



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 September 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- Government Executive reports that the U.S. Energy Department has failed to implement cybersecurity measures, leaving its unclassified computer systems and data open to hackers. Despite improvements, weaknesses still exist, according to the agency’s Inspector General, who conducted the evaluation between February and September. (See item [28](#))
- According to Reuters, a suicide bomb attack that killed 53 people at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Saturday bore the hallmarks of an operation by al Qaeda or an affiliate, Pakistani and U.S. intelligence officials said. (See item [34](#))

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. *September 22, TMCnet* – (Louisiana; Texas) **Labwire extends security solutions to oil, gas, & chemical companies.** Labwire, Inc. has been chosen to deploy its emergency security services to two large refinery and chemical facilities damaged by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The refineries are jointly owned by several large oil and chemical companies. As per the terms of the agreement signed, Labwire will be providing employee screening services through the Labwire Platform and also the canine surveillance and security services to chemical plants and refineries. Labwire has been contracted to provide 24-hour patrol and security services. Labwire will be offering up to six canine teams per location to react to the increased security needs of certain Norco,

Louisiana, and Port Arthur, Texas, production facilities in the wake of these two hurricanes.

Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/disaster-planning/articles/40481-labwire-extends-security-solutions-oil-gas-chemical-companies.htm>

2. *September 21, Bloomberg* – (International) **Nigerian militants announce cease-fire in Niger Delta.** Nigeria’s main militant group announced a cease-fire “until further notice” in the oil-rich Niger River delta region. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta declared an “oil war” in the southern delta, which accounts for nearly all of the west African nation’s oil, after the military launched an offensive on September 13 on its positions. In the past week, the group has attacked pipelines and oil pumping stations run by the Nigerian units of Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Chevron Corp., and Eni SpA. Shell said Saturday it declared another force majeure on Bonny Light crude exports. Shell first declared a force majeure on July 29 after an attack on one of its pipelines. Nigeria is the fifth-biggest source of U.S. oil imports.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=auUXYe3.Ro8s&refer=home>
3. *September 21, Cumberland Times-News* – (Maryland) **System would protect power grid in event of electromagnetic pulse.** Allegany County, Maryland, commissioners were asked to protect their turf in the event of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP). The president of Instant Access Networks LLC in Frostburg told the commissioners during a work session Thursday that the county’s remoteness and location outside of the predicated Baltimore-Washington-Richmond blast zone suits it to serve as a back-up facility for emergency communications as well as vital infrastructure including the power grid. He said that by taking action now, local governments could save a lot of money so “critical infrastructure would still work” whereas the damage to the power grid might not be repaired for up to two years. “It may make a lot of sense if you take an all-active approach” in the event of a super-solar storm, “which will happen sooner or later.” It is either an act of nature or an attack on the U.S., he said, that could cause an EMP. His idea is to manufacture mass-produced mobile rooms that would be shielded from an EMP. He said the EMP initiative doubles as an argument for alternative sources of energy, such as wind energy, because they would be impacted less by an EMP than the current power grid.
Source: http://www.times-news.com/local/local_story_265010237.html
4. *September 20, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Frustrated in Ohio: Still no power for some.** Thousands of homes and business are still without power a week after a powerful storm blacked out large sections of the state, officials from electric utilities in Ohio say. Damage caused by high wind from the remnants of Hurricane Ike cut power to about 2.6 million customers across Ohio at the peak of the outage on September 14. Columbus-based American Electric Power reported Saturday that about 77,000 of its customers were still without power early Saturday. Dayton Power and Light said about 59,000 customers still have no electricity. Facing another day with no power, residents of a senior housing community in western Ohio took to the street with foam signs to protest the failure of Dayton Power and Light Co. to restore electricity. The protest was one of

many indications that frustration continues to grow as utility crews work to restore electricity to the remaining 330,000 homes and businesses left in the dark since the remains of Hurricane Ike blew through Ohio on Sunday. A man in a Cincinnati suburb was arrested Thursday, accused of threatening a utility worker with a gun that he said shoots plastic BBs. The man later said he was joking. Some customers had become so impatient by Wednesday that they drove to a Duke Energy dispatch center east of Cincinnati. The Clermont County sheriff said Duke asked his office to provide security after a few customers appeared intimidating and threatening to workers trying to get their trucks out.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26802767/>

5. *September 19, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Chicago outlines plan to slash warming gases.** The mayor of Chicago has announced a plan to dramatically slash emissions of heat-trapping gases. The plan calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to three-fourths of 1990 levels by 2020 through more energy-efficient buildings, using clean and renewable energy sources, improving transportation, and reducing industrial pollution. Chicago's environmental commissioner said the city would use a combination of incentives and mandates. The city has an agreement with two coal-fired power plants to reduce emissions or shut down by 2015 and 2017, respectively, she said.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26790637/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to Report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *September 22, WKZO 590 Kalamazoo* – (Michigan) **Fire at the nuke plant.** An investigation has begun to determine why a fire broke out at a nuclear plant on the Lake Michigan Shore, triggering an emergency shutdown at the Cook Nuclear plant in Bridgman, Michigan. The fire broke out in its main turbine generator, outside of the nuclear containment at Unit One of the nuclear plant about 8 p.m. Saturday night. A spokesman says they drill for this sort of contingency all the time and it took them about half an hour to put it out. There were no injuries. It is being called an unusual event, the lowest of the four emergency activation triggers. It is not clear yet how long repairs will take. Indiana and Michigan Power says it has enough reserve generating capacity and it should not impact customers.

Source: <http://wkzoweblogs.blogspot.com/2008/09/fire-at-uke-plant.html>

7. *September 22, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Entergy La. River Bend reactor starts to exit outage.** Entergy Corp.'s River Bend nuclear power reactor in Louisiana started to exit an outage and ramped up 2 percent power by early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit was shut September 1 after Hurricane

Gustav hit the south Louisiana coast. The storm damaged the siding on the plant's turbine building.

Source:<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2226852220080922>

8. *September 22, Reuters* – (Arizona) **APS Ariz. Palo Verde 3 reactor exits outage.** Arizona Public Service's Unit 3 at the Palo Verde nuclear power station in Arizona exited an outage and ramped up to 98 percent power by early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut September 16 to fix a problem with the control rod drive mechanism motor generators.
Source:<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2239374620080922>
9. *September 22, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Tennessee) **Reactor trip due to turbine trip.** On September 20, Watts Bar Unit 1 experienced a reactor trip in response to a turbine trip. The cause is under investigation. All systems responded as designed with no other issues. The plant is currently stable and is being maintained in Mode 3. Plans for plant restart are pending awaiting the cause investigation.
Source:<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080922en.html#en44506>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *September 22, Jane's* – (National) **USAF moves to address future force conundrum.** Since the President's 1 May 2003 speech aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) declaring an end to major combat operations in Iraq, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) has been fighting a low-intensity war on two fronts with an inventory better suited to large-scale conflicts. Since that time, the USAF has been criticized for spending its strained budget on programs that have little or no relevance to events on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq. Lockheed Martin's costly F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft has often been used as an example of this procurement strategy with the number to be acquired reduced from 381 to 183 as a result of political and budgetary pressures. Opponents of the program suggest that this advanced air superiority fighter is a legacy of the Cold War and a classic example of a military propensity to prepare for the last war. It has been argued in Washington that money could be better spent on platforms with more immediate applications, particularly with regard to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets. However, Russia's invasion of Georgia in support of the breakaway region of South Ossetia may have strengthened the position of those advocating a renewed emphasis on preparing to fight future conventional wars. The case for extending the procurement of the F-22 has seemingly been strengthened by events in the Caucasus, even if conflict in Georgia may not establish a firm requirement for additional Raptors.
Source: http://www.janes.com/news/defence/air/jdw/jdw080922_1_n.shtml

11. *September 22, Military Times* – (National) **Stealth bomber is due for upgrade.**

Upgrading the stealth bomber's two-decade-old flight computers, cockpit displays, radar, and communications gear is part of the ambitious improvement efforts for the bomber being undertaken by the Air Force and B-2 builder Northrop Grumman. A new digital "active electronically scanned array" radar is well into the flight testing phase on a B-2 used only for evaluation and is installed on the first of 20 operational Spirits scheduled for modifications, the vice president of long-range strike at Northrop said. By the end of 2010, the radar should be on six bombers, and by the end of 2013, approved for initial operating capability and all Spirits. The new radar is needed, in part, because the Federal Communications Commission sold the X-band radio frequency used by the B-2's old radar to a commercial user, he said. The cost of the radar project is about \$1.15 billion. As the radar project ends, work begins on communications, computer, and cockpit display upgrades. Added to the B-2 will be computer processing units, disc drives, and fiber-optics cables. In the cockpit, nine flat-panel screens able to handle digital signals will replace tube-based display screens. The electronics will be connected to a pair of new extreme high-frequency satellite dishes that link the B-2 via satellite to commanders and aircraft anywhere in the world. Installing the 3-foot-diameter dishes will require cutting open the top of the B-2's center fuselage and fabricating mounting positions for the two 300-pound dishes. Fielding the satellite dishes is expected in 2013 and beyond. In a parallel project, the B-2 will be outfitted to carry up to 64 laser-guided Small Diameter Bomb IIs, enabling the jet to strike moving targets. To improve flight-line maintenance of the airframe, Northrop is using a new coating for the B-2 fuselage, called the "advanced topcoat system." The coating is expected to shorten time maintainers spend preserving the airplane's stealthiness after they open access panels. The difficulty of maintaining the B-2's stealth coating is a factor leading to the bomber's low mission-capable rate of 48.7 percent in 2007, the lowest of any Air Force fighter or bomber, Air Force officials have said.

Source: http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2008/09/airforce_b2_092108/

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *September 22, Orange County Register* – (California) **WaMu loaned millions to California home flippers convicted in fraud scheme.** Records show Washington Mutual, America's largest savings and loan, financed at least 43 mortgages worth \$24.5 million on properties bought and sold by members of a single family since 2007. Of the 22 homes sold in that period, at least six have become problems for Washington Mutual: Four were foreclosed, one received a notice of default, and another was listed for sale at a \$260,000 loss. Total value of Washington Mutual's mortgages on the troubled properties: \$2.7 million.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2008194436_wamu220.html

13. *September 22, CNN Money* – (National) **\$700B bailout: The latest.** The current presidential administration has proposed a \$700 billion plan to bailout the nation's banking system. The plan is aimed at stemming the credit crisis roiling Wall Street and threatening the global markets. According to the administration's proposal, the federal

government would buy up as much as \$700 billion of illiquid mortgage assets at a deep discount from banks. The Treasury Department would run the program directly, unlike the savings and loan crisis of the 1990s when Congress created the Resolution Trust Company to spearhead a financial bailout. What remains to be seen is how the Treasury Department will structure the purchases and what price they will pay. The timing and scale of purchases would be at the government's discretion. The price would be established through "market mechanisms." One method that Treasury has suggested is a reverse auction to set the discount at which the assets would be picked up. The window for the government to purchase the bad assets closes after two years. Private money managers would oversee the assets while they are in the government's possession.
Source: http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/21/news/economy/what_we_know/index.htm

14. *September 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Fed boosts support for Goldman and Morgan.** The Federal Reserve said Sunday it had granted a request by the country's last two major investment banks – Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley – to change their status to bank holding companies. The Federal Reserve announced that it had approved the request of the two investment banks. The change in status will allow them to create commercial banks that will be able to take deposits, bolstering the resources of both institutions. The change continued the biggest restructuring on Wall Street since the Great Depression. Shares of both institutions had come under pressure ever since the bankruptcy filing last week by investment bank Lehman Brothers and the forced sale of investment bank Merrill Lynch to Bank of America. Investors feared that the last remaining independent investment banks would be unable to survive in their current form. There had been speculation that both firms would be acquired by commercial banks, whose ability to take deposits would give them a stable source of funding.
Source:
http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/21/news/companies/fed_investmentbanks.ap/index.htm

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Transportation Sector

15. *September 22, Reuters* – (New York) **JetBlue terminal reopens at New York's JFK airport.** The JetBlue terminal was reopened at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport after being briefly evacuated on Monday because of a suspicious device, the airline said. A JetBlue spokeswoman said the airline evacuated JFK's terminal 6 around 7:45 a.m. "out of an abundance of caution" after a suspicious device was found in a customer's checked luggage. The terminal was reopened at about 8:15 a.m. after the suspicious device was found to be a couple of World War Two replica grenade paperweights. The spokeswoman said there were minimal flight delays resulting from the evacuation. Officials are on alert because the United Nations General Assembly is meeting in New York this week.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2226135420080922>
16. *September 19, Associated Press* – (National) **FAA failed to act on runway safety problems.** A government watchdog on Friday demanded an investigation of whistleblower complaints that federal aviation officials failed to fully pursue on runway

safety problems brought to their attention. A special counsel said in three letters to the Transportation Secretary that the Federal Aviation Administration did not adequately respond to complaints from air traffic controllers about the potential for collisions involving planes taking off and landing on intersecting runways at airports in Memphis, Tennessee, and Newark, New Jersey.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20080919/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_faa_special_counsel;_ylt=Ap4X52xzvDEsIXgyttTbiWSs0NUE

17. *September 19, Las Vegas Now* – (Nevada) **Plane delayed after suspicious incident.** McCarran passengers on a flight headed to Minneapolis were forced to get off the plane and be re-screened after a suspicious incident. McCarran officials say a Northwest Airlines flight was boarding early this morning when the pilot noticed an employee of the wheelchair contractor had boarded the plane and was talking with a passenger. The pilot and the rest of the crew became suspicious because there was no official reason for that to occur. Authorities re-screened the passengers and searched the plane. The plane and its passengers were given the all clear and took off about 3 hours late.

Source: http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9042447&nav=menu102_2

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *September 22, KLTV 7 Tyler* – (Texas) **Anthrax scare in Big Sandy.** A quiet day at a Big Sandy, Texas, mail order business turned into terror, as an anthrax scare tied up emergency crews for hours. Police and Hazmat crews raced to the SFG building after a 911 call that a letter had been opened and released a mysterious white powder. Twenty employees were evacuated, but remained isolated out of fear they may have been contaminated. Investigators say one man complained of headaches after being exposed to the powder and Hazmat crews were sent in to try to test and find out what it was. “At this time we have narrowed down with the fire department assistance that it was not a biological agent, not any type of narcotics, so no reasonable danger to any of the surrounding area,” said a Big Sandy police sergeant. Now the focus is who sent the letter and more important, why? Federal agents have now joined the investigation into the origin of the letter. Big Sandy police and fire crews, Longview fire and Hazmat crews, and Hawkins police all helped on the scene Sunday.

Source: <http://www.kltv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9048173&nav=1TjD>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *September 22, USAgNet* – (National) **FDA proposes rule for refused imports.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a proposed rule to reduce the practice called “port shopping,” or trying to gain entry at different ports when a potential import has already been rejected. The FDA requires such foods must be exported or destroyed. The proposed rule would require shipping containers of food barred from

entry and accompanying documents to be labeled as refused to make it easier to detect food previous refused, reports MeatPoultry.com. “This system will make it more difficult for food importers to evade import controls after being denied admission into the United States,” said the deputy commissioner for policy. “It will complement our ongoing efforts to monitor food imports.” The rule would require denied imports to bear a label that would read, “United States: Refused Entry.” The rule would also implement a provision of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2206&yr=2008>

20. *September 22, USAgNet* – (National) **Kentucky requests USDA assistance for farmers affected by drought.** The governor of Kentucky has sent a request to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture requesting that U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster assistance be made available to farmers across the commonwealth due to crop losses resulting from widespread drought conditions that began in early 2008 and continue today. Evaluations are currently underway to determine which Kentucky counties may have experienced crop damage as a result of the storms and strong winds that plagued the state this past weekend. When this damage assessment is complete, the governor may issue a similar request for federal assistance needed for farmers to cope with crop loss due to storm damages.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2218&yr=2008>

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Water Sector

21. *September 22, United Press International* – (National) **Report: EPA to deny perchlorate standards.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will deny calls to set drinking water safety standards for the chemical perchlorate, documents show. The federal agency says there is no need to legally regulate the chemical, a component of rocket fuel found in soil and groundwater that affects thyroid development in newborns and young children, a draft of the decision, obtained by the Washington Post, recommends. The newspaper said the EPA’s draft document denying the regulation was heavily edited by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, removing references to studies showing how exposure to perchlorate can affect IQ and behavioral problems in children.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/09/22/Report_EPA_to_deny_perchlorate_standards/UPI-80581222084833/

22. *September 20, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Residents in 3 NC counties worry about well water.** Residents in three North Carolina counties are worried about what pesticides peach farmers used decades ago may be polluting well water today. The Charlotte Observer reported Saturday that tests done by state health officials have found 117 tainted wells in Montgomery, Richmond, and Moore counties in the past year. Contamination levels as high as 55 times the federal safe drinking-water standard have been detected, and residents in 77 homes where contamination was the worst have been

told not to drink or cook with their well water.

Source: <http://www.live5news.com/Global/story.asp?S=9044519>

23. *September 19, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Biggest obstacle to Galveston recovery is water.** As hundreds of Galveston, Texas, residents sought tetanus shots at this island’s single emergency room, city officials revealed Thursday that the key to curbing the growing health crisis triggered by Hurricane Ike hinges on a single crippled water distribution system. And fixing it could take weeks, officials said Thursday. “Our water system is bleeding, literally bleeding,” explained Galveston’s city manager. “Because at this point we have so many leaks in the system, we’re basically bleeding out more (water) than we’re pushing into the system.” The chief executive of the Galveston County Health District said conditions remain unhealthful because of broken sewerage lines, polluted water, and dangerous debris.

Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/weather/storm/28636199.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *September 21, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **FTC cracks down on bogus online cancer cures.** Last week the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) disclosed actions it had taken against several companies that promoted online cancer cures. The actions were the result of a project started last year to identify websites making unsubstantiated cure claims. The director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection announced law enforcement actions against 11 companies. Six already had reached settlements with the agency; the rest will be litigated.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-consumer21-2008sep21,0,7142257.story>

25. *September 21, HealthDay* – (International) **Experts urge global action against antibiotic resistance.** Without a focused global response to the rising rate of bacterial resistance to drugs, the world could “return to the pre-antibiotic era,” experts warn in an editorial in the *British Medical Journal*. Existing antibiotics are losing their effectiveness at an alarming rate while the development of new antibiotics is declining, noted a researcher from Uppsala University Hospital in Sweden, *United Press International* reported. Even though experts have called for action to tackle the growing threat of antibiotic resistance, antibiotics are still overprescribed by doctors, illegally sold over the counter in some countries, and people still self-medicate with leftover antibiotics, the editorial noted. There are reports from around the world about serious consequences of antibiotic resistance, but there is little data on the magnitude and burden of antibiotic resistance, or its economic impact on individuals, health care, and society. The researcher and his colleagues suggested this may explain why there has been little response to this public health threat, *UPI* reported.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/21/AR2008092100456_3.html

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *September 21, El Paso Times* – (Texas) **Fort Bliss to start crisis exercise Monday.**

Fort Bliss, Texas, is in the midst of another mass-casualty exercise. In recent years, the emergency responders have become wiser and the equipment more sophisticated, such as radiation detectors and other specialized technology. The current exercise began last week with e-mails alerting key officials at Fort Bliss, with the city, and with the county – both fire and police – that terrorist activity had been observed in South American countries. That activity was a warning that certain resources should be mobilized and ready to go in case of a local attack, said the chief of Plans and Operations Division and chief of the Fort Bliss Installation Operations Center. Monday, the situation will escalate, and a full-blown crisis will develop by Wednesday. The ongoing test will happen entirely on Fort Bliss property, but will require city and county involvement. The Federal Bureau of Investigation will also have a presence. El Paso was one of the first 120 cities chosen to receive federal training for regional responses to disasters, both natural and human-caused. Training included setting up incident commands and responding to spills of hazardous materials. It became clear that procedure needed to be set up to protect first responders from chemicals and other toxic agents, and that there was a problem in detoxifying the victims of the attack. The detoxifying involved safely disposing of contaminated clothing and protecting the modesty of victims required to undress for the decontamination process. Since then, the exercises have included chemical releases from train wrecks, sniper attacks, hostage situations, explosive bombs, and radiological “dirty” bombs.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_10520124

27. *September 21, MetroWest Daily News* – (National) **Report urges more security at colleges.** State public higher education officials in Massachusetts will consider whether to implement proposed safety and security measures at each of the 29 public campuses beginning this fall. In a report released earlier this year by the Department of Education, the agency called for its colleges and the University of Massachusetts to respond to the potential of “serious violence” on public school campuses. The report issued more than two dozen recommendations to improve school safety, covering areas such as identifying at-risk students and providing necessary mental health assistance, upgrades to campus security systems, and establishing plans to respond to on-campus emergencies.

Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/education/x2032138527/Report-urges-more-security-at-colleges>

28. *September 19, Government Executive* – (National) **Energy’s unclassified networks still open to cyberattack.** The U.S. Energy Department (DOE) has failed to implement cybersecurity measures, leaving its unclassified computer systems and data open to hackers and employees who may not have authorization to access certain files, according to an audit report released by the agency’s inspector general (IG). DOE improved some security weaknesses the IG identified in its fiscal 2007 audit, including strengthening configurations of networks and systems, updating security policies and procedures related to laptops, and improving reporting of security incidents. The agency

also began including cybersecurity requirements in relevant contracts. But weaknesses still exist, according to the IG, who conducted an evaluation of unclassified systems between February and September. The Office of Independent Oversight performed a separate evaluation of systems that contain sensitive data. At the time of the IG's evaluation, department sites reported 480 cybersecurity incidents that affected 703 computers to its Computer Incident Advisory Capability, which monitors network security. That was an increase of about 45 percent from the prior year.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20080919_2683.php

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *September 21, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Communications upgrades worked in Gustav, Ike.** As hurricanes Gustav and Ike swamped coastal communities in Louisiana and knocked out power to more than 1 million homes and businesses, phone and radio lines of first-responders largely held in the first true test of the communications grid developed after Hurricane Katrina. Police, search-and-rescue teams and emergency operations workers could talk to each other, radio-in damage assessments and call for help. That is a far cry from 2005 when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita leveled communications systems. Portable radios and phones failed, isolating communities for days and making first-responders unaware of the scope of the devastation. The collapse prompted a \$95 million upgrade in communications infrastructure. The new system was not without disruptions, including failure of two radio towers for both Gustav and Ike. But backups were quickly dropped into affected areas. State officials said they never lost total communication with any parish. Louisiana poured state and federal dollars into a heftier radio system, a 700-megahertz design with greater bandwidth to handle more calls and radio traffic than the system that overloaded during Katrina and Rita. Participation on the 700 system is voluntary by responder agencies. But each parish received at least 28 radios to talk on the new system.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/news-42/1222013943321100.xml&storylist=louisiana>

30. *September 21, Chicago Tribune* – (Texas) **After Ike, FEMA comes under fire again.** In its first major test in three years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has come under scrutiny for failing to develop a long-term housing plan for the more than a million evacuees from the Texas gulf coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. Faced with criticism, FEMA has agreed to pay a month of hotel expenses for some evacuees from the hardest-hit areas. But in a meeting with Homeland Security Secretary on Thursday, local officials expressed concern that there was no longer-range plan for residents whose homes in devastated areas such as Galveston, Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange will be uninhabitable indefinitely. The housing burden has fallen on state shelters, which were initially set up as an emergency resource and could now be forced to remain open longer.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080921/NEWS07/809210422/1009/NEWS07>

31. *September 21, McClatchy News Papers* – (Washington) **Homeland security grants are becoming a local burden.** Since 9/11, millions of dollars worth of homeland security grants have flowed to Washington state and its local governments for everything from bomb-defusing robots to planning and training to respond to a terrorist attack or a catastrophic earthquake. But now, with state and local jurisdictions already struggling financially and considering sharp cuts in their own budgets, the Department of Homeland Security wants them to start sharing in the cost. The department has signaled it may require a 25 percent match to the grants. State, county, and city officials say they do not have that type of money. Thurston County’s emergency manager said she and others were surprised by how much local governments are being asked to spend. Swamped with responding to Hurricane Ike, officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security and administers the grants, were unavailable for comment. The department, however, already has alerted those receiving the grants that they should “anticipate and plan” for having to provide matching funds.

Source: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/251/story/52603.html>

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Information Technology

32. *September 22, CNet News* – (National) **Survey: Web-based malware puts corporations at risk.** A new study by security firm Webroot found that 85 percent of malware is being distributed through Web applications, which is creating a growing threat for corporations as employees increasingly do online social networking, video watching, and personal e-mail at work. The findings also indicated a more than 500 percent increase in malware in 2007. Also, results showed that one-quarter of companies report that data has been compromised by a Web-based threat, nearly one-third say their Web security was compromised as a result of employees using computers at work to access social networks, Web-based e-mail, and video sites, and only 15 percent enforce Internet usage policies. About 650 information technology administrators in English-speaking countries were surveyed this summer for the study.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10047118-83.html

33. *September 19, Computerworld* – (National) **Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail all vulnerable to Palin-style password-reset hack.** Google Inc.’s Gmail, Microsoft Corp.’s Windows Live Hotmail, and Yahoo Inc.’s Mail all rely on automated password-reset mechanisms that can be abused by anyone who knows the username associated with an account and an answer to a single security question, according to quick tests run by Computerworld. Computerworld reporters and editors were able to “break” into their own and colleagues’ accounts on all three services, then reset passwords armed only with the account’s username and the correct response to one of a limited number of common security questions, such as mother’s maiden name, the name of a favorite pet, or the make of a first car. Some of the personal information that would provide answers to the security questions may be easily found by searching social networking sites or the Internet. Hackers who know the username of an account – which is often identical to

the part of the e-mail address that precedes the “@” symbol – and correctly type the distorted “CAPTCHA” characters are faced with only a security question before being allowed to change the account password.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9115187&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/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to Report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *September 22, Reuters* – (International) **Al Qaeda suspected of Pakistan’s Marriott bombing.** A suicide bomb attack that killed 53 people at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, bore the hallmarks of an operation by al Qaeda or an affiliate, Pakistani and U.S. intelligence officials said on Sunday. Teams combing the burnt shell of the hotel found more charred bodies after the blast on Saturday evening ignited a blaze that swept through the hotel, part of a U.S.-based chain and a favorite haunt of diplomats and wealthy Pakistanis. Four foreigners were killed including the Czech ambassador, his Vietnamese partner, and two members of the U.S. armed forces assigned to the U.S. embassy. Denmark’s security service said one of their staff, attached to the Danish mission in the capital, was missing, presumed dead. An American State Department employee was also missing, a spokesman said. The Interior Ministry said 266 people were wounded, 11 of them foreigners, after the bomber blew up a truck packed with 600 kilograms (1,320 pounds) of explosives including artillery shells, mortar bombs, and shrapnel. The attack will be a big blow for foreign investment and will lead to further weakening of the rupee which is already trading at a record low, dealers and analysts said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSLK18396120080922>

35. *September 19, WSAV 3 Savannah* – (Georgia) **Nine quarantined at Berwick Wachovia bank back home tonight.** In Georgia, nine people quarantined after coming in contact with a mysterious substance are home tonight. It started Friday morning when employees at a Wachovia bank branch received a deposit package that contained a white powdery substance. People at the bank did not think much about the mysterious powder

until people started complaining about respiratory problems and irritation on their skin. Nearly five hours after opening the package, employees called EMS. But when emergency responders arrived and found out a white powder was involved, they called in backup. Seven people at the bank, along with the two emergency responders, were quarantined. They monitored the air quality, and it came back clean. They also determined the powder was non-hazardous. Crews do not know what the powder is. They collected it and turned it over to investigators.

Source: <http://www.wsav.com/midatlantic/sav/news.apx.-content-articles-SAV-2008-09-19-0027.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *September 22, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Fire cleanup begins at Chinese-American Museum of Chicago.** Standing outside the charred remains of the Chinese-American Museum of Chicago, where the smell of burnt 19th century robes, historic photographs and countless other artifacts wafted through the air, officials on Sunday vowed to rebuild. The building's top two floors were gutted and the bottom two severely damaged by water in a fire that started about 2 p.m. Friday, just after museum staff had closed its doors for the day. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, said the president of the Chinatown Museum Foundation. Museum officials said they hope to have it back up and running within a year. Most of the museum's permanent collections, including 23 historic dioramas, antique embroidered wall hangings and a Peking Opera costume, were lost in the blaze.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-museum-fire-22-sep22,0,1383253.story>

37. *September 21, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Loads of garbage dumped in Lolo National Forest.** Officials are seeking the public's help in stopping people from illegally dumping garbage in Lolo National Forest. The Lolo spokesman says the forest lately has been littered with trash, with the worst dumping happening in the Superior Ranger District. The Superior District Ranger says getting the trash hauled away means pulling crews off other jobs, like forest thinning and trail maintenance. She says the dumping is "disappointing and offensive" and possibly a health risk.

Source: <http://www.kxmb.com/News/277661.asp>

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Dams Sector

38. *September 21, Associated Press* – (Texas) **West Texas braces for Mexican reservoir release.** Helicopters dropped huge sandbags on a levee, and a crew of prison inmates worked to create a makeshift dam Saturday in this rural border city threatened by flooding from the Rio Grande. As rains continued pounding Mexico, authorities in Presidio, Texas, feared Saturday morning their counterparts across the border would be forced to release more water from a reservoir, potentially endangering the U.S. side.

But Chihuahua state's civil protection director said Saturday afternoon that water levels at the reservoir were dropping, so officials would be able to release less water than they had been doing earlier this week. The Rio Grande at Presidio, a normally dusty city of nearly 5,000 about 250 miles southeast of El Paso, has been threatened by flooding for nearly two weeks because of torrential rain in Mexico and the forced release of water from the Luis Leon Reservoir. That water flows into the Rio Conchos, which feeds the Rio Grande. The Presidio County attorney said Presidio will likely be at risk for another few weeks. He said crews from the International Boundary and Water Commission, the binational agency responsible for maintaining the U.S./Mexico border and Rio Grande levees, has warned that levees designed to protect Presidio from a 25-year flood are saturated and could give way at any time. If a levee breaks upriver from the makeshift dam, nearly a third of Presidio could be underwater.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jecAEBKw9EKDhIv14zDCITQ2W_JgD93AMBP00

39. *September 21, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Work starts on new dam at pond.** After 10 years of discussion, and under the threat of state fines, the Mansfield, Massachusetts, Kingman Pond is about to get an up-to-date dam. The rehabilitation project began last week, following a brief delay caused by the remnants of tropical storm Hannah. Now, workers are clearing out the area around the dam, and construction on the dam itself is expected to begin within the next two weeks. For the town engineer, reconstructing the 600-foot-long earthen dam was critical for the town. "This was necessary because we need a flood-control system there," he said of the Kingman dam, which he describes as being in "poor condition." He added, "If the dam did fail, there would be property damage" from water on neighboring roads. "There could even be loss of life."

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/09/21/work_starts_on_new_dam_at_pond/

40. *September 20, Reading Eagle* – (Pennsylvania) **Boyertown dam getting improvements.** The Popodickon Dam at the Boyertown Reservoir is undergoing \$644,500 in safety improvements, including a spillway widening. In 2001, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection notified Boyertown that the spillway might not be able to handle a surge from a severe storm. The project is expected to take about four months. Pennsylvania has emphasized dam safety since a 1977 dam failure in Johnstown led to 85 deaths.

Source: <http://www.readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=106574>

41. *September 20, Galveston County Daily News* – (Texas) **Texas City Dike closed indefinitely.** Texas City's mayor said Saturday the Texas City Dike is closed indefinitely. The dike sustained extensive damage during Hurricane Ike on September 13. The mayor said he cannot even give a timeframe for when the dike will reopen. He said it is not driveable and not even safe to walk on.

Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=0deb482ddff1b444>

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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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