. Within a week to 10 days after vaccination, effective immunity is achieved. Source:  
<http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080817/NEWS/808170303/1001>

28. *August 15, Montana Department of Livestock* – (Montana; Wyoming) **Sheep producers warned to be on the lookout for bluetongue.** Animal health officials in Montana and

Wyoming are working cooperatively to warn sheep producers about the potentially devastating impact of bluetongue. An outbreak of the disease late last summer led to a quarantine of sheep in 16 Montana counties and killed more than 250 sheep in Wyoming's Big Horn Basin. Following the outbreak, Montana and Wyoming state veterinarians formed a bluetongue work group to collect and share information, discuss approaches to combat the problem, and get the word out to producers. Bluetongue is a viral disease spread by a biting midge. Sheep, whitetail deer, and antelope are especially susceptible, and generally suffer high mortality when infected. Cattle, goats, mule deer, and elk can also contract the disease, but rarely show symptoms. The disease is not contagious, and cannot be spread to humans. There is no known treatment for the disease. Livestock owners are the first line of defense against the spread of the virus.

Source:

[http://www.theprairiestar.com/articles/2008/08/16/ag\\_news/livestock/livestock10.txt](http://www.theprairiestar.com/articles/2008/08/16/ag_news/livestock/livestock10.txt)

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## Water Sector

29. *August 18, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **EPA cleans up chemical spill in local river.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is cleaning up a chemical spill in the Tuscarawas River near Barberton, Ohio. Authorities are not sure of the exact source of the spill. They said the oil is traveling through a sewer and into the river. Now crews must track down how it is getting into the sewer. The EPA used containment measures at four different locations. No more oil is flowing into the river. It is contained to one area. So far, the EPA said the oil may only be a threat to vegetation.  
Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/akroncanton/17215789/detail.html>
30. *August 17, WBNG 12 Binghamton* – (New York) **Source of legionnaires' outbreak identified.** Officials have pin-pointed the cause of a legionnaires' outbreak in Chemung County, New York. Six people living at a senior housing complex in Elmira were diagnosed with the disease, and one died. The Chemung County Health Department says lab tests show bacteria that causes legionnaires' was found in the hot water system.  
Source: <http://www.wbng.com/news/local/27075699.html>
31. *August 17, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Alabama; Florida; Georgia) **Court rulings could settle water war.** Actions in two courtrooms soon could determine metro Atlanta's ability to control its future water supply as well as its hold over the water it already has. The outcome is as uncertain as it is important. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide this fall whether to take a petition filed by Georgia, which could validate an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assuring this region's access to water for 20 years. In a separate case, a U.S. District Court judge in Florida wants by early next year to hear arguments over whether metro Atlanta has the right to use Lake Lanier, which sits on the Chattahoochee River, as its primary water supply. The right has been assumed over the years: More than three million people get their drinking water from the federal reservoir or the Chattahoochee just below it. But its legal basis is contested by Alabama and Florida. Attorneys for all three states say they cannot predict the outcome, nor can they say exactly what defeat could mean to this

region. Certainly, additional reservoirs are already coming. Aggressive water conservation may also be required, even after the current drought ends.

Source: [http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/08/17/water\\_georgia.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/08/17/water_georgia.html)

32. *August 16, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Iowa awarded \$22M for rural water projects.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded Iowa \$22 million in loans and grants for rural water projects. The funds are part of the recently enacted farm bill and are intended to reduce the backlog of pending water and sewer projects. The project that will receive a share of the money included the Osgood Water Treatment Plant in northwest Iowa; a water distribution system in parts of Bremer and Black Hawk counties; a rural pipeline system in eastern Audubon County; upgrades to a water treatment plant in Creston; construction of a water well in Sioux County; and a water distribution system in the cities of Greeley and Dundee that will serve a part of rural Delaware County.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-watergrants,0,3659781.story>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

33. *August 17, Bloomberg* – (National) **Synthetic heparin made that may avoid**

**contamination, study says.** A synthetic version of heparin, a widely used blood thinner, might allow doctors and patients to use the drug without risk of tainted ingredients such as those that killed dozens of U.S. patients earlier this year. Scientists at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, said they have produced several milligrams of the chemical using the same enzymes that make it in the human body. Heparin sold on the market is derived from animal intestines. Making the blood thinner in biotechnology vats, rather than from pig intestines, would virtually eliminate the possibility that the drug would contain bacteria or viruses, the lead researcher said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a1OMOXpXXyo&refer=home>

34. *August 17, Indiana Post Tribune* – (National) **Agencies, Congress looking into**

**facilities.** The national spotlight fell on two physician-owned hospitals in 2005 and 2007 when two patients died after treatment there. Physician-owned hospitals are typically owned by a small group of doctors. Congressional leaders are considering limiting the kinds of procedures performed in specialty hospitals or withholding Medicare payments for certain high-risk procedures in limited-services hospitals, which do not have intensive-care units or emergency rooms to handle complications.

Source: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/1111766,hospdgrassley.article>

35. *August 16, Canton Repository* – (Ohio) **Hospital, city safety forces manage faux**

**anthrax attack.** On Friday, Aultman Hospital held a disaster drill that simulated an anthrax bomb attack. Nursing and paramedic students played victims, wearing cards around their necks with character descriptions, including injury details.

Source:

<http://www.cantonrep.com/index.php?ID=426197&Category=9&subCategoryID=0>

36. *August 15, Chattanooga Times Free Press* – (Tennessee) **Threat prompts BlueCross evacuation.** All Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee office buildings in Chattanooga were evacuated around 3 p.m. Friday, officials said. Police said a bomb threat was made to the company but did not specify a location. Fire, emergency medical services, and police personnel began the evacuations around 3 p.m. Chattanooga police and agents with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives were searching one BlueCross building at Eastgate Town Center around 4 p.m. Friday, while others remained guarded by emergency workers.

Source: <http://timesfreepress.com/news/2008/aug/15/threat-prompts-bluecross-evacuation/>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

37. *August 16, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **More ‘cloned’ vehicles shows threat remains.** Border Patrol agents are routinely on the lookout for vehicles bearing what look like official company logos and other ostensibly legitimate identification markings. This is because drug and human smugglers trying to cross the border from Mexico increasingly have resorted to using what the Border Patrol and law enforcement refer to as “cloned” vehicles to conceal their illegal operations. Some of these fake vehicles have actually been disguised as federal vehicles, like vehicles belonging to the U.S. Border Patrol, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Security Agency. As Homeland Security Today’s investigation disclosed, “cloned” vehicles have been reported from Oregon to Georgia. Completely cloned 18-wheelers disguised as Wal-Mart trucks have been reported in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri, according to law enforcement officials. Similarly, Homeland Security Today reported in March that federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities also are concerned about the growing thefts of official law enforcement credentials, uniforms, weapons, and other equipment that could be used to “infiltrate” “high-profile” events to carry out terrorist attacks.

Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/4738/128/>

38. *August 15, Government Executive* – (National) **Energy told to tighten cybersecurity policies.** The U.S. Energy Department’s inspector general on Thursday released an audit of the department’s certification and accreditation procedures for national security information systems that revealed a number of potentially serious weaknesses. Auditors concluded that the problems were similar to those that led to the theft of classified information at Los Alamos National Laboratory in 2006. “In our judgment, the findings in the report suggest the department could be at risk for similar diversions,” they wrote. Specifically, auditors found that the department had not fully developed and implemented adequate cybersecurity policies, and federal and contractor officials did not always use effective mechanisms to monitor the performance of security controls.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0808/081508kp1.htm>

## **Emergency Services Sector**

39. *August 16, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYPD unveils boats that can detect nuclear threats.** The New York Police Department (NYPD) has unveiled two high-tech patrol boats that can sniff out radiological or nuclear threats from miles away. The police Counterterrorism Division demonstrated the boats Friday and say they have sensors that can detect minute amounts of radiation. Police say the crew of one of the new boats was able to pinpoint a bottle containing harmless uranium a half-mile away on a fishing boat. The boats were used in a nuclear training exercise that also involved fire, Coast Guard, and Port Authority officials.  
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iTV4Gktt4KVeU4RhP73Y3b7DyIsAD92J5PS00>
40. *August 16, CNet* – (California) **Preparing for an urban WMD attack.** On Saturday, the San Francisco Fire Department, along with police officers, Army National Guard personnel, and members of other local, state, and federal agencies, ran a large-scale training exercise designed to help train all these emergency responders how to deal with a major terrorist attack involving suspected chemical weapons or other bio-hazards. The scenario was this: a terrorist with a backpack full of sodium cyanide--a chemical used in gold mining operations that quickly attacks and shuts down the human respiratory system--unleashed it inside 555 California. One of the elements of the scenario was that no one actually knows at first what the terrorist has attacked with. It seems obvious it is some form of chemical weapon, but the specifics are still a mystery. Finding out and then disseminating that information is one of the goals of the exercise.  
Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-13772\\_3-10018658-52.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13772_3-10018658-52.html)
41. *August 16, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYC fire union wants radio updates on water supply.** Giving five-minute radio updates about the water available to fight a fire would save firefighters' lives, including two who were killed at a condemned ground zero skyscraper a year ago, the city's fire union president said. The Uniformed Firefighters Association has asked the department to require dispatchers to call incident commanders every five minutes about water supply problems, and then alert firefighters in burning buildings by radio. The radio signals would help firefighters decide whether to move to safer locations if they've been in a building too long without water, the union president said this week in a letter to Fire Commissioner.  
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--fire-radios0816aug16,0,124400.story>
42. *August 16, Muskogee Phoenix* – (Oklahoma) **Ambulance services face increasing costs.** Muskogee County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) had to dip into its reserves to pay its bills for the fiscal year that ended June 30, said its director. The ambulance service operated \$442,000 in the red last year, she said. The money came from its reserves, which now total about \$3.8 million. However, the service lost \$130,000 in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2007. Muskogee EMS' financial situation is not nearly as bad as that of many of other services around the state, said the director of the Oklahoma

Department of Health's Emergency Services division. To break even with one 24-hour ambulance requires about 2,000 runs a year without going to taxes, he said. Muskogee County EMS made approximately 18,000 runs last year.

Source: [http://www.muskogee phoenix.com/local/local\\_story\\_229230606.html](http://www.muskogee phoenix.com/local/local_story_229230606.html)

43. *August 15, Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Nashville: High risk, less funds?** The greater Nashville area is now considered “high risk” in the eyes of the federal government, making it eligible for specialized disaster preparedness funding. Because of the infrastructure, critical financial and transportation hubs, and population the region has been designated a high priority and potential target by the Department of Homeland Security. But the high-risk label might actually mean Nashville gets less money to prepare responses for terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The \$1.8 million grant the city and surrounding counties will get this year from the federal homeland security agency is a substantial cut from the \$2.2 million the area drew from the state's pot of homeland security money last year, when it did not get its own dedicated funding. Tennessee, as a whole, is expected to get \$20.8 million from the federal government. The governor's Homeland Security Council is scheduled to meet next week to finalize where to spend that money. At that time, Nashville will learn whether it gets any portion of that money in addition to its federal grant.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080815/NEWS01/808150419/1006>

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## **Information Technology**

44. *August 18, Computerworld* – (National) **Microsoft puts out 11 fixes, pulls another.** In its largest batch of security fixes in 18 months, Microsoft Corp. last week released 11 software updates to plug 26 holes in Windows, Office, Internet Explorer, and other products. Six of the updates were tagged “critical,” Microsoft's highest severity rating. The company acknowledged that at least two of the vulnerabilities being patched have already been exploited by attackers in the wild. This month's update count was supposed to be even larger: Microsoft said it decided not to issue an expected fix for Windows Media Player 11 “because of a last-minute quality issue.” The director of security operations at nCircle Network Security Inc., noted that seven of the 11 updates replace earlier patches from Microsoft.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=324522&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=324522&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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Communications Sector**

45. *August 18, Pittsburgh Tribune-Reviews* – (Pennsylvania) **Comcast phone service restored after three-hour interruption.** A malfunctioning router temporarily left about 14,000 Comcast telephone customers in Westmoreland County without service for about three hours Sunday. The router lost power at about 5 p.m. for unspecified reasons, according to a Comcast dispatcher. The outage affected customers in the city and surrounding areas. Comcast crews responded quickly and had service back up by 7:45 p.m., said a Comcast spokeswoman. Prior to restoration of service, North Huntingdon police issued an advisory asking area residents in need of police or ambulance service to contact the station via cell phone or come in person. No incidents were reported during that time, township dispatchers said.

Source:

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s\\_583537.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s_583537.html)

46. *August 17, Businesswire* – (Montana; National) **Contract negotiations continue beyond deadline for Qwest and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.** Qwest Communications International Inc. and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), which represents approximately 200 workers in Montana, have agreed to extend contract negotiations beyond the Aug. 16, 11:59 p.m. deadline. Talks will continue. Qwest is fully operational. All Qwest employees are required to report to their jobs as usual. Qwest will continue to bargain in good faith and remains committed to reaching an agreement as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/contract-negotiations-continue-beyond-deadline/story.aspx?guid=%7B9FB8BFD8-166C-44F2-8F2E-7836FB817C66%7D&dist=hppr>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

47. *August 17, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **How the Secret Service protects candidates.** With a little more than a week to go before the Democratic National Convention kicks off in Denver, the U.S. Secret Service is putting final touches on its security plan. “We are ready,” said a U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Field Office. “We have eyes completely around,” he said of the 360-degree view agents keep on presidential candidates. Agents use microphones hidden in their sleeves and earpieces to communicate with each other. Whenever a candidate begins to shake hands with the crowd, agents closely guard the candidate.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=97837&catid=188>

48. *August 17, Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **MacArthur theater evacuated for second consecutive Sunday.** The MacArthur Center Stadium 18 was closed for about two hours Sunday afternoon following an unspecified phone threat. It was the second

consecutive Sunday the theater was evacuated and closed. On August 10, a utility problem led the theater to close, along with other mall entities that serve food. In the latest episode, movie-goers who went to the complex after 4 p.m. Sunday were greeted by a steel gate blocking access. An employee behind the gate would tell patrons only that the theater was set to re-open at 6 p.m. A manager on duty said company policy prohibits comment, and referred questions to the theater's general manager and Regal Entertainment group's district manager. The MacArthur Center general manager said the theater was closed after someone called the theater office and said "something bad's going to happen."

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2008/08/macarthur-theater-evacuated-second-consecutive-sunday>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

49. *August 18, CNN* – (Arizona) **Grand Canyon evacuations halted after dam breach.** Authorities halted the evacuation Sunday night of a few hundred people who were initially thought to be in danger after rain breached an earthen dam at the Grand Canyon. Rescue crews in helicopters evacuated about 170 people Sunday after water poured through Redland Dam, sending water down two canyons and threatening several hundred tourists and residents, said the spokesman for the Coconino County sheriff's department. The problems started when water breached Redland Dam and poured into Cataract Canyon and Supai Canyon, which was heavily flooded, said the spokesman. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/08/17/arizona.dam/index.html>
  
50. *August 17, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Water management district to lower canals in Miami-Dade to prevent flooding.** In anticipation of heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Fay, the South Florida Water Management District on Sunday planned to start releasing water to lower canals in south Miami-Dade County. The goal is to create more room for stormwater and minimize flooding in that traditionally flood-prone area. Other water control structures throughout the East Coast were ready to start dumping water into the ocean to lower canals and increase drainage capacity to avoid flooding. Low water levels in Lake Okeechobee leaves the lake's aging Herbert Hoover Dike well positioned to handle the influx of water the storm could bring, said a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is just at the beginning of a decades-long project to reinforce the earthen, 70-year-old dike that protects lakeside communities from flooding. Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/weather/hurricane/sfl-fay-water,0,809888.story>

51. *August 15, Capital Press* – (Washington) **Dam inspection deadline nears.** Owners of small reservoirs built without permits from the Department of Ecology have until September 1 to report their dams for safety inspections and avoid possible fines. To protect people and property downstream, Ecology’s Dam Safety Office has been scanning aerial photos across the state to locate unpermitted reservoirs of two acres or more that may hold at least ten acre-feet of water. So far, 594 have been found. So far, the safety review has identified “significant” or “high hazard” dams with at least one or two homes and as many as 12 or more homes downstream in 31 of Washington State’s 39 counties.

Source:

<http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=618&ArticleID=43797&TM=34302.47>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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