



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 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/)

- Industrial Info Resources reports that Tropical Storm Fay threatens to disrupt operations of more than 340 industrial plants in Florida. (See item [6](#))
- According to the Roanoke Times, a licensed pilot prompted a flurry of security precautions in Virginia on Monday after he took off from Roanoke Regional Airport without authorization and threatened to crash into Smith Mountain Lake. (See item [16](#))

### 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 19, Canwest News Service* – (International; National) **Ease border tie-ups:** Canada’s industry minister played the Canadian oil card to an American audience Monday in a bid to lubricate the flow of cross-border trade, which he warned is being gummed up by post-9-11 security measures. He trumped his message at the Americas Competitive Forum in Atlanta. He noted that concerns have been raised by business groups on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border that the “thickening” of the border since the terrorist attacks on the U.S. are standing in the way of realizing the full economic potential of the trade deal. “We have developed, under the auspices of NAFTA, the most successful trading relationship in the world,” he noted in an interview from Atlanta prior to his address. “The free-flow of energy is an important part of that,” he said. In his

speech, he cited a warning by Canadian and U.S. business groups that “new fees and regulations are creating costly delays at the Canada-U.S. border.” But not all North American trade is taking place at border crossings, he said, playing on another major concern of Americans – their dependency on foreign energy. “It’s not just asphalt and concrete that link our economies together,” he said, pointing to oil and gas pipelines and electrical power lines from through which \$1 billion a year worth of energy flows from Canada to the U.S. “Canada is the largest source of energy imports to the U.S.,” he said. Also, Canada is a stable supplier of energy to the U.S. – whether it is gas and oil in the West or integrated electricity grids in the East, he said.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/windsorstar/news/business/story.html?id=e9209e3e-9150-4abe-b8fc-e42dd657a281&p=1>

2. *August 19, Reuters* – (National) **Shell, Marathon returning workers to Mexico Gulf.** Shell Oil Co. and Marathon Oil Corp. were returning workers to offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday with the passage of Tropical Storm Fay on land, the companies said. None of Shell’s offshore oil and natural gas production was shut due to the evacuation of 425 workers because of the threat of Fay crossing in the eastern offshore production areas of the Gulf, the company said. Marathon’s production was also unaffected by the evacuation of an undisclosed number of workers from the central Gulf, the company said. Both companies said the evacuations were precautionary and the workers were not essential to production. Most of the workers should be back offshore on Tuesday, according to the companies. Shell and Marathon were the only companies to pull workers from the Gulf due to Fay.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1927661120080819>
3. *August 19, Bloomberg* – (Florida) **Tropical Storm Fay hits Florida, may enter Atlantic.** Tropical Storm Fay swept across south Florida with 60 mph winds, as forecasters said it may move back over open water in the Atlantic later this week before striking the state a third time. About 58,000 homes statewide were without power at 8 a.m. Tuesday, according to a spokesman for Florida Power & Light Co. The largest portion, about 28,000, was in Collier County on the state’s southwest coast where Fay made landfall.  
Source:  
[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a.zYUooNNPvU&refer=lat\\_in\\_america](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a.zYUooNNPvU&refer=lat_in_america)
4. *August 18, Bloomberg* – (International) **World LNG output may rise 14% in 2009 on new projects.** Liquefied natural gas (LNG) output may rise 14 percent next year as ventures in countries like Qatar and Indonesia, accounting for more than a quarter of the world’s supplies, begin production, said a London-based consultant. Output of LNG may climb about 25 million metric tons to about 208 million tons next year, an industry consultant and a former executive at BP Plc’s LNG business said in an interview in Singapore. “Consumption of LNG this year may reach about 183 million tons from 173 million last year,” he said on August 15. “New projects are starting up in Qatar, Indonesia, Yemen, Australia and Russia.” His output estimates for last year are higher than BP Plc’s. Projects from Australia to Nigeria may have produced about 88 million

tons in the first six months of 2008, he said. Still, output was lower than expected because of diversion of gas for domestic use in some countries and inadequate pipeline infrastructure and equipment failures in others.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aSz91Op08I4w&refer=energy>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *August 19, Portland Press Herald* – (National) **Maine businesses show security-related products.** Maine manufacturers with products that have homeland security applications gathered Monday at the University of Maine to display their wares for the undersecretary of science and technology in the Department of Homeland Security. Among the products displayed was a handheld device developed by Sensor Research and Development Corp., which will detect the presence of toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents such as nerve gas, according to its director of science and technology. “We are about to ship 10 of these to the Department of Homeland Security,” the official said, holding a device that looked like a slightly flattened flashlight. The department plans to test the device, and then ship it out for field testing in various cities, including Seattle and Los Angeles, he said.  
Source: <http://pressherald.maintoday.com/story.php?id=205407&ac=PHnws>
6. *August 19, Industrial Info Resources* – (Florida) **Tropical storm Fay threatens to disrupt operations for hundreds of industrial plants.** Tropical Storm Fay appears to be set on a determined course for the west coast of Florida in a path of not just thousands of vacationers but also more than 340 industrial plant operations, including some of the country’s largest concentration of fertilizer plants. Although this portion of the Gulf of Mexico is not populated with offshore oil and gas industry like its western neighbors, the current course of the storm does include many large industrial plants in several industries, including Food & Beverage, Chemical Processing, Metal & Minerals and Pharmaceuticals. Chemical plants in the area include some of the largest sulfuric and phosphoric acid plants in the country, such as that of the Mosaic Company plant in Riverview, Florida.  
Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/tropical-storm-fay-threatens-disrupt/story.aspx?guid={66F6B52D-3A95-4A87-A331-EAA9F8B5AA7E}&dist=hppr>
7. *August 18, Daily Citizen* – (National) **Big blaze destroys Searcy chemical warehouse.** A Saturday night fire at a chemical warehouse is under investigation as the clean-up continues. “The 9,000 square-foot warehouse was full of chemicals that are used in the drilling process in natural gas exploration,” said a spokesman for the Searcy Fire Department. The cause of the blaze is undetermined. The fire was not brought under control until 5 a.m., partially because firefighters were not allowed to move in close to fight the fire for their own protection due to run-off from hazardous chemicals. The clean-up crew will be responsible for disposing of the hazardous waste. Chemicals stored in the building were sodium hydroxide, calcium chloride, caustic soda and lime,

none of which are flammable. The fuel for the flames was the chemical's packaging, wooden pallets on which the chemicals were stacked and normal construction materials used in building a warehouse. The Searcy Fire Department is conducting an investigation into the fire.

Source: [http://www.thedailycitizen.com/articles/2008/08/19/news/top\\_stories/top01.txt](http://www.thedailycitizen.com/articles/2008/08/19/news/top_stories/top01.txt)

8. *August 18, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Fire crews clean up chemical spill in SE OKC.** Emergency crews have been called to the scene of a chemical spill in southeast Oklahoma City, authorities said. The Oklahoma City Fire Department held residents indoors in the area of 2221 S. Eastern Ave. Fire officials said about 100 gallons of muriatic acid were spilled and vaporized into the air. A fire official told Eyewitness News 5 that the rain helped to dilute the acid. It is normally used in swimming pools and is an irritant to skin, eyes, nose and throats.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/news/17222263/detail.html>

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

9. *August 18, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Palisades nuclear plant changes safety procedures after inspection.** Officials at the Palisades nuclear plant are initiating changes in the wake of an August 6 incident in which five workers were trapped for approximately 90 minutes in a high-heat containment area, a plant spokesman said. A U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection team has completed on-site work, and a report on the incident should be ready early next month, NRC officials said. The workers were not exposed to radiation or sickened by the heat, the plant spokesman said. The workers were trapped after they failed to properly operate an airlock-door system leading to the containment area, which they entered to repair leaking seals in a control-rod drive mechanism. The plant was shut down for repair work at the time. A safety mechanism triggered the locking of an inner door when an outer door was inadvertently left ajar by one of the entrants, he said. All containment workers at the plant have been ordered to complete additional computer-based training by September 23 that uses a slide show to demonstrate how to operate both doors and the escape hatch, he said. A log of entrants and entry/exit times also will be kept outside the outer door, and a plant worker will be assigned to keep track of comings and goings. Another problem during the incident was a telephone-system outage unrelated to the plant shutdown, he said. Workers tried to report the situation but could not complete calls for help. Palisades officials are still investigating the cause of the phone outage, but phones are working now, and radios are being installed as a backup. An NRC official said plant officials also failed to immediately enter a “condition of elevated risk,” which is routine during maintenance activity, though they did after several hours independently identify and correct that problem.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/08/palisades\\_nuclear\\_plant\\_change.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/08/palisades_nuclear_plant_change.html)

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## Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *August 19, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey; Maryland) **Probe of stonewalling on fort cost continues.** The Department of Defense (DoD) continues to investigate an e-mail written by a high-level Army official that called off a re-examination of the cost to close Fort Monmouth. The e-mail in question was written by the Army’s deputy assistant chief of staff for installations management in response to a question posed to him by a program director for the Army Audit Agency (AAA). At the time the e-mail was exchanged, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission had not yet voted to support the DoD’s recommendation to close Fort Monmouth and move most of its mission to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, by 2011. In a July 6, 2005, e-mail sent to the Army’s deputy assistant chief of staff for installations management the AAA writes that the managing auditor of the AAA’s New Jersey field office “received a call from Fort Monmouth personnel today requesting that we validate some revised data (something to do with including reimbursables that shouldn’t have been included in earlier data calls, and it’s considered significant.)” The data calls referred to in the e-mail were for information from the DoD to the installations. The information was then used by seven analytical teams that were responsible for creating the DoD’s BRAC recommendations.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080819/NEWS03/808190396/1007>

11. *August 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Navy to seek 3rd stealth destroyer.** The Navy has reversed course and decided to push for construction of a third stealth destroyer, a senator said Monday. The Navy had said a month ago that it was scrapping the Zumwalt destroyer program once the first two are built. The DDG-1000 warship has massive firepower, but is costly. The Navy said then that it was opting instead to build more of the current-generation DDG-51, or Arleigh Burke, destroyers. Of the first two Zumwalts, one will be built at Maine’s Bath Iron Works and the other at Northrop Grumman’s Ingalls yard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. A Senate appropriations bill funded a third ship at \$2.6 billion, but the House eliminated the money. The Zumwalt features composite materials, an unconventional wave-piercing hull, and a smaller crew than the Arleigh Burke. At 14,500 tons, the Zumwalt is 50 percent larger than its predecessor and costs twice as much.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ivAOgyDfnOHrocC66dOZ4F5NrP1AD92KVCg80>

12. *August 18, CNetNews.com* – (National) **Invisible airborne laser also ‘deniable’.** The 5.5-ton Advanced Tactical Laser (ATL), called the “long--range blowtorch” combines chlorine and hydrogen peroxide molecules to release energy that stimulates iodine into an intense infra-red, silent, and invisible laser with a 20-kilometer striking range. New Scientist reports that the chief engineer of the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Research Laboratory’s Directed Energy Directorate and the director of USAF’s Capabilities Integration Directorate used the phrase “plausible deniability” at industry briefings to describe one of the weapon’s advantages, namely “that the U.S. could convincingly

deny any involvement with the destruction it causes.” An analyst with defense think-tank Global Security told New Scientist, “Further, there would be no munitions fragments that could be used to identify the source of the strike.” Boeing recently tested the ATL at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, firing the high-energy chemical laser through a rotating turret mounted on the belly of a Hercules C-130H. The company claims the weapons is accurate enough to pick off a vehicle’s tires. The U.S. Navy is seeking its own version to take out “small boat threats.”

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-13639\\_3-10018808-42.html?hhTest=1](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13639_3-10018808-42.html?hhTest=1)

13. *August 17, Boston Globe* – (National) **For US, a terror threat lurks in drug smuggling subs.** “Semi-submersibles,” which exhibit some of the same characteristics as military submarines, mark a significant advancement in the ability of drug smugglers to slip past coastal defenses. So far this year, the Coast Guard says it has encountered at least 27 such vessels headed toward the southern and western United States, more than in the previous six years combined, while far more are believed to have gone undetected, according to U.S. military and law enforcement officials. The commander of the U.S. Southern Command warned in a recent military journal article, “If drug cartels can ship up to 10 tons of cocaine in a semi-submersible, they can clearly ship or rent space to a terrorist organization for a weapon of mass destruction or a high-profile terrorist.” “This is a more sophisticated way of getting the dope into the country,” said a weapons and technology specialist at GlobalSecurity.org, an Alexandria, Virginia, think tank. The vessels are very difficult to detect by radar and are all but impossible to see from more than a few thousand yards away.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/08/17/for\\_us\\_a\\_terror\\_threat\\_lurks\\_in\\_drug\\_smuggling\\_subs/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/08/17/for_us_a_terror_threat_lurks_in_drug_smuggling_subs/?page=full)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

14. *August 18, Reuters* – (National) **American Home to pay fraction of bankruptcy claims.** American Home Mortgage Investment Corp., which was among the largest U.S. home loan providers before seeking bankruptcy protection a year ago, said it will pay unsecured creditors no more than 5.9 cents on the dollar as it liquidates assets. In a disclosure statement filed Friday with the U.S. bankruptcy court in Wilmington, Delaware, the company said many unsecured creditors will recover zero to 2.2 cents on the dollar on their claims. Creditors whose claims are backed by collateral will recover the full amounts owed, it said. Shareholders will get nothing. The disclosure statement will be mailed to creditors so they can vote on Melville, New York-based American Home’s Chapter 11 liquidation plan. American Home filed for bankruptcy protection on August 6, 2007 after falling home prices and a surge in borrower defaults led to major write-downs, prompting margin calls from the company’s own lenders. The company’s collapse remains one of the largest since the nation’s housing slump began. American Home sought protection four months after similarly-sized subprime lender New Century Financial Corp filed for protection from its own creditors.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-americanhomemortgage->

[bankruptcy.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](#)

15. *August 18, Reuters* – (National) **Visa to test real-time fraud alerts.** Visa Inc and eight U.S. and Canadian lenders have launched a pilot program designed to alert cardholders in real time that they might be victims of fraud. Visa, the world's largest card network, said the test will provide as many as 2,000 cardholders with alerts via e-mail or through their mobile devices within seconds of their cards being used, rather than within hours or days. Participants may choose to be alerted to a variety of types of card usage, including ATM withdrawals, international transactions, Internet or phone transactions, and transactions above specified amounts. Lenders taking part in the pilot program are PNC Financial Services Group Inc, SunTrust Banks Inc, U.S. Bancorp, Wachovia Corp, Wells Fargo & Co, Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto-Dominion Bank and Vancity, which is Canada's largest credit union. Card companies report losses approaching \$50 billion annually because of credit card fraud, the nonprofit Consumer Action has estimated. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN1846645420080818>

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## **Transportation Sector**

16. *August 19, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Pilot creates scare in the air with plane's unauthorized flight.** A licensed pilot and retired air traffic controller prompted evacuations in parts of two Virginia localities Monday after he took off from Roanoke Regional Airport without authorization and threatened to kill himself by crashing into Smith Mountain Lake, Franklin County officials said. The white, single-engine Cessna 172 flew over parts of Roanoke, Franklin County, Bedford County and Botetourt County, and was seen at various points around the lake. It sparked a flurry of security precautions before landing safely back at the airport after nearly four hours. The pilot was taken into custody shortly after he landed and was later taken for a medical assessment, a Roanoke police spokeswoman said in a news release. The incident has prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct an administrative review of flight protocol, the official said. The plane took off from the airport without notifying air traffic controllers, said a spokeswoman for the airport. Initially, authorities did not know where the plane was because the pilot was not responding to air traffic controllers' requests for communication and the aircraft was not appearing on radar, she said. Private planes can fly at 200 feet, which puts them below radar, she said. She did not know at what altitude the plane was flying. Federal, state and local law enforcement officials and fire and rescue crews from several localities set up command posts and worked together throughout the day to keep track of the plane and notify people who may have been in danger. The news release from Roanoke police said the pilot never indicated that any specific person or facility was a target although the man's family told officials that he had threatened to crash it in the lake. At some point, the airport tower was able to make contact with the pilot, who revealed that he might be suicidal, the news release said. According to online records, the plane is registered to DSI LLC, a business that rents and leases equipment. The pilot is listed as the company's registered agent. Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/173641>

17. *August 19, Portland Press Herald* – (National) **Maine businesses show security-related products.** Maine manufacturers with products that have homeland security applications gathered Monday at the University of Maine to display their wares for the undersecretary of science and technology in the Department of Homeland Security. The University of Maine Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center Director also showed officials its work in creating shipping containers out of a composite material that is as strong as steel, but 15 percent lighter, and automatically provides an alert if it is opened or compromised. He also discussed the center’s research into “overwrapping” or wrapping new composite materials around existing concrete columns, such as those used in bridge and freeway construction, to extend the life of the structures. A retired U.S. Navy rear admiral speculated about possible applications of the technology, such as partnering with major airline manufacturers to use some of the center’s composite materials on planes, or with shipping container manufacturers for the lightweight containers.  
Source: <http://pressherald.maintoday.com/story.php?id=205407&ac=PHnws>
18. *August 19, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Security cameras to monitor entire Bay.** A camera and radar system to track and view ships and boaters all the way from the Atlantic to Providence Harbor will soon be in place, making Rhode Island’s coastal waterways perhaps the most closely scrutinized in the nation. Providence yesterday approved a deal with a defense contractor to buy four cameras and a limited radar system to be deployed in upper Narragansett Bay. Providence would link its cameras to an existing system run by the Department of Environmental Management that watches southern Narragansett Bay, creating a Bay-wide visual network to track large ships and watch over small boaters alike, city and state officials said. It almost certainly marks the first time a coastal state has had visual surveillance of nearly all its shipping and boating lanes. The cameras’ primary purpose is to track large ships bearing hazardous cargo, but they have also been used to rescue drowning boaters and nab fishery violators. Right now, cameras are in place on Beavertail Lighthouse, the Mount Hope Bridge and the Pell Bridge, among other locations, and have been watching shipping on the southern Bay since 2006. But that system does not track ships north of Prudence Island, leaving the upper Bay and the city’s port facilities relatively bare. ProvPort operates 18 cameras on its property, but those focus primarily on the port facilities, and do not normally track ships coming through the harbor area.  
Source: [http://www.projo.com/news/content/SECURITY\\_CAMERAS\\_08-19-08\\_93B8V5C\\_v10.42ce472.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/SECURITY_CAMERAS_08-19-08_93B8V5C_v10.42ce472.html)
19. *August 18, Associated Press* – (International) **AA Flight makes emergency landing in Trinidad.** American Airlines said a Miami-bound passenger jet has been forced to make an emergency landing shortly after taking off from Trinidad. An airline spokeswoman says Flight 1818 turned around Friday after the Boeing 757’s pilot detected a hydraulic problem. She said the plane landed safely in Port-of Spain with no reported injuries to the 188 passengers or seven-member crew. Authorities were forced to close the airport because the hydraulic problem caused the jet’s brakes to lock up after it stopped on the runway. American Airlines said mechanics were trying to determine what caused the problem.

Source: <http://www.amtonline.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=6198>

20. *August 18, Havelock News* – (North Carolina) **Security system to be tested at ferry dock.** A new security system being tested at the Cherry Branch, North Carolina, ferry terminal has made see-through technology a reality. The Transportation Security Administration and the N.C. Department of Transportation are collaborating on a four-week test of a high-tech vehicle screening program at the Cherry Branch ferry just outside Havelock. All vehicles planning to board the ferry will have to drive through the American Science and Engineering x-ray detection system called the Z-Portal. The device, tall enough for a tractor trailer to be screened, takes scans of the sides and tops of vehicles to look specifically for concealed threats, explosives and contraband. Vehicles will slowly roll through the gateway as backscatter x-ray detectors penetrate the metal and plastic of the vehicles, generating a photo-like image of the driver, passengers and all cargo. Officials expect about a minute delay before boarding the ferry, with the scanning taking place only on weekdays. The machine can scan up to 120 vehicles in an hour.

Source:

[http://www.havenews.com/news/system\\_4343\\_article.html/security\\_ferry.html](http://www.havenews.com/news/system_4343_article.html/security_ferry.html)

21. *August 18, Bladen Journal* – (North Carolina) **Train jumps tracks in East Arcadia.** Bladen's emergency personnel turned out in full force on Saturday morning when two trains collided on the track in East Arcadia, North Carolina, causing 11 cars to overturn. Sixty-seven of the 138 cars were in disarray on the track, needing to be either repaired or set back on the rails, the Bladen County chief deputy said Monday morning. Officials were aware of a spill of hazardous materials in the area from damaged tankers, but soon realized the source of the spill was denatured alcohol which causes a minimal threat to the environment, he said. It does, however, pose a threat for explosion or fire. "The train was hauling other hazardous materials," he said. "One derailed car had citric acid and another had methanol." According to the report from the CSX assessment team on the scene, none of the other cars were compromised as far as leaking contents, he said.

Source:

<http://www.bladenjournal.com/articles/2008/08/18/news/doc48a9c747b823b063557858.txt>

22. *August 18, Press Association* – (National) **Pollution risk to sea air.** Sea air is generally regarded as healthy, but it may be polluted with dangerous chemicals from ships, say scientists. The U.S. scientists from the University of California at San Diego found that ships contributed far more of the sulphate in the atmosphere than was previously realized. From July next year, all tankers, cargo and cruise ships sailing into Californian ports will have to switch to more expensive, cleaner fuels when they come within 24 miles of the coast. Similar international rules are due to take effect in 2015.

Source:

[http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5hhObNN8qp7MtPYPvAkPnQvj4\\_SrA](http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5hhObNN8qp7MtPYPvAkPnQvj4_SrA)

23. *August 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Homeland Security to scan D.C. area license plates and NYPD seeks to screen cars entering Manhattan.** Homeland

Security officials plan to dramatically expand the use of automated license plate readers to prevent possible terrorist attacks in the Washington, D.C., area. Officials from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia have agreed to install 200 license plate readers on police vehicles, at airports, and along roads. The plan will be funded by federal homeland security grants for the area. The readers will scan every license plate that passes and will run the numbers through federal criminal and terrorist databases. Similarly, the New York Police Department is working on a plan to track every car, truck, or other vehicle entering Manhattan and screen them for radioactive materials and other terrorism threats. The ambitious proposal, called Operation Sentinel, is being developed alongside a separate \$90 million security initiative to tighten security at the World Trade Center site and elsewhere in lower Manhattan in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001. Police officials say Operation Sentinel would rely on license-plate readers, radiation detectors, and closed-circuit cameras installed at the 16 bridges and four tunnels serving Manhattan. About a million vehicles drive onto the island every day. Police say the system could help them intercept would-be attackers before they can do harm. There is no estimate yet of the cost, since Operation Sentinel is in just the planning phase.

Sources: <http://kdka.com/topstories/DC.license.plates.2.797964.html> and <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26273438/>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

24. *August 19, Rocky Mountain News* – (Colorado) **Suspicious box in LoDo brings out the bomb squad.** Market Street in lower downtown Denver was closed for about 30 minutes Monday morning after police received a false alarm concerning a suspicious black box left at a corner. The box, which looks like a mailbox, is used by a private company as a repository for packages for later pickup, said a sergeant with the Denver Police Department's bomb squad. It was moved by a company employee this weekend without permission, he said, because construction in the area prevented people from accessing the box.

Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/aug/19/suspicious-box-brings-out-the-bomb-squad/>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

25. *August 19, Associated Press* – (National) **Mexican peppers posed problem long before outbreak.** Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials insisted as recently as last week that they were surprised by the outbreak because Mexican peppers had not been spotted as a problem before. However, federal inspectors at U.S. border crossings repeatedly turned back filthy, disease-ridden shipments of peppers from Mexico in the months before a salmonella outbreak that sickened 1,400 people was finally traced to Mexican chilies. Since January, 88 shipments of fresh and dried chilies were turned away. Ten percent were contaminated with salmonella. In the last year, eight percent of

the 158 intercepted shipments of fresh and dried chilies had salmonella. The agency does not keep count of what percentage of the nearly 491,200 metric tons of Mexican peppers imported last year was turned away at the U.S. border. In general, the federal government inspects less than one percent of all foreign food entering the country. According to the Department of Agriculture, 84 percent of all fresh peppers eaten in the U.S. come from Mexico. In the last year, the agency's data shows that dozens of cases were turned back due to filth, illegal pesticides, and, in one case, something poisonous. This month, the agency put a dozen Mexican growers or distributors on its "import alert" list for tougher border screening.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Salmonella-Peppers.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Salmonella-Peppers.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

26. *August 19, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Lawsuit seeks EPA pesticide data.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) refuses to disclose records about a new class of pesticides that could be playing a role in the disappearance of millions of honeybees in the United States, a lawsuit filed Monday charges. The Natural Resources Defense Council filed the suit as part of an effort to find out how diligently the EPA is protecting honeybees from dangerous pesticides, said a lawyer for the group in Washington. In the last two years, beekeepers have reported unexplained losses of hives - 30 percent and upward - leading to a phenomenon called colony collapse disorder. Scientists believe that the decline in bees is linked to an onslaught of pesticides, mites, parasites, and viruses, as well as a loss of habitat and food. Clothianidin is the pesticide at the center of controversy. It is used to coat corn, sugar beet, and sorghum seeds and is part of a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids. The pesticide was blamed for bee deaths in France and Germany, which also is dealing with a colony collapse. Bees pollinate about one-third of the human diet, \$15 billion worth of U.S. crops, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.  
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/19/MNKR12DBPO.DTL>
27. *August 18, NewsInferno.com* – (National) **Salmonella contamination prompts FDA import alerts for some Mexican produce companies.** A new report says that a dozen Mexican produce companies have been put on alert since mid-July after Food and Drug Administration (FDA) tests detected Salmonella contamination at their farms or facilities. The latest import alert was posted to the FDA website on August 12. Produce from an overseas supplier named on an import alert will be subject to more testing and inspection before it is able to enter the U.S. The positive Salmonella tests that prompted the import alerts included several types of Salmonella, including at least two of the Salmonella Saintpaul strain that has led to more than 1,400 reported illnesses in 43 states, Washington, D.C., and Canada. The FDA has had positive tests for Salmonella Saintpaul from at least three locations.  
Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/3655>
28. *August 18, Mongabay.com* – (National) **Coal burning may make food supplies toxic.** Coal burning is contaminating the Arctic, and may be affecting human health and polar ecosystems, warn scientists writing in the online early edition of the Proceedings of the

National Academy of Sciences. Presenting a record of heavy metal deposition in the Greenland ice sheet from 1772-2003, the researchers from the Desert Research Institute in the Nevada System of Higher Education show that contamination from coal-burning was “much higher than expected in the early 20th century, with tenfold increases from preindustrial levels by the early 1900s that were two to five times higher than during recent decades.” The results show that coal-burning is significantly more damaging to the environment than other fossil fuels and suggest pollution may worsen with increased use of coal as an energy source in Asian economies. “Contamination of other sectors may be increasing because of the rapid coal-driven growth of Asian economies,” the researchers wrote, noting that heavy metal accumulation in the Arctic food chain, affects human health. Fish and other marine organisms from the polar region are exported to global food markets. Heavy metal contamination has been associated with birth defects and damage to the central nervous system.

Source: <http://news.mongabay.com/2008/0818-coal.html>

29. *August 18, Montana State University News Service* – (Montana) **MSU names two buildings to house infectious disease research.** More than 100 people attended a ceremony Monday morning to name and dedicate two new Montana State University buildings that will be used for researching infectious diseases that affect livestock, wildlife, and humans. One building, providing about 3,500 square feet of research space, will allow researchers to study organisms that need to be in a Biosafety Level-3 facility. Among those are the organisms that cause brucellosis and Q-Fever. The other new building, providing about 7,500 square feet of research space and a Biosafety Level-2 facility, will be used for researching such diseases as salmonella, E. coli, rotavirus, and cryptosporidiosis. The work could also expand to chronic wasting disease.

Source: <http://www.montana.edu/cpa/news/nwview.php?article=6134>

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## **Water Sector**

30. *August 19, Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **More wells to monitor pollution from spill.** On Monday, the question of how much chemical pollution flows into the Harpeth River was raised again as crews began digging two new wells that will be used to determine where chemical pollution may or may not be. An attorney for Egyptian Lacquer Manufacturing Co., which has taken responsibility for the chemical spill, said crews are installing the two wells just north of downtown Franklin, Tennessee. “The objective is to define the extent of contamination,” he said. “We don’t expect to find anything at those locations.” Acetone, toluene, and the carcinogen benzene, among other chemicals, have been found in the river, the creek, and the Daniels Drive neighborhood. The planned new wells will bring the number of monitoring wells to nine. The chemical seeps on the river are below the intake for the city’s water plant and are not affecting Franklin’s drinking water.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080819/NEWS01/808190339/1006>

31. *August 18, EurekAlert!* – (International) **Using live fish, new tool a sentinel for**

**environmental contamination.** Researchers have harnessed the sensitivity of days-old fish embryos to create a tool capable of detecting a range of harmful chemicals. By measuring rates of oxygen use in developing fish, which are sensitive to contaminants and stressful conditions, the technology could reveal the presence of minute levels of toxic substances before they cause more obvious and substantial harm. It could be used as an early warning system against environmental contamination or even biological weapons, said a Purdue University researcher. In a study published online last week in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*, the system detected the presence of several common pollutants such as the widely-used herbicide atrazine – even at levels near or below those that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency deems acceptable for drinking water. “This means the technology could not only help monitor environmental quality but may be used to enforce important water quality standards,” said the lead author and assistant professor of forestry and natural resources at Purdue. Source: [http://www.innovations-report.de/html/berichte/umwelt\\_naturschutz/live\\_fish\\_tool\\_a\\_sentinel\\_environmental\\_116213.html](http://www.innovations-report.de/html/berichte/umwelt_naturschutz/live_fish_tool_a_sentinel_environmental_116213.html)

32. *August 18, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **McHenry County picks up funding for 3-D water map.** The McHenry County, Illinois, Board has approved funding for a crucial effort to map the county’s aquifers. The funding will allow the Illinois State Geological Survey to continue work in the field, gathering data for a three-dimensional map of what lies 300 feet below ground in one of the Chicago area’s faster-growing regions. In McHenry County, the maps will help planners determine how rain and melting snow filter through the ground to recharge aquifers. The county depends on underground supplies to meet residential, commercial, and public water needs. Water use is projected to nearly double by 2030, drawing an additional 30 million to 40 million gallons a day, officials said. With water shortages forecast in the southeastern portion of the county, steering development away from areas where permeable gravel and sand are under the soil would help preserve the limited supply, said the water resource manager for McHenry County. Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-mchenry-water-map-both-19aug19,0,7635769.story>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

33. *August 19, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Trauma care bias found.** Patients older than 65 are much less likely to be taken to a Maryland trauma center than younger patients with the same medical emergencies, according to a new report by Johns Hopkins researchers. Unconscious age bias could be a factor in the disparity, the researchers said. The study, published yesterday in the journal *Archives of Surgery*, sought to quantify a question that has been explored anecdotally: Are elderly trauma patients treated with the same vigor as their younger counterparts? In short, the study found, they are not. Researchers from the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health analyzed data of about 26,000 trauma patients statewide from 1995 through 2004. Using data from the Maryland Ambulance Information System, the

researchers compared the treatment of patients with similar medical trauma. Then they interviewed 166 emergency medical and trauma center personnel. The study found that 50 percent of patients 65 and older were not taken to trauma centers as opposed to 18 percent of younger patients. While the disparity was notable for patients 65 and older, researchers found that it began at age 50. In interviews, emergency medical services and medical professionals mentioned lack of training, unfamiliarity with transportation protocol, and possible age bias as the biggest factors for the disparity.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bal-md.trauma19aug19,0,6484508.story>

34. *August 19, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Hospitals fined for violations.** Eighteen California hospitals have been fined by the state for violating laws regarding quality care for patients, the state public health department announced Monday. Most of the 18 hospitals are in Southern California, said a spokesman for the California Department of Public Health. All hospitals in California are required to comply with state and federal laws to remain accredited. Monday marked the fourth time the department has disciplined hospitals since a state law went into effect last year authorizing the agency to fine them for placing patients in serious jeopardy. Hospitals are fined \$25,000 for each incident that “has caused, or was likely to cause, serious injury or death to patients,” August said. The agency has issued 61 such penalties to 42 hospitals since the state law was enacted last year, including those announced Monday.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-me-hospitals19-2008aug19,0,5846674.story>

35. *August 18, Reuters* – (International) **H9N2 bird flu threat understated in humans.** The H9N2 bird flu strain, identified as a possible pandemic threat, could be infecting more humans than commonly thought but its mild symptoms mean it often goes undetected, a leading Hong Kong bird flu expert said. “It’s quite possible ... H9N2 is infecting humans quite a lot, much (more) than we appreciate merely because it is beyond the radar,” a Hong Kong-based microbiologist, who has co-authored several papers on the strain in recent years, told Reuters. “In humans, it is very mild, so most of the time it’s probably not even recognized or biologically tested,” he said. So far, only a handful of human H9N2 cases have been documented worldwide, including four children in Hong Kong in 2003 who suffered from mild fevers and coughs -- as well as a batch in China’s Guangdong province, where people often live in close proximity to poultry. The strain occurs mostly in birds, although it has also affected pigs and other animals in Europe and Asia. Most influenza experts agree that a pandemic of some kind of flu is inevitable.

Source: <http://health.asiaone.com/Health/News/Story/A1Story20080818-82878.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

36. *August 18, Dunn Daily Record* – (North Carolina) **Woman suspected in bomb threat.** The Harnett County Sheriff’s Office believes it was a woman who called in the bomb threat that cleared the county courthouse in Lillington Friday morning, and interrupted business there all morning. The case is still under investigation. The threat canceled

District Court sessions and kept employees out of the courthouse until after canine units and search teams cleared the building. This is the fourth bomb threat at the courthouse within the past year. The others came in December 2007 and January of this year. The Harnett County clerk of court said then that all of the threats have come on days when child support enforcement court was in session. She also said during the earlier threats that emergency management officials told her they estimated the bomb threats cost \$300,000 based on the number of units which responded to the scene. Another of the earlier threats was called into the Dunn Police Department. No arrests have been made in any of the cases.

Source:

<http://www.dunndailyrecord.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=99511&TM=46718.36>

37. *August 18, Air Force Print News* – (California) **Travis, California firefighters extinguish blaze.** Travis Air Force Base (AFB) emergency responders and members from several fire departments from the local area battled through the night and into the morning to prevent an eight-alarm blaze from potentially spreading through base housing August 16. On base, 167 unoccupied housing units were destroyed and 11 were damaged. The units affected were scheduled for demolition that was expected to begin in the fall and be completed in December of 2009. “Something like this fire hasn’t been seen on an Air Force base before,” said the Travis AFB fire chief. In total, there were approximately 220 on-base and local firefighters involved in battling the 12.4-acre blaze. The cause of the fire is not known at this time.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123111197>

38. *August 18, WJBF 6 Augusta* – (Georgia) **Two men arrested for stealing military equipment.** Two day laborers are accused of stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars of military equipment from Fort Gordon, Georgia, then taking it to Campbell Recycling Center for scrap metal money. The manager says the suspects were regular customers, coming in two to three times a week, and never making a fuss about showing ID, or filling out paperwork. An investigator with the Richmond County Sheriff’s Office was at the recycling center performing a routine business check. He was immediately suspicious of the sale, and worked quickly to get the equipment off the market. “It could’ve been sold to anybody,” he said. “The wrong military equipment falls into the wrong hands, and that’s operational security. That’s something that’s being looked at, investigated thoroughly by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division.” More equipment was seized Saturday at a home in the area where the suspects were storing it until they could sell it. That stockpile brings the total theft to nearly \$250,000.

Source: [http://www.wjbf.com/midatlantic/jbf/news\\_index.apx.-content-articles-JBF-2008-08-18-0034.html](http://www.wjbf.com/midatlantic/jbf/news_index.apx.-content-articles-JBF-2008-08-18-0034.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

39. *August 19, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **State audit criticizes oversight of emergency computers.** State employees surfed dating, entertainment, restaurant, and travel Web

sites on the state's emergency operations computers, according to a state audit Monday. However, the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), which oversees the disaster center in Centennial, did not discipline any of the employees involved. State lawmakers asked for the audit of the state's emergency operations center after an investigation last year revealed that workers in the DOLA planned to use the computers to buy Colorado Rockies baseball tickets for the World Series. Another TV news report found the department was not closely monitoring who was using the computers or which Web sites they were visiting. The 30 computers inside the emergency operations center were installed in 2004 for \$80,500. The computers are supposed to be used by local and other emergency management personnel for training or to help respond to disasters. The center was activated 40 days in the last two years for six emergencies, including the January 2007 blizzard, the Holly tornado in March 2007, and the Weld County tornados in May 2008.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=97885&catid=339>

40. *August 17, WCCO 4 Minneapolis* – (Minnesota) **St. Paul tests 911 text messaging system.** St. Paul is one of five U.S. cities taking part in a federal government project testing high-tech tools that could make a big difference in how you communicate with its 911 center and how fast and accurate your information is passed on to a hospital, an officer, or firefighter. The current 911 system in this country is pretty much the same as it was when it was created 40 years ago. If you need an ambulance for a medical emergency or an officer to report a crime, the first thing you do is pick up a phone and dial 911. The goal is to someday allow callers needing help to use lots of high-tech methods -- including text messaging and voice over Internet systems -- to communicate with 911 call centers. The upgraded system would allow information from the person asking for help to be immediately and directly connected to people in other parts of the emergency response network.

Source: <http://wcco.com/local/911.text.messaging.2.797274.html>

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## **Information Technology**

41. *August 19, ReadWriteWeb* – (National) **Google sites now home for spammers.** Google Sites, the Google platform for document sharing and collaboration, has been dubbed "SharePoint Light" by many members of the tech community. Apparently, spammers have adopted Sites as a tool to host spam and malware, and thanks to the google.com domain name, some spam filters are having trouble blocking the messages. According to MessageLabs, Google Sites spam only accounts for one percent of all spam at the moment, but they expect this technique to become as popular as similar techniques being used to distribute spam using other free Google online services, including Google Docs, Google Pages, and Google Calendar. The benefit to using Sites for spamming is that it is harder to block the resulting URLs generated by the service. Unlike Google Pages, whose URLs are in the format of accountname.googlepages.com, a Sites URL begins <http://sites.google.com/site/>. The format of these URLs, which contain "google.com," is more difficult for traditional signature-based anti-spam tools to block. At the tail end of the URL, the spammers' sites will contain site names that are

composed of random letters and numbers.

Source: [http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/google\\_sites\\_now\\_home\\_for\\_spam.php](http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/google_sites_now_home_for_spam.php)

42. *August 18, Digital Lifestyles* – (International) **CNN/MSNBC news spam hit 5 million an hour.** According to Web security experts, spoofed news spam messages are now being churned out at up to five million every hour. The spam purports to be a CNN and MSNBC news alert, showing a listing of vaguely convincing fake news headlines covering celebrities, politics, and other current issues. Although the email carries the branding, logos, and style of the official news websites, all the innocent-looking links in the messages take users to pages which try to install malware on their computer, usually by inviting them to download a codec which is supposedly required for them to watch a video on the page.

Source: <http://digital-lifestyles.info/2008/08/18/fake-cnnmsnbc-news-spam-hit-5-million-an-hour/>

43. *August 18, CNN* – (National) **U.S. at risk of cyberattacks, experts say.** The next large-scale military or terrorist attack on the United States, if and when it happens, may not involve airplanes or bombs or even intruders breaching American borders. Instead, such an assault may be carried out in cyberspace by shadowy hackers half a world away. And Internet security experts believe that it could be just as devastating to the U.S. economy and infrastructure as a deadly bombing. Experts say last week's attack on the former Soviet republic of Georgia, in which a Russian military offensive was preceded by an Internet assault that overwhelmed Georgian government Web sites, signals a new kind of cyberwar, one for which the United States is not fully prepared. "The U.S. is probably more Internet-dependent than any place in the world. So to that extent, we're more vulnerable than any place in the world to this kind of attack," acting chief executive of Tulip Systems, an Atlanta, Georgia, Web-hosting firm that volunteered its Internet servers to protect the nation of Georgia's Web sites from malicious traffic said. Known as distributed denial of service, the attacks employ multiple computers to flood networks with millions of simultaneous requests, overwhelming servers, and crippling Web sites. The challenge to U.S. security experts is that such attacks can be mounted anonymously, and relatively cheaply, from anywhere in the world.

Source:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2008/TECH/08/18/cyber.warfare/?imw=Y&iref=mpstoryemail>

### **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**

44. *August 18, Information Week* – (National; Colorado) **Qwest, unions reach agreement**

**on eve of DNC.** Qwest Communications and its unions reached an agreement Sunday on a new contract, paving the way for the company to move ahead as the official telecommunications provider for this week's Democratic National Convention (DNC). Most of the details of the pact were hammered out over the weekend in marathon meetings between Qwest, the Communications Workers of America, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The CWA represents nearly 19,000 workers in 13 states where Qwest provides telecommunications services, while the IBEW represents 200 workers in Qwest's Montana operation. "This agreement achieves our major objectives of providing quality jobs, adequate health care, and wage and pension increases for our members," CWA's vice president said in a statement. The Democratic convention kicks off later this week in Denver, also the headquarters of Qwest. The company is deploying more than 3,000 miles of fiber optic strands as well as thousands of data lines for the convention.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/telecom/business/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=210101398>

45. *August 18, TMCnet* – (New Hampshire) **XO Communications bolsters its Ethernet infrastructure.** XO Communications is announcing major enhancements to its Ethernet infrastructure, offering businesses and wholesale customers new speed options and more Ethernet service offerings. Currently, XO is offering Ethernet services to four million commercial buildings in 75 metro areas in the United States through its nationwide fiber-optic network, expanded deployment of Ethernet-over-copper technology, and fixed broadband wireless capabilities. XO Communications says it's deployed an enhanced Ethernet switching platform in major metros which provides reliable, service rich, next-generation infrastructure. This will help the company offer a broader range of Ethernet bandwidth options and services. It will also allow the provision of any-to-any multi-site Ethernet solutions with multiple classes of service which are on-demand, according to the company.

Source: <http://businessvoip.tmcnet.com/topics/applications/articles/37335-xo-communications-bolsters-its-ethernet-infrastructure.htm>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

46. *August 19, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Bomb threat against NH mall discovered.** Police are increasing their security presence at a New Hampshire mall after officials discovered a note threatening to bomb the facility. It was found in a changing room Friday. The Salem Police captain said the note did not specify a time and no demands were listed.

Source:

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080819/NEWS02/22529/-1/ARTSANDLIVING>

47. *August 19, Intelligencer Journal* – (Pennsylvania) **Police evacuate hotel after bomb threat.** More than 100 people were evacuated from a Mountville hotel Monday morning

after a bomb threat was called in to a desk clerk, police said. Police and K-9 units from two local agencies searched the 80 rooms inside Sleep Inn after the threat was called in about 8:45 a.m., investigators said. A sweep of the building's three floors yielded no signs of a bomb, so people were allowed back inside about 10:45 a.m., investigators said. West Hempfield police are investigating. Bomb-sniffing dogs from Pennsylvania State Police and the Lancaster County sheriff's office helped in the sweep.

Source: <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/226099>

48. *August 17, KCNC 4 Denver* – (Colorado) **Protest groups picket at 'Gitmo On The Platte'**. Convention protest groups are not happy with what they call a "clandestine" detention center. It is a warehouse filled with makeshift jail cells to be used if there are mass arrests during the Democratic National Convention. Protesters gathered at the site Friday. They think the conditions will be inhumane. The sheriff's department says the facility will actually speed up the time many of those arrested will have to spend in custody, should laws be violated at the convention. Since its existence was revealed, protesters have likened the facility to a prison camp. The city and county says it is not a detention center. It is only to speed up the processing of those who are arrested during the convention. The city says no one should be there more than a few hours. Those arrested will be taken to the facility and processed.

Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/investigates/denver.protesters.arrested.2.797371.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

49. *August 19, Honolulu Star-Bulletin* – (Hawaii) **With palace items safe, protection issue looms**. Except for damaging the doors, a Hawaiian group that broke into Iolani Palace last week apparently left its historical artifacts intact, allowing the building to reopen for tours tomorrow morning, officials said yesterday. The nonprofit's executive director said damage from the occupation was limited to door hardware at the palace and Iolani Barracks, a nearby building completed in 1871 to house the Royal Guard. No palace artifacts were stolen, according to a preliminary assessment. The group that took over the building, calling itself Kingdom of Hawaii, Nation, had planned to chain its leader to one of the palace's thrones. But once inside, its members could not find the throne room. A statement said chaining a person to either of the two thrones would have ripped their original upholstery fabric and gouged wood frames. A State senator and chairman of the Public Safety Committee noted the incident happened less than four months after another Hawaiian group blocked access to palace grounds for several hours on April 30. Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2008/08/19/news/story01.html>

50. *August 18, Gannett Wisconsin Media* – (Wisconsin) **Police arrest suspects in memorial vandalism**. Sheboygan Police said Sunday that officers have arrested two men for the vandalism last week to the Lao, Hmong, and American Memorial in Deland Park. A lieutenant said the two men are suspected in another dozen cases of vandalism. Both are in jail and Mittelstadt said police would seek multiple charges of damage to property against them. Mittelstadt said the department's Street Crimes Unit investigated the vandalism to the granite memorial in Deland Park, which was spray-painted with

gang symbols.

Source:

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080818/OSH0101/308180022/1987>

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## **Dams Sector**

51. *August 19, Hawk Eye* – (Iowa) **Corps prepares to begin levee work.** More than two weeks after turning down the offer for assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Henderson County drainage district commissioners are preparing to let them in. “The Corps specifically asked to assist with what watering is left in Henderson County and fix the two breaches,” said the Henderson County Board of Supervisors chairman. Since erecting a temporary levee around the breach near Carthage Lake two weeks ago, the drainage district commissioners have been making minor adjustments to direct the water flow out of the county. The Henderson County Corps project engineer said the cause of the delay is getting a contract signed between the two agencies that allows access to the area near the breach. “Both the drainage districts and the Corps are moving as quickly as possible,” he said. “Then, we’ll come back with the other final repairs on the breached section, as well as we’ll repair other sections of the levee that had scour erosion from wind and wave action,” he said.

Source: <http://www.thehawkeye.com/Story/flood-henderson-081908>

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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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