



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 August 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- The Washington Times reports that a federal appeals court on Tuesday threw out a presidential administration policy that allowed only the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to monitor polluting industries, giving states broader authority over emissions control. (See item [2](#))
- According to Fox News, a jihadist Web site posted a call to poison a major city's water supply. The posting, reportedly discovered August 9 on a site favored by Al Qaeda, called for an attack on "atheist Europe," a reference that some terror watchers believe represents Western nations in general. (See item [23](#))

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 20, Bloomberg* – (Florida; National) **'Fickle Fay' loses strength, hurricane watch dropped.** Tropical Storm Fay cut power to thousands in south Florida on Tuesday. As of 9 a.m., about 33,770 customers were without electricity in Florida, with Collier and Brevard counties hardest-hit, according to Florida Power and Light. Fay is expected to continue to track the Atlantic coast northward before heading west inland as a tropical storm, with winds of at least 39 mph, maps on the Center's Web site show. "Even in a worst case scenario, if Fay did emerge into the extreme northwestern Gulf of

Mexico, the fact that it would be in a weak state would preclude any development that would pose a risk to the rigs,” said a senior energy meteorologist with Planalytics Inc. The Gulf is home to about one-fifth of U.S. oil production.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=ay2xTxzy9p2Q&refer=us>

2. *August 20, Washington Times* – (National) **States granted control of emissions.** A federal appeals court on Tuesday threw out a Bush administration policy that allowed only the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to monitor polluting industries, giving states broader authority over emissions control. The ruling could affect more than 16,000 industrial polluters such as oil refineries, power plants, and factories across the country and was hailed by environmentalists as a victory for those seeking tougher restrictions for soot, smog, mercury, and other pollutants. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that an EPA regulation that blocked states from monitoring industry pollution “is contrary to the [Clean Air Act] statutory directive that each permit must include adequate monitoring requirements.” The panel’s 2-1 decision in the case *Sierra Club v. EPA* gives states access to more information that could be used to prosecute polluters and marks the federal judiciary’s latest rejection of EPA policies.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/20/states-granted-control-of-emissions/>

3. *August 19, Platts* – (National) **Southeast utilities file complaint over Entergy grid curtailments.** A group of U.S. Southeast utilities is complaining to federal regulators about what they say is increasing unreliability in Entergy’s provision of firm transmission service that has resulted in an “unacceptable” number of curtailments and a dearth of competition. The Southwest Power Pool, acting as the independent coordinator of transmission for the Entergy system, stated in its 2008 second quarterly performance report that there has been an increasing number of transmission loading relief (TLR) events, or transmission curtailments used to maintain reliability on the Entergy system. The group asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to review the curtailments and intervene. The number of “absolute” TLRs increased to 64 from 62 last year, and the number of total megawatt-hours curtailed grew from 105,426 to 178,110, a 69 percent increase, the utilities complained in an August 14 filing with FERC. The severity of the curtailments is also rising, the utilities complained, saying there has been a 166 percent increase in the number of “level 5” curtailments compared to the year before.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6939674.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

4. *August 18, New York Times* – (International; National) **As oil giants lose influence, supply drops.** Oil production has begun falling at all of the major Western oil companies, and they are finding it harder than ever to find new prospects even though they are awash in profits and eager to expand. Part of the reason is political. From the Caspian Sea to South America, Western oil companies are being squeezed out of

resource-rich provinces. They are being forced to renegotiate contracts on less-favorable terms and are fighting losing battles with assertive state-owned oil companies. And much of their production is in mature regions that are declining, like the North Sea. The reality, experts say, is that the oil giants that once dominated the global market have lost much of their influence – and with it, their ability to increase supplies. “There is still a lot of oil to develop out there, which is why we don’t call this geological peak oil, especially in places like Venezuela, Russia, Iran and Iraq,” said an energy analyst at Goldman Sachs. “What we have now is geopolitical peak oil.” This sense of being hemmed in helps explain why the Western oil companies want more offshore drilling in the United States. They see it as one of their few options. These companies have also tried to diversify. They have turned to natural gas as a profitable source of growth. They are tackling hydrocarbon resources, like deep-water reserves, heavy oil, or tar sands. And some companies, like Shell and BP, are investing in renewable fuels.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/19/business/19oil.html?pagewanted=1&r=2&ref=worldbusiness>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *August 20, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Man injured in chemical blast in Holdrege.** A man injured in a chemical explosion at a storage building at Reliable Pest Control Services Inc. in Holdrege in south central Nebraska remains hospitalized. A Phelps County attorney says an 85-pound cylinder failed and caused an explosion. He says the tank became a missile and hit the worker. The building was evacuated and sealed off. The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=8870811>

6. *August 20, Associated Press* – (Delaware; North Carolina) **Dow Reichhold closing plant near Dover.** The two companies that own a chemical plant north of Dover, Delaware, say their joint venture is no longer worthwhile, and they will close the plant by the end of the year. Dow Reichhold Specialty Latex is a joint venture between Dow Chemical Company and Reichhold Inc. Company operations in North Carolina and offices overseas also will be closed. Delaware regulators last year ordered the company to pay \$89,000 in fines and related costs for three chemical releases at the plant, including an August 2006 rail car leak that spread styrene fumes through the area and sent nearly two dozen people to area hospitals.

Source:

<http://cbs3.com/delawarewire/22.0.html?type=nplocal&state=DE&category=News&file name=DE--DowReichholdClosi.xml>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *August 20, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **NRC: ‘Practical’ measures protect**

reactors from aircraft impact. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has established processes to protect nuclear reactors from a terrorist attack using aircraft like the attacks of 9/11, an NRC spokesman told Homeland Security Today, through assessments of existing power plants and improved designs for new power plans. He defended the NRC's efforts to protect nuclear plants from aircraft attacks in reaction to a bill that would require all new reactors to use safeguards to prevent the release of radiation under a scenario where a large commercial aircraft crashed into them, introduced on August 1. The NRC is in the midst of creating a new regulation that would require companies designing reactors to conduct assessments of their designs in order to best mitigate the impact of a large commercial aircraft on the reactor, after collecting comments on a proposal published in the Federal Register last October. Such assessments would be used to determine any "practical enhancements" that builders should incorporate into the design, he said. The U.S. National Laboratories and the Department of Energy have been cooperating with the NRC to study scenarios of the impact of a strike by a large commercial aircraft on an operating nuclear power plant since 9/11, he stressed. The results of those studies have concluded the possibility of any release of radioactive material into the surrounding environment after an aircraft strike is very small. New designs are to incorporate enhancement such as passive security features, which would make use of natural principles to bar interference from people or machines. For example, designs may make use of gravity by positioning an emergency supply of water above a reactor vessel, utilizing gravity to move the water into the vessel in the event of an emergency.

Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/4791/149/>

8. *August 20, Reuters* – (North Carolina) **Progress N.C. Harris reactor has rod problem.** The rod control system at Progress Energy Inc.'s Harris nuclear power station in North Carolina malfunctioned on August 19, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The unit was in hot standby mode at the time of the report. The unit shut on August 11 to fix a condenser seal leak. With the unit in hot standby mode, which is one of the modes a reactor passes through on its way to restart, electricity traders noted the unit was likely close to exiting the outage.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2038485720080820>

9. *August 20, Reuters* – (Michigan) **AEP Mich. Cook 2 reactor starts to exit outage.** American Electric Power Co Inc.'s Unit 2 at the Cook nuclear power station in Michigan started to exit an outage and ramped up to one percent power by early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The company shut the unit on August 16 for maintenance on the turbine control system.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2037016920080820>

10. *August 19, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (California) **Fitness for duty.** A non-licensed PG&E employee at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in California was

inattentive to his responsibilities, and was relieved of his security duties. The licensee has notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080820en.html#en44421>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *August 20, Reuters* – (International; National) **Poland and U.S. sign missile deal.** The United States and Poland signed a deal on Wednesday to station elements of a U.S. missile defense shield on Polish soil. The site in Poland hosting ten interceptor rockets and a giant radar in neighboring Czech Republic will form the European part of a global system Washington says it is assembling to shoot down ballistic missiles it fears could be launched by “rogue” states or militant groups such as al-Qaeda. “This is an agreement that will establish a missile defense site here in Poland that will help us to deal with the new threats of the 21st century, of long range missiles ... from countries like Iran or North Korea,” the U.S. secretary of state told reporters.
Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKWAR00722720080820?sp=true>
12. *August 20, Military & Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **BBN Technologies to add disruption tolerance to military networks.** BBN Technologies won \$8.9 million in funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) under the third phase of its Disruption Tolerant Networking (DTN) program. This latest award follows BBN’s completion of Phases One and Two, which resulted in a working prototype system. The primary goal of the DTN program is to develop and field network services that deliver critical information reliably even when no end-to-end path exists through the network. The BBN DTN system can send and receive data reliably even when no stable end-to-end paths exist. Under this latest award, BBN scientists and engineers will integrate the DTN system into fielded military networks that may combine several different types of nodes, including wireless, satellite, and vehicle-mounted.
Source:
http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ONEWS&PUBLICATION_ID=32&ARTICLE_ID=337426&C=ONEWS&dcmp=rss
13. *August 19, Military & Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **Boeing moves closer to developing mobile laser weapon.** Engineers at Boeing Missile Defense Systems in St. Louis, Missouri, are moving closer to developing a truck-mounted mobile laser weapon system based on solid-state laser technology to destroy rockets, artillery shells, and mortar rounds. Boeing will finish designing the truck laser weapon, and then build and evaluate a rugged beam-control laser weapon sight system on a heavy expanded mobility tactical truck. Boeing also will develop the system-engineering requirements for the entire High Energy Laser Technology Demonstrator laser weapon system. Boeing finished the preliminary design of the beam-control system earlier this summer.
Source:
http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ONEWS&PUBLICATION_ID=32&ARTICLE_ID=337426&C=ONEWS&dcmp=rss

14. *August 19, Future of Things* – (National) **Portable plastic explosives detector.** RedXDefense of Rockville, Maryland, has recently developed a portable kit that could provide a quick and simple visual diagnostic for detecting plastic explosives favored by terrorists. The device, which was designed to be used by in security checkpoints and under harsh conditions, is currently undergoing field tests in Iraq. A chemistry professor at the University of California, San Diego developed the technology behind the device. He developed a sprayable polymer that fluoresces blue-green under ultraviolet (UV) light, unless in the presence of explosive molecules, including PETN and TNT. When the polymer is sprayed on a surface and examined under UV light, explosives appear as black spots. This new detection kit, called the XPak, consists of a plastic viewing box and a removable baton. While the chemistry behind the XPak is not new, it has been commercialized by ICx Technologies of Arlington, Virginia, in a slightly more sensitive detector aimed at the detection of buried land mines.
Source: <http://thefutureofthings.com/news/1288/portable-plastic-explosives-detector.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

15. *August 20, Alexandria Echo Press* – (Minnesota; National) **Beware of advance fee loan schemes and other financial scams.** With a struggling economy and a shortage of credit, many consumers are financially squeezed and looking for help. With a shortage of credit, many people are experiencing difficulty obtaining loans from conventional sources. Fraudulent operators target would-be borrowers with promises of being able to find them loans during this “credit crunch,” only to collect up-front fees from them and then disappear. The state attorney general warns Minnesotans to be on guard against such “advance fee loan” scams. Federal regulators, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) report increases in this scam nationwide. Legitimate loan fees are typically paid after a given loan has been approved. People should beware of up-front charges or finders fees and they should not wire money in connection with obtaining a loan. Many scams, including advance fee loan schemes ask consumers to wire money to Canada or another location.
Source: <http://www.echopress.com/articles/index.cfm?id=58262§ion=News>
16. *August 20, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **SEC unveils a filing system intended to replace Edgar.** Edgar, the Securities and Exchange Commission’s electronic database of corporate filings, will be replaced by a new system dubbed IDEA, or Interactive Data Electronic Applications, the agency said. IDEA will supplement Edgar at first but eventually replace it altogether. The SEC chairman said the system will give investors faster and easier access to key financial information about public companies and mutual funds. Unlike Edgar, IDEA will use data-tagging software akin to bar codes for financial data. The technology, based on extensible business reporting language, or XBRL, permits rapid comparisons of different companies or different time periods. “All of the information will be searchable on the Internet,” and available free of charge, the official

promised. The SEC said IDEA filings will be available starting later this year.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121917510080154125.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

17. *August 20, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Inspection mistake delays 40 American Eagle flights.** A blunder by a federal security officer who was inspecting aircraft forced American Eagle to delay 40 flights Tuesday at O’Hare International Airport in Illinois while the planes were examined for possible damage, airline officials said. A Transportation Security Administration officer was conducting routine checks to make sure that planes parked at the airport overnight were secure from tampering, according to the federal security agency and American Airlines, which owns and operates American Eagle. But while ensuring that aircraft doors were locked properly, the inspector either stepped onto or grabbed sensitive avionics probes mounted on the fuselage of nine American Eagle planes, officials said. No damage was found on any aircraft, but the inspections took up to two hours for each plane, an American spokeswoman said. The grounding of that many planes caused 40 flights to be delayed for American Eagle, a commuter airline that operates many short flights around the Midwest.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-tsa-snafuaug20,0,7949449.story>

18. *August 20, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Surprised cargo screening conduct at O’Hare.** Federal officials have tested a mobile X-ray machine capable of screening the contents of large cargo containers to check trucks entering O’Hare International Airport in Illinois. The Transportation Security Administration says the surprise cargo inspections focused on finding suspicious items in trucks making deliveries to stores and kiosks in airport terminals. Officials say the Tuesday drill involving federal and city agencies will become a regular security practice ahead of a 2010 deadline requiring screening of all cargo loaded aboard passenger planes. The TSA says more than 10,000 tons of air freight are carried in the belly of U.S. passenger planes daily. Currently only passengers, checked baggage and carry-on items are screened for explosives and weapons.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-cargoscreening,0,6456019.story>

19. *August 19, Washington Post* – (National) **Citizens’ U.S. border crossings tracked.** The federal government has been using its system of border checkpoints to greatly expand a database on travelers entering the country by collecting information on U.S. citizens crossing by land, compiling data that will be stored for 15 years and may be used in criminal and intelligence investigations. Officials say the Border Crossing Information system, disclosed late last month by the Department of Homeland Security in a Federal Register notice, is part of a broader effort to guard against terrorist threats. While international air passenger data has long been captured this way, Customs and Border Protection agents only this year began to log the arrivals of all U.S. citizens across land borders, through which about three-quarters of border crossings occur. The volume of

people entering the country by land had prevented compiling such a database until recently. But the advent of machine-readable identification documents, which the government now mandates for everyone crossing the border, has made gathering the information more feasible. By June, all travelers crossing land borders will need to present a machine-readable document. Under the system, officials record name, birth date, gender, date and time of crossing, and a photo, where available, for U.S. travelers returning to the country by land, sea or air. The same information is gathered about foreign travelers, but it is held for 75 years.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26302215/>

20. *August 19, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Rural Va. site chosen for rail shipping yard.** Virginia officials have chosen a rural Montgomery County community for a new Norfolk Southern shipping yard. The state Department of Rail and Public Transportation announced Tuesday that Elliston was chosen for the \$18.6 million intermodal rail yard, after a two-year study. Intermodal shipping puts goods in containers that can be transferred among trains, ships and trucks. State officials say the project will cut shipping time from Virginia's port to the Midwest by a day and a half. In its first 15 years, it is expected to take 1.9 million trucks off the highways.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/apwire/625153e8b0c270450b88e5a87872c19e.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *August 20, Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **Threat, powder sent to Dykstra.** In South Dakota, a letter containing white powder and a threat to Republicans forced the closure of a U.S. Senate candidate's office for about two hours Tuesday. Hazardous materials team members determined the substance was baby powder. Even so, the incident was turned over to the South Dakota Joint Terrorism Task Force, including the FBI, U.S. Postal Service, and Sioux Falls police, a U.S. attorney said. He could not comment on suspects.

Source:

<http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080820/NEWS/808200306/1001/news>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

22. *August 19, U.S. News and World Report* – (National) **Is your drinking water giving you diabetes?** Research published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association has linked arsenic to type 2 diabetes. And trace amounts of naturally occurring arsenic seem to be contributing to the problem — and endangering some Americans without their knowledge, experts say. Johns Hopkins researchers found that the risk of diabetes for Americans with the highest inorganic arsenic loads in their urine is more than three times the risk for those with the lowest arsenic loads. The new finding buttresses previous research in animals that shows exposure to arsenic increases blood glucose and insulin levels. It is also consistent with studies from Taiwan, Bangladesh, and Mexico that link high levels of arsenic to diabetes. The new study examined inorganic arsenic exposure in a representative sample of Americans nationwide. While utility companies are required by law to keep arsenic levels in drinking water below 10 parts per billion, fewer safeguards exist for the approximately 15 percent of Americans who quench their thirst with water from private wells. So, many people may have high levels of arsenic in their water and not realize it, said a physician and epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University who is the study’s lead author.
Source: <http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/diabetes/2008/08/19/is-your-drinking-water-giving-you-diabetes.html>
23. *August 19, Fox News* – (National) **String of security threats have federal investigators on alert for attacks.** Two weeks before the start of the Democratic National Convention, a string of security scares have federal investigators working to downplay potential terrorist threats. Almost two weeks ago, a jihadist Web site posted a call to poison a major city’s water supply. The posting, reportedly discovered August 9 on a site favored by Al Qaeda, called for an attack on “atheist Europe,” a reference that some terror watchers believe represents Western nations in general. Just days later, a Canadian immigrant was found dead in a Denver hotel room with a pound of cyanide, only blocks away from the site of the Democratic National Convention. Both cases have mobilized federal investigators into action, although they say that neither case carries any real terror threat. The U.S. official commenting about the water-supply threat added it appeared to be in the “aspirational” category — in other words, it is an effort to encourage like-minded followers to execute their own operations in the name of Al Qaeda.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,406664,00.html>
24. *August 19, Arizona Daily Star* – (Arizona) **Tiny amounts of drugs found in well.** Trace amounts of mood-stabilizing drugs, chemicals injected before X-rays, disinfectants, and antibiotics were found in a Tucson Water drinking-water well, city officials said Monday. The chemicals, the traces of which are so small that they are expressed as parts per trillion, were uncovered in “sentry” testing by Tucson Water conducted once every three years. This testing is above and beyond the mandatory testing required under federal and state law. A Tucson Water spokesman said the discretionary testing for the pharmaceuticals was conducted because of national and local reports about trace amounts of pills people take and personal-care products they use showing up in drinking water. The trace amounts of the chemicals pose no health risks to water customers, the spokesman said, noting that it would require a customer to drink more than a million

gallons of water to build up enough of the chemicals to constitute a medical dose of the drugs the city found.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/253458>

25. *August 19, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **What's coming from your tap?** Concerned about the cost of bottled water – and its environmental consequences – many people are turning back to tap water to quench their thirst. But as evidence mounts of contaminants in public systems, unease about the water supply is growing. Engineers say that U.S. water quality is among the world's best and is regulated by some of the most stringent standards. But as detection technology improves, utilities are finding more contaminants in water systems. Earlier this year, media reports of trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in water across the country drew attention from U.S. senators and environmental groups, who are now pushing for regulation of these substances in water systems. Drugs are only one category of contaminants found in tap water. A 2005 study released by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group found that tap water in 42 states is contaminated with more than 140 unregulated chemicals, including MTBE, perchlorate, and industrial solvents. Even chemicals used to clean and disinfect drinking water are causing worry. Citizens' groups in states such as California, New York, and Vermont are protesting the increasing use of chloramine – a combination of chlorine and ammonia – to disinfect drinking water. The EPA says chloramine is safe in drinking water and has been used for decades. In the absence of federal regulation of certain chemicals in water systems, some states have stepped in. California, for one, has set standards for various compounds that are not regulated by the EPA, including perchlorate, an ingredient used in rocket fuel that was spilled into groundwater during the Cold War and has been found in many water systems.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121910526011851511.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *August 20, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **NC man dies after waiting 22 hours at hospital.** A mental patient died after workers at a North Carolina hospital left him in a chair for 22 hours without feeding him or helping him use the bathroom, said federal officials who have threatened to cut off the facility's funding. The state sent a team Tuesday to help Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, North Carolina, draft new procedures to ensure patients receive proper care. An investigator's report released Monday found that the man died in April after he at one point choked on medication and had been left sitting in a chair for close to a day at the facility about 50 miles southeast of Raleigh, North Carolina. Surveillance video showed hospital staff watching television and playing cards just a few feet away. Federal officials have threatened to cut off funding because of the man's death and a report that a physician punched a patient after the teen bit the doctor.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iggZ1aEXm3ITMnUbwda1P2M10A1QD92LP5Q01>

27. *August 20, USA TODAY* – (National) **Hospital death rates unveiled.** Hospital death rates have been closely guarded secrets, discussed in board rooms but beyond the reach of patients whose lives are on the line. However, USA TODAY posted on its website the government’s best estimates of heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia death rates for every U.S. hospital for two years. Now anyone with access to a computer can directly compare a local hospital with the one across town to see how it stacks up against the biggest medical institutions nationwide. Death rates from heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia are widely viewed as yardsticks of a hospital’s overall performance. Last year, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a broad comparison of death rates for heart attacks and heart failure, noting how hospitals compared with the national average — better, worse or no different — without releasing the death rates themselves. This year the agency decided to disclose them to consumers. The agency shared the information in advance with USA TODAY to reach the widest possible audience. The agency also posted its new mortality estimates on a government website (hospitalcompare.hhs.gov), along with more than two dozen other measures of how well hospitals meet patients’ needs.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-08-20-hospital-death-rates_N.htm

28. *August 20, Port Huron Times Herald* – (Michigan) **Man arrested for bomb threat.** A 46-year-old Port Huron, Michigan, man was arrested Tuesday about 20 minutes after police said he called St. Clair County Central Dispatch and made a bomb threat. The man, whose name has not been released pending his arraignment, named Port Huron Hospital and Pine Grove Park in the threat, said a Port Huron police official. The hospital also was not evacuated, and patient care was not interrupted, a spokeswoman said.

Source:

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080820/NEWS01/808200306>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

29. *August 18, KTVI 2 Saint Louis* – (Illinois) **Bomb at Columbia High may have been to delay start of school.** Whoever is responsible for the “school scare” at Columbia High School in Columbia, Illinois, faces serious charges. There was only slight damage to the school Saturday, but the explosion was loud enough for the neighborhood to be frightened. A smoking soda bottle was found on the ground near the school following the explosions. The superintendent says the building is fine and school will start as planned on Wednesday.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxstl.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7237445&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

30. *August 19, Colorado Springs Gazette* – (Colorado) **City wants to protect police HQ with a wall.** The city has asked for bids on a \$175,000 stone wall and metal fence to protect the Police Operations Center south of downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado, against a car or truck bomb being driven into the headquarters building that houses police administrators, dispatchers, the emergency operations center, and investigators. The barrier, consisting of a stone wall up to four feet tall with fencing on top of that in some spots on the building's west, north, and east sides, will be strong enough to defend against a 15,000-pound vehicle going 30 mph, meeting a State Department "anti-ram" rating. A commercial van, the vehicle of choice for car bombers, according to the Defense Department, weighs about 14,000 pounds. "It's not going to affect public ingress or egress into the building, and it will be architecturally similar to the walls we already have that serve that purpose," the official said, referring to short stone stubs on the building's north side.
Source: http://www.gazette.com/articles/police_39512_article.html/building_protect.html
31. *August 19, KAAL TV 7 Austin* – (Minnesota) **Dakota Co. software causing 911 call issues.** The July storm that rolled through Dakota County, Minnesota, prompted a flood of calls, overwhelming 911 operators. Dispatchers handled 290 calls during the storm's first hour. But officials said several of the calls were not reaching fire crews in the field. Dispatch officials said they were unable to tell which calls needed immediate attention over others due to their computer software. "A structure fire has to be handled right now versus let's say, a tree hanging over a power line. That can wait for a little bit," explained Dakota County Communications Center spokesman. Leaders at the communications center said they are working with fire departments to fix the problem.
Source: <http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S548872.shtml?cat=10728>
32. *August 19, WCBS New York* – (New Jersey) **Emergency services cutbacks may hit N.J. towns.** Tough economic times are taking a toll on smaller communities in New Jersey. Hackensack, Roselle, and Linden, New Jersey, are three towns which are considering sharp cutbacks in their emergency services. It could be a trend during these tough economic times – consolidating fire departments or privatizing emergency medical technician (EMT) services, but some say that could be putting lives at risk. In Hackensack a coalition of residents is banding together to save eight paid city EMTs who have been handed pink slips. The hospital will be using Vanguard Healthcare Management, which it says will... "provide the highest quality medical care to the people of Hackensack and to all our patients." Hackensack officials say the privatization deal will save the town – and its taxpayers – roughly \$600,000 this year. Meanwhile, in nearby Roselle, the mayor is closing the town's fire department, which also provides EMT services and relying on the fire department of nearby Linden for protection.
Source: <http://wcbstv.com/topstories/emt.roselle.linden.2.798880.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

33. *August 20, Port Huron Times Herald* – (National) **Malware tricksters launch Flash attacks.** Some big websites, including Digg, MSNBC, and Newsweek, are being salted with malware-infected Adobe Flash banner ads that take over users' system-wide clipboards. Any web browser on Windows, Mac, and Linux systems that runs Flash, which is almost all of them including Microsoft's Internet Explorer, Apple's Safari, and Mozilla's Firefox, is said to be vulnerable. The malicious advertisements place a persistent URL on the wibbler's clipboard, which points to a fake anti-virus program that presumably contains malware like a Trojan, keyboard logger, zombie robot, or rootkit. The user has to close and restart the web browser or even reboot the system in order to purge the offending URL and make their clipboard usable again. It is apparently not known yet how the offending banner ads are being inserted or served.

Source: <http://www.theinquirer.net/gb/inquirer/news/2008/08/20/malware-tricksters-launch-flash>

34. *August 19, CSO* – (National) **Sensitive data on 100,000 students exposed by Princeton Review.** The Princeton Review is the latest company hit with a data breach that is making headlines. The New York-based educational service and test preparation provider inadvertently exposed files on at least 100,000 students in Sarasota, Florida, and Fairfax County, Virginia, through its Web site. News of the breach was made public Tuesday morning by a report in the New York Times. Files were exposed after the company switched Internet service providers earlier this year. The sensitive information, which included personal data such as names, birth dates, ethnicities, and learning disabilities, along with test performance, were easily accessed through a simple Web search and were available for at least seven weeks, according to the report. None of the information was password protected and was intended only to be viewed by Princeton Review authors. Princeton Review officials said that access to the information was immediately shut down as soon as the company was informed about the problem.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9112959&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

35. *August 19, North Country Gazette* – (New York) **Verizon begins building cell phone towers.** Construction has begun on the first four of 13 cell phone tower sites that

Verizon Wireless will erect along the Adirondack Northway. Earlier this year, the Adirondack Park Agency approved sites in North Hudson, Schroon Lake, Lewis and Warrensburg. Verizon Wireless said the towers are expected to be operational by year's end. They are expected to close a 50-mile gap along the Northway where cell service is unavailable. The towers are part of \$100 million of investments Verizon is making this year in upstate New York. The APA is currently reviewing applications for additional towers in Chesterfield and Lewis. The need for cell phone service along the remote area of I-87 was spotlighted during the winter of 2007 when a Brooklyn man froze to death and his wife miraculously survived after the couple became trapped in their car on an isolated stretch of the Northway about 75 miles south the Canadian border following an auto accident in Essex County.

Source: http://www.northcountrygazette.org/2008/08/19/cell_sites/

36. *August 19, Government Executive* – (National) **Commission finds U.S. vulnerable to electromagnetic pulse attack.** In the early 1960s, engineers in nuclear weapons testing programs in the United States and the Soviet Union noticed an unexpected phenomenon when warheads were exploded high above the Earth's surface. The electromagnetic fields produced by the detonations often resulted in damage to electrical systems on the ground. One test 400 kilometers above Johnston Island in the South Pacific destroyed a commercial telecommunications system in the Hawaiian Islands 1,400 kilometers away. Now, a new report by the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack warns that a nuclear attack aimed at crippling the nation's technological backbone could be greater today than it was during the Cold War. Such an attack also would be easier to orchestrate, and potentially more devastating, than a direct hit to a major metropolitan area. To thoroughly understand the threat, the commission sponsored analytic tests to examine the specific vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure, including: electric power systems; telecommunications; banking and finance; petroleum and natural gas pipelines; transportation systems; food and water infrastructure; emergency services, space systems; government operations; and communications for keeping the citizenry informed. As a result, the 208-page report details the daunting complexity of modern life. "The separation of these infrastructures into different domains tends to obscure the real interdependencies that sustain the effectiveness and daily operation of each one," the report found. To illustrate the point, the commission noted that the accidental severing of a single fiber-optic cable in New York City in 1991 resulted in a power failure that blocked 60 percent of phone calls into and out of the city, disabled air traffic control functions in the Washington-Boston flight corridor (the busiest in the nation) and crippled the operations of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0808/081908kp1.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *August 19, KHTS 1220 Santa Clarita* – (California) **Deputies search Valencia Industrial Center after bomb threat.** Streets shut down in Valencia Industrial Center in Santa Clarita, California, as a precaution. A bomb threat was received at Quantum

Staffing from a female caller, prompting street closures while deputies investigated the area. According to a lieutenant, the search was concluded without finding any explosive devices.

Source: <http://www.hometownstation.com/local-news/bomb-threat-clarita-2008-08-19-12-38-2.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. *August 19, KPNX 12 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Valley veterans disgusted by headstone vandalism.** Employees at the National Cemetery of Arizona located in north Phoenix, Arizona, say they replaced several headstones this month and cleaned up graffiti. The Veteran’s Administration has spent thousands of dollars to replace the stones and name plates. More than 50,000 veterans and their spouses have been laid to rest at the cemetery. They have hired security and are installing cameras.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2008/08/19/20080819cemeteryvandals081908-CR.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

39. *August 19, Rocky Mountain News* – (National) **Security lacking at dams in West.** Federal dams across the West are struggling to meet security challenges in the post- 9/11 world, according to a newly released analysis by the National Academies of Science. The academies’ National Research Council gave the dams’ operator, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), a grade of B-minus or C, the chair of a study committee said in an interview this week. The bureau is hamstrung by internal communication problems and tight budgets, according to the analysis. The bureau operates more than 479 dams in 17 western states, including 37 in Colorado. Among its high-profile facilities are Hoover Dam, outside Las Vegas, Nevada, and Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona on Lake Powell. If an attack occurred at either of these facilities, and several others, massive floods could rip through cities such as Sacramento, California, and interrupt water deliveries to cities such as Las Vegas. In addition, because most of these dams generate vast amounts of electricity, an attack could trigger widespread, regional blackouts. “The bureau has done a good job under difficult circumstances,” said a consulting engineer who led the study, which was done at the request of the BOR. The analysis credits the bureau with establishing security offices at each of its major facilities. The bureau is also credited with completing a detailed risk analysis on each of its dams, with spending millions to hire additional guards, and with conducting some training.

Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/aug/19/western-dam-security-still-lacking-study-finds/>

40. *August 19, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Small reservoir dam near Cheyenne breached.** A 1920s-era earthen dam holding back a small reservoir east of Cheyenne,

Wyoming, has sprung a leak. The dam along Crow Creek is used by a private property owner for irrigation. A representative from the State Engineer's office says an outlet pipe at the bottom of the dam failed and part of the dam eroded away. Some 40 rural residents downstream were warned of the breach, but the representative says no homes would be threatened even if the dam completely failed because the reservoir is so small. Source: http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=8868190&nav=menu554_2_2

41. *August 19, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Richmond Lake Dam sound for now.** Officials who gathered in Aberdeen, South Dakota, were told Tuesday morning that the integrity of the Richmond Lake is sound for now. But engineers from Banner Associates also advised to keep a close watch on the dam. The state senator of Aberdeen said the Legislature's Appropriations Committee approved funding for the engineering study and will work toward finding the money needed for further analysis and any action. Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/266211.asp>
42. *August 18, Associated Press* – (Idaho; National) **Security gates planned on 3 Idaho dams.** Officials with the Bureau of Reclamation say they plan to install security gates by the end of this year on roads where they cross three Idaho dams as a precaution against potential terrorist attacks. The dams are Anderson Ranch Dam about 75 miles northeast of Boise, Palisades Dam about 55 miles southeast of Idaho Falls, and Deer Flat Lower Dam near Melba in southwest Idaho. A deputy area manager with the agency says the gates will remain open unless there is an elevated terrorist threat. He says the agency is installing similar gates at dams it controls all over the country. Source: <http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=94&SubSectionID=801&ArticleID=43859&TM=5040.239>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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

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