



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 March 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports credit card and personal shopping information from customers of more than 100 DSW Shoe Warehouse stores was stolen from a DSW computer's database over the last three months. (See item [5](#))
- The Associated Press reports US Airways workers at Charlotte–Douglas International Airport discovered a bullet hole in a jet that had just flown from Mexico to Denver, then to Charlotte. (See item [11](#))
- The Canadian Press reports the Canadian military's intelligence arm warns in a report that avian influenza could be used as a weapon of bioterrorism. (See item [22](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information](#)

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://esisac.com>]

1. *March 09, Washington Post* — **Government forecasts record U.S. gas prices.** Gasoline prices are expected to hit record levels in coming months, peaking in May at an average of \$2.15 a gallon nationwide for regular, according to a government forecast released Tuesday, March 8. Average prices are expected to remain above \$2 a gallon until November, when they should dip below that level, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), an arm of the Department of Energy. Higher prices will slow the economy slightly, some economists predict.

"It'll tend to . . . slow consumer spending down a bit," said Peter Hooper, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank in New York. But, he added, "this kind of level of gasoline prices is not going to tank the economy." Crude oil prices have already climbed higher than their historic averages because of heavy demand, particularly from China, and tight supplies. Traders have been worried that if production is significantly disrupted in one part of the world, shortages could occur because there is little excess capacity elsewhere to pick up the slack. Analysts do not foresee shortages of gasoline, as some feared early last year when supplies appeared tight for the summer. EIA Website: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A18803-2005Mar 8.html>

2. *March 08, Sun-Sentinel (FL)* — **Bill seeks utility study to protect against storm outages.** A measure creating a nine-member task force to study how Florida's utility lines and equipment can be built to withstand hurricane-force winds more reliably drew unanimous committee approval from the Florida legislature Monday, March 7. Senate Bill 526 was first touted as a modest review of whether more power lines need to be built underground and whether electric companies should try to replace wooden power poles with concrete pillars. However, members of the Senate's Communications and Public Utilities Committee expanded the bill Monday to include a comprehensive review of all Florida utilities, including telephones, water, sewer, cable TV and electricity. "We want to learn how to deal with storm recoveries better to make sure that when there is a state of emergency, power and all the vital utility services can be restored quickly or never lost in the first place," said Senator Ron Klein, D-Boca Raton. Klein said the task force will study whether retrofitting existing distribution and transmission systems is cost-effective.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/legislature/sfl-fstorm08mar 08.0.5068427.story>

3. *March 08, Oil & Gas Journal* — **Nanotechnology promises energy security, supply.** Breakthroughs in nanotechnology could provide technologies that would contribute to worldwide energy security and supply, said a science policy study from Rice University. The report, released Tuesday, March 8, outlines the findings of a group of 50 U.S. scientists and others who gathered for a meeting at Rice in May 2003. The scientists advocated a nanoscience and energy research program, saying that it could provide more efficient, inexpensive, and environmentally sound technologies than are readily available. Research could be aimed at advances in solar powers, wind, clean coal, hydrogen, fusion, new generation fission reactors, fuel cells, batteries, hydrogen production, storage and transportation, and a new electrical grid that ties all the power sources together, they said. Report:

<http://www.rice.edu/energy/publications/energynanotechnology.html>

Source: http://ogj.pennnet.com/articles/article_display.cfm?Section=ONART&C=GenIn&ARTICLE_ID=222795&p=7

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *March 08, Boston Globe (MA)* — **Mercury contamination more widespread than thought in the Northeast.** Mercury contamination is more pervasive in New England than researchers previously believed, according to a study released Tuesday, March 8, entitled "Mercury Connections: The extent and effects of mercury pollution in northeastern North America." The

four-year study in the Northeastern United States and eastern Canada indicates significant levels of mercury in forest songbirds and other animals that researchers did not suspect were ingesting mercury. The study, comprising 21 papers being published in the journal *Ecotoxicology*, also identifies nine hot spots in the region. In some locations, the levels appear to be interfering with some species' reproduction. For years, scientists and public policy makers have focused on mercury that is emitted from power plants and incinerators and falls into lakes and ponds, where it is easily converted into its toxic form and becomes concentrated in the flesh of fish. Today's report indicates that the same type of toxic conversion may be happening on mountaintops and forests, with mercury falling out of the sky onto tree leaves and then dropping onto the moist forest floor. Tiny insects then take up the mercury, and as insects are eaten by larger creatures the mercury accumulates in greater concentrations up the food chain. Study: <http://briloon.org/mercury/BRIMercury.pdf>

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2005/03/08/higher_levels_of_mercury_seen_polluting_region/

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Credit information stolen from DSW stores.** Credit card information from customers of more than 100 DSW Shoe Warehouse stores was stolen from a DSW computer's database over the last three months, a lawyer for the national chain said Tuesday, March 8. The company discovered the theft of credit card and personal shopping information on Friday, March 4, and reported it to federal authorities, said Julie Davis, general counsel for the chain's parent, Retail Ventures Inc. The Secret Service is investigating, she said. DSW was alerted by a credit card company that noticed suspicious activity, she said. The information was stolen from a database for 103 of the chain's 175 stores. However, Internet sales from the chain's Website were not affected, Davis said. The number of credit cards involved was sizable, but the Secret Service could not provide a specific number, said Kurt Douglass, special agent in charge of the Cincinnati, OH, field office.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-DSW-Credit-Cards.html>

6. *March 09, Reuters* — **Consumer data stolen from Reed Elsevier unit.** Hackers have gained access to sensitive personal information of about 32,000 U.S. citizens on databases owned by publisher Reed Elsevier. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service are investigating, a company spokesperson said on Wednesday, March 9. Anglo-Dutch Reed Elsevier said the breach at its Seisint unit was found after a customer's billing complaint in the last week led to the discovery that an identity and password had been misappropriated. The information accessed included names, addresses, social security and driver's license numbers, but not credit history, medical records or financial information. Reed Elsevier said it is contacting the 32,000 people affected and offering them credit monitoring and other support to

detect any identity theft. Seisint, based in Boca Raton, FL, collects data from government agencies, building large databases and ways to extract information from them. Many of the company's customers are law enforcement agencies and financial institutions.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A19387-2005Mar 9.html>

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

Transportation Sector

7. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Teterboro reopened after jet overshoots runway.** New Jersey's Teterboro Airport reopened early Wednesday, March 9, just hours after a business jet landing there overshot a runway and stopped in snow and mud, the airport operator said. The two passengers and two crew members walked away, uninjured, from the Hawker aircraft after it landed at about 10:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, said Tony Ciavolella, a spokesperson for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the airport's operator. It was the second time in five weeks a jet failed to stop on a runway at Teterboro. Twenty people were injured last month when a larger plane skidded off a runway during an aborted takeoff, shot across a busy road and slammed into a warehouse. On Tuesday, the jet did not touch down soon enough so it did not have enough runway to stop; it came to rest 200 feet past the end of Runway 1, Ciavolella said. The jet was about 1,000 feet from the nearest road, he said. The jet, which had arrived from Columbus, OH, had minor damage and no airport structures were damaged, but the airport was closed immediately after the accident, he said.

Source: <http://www.nynewsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--planemishap0309mar09.0.7233281.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

8. *March 09, Department of Transportation* — **Grants for Nebraska airport safety.** Federal grants totaling approximately \$5.4 million will help enhance safety and expand capacity at airports in Nebraska, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced on Wednesday, March 9. Fifteen airports will receive money for projects that include rehabilitating and extending runways, constructing new runways and taxiways, acquiring land for future expansion, purchasing safety and snow removal equipment and building equipment storage structures. The funds come from the Airport Improvement Program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration. Among airports slated to receive grants is Lincoln Municipal — \$1.2 million to install airfield guidance signs, rehabilitate a runway, implement noise mitigation measures, enhance security and rehabilitate a taxiway, and \$332,500 to acquire snow removal equipment.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot4405.htm>

9. *March 09, Associated Press* — **FBI warns of 'special interest' aliens.** Director Robert Mueller told Congress on Tuesday, March 8, that people from countries with ties to al Qaeda have crossed into the United States from Mexico, using false identities. "We are concerned, Homeland Security is concerned about special interest aliens entering the United States," Mueller said, using a term for people from countries where al Qaeda is known to be active. Under questioning from Rep. John Culberson (R-TX), Mueller said he was aware of one route that takes people to Brazil, where they assume false identities, and then to Mexico before crossing the U.S. border. He also said that in some instances people with Middle Eastern names have adopted Hispanic last names before trying to get into the United States.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=514&e=6&u=/ap/20050308/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/fbi_mueller_1

10. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Security fees proposal would cost Northwest \$150 million a year.** Northwest Airlines estimates it would lose \$150 million a year under an administration proposal to increase security fees on airline tickets, the airline's chief executive said. After the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, airline passengers began paying a security fee of \$2.50 per flight segment and a maximum of \$10 on a roundtrip flight. The Bush administration is now proposing raising the segment fee to \$5.50 and capping the round-trip fee at \$16. Northwest has passenger hubs in Minneapolis, Memphis, and Detroit. The Air Transport Association, a trade group representing the big airlines, said the administration's proposal would increase the security fees by \$1.5 billion a year. The airlines would be responsible for paying those fees whether they collect them from passengers or pay them out of their own budgets.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-03-09-nwa-security_x.htm

11. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Bullet hole found in jet at North Carolina airport.** US Airways workers at Charlotte–Douglas International Airport discovered the bullet hole early Monday, March 7, or late Sunday March 6. The plane had flown from Mexico to Denver, then to Charlotte. The FBI, which is investigating, said there's nothing to indicate that terrorism is involved or that there was any malicious intent. FBI agents said the bullet hole could be the result of a hunting accident. Agents don't know where it was shot, but experts said the bullet didn't strike a critical area because the pilots would have received a warning indicator if it had. Aviation consultant Alan Winninger said this case demonstrates that many airports have blind spaces where someone could shoot at an airliner and not be seen. Puncture holes were found last December in a US Airways jet at Charlotte–Douglas International Airport as it was sitting at the gate. The FBI said it is still investigating the December incident and that nothing suggests the two incidents are related.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-03-09-plane-bullet_x.htm

12. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Hawaii airports get funding to buy bomb–detection equipment.** Airports on the Big Island and Kauai will be receiving a total of \$9.5 million from the federal government to expand their ability to screen luggage for explosive devices, U.S. Rep. Ed Case said Tuesday, March 8. Case said it was necessary to equip the airports with explosive screening devices because of growing terrorist threats in the Asia/Pacific region and the increased visitor traffic to Hawaii, which is currently enjoying a tourism boom. "Screening in Kona is woefully inadequate and that airport has been crying for additional (explosive detection system) machines for the past two years --- thus far without result," Case said. "The same is true for our airports on Maui and Kauai."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-03-09-hi-security_x.htm

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

13. *March 09, Agricultural Research Service* — **Walnut fungi resistance.** Walnuts, like several other kinds of crops, are vulnerable to attack by fungi called *Aspergillus flavus* and *A. parasiticus*. Both species can produce a natural compound called aflatoxin, which is thought to be carcinogenic. Though inspections ensure that the walnuts that make their way from orchards to the home are free of harmful levels of aflatoxin, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists want to do more to combat the fungi. For example, they've compared the *A. flavus* resistance of nearly a dozen leading kinds of English walnuts — the kind most widely marketed in the U.S. — and two species of black walnuts, which are less widely grown. These laboratory experiments showed that a popularly grown walnut known as Tulare was remarkably resistant to *Aspergillus*. Tulare walnuts contained one-and-one-half to two times more gallic acid than, for instance, Chico walnuts, the most *Aspergillus*-susceptible of the walnuts that the researchers tested. Earlier, scientists elsewhere had shown that gallic acid has antimicrobial effects. ARS scientists are likely the first to show that a crop susceptible to an aflatoxin-producing *Aspergillus* can actually prevent the *Aspergillus* from producing aflatoxin. Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

14. *March 09, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Biosecurity video available from USDA.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is offering a free 15-minute video on preventing Exotic Newcastle disease (END) and Avian influenza (AI) for small flock poultry owners and bird fanciers. The video, part of USDA's Biosecurity for the Birds campaign, is also available in DVD format. An outbreak of END in California and other western states in 2002 and 2003 resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of birds and cost taxpayers and bird owners hundreds of millions in eradication costs and lost poultry and jobs. Following the eradication of that outbreak, USDA created the Biosecurity for the Birds campaign to inform noncommercial poultry owners and bird fanciers about the signs of serious poultry diseases, to ask them to report sick birds, and to give them information on practicing backyard biosecurity to keep their birds safe and healthy. In addition to discussing how to recognize and report END and AI, the video includes tips to help bird owners prevent the spread of these and other avian diseases in the first place. Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2005/03/biovideo_vs.html

15. *March 07, Carnegie Institution* — **Invasive tree species infestation spotted in Hawaii.** By applying novel measurement techniques from a high-altitude aircraft, scientists detected two species of invading plants that are changing the ecology of rain forest near the Kilauea Volcano in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Lead author, Gregory Asner of the Carnegie Institution's Department of Global Ecology, explained: "We found chemical fingerprints from the plant leaves and used them to tell which species dominated specific areas. We employed the recently upgraded NASA Airborne Visible and Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (AVIRIS) to measure leaf nitrogen and water content from the aircraft, and corroborated the data on the ground. The fingerprints showed where the native dominant tree 'ohia' (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) has been taken over by the invading Canary Islands tree, *Myrica faya*, and more importantly identified areas where *Myrica* invasion is in its early stages. The aircraft imagery also showed us how the forest canopy chemistry is changing as a result of the invader." The new methods are exciting because they detect effects of biological invasions on ecosystems, not just the presence of an invader. The fact that the new techniques allowed the scientists to detect

an invader before it dominated the landscape is important to future management strategies.

Source: http://carnegieinstitution.org/news_releases/news_050307.htm

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

Food Sector

16. *March 09, Triangle Business Journal (NC)* — **Pork recalled in North Carolina.** CH Clark & Son Inc., a North Carolina firm, has voluntarily recalled nearly 300 pounds of unskinned pork barbecue that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The recall was initiated after samples collected by the North Carolina Meat and Poultry Inspection Service staff during routine inspections tested positive for the bacteria *Listeria monocytogenes*. The product was distributed to restaurants in New Hanover and Pender counties. No product was sold at retail stores. Consuming food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.

Source: <http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2005/03/07/daily18.html>

17. *March 09, WHIO-TV (OH)* — **Sandwiches recalled in Midwest.** A Michigan company is recalling its submarine sandwiches because the meat used in the subs may be contaminated with listeria. Eastside Deli Supply is recalling its beef and cheese subs sold in convenience stores in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/money/4267761/detail.html>

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

Water Sector

18. *March 09, Associated Press* — **Petroleum found in Idaho aquifer under train depot.**

Petroleum has been found in the aquifer below the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway refueling platform near Rathdrum, ID, but more tests are needed before the contamination can be linked to the railroad operation, authorities said. The leak was found Monday, February 14, and an earlier leak was shown to have contaminated groundwater in December 2004, albeit at levels too low to endanger human health, said Mark Kalbaugh, site manager for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. At the state agency's request, operations at the depot halted two weeks ago and will not resume until the completion of a hearing on the closure set for April 5, railroad spokesperson Gus Melonas said. The \$42 million depot, which opened September 1, 2004, lies atop an aquifer that is the sole source of drinking water for 400,000 people ranging from Coeur d'Alene, ID, to Spokane, WA. The company is continuing to make repairs, focusing on the 35,000-square-foot refueling platform and replacing pipe seals. Officials said they also were considering an overhaul of the fuel containment system.

Source: <http://www.kgw.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D88NBETO0.html>

19. *March 09, Environmental Protection Agency* — **Report assesses water along U.S.–Mexico border.** The Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB), an independent advisory committee managed by EPA that oversees water sources on the U.S.–Mexico border, reported Wednesday, March 9, in a news release from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that

officials need to act strategically to protect border water sources. According to the report, limited supplies, pockets of poverty, a combination of jurisdictional gaps and overlaps, and many other challenging issues all conspire to make water resources management in the border region difficult. To better manage the region's water resources, GNEB is recommending clarification of current responsibilities held by U.S.–Mexico border–region institutions responsible for managing water resources, development of formal U.S.–Mexico border–region water resources data agreements, and the implementation of a five–year U.S.–Mexico border–region integrated water resources planning process. Report:

<http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb/gneb8threport/gneb8threport.pdf>

Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/b1ab9f485b098972852562e7004dc686/599513ec577c091085256fbe005b8d95!OpenDocument>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

20. *March 09, Reuters* — **Vietnam confirms bird flu carriers.** Two elderly Vietnamese relatives of people who died of bird flu have tested positive for the virus despite showing no symptoms, health officials said Wednesday, March 9. Both lived in the northern province of Thai Binh, where a cluster of cases is causing great concern about the possibility of human–to–human transmission of the H5N1 virus, which experts fear could mutate into a form which could cause a pandemic. For one of the symptom–free carriers of the virus, a 61–year–old woman, the only link established to the disease was her husband, who died of bird flu on February 24. The other, the 81–year–old grandfather of a brother and sister who contracted the disease, drank raw duck blood during the Tet Lunar New Year festivities last month, health officials in his village said. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=7849203>
21. *March 08, Information Week* — **Facing flu crisis, CDC sped development of system to allocate vaccines.** When contamination of flu vaccine from a major European supplier, Chiron Corp., last fall resulted in a shortfall of nearly 50 million doses for the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) needed to react quickly. An important piece of the CDC's response was figuring out how to redeploy shipments of vaccine from a second supplier to U.S. states and cities that had the worst shortages. To tackle the crisis, CDC accelerated development of software that had been part of a broader, multiyear IT project dubbed the "counter–measure response system." Specifically, it ramped up development of "flu vaccine–finder" applications, which helped the CDC, U.S. public health departments, and the vaccine maker and its distributors find where there were inventories of flu vaccine, where there were shortages, and help reposition shipments to where they were most needed. The systems used to help tackle the flu shortage are also being broadened to help manage other public–health crises, including naturally occurring diseases or bioterrorism. Source: <http://informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=60407729>
22. *March 08, Canadian Press* — **Avian influenza could be used as weapon, Canadian military warns.** The Canadian military's intelligence arm has warned the federal government that avian influenza could be used as a weapon of bioterrorism, a report suggests. The report, entitled Recent Human Outbreaks of Avian Influenza and Potential Biological Warfare Implications, was obtained under the Access to Information Act by The Canadian Press. The report outlines

in broad terms the methods that could be used to develop a manmade strain of influenza capable of triggering a human flu pandemic. It notes a method called "passaging," while not entirely predictable, could be a "potentially highly effective" way to push a virus to develop virulence. "Such forced antigenic shifts could be attempted in a biological weapons program," says the report, dated December 8, 2004. There is debate among infectious disease experts whether influenza would make a good bioterrorism agent. For one thing, once released, the virus would not discriminate between friend or foe. Terrorists would be as likely to fall ill and die as those they hoped to target. The report also raises the specter of a pandemic strain engineered in a laboratory using reverse genetics.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/health/story.html?id=cf20c021-2153-4b60-9924-38655b4d9e1f>

23. *March 08, Boston University* — **Computational tool predicts how drugs work in cells.** The ability to select and develop compounds that act on specific cellular targets has just gained a computational ally — a mathematical algorithm that predicts the precise effects a given compound will have on a cell's molecular components or chemical processes. Using this tool, drug developers can design compounds that will act on only desired gene and protein targets, eliciting therapeutic responses free of unwanted side effects. Although drug development is an active field of research, there have been few ways to predict optimal drug design. The molecular targets of many drug candidates are unknown and are often difficult to tease out from among the thousands of gene products found in a typical organism. This means that the process of designing therapeutic drugs is neither precise nor efficient. The researchers used a combination of computational and experimental methods to build and verify their tool, first using a reverse-engineering approach to decipher the multitude of regulatory networks operating among genes in a simple organism, then testing the ability of the resulting network models to predict gene and pathway targets for a variety of drug treatments. Finally, they used the tool to predict the molecular targets of a potential new anticancer compound.

Source: <http://www.bu.edu/phpbin/news/releases/display.php?id=877>

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

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Emergency Services Sector

24. *March 09, Daily Nonpareil (IA)* — **Fire shows need for new communications system.** A grass fire in Pottawattamie County, IA, on Sunday, March 6, was large enough that 18 different Iowa fire departments were called to assist — yet another reason, officials say, why the proposed countywide 800 megahertz (MHz) communications system is needed. "This was a perfect example," said Pottawattamie County Supervisor Loren Knauss. "Every spring, grass fires occur like clockwork, and a communication system that can link all the county departments, as well as additional departments as needed, is the key to public safety." Knauss said the new system would allow multiple users on the same frequency, and could provide

around 20 frequencies to the various agencies, compared to three or four frequencies currently available. Fire Chief Tom Blackburn said one problem he was informed about following Sunday's fire were dead spots in the communication system, especially when firefighters were down in the valleys. The new 800 MHz communications system would cover far more of the area than the existing system, Knauss said -- up to 95 percent of the county.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=14111625&BRD=2554&PAG=461&dept_id=507134&rfti=6

25. *March 09, Mooresville/Decatur Times (IN)* — **Grant money will help upgrade township communications.** Indiana's Decatur Township Fire Department was awarded a \$391,000 grant from the Fire Grant Act in February. According to Fire Chief Dale Henson, the monies will be used for purchasing radio equipment to enhance communications among fire departments in Marion County. "Marion County has always been ahead of the curve because of the Marion County Metropolitan Emergency Communication Agency," Henson said. In addition, The City of Indianapolis will cover Decatur Township's 10 percent required matching funds, so Decatur Township taxes will not be used. The system will have both analog and digital capabilities to serve the 66 full-time firefighters and 30 volunteers who cover the township. Henson expects to receive 45 portable radio and chargers, 20 workstations and 20 mobile radios. The fire department is receiving 15 fewer portable radios than expected because the initial grant request of \$499,000 was reduced to \$391,000. Henson said that another benefit of this communication system is that it will allow the department to communicate on the state's frequency across county lines during runs.

Source: http://www.md-times.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=7787&format=html

26. *March 09, The Detroit News (MI)* — **Disaster response teams search for more volunteers to join them.** About a dozen Rochester Hills, MI-area residents began a five-week Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course Tuesday, March 8, to prepare them to help first responders in the event of a tragedy. The program, led by the Oakland County Sheriff's Department's Rochester Hills substation, is one of several local CERT teams struggling to fill slots in the programs launched after the September 11 terrorist attacks. However, Rochester Hills officials said interest is fading as the memories of the terrorist attacks fall from the forefront of the public's conscience. "We're about 25 percent off from where we want to be," said Sgt. Dave Fournier, who runs the Rochester Hills program. An average of 12-15 people sign up for classes that are designed for 20, he said. Even if a terrorist attack doesn't hit the area, he said, there are still worries about natural disasters such as tornadoes, flooding, fires, and other events such as blackouts, where first responders can use the help of volunteers to direct traffic, check on their elderly neighbors and do basic first aid until help can arrive. For additional information on CERT, see <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT/>
Source: <http://www.detnews.com/2005/metro/0503/09/B01-112198.htm>

27. *March 09, Port Arthur News (TX)* — **Exercise to teach terror safety.** Southeast Texas agencies will soon be conducting a mock mass-response, emergency exercise complete with multiple simulated disasters to help prepare local authorities for large scale terrorist threats. Representatives from police, sheriff and fire departments, hospitals, health agencies, school districts, mayor's offices, industry, coast guard and members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force will participate in the large-scale drill to prepare emergency workers for any real-life crisis situations that could threaten the safety of local citizens. "The drill is designed to test the

preparation of weapons of mass destruction in Southeast Texas," John Cascio, Jefferson County Emergency Management director, said. The exercises will be conducted at Ford Park on March 15 and 16 and will consist of a mock version of several large scale terrorist attacks. Though details of the drill will not be known until the actual exercise, Cascio said the mock threats will involve chemical releases, explosions, radio active material, and biological weapons. The drill will be the largest ever collaborative training exercise to be conducted in the area, Cascio said. The Governors Division of Emergency Management will be conducting the exercise.
Source: <http://www.panews.com/articles/2005/03/09/news/06news.txt>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

28. *March 09, Associated Press* — U.S. technology leaders warn of losing competitive advantage. Leaders of high-tech companies said Tuesday, March 8, the United States risks losing its competitive edge without significant new investments in education, research and development and the spread of broadband technology. TechNet, which represents about 200 high-tech leaders, including Microsoft, Intel Corp., Cisco Systems, and Hewlett Packard, made its annual lobbying trip to Capitol Hill on Tuesday. TechNet officials cited some troubling indications that the U.S. is falling behind in high-tech development: the percentage of U.S. households with broadband access lags behind other highly-developed countries; U.S. investment in research and development has stayed flat for the last three decades, while it has grown significantly in competitor countries; and students in the U.S. are behind their counterparts in other countries in math and science. Among other recommendations, the group called on Congress to increase basic research funding, make permanent a research and development tax credit, and promote cybersecurity initiatives.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A17721-2005Mar8?language=printer>

29. *March 09, New York Times* — FBI ends effort on Virtual Case File system. The Federal Bureau of Investigation declared an official end Tuesday, March 8, to its floundering \$170 million effort to overhaul its computer software and said it would take at least three and a half years to develop a new system. The FBI had been signaling for months that the Virtual Case File system, a software project considered critical in helping agents investigate terrorism, was on the verge of collapse. Robert S. Mueller III, director of the FBI, delivered the official end notice in Congressional testimony on Tuesday. "I see this as an opportunity," he said, because the FBI now hopes to develop a more modern, flexible system – largely using off-the-shelf software – to allow investigators to search case files and databases more easily. The Virtual Case File project was to have been the third and last phase of a \$581 million effort to overhaul the antiquated computer systems.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/09/politics/09fbi.html>

30. *March 08, SecurityTracker* — Ethereal buffer overflow in 3G-A11 dissector lets remote users execute arbitrary code. The Ethereal dissector for processing CDMA2000 A11 RADIUS authentication packets contains a stack-based overflow. The dissect_a11_radius() function in 'packet-3g-a11.c' copies up to 256 bytes of user-supplied data of a size specified by the user into a 16 byte buffer. A remote user can supply a specially crafted packet to trigger the overflow and potentially execute arbitrary code on the target system. A fix is available via

SVN at: <http://ethereal.com/development.html>

Source: <http://www.securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Mar/1013399.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: Microsoft will NOT be releasing any new security updates for the month of March. Therefore, the US-CERT encourages network administrators to take this extra time to ensure that all machines have the latest patches installed and current anti-virus signatures in place.

To obtain security updates from Microsoft, please visit the following link:

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/default.msp>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1025 (----), 1026 (----), 1027 (icq), 80 (www), 53 (domain), 137 (netbios-ns), 25 (smtp) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: 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/>.

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

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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

General Sector

31. *March 09, Associated Press* — U.S. infrastructure eroding, according to report. Crowded schools, traffic-choked roads and transit cutbacks are eroding the quality of American life, according to an analysis by civil engineers that gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of D. A report by the American Society of Civil Engineers released Wednesday, March 9, assessed the four-year trend in the condition of 12 categories of infrastructure, including roadways, bridges, drinking water systems, public parks, railroads and the power grid. The overall grade slipped from the D-plus given to the infrastructure in 2001 and 2003. The report said \$1.6 trillion should be spent over the next five years to alleviate potential problems with the nation's infrastructure. Report: <http://www.asce.org/reportcard/2005/index.cfm>
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/03/09/national/main67893_9.shtml

32. *March 08, Associated Press* — **Vehicles targeted with eco-terror graffiti.** At least seven trucks or sport utility vehicles have been vandalized since February in a suburb of Sacramento, CA, spray-painted with the initials of an eco-terror organization that also has been named in a series of arson attacks in three nearby towns. Three vehicles — two full-size pickup trucks and a Ford Expedition — were spray-painted early Monday, March 7, with the initials "ELF," and their rear license plates were painted over, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department spokesperson Sharon Chow said Tuesday, March 8. The letters generally stand for Earth Liberation Front, a shadowy organization that often targets vehicles that get low gas mileage. The series of vehicle vandalisms before 7 a.m., on Monday in the Fair Oaks area east of Sacramento has also been turned over to the terrorism task force, said Chow. "None of the victims saw anything, heard anything. They just woke up and found it," she said. "The paint was still wet." At least seven such incidents have been reported to the task force since last month, said FBI spokesperson Karen Ernst, though she said the task force was leaving the investigation to sheriff's deputies as routine vandalism complaints.

Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20050308-1254-ca-fi_rebombsfound.html

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures:

[DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is available on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

[Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins](#) – DHS/IAIP produces two levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that addresses cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact. Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins are available on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=70>

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644.
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644 for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

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

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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