



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 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/>

- CNN reports that a police officer and two civilians on Tuesday subdued an armed man who drove to a California probation office with 11 crude bombs, 70 loaded magazines, and more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition. (See item [30](#))
- According to the Associated Press, a hacker broke into a Federal Emergency Management Agency voicemail system in Emmitsburg, Maryland, over the weekend and racked up about \$12,000 in calls to the Middle East and Asia. (See item [36](#))

**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 21, Erie Times-News* – (Northeast) **Explosive kerosene recalled.** Kerosene users who purchased the flammable liquid anywhere in the region this summer are being asked to return their supplies because of a potentially explosive fuel mix. Pittsburgh Terminal Corp., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, issued the recall late Wednesday afternoon, saying that kerosene it sold to distributors through the summer might contain enough gasoline to cause an explosion when used in a kerosene-burning device. A Pittsburgh Terminal spokesman said the company urges anyone with kerosene purchased between May 1 and Tuesday to not use it. He said Pittsburgh Terminal does not exclusively distribute kerosene to western Pennsylvania, southwestern New York, Maryland, and

eastern Ohio – the areas affected by the recall – “but we don’t want to take any chances,” he said. The recall was prompted by a call to Pittsburgh Terminal earlier on Wednesday from an Erie-area kerosene retailer that reported a bad mix, he said. He did not have the name or location of the retailer. The spokesman said all retailers that purchase from Pittsburgh Terminal have been notified about the tainted fuel. There have been no reported explosions connected to the tainted kerosene, he said.

Source:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080821/NEWS02/808210407>

2. *August 21, Bloomberg* – (Florida) **Tropical Storm Fay lingers off northeastern Florida.** Tropical Storm Fay lingered off the northeastern coast of Florida, causing widespread flooding in the state, prompting rescues and leaving thousands without power. The governor asked the U.S. president to declare an emergency in Florida. As of 6 a.m. Thursday, more than 26,000 homes and businesses across the state were without electricity, according to the Web site Florida Power and Light. Most affected customers were in Brevard and Volusia counties.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=a9n4jx13FQwI&refer=energy>

3. *August 21, Bloomberg* – (New York) **New York mayor touts energy conservation for savings.** New York City will likely benefit more from energy efficiency and conservation than mounting wind turbines on city skyscrapers and bridges. New York’s mayor this week asked renewable energy developers to propose ideas for generating wind energy and other pollution-free power sources within the city’s five boroughs. Along with offshore wind farms, other ideas included tidal and solar power and geothermal energy. “Most of what New York can do is on the conservation side,” he said at a New York press conference Wednesday. Reports in the New York Times and New York Post suggested wind turbines might be built on top of bridges and skyscrapers. At a press conference in Las Vegas on August 19, the mayor introduced a plan to reduce energy use in city buildings 30 percent by 2017, and conserve 220 megawatts during the hottest days of the summer. A state law passed this month in New York forces utilities to pay homeowners and businesses for the solar, wind, and other renewable power they generate. “Turbulence makes urban wind development difficult,” said a spokeswoman for the American Wind Energy Association. New Yorkers are more likely to see solar panels and green gardens on rooftops than wind turbines. Even offshore wind farms have run into opposition because of surging costs. “[The mayor] is on the right track but offshore wind has to be cheaper before we’ll invest in it,” said the Long Island Power Authority chairman in an interview Wednesday.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aCM45z2vHIFE&refer=energy>

4. *August 20, Platts* – (Southeast) **TVA’s 2009 budget to include funds to expand generating capacity.** The Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) board approved \$1.056 billion in spending in 2009 for projects to expand its generating capacity, including

work to complete Watts Bar-2, TVA said in an August 20 statement announcing the board of directors' approval of the 2009 fiscal budget. The federal utility said the budget will include \$12.6 billion for operating expenses and about \$2.1 billion in capital investments. It will increase wholesale power rates by 20 percent beginning October 1. Most of the increase is to cover rising fuel costs, particularly for coal and natural gas.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7224594.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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

## Chemical Industry Sector

5. *August 21, Canadian Press* – (Texas) **Chemtrade says two injured by explosion at its Beaumont plant in Texas.** Chemtrade Logistics Income Fund says an explosion early Thursday morning at its Beaumont plant in Texas has injured two employees, who were sent to hospital for treatment. The industrial chemical producer says there were no releases into the environment as a result of the blast, which occurred about 1:20 a.m. in a furnace as the plant was being restarted after being shut down for maintenance. The maintenance involved the replacement of a heat exchanger, but Chemtrade says the heat exchanger probably was not the cause of the furnace explosion. Chemtrade says it has assembled a team to investigate and the plant will remain idle until the cause is known and safety is assured. The Beaumont plant processes spent acid for oil refineries and chemical operations. Chemtrade is one of the world's largest suppliers of sulphuric acid, liquid sulphur dioxide and sodium hydrosulphite, as well as a leading processor of spent acid.

Source:

[http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5iKill22vFeGlc2LYmmdLsGVeQ\\_Rw](http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5iKill22vFeGlc2LYmmdLsGVeQ_Rw)

6. *August 20, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Safety board cites closed valve in Goodyear blast.** A closed valve that allowed pressure to build probably caused the explosion that killed an employee and injured six others at a southeast Houston chemical plant, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) reported Wednesday. The board is continuing its investigation into the June 11 blast and likely will focus on the company's practices for managing, inspecting and maintaining relief systems; training operators and accounting for workers during emergencies, the CSB chairman said.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/5956669.html>

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

## Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *August 21, Reuters* – (North Carolina) **Progress NC Harris reactor starts to exit outage.** Progress Energy Inc.'s Harris nuclear power station in North Carolina started to exit an outage and ramped up to seven percent power by early Thursday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut on August 11 to fix a condenser seal leak. The unit was in hot standby mode on August 18 when part of the

control rod system malfunctioned. Workers fixed the control rod system by August 20.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2142676720080821>

8. *August 20, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL Fla. St. Lucie 1 reactor shut due to flooding.** FPL Group Inc.'s Unit 1 at the Saint Lucie nuclear power station in Florida shut Wednesday morning due to heavy rain that collected in a sump pit, an FPL spokeswoman said. Unit 2 continued to operate at full power. The spokeswoman said operators manually shut the unit about 6 a.m. after more than 17 inches of rain from Tropical Storm Fay that fell in the area on Tuesday collected in a sump pit, affecting water quality equipment. Earlier, the unit had been at 85 percent, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission daily report. Heavy rain moved northward during the day Wednesday, the spokeswoman said, allowing operators to begin checking equipment before restarting the unit.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2048427620080820>

9. *August 19, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **San Onofre nuclear power plant feeling regulatory pressure.** San Onofre nuclear plant managers are scrambling to avoid stepped-up oversight from regulators and to resolve worker safety and operational problems that have put the facility's industry ratings significantly below its peers. The twin-reactor facility ranks among the bottom 25 percent in overall performance when measured against the nation's other nuclear reactors, according to e-mailed newsletters distributed to plant employees. The ratings, compiled by an influential industry group, showed that San Onofre's employee injury rates were several times higher than the average at other U.S. facilities and that it lags far behind in areas such as power production and the readiness of backup safety systems. Injury rates at San Onofre put it "dead last" among U.S. nuclear plants when it comes to industrial safety, plant managers told employees in an August 4 newsletter provided by one of the plant's labor unions. Officials with Southern California Edison, which operates San Onofre, declined to discuss the newsletters, calling them internal company communications. But in an interview, the plant's top executive defended the facility's safety record. Officials with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission say the plant does not pose a danger to the public. But the plant's subpar industry grades and "willful" violations cited by the commission have put San Onofre under greater scrutiny.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-sanonofre19-2008aug19,1,3417116.story?page=1>

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *August 20, Navy Times* – (National) **Coast Guard to return 2 patrol boats to Navy.** Once shuffled around and unappreciated, the Navy will recover two of its Cyclone-class patrol coastal (PC) boats from the Coast Guard in a ceremony Friday at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, according to Naval Surface Force Atlantic. Monsoon and Tempest have been in use by the Coast Guard on drug interdiction and coastal security missions since 2004 and 2005 respectively. Originally designed for use by Naval

Special Warfare and built through the 1990s, the 180-foot-long PCs were judged to be too large and unstealthy by that community and shunted back to the conventional fleet, which did not want them either. A total of 14 were produced, with the lead ship of the class decommissioned in 2000, transferred to the Philippine military in 2003 and renamed the General Mariano Alvarez. But events of the past seven years have put a high demand on such a boat, and the Navy has made steady use of the Cyclone class. Typhoon, Sirocco, Chinook, Firebolt, and Whirlwind are forward-deployed in Bahrain. Hurricane, Squall, and Thunderbolt are kept at Little Creek for training. A spokesman for SurfLant said Monsoon and Tempest will initially be based out of Little Creek. According to the Navy, the Coast Guard will return Tornado, Shamal, and Zephyr to the Navy in 2011.

Source: [http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/08/navy\\_patrolcoastals\\_081908w/](http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/08/navy_patrolcoastals_081908w/)

11. *August 19, Military Times* – (National) **Report: Shipbuilding in serious disarray.** Navy shipbuilding is in “serious disarray” because top commanders have pursued an acquisition plan that has little to do with actual requirements or strategy, according to an early August report from a Washington think tank. A “strategy-reality disconnect” is at the heart of what the authors describe as the Navy’s inability to control the costs of ships, and thus the problem with buying as many as needed, according to a study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The report, titled “Abandon Ships: The Costly Illusion of Unaffordable Transformation,” faults the Navy for not having a clear procurement plan. Senior Navy leaders say their goals were outlined in the National Maritime Strategy, but that document is not a strategy at all, the authors said. “It was rather a set of concepts that was not linked to any clearly defined force plan, modernization plan, program or budget,” they wrote. The A-12 and the DDG-1000 are examples of a long-standing Navy inability to connect strategy with acquisitions, an author said. It is not just a Navy problem. None of the armed services have concrete, actionable policies in place to buy the gear they need, the authors write.

Source:

[http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2008/08/navy\\_shipbuilding\\_problems\\_081608w/](http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2008/08/navy_shipbuilding_problems_081608w/)

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *August 21, Washington Post* – (National) **FDIC restructuring some IndyMac loans.** Federal regulators yesterday announced a plan to systematically modify the loans of at least 25,000 homeowners with mortgages held by failed lender IndyMac in an attempt to create an industry model for assisting troubled borrowers. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. will offer delinquent IndyMac borrowers new mortgages with interest rates as low as 3 percent. It is partly a challenge of speed: The FDIC wants to complete the modifications by mid-October, three months after it took control of the troubled California bank. It aims to sell off IndyMac’s assets by then. FDIC officials said they hoped the program would become a model for the industry and prompt other mortgage lenders to do more to work with troubled borrowers, but they did not indicate whether they would adopt this program in future bank failures. Freddie Mac has also launched a pilot program allowing for mass modifications of loans.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/20/AR2008082003258.html?hpid=sec-business>

13. *August 20, Computerworld* – (National) **Changes to PCI standard not expected to up ante on protecting payment card data.** The group that administers the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard — or PCI, for short — this week released a summary of the changes that are being made to the requirements in a revision scheduled to be published in October. As expected, the modifications that the PCI Security Standards Council is implementing in the upcoming Version 1.2 of the standard are largely incremental in nature and appear unlikely to cause any major new compliance challenges for companies, analysts said. In fact, the update will ease some of the mandates set by the standard, such as how quickly software patches need to be applied to systems. The PCI standard was created by the major credit card companies, including Visa, MasterCard and American Express, to try to prevent the theft of credit and debit card data from retail systems. The standard, which went into effect in June 2005, outlines 12 broad security controls that retailers, online merchants, data processors and other businesses must implement to protect cardholder data. Companies that fail to meet the requirements are subject to fines and potentially can be barred from processing payment card transactions. Version 1.2 is due to be published on October 1 as the first update of the PCI standard.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113104&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113104&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

14. *August 20, KCBD 11 Lubbock* – (Texas) **New scam targeting bank customers.** There is a new bank scam that can target anyone, anywhere and several Texas community banks have already been hit. The scam works by calling, e-mailing, and texting people with messages saying their bank account has been compromised. When the customer calls the toll-free number provided in the messages, they are asked to enter their debit card number, expiration date, and personal identification (PIN) number. The scam is believed to be operating from ATM's in Europe.

Source: [http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=8875171&nav=menu69\\_2\\_9](http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=8875171&nav=menu69_2_9)

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

## **Transportation Sector**

15. *August 21, Newsday* – (International) **Spain crash just the latest trouble for MD-80 aircraft.** An American Airlines MD-80 averted tragedy 16 days ago, making an emergency landing at Kennedy Airport after losing power in an engine and struggling to stay aloft over Queens. On Wednesday, a least 153 passengers and crew died in a crash of an MD-82, owned by Spanish airline Spanair, shortly after takeoff from Madrid's international airport. The latest crash has raised more questions about the medium-range workhorse that is a staple of American, Delta and other airlines. An MD-80 and a similar twin-jet plane, the MD-84, crashed last year in Turkey and Thailand. Yet aviation experts say the aircraft, which was first manufactured 28 years ago, is sturdy and reliable. And the Federal Aviation Administration will not speculate on the cause of

the accident in Spain. A National Transportation Safety Board team headed to Spain to investigate the crash included an FAA representative in case something turns up that the agency needs to act on right away, said a spokeswoman. The FAA said Wednesday that it does not have an exact count of the number of MD-80s still being used by domestic airlines. Nor does it have a tally of the number that fly into New York area airports.

Source:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/transportation/ny-uscras215809688aug21,0,4699219.story>

16. *August 21, ABC News* – (Illinois) **TSA fires back: Blames airline for ‘security violation.’** Even though its inspector’s actions caused nine American Eagle planes to be grounded in Chicago this week, the Transportation Security Administration says it may pursue action against the airline for security lapses. A TSA inspector, as part of a spot security check, used a sensitive aircraft probe as a handhold to gain access to parked American Eagle planes at Chicago’s O’Hare airport. American Eagle Airlines said the “unorthodox inspection techniques” led to additional maintenance inspections of the planes, causing “delays to approximately 40 flights and inconveniencing hundreds of customers.” TSA, however, strongly defended its inspector’s actions, noting in a statement that he was able to gain interior access to seven of the nine aircraft he inspected, which was an “apparent violation of the airline’s security program.” TSA said it encourages its inspectors to look for such vulnerabilities and after reviewing the inspection results, the agency “could take action against the airline, up to and including levying civil penalties.”

Source: <http://www.abcnews.com/Blotter/story?id=5624381&page=1>

17. *August 20, Newsday* – (New York) **NYC airports to get \$400M for explosive detectors.** The federal government will pay \$400 million to reimburse New York City-area airports for post-September 11 baggage screening upgrades. The Transportation Security Administration has told New York officials it will cover the costs of installing bulky explosive detectors at John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty airports. After the 2001 terror attacks, Congress required airports to install explosive detectors for baggage. Airports have been gradually moving the big machinery out of lobbies and behind closed doors.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--airports-security0820aug20,0,7199959.story>

18. *August 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Amtrak says needs more passenger cars.** Amtrak faces a new problem around the nation: The passenger rail service that once struggled to woo riders is now so popular amid soaring gas prices, it fears it soon will not have enough trains to meet demand. Already record-high ridership is expected to grow to 50 million riders a year in ten years, from around 25 million now, meaning Amtrak must double its fleet to meet demand, its president and chief executive officer said Wednesday. The official met with a senator and other officials in Chicago Wednesday to discuss how Amtrak can upgrade its service, including by adding cars to some lines in Illinois. But none of those cars would be new. Amtrak, whose total fleet includes 1,500 cars and 400 locomotives — most of them first put into service decades

ago — has not added a single new passenger car since the mid-90s. Instead, it has had to renovate old ones.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/08/20/america/Amtrak-Funding.php>

19. *August 21, Telegraph-Journal* – (International) **LNG tankers: New study planned.** The Canadian federal government will conduct a second study to look at the environmental concerns posed by LNG tankers travelling through Head Harbour Passage, Southwest New Brunswick, an official announced Wednesday. In October, Ottawa released a study that it was relying on to tell the U.S. government it is too risky to let tankers carrying liquefied natural gas enter Head Harbour Passage, the only waterway that would access to the proposed U.S. terminals. Despite Ottawa's argument that the Canadian waters, with extreme tides and narrow channels, were too dangerous to send tankers through, the study stated that the large tankers could safely navigate the channel if trips were planned in accordance with the tidal cycle. At the time, the official said the study did not tell the whole story of Head Harbour Passage and on Wednesday he planned to reinforce that statement by attending a meeting held by a Canadian grassroots group fighting three proposed LNG terminals in Maine just across the bay from scenic St. Andrews - and announcing the plans for a new study. Ottawa has supported local protesters in their fight to stop three companies' plans to build LNG terminals in Maine that would ship LNG on tankers the size of football fields through Head Harbour Passage. Save Passamaquoddy Bay has asked the federal government to create regulations that would stop LNG tankers the group fears would cause environmental, economic and safety concerns to residents of southwestern New Brunswick. The official said it is clear to him that the three companies proposing LNG terminals in Maine are choosing to ignore news headlines and trends from other terminals across North America that show LNG imports to the U.S. are on the decline.

Source: <http://telegraphjournal.canadaeast.com/city/article/392040>

20. *August 21, Guardian* – (National) **New catalyst boosts hydrogen as transport fuel.** Car manufacturers are already developing vehicles that can run on hydrogen fuel cells but moving to a fully-fledged hydrogen transport system requires solving several key issues. These include how to produce the gas efficiently and transport it, which requires very high pressure containers. A professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Ohio State University has led a team of scientists to develop a catalyst that can make hydrogen from ethanol without the need for high temperatures or expensive materials such as platinum or rhodium. The work could circumvent some of the storage and transportation problems. She said that her goal from the outset was to develop a cheaper catalyst, one that was based on readily-available metals. The resulting catalyst is made from calcium, cobalt and small grains of cerium oxide, a common ingredient in ceramics. Though the team's current research focused on ethanol, the researchers believe it could be adapted to other liquid biofuels.

Source:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/aug/21/biofuels.travelandtransport>

21. *August 20, Associated Press* – (National) **FAA says it will review Eclipse very light jets.** Federal aviation officials said Wednesday they are conducting an unusual 30-day

review of the Eclipse 500 very light jets in response to reports of safety problems when the planes were certified in 2006. The FAA said Wednesday it put together a review team August 11 to look at the jets' safety and certification. That includes issues such as aircraft trim, flaps, screen blanking and stall speeds — the subject of complaints from aircraft operators. The Eclipse jets employ “fly-by-wire” technology that uses electricity rather than mechanics to control the plane. The technology has long been used in military aircraft, but is relatively new to commercial aviation. On June 12, the National Transportation Safety Board sent FAA an urgent recommendation that it inspect all Eclipse 500 throttles and require the company to immediately develop an emergency procedure for dual engine control failure on the aircraft. The recommendation arose from a June 5 emergency landing by an Eclipse 500 at Chicago's Midway Airport.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080821/ap\\_on\\_go\\_ot/faa\\_eclipse](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080821/ap_on_go_ot/faa_eclipse)

22. *August 19, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Tanker crash closes Anchorage-Fairbanks highway.** A hazardous-materials team on its way to a drill happened upon an overturned methane tanker Monday whose crash cut off the main road and rail links between Alaska's two largest cities. The semi was leaking diesel fuel, but there was no indication of damage to the tank holding 9,000 gallons of refrigerated liquefied methane, which is transported under pressure and is highly explosive. The cause of the crash was not known. A crew from Fairbanks Natural Gas, which owns the methane, removed a rock that jammed a vent designed as a safety valve on the trailer. “Because it's venting properly it'll maintain a temperature that will reduce the risk of explosion,” said an acting assistant fire chief for the borough. Responders were considering the best way to empty the tanker of methane before trying to lift it back onto its wheels. The Alaska Railroad, whose tracks are within a mile of the highway, halted trains for part of the day. The highway remained closed early Monday evening.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jpNmWZiHVOv8TatZOIZRHmzo6VcQD92L34J81>

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

23. *August 21, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **Alderman gets powder-filled letter.** On Wednesday, an alderman for the 23rd ward of Chicago, Illinois, received a suspicious letter filled with black powder and a note that read, “Poison to kill the alderman of the 23rd Ward.” The alderman called police after noticing the black powder about 7 a.m. The return address read: “FOP member, black Ford Explorer,” and included what appeared to be a license plate number, the alderman said. Detectives and evidence technicians responded to the office and confiscated the letter. In June, a handful of elected city and county officials received suspicious packages containing a white powdery substance. In a copy of that letter obtained by the Sun-Times, the author threatened the lives of the mayor's son and Cook County's chief financial officer. It was not clear whether this letter was related.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/24-7/1119119,CST-NWS-letter21.article>

24. *August 21, Rocky Mount Telegram* – (North Carolina) **No clues in post office chemical scare.** In North Carolina, the discharge of a chemical inside the Sharpsburg Post Office caused several people to become ill Wednesday afternoon. Emergency personnel from Nash, Wilson, and Edgecombe counties responded to the post office building after receiving reports of a woman suffering from breathing difficulties. The police chief said that some type of irritant was released either “accidentally or inadvertently.” Nash General Hospital received 20 patients for treatment by mid-afternoon. The hospital initiated a code orange, which deals with hazmat issues, the director of communications for Nash Health Care said. Officers who initially arrived at the scene said the people inside the post office appeared to have been exposed to a chemical similar to pepper spray. Police also speculated that the chemical could have been shipped to a post office box and began leaking, or that a combination of cleaning products had become mixed together resulting in toxic fumes. Authorities later ruled out a link between the chemical discharge and the mail service, finding no contaminants present after conducting a physical search of the post office after 6 p.m. “Hazmat officials on scene feel that this incident may be the result of an inadvertent chemical exposure, which was acute in nature and dissipated prior to our detection efforts,” the police chief later said in a news release Wednesday evening. In addition, authorities are looking into a possible connection between the chemical discharge and a report of vandalism that occurred at the post office late Tuesday night. The incident is being reviewed by the Sharpsburg Police Department and the U.S. Postal Service.

Source:

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/08/21/postoffice.html>

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

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

25. *August 21, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA: Irradiating spinach, lettuce OK to kill germs.** The government will allow food producers to start zapping fresh spinach and iceberg lettuce with just enough radiation to kill E. coli and other dangerous germs. Irradiated meat has been around for years, particularly ground beef. Spices also can be irradiated. But there had long been concern about irradiating leafy greens. The Food and Drug Administration determined that irradiation can indeed kill food-poisoning germs and even lengthen the greens’ shelf life without compromising the safety or nutrient value of raw spinach and lettuce. The new regulation goes into effect Friday.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iA5hZT7HxWkBxoW1U2IS-nAOoq-wD92MPDG81>

26. *August 21, Texas A&M University* – (Texas) **New virus threatens High Plains wheat crop.** Triticum mosaic virus poses a new threat to Texas wheat, according to Texas AgriLife Research scientists in Amarillo. The disease was discovered in 2006 by a Kansas State University researcher, said an AgriLife Research associate researcher. The virus is difficult to detect and contain because it is carried by the same mite and exhibits many of the same symptoms as several other diseases already attacking wheat, he said. It is in the same family of diseases as wheat streak mosaic. Triticum mosaic virus is

carried by the wheat curl mite, he said, which is the same vector that spreads/transmits wheat streak mosaic virus and High Plains virus. Symptoms of each of the diseases are generally yellowing and stunted plants. While they all look the same, he said he is studying yield reduction, root development, and water uptake to see if they vary between the diseases.

Source: [http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-08/tau--nvt082108.php](http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2008-08/tau--nvt082108.php)

27. *August 21, USAgNet* – (North Dakota) **Water quality a problem for ND livestock.** As the drought conditions persist in western North Dakota, producers should pay attention to water quality and availability, said the North Dakota State University Extension Service veterinarian. The toxicology section of NDSU's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has reported a number of water samples from western and north-central North Dakota with sulfate levels and total dissolved solids (TDS, a measure of salinity) too high for livestock to consume safely. The lab has found sulfate levels in excess of 4,000 to 5,000 parts per million (ppm) and TDS levels in excess of 8,000 to 10,000 ppm. These samples have been taken primarily from sloughs, ponds, dugouts, and stock dams. Sulfate levels should be less than 1,000 to 1,500 ppm and TDS levels should be less than 5,000 ppm for most classes of grazing livestock, according to NDSU's veterinary toxicologist. Higher TDS levels may not have negative effects on animal health, provided specific ions such as sulfate are not in the toxic range.

Source : <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1966&yr=2008>

28. *August 20, USA Today* – (National) **Mexican peppers posing salmonella risk still being sold.** Federal officials say fresh jalapeno and serrano peppers from Mexico pose a salmonella risk, but the peppers are still selling in the U.S. and for much less than their U.S. rivals. Buyers tend to be small Hispanic grocers and mom and pop restaurants, while big supermarkets and restaurants shun the Mexican supply, distributors say. The Food and Drug Administration warned last month that consumers should avoid fresh jalapeno and serrano peppers from Mexico, after salmonella saintpaul was found on samples. Nationwide, 1,434 people have been sickened in the outbreak, the largest for food in more than a decade. New illnesses peaked in May and have slowed to a trickle. The latest new illness started August 8, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source : [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2008-08-20-peppers\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2008-08-20-peppers_N.htm)

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

## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

29. *August 21, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **\$75M in trauma care funds at risk.** Georgia's budget crisis has cast doubt on the state's ability to provide millions of

dollars to expand the network of hospitals that handle trauma care for car crashes, stabbings, and shootings, top state officials said. “It’s going to be tough,” the governor’s spokesman said. “We’re in a cutting mode.” Such comments worry advocates who want up to \$75 million annually from the state. They are gearing up a \$398,000 public awareness campaign to convince state legislators trauma care is a priority. Advocates, including elected and hospital officials and EMS representatives, stress that trauma care in Georgia is in its own crisis. The state’s death rate for wreck and other victims is 20 percent higher than the national average. Simply meeting that average, they say, could save the lives of 700 Georgians a year. But even as advocates met in Atlanta on Tuesday, they also acknowledged a new obstacle. The struggling economy has state planners projecting a \$1.6 billion budget deficit, and the governor has told state agencies to plan for six percent cuts. Advocates say the economic slowdown is also hitting the state’s 15 trauma hospitals, some of which are considering dropping the specialty service.

Source: [http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/08/21/trauma\\_funds.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/08/21/trauma_funds.html)

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

## **Government Facilities Sector**

30. *August 20, CNN* – (California) **Police: Man with bombs ‘ready for war’ with city.** A police officer and two civilians subdued an armed man who drove to a California probation office with 11 crude bombs, 70 loaded magazines, and more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition, police said. The man was out of jail on bail for a July 18 incident in which police said an explosive device was found in his vehicle at the probation office. The incident occurred Tuesday afternoon, when people saw the suspect acting suspiciously near the Siskiyou County Probation Department and called police, the Yreka police chief said. The suspect aimed a gun at an officer, police said. Two civilians then jumped into the fray and, with the officer, subdued the suspect and wrestled the gun away, police said. The suspect was handcuffed and searched. Police found a pipe bomb in his shoe, the police chief said. A neighborhood near the probation office was evacuated after the suspect told police that he had ten bombs in his car parked nearby, authorities said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/08/20/ca.bomb.suspect/>

31. *August 20, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Attorney general announces suit to enforce cleanup.** The Maryland attorney general announced plans Tuesday to sue the Army to enforce a federal environmental order to clean up pollution at Fort Meade. For more than a decade, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials have detected contaminants, some known to cause cancer and other health problems, at Fort Meade and other military sites. Army, EPA, and Maryland officials have been working for years to clean up the pollution. Last year, the EPA issued an order saying that the dumped chemicals at Fort Meade might pose “imminent and substantial dangers to public health.” The order came with deadlines to expedite the cleanup and gave the EPA leverage to force compliance. The Defense Department, however, resisted the order. And under executive branch policy, the EPA will not sue the military as it would a private polluter. State officials said there is no immediate public health threat but want

the Army to commit to a legally binding agreement to clean up Fort Meade as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/19/AR2008081902625.html?hpid=sec-metro>

32. *August 20, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Bomb threat leads to evacuation.** A major southern Kentucky facility had to be evacuated Wednesday morning after a bomb threat. Police say someone called the Center for Rural Development in Somerset overnight and left a message saying a bomb was in the building. The entire building was evacuated as a precaution. Police conducted a sweep of the building, but did not find anything suspicious. The building has reopened. It houses several federal and state agencies.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/27178894.html>

33. *August 20, Bay City News* – (California) **Fake grenade prompts Oakland courthouse evacuation.** Streets around the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland, California, reopened Wednesday after a bomb squad decided a grenade in a man's car trunk did not pose a threat, an Alameda County sheriff's sergeant said. The man had found the grenade at his uncle's house and drove it to the Oakland Police Department to turn it in, he said. The man parked across from the Police Department at the courthouse and informed police the grenade was in his trunk. The bomb squad determined the grenade was a training grenade that looked real but was not explosive.

Source: <http://cbs5.com/local/oakland.grenade.courthouse.2.799698.html>

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

## **Emergency Services Sector**

34. *August 20, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Phone, 911 service out for thousands in Butte County.** Thousands of Butte County, California, residents were without phone service, including 911, Wednesday and it was unclear when the emergency line would be restored, Butte County authorities said. As many as 25,000 people in the Magalia Ridge-Paradise area lost phone service, possibly due to downed lines from two wildfires that broke out Wednesday, a Butte County sheriff's office official said. With no working 911 service, extra deputies and volunteers manned the Magalia substation at 14166 Skyway Wednesday evening to handle walk-in reports. The official said AT&T was aware of the problem and working to fix it, but it was not immediately known when phone service would be restored.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/story.aspx?storyid=46700&catid=2>

35. *August 20, Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Emergency drill today.** Emergency personnel from a number of local and state agencies converged on the grounds of Smith and Wesson Tuesday morning to participate in an emergency preparedness exercise. Participants responded to a fictitious in-flight mishap which leads to disaster during an air show at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Members of the state Department of Fire Services District 4 hazardous materials team, state police, and other state agencies will also participate.

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/chicopeeholyoke/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-15/1219134067324620.xml&coll=1>

36. *August 20, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **FEMA phones hacked; calls made to Mideast, Asia.** A hacker broke into a Homeland Security Department telephone system over the weekend and racked up about \$12,000 in calls to the Middle East and Asia. The hacker made more than 400 calls on a Federal Emergency Management Agency voicemail system in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on Saturday and Sunday, according to a FEMA spokesman. FEMA is part of Homeland Security, which in 2003 put out a warning about this very vulnerability. The voicemail system is new and recently was installed. It is a Private Branch Exchange, or PBX, a traditional corporate phone network that is used in thousands of companies and government offices. Many companies are moving to a higher tech version, known as Voice Over Internet Telephony. Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, India, and Yemen are among the countries calls were made to. Most of the calls were about three minutes long, but some were as long as 10 minutes. Sprint caught the fraud over the weekend and halted all outgoing long-distance calls from FEMA's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg. Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5goW0z-9WpWqoWdbcc7-Sz5HWd2dQD92MA5400>
37. *August 19, KCNC 4 Denver* – (Colorado) **DPD warning: Protesters might be stockpiling items.** With the Democratic National Convention looming, the Denver Police Department has issued a grim bulletin to officers and first responders asking them “to be on the lookout for stock piles and caches of supplies that could be used by violent protestors at the up coming Democratic National Convention.” The special one-page bulletin was sent last week to all Denver police officers and other law enforcement agencies across the state. It provides a glimpse into what law enforcement officials fear, anticipate, and are watching for. The DPD bulletin says that “past practices of demonstrators show that they will use outlying abandoned buildings, homes, camping facilities, secluded woods and farm fields to store their supplies.” Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/investigates/protesters.stockpiling.nails.2.799061.html>

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

## **Information Technology**

38. *August 20, Dark Reading* – (International) **Rival botnets share a common bond, researchers find.** Two of the world's largest and most prolific spamming botnets have been spotted sharing a common bot malware-delivery method. But whether that means that the operators of the rival Rustock and Srizbi botnets are actually working together is unclear, security researchers say. Rustock, which recently edged Srizbi for the top slot as the biggest spammer mostly due to a wave of fake Olympics and CNN news spam, and Srizbi, known for fake video and DVD spam, have been using the same Trojan, Trojan.Exchanger, to download their bot malware updates, researchers say. “This is the first time” we had seen this connection between the two botnets, says the chief security content officer for anti-botnet software firm FireEye. “That’s why when we saw it, it was surprising.” “They definitely have a relationship,” he says. “There’s not the rivalry

we used to think about.” Other researchers say they have witnessed a recent overlap between Rustock and Srizbi, too. Some say it is spammers diversifying their spam campaigns with different botnets, and others, that it could be some sort of coordination among the bot herders or their spammer customers. Either way, they all agree that the two botnets remain separate networks of zombies with distinct command and control infrastructures.

Source: [http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc\\_id=162056&WT.svl=news2\\_1](http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=162056&WT.svl=news2_1)

39. *August 20, Computerworld* – (National) **Opera patches 7 bugs but keeps one secret.** Opera Software ASA today patched seven vulnerabilities in its flagship Opera browser, but it declined to provide information about one of the bugs. The browser developer hinted that other programs, not yet unpatched, were also affected by the flaw. Today’s update to Opera 9.52 fixes multiple bugs – seven in the Windows version, five in the Mac edition, and six in the Linux browser – that range from “extremely severe” to “not severe” in the company’s five-step threat-ranking system. What was unusual, however, was that Opera omitted an explanation for one of the fixed flaws. Instead, the company simply stated in the change log: “Fixed an issue that could allow cross-site scripting, as reported by Chris Weber of Casaba Security; details will be disclosed at a later date.”

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113080&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113080&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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

## Communications Sector

40. *August 21, Albany Times Union* – (New York) **Verizon’s fiber-optic system rollout hits snag.** Verizon Communications Inc. will go back and inspect every one of its FiOS installations in New York after regulators discovered that some of the fiber-optic systems could pose potential safety hazards. Routine inspections by the state Public Service Commission found that “a high proportion” of the systems failed to adhere to the National Electrical Code and were not properly grounded or bonded, according to the agency. FiOS is Verizon’s new fiber-optic system designed to offer phone, Internet and TV service to compete with cable companies like Time Warner Cable. In response to the PSC’s investigation, Verizon submitted a plan under which it plans to inspect all previous installations and correct any problems within 60 days. The company is also creating a special quality-assurance team to make certain that new installations are done correctly.

Source:

<http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=713787&category=BUSINESS>

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

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

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

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

41. *August 21, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **45,000 gallons of oil foul northwestern Pa. forest.** About 45,000 gallons of oil are contaminating the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, more than four times the initial estimate. Meanwhile, police have filed charges against the father and son team accused of causing the contamination. Police say a 42-year-old man dropped off his 22-year-old son at oil tanks owned by Snyder Brothers Inc. Police say the younger man opened the valves on the tanks, spilling the oil into the forest and contaminating a stream that spills into a northwestern Pennsylvania reservoir. Police say both men were disgruntled former employees of Snyder. The state Department of Environmental Protection is working to clean the forest.  
Source: [http://www.eveningsun.com/ci\\_10259331](http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_10259331)

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

## **Dams Sector**

42. *August 21, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Natomas levee repairs will take a year longer, planners say.** Strengthening levees in Sacramento, California's, Natomas basin will require an additional year of construction, extending until 2011 the pain of a building moratorium and mandatory flood insurance. The Sacramento Area Flood Control Association (SAFCA) executive director said the main reason for the delay is a 2006 federal policy change requiring any physical change in an urban levee to be approved by officials at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters. This policy's effect on Natomas, he said, only recently became clear. Previously, the work planned by SAFCA to bolster Natomas levees could be approved by the Corps district office in Sacramento. Headquarters approval, he said, will probably add a year to the construction schedule.  
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/1173731.html>
43. *August 21, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Levee officials push 1-pump plan.** Opposition is growing among regional levee commissioners to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan for dual pumping stations on three New Orleans canals – one station to drain neighborhoods and another to operate only when floodgates are closed against storm surge. Instead, some members of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East are advancing a plan for a single pump station on each of the three canals both to drain neighborhoods and to move water around the floodgates. They say the Corps' dual-station plan would increase maintenance costs, require risky

synchronization of pump operation during major storms, and still leave New Orleans with fragile floodwalls along the canals.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/timespic/stories/index.ssf?/base//library-154/1219296914241410.xml&coll=1>

44. *August 20, Marion Daily Republican* – (Illinois) **90-ft. tall Devil’s Kitchen dam inspected.** Drilling holes in the base of a dam may seem like a dangerous practice, but it is part of the process of monitoring the condition of dams nationwide. This month, workers are taking core samples from the base of Devil’s Kitchen Lake Dam in the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois. Their goal is to determine that the concrete in the dam, which was completed in the 1950s, is still bonding to the bedrock on which it was built, said the park ranger at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.  
Source: <http://www.mariondaily.com/homepage/x220426142>

45. *August 20, Ionia Sentinel-Standard* – (Michigan) **Five-foot hole creating dam problem in Lyons.** In Michigan, low water levels revealed a five-foot hole and several smaller ruptures in the 150-year-old Lyon’s Dam, not to mention unsightly erosion and other construction blemishes. Though the dam has faced disrepair for several years – most recently in 2004, when a study by Drein & Newhof engineers recommended the dam be “repaired or removed” – Village of Lyons personnel believe the hole is now a safety hazard. Not only does it allow water to go through the dam as opposed to over it, but there is a potential risk for those who use the river.  
Source: <http://www.sentinel-standard.com/articles/2008/08/21/news/01news.txt>

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

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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