



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 September 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to Reuters, a coalition of 10 northeastern states this week will conduct the nation's first carbon auction. The overall goal is to give utilities an economic incentive, rather than a regulatory mandate, to burn less coal, fuel oil, and natural gas, while making carbon-free energy alternatives more economically attractive. (See item [2](#))
- Homeland Security Today reports that securing data and protecting electronic personal health information continues to be a challenging task for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office. (See item [33](#))

### 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 23, Reuters* – (National) **Some 640,000 Texas customers still without power.** More than 640,000 customers in Texas remained without power on Tuesday, 10 days after Hurricane Ike hit the Gulf Coast before cutting a destructive path all the way to New York. CenterPoint Energy Inc., the power company for most of the Houston area, still had about 616,000 customers in Texas without power early Tuesday, down from 2.15 million at the height of the storm. CenterPoint estimated the total cost for the restoration would be the range of \$350 million to \$500 million. Entergy Corp. said it had just 31,000 customers still without power in eastern Texas, down from 392,000

affected. CenterPoint and Entergy Texas said Ike knocked out service to about 99 percent of their Texas customers. Ike hit the Galveston-Houston area as a Category 2 storm with winds of 110 mph. Overall, the storm cut power to more than 7.7 million homes and businesses in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia as it marched from Texas to the Northeast from September 12 to 19.

Source:<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2331773520080923>

2. *September 22, Reuters* – (National) **First U.S. carbon auction set for Thursday.** A coalition of 10 northeastern states this week will take steps to check global warming when it conducts the nation’s first carbon auction. Environmental groups, energy producers, and government leaders will be watching closely as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) sells carbon credits Thursday in the first of a series of quarterly online auctions. The cap-and-trade greenhouse gas reduction program aims to hold carbon dioxide emissions steady through 2014 and then gradually reduce them. RGGI caps the total amount of carbon that power plants in the 10-state region can pump out of their smokestacks at the current level — 188 million tons. Electric power generators must pay for allowances covering the amount of carbon they emit, and RGGI will provide a market-based auction and trading system where the generators can buy, sell, and trade the emissions allowances. The overall goal is to give utilities an economic incentive, rather than a regulatory mandate, to burn less coal, fuel oil, and natural gas, while at the same time making carbon-free energy alternatives such as wind and solar power more economically attractive. Some business and utility leaders have urged the states to hold off until a national plan is developed. The Business Council of New York State warns that the regional plan could harm the power supply and system reliability while increasing energy prices.

Source:<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26838168/>

3. *September 22, Reuters* – (National) **Shell hopes to reroute Auger pipeline in U.S. Gulf.** Shell Oil said on Monday it was hoping to reroute oil and natural gas flows along its Auger pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico around the hurricane-damaged Eugene Island platform, and was working to restart its Central Gulf gathering system, which connects oil and gas fields in the Eugene Island and South Marsh Island areas to shore. The company added its Eugene Island pipeline remains down pending repairs at a third party pump station and its Boxer pipeline system remained shut, waiting for repairs on the Eugene Island system. The company said its Cougar pipeline also remained down due to ongoing platforms repairs. On shore, Shell said its Capline oil pipeline system was running “generally” at scheduled rates, while its Houston-to-Houma pipeline remained slowed in the western portion, including around Houston and Port Arthur.

Source:<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2275487720080923>

4. *September 22, Reuters* – (National) **Enbridge lifts force majeure on one Gulf gas line.** Enbridge Inc.’s Enbridge U.S. unit said repairs on its Mississippi Canyon natural gas pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico following Hurricane Ike were completed over the weekend and it was lifting force majeure declared on the line on August 30.

Interconnects with Tennessee Gas Pipeline and the Venice natural gas processing plant, however, remained unavailable due to outages caused by the storm. The 45-mile, 30-inch Mississippi Canyon line runs from West Delta Block 143 in the Gulf to interconnect with the Venice plant and two interstate pipelines onshore. The company's Manta Ray offshore gathering system remained under force majeure and was not expected to return to service until September 26 at the earliest, a separate posting said. Most of the company's Garden Banks system also remained shut in, while its Enbridge Offshore pipelines system, its Stingray pipeline, and its Nautilus pipeline remained under force majeure. The Nautilus system remained shut in due to upstream restrictions and ongoing damage assessment at Burns Point, a posting said.

Source:<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2241938620080922>

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

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *September 23, Gadsden Times* – (National) **New process eliminates a fertilizer's blast threat.** A major chemical company will announce Tuesday that it has found a way to render nitrogen fertilizer useless as an explosive. The company, Honeywell, has patented a method for combining ammonium nitrate fertilizer with a second type of fertilizer, ammonium sulfate. Ammonium nitrate can be soaked in diesel fuel to produce a powerful bomb and is a favorite of terrorists, but when chemically tied to the ammonium sulfate, its chemical structure is changed so that it is no longer explosive. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has certified the new fertilizer, which Honeywell calls ammonium sulfate nitrate, under a federal program devised to encourage such innovations by offering the manufacturers immunity from liability, according to Honeywell. The director of strategic marketing for Honeywell's resins and chemical business said the market is very broad. "Anywhere where ammonium nitrate is used today, this alternate form could be used effectively," he said. Honeywell is already a large producer of ammonium sulfate fertilizer.

Source:[http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20080923/ZNYT02/809230330/1016/NEWS?Title=New Process Eliminates a Fertilizer x2019 s Blast Threat](http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20080923/ZNYT02/809230330/1016/NEWS?Title=New+Process+Eliminates+a+Fertilizer+x2019+s+Blast+Threat)

6. *September 23, Ithaca Journal* – (New York) **Toxics Targeting owner makes hazardous-site maps available online.** An Ithaca business owner and outspoken environmental activist has made his enormous database of toxic-site maps available for free online. He makes his living compiling environmental database records from local, state, and federal agencies and creating maps that show potential property buyers where pollution has been found. The maps are linked to his Toxics Targeting Web site. They include more than 270,000 "known or potential environmental hazards in New York State" and are linked to three different types of maps — a standard road map, an aerial map powered by Google, and a Bird's Eye View map powered by Microsoft. Where available, the maps are also connected to Google's Street View, which shows locations as though a person were literally standing in the middle of a street looking at buildings. The new mapping tool, which he says is the first of its kind, was recently featured in the New York Times Real Estate section. The maps show 26 categories of environmental

information, from state and U.S. Superfund sites to gasoline spills, oil storage facilities, Brownfield sites, and chemical bulk storage. The maps make it possible for individuals to quickly and easily determine where potential hazards exist.

Source: <http://www.theithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080923/NEWS01/809230304>

7. *September 21, KTVT 11 Dallas* – (Texas) **Mixed chemicals cause stir in Garland hazmat.** On Sunday, hazardous chemicals leaked from a tanker, forcing the evacuation of a business park next to the Ashland Chemical Company. The tanker contained a mixture of flammable materials that are the byproduct of the computer chip making process. Somehow, there was a chemical reaction that heated the concoction, boosting pressure until it finally popped off a safety relief valve. Firefighters evacuated a quarter-mile perimeter for safety's sake. The safety valve worked as designed. With a hole in the top, the tanker began to stabilize. By mid-afternoon, the situation was considered contained, so the fire officials reopened the street in front of the plant and allowed people in the evacuated businesses to return to work.

Source: <http://cbs11tv.com/greenlife/garland.hazmat.chemical.2.822510.html>

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

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

8. *September 22, Journal News* – (New York) **Nuclear plant moves waste to tackle leaks.** Workers have removed spent nuclear fuel rods from Indian Point 1 and expect to drain 500,000 gallons of radioactive water from the dead reactor's storage pool by the end of the year. The move should end strontium 90 contamination at the plant, company and regulatory officials say. Indian Point is the only nuclear site in the country that is leaking strontium 90, a highly radioactive isotope. A spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Indian Point 1, which operated from 1962 to 1974, has had a long history of leakage, and plant officials had thought a curtain drain system around the huge pool was catching any radioactive water and directing it to proper disposal points. By the end of the year, Indian Point officials expect to have diluted the 500,000 gallons and released them into the Hudson River according to federally permitted procedures set up to protect the surrounding habitat. On Friday, the last load of 32 fuel rods — a fifth of the 160 moved — was carried in a dry cask storage canister by a tank-like machine. A team worked to transport the spent fuel from the reactor to a storage pad about a quarter-mile away. It is considered nuclear waste and will remain onsite until the federal government builds the Yucca Mountain's repository or an alternate.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008809220332>

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *September 23, Defense News* – (Washington) **Report: UAV maker falls behind war needs.** The Pentagon's plan to put more unmanned aerial vehicles in the skies over Iraq and Afghanistan as a critical weapon against insurgents relies on a company that

government investigators and military analysts say has not met the skyrocketing demand for the aircraft. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, maker of the unmanned Predator and Reaper planes, has shown it cannot keep up with the workload for its contracts, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released last month. The company's Predator and Reaper drones are at the heart of the Pentagon's efforts in Afghanistan, as the drones are used to attack Taliban targets hiding in mountainous areas hard to reach on the ground. The U.S. Secretary of Defense has made deploying more drones his top priority. General Atomics disputed GAO's findings, saying it is running one month ahead on some contracts and has produced 300 Predators and 50 Reapers so far. A Predator costs \$4 million, while the more advanced Reaper costs almost \$12 million.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3737173&c=AME&s=TOP>

10. *September 23, Aviation Week* – (National) **U.S. Army to evaluate FCS Spinout One follow-on.** A full analysis of Spin Out 1, the first spate of the U.S. Army's Future Combat Systems (FCS) equipment to be fielded, will occur this fall and winter, with an eye toward follow-on versions. The Army has struggled to push as many FCS components to the field as possible, despite increasing budget cuts and slashes in programs. The success of Spin Out 1 will inform subsequent rollouts of capabilities to the troops.  
Source: <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/FCS092308.xml&headline=U.S.%20Army%20to%20Evaluate%20FCS%20Spinout%20One%20Follow-On&channel=defense>
11. *September 23, Jane's* – (National) **U.S. lawmakers warn against 'drift' in counter-IED fight.** As the U.S. Department of Defense looks to create a permanent establishment for combating improvised explosive devices (IEDs), U.S. legislators are questioning the military's long-term strategy. The Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) began in 2003 as a 12-man US Army task force in Iraq. Over five years, it has grown into an organization that employs 3,600 people, while the US Congress has provided nearly USD14 billion in counter-IED funding, most of it through emergency budget supplements.  
Source: [http://www.janes.com/news/defence/triservice/jdw/jdw080923\\_1\\_n.shtml](http://www.janes.com/news/defence/triservice/jdw/jdw080923_1_n.shtml)
12. *September 23, Air Force Times* – (National) **Air Force, Lockheed: JASSM OK to continue.** The future of the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile seemed in doubt last year because of severe cost overruns and four failed flight tests in a span of a few days. But the Air Force and Lockheed Martin said the program is back on target, with a batch of the stealthy cruise missiles delivered in July and a contract for an additional 111 awarded in June. And the reliability issues have been solved, according to Air Force and Lockheed officials. The development team flew 16 flight tests in four days in February, and 14 of them were successful.  
Source: [http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/09/airforce\\_jassm\\_092208/](http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/09/airforce_jassm_092208/)
13. *September 23, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Air Force delays communications**

**contract award.** The U.S. Air Force will wait at least several months before awarding a \$9 billion contract for a communications system that moves data over laser beams instead of radio waves, the Pentagon's top weapons buyer said.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-tue-brf2-boeing-sep23,0,4456598.story>

14. *September 22, Government Executive* – (National) **Air Force to strengthen inspections and expand training for nuclear mission.** Air Force leaders have delayed making commitments to far-reaching organizational changes recommended by a task force on nuclear weapons management, but have agreed to a number of narrower reforms. During a September 18 summit at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, key leaders from the Air Force, other Defense Department agencies, the National Security Council, the Energy Department, and RAND Corp., discussed ways to improve stewardship of nuclear weapons. Air Force officials agreed to consider a proposal for a significant reorganization at a meeting of senior service leaders in early October. In a report earlier this month, the Defense Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Management, chaired by a former Defense Secretary, urged the Air Force to replace its Space Command with a Strategic Command, vested with authority and accountability for the nuclear mission. In addition, the report recommended all bomber aircraft be consolidated into a single force assigned to the Strategic Command.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=41027&dcn=todaysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41027&dcn=todaysnews)

15. *September 22, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Gates: Record spending for National Guard.** Funding for the National Guard has reached a record level amid the largest mobilization of America's citizen soldiers since World War II, the Defense Secretary said Monday. With the increased spending, nearly 80 percent of Army National Guard equipment will be fully modernized by the end of budget year 2013, he said.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26839417/>

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

16. *September 23, Saratogian* – (New York) **Letter scam urges recipients to pay taxes on money 'won'.** The Waterford, New York, Office of the Public Safety Commissioner is warning residents to beware of a scam designed to lure letter recipients into paying taxes on money the letter claims they won. A Waterford resident received the letter, which claims the recipient won \$125,000. The letter goes on to say the recipient can claim the cash once he or she pays \$2,975 in taxes. The letter asks the recipient to send the money through Western Union or Moneygram. A check is included for \$4,875, but the letter asks the recipient to call before cashing it. Police say the letter was sent as a mass mailing, and recipients should disregard it.

Source:

[http://www.saratogian.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20132797&BRD=1169&PAG=461&dept\\_id=602469&rfti=6](http://www.saratogian.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20132797&BRD=1169&PAG=461&dept_id=602469&rfti=6)

17. *September 23, Bloomberg* – (National) **Bernanke says failure to pass plan threatens**

**economy.** The chairman of the Federal Reserve warned lawmakers that failure to pass a rescue plan to take over troubled assets from financial firms would pose a threat to markets and the economy. “Action by the Congress is urgently required to stabilize the situation and avert what could otherwise be very serious consequences for our financial markets and for our economy,” he said in testimony prepared for delivery today to the Senate Banking Committee. “Global financial markets remain under extraordinary stress.” He and the Treasury Secretary are pushing Congress to quickly approve a \$700 billion plan to remove illiquid assets from the banking system. Lawmakers have balked at rubber-stamping the proposal, with Democrats demanding it include support for homeowners and limits on executive pay and Republicans questioning the plan’s reach and size.

Source:

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aw\\_qWQpU.dzU&refer=home](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aw_qWQpU.dzU&refer=home)

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

## **Transportation Sector**

18. *September 23, Washington Post* – (Washington) **Metro’s \$11 billion to-do list.** Metro needs more than \$11 billion over 10 years to maintain, expand and improve train, bus and paratransit service its general manager said yesterday – more than double what it has spent on capital investment, on average, since 2002. More than \$7 billion of that is needed to keep the region’s largest transit agency running safely and reliably, he said, and \$3.5 billion of the rest would go to run more buses and longer trains to meet growing ridership. Rail ridership is expected to increase at least 22 percent during the next decade, to 1 million trips a day; bus ridership is projected to jump 9 percent, to nearly 600,000 trips a day. Metro’s needs include replacing one-third of its rail fleet, about 300 rail cars that are more than 30 years old and nearing the end of their life cycle; replacing about 100 buses every year; repairing leaky tunnels and crumbling station platforms; and repairing bus garages, one of which is more than 100 years old. The agency’s current capital needs are funded through July 2010. After that, there is no more money. The capital needs of Metro, the second-busiest rail system, after New York’s, are in line with those of other major transit agencies, officials said. Boston, which carries fewer riders, has half a billion dollars a year in capital needs. Metro is the only major transit system in the country that does not receive a significant source of dedicated capital funding, such as a portion of a sales tax. Metro and local congressional officials have long argued that because Metro is critical to the federal government – 40 percent of rush-hour riders are federal workers – it deserves more federal dollars.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/09/22/ST2008092201168.html>

19. *September 22, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Airliner nearly hits small plane at Pa. airport.** A United Express flight had to brake and swerve at 140 mph to avoid by about 10 feet a small plane on the same Pennsylvania runway, airport and federal officials said Monday. The flight crew of Chicago-bound Flight 7138 spotted the

Cessna four-seat propeller plane just ahead of it and aborted takeoff Friday night at Lehigh Valley International Airport, the National Transportation Safety Board said. Officials said the Cessna had just landed on the same runway but missed its exit. No injuries were reported among the 60 United passengers or to those aboard the Cessna. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association said that a trainee in the airport's control tower mistakenly thought the Cessna had left the runway and cleared the United Express flight for takeoff.

Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ihjnwB7RjTIEm7STzY\\_9M4BCBjkgD93C3BE80](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ihjnwB7RjTIEm7STzY_9M4BCBjkgD93C3BE80)

20. *September 22, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Years of practical use prove that rail controls work.** During the evening rush hour on March 25, a runaway freight car weighing 112 tons hurtled down the tracks toward a Massachusetts commuter train loaded with 300 passengers. As the freight car closed in at 30 mph, the commuter train suddenly braked to a stop, not by any action of its engineer, but because of an automated system designed to sense another train on the tracks. The freight car slammed into the commuter train's locomotive, and 150 passengers suffered minor injuries. But officials with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority say the crash would have been much worse had the commuter line not been equipped with an automatic braking system – a system that has been in place and improved upon for years. In the aftermath of the September 12 crash in Chatsworth that took the lives of at least 25 people and injured 135, Metrolink officials repeatedly have said that such controls have not yet been perfected to the point where they can be installed throughout Southern California's rail system, where 66 percent of the tracks are shared by freight and passenger trains. But as the Massachusetts case indicates, control systems have been installed in several places around the country where they have worked effectively. Safety officials say that positive train controls, which are designed to stop a train automatically if an engineer goes through a red signal or if sensors detect another train on the tracks, could have prevented the Chatsworth crash or reduced its impact. Though the cause of the accident is under investigation, preliminary findings suggest that the Metrolink engineer missed a stop signal and failed to wait on a side track for the freight train to pass. Because of the dramatic decline in train travel in the U.S., many of the systems were removed with the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which became the Federal Railroad Administration in 1967.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-trainbrakes22-2008sep22,0,3879363.story>

21. *September 22, Associated Press* – (California) **Congress wants rail reform after crash.** After a fatal commuter train collision, Congress is hurrying to pass new laws that would limit hours engineers work, mandate technology to stop trains on a collision course and enact the rail industry's first other major reforms in 14 years. The train oversight and safety agency, the Federal Railroad Administration, has operated under an expired 1994 law, and until the September 12 crash, it looked like Congress would end another legislative session without changes. Now lawmakers are scrambling to come up with a final deal by the end of the week on sweeping reforms pushed for years by the National Transportation Safety Board. The House and Senate have passed versions of the bill,

but hope to resolve differences before the election recess Friday, according to Senate aides.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26844219/>

22. *September 22, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Diverted American Airlines flight rolls off runway.** An American Airlines plane rolled off the end of a runway as it landed in Chicago on Monday after it diverted from its planned destination due to electrical problems, the airline said. The plane, a Boeing Co. 757 headed for New York from Seattle, stopped just off the end of a runway at O’Hare International Airport, a spokesman for American’s parent company AMR Corp said. The aircraft’s landing gear came to rest in the grass. No injuries were reported.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE48M11220080923>
  
23. *September 22, Government Accountability Office* – (Maryland) **Combating nuclear smuggling: DHS’s program to procure and deploy advanced radiation detection portal monitors is likely to exceed the department’s previous cost estimates.** The Government Accountability Office’s independent cost estimate suggests that from 2007 through 2017 the total cost of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office’s program to equip U.S. ports of entry with radiation detection equipment will likely be about \$3.1 billion, but could range from \$2.6 billion to \$3.8 billion. The estimate is based on the anticipated costs of DNDO implementing its 2006 project execution plan, the most recent official documentation of the program. According to this plan, DNDO will buy and deploy multiple types of advanced spectroscopic portals (ASP), including those designed to screen rail cars, and airport and seaport cargo, as well as mobile ASPs – spectroscopic equipment mounted on vehicles – to provide greater flexibility in screening commerce. The project execution plan also targets several types of polyvinyl toluene monitors (PVT) for purchase and deployment. DNDO’s cost estimate of \$2.1 billion to equip U.S. ports of entry with radiation detection equipment is unreliable because it omits major project costs and relies on a flawed methodology.  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-1108R>
  
24. *September 22, Los Angeles Times*– (California) **John Wayne Airport hit by power failure.** Power went out at the John Wayne Airport terminal complex for about two hours Monday morning, affecting some operations and causing minor flight delays, airport officials said. The Orange County, California, complex lost power about 9:35 this morning, said an airport spokeswoman. An emergency power system kicked in, allowing computer systems and passenger screening to continue operating, but baggage screening and passenger loading bridges stopped working until 11:18 a.m., when power was restored, she said. Airport officials are still trying to determine how many flights were affected by the outage. Officials do not know what caused the power failure.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/orange/la-me-outage23-2008sep23,0,1380958.story>
  
25. *September 22, KULR 8 Billings* – (Montana) **Bomb scare.** Billings’ Logan Airport was shut down for nearly two hours Monday as officials examined what they said may have been an improvised explosive device. The Billings Bomb Squad was called in to look at

a device the Transportation Security Administration found in a passenger's carry on bag. The bag in question appeared to have wires, a battery, and some other items. Passengers were evacuated from the security area, but were allowed to stay at the airport. An officer in a bomb suit went into the building removed the device and took it to another location to examine it.

Source: <http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/29444669.html>

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

26. *September 22, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Powder in envelope at IRS building was corn starch.** Fire investigators say a white powder found in an envelope at an Internal Revenue Service building in northern Kentucky turned out to be corn starch. The Covington Fire Department Battalion chief says roughly a teaspoon of the powder was in a tax envelope. He says fire crews did not evacuate the building. The matter has been turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for investigation.

Source: [http://www.wztv.com/template/inews\\_wire/wires.regional.ky/2f56da98-www.fox17.com.shtml](http://www.wztv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.ky/2f56da98-www.fox17.com.shtml)

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

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

27. *September 23, Pork Magazine* – (National) **USDA establishes Animal ID prefix numbers.** U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have moved to reserve the 840 prefix to animals born in the United States. The objective is to facilitate acceptance and implementation of animal identification. The agency has filed an interim rule outlining the measure. This step supports efforts involved in identifying animals to comply with mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL), which is set to begin September 30. Producers who use the 840 animal identification numbering system can use it to document their animals' origin such that it meets packers' needs for COOL. "Packers can rely upon this information for their origin claims on products at retail, in accordance with COOL," USDA officials said in issuing an interim rule on the system. While USDA does not require the use of the 840 animal identification number for individual animal identification, producers who do adopt it can also use it in animal-health programs, marketing programs, animal-movement records, genetic programs, and breed registries. In the event of a disease outbreak, the animal identification number also will allow USDA to more quickly determine the animal's origin, officials said.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=254631>

28. *September 23, BBC* – (International) **Chinese milk fears spread in Asia.** Countries across Asia are testing Chinese dairy products as fears spread over melamine-tainted milk – and some have banned these products outright. Four Chinese children died after drinking contaminated milk and 13,000 others remain in hospital. The company at the centre of the scare, Sanlu, failed to report the health problems for months, state media say. Sanlu began receiving complaints about sick children as early as last December but

did not report the issue to the authorities until early September, according to a CCTV report citing an official investigation. The report appears to be the first official admission that news of the health scare was deliberately suppressed. Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Bangladesh, Gabon, Burundi, and the Philippines are all either testing Chinese dairy products or pulling them from shops. Many countries have recalled products which could be affected. Starbucks has stopped serving drinks with milk in many Chinese outlets and many other large companies are testing products in some Asian locations or pulling them straight from the shelves. The Food and Drug Administration has assured the U.S. public that none of the melamine containing products have been imported.

Sources: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7631265.stm> and

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01889.html>

29. *September 22, EPA Press Release* – (Massachusetts) **Two Fall River seafood companies pay fines for chemical reporting violations.** Two seafood processing and freezing companies based in Fall River, Massachusetts, will pay fines to settle chemical reporting violations under federal Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) violations. In separate but similar actions, the Environmental Protection Agency alleged that both Raw Seafoods, Inc. and Arctic Cold Storage Corp. failed to provide local and state emergency responders with important information about the hazardous substances that the companies use at their facilities. In the settlement with EPA, Raw Seafoods will pay \$11,115 for failing to file information in 2006 with federal, state and local authorities regarding sulfuric acid and nitrogen stored at its facility. Arctic Cold Storage will pay \$13,065 for failure to submit information in 2004, 2005 and 2006 regarding quantities of ammonia, sulfuric acid and lead stored at its facility. Sulfuric acid, lead, ammonia, and nitrogen are hazardous substances that require special storage and handling. The use of these chemicals must be reported under federal laws so that emergency responders are able to take necessary safety precautions to protect themselves and the public in the event of an emergency situation at the facility.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/c21d0fb315ceda6a852574cc00693c15?OpenDocument>

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

## Water Sector

30. *September 22, New York Times* – (National) **Ban near on diverting water from Great Lakes.** The House of Representatives began debate Monday on a sweeping bill that would ban almost any diversion of water from the Great Lakes' natural basin to places outside the region. The measure is intended to put to rest longstanding fears that parched states or even foreign countries could do long-term damage to the basin by tapping into its tremendous body of fresh water. The bill, which would also put in place strict conservation rules for the eight states that border the lakes, is expected to win House approval, perhaps as soon as Tuesday. It has already been passed by the Senate, and the presidential administration has signaled its support. Before the legislation even

reached Congress, the states bordering the lakes had to approve the compact individually, agreeing to certain common goals. Though passage in the House is foreseen, support there is not unanimous. Some members say the pact is not strong enough to protect the lakes, which together account for 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/23/us/23lakes.html>

31. *September 21, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Atrazine found in lakes far from farm sources.** The widely used weed-killer atrazine is showing up in pristine lakes in northern Minnesota far from farm country, and scientists believe the chemical is falling out of the sky. In the first statewide study of pesticides in Minnesota lakes, government scientists discovered small amounts of atrazine in nine out of ten lakes sampled, including some in or near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The study shows that pesticides have joined the list of unwanted substances, such as mercury and acid rain pollutants, that are spread vast distances by wind and rain to some of the wildest places in the state. The concentrations, in parts per trillion, are far below levels considered to be a risk to people, plants or animals, researchers and others said. The maximum level for atrazine in waterways is 10 parts per billion. No such standard exists for herbicide breakdown products.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/29171259.html>

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

32. *September 23, infoZine* – (National) **States work to avert nurse shortage.** A perfect storm of retiring baby boomers, an aging nurse population that is leaving the profession and too few nursing instructors is setting up a health-care crisis. One report estimates that by 2020, there will be a staggering shortage of nurses. States are trying to head off that shortage by helping colleges turn out more nurses and by improving their working conditions.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/30860/>

33. *September 23, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **GAO: More to do on medical records security.** The push for a national system for the creation, storage and distribution of electronic medical data on hundreds of millions of Americans undertaken in 2004 by the presidential administration, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, clearly holds enormous potential for streamlining health care services, costs, and efficiencies. Securing that data and protecting electronic personal health information, however, continues to be a challenging task for HHS, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The progress report, the first since January 2007 on HHS's efforts, credits the agency with advancing various initiatives to develop and implement an overall privacy approach. Specifically the GAO gives HHS good marks for identifying milestones and the entity responsible for integrating the outcomes of its privacy-related initiatives, a goal GAO had outlined in its original report twenty months ago. Further GAO found that HHS has made some progress in ensuring that key

privacy principles in HIPAA are fully addressed, and addressing key challenges associated with the nationwide exchange of health information. What HHS continues to lack, according to GAO, is “a defined process for assessing and prioritizing the many privacy-related initiatives and the needs of stakeholders to ensure that privacy issues and challenges will be addressed fully and adequately.” “Without a process that accomplishes this,” the report says, “HHS faces the risk that privacy protection measures may not be consistently and effectively built into health IT programs, thus jeopardizing patient privacy as well as the public confidence and trust that are essential to the success of a future nationwide health information network.”

Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/5292/149/>

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

## **Government Facilities Sector**

34. *September 22, New York Times* – (National) **Ex-employee pleads guilty to viewing passport files.** A former foreign service officer at the U.S. State Department pleaded guilty on Monday to illegally reading the private passport files of three presidential candidates as well as those of actors, athletes, and media figures. The former employee looked through the files of nearly 200 people as a result of his “idle curiosity,” prosecutors and his lawyer said in a filing in federal court in Washington, D.C. The plea grows out of the State Department’s revelation six months ago that a number of employees and contractors with access to its internal passport database improperly peered into the files of three senators running for president. The passport files contain confidential information like addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts, spousal information, and photographs, and are supposed to be viewed on a “need to know” basis.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/23/washington/23passport.html?ref=us>

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

## **Emergency Services Sector**

35. *September 22, KVUE 24 Austin* – (Texas) **FEMA disaster center opens in East Austin.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency opened a disaster relief center in East Austin Monday morning. People can register at the center to arrange a hotel stay, transportation home, find an apartment or money to live on. Finding housing for the evacuees is a priority because shelters in Central Texas stopped taking in evacuees Sunday, and on September 25, the Austin Convention Center, the largest shelter in Austin, will close. There was no word on when the Delco Center will shut its doors. According to American Red Cross officials, the number of Hurricane Ike evacuees in their Texas shelters is down to about 7,600. The count had been as high as more than 40,000 in the days after the hurricane came ashore September 13. But the relief agency said Monday it is unsure how long Texas operations will last. Those efforts include food and help with basic needs for residents in some of the hardest-hit areas.

Source: [http://www.kvue.com/news/local/stories/092208kvue\\_FEMA\\_center\\_opens-cb.9f8de062.html](http://www.kvue.com/news/local/stories/092208kvue_FEMA_center_opens-cb.9f8de062.html)

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

## **Information Technology**

36. *September 23, Tech Herald* – (National) **Report claims bulk of cyber attacks originate from U.S.** SecureWorks has published details on the originating sources of attacks aimed at its clients during 2008. The details reveal that almost all of the cyber attacks originated from sources within the United States, followed closely by the People’s Republic of China. However, there were 12.9 million more attacks originating in the U.S., suggesting that American businesses have yet to take appropriate steps to secure their systems.  
Source: <http://www.thetechherald.com/article.php/200839/2097/Report-claims-bulk-of-cyber-attacks-originate-from-U-S>
37. *September 22, ars technica* – (National) **Fake celebrity websites infecting the unwary with malware.** Attacks through phony celebrity websites have continued to spawn. According to new data from McAfee, a user searching for a variety of items (wallpapers, screensavers, photos, etc.) relating on one specific celebrity has, on average, an 18 percent chance of encountering malware in one form or another. Such malware is often served up by a “fake” celebrity website whose primary purpose is to shove Trojans and worms into the desktops of the unwary. These websites differ from standard malware landing pads, as they try to appear as a legitimate source of news.  
Source: <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080922-fake-celebrity-websites-infecting-the-unwary-with-malware.html>
38. *September 22, Network World* – (National) **Cybercrime toll mounts for businesses.** Cybercrime is a critical business concern, say 1,387 IT professionals surveyed by security firm Finjan. Ninety-one percent of respondents call cybercrime a “major business risk,” and 73 percent say they are more concerned about data theft than about downtime and loss of productivity from malware. In addition, a quarter of respondents admit to data breaches in their organizations, according to the survey that Finjan conducted in July and released Monday.  
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/092208-cybercrime.html?tc=sec>

### **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**

39. *September 22, CNet News* – (Texas) **Microsoft opens San Antonio data center.** Microsoft on Monday officially opened its San Antonio, Texas, data center, the latest in a string of giant facilities aimed at powering Microsoft consumer and business online services. The company said the data center occupies nearly half a million square feet and cost \$550 million to establish. The facility joins other Microsoft data centers, including one in Quincy, Washington. Another site, due to open later this year in the Chicago area, will be Microsoft's first to employ containers of servers, in addition to traditional rack-based set-ups. Microsoft also recently announced plans to build a center in West Des Moines, Iowa.  
Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-10805\\_3-10047553-75.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-10805_3-10047553-75.html)
40. *September 22, Sci-Tech Today* – (National) **U.S. approves new spy satellite project.** The new federal system will have a central mirror the exact size of those already being placed into space by two private companies. The satellites will be used to take shots of large areas, for mapping or watching troop movements or other broader-area tasks, not unlike what the commercial companies now sell for services like Google Maps. The goal of the \$1.7 billion project approved last week is to have two new satellites in orbit by 2012.  
Source: [http://www.sci-tech-today.com/news/U-S--Approves-New-Spy-Satellite/story.xhtml?story\\_id=113002HTH8VB](http://www.sci-tech-today.com/news/U-S--Approves-New-Spy-Satellite/story.xhtml?story_id=113002HTH8VB)

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

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report

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

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

41. *September 23, Associated Press* – (New York) **18 nabbed for stealing pieces of Yankee Stadium.** New York City police say they arrested more than a dozen people for stealing pieces of Yankee Stadium during the 85-year-old ballpark's final game. Police say 18 fans were charged with possessing stolen property. Officers were out in force for the stadium's final game on Sunday to keep souvenir hunters from tearing away pieces of the place. A Yankee spokesman told the New York Post that they intend to hire a private security team to protect the stadium from other would-be thieves.  
Source: <http://nbcsports.msnbc.com/id/26851206/>

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

## **Dams Sector**

42. *September 23, Belgrade News* – (Montana) **Hebgen Dam under control.** For the first time in more than three weeks, authorities in control of Hebgen Dam in Montana actually have control of Hebgen Dam. "Around-the-clock work to reduce and control

flow from the damaged intake structure at Hebgen Dam has paid off,” PPL Montana, the company that operates the facility, said in a statement Monday. “Crews have replaced a number of ‘stoplogs’ in one of the structure’s bays and are now controlling the flow of the Madison River using the intake structure’s control gates.” The company has been unable to control the flow of water from Hebgen Lake since the afternoon of August 31, when one of four gates on the structure failed and the dam began releasing four times more water than usual into the Madison River.

Source: <http://www.belgrade-news.com/view.php?article=9680>

43. *September 23, KPLC 7 Lake Charles* – (Louisiana) **Damaged levee may have worsened Ike flooding.** In Louisiana a week after Ike, many Lake area homeowners are still wondering why the floodwaters got higher than ever before. A Cameron man believes at least part of the answer to the Calcasieu flooding question can be found in Cameron. He explains the Cameron Creole Watershed levee along Calcasieu Lake was damaged during Hurricane Rita and was never built back up. He is a major land owner in Cameron parish and is also chairman of the Cameron Drainage Board. He says Calcasieu and Cameron parishes need to join forces to get the levee repaired in order to prevent future flooding.

Source: [http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9054994&nav=menu66\\_2](http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9054994&nav=menu66_2)

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

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

**DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports** – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to [NICCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCReports@dhs.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Removal from Distribution List: Send mail to [NICCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCReports@dhs.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421 for more information.

## Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

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

## **Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer**

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.