



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 May 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here: <http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- Reuters reports that Unit 1 at Exelon Corp.’s LaSalle nuclear power station in LaSalle County, Illinois automatically shut from full power on May 21 due to a main power transformer fault that caused a small fire. (See item [7](#))
- According to the Associated Press, law enforcement computers were struck by a mystery computer virus on May 21, forcing the FBI and the U.S. Marshals to shut down part of their networks as a precaution. (See item [28](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams Sector](#)

SUSTENANCE AND HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water Sector](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

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. *May 22, Galveston County Daily News* – (Texas) **BP tank fire finally out.** A storage tank fire at BP’s Texas City, Texas refinery was finally snuffed out, 41 hours after it began. Refinery firefighters had been frustrated in their efforts to douse the blaze that broke out about 4 a.m. on May 19. The fire was contained within the refinery and was never a threat to the community, the Texas City Homeland Security coordinator said.

The blaze produced a plume of smoke that could be seen from most parts of Galveston County. A BP spokesman said about 66,000 barrels of “residual hydrocarbon product” were fueling the fire inside the 150-foot diameter tank in the eastern side of the refinery. The tank has been out of service for several years and was scheduled for demolition at a later date, the BP spokesman said. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=2d7f8200f8dd6c98>

See also: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=f3e10e0e4f74e98b>

2. *May 21, Columbia Missourian* – (Missouri) **Panhandle Eastern begins investigation of Howard County pipeline explosion.** Panhandle Eastern Pipeline began an investigation May 21 into the natural gas explosion that took place late May 20 in Howard County, Missouri, a Panhandle Eastern spokesman said. The pipeline exploded in an open field at about 9 p.m. on May 20 northwest of U.S. 40 on the Boone/Howard county line, according to a news release from the Boone County Fire Protection District. Six firetrucks and more than 30 firefighters from Boone County responded to the scene, where they were able to surround the fire. The division chief of the Fire Protection District said both the Boone County and the Howard County fire districts responded to the explosion, which caused flames to shoot more than 100 feet into the air. The explosion was about 15 miles from Columbia, and it could be seen from Columbia city limits. No one was hurt in the incident, though several families were evacuated from the area just after the explosion. The division chief said the fire burned until about 11:30 p.m. Families were able to return to their homes shortly thereafter. Panhandle Eastern crews were able to close valves on either side of the rupture just after the blast, allowing the gas to burn out, the Panhandle Eastern spokesman said.
Source: <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2009/05/21/panhandle-eastern-begins-investigation-pipeline-explosion/>
3. *May 21, Florida Today* – (Florida) **Gas leak at FPL plant briefly shuts down section of U.S. 1.** Brevard County, Florida firefighters responded Thursday to a gas leak at the Florida Power & Light Co. plant on U.S. 1 near Port St. John. Calls about the leak came in to emergency dispatchers shortly after 10 p.m. Firefighters evacuated some businesses near the plant, in the 6000 block of U.S. 1, a Brevard County Fire-Rescue spokesman said. Firefighters were about to evacuate nearby homes, but Florida City Gas crews fixed the leak before that evacuation started. The leak also shut down a section of the road for about a half-hour. Florida City Gas officials say the leak was caused by a mechanical problem in the line.
Source:
<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20090521/BREAKINGNEWS/90521055/1006/NEWS01/Gas+leak+at+FPL+plant+briefly+shuts+down+section+of+U.S.+1>
4. *May 21, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Jury finds Duke Energy violated Clean Air Act.** A federal jury has found that Duke Energy Corp. violated the Clean Air Act by making changes at a southern Indiana power plant that significantly increased its air pollution. The jury in Indianapolis decided that Duke failed to obtain needed permits for changes it made to two units at its Gallagher station plant near New Albany, Indiana.

Those changes raised the plant's sulfur dioxide emissions.

Source: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=10402559>

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

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *May 21, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Barboursville plant cited in worker death.** Sulzer Metco Coatings, a coating plant in Barboursville, West Virginia, has been cited with 23 serious safety violations after the death of a worker in February, federal officials announced on May 21. The company was also fined \$56,250 by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), officials said in a news release. OSHA began its investigation in late February, after a 56-year-old employee was killed when he was pulled into a large piece of machinery used to cut metal. Agency investigators found that the “lathe machinery” involved in the accident did not have proper machine guarding. OSHA also cited the company for blocked exit routes, lack of proper fire protection equipment and training, and the lack of a hazard communication program. Also, OSHA cited Sulzer Metco for exposing workers to unsafe levels of noise and for not providing adequate means to ensure supplied air for respirators. Several OSHA citations also involved the toxic chemical hexavalent chromium, including surface contamination, lack of protective gear for skin exposure, and improper cleaning techniques for areas where the chemical was present.

Source: <http://sundaygazettemail.com/News/200905210729>

6. *May 21, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Quick action contains sulfur reaction at P&G.** A dangerous chemical reaction at Albany's Procter and Gamble plant on May 21 was quickly diffused by an employee's quick action and Albany firefighters. Just after 9:00 a.m., a pallet of sodium hydro-sulphate bags came into contact with water, causing a life-threatening reaction. When employees realized there was a problem with the chemical, they removed it from the building and called HAZMAT crews. Thanks to mock hazardous situation drills regularly held by Procter and Gamble and the Fire Department, everyone knew exactly how to handle the situation. Fire officials say it gives firefighters confidence the next time around that they can neutralize a situation without anyone getting hurt.

Source: http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=10404624&nav=menu37_2

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

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *May 22, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Exelon Ill. LaSalle 1 reactor shut due to transformer.** Unit 1 at Exelon Corp.'s LaSalle nuclear power station in LaSalle County, Illinois automatically shut from full power on May 21 due to a main power transformer fault that caused a small fire. A spokesman could not say how damaged the transformer was, or when the unit might return to service. The problem was caused by a lightning deflector. A team was investigating the cause of the failure, the spokesman said. He said there was no lightning in the area at the time of the equipment failure. The fault caused a

small fire that was put out in about 10 seconds by an automatic fire suppression system. As a precaution, operators reduced Unit 2 output and called the local fire department. The fire department was not needed, however. Electricity traders said, if Exelon needs to replace the transformer, the unit could remain out for a week or more, depending on whether a spare transformer is available on site. The spokesman could not say whether there was a spare transformer on site. There are four working transformers at LaSalle, two for each unit.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2234688420090522>

8. *May 22, Reuters* – (South Carolina) **Duke investigates SC Oconee 3 reactor shutdown.** Duke Energy Corp. is investigating the cause of the shutdown of Unit 3 at the Oconee nuclear power station in Oconee County, South Carolina on May 21, a spokeswoman for the plant said on May 22. She could not say when the unit might return to service. The unit shut due to a generator lockout signal. At the time of the shutdown, the unit was operating at about 42 percent as it ramped up after exiting a refueling outage. The company shut the unit on April 25 for the refuel.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2234280520090522>

9. *May 20, NYDailyNews.com* – (New York) **Indian Point barriers to be subject of Federal appeals court ruling.** The week of May 11, the New York State assistant attorney general and an assemblyman told a three-judge panel in Manhattan Federal appeals court that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) decision to allow lower-quality fire barriers at the Indian Point Nuclear Plant in Westchester County drastically compromises the safety of plant workers and some 20 million others within 30 miles of the plant. The case also marks the first time the NRC is challenged to grant so-called exemptions that affect public safety without alerting the public. Last year, the NRC granted a request from Entergy, the plant owners, to use fire safety insulation material that resists fire for only 24 minutes — not enough time to catch and contain a fire with the current hourly inspection schedule, the plaintiffs said. They also argued in court there would be a danger of fires in electrical junction boxes that control safe, emergency shutdowns, if needed. The NRC attorney countered that NRC staff determined there was a “reasonable assurance” fire-protection measures approved by the exemptions would control any credible blaze at the plant. The NRC said that using lower-quality fire barriers has been allowed at many other plants in the country, and the NRC has granted similar exemptions to certain fire safety standards over the last eight years.
Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/05/20/2009-05-20_high_court_to_rule_on_barriers_okd_for_indian_point.html

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

Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *May 20, Associated Press* — (Texas) **Workers hurt in Freeport cylinder accident.** Four workers were hurt after a cylinder larger than a railroad tanker car came off its

mounting at a Freeport company. The Freeport police chief said the accident happened May 20 at Freeport Welding and Fabricating as workers were inside and outside of the cylinder. He said three men were seriously hurt and transported by medical helicopters to hospitals. The fourth man has non-life threatening injuries and was transported by ambulance. The police had no further details on their conditions. The police chief says “large barbs” inside the cylinder impaled some of the workers. He says investigators will try to determine what caused the cylinder to become “dislodged.” A message for comment left at Freeport Welding and Fabricating was not immediately returned. Freeport is 60 miles south of Houston.

Source: <http://www.newschannel10.com/Global/story.asp?S=10396963>

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *May 21, NextGov* — (National) **Delayed launches of communications satellites threatens troops.** New communication satellites needed to support U.S. forces deployed globally, including combat troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, continue to experience delays, top Defense Department and Government Accountability Office officials told lawmakers at a Senate hearing on May 20. Programs behind schedule include the Advanced Extremely High Frequency system, which Lockheed Martin Inc. is developing. The launch of the first broadband satellite in the system has been delayed almost two years, the GAO’s director of acquisition and sourcing management told the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces. The President endorsed the Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite in his fiscal 2010 budget proposal as an example of a technology that uses mature systems that have a stable design. The Air Force estimated the fourth Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite could cost more than twice the price of the third satellite because Lockheed said it would have to rebuild its production line to make key components. The Office of Management and Budget portrayed the program as a relative bargain compared with the canceled Transformational Satellite Communications System, which it will replace. The latest delay presents potential problems for naval and tactical satellite users because the current system has started to fail, experts told the Senate panel. The Ultra High Frequency Follow-On system, “will reach an unacceptable level of availability in May 2010.” Two out of the nine satellites have failed, which could create a gap in communications until the launch of the first mobile user satellite.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20090521_4174.php

12. *May 21, Army Times* — (National) **Army working on ‘green’ slugs.** Army ammunition officials hope to field a new, environmentally friendly 5.56mm bullet this summer. The Army began working on its lead-free bullet program in the late 1990s to help reduce the tons of environmentally harmful lead being shot into the soil of training ranges across the country. The first attempt featured a tungsten alloy that did not perform well and proved to be almost as harmful to the environment as lead. The new M855A1 lead-free slug will be made of a bismuth alloy that works much better and is designed to work specifically with the M4 carbine. It will provide more “consistent performance” than the current M855 round and perform better against hard targets. It will also use a propellant

that reduces muzzle flash. It is not a true “green ammunition” yet because there will still be trace amounts of lead in the primer. The plan is to start issuing the first of 20 million of the M855A1 lead-free slug cartridges in August.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/05/army_green_bullets_052109w/

For another story, see item [20](#)

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

Banking and Finance Sector

13. *May 22, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Investment firm’s chief pleads guilty to fraud.** The head of an Alpharetta firm, CRE Capital, that claimed hefty profits from trading Japanese and American currencies, pleaded guilty May 21 to his role in a Ponzi scheme. The 48-year-old executive from Atlanta defrauded more than 100 people out of more than \$25 million, according to federal prosecutors. The executive pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud before a U.S. District Judge in Atlanta and is to be sentenced July 30. CRE Capital offered investment contracts of at least \$100,000 that guaranteed the investor’s deposit plus 10 percent interest within just 30 days. Instead of making profits, they lost millions of dollars. The executive repaid some investors, but the scheme was unsustainable and shut down by the Securities and Exchange Commission in January, prosecutors said.
Source: <http://www.ajc.com/services/content/printedition/2009/05/22/locbiz0522.html>
14. *May 21, Bloomberg* – (California; Delaware; Florida) **SEC sues fight in three states in penny stock ring.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) sued eight people in Florida, California and Delaware, claiming they generated more than \$6.2 million in illicit profits by manipulating stock prices in four companies. The group allegedly pumped up prices of GH3 International Inc., Asia Global Holdings Inc., Playstar Corp. and Xtreme Motorsports of California Inc., the SEC said today in a statement. Delaware’s Acting U.S. Attorney separately announced indictments in the case. A 24-year-old man of Newark, Delaware, is accused of carrying out the scheme with people he met through a penny stock Web site called InvestorsHub.com, operated by a 26-year-old man out of Aliso Viejo, California, according to the SEC complaint filed May 20 in federal court in Wilmington, Delaware. The group timed manipulative trading to coincide with false and misleading press releases purportedly issued by the companies to “hype the stock,” the SEC said in its statement.
Source:
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=an0vTmWDEj_Y&refer=home
15. *May 21, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Congress raises FDIC limits.** On May 19, Congress signed off on allowing the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) to borrow as much as \$100 billion from the Treasury Department and extending the agency’s new deposit-insurance limit of \$250,000 through 2013. While the move increases the FDIC’s potential liability, the agency’s enhanced financial maneuverability is expected to help quell fears about the rising cost of bank failures, which have drained the agency’s fund.

The President is expected to sign the legislation into law in coming days. The legislation also keeps in place the \$250,000 insurance limit created last year when depositors were pulling funds from banks across the country due to fears about the solvency of U.S. financial institutions. The higher limit was set to expire at the end of 2009 and fall back to \$100,000 for depositors in most cases. The bill addresses a range of other issues as well. It would make it easier for borrowers to qualify for federal foreclosure-prevention programs, give loan servicers more protection from investor lawsuits once mortgages are modified, and provide the Government Accountability Office with more powers to investigate the way the Treasury and Federal Reserve use funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program set up in October to buoy the financial sector.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124276506015836059.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

16. *May 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Treasury IG: ‘Inappropriate’ backdating at thrifts.** The Treasury Department’s watchdog has uncovered improper backdating of cash infusions at six thrifts including IndyMac, in an investigation that already has prompted the removal of the federal thrift agency’s acting director. Federal regulators were aware of the backdating at two of the thrifts, and directed or authorized those institutions to do it, the Treasury’s inspector general said in a report on May 21. Pushing back the dates of the infusions can allow banks to meet quarterly government requirements for capital reserves. The \$18 million backdated capital injection by its parent to IndyMac Bank — a California-based savings and loan that failed in July and cost the federal deposit insurance fund nearly \$9 billion — came to light in December. The new report detailed similar instances at five other thrifts, which were not named. One of them is in the West, three are in the Southeast and one is in the Northeast. In its response to the inspector general’s report, the Office of Thrift Supervision said it has taken action to ensure that its staff fully understands the accounting requirements for capital contributions to banks from their parent companies.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/05/21/ap6455219.html>

17. *May 21, CNN Money* – (Florida) **Florida bank collapses — firms swoop in.** A consortium of private equity firms has acquired BankUnited FSB in Florida after the savings and loan was shut down by federal regulators on May 21. The 34th bank to fail this year and the largest so far, BankUnited had \$12.8 billion in assets, \$8.6 billion in deposits and 85 branches. The new institution will be named BankUnited. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) will share in losses on about \$10.7 billion in assets. The bank’s new owners will inject \$900 million in new capital into the Coral Gables, Florida based institution. The FDIC estimates it will take a \$4.9 billion hit to its deposit insurance fund. The deal is the second involving private investors and a failed bank, and comes five months after a consortium acquired IndyMac.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/2009/05/21/news/companies/BankUnited/?postversion=2009052119>

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

Transportation Sector

18. *May 22, Sky News* – (Illinois) **Airman’s mid-air fuel leak video saves plane.** An off-duty U.S. Air Force (USAF) sergeant who filmed fuel seeping from a passenger jet wing has been credited with saving the lives of some 300 people. Luckily for those on board, the USAF Sergeant who was a passenger on the flight realized that something was wrong as soon as the plane left Chicago airport for Tokyo. “I noticed the leak on the left side of the aircraft right behind the wing earlier during take-off,” he said. Growing increasingly worried, the USAF Sergeant began to capture the possible leak on video and managed to get the stewardess’ attention by saying: “Ma’am, it’s an emergency”. He identified himself to her and showed her the leak on video and told her to inform the captain before going oceanic. The captain was summoned from the cockpit and viewed the footage — which showed how the plane was losing fuel at a rate of 2,700kg an hour. The plane was immediately diverted the plane back to the U.S., where the plane landed in San Francisco and passengers safely disembarked, before catching alternative flights. The USAF Sergeant who serves in a specialist refueling division of the Air Force said the captain told him there was no way they would have made it to Japan if it were not for his observation.

Source: <http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/World-News/Mid-Air-Fuel-Leak-US-Air-Force-Sergeant-Bartek-Bachleda-Saves-Passenger-Jet-With-Video/Article/200905415286733>

19. *May 22, Associated Press* – (California) **American Eagle regional jets bump into each other at LAX.** American Eagle says one of its regional jets bumped the tail of another as it was pushing back from a gate at Los Angeles International Airport. A statement from the airline says Flight 3085, an Embraer EMB-140 bound for San Diego, had just pushed back from the gate May 21 when it struck the tail of another Embraer that was parked at the next gate. American Eagle says there were no injuries to the 40 passengers aboard the plane. The airline says all passengers safely deplaned by stairs through the main door and were placed on other flights to San Diego. There were no passengers on the parked plane.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-05-22-american-eagle-jet-bump_N.htm

20. *May 21, United Press International* – (National) **Airport bomb detector system scrapped.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) says it is scrapping a bomb detection system for U.S. airports because of the unreliability of the machines. A TSA spokeswoman said the \$36 million program, which focused on dislodging explosive particles from passengers through blasts of air, will cost nearly \$1 million to remove from airports nationwide. USA Today reported on May 21 that 94 of the 207 so-called puffer machines were installed in 37 U.S. airports, while the remaining machines have been kept in storage. The TSA official said the machines, which cost \$160,000 each, began breaking down as a result of dirt and humidity. Sixty of the installed devices have already been removed, but offered no timeline for the removal of the remaining puffers. Smiths Detection’s vice president, whose company manufactures the anti-terror devices, told USA Today the machines have faced numerous repair efforts since the

government purchased them in 2004.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/05/21/Airport-bomb-detector-system-scrapped/UPI-32061242921540/

For another story, see item [2](#)

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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

Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *May 22, Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **Frozen blueberries recalled.** Frozen blueberries distributed to Oregon food banks in April have been recalled, officials said May 21. The recall stemmed from a complaint received by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service of finding “foreign material” in a 3-pound bag of frozen blueberries, said an Oregon Food Bank spokeswoman. The recall did not describe the foreign material. The federal agency does not think there is any additional foreign material in the batch of blueberries produced during that time frame, but is investigating the complaint, the spokeswoman added. All regional food banks in Oregon Food Bank’s network were notified of the recall, which also affected Arizona, Arkansas, California and Illinois. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service received the blueberries from a Maine grower, according to the spokeswoman. Bags stamped with “2009 APR 8” should be thrown away or returned and no other dates are affected in the recall, stated the spokeswoman. Marion-Polk Food Share, which distributes to emergency food programs in the Mid-Valley, is one of Oregon Food Bank’s 20 regional banks.
Source:
<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20090522/NEWS/905220321/1001/news>
22. *May 21, KUTV 2 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Salmonella infections may be linked to queso fresco.** Public health agencies in Utah, in coordination with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, have been investigating a cluster of Salmonella Newport cases in which it appears that the common link is queso fresco, a Mexican-style soft cheese. Officials do not believe the contaminated cheese is being produced or sold commercially. Epidemiologic investigations point to queso fresco that is being made in private homes and then either sold to neighbors or given away. A sample of queso fresco produced and distributed by a non-commercial, private source was obtained by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and tested at the Utah Public Health Laboratory. Salmonella Newport was recovered from the sample. Public health officials are still uncertain how the cheese is getting contaminated with Salmonella bacteria, but believe the cheese is either being contaminated from ingredients used to make the queso fresco (such as unpasteurized/raw milk), or from cross-contamination of the cheese (e.g. through using a bowl to prepare or hold raw chicken, and then using that same bowl

without cleaning it to make the cheese).

Source: <http://www.kutv.com/content/news/local/story/Salmonella-Infections-May-Be-Linked-to-Queso/s18YLGfeqEGlsWWzSLq8bQ.cspX>

23. *May 21, Georgia Department of Agriculture* – (National) **Imported FMD brand spiced bean recalled for unlisted sulfites.** The Georgia agriculture commissioner alerted consumers to the recall of an imported spiced bean due to preservatives not listed on the product packaging. Domega International, LTD., Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y., is recalling FMD Brand Spiced Bean because it contains sulfites without listing them on the label. Consumers who have severe sensitivity to sulfites run the risk of serious or life-threatening reactions if they consume this product. FMD Brand Spiced Bean is sold in a clear 80-gram vacuum packed plastic bag without a product or production code. The bean, produced in China, was sold throughout the United States.

Source:

http://agr.georgia.gov/00/press/detail/0,2668,38902732_39653527_141328826,00.html

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

Water Sector

24. *May 22, Ithaca Journal* – (New York) **Cornell must disclose what's in its brew of liquefied cows.** Cornell University plans to deliver a liquefied brew of animal carcasses and veterinary medical waste to the Ithaca Wastewater Treatment plant. There, the material would be treated and discharged into Cayuga Lake. The lake is the source of drinking water for thousands of county residents, businesses and visitors. For more than a month, Cornell has refused to disclose the components of its liquefied brew of dead animals and medical waste. In early April, the Ithaca Journal requested under the New York Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) that Cornell provide details on the chemical and biological ingredients of the waste. Cornell argues New York's FOIL does not apply to the university. Even though New York taxpayers fund many of the university's programs and several state schools are located on its campus, Cornell claims it is a private institution and not subject to FOIL.

Source:

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20090522/VIEWPOINTS01/905220308/1129/Cornell+must+disclose+what+s+in+its+brew+of+liquefied+cows>

25. *May 21, Oregon Department of Human Services* – (Oregon) **Public health advisory issued for Hills Creek Reservoir.** A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Hills Creek Reservoir, located four miles from Oakridge in the Willamette National Forest, was issued on May 21 by the Oregon Department of Human Services. Hills Creek Reservoir is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with campgrounds managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Water monitoring has confirmed the presence of blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals, said the Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance program coordinator in the department. Swallowing or inhaling water droplets should be avoided, as well as skin contact with water by humans or animals. The toxins cannot be removed by boiling, filtering or treating the water. Children and pets are particularly susceptible. The public will be

advised when the concern no longer exists.

Source:

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hab/docs/hab_advisories/2009/Hills_Creek_Advisory_05_21_09.pdf

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

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *May 22, Washington Post* – (National) **Study detects flu immunity in older people.** A substantial portion of older Americans may have some immunity to the swine-origin H1N1 influenza virus, a finding that may prove useful when and if a vaccine to the new flu strain becomes available. The questions of whom to target with a swine flu vaccine and how to stretch the supply if it is limited are among the most important issues facing public health officials over the next four months. Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on May 21 that a study using stored blood samples found that one-third of people older than 60 have antibodies that might protect them from infection with the new virus. If further research is able to better define who has partial immunity, those people might need only one dose of vaccine, not two. If a swine flu vaccine is produced, about 2 billion doses would be ready by next fall, the World Health Organization estimates. Public health authorities presumably would recommend it for people at greatest risk for severe illness and death. As of May 21, the United States had 5,764 confirmed cases and nine deaths, in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Epidemiologists believe, however, that more than 100,000 people have been infected since the new virus came to public attention a month ago.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/21/AR2009052104033.html?hpid=topnews>

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

Government Facilities Sector

27. *May 22, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **Jackson votes against keeping courthouse security plan.** On May 21, the Jackson County Commission declined to reinstate a courthouse security plan. A district judge reminded the commission that two people were shot on the courthouse lawn shortly after a child custody hearing in 2006. But despite his plea and the urgings of several others and the support of most, if not all, of those present at the meeting, the commission voted two to one against rescinding last week's action to repeal the state-approved security plan. The commission also voted two to one to rescind last week's vote for the new county personnel policy changes, eliminating a grading system for evaluating county job applicants and allowing two commissioners to sit in on all interviews. The District 3 commissioner who made the motion said after the meeting that he has had several people calling in opposition to locking all the courthouse doors except the north entrance during business hours. The resolution called for hiring security officers to use metal detectors at the north entrance to check for weapons. The Alabama Administration of Courts and the state Supreme Court approved the county's security plan.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/huntsvilletimes/local.ssf?/base/news/1242983757119090.xml&coll=1>

28. *May 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Computer virus strikes U.S. Marshals, FBI affected.** Law enforcement computers were struck by a mystery computer virus on May 21, forcing the FBI and the U.S. Marshals to shut down part of their networks as a precaution. The U.S. Marshals confirmed it disconnected from the Justice Department’s computers as a protective measure after being hit by the virus; an FBI official said only that that agency was experiencing similar issues and was working on the problem. “At no time was data compromised,” said a U.S. Marshals spokeswoman. The type of virus and its origin were not determined.

Source: http://tech.yahoo.com/news/ap/20090521/ap_on_hi_te/us_feds_computer_virus

29. *May 21, Associated Press* – (California) **2 charged with leaving beer keg bomb at Sacramento courthouse.** A Sacramento couple has been charged with leaving a fire bomb made from a beer keg outside the federal courthouse in Sacramento. A thirty-year-old man and 35-year-old woman were ordered held without bail on May 20 as flight risks and public dangers. The man has a previous conviction for bomb possession. The Sacramento police bomb squad defused the device made from a five liter beer keg before it could cause damage on May 17. The man’s name was written in bold ink on the side of the keg. Investigators say a surveillance camera recorded the man placing the bomb near a parking garage exit while his partner pushed a baby stroller along the sidewalk. The couple’s defense attorney says she may try again to have the woman released on bail.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12420680

For more stories, see items [30](#), [31](#), and [38](#)

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

Emergency Services Sector

30. *May 22, Waco Tribune-Herald* – (Texas) **State and Waco-area officials mobilize for mock terror attack at Heart O’ Texas Fairgrounds.** The Waco-McLennan County Emergency Management Office participated in a disaster-training exercise to test local preparedness in emergency situations on May 21. The drill, led by the Texas Engineering Extension Service at Texas A&M University, focused on a terrorist attack at the HOT fairgrounds in which the countywide communications tower on the grounds had been destroyed by a radioactive bomb. Representatives from about 150 local, state, and national agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of State Health Services, met last month to plan for the drill. Waco police and fire departments practiced scene containment in the exercise, securing radioactive zones, and scanning “victims” on the scene for radioactive and hazardous materials. Waco ISD officials developed a strategy to lock down neighboring Waco High School and quarantine students who may have been affected by radioactivity to one section of the school. The drill also involved responders from six surrounding counties.

Ambulances from East Texas Medical Center, Mart, Mexia, and Hillsboro rehearsed taking 41 bombing victims to area hospitals. Members of the McLennan County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments HAZMAT team also worked the investigation. The Extension Service will evaluate how the emergency management office performed in the exercise and give its recommendations at a later date.

Source:

<http://www.wacotrib.com/news/content/news/stories/2009/05/22/05222009wacdisasterdri11.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=11>

31. *May 21, Suffolk News-Herald* – (Virginia) **Bomb threat clears municipal building.** Suffolk, Virginia Police are investigating a bomb threat called in to the municipal building on May 21. About 12:50 p.m., a male called the emergency communications center and said, 'There is a bomb,' said a city spokeswoman. The subject did not specify where the bomb was. The police and fire departments responded and evacuated the police department building and municipal building, which are connected. The emergency communications center is located in the police department building. After a police department "black powder dog" found nothing in either building, employees were allowed back in.

Source: <http://www.suffolknewsherald.com/news/2009/may/21/bomb-threat-clears-municipal-building/>

32. *May 21, WCBD 2 Charleston* – (South Carolina) **Berkeley County to stage full-scale terrorism drill.** On May 27, Berkeley County, South Carolina will host Lowcountry Weapons of Mass Destruction Full-Scale Exercise, a terrorism response drill that will involve two-thousand participants from local, state, and federal agencies. It will originate at the Berkeley County Emergency Services Training Center. The drill is designed to practice emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to a radiological terrorist incident.

Source:

http://www.counton2.com/cbd/news/local/article/berkeley_county_to_stage_full-scale_terrorism_drill/25187/

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

Information Technology

33. *May 21, SC Magazine* – (International) **Experts offer tips to deal with Gumblar malware.** A number of security organizations are offering tips to deal with the Gumblar drive-by exploit, which is growing ever more pervasive. Gumblar has spread rapidly because malicious JavaScript on compromised sites seems to be dynamically generated. That is, it can be different on every site, or even every page on a site. "This is just the most recent example of legitimate sites being exploited to spread malware," a Cisco security product manager told SCMagazineUS.com on May 21. "What is unique to Gumblar is that it uses a multi-phased approach to propagate itself. It does not just deliver malware to the end-user." To deal with the problem, Cisco offers five tips to enterprises and Web sites to deal with the problem: Make sure security protection is

implemented for Web servers and Web applications. Also, educate and alert users to pay attention to pop-ups that warn them if they are about to proceed to a questionable site. In addition, it is important to include client-side protection to establish a layered defense. Organizations also should install gateway security that is capable of drilling down into every Internet access request. And make sure perimeters are secured with auditable firewalls.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Experts-offer-tips-to-deal-with-Gumblar-malware/article/137256/>

34. *May 20, All Things Distributed* – (International) **Expanding the cloud: Moving large data sets into Amazon S3 with AWS Import/Export.** Processing large amounts of data has become common place. Where this used to be the domain of Physics and Biotech researchers or maybe business intelligence, now increasingly other domains such as social sciences, psychology history, even e-commerce are being driven by large datasets. Also in the systems management domain, data sets are growing faster and faster, consequently backup and disaster recovery has to deal with increasingly large sets. Log files and monitoring also spew out more and more relevant data. Many customers have large datasets and need to move into storage services and process them in Amazon EC2. However, moving these large datasets over the network can be cumbersome. Depending on the network throughput available and the data set size it may take rather long to move data into Amazon S3. To help customers move their large data sets into Amazon S3 faster, the ability to do this over Amazon's internal high-speed network using AWS Import/Export. AWS Import/Export allows a user to ship data on one or more portable storage devices to be loaded into Amazon S3. For each portable storage device to be loaded, a manifest explains how and where to load the data, and how to map file to Amazon S3 object keys. After loading the data into Amazon S3, AWS Import/Export stores the resulting keys and MD5 Checksums in log files such that a user can check whether the transfer was successful. AWS Import/Export is of great help to many users who have to handle large data sets.

Source: http://www.allthingsdistributed.com/2009/05/amazon_import_export.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/>.

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

Communications Sector

35. *May 21, IDG News Service* – (International) **DNS attack downs Internet in parts of China.** An attack on the servers of a domain registrar in China caused an online video application to cripple Internet access in parts of the country late on May 20. Internet access was affected in five northern and coastal provinces after the DNS (domain name system) attack, which targeted just one company but caused unanswered information

requests to flood China's telecommunications networks, China's IT ministry said in a statement on its Web site. The incident revealed holes in China's DNS that are "very strange" for such a big country, said the head of Kaspersky's Virus Lab in China. Internet access returned to normal in the late night several hours later, according to the government statement.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9133376&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

36. *May 21, News of the North* – (Wisconsin) **Wireless Internet to penetrate Oneida County.** The Oneida County Board approved a loan on May 20 that should help to jump start access to high-speed Internet service for county residents. The approved resolution will allow the county to borrow from the Trust Funds of the State of Wisconsin "the sum of up to \$200,000 for the purpose of reloaning for the development, construction and establishment of eight broadband towers to promote economic development and education opportunities." SonicNet is already providing service in the Phelps, Three Lakes and Eagle River areas, using wireless technology. A SonicNet representative told board members that because of Oneida County's geographical features of rocky soils and an abundance of forested land, wireless was a much easier and less expensive option than running cable. "We are focusing on bringing service to people who have no other option than dial-up, not compete with existing service," he said. He also said the loan would pay for the company to install eight towers across the county, at a cost of \$20,000 each. An additional \$40,000 would be a "contingency" for clearing and unforeseen circumstances. The new towers would go above the trees and emit a signal in a radius.

Source:

http://www.newsofthenorth.net/article/Government/County/Wireless_Internet_to_penetrate_Oneida_County/24841

37. *May 20, The Register* – (Illinois) **Microsoft consumes Chicago data center.** Microsoft is apparently getting set to buy a data center in the Chicago suburb of Northlake, nicknamed CH1, from data center operator Ascent, giving Ascent a chance to build a new facility called CH2 that will piggyback on the power and connectivity capabilities that Microsoft is using. The CH1 facility is where Microsoft is building its first containerized data center, a design that crams servers, storage, and other IT gear into shipping containers to pack that gear in tightly and cheaply. The Northlake data center was supposed to have from 150 to 220 of the standard 40 foot containers jam packed with gear, perhaps several hundred thousand servers in total. It is not clear if Microsoft has, in fact, deployed containers in the CH1 facility. According to a report in Crain's Chicago Business, Microsoft has worked out a deal with Ascent to buy the 707,244 square foot CH1 facility for "more than \$185m." The CH2 data center that will be down the road from CH1 weighs in at 250,000 square feet and will employ the same "data center suites" concept that, in the end, proved to be unnecessary at the CH1 facility since Microsoft wanted all of the capacity at the site once it took a look around at its options in Chicago.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/05/20/ascent_ch2_datacenter/

For more stories, see items [30](#) and [34](#)

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

Commercial Facilities Sector

38. *May 21, WIBC 93.1 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Chemical spill forces evacuation in Pendleton.** Approximately 50 homes in Pendleton, Indiana, along with the library, were evacuated Thursday afternoon because of a chemical spill at the community pool. A representative with the Pendleton Fire Department says a company was delivering 300 gallons of hydrochloric acid when between 20 and 30 gallons spilled in the pool area. A worker called 911 and the fire department and hazmat team responded. Fortunately, the pool has not yet opened for the summer.

Source: <http://www.wibc.com/news/Story.aspx?ID=1095521>

For another story, see item [30](#)

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

National Monuments & Icons Sector

39. *May 22, National Parks Traveler* – (Arizona) **Why are those planes flying over Grand Canyon National Park this weekend?** The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will conduct scientific flyovers at Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, during Memorial Day weekend to document the status of natural and cultural resources along the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. These flights will take place Friday, May 22, to Thursday, May 28, 2009, between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Water releases from Glen Canyon Dam will be ramped down and held steady at 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from May 22 to May 27. “We want to let the public know that the aircraft are part of ongoing efforts to monitor park resources and are no cause for concern,” said a chief at the U.S. Geological Survey Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center.

Source: <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2009/05/why-are-those-planes-flying-around-over-grand-canyon-national-park-weekend>

40. *May 21, Washington Post* – (National) **House approves measure to allow guns into national parks.** On May 21, the House passed a bill 279 to 147 that will allow people to bring concealed and loaded guns into national parks. The May 20 provision would allow gun owners to bring the weapons into national parks and wildlife refuges as long as they are permitted by the laws of the state in which the park is located. A coalition of groups that included the Fraternal Order of Police and the Association of National Park Rangers slammed the bill, saying it will “increase the risk of poaching, vandalism of historic park treasures and threats to park visitors and staff.” Gun rights advocates defended the bill as an effort to give gun owners the same rights on national park land that they have everywhere else.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/20/AR2009052003613_pf.html

41. *May 21, Las Vegas Sun* – (Nevada) **Thousands of dead carp foul up Lake Mohave beaches.** Park Service officials are warning Memorial Day travelers that thousands of dead carp are washing up on the shores of the lake and an odor will be afoot along the beaches as the fish decompose. A Lake Mead National Recreation Area spokesman said there are no health concerns for humans from the dead fish. Specimens have been sent away for testing, but results will not be available until next week, he said. Wildlife officials suspect a carp-specific virus or disease is to blame because no other species of dead fish have washed up on shore. The spokesman advised visitors avoid high concentrations of dead fish and not to handle the carcasses because rotting flesh could pose a health threat. The National Parks system’s policy is to “keep wild things wild” and to allow the natural process to take effect, so no cleanup is planned unless the fish are found to present a danger, the spokesman said.
Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/may/21/thousands-dead-carp-foul-lake-mohave-beaches/>

For another story, see item [42](#)

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

Dams Sector

42. *May 21, Rexburg Standard Journal* – (Idaho) **Officials warn public of Calamity landslide.** The Caribou-Targhee National Forest (in Idaho) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) continue to warn the public to be aware of a slow-moving landslide on the southern bank of Palisades Reservoir near the dam. The road remains open to the popular Calamity Campground and boat launch, but the slide area is closed to the public. The large active landslide between the dam spillway and the boat launch encompasses more than 13 acres and includes about 1,000 lineal feet of the Snake River/Calamity Road. The slide was first documented by the BOR in 2007 and has been monitored by the BOR and the Forest Service since 2008. With above-average precipitation this winter and spring, the slide is active, requiring road maintenance and repair by Bonneville County and Forest Service. The Forest Service is working closely with Bonneville County on road repairs and site monitoring so that it can continue to maintain the road for trailer traffic. The soil slump is known as a “rotational” slump, which typically moves at a slow rate, though there is potential for a larger failure. The BOR says the slide does not pose a threat to the dam. More signs will be put up to provide for public safety and the agencies are working on early detection monitoring systems such as a portable seismograph or GPS unit that will provide immediate notice if significant movement occurs. The agencies also are working on long-term plans to deal with the slow-moving slide and access.
Source: <http://www.rexburgstandardjournal.com/articles/2009/05/21/news/38.txt>

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the 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>

Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to NICCCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List:

Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List:

Send mail to support@govdelivery.com.

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.

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.