



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 August 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Tampa Bay Business Journal reports that the Federal Aviation Administration is investigating Southwest Airlines after a routine inspection found that the airline had installed unauthorized parts on 46 of its planes. The carrier grounded those planes for several hours on August 22 after the FAA’s inspection. (See item [22](#))
- According to IDG News Service, the FBI is trying to figure out who is sending unsolicited laptop computers to state governors across the United States. Some state officials are worried that the laptops may contain malicious software for accessing government computers. (See item [34](#))

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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. *August 27, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Fire at Massey coal prep plant extinguished.** Firefighters have extinguished a fire that engulfed five stories of a coal preparation plant in Logan County, West Virginia. A state mine agency spokeswoman says the fire at the Massey Energy-owned Bandmill plant in Rum Creek started around

3:30 a.m. on August 27. 12 employees were inside the plant at the time of the fire. The spokeswoman says everyone got out of the building unharmed and no injuries were reported. Logan's Fire Chief said the miners played a crucial role in helping fire crews battle the flames by pointing out all the escape routes. There is no word yet on what started the fire in the building where coal is cleaned. In a statement, a Massey spokesman says the company is working with federal and state authorities. The facility has been secured to prevent anyone from entering and will remain closed for at least 48 hours to allow the structure to cool down. MHST, Massey and the fire department will continue to assess the damage and investigate the cause. The company spokesman says Massey does not expect the fire to significantly disrupt its operations in southern West Virginia.

Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/charleston/headlines/55341432.html>

2. *August 27, KXXV 25 Waco* – (Texas) **Lightning strike sparks oil field explosion.** An explosion forced the closure of part of Highway 7 in Leon County, Texas, the evening of August 26 after lightning struck a piece of oil field equipment. A Leon County sheriff reported crews from the Marquez salt water treatment plant called 911 to report a fire. Firefighters from Marquez responded and immediately called every surrounding fire department to help battle the blaze. Lightning is believed to have struck a 2000 barrel tank battery. Because of a small amount of oil inside the tank, it burst into flames, the sheriff said. Firefighters battled the blaze all evening and finally had it contained at 9:05 p.m. There were no reports of any injuries. The water disposal plant is owned by GSI Oil & Gas in Bryan, Texas.
Source: <http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11002030>
3. *August 27, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Wyo. cites Cheyenne refinery for water violation.** The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality says Frontier Refining in Cheyenne committed two violations by discharging storm and production water into Crow Creek in August 2008 when heavy rainstorms caused refinery storage ponds to overflow. A state inspector and compliance supervisor says that because of the storm, there was a large amount of water in the creek and thus probably diluted any discharge. It is the latest in a string of violations leveled against the refinery in the past several years, all dealing with water, neighboring properties and Crow Creek. A employee of Frontier Refining said the refinery is working on improving how it handles water by building a new waste-water treatment plant and reconstructing water storage ponds.
Source:
http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11002611&nav=menu554_2_2
4. *August 27, Ottawa Times* – (International) **'Different' pipeline to Canada nears finish.** A 46-mile pipeline being constructed from Ransom, across Grundy County to Manhattan in Will County, Illinois, will be a final link in a 1,600-mile pipeline that will end at the oil sands of Alberta, Canada. Years in the planning, the actual construction of Enbridge's 20-inch Southern Lights Project pipeline should take about four months and has a target completion of November. "We have crude oil pipelines and natural gas pipelines that come into this area from western Canada, but this one's a little bit different," said an Enbridge spokesman. "The Southern Lights Project actually starts

here and flows north, which is very unusual for us.” A 42-inch crude oil pipeline completed in April brings in 400,000 barrels per day of crude oil to three major refineries in the Chicago area. “Those three refineries provide the majority of the gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel and petroleum products used by consumers here in the area,” he said. At the same time along the same route, most of the 20-inch Southern Lights Project pipeline also was installed. But instead of bringing Canadian crude to the U.S., the new 20-inch pipeline will be bringing a refining product known as “diluent” back to Canada. Once it was considered too expensive to process the heavy oil from the oil sands areas. But rising oil prices have changed that, and diluent is a key to the process.

Source: <http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=386484>

5. *August 27, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Hamtramck residents return after chemical fire extinguished.** Evacuated residents returned to their homes Thursday evening after a massive chemical fire in Hamtramck was extinguished. No injuries have been reported in the massive blaze at Sterling Services, an oil and gas holding facility, and officials from the fire department said there are no problems with air quality as residents made their way back to their homes around 6 p.m. The fire started at the petroleum transfer station south of the Davison Freeway, along Interstate 75 around 1:30 p.m. Officials feared that contaminants stored on the site had leaked into the area’s water system but in the end, officials said any possible contaminants had been safely flushed. The Sterling Services site includes three 350,000-gallon tanks, another that holds more than 100,000 gallons and several smaller tanks. The onsite coordinator with the EPA said the fire affected a large tank containing diesel fuel and a tanker truck carrying gasoline. Fire officials believe the blaze began in a tanker rail car as it was being fueled or emptied and then spread to three other tanker cars.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20090827/METRO01/908270467/Chemical-fire-burning-at-Hamtramck-oil-facility/?imw=Y>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *August 28, Highlands Today* – (Florida) **Hazmat crews clean up Hendry County spill.** Roads were closed for five hours Thursday in Hendry County as hazmat crews cleaned up manganese nitrate and iron nitrate that fell from a Lake Placid truck driver’s rig. The truck was hauling two tanks containing the fertilizers northbound on U.S. 27. As he turned onto State Road 80, the tanks fell from the trailer and spilled several hundred gallons of the chemicals onto the road, according to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). The southbound lanes of U.S. 27 and the eastbound lane of SR 80 were closed as hazmat teams came to the scene at noon to start the cleanup. By 3 p.m., the southbound U.S. 27 lanes were reopened, but motorists were advised to use caution as they entered the area. The hazmat team and the Department of Environmental Protection said there is no danger to the public, according to the FHP. There were no injuries reported, but the driver was charged with failure to secure a load by the Department of Transportation’s Motor Carrier Compliance.

Source: <http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2009/aug/28/la-hazmat-crews-clean-up-hendry-county-spill/>

7. *August 26, WNEP 16 Scranton* – (Pennsylvania) **Two hurt in explosion.** Two workers were hurt in an explosion at a plant in Luzerne County Wednesday afternoon. Police said a gas explosion happened in a building at Western International Gas and Cylinders in Salem Township near Berwick around 1 p.m. Police said witnesses told them the force was so powerful the roof of the building came up ten feet. Police do not yet know what caused the explosion. They said two employees were painting inside the building when a tank exploded. Authorities said one of the employees may have suffered internal injuries after being thrown to the ground. He was flown to Geisinger Medical Center near Danville. The other employee was taken by ambulance after suffering a burn to his hand. The fire was out when emergency crews arrived. The company, which is based in Texas, makes acetylene and propylene gas at the Salem Township facility. A state police fire marshal is expected to investigate how the explosion happened.
Source: <http://www.wnep.com/wnep-luz-two-hurt-explosion,0,2398497.story>

For another story, see item [5](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *August 28, Reuters* – (New York) **Entergy NY Indian Point 3 reactor shut after trip.** Entergy Corp's (ETR.N) 1,025-megawatt Indian Point 3 nuclear power unit in New York was shut early Friday after an automatic reactor trip due to a turbine trip, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in separate reports.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2835761120090828>
9. *August 27, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Pennsylvania) **NRC issues final safety evaluation report for Susquehanna nuclear power plant license renewal.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued its final safety evaluation report (SER) for the proposed renewal of the operating licenses for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, and concluded that there are no open items that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation. The report documents the results of the NRC staff's review of the license renewal application and site audits of the plant's aging management programs to address the safety of plant operations during the period of extended operation. It represents the culmination of NRC's comprehensive review of the application and inspection of the plant to verify license renewal implementation is consistent with the application. Overall, the results show that the applicant has identified actions that have been or will be taken to manage the effects of aging in the appropriate safety systems, structures and components of the plant and that their functions will be maintained during the period of extended

operation.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-142.html>

10. *August 27, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Leaking pipe removed at oldest US nuclear plant.** Workers have safely removed a leaking pipe at the nation's oldest nuclear power plant, the Oyster Creek Generating Station in New Jersey. Oyster Creek reduced its power capacity by about 50 percent while repairs were being done and continued to operate at that level Thursday. Soil samples revealed the condensation water leaking from the 25-foot section of underground pipe contained small amounts of tritium, a naturally occurring radioactive form of hydrogen. A plant spokesman and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission say there was no danger to workers or the public near the plant in Lacey Township, about 60 miles east of Philadelphia and 75 miles south of New York City.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gmhO4gEsWij8AF3hFFIT6zXrjW-wD9ABJO300>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *August 27, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Frigidaire and Kenmore Smoothtop electric ranges recalled due to fire hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation Frigidaire and Kenmore Elite Smoothtop, on August 27 announced a voluntary recall of about 200,000 Frigidaire and Kenmore Elite Smoothtop Electric Ranges. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Depending on the model, the surface heating elements can: 1) turn on spontaneously without being switched on; 2) fail to turn off after being switched off; or, 3) heat to different temperatures than selected. This poses a fire and burn hazard to consumers. Frigidaire has received 126 reports of incidents, including four reports of minor burns and two reports of minor property damage. This recall involves Frigidaire, Frigidaire Gallery, Frigidaire Professional, and Kenmore Elite smoothtop electric ranges with rotary knobs and digital displays.
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09333.html>

12. *August 27, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **Chemical spill at Kerite prompts evacuation.** A chemical spill at the Kerite Co. in Seymour, Connecticut led to the evacuation of some of its employees on August 27 and visits from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). About 22 gallons of organic hydroxide spilled at the Day Street site and contaminated an area of the facility, a DEP spokesman said. It is the same substance that caused problems there in March, he said, but then it ignited while on August 27 it did not. "Since [the March incident] they made improvements to the process so that can't happen again by using it in a controlled-temperature area," he said. On August 27, the fluid leaked out of a crack in a pipe, but it did not ignite because of those changes, he said. Kerite is a subsidiary of Hubble Inc. and manufactures cables used to transmit electricity. It is located on Route 67 near the

Route 8 interchange at exit 22. A faulty batch of the organic peroxide is thought to have caused two fires at the plant in March. At that time, the facility was evacuated and Route 67 shut down to traffic for several hours while firefighters dealt with the problem. The road did not have to be closed Thursday though entrances to the facility were blocked off by firefighters.

Source: http://www.connpost.com/ci_13216522

13. *August 26, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Equipment damaged in Tenneco plant fire.** A fire that occurred late Tuesday, Aug. 25, at Tenneco, an auto parts supplier, was mostly contained to a piece of equipment inside of one of the company's buildings, according to the Kettering fire marshal. Fire crews were dispatched to the two-alarm fire on Woodman Drive in Kettering, Ohio, about 10:19 p.m., on a report of a fire at or near Building 12 on the grounds of the facility. Fire crews reported about 10:45 p.m. that the fire had been extinguished. There was no damage to the building. The equipment in question is known as a screw machine and is used to make suspension parts for Camaros, the fire marshal said. The machine contained more than 200 gallons of cutting oil, which is sprayed on materials to cool them. Fire investigators believe the coolant somehow ignited, thus causing the machine to go up in flames. Fire investigators believe the estimated damage cost to the machine could be up to \$300,000.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/equipment-damaged-in-tenneco-plant-fire-266102.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *August 27, Associated Press* – (Kentucky; Tennessee) **Contractor accused of threats on witnesses.** A military contractor under investigation on allegations he over-billed and did faulty repair work on Navy and Army aircraft has been charged with threatening to kill witnesses in the case, according to a complaint unsealed August 27. The owner of Shaw Aero Instruments in Louisville traveled to Tennessee to buy explosives as part of a plot to blow up his former business partner's plane, according to an affidavit filed in federal court by an investigator for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). In the affidavit and in testimony, it was revealed that the department has been investigating the man for three years for allegedly defective repair work on Navy fighter jets and Navy Seahawk and Army Blackhawk helicopters. He has not been charged in the contracting investigation. The DOD investigation also focuses on allegations that he billed for work not done on the LN-93 Laser Navigation System, which is used on the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. The investigator said the man is also accused of telling employees to fraudulently repair solid state gyros, which are used to measure and maintain stability in Blackhawk and Seahawk helicopters. Both allegations stem from an investigation into whether he did defective repair work on the inertial navigation system for F-5 jets used by the Navy to train pilots.

Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/08/ap_contractor_accused_082709/

Banking and Finance Sector

15. *August 28, St. Louis Business Journal* – (National) **Banks on FDIC’s problem list top 400.** The FDIC added 111 banks to its “Problem List” in the second quarter. At the end of June, there were 416 insured institutions on the list, up from 305 on March 31. This is the largest number of institutions on the list since June 30, 1994, when there were 434 institutions on the list, according to the government fund that protects consumer deposits. Total assets of problem institutions increased during the quarter from \$220 billion to \$299.8 billion, the highest level since December 31, 1993. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. does not name the problem banks. Deteriorating loan quality in the second quarter continued to hamper commercial banks and savings institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., sending them to a multi-billion-dollar loss. Banks insured by FDIC posted a loss of \$3.7 billion in the second quarter, the FDIC said on August 27. This compares with a \$4.8 billion profit in the second quarter of 2008. And more than 28 percent of all insured institutions reported a loss in the second quarter, compared with 18 percent a year earlier.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2009/08/24/daily57.html>

16. *August 27, ZDNet* – (National) **Hackers mailing malware-infested CDs to banks.** Reminiscent of the days when viruses were distributed on floppy disks, cybercriminals are currently mailing infected CDs to credit unions and smaller banks as part of a clever offline scheme to load malicious software into computers with valuable data. According to an alert issued by the National Credit Union Association, a credit union reported receiving a bogus fraud advisory accompanied by two compact discs. The letter advises credit unions to review training material (contained on the CDs). Doing so could result in a possible security breach to a user’s computer system, or have other adverse consequences. The letter contains several spelling and grammatical errors but, as a researcher points out, this low-tech attack method can be highly effective because smaller businesses are not properly equipped and educated to deal with these types of threats.

Source: <http://blogs.zdnet.com/security/?p=4121>

17. *August 27, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Stanford Financial Group CFO pleads guilty to charges related to \$7 billion scheme to defraud investors.** The former chief financial officer of Houston-based Stanford Financial Group (SFG) pleaded guilty Thursday to fraud and obstruction charges related to a \$7 billion scheme to defraud investors. The former chief was charged in a criminal information, filed on June 18, 2009, with conspiracy to commit mail, wire and securities fraud; mail fraud; and conspiracy to obstruct a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigation. According to the plea documents, the former chief admitted that as part of the scheme, he and his co-conspirators defrauded investors who purchased approximately \$7 billion in certificates of deposit (CDs) administered by Stanford International Bank Ltd. (SIBL), an offshore bank located on the island of Antigua. He further admitted that he and his co-conspirators misused and misappropriated most of

those investor assets, including by diverting more than \$1.6 billion into undisclosed personal loans to a co-conspirator, while misrepresenting to investors SIBL's financial condition, its investment strategy and the extent of its regulatory oversight by Antigua authorities. According to the plea documents, the former chief and his co-conspirators began in 1990 to make false entries into the general ledgers of SIBL relating to revenues and revenue balances.

Source: <http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2009/August/09-ag-880.html>

18. *August 27, The Register* – (International) **Trojan zaps banking credentials via IM.** Instant messaging is being adopted by a growing number of banking malware applications, which zap pilfered credentials to thieves in real time. The latest entrant is Zeus, a trojan that monitors an infected PC for passwords entered into banking websites and other financial services. Over the past three months, investigators from RSA FraudAction Research Lab have observed the program, which also goes by the name Torpig and Mebroot, using the Jabber IM protocol to make sure the most valuable credentials do not get lost in the shuffle. The move signals the growing focus on immediacy among scammers as they try to counter the increased use of measures designed to detect and prevent banking fraud. “One of the things that has definitely changed in recent times is that the half life of a stolen credential is decreasing,” said a senior manager for identity protection and verification at RSA, a division of EMC. “There is definitely a sense of urgency of the part of these fraudsters about using the credential.” Previously, Zeus uploaded the credentials to a drop server database, which scammers periodically checked. The new method employs PHP scripts that automatically send credentials as soon as they are intercepted. That allows thieves to retrieve the information much more quickly than would otherwise be possible. It also allows retrieval even when crooks, many of whom do not always have reliable net connections, do not have access to the server hosting the drop. As a growing number of banks adopt the use of one-time passwords, the need for speedier delivery mechanisms is growing. Instant messaging makes it possible for thieves to thwart such measures by, in some cases, allowing them to silently make transactions while a victim is still logged in to an online bank. A competing trojan known as Sinowal has used similar methods since last year, RSA researchers said.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/08/27/zeus_adopts_instant_messaging/

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Transportation Sector

19. *August 28, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **2 workers sent to hospital in Mishap at Va. rail yard.** Two Metro mechanics were transported to the hospital Wednesday night after a two-car train struck the rail cars they were working on at the West Falls Church rail yard, the transit agency said Thursday. The accident happened about 6 p.m., when an operator was moving a train into the shop at a “very slow speed,” said a Metro spokeswoman. A preliminary investigation indicates that “a contributing factor” might have been too much grease on the tracks, she said. “It was a very minor thing,” the spokeswoman said. “It’s kind of like if your bumper is hit. It happens occasionally...It

looks like the train just slid into the other one.” Both men, who were servicing rail car doors, were taken to a hospital “as a precaution” and released after an examination. Pending an internal investigation, four employees are on paid administrative leave. Besides the two men who went to the hospital, the mechanic operating the striking train and another mechanic inside that train were both given drug and alcohol tests. They will stay off the job while investigators determine whether anyone acted improperly, she said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/27/AR2009082701769.html>

20. *August 28, WXIA 11 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Naked man hijacks school bus.** Parents are calling for better security on school buses. During the afternoon of August 27 in southeast Atlanta, a naked man tried to hijack an Atlanta school bus that had ten teenaged students aboard, on their way home from Forrest Hill Academy. Most of the students jumped off, while the bus was still rolling. One of the students tried to take control of the steering wheel and fought with the attacker. “[The attacker] approached the driver side of the bus and attempted to enter the bus through the window,” said an Atlanta police sergeant in a statement e-mailed to news outlets the night of August 27. “After a short altercation at the window, the male was able to enter the bus through the window by overpowering the bus driver. The suspect took control of the bus and then while the bus was in motion left the steering wheel and went after the bus driver, who had fled to the rear of the bus with students.” A parent of one of the students on the bus said the attacker swung at some of the students. Police said one of the students tried to get control of the steering wheel while others were jumping off. “A student attempted to take control,” said the sergeant, “however, the suspect saw the student’s actions and began fighting with the student. The school bus continued in motion, left the roadway and crashed into a wall about 175 feet off the roadway.” Several bystanders rushed to the bus and caught the man as he tried to run away. Three of the ten students went to Grady Hospital with possible injuries. An unknown number, plus the bus driver, went to Atlanta Medical Center. “I think they need to hire more people to help on those buses. Just get some more parents to volunteer or anything to help prevent this from happening again,” said a parent of one of the students on the bus.

Source: <http://www.11alive.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=134472&catid=3>

21. *August 27, KFDA 10 Amarillo* – (Texas) **Rick Husband Airport back open after being evacuated.** The Rick Husband International Airport in Amarillo was evacuated around 12:30 Thursday afternoon. The Amarillo Police Department’s bomb squad was called to the scene. Officials do not believe there are any explosives on the premises and the move was precautionary. The airport is back open at this time.

Source: <http://www.newschannel10.com/Global/story.asp?S=11002919>

22. *August 27, Tampa Bay Business Journal* – (National) **FAA investigating Southwest Airlines.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating Southwest Airlines after a routine inspection found that the airline had installed unauthorized parts on 46 of its planes. The Dallas-based carrier grounded those planes for several hours Saturday after the FAA’s inspection. The unauthorized part, known as a hinge fitting,

goes on the airplane's wing, an FAA spokesman said. The FAA determined that the unauthorized part "was not an immediate safety hazard," and it is working with Southwest to find a solution. Though the FAA found no immediate safety issue, Southwest temporarily grounded the planes anyway. The 46 planes in question represent close to 10 percent of Southwest's total fleet, but the airline would be able to accommodate passengers in the event that they were grounded. The company has extra planes available for contingencies.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2009/08/24/daily53.html>

23. *August 27, Agence France-Presse* – (National) **NTSB: Controller didn't warn plane in midair crash.** An air traffic controller should have warned the pilot of a small plane about aircraft in its path before it collided with a sightseeing helicopter over New York's Hudson River in a crash that claimed nine lives, federal officials said Thursday in making safety recommendations. The National Transportation Safety Board recommended that helicopters and small planes be separated in the busy air corridor where the collision occurred, a low-altitude pathway used by about 200 helicopters and small planes daily. The call for fast-moving planes to operate at a higher altitude than helicopters is one of five safety recommendations the NTSB issued Thursday in a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration. A second recommendation called on the FAA to emphasize the need for air traffic controllers to remain attentive, a clear rebuke to the controller responsible for the single-engine Piper that hit the helicopter August 8. Questionable behavior during the incident led to the suspension of the controller and his supervisor at Teterboro Airport in northern New Jersey, where the plane originated. The male controller was joking with a female friend by phone when the collision occurred. The controller's supervisor was running a personal errand and couldn't be found immediately afterward.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gCJN2Wyd01AZIxo0IYmr3QOOzBAAD9ABIKLG0>

For more stories, see items [5](#), [6](#), and [48](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *August 24, Livingston Daily Press and Argus* – (Michigan) **Charges sought in bottle bombings.** After receiving information from an unnamed source, the Unadilla Township Police Department said it identified a 15-year-old Stockbridge juvenile the week of August 17 as the person responsible for placing bottle bombs in two mailboxes on Roepke Road in August 2008. The incidents were also being investigated by U.S. postal inspectors. Officers are expected to submit criminal charges against the youth the week of August 24 in Ingham County Juvenile Court. Police declined to release additional information.

Source: <http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20090824/NEWS06/908240310>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

25. *August 28, Advocate* – (Louisiana) **Food distributor pleads guilty in '07 case.** Joe Christiana Food Distributors Inc., a Baton Rouge meat and poultry processor, pleaded guilty Thursday to three federal misdemeanor charges. Each of the charges involved hundreds of pounds of food products that either were stored under unsanitary conditions or improperly marked as inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January 2007, an Assistant U.S. Attorney said. There was no evidence that any tainted poultry, beef or pork reached consumers, a U.S. Attorney said, as all of the suspect products were confiscated and destroyed. The company's president entered the guilty pleas on behalf of the firm and agreed to immediately pay fines totaling \$20,000 and restitution of \$11,529 to the USDA.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/55596712.html>

For another story, see item [44](#)

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Water Sector

26. *August 28, Pacific Daily News* – (Guam) **Treatment plant down for weekend.** Residents in southern Guam can expect little to no water the weekend of August 28 as Guam Waterworks Authority tries to clean the Ugum Water Treatment Plant. Waterworks announced on August 27 it will shut down the Inarajan water treatment plant from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Monday to clean the 40-foot reservoir. This means low to no water from the intersection of Route 4 and Route 17, Ipan Talafofo, Malojloj, Inarajan, Merizo, and Umatac, a Waterworks news release said. The release said Waterworks has found it necessary to close the water treatment plant because of severe rainy weather over the last several weeks. The Waterworks safety and compliance officer said in the release that the agency submitted paperwork for the shutdown to the Guam Environmental Protection Agency earlier the week of August 24. He said the plan is to close the tank down for 24 hours and drain it through the community's regular usage. Once the tank is empty, Waterworks will perform a tank disinfection procedure as outlined by the American Water Works Association. For weeks, harsh weather has caused water troubles for the southern villages. As high rainfall during each year's rainy season muddies the Ugum River, the high sediment levels in the river can clog the facility's filters, leading to shutdowns. Since August 24, residents in southern Guam have been instructed to boil their tap water. GWA issued the boil-water notice due to turbidity, or water cloudiness, issues at the Ugum Water Treatment Plant. Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

Source:

<http://www.guampdn.com/article/20090828/NEWS01/908280303/1002/Treatment-plant-down-for-weekend>

27. *August 27, Water Technology Online* – (California) **Whopping price tag to fix CA Delta: report.** A comprehensive fix of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a significant water delivery system in California, could cost as much as \$54 billion, according to a consulting economist who was scheduled to present his finding to state lawmakers on August 25, a Contra Costa Times article reported. The economist for the first time pulled together potential costs of different pieces of the proposed plan to rehabilitate the Delta. The plan includes storing and moving water, offsetting environmental damage from those projects, and restoring habitat. He said his estimates for the projects, which are supported by the governor and many of the state’s largest water agencies, are preliminary, but are between \$23 billion and \$54 billion, the Contra Costa Times article said. He calculated that the annual cost to state taxpayers to finance such a massive package of public works projects could run from \$1.5 billion to \$3.4 billion for projects paid for through water rates, and \$416 million a year to repay general obligation bonds. An unnamed top water industry representative told reporters the numbers were not surprising, noting earlier generations spent about \$50 billion in today’s dollars to build the state’s existing water delivery projects, the article said. California lawmakers were set to address the state’s water supply and environmental crises this year, but the state’s budget mess sidetracked their efforts. Now that the budget is done and their legislative session is winding down, they are pursuing both issues with a package of bills designed to address Delta concerns, according to the newspaper. The story says it is unclear whether the package can pass.
Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72488

28. *August 27, Reuters* – (Wyoming) **U.S. finds water polluted near gas-drilling sites.** U.S. government scientists have for the first time found chemical contaminants in drinking water wells near natural gas drilling operations, fueling concern that a gas-extraction technique is endangering the health of people who live close to drilling rigs. The Environmental Protection Agency found chemicals that researchers say may cause illnesses including cancer, kidney failure, anemia and fertility problems in water from 11 of 39 wells tested around the Wyoming town of Pavillion in March and May this year. The report issued this month did not reach a conclusion about the cause of contamination but named gas drilling as a potential source. Gas drilling companies say the gas drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” is safe, but opponents contend it pollutes groundwater with dangerous substances. Evidence of a link between gas drilling and water contamination would set back development of a clean-burning fuel promoted by the Presidential Administration as crucial to the future of U.S. energy production. Some experts believe the United States holds more than 100 years worth of natural gas reserves. The new findings may raise questions about the process companies such as EnCana Corp., Halliburton Co., and others commonly use to pump the gas from deep geological formations. Encana, Canada’s biggest energy company, is drilling in Pavillion.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN27311701>

29. *August 27, North Shore Sunday* – (Massachusetts) **No relief in sight for boil water order in Gloucester.** Gloucester, Massachusetts remains under a strict boil water order and outdoor water ban, with city officials constantly revising a lift date as water tests

continue to return with traces of coliform bacteria. Residents and business owners have adapted to the crisis by boiling their water or buying it from local supermarkets. Except for Dunkin' Donuts and Lone Gull Coffee House, all other businesses have remained open throughout the situation. Friday marks a full week Gloucester has been under the boil water order at the request of the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Consecutive water test results showing higher than normal levels of coliform in the drinking water spurred the department's order on Friday, August 21. Since then, city officials have scrambled to return water quality back to normal and raise water levels at the Bond Hill storage facility. No officials have been able to say when the boil water order would be lifted, nor the root cause of the crisis. The city's water supply must have two consecutive days of no hits of total coliform bacteria levels before any boil water order can be lifted.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/northshoresunday/news/x1886188845/No-relief-in-sight-for-boil-water-order-in-Gloucester>

For another story, see item [3](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *August 27, USA Today* – (International) **Scientists can track progress of H1N1 flu in detail.** The discovery of swine flu in Mexico this spring has triggered an unprecedented effort to penetrate the virus' genetic secrets to figure out where it came from, where it's spreading and what it might do next. An analysis of genetic sequences posted on the government's GenBank website shows that by Monday, researchers had posted detailed genetic information on nearly 1,400 viruses taken from patients in more than 30 countries, from China to Argentina. "Never before have we been able to track the spread of a viral infection in such detail," said a microbiologist at Columbia University. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-08-26-swine-flu-evolution_N.htm

31. *August 26, U.S Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **FDA warns about stolen insulin.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reminding the public that stolen vials of the long-acting insulin Levemir made by Novo Nordisk Inc. still may be on the market. Evidence gathered to date suggests that the stolen insulin was not stored and handled properly and may be dangerous for people to use. The FDA has received multiple reports of patients who suffered an adverse event due to poor control of glucose levels after using a vial from one of the stolen lots. When the FDA first alerted the public to the theft in June, it reported that three lots of Levemir totaling 129,000 vials had been stolen in North Carolina. So far only about 2 percent of the total amount stolen has been recovered.

Source:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm180239.htm>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *August 28, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Fuel tank falls from Marine helicopter into ocean.** Authorities say a Marine helicopter dropped a fuel tank in the Atlantic Ocean off the southeastern North Carolina coast, spilling 100 to 200 gallons of fuel into the water. The Star-News of Wilmington reported that the Surf City assistant fire chief said the tank fell out of the CH53 helicopter early Thursday afternoon. Witnesses on the beach said they saw the tank hit the water and an oil slick form. Officials believe the oil dissipated in approximately 30 minutes and should have no effect on fish and birds. Town workers found a few small pieces of the tank, which they say was a spare fuel tank in the helicopter. The assistant fire chief said town workers are monitoring the area to see if the tank washes ashore.
Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2009/aug/28/fuel-tank-falls-marine-helicopter-ocean/>
33. *August 28, Charleston Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Terrorism disaster drill readied.** Traffic around the Naval Weapons Station on Monday is expected to be tied up for a disaster drill involving a simulated terror attack. The drill will run from 8 a.m. until noon. The public is being advised days ahead of time that it is an exercise and not an actual emergency. All traffic on the Naval Weapons Station, to include Red Bank Road, could be delayed and controlled during the event. All vehicles will be inspected. Officials are not releasing what the terror scenario will be ahead of time, but as many as 80 actors who will be playing dead or injured people are expected to be involved. As part of the drill, security personnel will place barricades on Red Bank Road at the intersection of Red Bank and Pomplant Access Road, and at Red Bank and Bushy Park Road. All of the barriers will be placed on Naval Weapons Station federal property. The exercise will be conducted in its entirety on Naval Weapons Station Charleston. It is designed to let personnel from the base, as well as various local, county, state and federal agencies, demonstrate their training and ability to react to a disaster. Businesses around the area are also being informed of what to expect.
Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/aug/28/terrorism-disaster-drill-readied/>
34. *August 27, IDG News Service* – (National) **FBI investigating laptops sent to U.S. governors.** There may be a new type of Trojan Horse attack to worry about. The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation is trying to figure out who is sending laptop computers to state governors across the United States, including the West Virginia governor and Wyoming governor. Some state officials are worried that they may contain malicious software. According to sources familiar with the investigation, other states have been targeted too, with HP laptops mysteriously ordered for officials in 10 states. Four of the orders were delivered, while the remaining six were intercepted, according to a source who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation. The West Virginia laptops were delivered to the governor's office several weeks ago, prompting state officials to contact police, according to the state's chief technology officer. "We were notified by the governor's office that they had received the laptops and they had not ordered them," he said. "We checked our records and we had not ordered them."

State officials in Vermont and Wyoming told him they have received similar unsolicited orders, he said. Although there is no evidence that the computers contain malicious code, HP confirmed on August 27 that there have been several such orders and that they have been linked to fraud. HP is working with law enforcement personnel on a criminal investigation. Criminals have tried to put malware on USB devices and then left them outside company offices, hoping someone would plug them into a computer and inadvertently install malicious software on the network. Many Windows systems are configured to automatically run software included on CDs and USB devices using a Windows feature called AutoRun. Many organized criminals would be happy to spend the cost of five PCs in order to access government computers, said the director of investigations with security consultancy Team Cymru.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/170970/fbi_investigating_laptops_sent_to_us_governors.html

35. *August 27, XETV 6 San Diego* – (California) **Two brush fires burning on Camp Pendleton.** Backfires were lit Thursday in an effort to contain two slow-moving brush fires at Camp Pendleton. The Whiskey Impact Area brush fire started around 1 p.m. Wednesday and has burned about 100 acres in the northeastern portion of the base, said a base spokeswoman. The Range 409 Impact Area fire also started Wednesday afternoon, south of the Whiskey fire, she said. The number of acres burned in the Range fire was not immediately available. Neither fire was threatening buildings, she said. Fires were intentionally set in front of the blazes Thursday in an effort to stop them from spreading, she said. Three Cal Fire helicopters and two San Diego County sheriff's helicopters were also helping in the fire fight. The cause of the fires was under investigation, she said.

Source: <http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/story/Camp-Pendleton-brush-fires-San-Diego/wOEKpLQdGECEhZ8-oj4YDw.csp>

36. *August 26, KIFI 8 Idaho Falls* – (Idaho) **No contamination at INL site.** Emergency crews stood down at the Idaho National Laboratory Tuesday afternoon when a cylinder suspected of leaking toxic gas was placed in a safe condition. The incident happened around 11 a.m. at the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC) located about 33 miles west of Idaho Falls. A hazardous materials team determined there was no contamination in the facility and the air quality tests showed that hazardous material did not escape the building. The Idaho National Laboratory confirmed no one was injured. Eight Idaho Cleanup Project and one INL employee were in the immediate area. They were all evaluated by medical personnel and were cleared to return to work. The INL will continue to investigate the incident.

Source:

http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=10987898&nav=menu554_1_1

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *August 28, Hattiesburg American* – (National) **Officials: FEMA better prepared.** Since Hurricane Katrina roared through Mississippi in 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has spent \$9.5 billion to aid the state and its residents in their recovery. And agency officials say they are better prepared to handle another disaster. “Katrina taught us such a lesson that we couldn’t help but learn from it,” said a public affairs specialist with FEMA’s Mississippi office. “No one expected what happened with Katrina, but now, we have that as a benchmark in our minds.” With the hurricane season entering its peak and the fourth anniversary of the most costly hurricane in United States’ history coming Saturday, FEMA officials say they have taken measures to improve and enhance aid and recovery efforts. FEMA, which responds only at the behest of the state, also has taken steps to streamline and improve its procedures.
Source:
<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20090828/NEWS01/908280340/1002>

For another story, see item [49](#)

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Information Technology Sector

38. *August 28, Tech Herald* – (International) **Symantec discovers Trojan targeting Skype users.** Early on August 27, Symantec issued an advisory that they have discovered the availability of source code for a Trojan that targets Skype users. The Trojan, once installed on a system, has the ability to record conversations in progress, and transmit the recording to a third party. The Trojan is being called Trojan.Peskyspy, and can be delivered in any number of ways, including email links and social engineering attacks, where a user is tricked into downloading and installing an application. The Trojan is targeting Windows API hooks, a technique used to alter the planned behavior of an application, which Microsoft has intended to be used by audio applications. The Trojan compromises the machine and then through the hooking technique is able to eavesdrop on a conversation before it even reaches Skype, or any other audio application. Once a machine has been compromised, the Skype Trojan can use an application that handles audio processing within a computer and save the call data as an MP3 file. This MP3 is then sent over the Internet to a predefined server where the attacker can then listen to the recorded conversations. The MP3 is stored locally and encrypted before it is sent off. “Recording the call as an MP3 keeps the size of the audio files low and means there is less data to be transferred over the network, helping to speed up the transfer and avoid detection,” Symantec said in their alert. Presently, Symantec is calling the risk posed by this threat quite low, as they have not seen any evidence of compiled versions of the Trojan moving around online.
Source: <http://www.thetechherald.com/article.php/200935/4325/Breaking-Symantec-discovers-Trojan-targeting-Skype-users>

39. *August 28, The Register* – (International) **Hackers serve up pre-release malware to Mac fanboys.** Virus slingers are taking advantage of the release of Apple’s Snow

Leopard operating system by offering malware from sites touting operating system upgrades. Dodgy sites supposedly offering Snow Leopard were rigged to push an Apple-specific DNS changer Trojan, detected by Trend Micro as JAHLAV-K. The malware is a MAC OS X mountable Disk Image file (.DMG) that comes contaminated with various malicious scripts, as explained here. Users infected with the Apple specific malware would find their internet connections redirected to phishing sites and other fraudulent endeavours. Some of these bogus sites hosted scareware (fake anti-virus) packages. Fake sites offering the Mac malware were in operation in the run-up to the release of Snow Leopard on August 28. There are more details in a blog on Trend Micro's website. A similar attack, detected earlier the week of August 24, offered malware in the guise of Foxit PDF Reader software for Apple Macs. The pirated version "Foxit Reader for Mac" comes loaded with the Jahlav Trojan horse, anti-virus firm Sophos warns. Foxit Reader is not yet officially available for Apple Macs. When it does come out, prospective users ought to use the official Foxit website, Foxit advises. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/08/28/fake_mac_software_malware/

40. *August 27, Network World* – (International) **Web attacks across globe appear linked, security researcher says.** Three significant waves of SQL injection attacks appear to be under the control of the same source, according to one security researcher. Roughly 80,000 Web sites in China, 67,000 in the U.S. and 40,000 in India remain compromised and under botnet control as a result of separate and ongoing SQL injection attacks. The highest infection point during the last three months reached into the millions at one point in China. The SQL injection attacks have inserted malicious iFrames into legitimate Web sites in order to force visitors off them and onto dangerous malware-laden sites. A senior security researcher at ScanSafe says she believes these three waves of SQL injection attacks are likely the handiwork of the same attacker because of the similarity of the domain-name registration information and style of attack. "It's the thread of the domain names being used," the researcher says. Seven of these "mal-domains," a term coined by the researcher to describe domain names used solely to build Internet infrastructure to spread malware or otherwise cause harm, were registered under the same name and address (which are clearly bogus, being not more than gibberish). These domain names are now apparently being farmed out across the world as part of the globally distinct attacks in China, U.S. and India. In this case, the identified domain names were registered using bogus information provided to registrar Go Daddy, which the researcher says is "highly unusual," since Go Daddy has a generally good reputation and attackers typically prefer "domain name providers that turn a blind eye."

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/082709-sql-attacks-linked.html>

41. *August 27, PCINews* – (International) **Is Worm.Deborm hiding in your LAN?** Computer worms, viruses, Trojans and other threats are increasingly looking for ways to exploit systems. Some of them actively try to break into a user's PC and others just patiently wait till the user provides the way to the system. But no matter how a threat finds its way into a PC; the most important thing is that as soon as one enters the system, the machine is at risk of being destroyed or otherwise negatively affected. That is the case with Deborm, a worm spreading itself without any user intervention.

Deborm has the ability to propagate itself via networks. In other words, Worm.Deborm spreads itself over a local area network (LAN) to any computers that have writable file shares. Once executed, Worm.Deborm will copy itself to a startup folder; as a result, it will automatically run upon reboot. This parasite has the ability to break simple passwords that are used either on the machine or when surfing the web. It is also important to note that Deborm worm will install a backdoor that will then allow a remote attacker access to a user's computer system. Through this backdoor cyber criminals will be able to download additional malware, execute suspicious and often malicious programs, as well as steal confidential personal and financial information. Worm.Deborm is known to be related to a file called malware.exe. It has many distinct variants with different MD5 signatures.

Source: <http://www.pc1news.com/news/0961/worm-deborm.html>

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

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@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

42. *August 27, IDG News Service* – (International) **New attack cracks common Wi-Fi encryption in a minute.** Computer scientists in Japan say they have developed a way to break the WPA encryption system used in wireless routers in about one minute. The attack gives hackers a way to read encrypted traffic sent between computers and certain types of routers that use the WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) encryption system. The attack was developed by two professors who plan to discuss further details at a technical conference set for September 25 in Hiroshima. In November 2008, security researchers first showed how WPA could be broken, but the Japanese researchers have taken the attack to a new level, according to the organizer of the PacSec security conference where the first WPA hack was demonstrated. “They took this stuff which was fairly theoretical and they’ve made it much more practical,” he said. The Japanese researchers discuss their attack in a paper presented at the Joint Workshop on Information Security, held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan earlier in August. The earlier attack, developed by two researchers, worked on a smaller range of WPA devices and took between 12 and 15 minutes to work. Both attacks work only on WPA systems that use the Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP) algorithm. They do not work on newer WPA 2 devices or on WPA systems that use the stronger Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9137177/New_attack_cracks_common_Wi_Fi_encryption_in_a_minute?taxonomyId=17

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Commercial Facilities Sector

43. *August 28, KIFI 8 Idaho Falls* – (Idaho) **Pipe bomb found at IF car dealership.** Workers at Stone’s used car dealership in Idaho Falls got quite the scare Thursday evening, after finding a pipe bomb in a car. A service technician first found the bomb at around 5:45 p.m. Thursday while performing a standard inspection of a Dodge Stratus purchased recently by Stone’s at an auction in Utah. The bomb was found in the trunk of the vehicle. Law enforcement was called immediately and Idaho Falls Police Department discharged their Bomb Squad immediately via robot. Upon further investigation, Bomb Squad officials were able to determine that the device was in fact a live pipe bomb. The police department will now investigate the remains of the device in hopes of finding any evidence regarding who may have made the bomb and why they put it in the car.
Source: http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11006398&nav=menu554_2_2
44. *August 27, NY1 News* – (New York) **Wall collapse forces building evacuation.** A four-story building in Manhattan was evacuated Thursday after an outer wall collapsed. Department of Buildings officials said the building on East 32nd Street in Kips Bay was in no danger of immediate collapse, although repairs to the wall will need to be made. The building houses a pizzeria and three floors of apartments. “There was a partial collapse of the parapet wall. We came out to investigate, we found structural problems with the entire building,” said the fire department. As of Thursday night, it was not known when people will be allowed back inside.
Source: http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/104849/wall-collapse-forces-building-evacuation/Default.aspx
45. *August 26, New Haven Independent* – (Connecticut) **Bomb scare empties downtown buildings.** New Haven’s City Hall and two office buildings were evacuated following a bomb scare at 2:07 p.m. on Wednesday, police said. An anonymous person called city police threatening to blow up the United Illuminating Company. The call was made from a payphone on Whalley Avenue, police said. Police evacuated two buildings that UI occupies and because City Hall is next door, City Hall was cleared out, too. By 4:30 p.m. a bomb squad sweep had found no bombs and workers were cleared to re-enter the buildings.
Source: http://newhavenindependent.org/archives/2009/08/downtown_bomb_s.php

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

46. *August 27, Whittier Daily News* – (California) **Firefighters get the upper hand on Morris Fire while Station Fire grows.** Firefighters got the upper hand Thursday against the largest of two raging wildfires, while the second expanded rapidly north of La Canada Flintridge under relentlessly scorching conditions. Weather did not let up on the third day of the Morris Fire above Azusa, creating an uncomfortable, triple-digit degree heat wave and dry environment for the blaze. The fire broke out Tuesday on the side of San Gabriel Canyon Road. Thanks to time and younger brush on the fire’s eastern flank, firefighters managed 60 percent containment of the 2,000-acre blaze, giving officials the chance to start thinking about the eventual final stages. More than 960 firefighters from several Southern California agencies worked the line, including personnel from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, U.S. Forest Service, CalFire and others. The blaze, which erupted near mile marker 29 on Angeles Crest Highway after 3 p.m. Wednesday, began the day at 50 acres and ballooned to 300 by 5 p.m. Thursday, officials said.
Source: http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_13219962

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Dams Sector

47. *August 27, Bend Bulletin* – (Oregon) **Downtown dam repairs continue.** Crews working for PacifiCorp began work Wednesday on the spillway at the 96-year-old Newport Dam on the Deschutes River in downtown Bend, Oregon. The Newport Dam generates 1 megawatt of electricity and holds back the water that forms Mirror Pond. Crews are continuing repairs that began in December, and they will be installing sheets of metal along the face of the dam in order to reduce the amount of water that leaks through, and to improve the regulation of water levels.
Source:
<http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090827/NEWS0107/908270399/-1/rss>
48. *August 27, Muskogee Phoenix* – (Oklahoma) **Repairs to begin on area lock and dam system.** A two-week shut-off of water at two locks on the Arkansas River Navigation System will have no impact on traffic at the Port of Muskogee, but failure to repair the locks could devastate port traffic in the long run, a port official said. Oklahoma Congressional leaders and legislators were scheduled to visit the “dewatering” at the Newt Graham Lock and Dam north of Muskogee on Thursday morning. Dewatering means water will be shut off at the locks to allow people to inspect the locks and make needed repairs at the Newt Graham site. The Chouteau Lock and Dam will undergo the same procedures when the Newt Graham project is completed. The director of the Muskogee City-County Port Authority, said the dewatering will not stop barges from coming to Muskogee. However, he said the locks had not been repaired since they opened in 1970. “If the locks don’t work, we cannot move barges to that section of the river,” he said. “And if you can’t maintain the system, the whole system is going to fail.” The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are dewatering, inspecting and repairing the

two locks, with costs amounting to nearly \$1.5 million.

Source: http://www.muskogeephoenix.com/local/local_story_240002402.html

49. *August 27, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Study of Hurricane Katrina’s dead show most were old, lived near levee breaches.** Four years later, researchers still count New Orleans’ Katrina dead, parsing them into categories, puzzling over exactly how each of the more than 1,400 victims perished — and what might be done to protect them the next time a big one rolls in off the Gulf. Their findings, though incomplete, jibe with common sense. The dead were overwhelmingly old. Most lived near the levee breaches in the 9th Ward and Lakeview. About two-thirds either drowned or died from illness or injury brought on by being trapped in houses surrounded by water. The rest died from maladies or injuries suffered in or exacerbated by an arduous evacuation — or an inability to evacuate quickly enough, including many who died in local hospitals that lost power and other life-sustaining services. Neither race nor gender made anyone more likely to die, only a failure to evacuate and a location near a levee breach. Emergency preparedness experts and government officials say the data reinforces the dire need for continuous improvement in the government’s evacuation apparatus, particularly for the area’s most frail, poor and often hardest-to-motivate residents. Ultimately, that strategy may be replaced by the construction of a fortress at home: a hurricane-resistant shelter that city officials want the federal government to finance. Some believe that tack could be cheaper, safer and easier for the city’s most vulnerable. Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/08/answers_are_scarce_in_study_of.html

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