



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 May 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 that as a guard against terrorism, the administration is considering the consolidation of much of the nation's plutonium and bomb-grade uranium at a few highly secure sites. (See item [2](#))
- The Boston Herald reports Boston is developing a plan to deliver medication to every person in the city within 48 hours of a bioterrorist attack, through the postal system or at designated sites. (See item [13](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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

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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://esisac.com>]

1. *May 20, Reuters* — **Portugal to get world's first commercial wave farm.** A Scottish company will deploy oblong-shaped tubes off Portugal to create the world's first commercial wave power plant, providing electricity to 1,500 homes from 2006, a partner in the Scottish firm said on Friday, May 20. Ocean Power Delivery (OPD) will build the wave farm about 3.1 miles off Portugal's northern coast, near Povoia de Varzim, OPD's Norwegian backer Norsk Hydro said. OPD's Pelamis P-750 wave energy converter is an elongated metal unit that looks like a big semi-submerged sausage, with hinged segments that rock with the sea, up and down and side to side, pumping fluid to hydraulic motors that drive generators. The power produced

by the generators is fed into underwater cables and brought to land where it enters the power grid. "The farm will...displace more than 6,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions that would otherwise be produced by conventional hydrocarbon-fueled power plants," Norsk Hydro said. Carbon dioxide is the main gas widely blamed for global warming. The European Union requires 22 percent of electricity consumption to come from renewable energy sources -- such as solar, wind and wave -- by 2010. Renewables currently meet about six percent of European demand, Norsk Hydro said.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=774682>

2. *May 20, Associated Press* — **Security seen in nuclear consolidation.** To guard against terrorists potentially storming a U.S. weapons lab and setting off a crude nuclear device, the Bush administration is considering consolidating much of the nation's plutonium and bomb-grade uranium at a few highly secure sites. Currently, the material is scattered at 13 sites around the country. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman is expected to get an advisory board's report next month on combining the weapons fuel. A new report by the Project on Government Oversight estimates that consolidation of bomb-grade material would save \$3 billion over the next three years. The group proposes removing weapons-grade material from six labs. The material would then be placed under increased security at the seven remaining labs.

Project on Government Oversight Report:

<http://www.pogo.org/p/homeland/ho-050301-consolidation.html>

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2005/05/20/security_seen_in_nuclear_consolidation/

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

3. *May 19, The Register (UK)* — **UK banks ignore security audit findings.** Some UK corporations routinely ignore the findings of security audits treating them solely as a necessary step to satisfy corporate governance regulations, according to an experienced penetration tester. Tim Ecott, managing consultant at security integrator Integralis, explained that UK banks and other financial institutions are told they have to carry out a penetration test to comply with audits. In some cases -- perhaps five per cent -- Ecott and his team discover the same faults every time. "The findings of our reports are not followed up on either by the firms themselves or their auditors. We're not talking about critical security flaws but certainly about things that need fixing and leave firms open to attack," he said. "Some of our clients take our report to

pieces and do every thing we advise but with others, it's the same things over and over again. Reports over a period of quarters could be copies of each other with just a different date," said Ecott.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/05/19/audit_ignoramus/

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

4. *May 22, New York Daily News* — **No ban on subway pictures.** The controversial proposal to ban photography in the subways is dead. The New York Police Department (NYPD) recently told transit officials the photo ban is unnecessary. Not having a ban will not hinder the NYPD's efforts to safeguard the city's vast transit system, NYPD Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne said. "Our officers will continue to investigate, and intercede if necessary, if the activity — photo-related or not — is suspicious," he said. For example, Browne noted that police officers stopped two men photographing tracks leading into a tunnel under the East River in Queens in November 2003. The men turned out to be Iranian intelligence agents and they were booted from the country. "The NYPD can continue to take such actions without a ban," Browne said. The Transit Authority formally proposed a ban on photography, videotaping and filming in subway stations, on trains and on buses last year. But NYPD officials and Mayor Michael Bloomberg almost immediately expressed concerns about the scope of the proposed ban. They also questioned how it could be implemented and whether law-abiding tourists would get caught up in the crackdown.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/311945p-266702c.html>

5. *May 20, Washington Post* — **US Airways to merge, move base to Arizona.** US Airways Group Inc. and America West Holdings Corp. said on Thursday, May 19, that they would merge in a \$1.5 billion deal that would create the nation's largest budget airline with service throughout the United States and overseas. The airline would operate under the US Airways name, but would move its headquarters from Crystal City, VA, to Tempe, AZ, the home of America West. The merged carrier would reduce its combined flights 12 to 13 percent. Most destinations would remain, but some current nonstop cross-country flights would be routed through a hub. A move to Tempe would raise questions about the future of US Airways' 1,970 Washington, DC, area workers, 600 of whom work in Crystal City. The airline would still operate through US Airways' hubs in Philadelphia and Charlotte, NC, and America West's hub in Phoenix. It would also continue to serve its high-focus cities of Washington, Boston, New York and Fort Lauderdale, FL. The combined airline would be the nation's fifth-largest carrier and would put pressure on other airlines, particularly low-cost carriers such as Southwest and AirTran Airways. The deal could also encourage struggling carriers such as Delta, Northwest and American to contemplate mergers or even steeper cost cutting.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/19/AR2005051901972.html?sub=AR>

6. *May 20, Transportation Security Administration* — **CTX explosives detection machines ordered for checked baggage screening.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on Thursday, May 19, announced it has ordered 43 CTX 9000DSi Explosives Detection System (EDS) machines from General Electric InVision Inc., of Newark, CA. Under the new delivery

order, the machines, valued at \$51.6 million, will be delivered by the end of the year. An in-line baggage screening system will allow TSA to remove large EDS machines from terminal lobbies and install them into the behind-the-scenes baggage handling conveyor system. This high-tech permanent solution will increase the efficiency of screening all checked baggage for explosives and add a customer service benefit by allowing passengers to drop off their checked baggage at the ticket counter instead of bringing their bags to a separate lobby area for screening.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_0129f8e

7. *May 20, Department of Transportation* — **Federal loan will help Louisiana's Port Fourchon.**

Vital shipments of oil, natural gas and seafood from Louisiana's Port Fourchon will make it to market quicker and more efficiently thanks to a multimillion-dollar federal loan announced on Thursday, May 19, by Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta. A two-lane road leading to the port gets backed up whenever the road floods or when an accident snarls traffic, thereby hampering deliveries, wasting time, and slowing the economy. Mineta announced a \$66 million loan to help Louisiana build a 17-mile elevated toll highway connecting the port to land less susceptible to flooding. The funds are made possible under an innovative financing program that targets large projects for federal credit assistance to help get them going. Louisiana already has arranged for \$181 million in public grants and private debt for the first phase of the project.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/ntwday4> wrapup.htm

8. *May 20, Transportation Security Administration* — **eXaminer explosives detection machines ordered for baggage screening.**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on Friday, May 20, announced it has ordered 32 new eXaminer 6000 Explosives Detection System (EDS) machines from L-3 Communications of Woburn, MA. The new delivery order is valued at \$28.1 million. The machines will be delivered by spring of 2006 to support in-line explosives detection systems currently under construction at a number of airports. An in-line baggage screening system allows TSA to remove the mini-van size EDS machines from airport lobbies and install them into the behind-the-scenes baggage handling conveyor system where the baggage is screened for explosives and automatically sorted for various departing aircraft. This high-tech permanent solution increases the efficiency of screening all checked baggage for explosives and adds a customer service benefit by allowing passengers to drop off their checked baggage at the ticket counter instead of bringing it to a separate area for screening.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_012a733

9. *May 20, Reuters* — **Airlines to lose \$5 billion in 2005 on fuel costs.**

U.S. airlines will likely lose at least \$5 billion this year along with more industry jobs due to high fuel costs, James May, president of the Air Transport Association, warned Congress on Thursday, May 19. Over the last four years, airlines have lost \$32 billion during the industry's worst financial downturn. The airlines blame their woes on crude oil prices that have more than doubled, increased security costs and low fares brought on by intense competition. "We are projecting additional losses of at least \$5 billion in 2005," said May. "If oil stays high and our taxes with it, I expect more jobs lost, more flights cut and more airlines in crisis." Testifying before a House subcommittee looking at the impact of high energy costs, May forecast US airlines will pay an extra \$6.8 billion for fuel this year than in 2004. Eleven of the 12 passenger airlines rated by Standard & Poor's are considered "junk bond" quality, with only Southwest Airlines Inc.

considered investment grade, he said. May said even though flights are more crowded, passengers are paying less for tickets due to intense competition, which makes it difficult for airlines to offset jet fuel costs.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2005-05-20-fuel-costs_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

10. *May 20, Associated Press* — **Department of Agriculture secretary boosts coordinated effort to fight terrorism.** According to Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns, agroterrorism is a very real threat, but the U.S. is much better prepared to detect and respond to a strike on the nation's food supply than it was before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Johanns spoke recently at the International Symposium of Agroterrorism attended by about 750 people from law enforcement, agriculture, food processing, science, health, government and medicine. As an example of better partnerships being formed to fight agroterrorism, Johanns said his department and the FBI will soon sign an agreement that will, among other things, provide training for the agencies' employees to detect and respond to agroterrorism. Johanns also said the USDA is committed to an animal identification system that would eventually allow the government to track animals from birth to market. In addition he cited an improved national network of laboratories to test, identify, assess and respond to an attack on the food supply. He said the network also will improve efforts to eradicate and respond to disease outbreaks.

Transcript: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB/.cmd/a.d/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/.ce/7.2.5JM/.p/5.2.4TQ/.d/2/th/J.2.9D/.s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?PC.7.2.5JM.contentid=2005%2F05%2F0147.xml&PC.7.2.5JM.navtype=RT&PC.7.2.5JM.parentnav=TRANSCRIPTS.SPEECHES&PC.7.2.5JM.navid=NEWS.RELEASE#7.2.5JM>

Source: <http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=782&ArticleID=17363&TM=29181.61>

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Food Sector

11. *May 19, Food and Drug Administration* — **Walong Marketing recalls dried sweet potato strips.** Walong Marketing Inc., of Buena Park, CA, is recalling "Asian Taste Dried Sweet Potato-strips," because it may contain undeclared sulfites. People who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to sulfites run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products. "Asian Taste Dried Sweet Potato-strips," were distributed nationwide via retail stores. The product comes in an uncoded, seven ounce, clear plastic bag with red

borders. It is a product of China. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this product. The recall was initiated after routine sampling by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Food Inspectors, and subsequent analysis by the department's food laboratory personnel revealed the presence of sulfites.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/walong05_05.html

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Water Sector

12. *May 20, Independent Record (MT)* — **Arsenic barrier will be installed.** A thick wall of iron filings will be sunk into the ground in the next few weeks, part of a plan Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials hope will stop the migration of arsenic toward the town of East Helena, MT. The "permeable reactive barrier" involves digging a pit about 20 feet long and 50 feet deep, according to Richard Wilkin, an environmental geochemist with the EPA in Oklahoma. Small iron filings will be placed below the surface where a chemical reaction is expected to take place, in which the arsenic in the groundwater will attach itself to rust on the iron filings. This is a pilot scale test to determine how well the technology will work. Wilkin said these barriers have been used for about ten years at 200 different sites throughout the world, but usually in an effort to pull chlorinated solvents, uranium or chromium from groundwater. At this point, the arsenic plume isn't a health hazard to the public. However, the fact that the arsenic is migrating off-site from the Asarco plant toward the southwest edge of East Helena concerns EPA officials.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2005/05/20/helena/a01052005_01.txt

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Public Health Sector

13. *May 20, Boston Herald* — **Bioterror attack plans developing in Massachusetts.** Boston is developing a plan to deliver medication to every person in the city within 48 hours of a bioterrorist attack. Boston is one of 21 U.S. cities in a pilot project to develop a plan to distribute medication through the postal system or at 50 designated sites to its entire population if need be. To identify an attack or infectious-disease outbreak, 10 hospital emergency departments transfer patient data every 24 hours to a central computer, said Dr. M. Anita Barry, director of communicable disease control for the Boston Public Health Commission. That data is analyzed daily to detect anything unusual, Barry said.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=83947>

14. *May 20, Associated Press* — **Emergency rooms in two states closed for suspicious powder.** A hospital emergency room in Des Moines, IA, was locked down for more than two hours after a postal worker came in who had been exposed to a suspicious powder in a letter, officials said. In New York City, three people prompted a similar response at a Brooklyn hospital after one received white powder in the mail. Initial tests in Iowa indicated the substance found Thursday, May 19, at the city's main post office was a mixture of rat poison and wheat flour, fire department spokesperson Brian O'Keefe said. The postal worker was checked out and released

and the investigation was continuing. In Brooklyn, three family members went to Wyckoff Heights Medical Center on Thursday night after one of them, a 24-year-old woman, said she had received an envelope containing white powder in her mailbox earlier in the week. She said she later developed flu-like symptoms, including a stuffy nose. Hospital officials temporarily quarantined a part of the emergency room while the patients were examined. The woman, her husband and brother were all kept overnight and given antibiotics. The powder was under analysis by the city health department, and there was no indication it was anthrax, officials said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20050520/ap_on_re_us/suspicious_powder_2

15. *May 19, Colorado Daily* — **Hantavirus threat real for summer.** With the onset of the spring and summer season, local public health officials in Colorado are warning residents to take precautions against the rare but often fatal Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), an acute respiratory disease. While only one case has ever been reported in Boulder County, the state of Colorado ranks fourth in the nation for the reported number of HPS infections. Two cases in Colorado have been reported this year. "There is no effective drug treatment, there's just supportive care. That makes it deadly," said Dr. Nelson Gantz, an infectious disease specialist at Boulder Community Hospital. Caused by the San Nombre virus, HPS is contracted after inhaling dirt and dust contaminated by the droppings and bodily fluids of deer mice — brown and white rodents primarily found in rural areas of the southwest United States. The increase in foliage in the spring and summer season provides a larger food source for rodents, supporting an increase in their population. As the deer mice population escalates, so does the risk of infection. The United States ranks second across the Americas for the number of reported cases and first for the number of fatalities per infections.

Government information about Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm>

Source: <http://www.coloradodaily.com/articles/2005/05/19/news/news04.txt>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

16. *May 22, Sun Herald (MS)* — **Coast to hit a Code Red for terror exercise.** Vancleave Rodeo Stadium in Biloxi, MS, will "explode" on Tuesday, May 24, leaving some 200 wounded. The arena will be the epicenter of a mock disaster, which will simulate a terrorist-caused oil refinery explosion to help state agencies and military personnel prepare for the real thing. Area scanners may sound like "War of the Worlds" with local emergency crews communicating feverishly, which might leave some listeners thinking a full-scale disaster is in progress. Dubbed "Lifesaver 2005," the drill will bring together about 300 emergency workers from eight states to conduct four operations simultaneously. Lifesaver 2005 is a Homeland Security and National Disaster Medical System training exercise. The operations will include 20 hospitals

and two C-130J Hercules aircraft and their crews from Keesler Air Force Base will transport some 200 volunteer patients. The Air Force will be testing patient tracking systems and communication from the staging area in Gulfport to Mobile, and also from those sites to the state Department of Health, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies during the operation.

Source: http://www.sunherald.com/mld/thesunherald/news/local/1170829_2.htm

17. *May 21, Mid-Columbia Tri-City Herald (WA)* — **Emergency agencies struggle with outage.**

A power outage Thursday, May 19, at a remote communications tower near the Washington/Oregon border briefly shut down the radio system Mid-Columbia police officers and firefighters use to talk with the 911 dispatch center. The interruption to the 800-megahertz radio system, however, "did not affect the ability of the public to call 911," said Steve Sautter, spokesperson for Benton County Emergency Services, which oversees the dispatch center. Police and fire departments in Kennewick, Prosser, Richland, and West Richland were affected as were the Benton County Sheriff's Office and the Benton County fire districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. During the outage, police and firefighters used VHF (very high frequency) radios, cell phones and computers installed in police cars to communicate with each other and with the dispatch center in Richland and the smaller one in Prosser. Kennewick police set up three mini-dispatch centers -- at the downtown station, the Morain Street fire station and at the Columbia Center mall -- that were staffed by officers who relayed calls from the 911 dispatch center to the 10 officers on patrol.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/v-rss/story/6512361p-6393323c.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

18. *May 20, FrSIRT* — **PHP Advanced Transfer Manager remote file inclusion vulnerability.**

A vulnerability was identified in PHP Advanced Transfer Manager, which may be exploited by attackers to compromise a vulnerable web server. This issue is due to a failure in the application to properly sanitize user-supplied input. An attacker may leverage this issue to execute arbitrary server-side script code on an affected computer with the privileges of the Web server process. This may facilitate unauthorized access. There is no solution at this time.

Source: <http://www.frstirt.com/english/advisories/2005/0577>

19. *May 20, TechWeb News* — **Aggressive, mass-mailed Sober.p worm poised to infect users.**

Monday, May 23, may be a very bad day, a security researcher said Friday, May 20, as he warned that the aggressive Sober worm of early May is timed to download new code on Monday. Sober.p, the mass-mailed worm that spread voraciously by virtue of its offer of free World Cup tickets, is poised to launch another attack Monday, said Dmitri Alperovitch, a research engineer with security firm CipherTrust. "At the moment, the payload is unknown, but it may be another form of spam, like Sober.q; more malicious code, like another virus; or a denial-of-service attack." According to Alperovitch, Sober.p has code indicating that it will "reactivate" on May 23. Sober.p uses an ingenious method that essentially "randomizes" the URLs of the servers from which code is drawn. Every hour an algorithm in Sober.p creates a time stamp-like key, then uses that to generate a URL to a server on one of five different hosting services operating in Germany and Austria. Users who suspect that their machines may

be infected by the Sober.p worm can turn to several free detect-and-destroy tools.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/163106139>

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: US-CERT has received numerous reports of spam messages containing German and/or English text. It is believed that the spam messages are generated by a variant of the Sober worm family. The spam arrives with politically-themed messages in German and contains links to news articles on German Websites.

Heads UP! – Monday may be a very bad day, a security researcher said Friday as he warned that the aggressive Sober worm of early May is timed to download new code the first day of next workweek. For more information, see <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/163106139>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft-ds), 1026 (----), 27015 (halflife), 135 (epmap), 6881 (bittorrent), 53 (domain), 1025 (----), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 139 (netbios-ssn), 80 (www) 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/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

20. May 20, San Francisco Chronicle (CA) — Collection agency seeks payments for Golden Gate district. Thousands of motorists who — knowingly or not — zipped past the Golden Gate Bridge's distinctive toll booths in the FasTrak lanes as long as four years ago without paying are receiving notices from a collection agency, some seeking hundreds of dollars. The bridge district, which is trying to eliminate a deficit projected to total \$70 million over the next five years, has turned over thousands of toll violations dating back to 2001 to OSI Collection Services. Mary Currie, bridge district spokesperson, said the collection effort was a matter of fairness and fiscal responsibility for an agency contemplating increases in bridge tolls and bus and ferry fares to balance its budget. About \$550,000 in tolls and \$3.2 million in penalties are being turned over to the collection agency. Last fall, the district decided to clean up its backlog of violations. Some of those bills can be pretty steep. With fines increasing for each violation, someone who ran the toll booth without paying five times would pile up more than \$300 in tolls

and penalties. The bridge district expects that OSI will collect about \$750,000. After the company is paid commissions, the bridge district would pocket about \$530, 000, according to a district report.

Source: http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/05/20/BAGQ_CCS5PT1.DTL

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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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 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>

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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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