



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 September 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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- According to KHOU 11 Houston, at least one person was seriously injured when a petrochemical storage facility caught fire Tuesday night at Kinder Morgan's terminal in Pasadena, Texas. (See item [1](#))
- CNN reports that the fallout from a tainted milk scandal in China continues to spread around the globe. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday that it plans to expand testing for Chinese products that may contain high levels of milk or milk proteins. (See item [20](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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 24, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Petrochemical storage facility blaze injures 2**. At least one person was seriously injured when a petrochemical storage facility caught fire Tuesday night in Pasadena, Texas. Investigators say the blaze started inside the Kinder Morgan terminal. The fire burned for 7 and a half hours, but seemed to be out by early Wednesday morning. The flames could be seen from miles away. Police say a manifold was burning, which is like a small engine that directs petroleum traffic causing pipelines of petroleum to go in and out. The pipelines are thousands of miles long so Kinder Morgan shut the valves to stop the flames from traveling through the pipelines. There were 23 employees working at the time. Two of them were

injured. There is no word on the cause of the fire but multiple agencies, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, are investigating. One of the possible causes they are looking into is Hurricane Ike.

Source:

http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou080924_rm_petrochemicalfire_a94c2874.html

2. *September 23, Reuters* – (National) **El Paso’s Tennessee gas line declares force majeure.** El Paso Corp.’s Tennessee Gas Pipeline system declared force majeure on four Louisiana lines due to damage from Hurricane Ike, according to a shipper’s notice posted Tuesday on the pipeline’s website. The four lines are: Bay Marchand, Calliou Island - South Timbalier Island, Grand Isle - Bay Marchand; and South Timbalier - Bay Marchand. “This action is necessary to protect the integrity of the system,” according to the notice.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2339151620080923>

3. *September 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Western states propose carbon trading.** Seven western states and four Canadian provinces on Tuesday proposed a comprehensive program to cut greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, manufacturers, and vehicles. The Western Climate Initiative would establish a regional market to trade carbon emissions credits and is designed to keep down costs for those affected. The plan is aimed at cutting the region’s carbon emissions below 2005 levels by 2020, a roughly 15 percent reduction. The idea is to allow industries that emit greenhouse gases to buy and sell credits for their emissions. Businesses that cannot cut their emissions enough can buy the right to pollute from cleaner companies. The plan was drafted by Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, and by the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. Whether lawmakers in each state will now adopt the regulations is unclear. Most large industrial polluters, automakers, and coal-based utilities are lobbying state legislatures to wait for a uniform federal program.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26858084/>

4. *September 23, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Criminal charges unlikely in gas pipeline explosion in McKinney.** Criminal charges are unlikely to be filed in connection with a May 16 gas pipeline explosion in McKinney, Texas, that injured three people, one fatally. A grand jury chosen to review the results of a McKinney police investigation has declined to return indictments, a Collin County spokesman said Monday. Prosecutors can take the case up again if new evidence is uncovered. The May blasts destroyed two homes and injured three. On the day of the accident, workers ruptured a pipe underground and gas traveled through sewer lines beneath the homes before being ignited, according to the McKinney Fire chief and utility spokesmen. The Texas Railroad Commission announced on August 5 that its inspectors had found eight violations that contributed to the accident – six by Atmos Energy and two by its contractor, M.J. Sheridan of Texas – that could result in fines of up to \$80,000.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN->

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *September 24, WVIT 30 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **Hundreds evacuated after battery plant incident.** Hundreds of residents and students were evacuated Tuesday after a possible chemical spill at a battery plant in Pawcatuck was reported. Crews were called to Yardney Technical Products just before 2 p.m. when a battery being tested caught fire, creating a hazmat situation. The building's sprinklers helped contain the fire and put out most of it by the time the fire department arrived. But because hazardous chemicals were involved that could affect air quality, emergency responders took every precaution. Homes in a 3-mile radius were evacuated, and residents were told to go to a shelter at Stonington High School. Students at the high school were also moved to the gymnasium, school officials said. West Broad Street and Pawcatuck Middle School were also evacuated, according to the Westerly Sun.

Source: <http://www.nbc30.com/news/17539603/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *September 24, Reuters* – (South Carolina) **Duke takes S.C. Oconee 2 reactor off line for work.** Duke Energy Corp. took Unit 2 at the Oconee nuclear power station in South Carolina off line to fix an oil leak in the main transformer, a spokeswoman for the plant said Wednesday. She said the company hoped to leave the reactor operating at about 18 percent power but not connected to the grid. It was operating at full power early Tuesday. That should allow the unit to return to service quickly once the transformer repairs are completed, electricity traders said. The company spokeswoman could not say when the unit would return to service but noted this outage had nothing to do with the upcoming refueling outage expected to start later in October.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2443305420080924?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

7. *September 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Concerns voiced over San Onofre nuke plant safety.** Safety lapses at the San Onofre nuclear power plant concern federal regulators and plant operator Southern California Edison. Utility executives and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials met Tuesday in San Clemente to discuss erosion in safety at the northern San Diego County nuke plant. The commission disclosed in January that Edison fired or disciplined seven employees over the last two years for safety and security violations, including one worker who skipped hourly rounds for five years and falsified hourly logs. Edison appointed a site manager, who says he has replaced a half-dozen plant managers and has begun new accountability training.

Source: http://www.times-standard.com/statenews/ci_10545376

8. *September 24, Free Lance-Star* – (Virginia) **3 more nuclear protesters sentenced.** Three more anti-nuclear protesters were convicted Tuesday for trespassing last month at the North Anna Power Station visitor center. An activist, described in Louisa County General District Court as the “ringleader,” was sentenced Tuesday to two weeks in jail. The two other protesters were fined \$250 each. Instead of jail time, they will be allowed to complete 40 hours of community service. All three were banned from entering property of the plant’s owner, Dominion power, for two years. The peaceful protest at the visitor center was in opposition to Dominion’s plan to build a third reactor at the North Anna plant. In August, three other protesters were sentenced to jail and \$2,500 fines. However, the jail time was suspended and the fines were reduced to \$1,250 each. The six arrested August 7 were among more than 20 demonstrators at the visitor center, which is located outside the secure area of the plant. They were charged after refusing to leave when asked by police.
Source: <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/092008/09242008/412945>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *October 2008, National Defense Magazine* – (National) **Researchers see aluminum as alternative to steel armor.** Military vehicles in combat zones are so weighed down with steel that commanders worry that heavily armored trucks often are too hard to maneuver or even unsafe. In response to these concerns, Navy researchers have been testing new armoring materials that could provide equal protection at a much lower weight. One of the more promising materials has the potential to be just as strong as steel, but as light as aluminum, said scientists at the Office of Naval Research. This tri-modal aluminum, as it is called, is a combination of various ceramic and metallic materials that provide a greater level of ballistic protection at a lower weight. It is being developed in the form of an appliqué armor kit — known as a “B” kit — for ground vehicles. The kit consists of panels that are attached to the vehicles’ exteriors for increased protection.
Source:
<http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2008/October/Pages/Researchers%20See%20Aluminum%20As%20Alternative%20to%20Steel%20Armor.aspx>
10. *September 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Department of Defense launches 2 rockets.** Two rockets were fired into the sky within the space of a few hours, one carrying a commercial satellite and the other as part of a test of the U.S. missile defense system. The Department of Defense rocket was successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on California’s Central Coast, military officials said Wednesday.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080924/ap_on_sc/rocket_launches;_ylt=Ag8etfwO0RkVNcdb68vH_dSs0NUE

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 24, BBC* – (National) **Key finance firms ‘probed by FBI.’** Investigators are reportedly examining possible fraud by mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the failed bank Lehman Brothers, and insurer AIG. Top managers at those firms are also being investigated, the reports say. It was prompted by concerns over the way high-risk, “sub-prime” mortgages were being sold. The FBI has been looking at lenders who sold home loans to buyers on low or unpredictable incomes and also the investment banks that packaged these loans and sold them on. The slump in the U.S. housing market has resulted in billions of dollars of losses for these banks and turmoil in world credit markets. Last week the FBI director said more than 20 large financial firms were already under investigation. Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, and AIG are all being bailed out by the U.S. government. And the government recently announced a \$700 billion bail-out plan that would enable banks to offload their bad debt.
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7632790.stm>

12. *September 23, New York Times* – (National) **Buffet deal at Goldman seen as a sign of confidence.** The country’s most famous investor and one of the world’s richest men announced on Tuesday that he would invest \$5 billion in Goldman Sachs, the embattled Wall Street titan, in a move that could bolster confidence in the financial markets. Thousands of people on and off Wall Street follow his moves, so the decision to invest in Goldman immediately heartened investors. After falling nearly 1.6 percent during the day, the Standard & Poor’s 500-stock index erased half its loss in after-hours trading Tuesday evening on news of the investment. Goldman’s move came a day after a rival investment bank, Morgan Stanley, raised about \$8 billion by selling up to a 20 percent stake to Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Japan’s largest commercial bank.
Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/24/business/24goldman.html?_r=2&hp&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

13. *September 23, My Central Jersey* – (New Jersey) **Rahway woman admits role in \$75M real-estate investment scam.** A paralegal who worked on deals for a bogus Woodbridge real estate investment company admitted in federal court yesterday to falsifying loan documents in connection with a scheme that bilked mortgage lenders and investors out of at least \$75 million. The woman, who served as a paralegal for a law firm in Cranford, pleaded guilty to making false statements on a form from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a federally-insured mortgage. Additionally, the paralegal admitted to falsely claiming that clients for the attorney she worked for had paid money to buy the properties in question when they had not, authorities said. The scheme involved NJ Affordable Homes and its founder, who is now in federal custody. The company sold notes to more than 490 investors in the United States, making empty promises of 15 to 20 percent returns, authorities said. NJ Affordable Homes told investors they would use their money to purchase, renovate, and resell real estate. They paid off old investors with money from new investors and generated fictitious revenue by selling properties to insiders, investors, and others, authorities said. The assistant U.S. Attorney who is handling the case said advisory

sentencing guidelines call for 12 to 18 months in prison. The paralegal is the eighth defendant in the case to plead guilty in the scheme.

Source:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080923/NEWS/809230340&template=printart>

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Transportation Sector

14. *September 24, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **FAA suspends sleeping airline pilots.** Two pilots for Hawaii's Go airlines who slept through their flight's landing procedure were suspended for the careless and reckless operation of an aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Tuesday. The pilots, who have been fired by Go, completed their suspensions on September 9, an FAA spokesman said. He did not know whether they are flying again with a different carrier. The National Transportation Safety Board had determined the two pilots fell asleep on the February 13 flight from Honolulu to Hilo. It was still unclear how both pilots fell asleep on the brief midmorning flight, which was carrying 40 passengers. No problems were found after examining the aircraft's pressurization system and carbon monoxide levels. The pilots failed to respond to nearly a dozen calls from air traffic controllers over a span of 17 minutes.
Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/160606>
15. *September 24, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Congressional negotiators reach compromise on rail safety measure; delays safety upgrades until 2015.** Spurred by the deadly head-on crash of two trains in California, congressional negotiators agreed Tuesday to a groundbreaking rail safety reform bill requiring many passenger and freight trains to be equipped with technology that can automatically prevent collisions. The measure had stalled before September 12, when a Metrolink commuter train crashed into a Union Pacific freight train, killing 25 people and injuring 135. It was the worst rail accident in modern California history – one that might have been avoided, investigators say, if the trains had automatic braking systems. The bill, however, would delay the required installation of so-called "positive train control" systems until 2015 for most passenger service and freight trains carrying hazardous materials.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-metroink24-2008sep24,0,6513408.story>
16. *September 23, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. Navy: Shipping companies must tackle piracy.** The international shipping industry must take on more responsibility to protect vessels against pirate attacks and kidnappings in the dangerous waters of Somalia rather than rely on the U.S. Navy, the commander of the 5th Fleet warned on Monday. These comments come as heavily armed pirates are increasingly preying on shipping in the area. Drug smuggling and kidnappings for ransom have increased despite heavy presence of U.S. warships and patrol boats in the area. So far this year, 57 ships have been attacked in the area, mostly in the Gulf of Aden. The surge prompted the U.S. Naval Central Command last month to establish a security corridor

patrolled by an international coalition of warships. Their presence has helped deter more than a dozen attacks in four weeks, the U.S. Navy said, but “criminals still successfully targeted several vessels in the region.”

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080923/ap_on_re_mi_ea/ml_gulf_us_navy_piracy;_ylt=AtVtQeWrCw8_131oQBgcG3MLewgF

17. *September 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Amtrak security, TSA show force in Northeast.** Rail passengers from Virginia to Vermont were greeted by a heavy police presence Tuesday morning, as Amtrak, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and local agencies teamed up for a joint show of force. Officials say the rush-hour deployment along the Northeast Corridor was meant to demonstrate ongoing collaboration and to give local officials a chance to familiarize themselves with the stations. The railroad and the TSA say officers from about 100 commuter rail, state, and local police agencies took part in the operation, which included random passenger bag inspections. The exercise was not announced beforehand. Amtrak and the TSA say similar exercises will be held in the future around the country. Amtrak started randomly screening bags in February in its first major visible security initiative.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20080923/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_amtrak_security;_ylt=AstoRblKr6wRG.GbA5_SxOs0NUE

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *September 24, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **\$50,000 reward posted for information on mailings containing white powder.** Federal authorities are offering a \$50,000 reward in an attempt to find the culprit who mailed a series of hoax letters containing white powder this month to two west suburban Illinois police departments and a children’s museum. The powder proved to be harmless, but mailing a threatening communication is a federal crime. The letters were mailed around September 12, and the reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for sending the letters.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-postal-powder-both-24sep24,0,1570866.story>

19. *September 23, CongressDaily* – (National) **Postal Service freezes hiring, promotions.** The U.S. Postal Service has indefinitely frozen all hiring, promotions, and other personnel changes in its latest response to a worsening financial position. In an unusual meeting Monday, the Postmaster General briefed the leaders of large postal unions and managers’ associations on the freeze, people familiar with the meeting said. The freeze follows the Postal Service’s decision last month to offer early retirement to up to 130,000 clerks, mail handlers, and supervisors, and comes amid increasingly dire warnings about the agency’s economic outlook. The postal service has said it may lose \$2 billion this year, but some analysts guess the final figure will be higher, citing new figures that show a \$960 million loss in August.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41029&dcn=todaysnews

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *September 24, CNN* – (International) **Tainted milk scandal spreads beyond China.**

The fallout from a tainted milk scandal in China continues to spread around the globe, with two more illnesses reported in Hong Kong and a supermarket chain in Britain pulling Chinese products from its shelves. The United States, meanwhile, said inspectors would expand testing for Chinese products that may contain high levels of milk or milk proteins. Nearly 53,000 children in China have been sickened by infant formula or other products contaminated with the chemical melamine. Four babies have died. About a dozen countries, from Asia to Africa, have banned or recalled Chinese milk products. Authorities in China have arrested 18 people in a nationwide investigation. In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Tuesday that it plans to expand testing for Chinese products that may contain high levels of milk or milk proteins. The agency said its investigators have not found the Chinese infant formula in question during visits to more than 1,000 stores, mainly in cities with large Chinese communities. The FDA plans to continue such checks, it said, and “has broadened its domestic and import sampling and testing of milk-derived ingredients and finished food products containing milk, such as candies, desserts, and beverages that could contain these ingredients from Chinese sources.”

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/09/24/china.milk/index.html>

21. *September 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Manure runs too freely at factory farms.**

According to congressional investigators, federal regulators are failing to control pollution from the gigantic operations or assess health risks from the enormous quantities of manure huge livestock farms produce. The Government Accountability Office report on the raw waste was being released Wednesday to a House committee hearing on federal oversight of factory farms. The conclusions fueled concerns about a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule change that would eliminate one of the few federal oversight mechanisms over air and water pollution from big farms. The rule would eliminate a requirement that farms report to federal, state, and local officials when air emissions of hazardous substances like ammonia and hydrogen sulfide exceed certain levels. EPA does not limit the amount of air pollution this waste can emit, and a rule it produced in 2003 to require permits for waste discharges into water was partly overturned in court. EPA has been reworking the water discharge rule for several years but has not yet finalized it. Without federal guidelines, states have been moving on their own, the GAO found. Officials in California, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and North Dakota reported developing state air regulations for certain pollutants emitted by factory farms.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26858881/>

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Water Sector

22. *September 23, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Western Wis. farm turns manure into water.** The owner of a large, western Wisconsin dairy farm is turning manure into purified water. Emerald Dairy in St. Croix County has hundreds of cows and generates a lot of waste. The owner says his separation system filters and purifies water in the manure so it is clean enough to drink. Because Emerald Dairy is the first agriculture operation to try this, the owner has been trying for 30 months to get the state permits he needs to discharge the water into the environment instead of his manure lagoon. A Department of Natural Resources water specialist says that because it has not been done before on a dairy farm, they are trying to identify the codes they need to make a decision.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-manurewater,0,4961314.story>

23. *September 22, Associated Press* – (California) **7 companies ordered to pay for groundwater cleanup.** Several businesses have been ordered to either pay \$500,000 to clean up a contaminated site in the San Fernando Valley or prevent the contamination from reaching drinking water wells. The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday cited seven North Hollywood companies that refused to participate in a \$1.3 million settlement the agency reached with other companies to clean up the site.

Source:

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10533973?nclick_check=1&forced=true

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *September 24, Craig Daily Press* – (National) **CDC extends influenza vaccine guidelines.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its guidelines for influenza immunizations. The CDC now recommends eligible children from the ages of 6 months to 18 years receive flu shots in preparation for the 2008-09 flu season. Previously, CDC recommended immunizations for children from 6 months to 6 years of age. Vaccine manufacturers are increasing their output to accommodate for a projected increase in flu shot requests. This year, immunization supplies could reach unsurpassed levels, with as many as 146 million flu vaccine doses available in the U.S. Although flu season usually peaks in January or February, some cases are reported in October.

Source:

http://www.craigdailynews.com/news/2008/sep/24/cdc_extends_influenza_vaccine_guidelines/

25. *September 23, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Legionnaires' hits 6 patients at NJ hospital.** State health officials say six patients at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick have tested positive for Legionnaires' disease over the last two weeks. One of the patients has since died, although health officials say his death is being

attributed to other causes. A hospital spokeswoman said Tuesday that the hospital water supply is being treated with high levels of chlorine to kill the bacteria that cause disease. Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia that can be spread through plumbing and air conditioning systems. It can be fatal in people with compromised immune systems. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--hospital-legionna0923sep23,0,6262852.story>

26. *September 23, Bloomberg* – (National) **Cardiac arrest survival varies fivefold by U.S. region in study.** People suffering cardiac arrest are five times less likely to survive in Alabama than those in Seattle, according to study that found survival rates for the heart problem varied by geographic regions in the U.S. More than 166,000 Americans go into cardiac arrest outside a hospital each year. The condition, when the heart suddenly stops beating, is fatal in the vast majority of patients, especially if they do not get treated within minutes. The study in the Journal of the American Medical Association shows the chances of survival for cardiac arrest patients can be improved if communities, emergency services, and hospitals work together. The researchers tracked the number and outcome of cardiac arrests in 10 locations across the U.S. and Canada, covering 21.4 million people. In all, there were 20,520 episodes and 4.6 percent survived. Survival rates ranged from a low of 3 percent in Alabama to a high of 16.3 percent in Seattle. If community leaders were able to narrow the five-fold variation in survival rates by improving results in the low-performing areas, an estimated 15,000 deaths would be prevented each year, the researchers calculated.

Source:

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

27. *September 23, WIBW 13 Topeka* – (Kansas) **Ft. Riley bomb threat clears hospital.** Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, was evacuated late Tuesday morning after officials at the clinic received a bomb threat. In addition to the Hospital, the Combined Troop Medical Clinic and the Soldier Readiness Processing Center were emptied. Emergency personnel searched the facility and grounds and cleared the area shortly after noon. All three facilities have resumed normal operations. Investigators from Fort Riley's Military Police have not yet determined the source of the call and the incident remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/29628149.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *September 24, Stars and Stripes* – (International) **Abandoned gas can on medical bus prompts 4-building evacuation.** A backpack left on a shuttle bus used to transit wounded U.S. soldiers to and from medical appointments at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany caused military authorities to evacuate four buildings Tuesday at Kleber Kaserne. The bus driver found what he described as a five-liter gas can tucked inside the green camouflage backpack, along with paperwork, after he dropped off two middle-aged Americans dressed in civilian clothes. Army personnel cleared four buildings surrounding a bus stop where the passengers got off the bus.

Military police and investigators quickly determined that the bag, despite its disturbing contents, was not a threat.

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=57626&source=rss>

29. *September 23, Eureka Reporter* – (California) **Suspected pipe bomb at HSU turns out to be hoax.** In California, the Humboldt State University Police Department (UPD) received a phone call from a person who noticed a fake pipe bomb in the library parking lot. After the UPD investigated the area, it sealed off the parking lot and roadway into the library, rerouted buses, and called in backup. Officers from the HCSO, Arcata Police Department, Arcata Fire Protection District, UPD, and about 30 university officials from the Campus Emergency Response Team responded to the scene. For more than two hours, officials worked to determine whether the device was fake or real. At one point, a bomb squad member dressed in body armor walked over to the device, which rested on the grass beside several cars, and set a charge. After further investigation, it was determined that the device was not explosive.

Source: <http://www.eureka-reporter.com/article/080923-suspected-pipe-bomb-at-hsu-turns-out-to-be-hoax>

30. *September 23, New York Times* – (New York) **New York City wants cuts by agencies across board.** New York City's mayor ordered city agencies on Tuesday to cut spending by about \$500 million this year and \$1 billion next year. The cuts are to be made across the board, affecting agencies including the Police Department, which must cut costs by \$95 million this year, and the school system, which needs to trim \$185 million. Over all, the reductions represent 2.5 percent of the agencies' budgets this year and 5 percent next year. The midyear budget cuts are intended to provide a financial cushion should the city's tax revenue, which is heavily dependent on Wall Street's profits, drop further, as many expect. The City Council will vote to approve or modify the cuts in November. In the past, the Council has largely taken the mayor's recommendations in midyear budget negotiations, according to members of the mayor's staff. The 2.5 percent reduction that the mayor is seeking this year would translate into cuts of \$11.9 million from the Department of Transportation, \$7.8 million from the Department of Homeless Services, and \$6.7 million from the parks department. The mayor has also ordered the Fire Department to cut \$33.8 million, which could force some firehouses to close, mayoral aides said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/24/nyregion/24bloomberg.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *September 24, New Jersey Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Emergency drill at Hess refinery.** The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is planning a full-scale emergency response drill at the Hess Corp.'s refinery and terminal in Port Reading today. The exercise at the petrochemical facility will allow local, state and federal agencies to test emergency plans, personnel and equipment, according to a release from the agency. No roads will be closed during the drill, although minor delays may occur on local roads leading to the refinery, the agency warns. Normal operations are

expected to continue at the refinery and terminal during the exercise.
Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-11/122223214337630.xml&coll=1>

32. *September 24, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Quake drill 10:15 a.m. Wednesday in Washington.** State emergency officials are asking schools, government agencies and businesses to take part in Wednesday’s earthquake drill. Officials say there’s a risk of a major quake at any time, especially in Western Washington.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_wa_quake_drill.html
33. *September 23, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **Paramedic union claims Staten Island ambulances low on life-saving drugs.** New York Fire Department (FDNY) paramedic ambulances in Staten Island and Queens are running dangerously low on several life-saving medications, according to the union that represents the city’s paramedics. Over the past few weeks, possibly longer, ambulances have had a “thin” supply of Etomidate – a drug used by FDNY paramedics to sedate patients who need to be intubated – according to a spokesman for the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics of FDNY. They are also running low on nitroglycerin, which is used to treat angina and heart failure, and Cardizem, a heart medication used to stabilize a dangerously fast heartbeat, he said, and paramedics are also having problems stocking sodium-bicarbonate and certain types of hypodermic needles. HE said the shortage appears to be a “supply chain” issue, and is hitting Staten Island and Queens particularly hard.
Source:
http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/head_of_paramedic_union_claims.html

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Information Technology

34. *September 24, ZDNet Asia* – (National) **Infected software fakes on the rise.** Spam e-mail that contains links to malware bearing viruses and Trojans are on the increase, particularly those disguised as legitimate software, security vendors warn. One common ruse involves the circulation of fake copies of popular software, which infects users’ systems upon installation. In a statement Wednesday, Symantec pointed to the example of a “very high profile attack” involving fake versions of Microsoft browser, Internet Explorer 7. Adobe also recently issued a warning that fake copies of its Flash plugin had been circulated via fake news video pages that prompt users to download the malware. Ironically, another IT security company Sophos, noted that Symantec itself fell victim to such hoaxes.
Source: <http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/security/0,39044215,62046492,00.htm>
35. *September 24, ComputerWorld* – (National) **Mozilla patches 11 bugs in Firefox.** Mozilla Corp. late Tuesday patched 11 vulnerabilities in Firefox 3.0, more than half of them labeled “critical,” and fixed 14 flaws in the older Firefox 2.0. Firefox 3.0.2 quashes six critical bugs, four marked “high,” and one pegged as “low” in Mozilla’s four-step threat ranking system. Among the most serious were four stability bugs in the browser’s graphics rendering, layout and JavaScript engines that can crash the program

and might be exploitable with malicious code. “Some of these crashes showed evidence of memory corruption under certain circumstances and we presume that with enough effort at least some of these could be exploited to run arbitrary code,” said Mozilla in the accompanying advisory. Mozilla also updated the older Firefox to 2.0.0.17, patching all but one of the bugs fixed in 3.0.2, but also addressing several issues specific to the aging browser.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9115399&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

36. *September 23, CNet News* – (International) **Infected U.S. PCs may have attacked Georgia.** When political tensions flared last month between Georgia and Russia, the country was ready to block Internet traffic from Russia, hoping to avoid the denial-of-service attacks that shut down Internet service in Estonia for several days in 2007. Instead, most of the DoS attacks that were directed against Georgia came from the United States. “Russia is one of the most capable countries when it comes to launching system intrusion hacking attempts, distributed denial-of-service attacks, and operation of botnets,” said the director of Threat Intelligence for SecureWorks. “Yet you’ll notice the number of attacks coming from Russia are very low.” SecureWorks on Monday released a list ranking the countries with the most infected computers enlisted for use with botnets. On that list, Russia ranks 7th, far behind the United States, China, Brazil, South Korea, Poland, and Japan. The reason Russia is so low is that hackers from Russia don’t attack from within Russia. Instead of attacking using Russian IP addresses, SecureWorks said, the hackers who wanted to attack Georgia used “computers and control servers located in Turkey while the bots (the infected computers) that they controlled were mostly in the United States.”

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10049008-83.html

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

37. *September 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Satellite launched into orbit from Pacific.** A new communications satellite for Intelsat was launched into orbit Wednesday from an oceangoing rocket platform floating in the equatorial Pacific, Sea Launch Co. said. A Zenit-3SL rocket carrying the Galaxy 19 satellite blasted off at 2:28 a.m. PDT and spacecraft separation occurred just over an hour later after reaching orbit, the company said in a Webcast of the launch. The satellite is intended to serve Intelsat customers in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Sea Launch is a partnership of Chicago-based Boeing Co., RSC-Energia of Russia, Aker ASA of

Norway, and SDO Yuzhnoye/PO Yuzhmash of Ukraine.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10545084

38. *September 24, Newsday* – (New York) **Verizon’s FiOS installs miss self-imposed success rate.** Verizon’s FiOS installations across New York State - while improved - still miss a self-imposed success rate of 95 percent, according to a company audit released yesterday. In a letter to the State Public Service Commission, Verizon said its FiOS installations for August were 83 percent compliant on electric code issues statewide. Three of the 16 regions in the report had compliance rates of 95 percent or higher. Those regions were Manhattan (98 percent), south Suffolk (95 percent) and western New York (99 percent). The three remaining Long Island regions are north Suffolk (90 percent), north Nassau (89 percent), and south Nassau (93 percent). Also in the letter, the company said it inspected 15 percent of installations made before August and found 59 percent failed. Verizon, responding to concerns raised by previous PSC audits, proposed to review all of its fiber-optic installations to ensure connections are properly grounded, to correct any violations and possibly issue customer credits.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-bzfiOS245855573sep24,0,4803545.story>
39. *September 23, InformationWeek* – (National) **Qualcomm to produce satellite-cellular chips.** Qualcomm said it has signed a deal to build multimode mobile chipsets that marry satellite and cellular communication technologies. The company said the agreement with SkyTerra Communications and ICO Global Communications could enable ubiquitous mobile communication coverage anywhere in North America. The companies said the chips are expected to be available in 2010. Satellite phones have been critical in emergency situations like Hurricane Gustav and Ike, but costs and network handoff limitations have severely limited the availability of affordable handsets that can move between satellite and cellular networks. Under the agreement, Qualcomm will develop a satellite protocol for these chipsets and combine it with the company’s expertise with CDMA technology. The company’s size and scale should enable a wider market to have access to satellite connectivity, and it should drive down costs for hardware manufacturers.
Source:
<http://www.informationweek.com/news/hardware/processors/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=210603431>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *September 24, Security Info Watch* – (Georgia) **How Georgia’s ‘bring your gun to work’ law affects employers.** The governor of Georgia signed what some refer to as the state’s “bring your gun to work” legislation. Known officially as the Business Security and Employee Privacy Act, the law appears to allow employees to bring concealed weapons onto their employer’s property as long as they store them out of sight in a locked “trunk, glove box, or other enclosed compartment or area within a motor vehicle.” Furthermore, the law prohibits employers from searching an employee’s or invited guest’s motor vehicle parked on their parking lots. The law provides many

protections for employers. The main exception, Section 7(k), allows employers, regardless of whether they own the land on which they operate or lease it, to ban guns on their property, including parking lots. The law contains other exceptions that protect employers. For example, employers can authorize law enforcement personnel to search vehicles employers own and to conduct searches in any other situation in which a reasonable person would believe the search of a locked vehicle is “necessary to prevent an immediate threat to human health, life, (and) safety.” Searches by law enforcement officers using a search warrant or warrantless searches based on probable cause are also still permitted under the new law. Additionally, employers may ban employees from company property if they have been disciplined for bringing concealed weapons to work. Finally, the law does not apply to penal institutions, public gatherings, and places where firearms are prohibited by federal law.

Source:

<http://www.securityinfowatch.com/article/article.jsp?id=17697&siteSection=305>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

41. *September 24, Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Workers begin repairs on Ponkapoag Pond Dam in Canton.** Workers have started a \$1.17 million repair job on the Ponkapoag Pond dam in Canton, Massachusetts, which had become unsafe because of erosion, seepage, and trees growing on the embankment. The state Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Office of Dam Safety classified the dam as a “significant hazard” dam, which means a dam failure could cause a loss of property downstream. The dam is listed in “poor” condition. Workers will add stones on both sides of the dam to stabilize it and prevent erosion, plus level the top of the dam and improve the path. They also will build an emergency spillway and remove vegetation.

Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/news/x72908081/Workers-begin-repairs-on-Ponkapoag-Pond-Dam-in-Canton>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at 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 or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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