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Daily Highlights

• The Associated Press reports President Bush has signed a new energy bill into law that requires utilities to comply with federal reliability standards for the electricity grid, instead of depending on self-regulation. (See item 2)

• The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has begun testing the US−VISIT Program’s next phase of implementation, which uses radio frequency identification technology to record the entries and exits of visitors at the country's land borders. (See item 13)

• The Associated Press reports some people infected in the U.S. monkeypox outbreak in 2003 were protected by previous smallpox vaccinations, a finding that could be of benefit in the event of a bioterror attack. (See item 26)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 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
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 Daily Report Contact Information
1. **August 08, Asbury Park Press (NJ) — Oyster Creek operating fine after alert.** The Oyster Creek nuclear power plant, located in Forked River, NJ, was operating at full power on Monday, August 8, two days after its engineers declared an alert after a large clump of algae and sea grass obstructed one of its underwater intake screens. Pete Resler, a spokesperson for plant owner AmerGen, said the 630-megawatt reactor had reached 100 percent operating power as of 7:30 p.m. Sunday, August 7. For three minutes, beginning at 4:03 a.m. Saturday, August 6, engineers in the plant’s control room brought reactor power down to 43 percent after their instruments indicated a sudden drop in water flow entering its north intake. The event lasted until 7:55 a.m. Saturday and technicians spent much of that day removing debris from the north intake grate. For the remainder of the weekend, the plant operated at about 50 percent power, Resler said.


2. **August 08, Associated Press — Bush signs energy bill into law.** President Bush on Monday, August 8, signed a new energy bill into law. For the first time, utilities will be required to comply with federal reliability standards for its electricity grid, instead of self-regulation. That is intended to reduce the chance of a repeat of a massive power blackout, such as the one that struck the Midwest and Northeast in the summer of 2003. For consumers, the bill would provide tax credits for buying hybrid gasoline–electric cars and making energy-conservation improvements in new and existing homes. Also, beginning in 2007, the measure extends daylight-savings time by one month to save energy.


3. **August 08, Associated Press — Tanker truck flips, shuts down part of California freeway.** A diesel fuel tanker truck overturned on Highway 710 in Long Beach, CA, trapping a car beneath it, leaking diesel fuel and shutting down parts of the Long Beach Freeway and Interstate 405 during the morning commute on Monday, August 8. Hazmat experts were at the scene to clean up the spill on the major freeway link to the harbor. The accident occurred about 7 a.m. on the freeway transition from the northbound 710 to the southbound 405, said California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer Charlie McMichael said. Rush hour traffic was backed-up on both freeways, as well as the Pomona, CA, Freeway. The connector roads in both directions were closed while crews tried to contain the fuel. The cause of the accident is under investigation. It is unclear if another vehicle was involved or if anyone was injured in the crash.

4. **August 08, Times Leader (PA) — Gasoline leak causes traffic jam in Pennsylvania.** A gasoline leak at the Pen–Fern service station in Shavertown, PA, tied up traffic on state Route 309 for several hours Sunday night, August 7, while emergency personnel worked to clean up the spill. A 911 supervisor said the gasoline was apparently coming up from an underground tank, but that firefighters were able to pull a “kill” switch to stop the leak. An unknown amount of the fuel pooled on the surface and the state Department of Environmental Protection was called in to assess the situation.


5. **August 08, Pittsburgh Post–Gazette (PA) — Pennsylvania county chemical fire restricts residents' movement.** Fire crews in Lawrence County, PA, will allow a blaze at a magnesium processing plant to burn itself out over the next several days, a fire chief said. Several barrels of magnesium exploded inside a warehouse and the fire spread to at least three other smaller buildings Saturday afternoon, August 6, at the Remacor Inc. complex on Route 168 in West Pittsburgh, Lawrence County. No one was injured. Magnesium becomes combustible when exposed to water, so firefighters from 11 companies allowed the fire to burn Saturday and Sunday, August 6–7. The blaze may continue to burn for several days, said Taylor Township Fire Chief David Allegro. As of Sunday, it remained unclear how the fire started. At the height of the blaze, smoke could be seen from about 20 miles away, which prompted emergency crews to tell residents to stay inside their homes.


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**Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

**Banking and Finance Sector**

6. **August 08, TechWeb News — E*Trade to acquire Harrisdirect.** Online stock trading firm E*Trade Financial, based in New York, announced on Monday, August 8, it will acquire the U.S. online brokerage operations of Harrisdirect for $700 million. Harrisdirect is a Chicago–based unit of the Bank of Montreal Financial Group. E*Trade chief executive officer Mitchell Caplan indicated that there will be more acquisitions to come.

Source: [http://www.techweb.com/wire/ebiz/167600516](http://www.techweb.com/wire/ebiz/167600516)

7. **August 08, ZDNet UK — Identity theft ring affects at least 50 banks.** A major identity theft ring discovered last week has affected the customers of at least 50 banks, according to Sunbelt Software, the security firm that uncovered the operation. The operation is currently gathering personal data from compromised machines and sending them to a server where they are saved in a file. Sunbelt Software said on Monday, August 8, that in the two days it has been monitoring the file it has seen confidential financial details of the customers of the Bank of...
America, PayPal and up to 50 international banks, according to Eric Sites, the vice−president of research and development at Sunbelt. "For almost every bank that is listed [in the file], it's possible to get into the person's account," Sites said. As well as passwords for online banking sites, information on credit cards has also been gathered. The data theft is being carried out by new variant of a keylogging Trojan, so antivirus and anti−spyware vendors do not yet block it, according to Sites. Sunbelt plans to send information on the Trojan to security firms as soon as possible.

Source: [http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/0,39020369,39212513,00.htm](http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/0,39020369,39212513,00.htm)

8. **August 07, New York Times — Organized crime goes digital.** Law enforcement authorities and computer security specialists warn that new types of white−collar criminals are on the prowl: corporate stalkers who are either computer−savvy extortionists looking to shake down companies for large bribes or malicious competitors who are trying to gain an upper hand in the marketplace. "It's definitely a growing issue and problem, and it's something we think will definitely increase in both the numbers and severity," said Frank Harrill, an FBI agent who specializes in computer crimes and who has investigated corporate stalkers and online extortionists. The reason, he said, is that "the Internet is ceasing to be a means for communication and commerce and is becoming the means for communication and commerce." Stealing and selling data has become so lucrative, analysts say, that corporate espionage, identity theft and software piracy have mushroomed as profit centers for criminal groups. Analysts say cyberextortion is the newest addition to the digital Mafia's bag of tricks. "Generally speaking, it's pretty clear it's on the upswing, but it's hard to gauge how big of an upswing because in a lot of cases it seems companies are paying the money," said Robert Richardson of Computer Security Institute, an organization that trains computer security professionals.


9. **August 03, Congressional Research Service — Terrorist financing: U.S. agency efforts and inter−agency coordination.** Stopping the ability of terrorists to finance their operations is a key component of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy. To accomplish this, the Bush Administration has implemented a three−tiered approach based on (1) intelligence and domestic legal and regulatory efforts; (2) technical assistance to provide capacity−building programs for U.S. allies; and (3) global efforts to create international norms and guidelines. Effective implementation of this strategy requires the participation of, and coordination among, several elements of the U.S. Government. This report provides an agency−by−agency survey of U.S. efforts.


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**Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. **August 08, Bellingham Herald (WA) — Minuteman group plans Canadian border effort.** A representative from the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps recently spent two weeks in Washington state, including Whatcom County, to start two chapters, one on each side of the
Cascades, said Chris Simcox, president and founder of the Tombstone, AZ−based organization. Washington is one of several northern states to which volunteers want to bring the border−guarding effort, Simcox said. Volunteers with the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps patrolled an otherwise unguarded stretch of the Arizona border last spring, and Simcox plans to expand the effort this fall to parts of the border in California, Texas, and New Mexico. Simcox said the Minuteman group plans to hold informational meetings for potential volunteers. Simcox said the volunteers would set up "static observation outposts" along the border and spot people sneaking across the border, then call Border Patrol officials to catch them. Simcox said his group over the past three years has helped border agents track down more than 6,000 people they would have missed crossing the southern border illegally. More importantly, Simcox said, the group has drawn national attention to what he called "the greatest risk to national security that we have."

Minuteman Civil Defense Corps Website: http://www.minutemanhq.com

11. August 08, Associated Press — New York joins other police forces to protect Amtrak trains. In the latest in a series of security measures taken since the London bombing cases, the New York Police Department (NYPD) has teamed with other East Coast forces to beef up protection of Amtrak trains traveling between New York and Washington. The increased security, which began Monday, August 8, involves police officers from New Jersey, Philadelphia, Maryland, Washington, DC, and other jurisdictions. The state and local officers will help Amtrak's own police force patrol train platforms and watch for suspicious activity and packages on trains and tracks along the entire route throughout the week, NYPD spokesperson Paul Browne said Monday. Police have no information about a specific threat against the most heavily traveled route in the Amtrak system. However, in assessing security risks after mass transit was targeted in London, police officials were concerned that a route involving "two high profile cities" might be a target, and that the Amtrak police did not have the manpower to properly protect it, Browne said. Browne said police agreed their combined effort needed "to appear to be random and unpredictable in order to defeat the kind of reconnaissance that al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations are known to conduct."

12. August 08, New York Times — Flights are increasingly late. This is not a good time for time−conscious air travelers. Data from the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics last week showed that this is shaping up to be the worst year for departure delays since 2000. In the year through June, nearly one in five flights, or 17 percent, left airports late. To placate exasperated passengers, airlines have scrambled to get their planes in on time — by flying faster once in the air, for example, which burns more fuel. At certain times of the day, such as late afternoon and evening, and at some airports, like Atlanta Hartsfield, Newark Liberty International, and Chicago O'Hare, delays are almost a given, and airline timetables bear little semblance to reality. Fundamentally, however, airlines argue that they are hampered by the nation's overstretched air−traffic control system, by weather and by the need to offer enough flights to compete with other airlines.
13. **August 08, Department of Homeland Security** — **US−VISIT begins testing radio frequency identification technology to improve border security.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has begun testing the US−VISIT Program’s next phase of implementation, which uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to more efficiently record the entries and exits of visitors who are currently issued an I−94 (Arrival/Departure Record) at the U.S.’s land borders. Five U.S. land border ports will test the RFID technology from August 4, 2005, through early summer of 2006. The ports are Nogales East (Deconcini) and Nogales West (Mariposa) in Arizona; Alexandria Bay (Thousand Islands) in New York; and Pacific Highway and Peace Arch in Washington state. US VISIT is a continuum of security measures that collect biometric and biographic information from visitors at U.S. visa−issuing posts around the world, and upon their arrival in and departure from U.S. air, sea and land border ports. Experience has shown that the US−VISIT enrollment process is fast, easy to understand and simple for visitors.


For additional information: [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4720](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4720)

Source: [http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4719](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4719)

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**Postal and Shipping Sector**

14. **July 19, Government Accountability Office** — **GAO−05−716: U.S. Postal Service: Guidance on Suspicious Mail Needs Further Refinement (Report).** In October 2003, an envelope marked “Caution: Ricin Poison” was discovered at an airmail facility in Greenville, South Carolina. Ricin is a poison that, in certain forms, can cause death. The U.S. Postal Service has emphasized to its employees to be on the alert for “suspicious mail” that may pose a threat and has developed guidance for them on how to identify and respond to such mail, in order to protect them from harm. Postal inspectors and emergency responders help in the responses to suspicious mail by performing an initial assessment of the threat it poses. This report describes (1) actions taken by various agencies, in responding to the incident, to protect the health of postal employees and the public; (2) Postal Service guidance related to suspicious mail in place in October 2003 and the extent to which it was followed during the incident; and (3) subsequent changes made in this guidance and the extent to which current guidance addresses issues raised by the incident. The Government Accountability Office is making recommendations to further improve the Postal Service’s guidance related to suspicious mail, to help ensure that postal personnel are prepared to respond to future incidents. The Postal Service indicated that it generally agreed with these recommendations and will take action on them.


Source: [http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO−05−716](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO−05−716)

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**Agriculture Sector**

15. **August 08, Denver Post (CO)** — **Fruit growers grapple with plant−sapping pests.** Colorado fruit growers are contending with damage from European paper wasps and Asian ladybugs.
Delta County cherry grower Robert Road said the paper wasps moved in and took over his trees and that not even traps are making a dent. So far, damage in Colorado has been localized, and there are no estimates of crop losses, although Delta County has been particularly hard hit. But there is a fear the wasps could move into more of the state’s 130-ton annual cherry crop and find their way into peaches, which are about a $10 million annual crop for Colorado. Most of the wasp havoc has been wreaked in sweet cherries, which must ripen on trees, and on grapes that are often left to hang on vines as long as possible to develop the maximum amount of sugar. The Asian ladybug, a usually beneficial bug, also has found its way to Delta and Mesa counties, where about 1,500 tons of grapes are grown annually. So far, this ladybug hasn’t spoiled grape harvests, but vineyard owners are warily watching the spotted beetle. When this type of ladybug is disturbed, it emits a lingering pheromone that is foul smelling and tasting.


16. **August 08, Nebraska Ag Connection — First responders on the lookout for plant diseases.** Nearly 400 pairs of eyes are watching Nebraska plants for new diseases as part of a national diagnostic network set up by the federal Agricultural Bioterrorism Act. A team of plant specialists from the University of Nebraska has certified about 370 extension educators, crop consultants, state and federal inspectors, Certified Crop Advisors, and others from across the state as first responders for the network and has plans to train more. The first responders' job is to detect plant diseases early and stop their spread before they can do serious damage to the agricultural economy and food supply, said Jennifer Chaky, first responder trainer and plant diagnostics educator in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "We want to train anyone who might be out in the field noticing something unusual," she said. "It isn't possible for all of us in the university system to be everywhere at once, but a lot of people look at fields on a daily basis. We let them know what to look for and the best way to take samples."


17. **August 08, Stop Soybean Rust News — Three new Florida counties with soybean rust.** Florida has updated its list of counties with confirmed soybean rust infections, adding three more counties with rust—infected kudzu and correcting the name of the county with the first find in a commercial soybean field (it's Madison, not Hamilton). That brings the total number of Florida counties positive for rust in 2005 to 12 — exactly half of the U.S. counties known to have rust this year. The new counties with rust on kudzu are Alachua (central FL), Hamilton (north central), and Lee County on the southwest coast of Florida. Alachua was a positive County in 2004, Hamilton and Lee are new counties of record.


18. **August 07, Denver Post (CO) — Park eyes predators to control chronic wasting disease in elk.** Predation by wolves may be an effective way to stop chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Colorado. A modeling study based on conditions at Rocky Mountain National Park shows wolves could have "potent effects" on the rate of CWD in the park's overabundant elk herds, according to researchers. Existing control efforts, which focus on intensive culling to reduce herd numbers, have been expensive and, so far, ineffective. CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy like mad cow disease. Unlike mad cow, it is contagious and persists in the environment for years. Since it was identified in Colorado in 1977, CWD has hop scotched to Wyoming, Utah, Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, and Saskatchewan, Canada. Studies have shown that wolves prey on the weak or sick. That behavior could help remove contagious
animals from the population and reduce infection rates, according to National Park Service wildlife veterinarian Margaret Wild. Wolves also could help scatter herds of deer and elk, further reducing the risk of transmission, she said. Field research will be needed to show what effect, if any, wolves have on CWD, she said.

**Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

**Water Sector**

19. **August 07, NewsOK.com (OK) — Oklahoma closes water park.** The Tulsa, OK, Public Works Department closed the Mohawk Park sprinkler and surrounding play area Saturday, August 6, following the recommendation of the county health department after two boys who attended the area died from a rare infection. Health officials said one boy died from a Naegleria fowleri amoeba infection. It is suspected the second boy also died from the rare infection. After learning both boys attended the park within the last two weeks, health officials recommended closing the water park, health department spokesperson Melanie Christian said in a statement. Water samples are being collected and tested for further confirmation. Officials think a cross contamination with a body of stagnant water approximately 40 feet from the sprinkler system could be the culprit of the deadly infection, according to Christian.
Source: http://www.newsok.com/xml/rss/1573357/

20. **August 05, St. Louis Business Journal (MO) — Illinois boosts security for municipal utilities.** Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich signed legislation Friday, August 5, designed to increase security for all municipal utilities in Illinois. House Bill 2580 outlines safeguards that will be adopted by municipal utility facilities, restricting access to critical infrastructure. The bill requires the Illinois state police to release certain information to utility administrators to evaluate whether someone should be granted access to municipal utility facilities.

21. **August 05, New York Times — Worker admits he falsified water–purity records.** A former New York City worker responsible for sampling the quality of New York City's extensive water–supply system admitted in federal court Thursday, August 4, that he had falsified records that federal officials used to determine if the city's drinking water was safe and clean. The worker, pleaded guilty to charges that on March 7 he recorded the results of a test for turbidity, or cloudiness, in an official log book without removing any water from a special chamber in Westchester County or doing an analysis. He also admitted before Magistrate Judge Mark D. Fox in White Plains that he had entered false readings in the logbook on several other occasions, although he had denied doing so when first questioned by federal agents. An official at the city's Department of Environmental Protection said that his actions had not compromised the safety or purity of the water because other workers were also checking turbidity and would
have reported a problem. While turbidity is not considered a serious health issue, cloudiness in water can sometimes indicate the presence of disease–causing organisms. New York is one of only a handful of major cities in the U.S. that do not filter their drinking water, rather the region relies on the city's 19 upstate reservoirs.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/05/nyregion/05water.html?oref =login

22. August 04, Dow Jones — Twenty states battling drought. A drought summary issued Thursday, August 4, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service and National Drought Mitigation Center said drought continues to impact portions of 20 central, southern, and western U.S. states. An area stretching from central Missouri to southeastern Wisconsin remains the single–driest area of the U.S., leaving the entire northwestern half of Illinois mired in an extreme drought. Very little rain also fell in Missouri last week, exacerbating summer–long dryness that has been heightened by extreme heat. Although rain improved drought conditions slightly in southern/eastern Illinois, northern Indiana, southern Michigan, and west–central Wisconsin, last week, abnormal dryness (the formal precursor to drought) developed across parts of northern Minnesota, while a moderate drought expanded across northwest Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Hot and dry conditions reintroduced severe drought in central/southwestern Nebraska, while allowing moderate drought to take hold in east–central Nebraska. Much of the western U.S. was hot and dry during July. Moderate drought has developed across southwestern sections of New Mexico.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/ag/futuresource/FutureSourceStoryIndex.jhtml?storyId=22300340

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Public Health Sector

23. August 09, Xinhua (China) — Mongolia reports bird flu at lake bordering Russia. The Mongolian General Authority for Emergency Management (GAEM) said Monday, August 8, the swans and wild geese, which died at the end of July at a lake bordering Russia, were proved to have been infected with the bird flu virus. Bird flu outbreaks in neighboring Russia and later in Kazakhstan have been reported since mid–July. Director of the GAEM P. Dash said a total of 76 swans and wild geese had been found dead near the Erhel Lake in the Hovsgol province since late July but the strain of the bird flu has not been identified. No humans or poultry have been infected, Dash said, adding all the contracted were migratory birds. The local government has declared a state of emergency near the Erhel Lake.


24. August 08, Agence France Presse — European Union calls for ban on bird imports from Russia, Kazakhstan. The European Union's (EU) executive commission has called for its member states to ban imports of feathers and live birds from Russia and Kazakhstan as of August 12 due to outbreaks of bird flu in the two countries. Russia and Kazakhstan had been added to a list of nine Asian countries — Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, North Korea, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam — that are banned from exporting birds, bird meat or products into the 25–nation EU on account of avian flu, the commission said in a statement on Monday, August 8. Russian officials confirmed on July 29 that bird flu found in the Siberian province of Novosibirsk was of the H5N1 sub–type that can be transmitted to humans and has
killed at least 60 people in parts of Southeast Asia since 2003. Russia began a mass cull last week to contain the spread of the disease as bird flu was found in five Siberian provinces. Meanwhile Kazakhstan carried out a cull after bird flu was found at a farm close to the Siberian border. A number of other former Soviet republics have imposed full or partial bans on poultry imports from Russia while Tajikistan and Ukraine have also banned imports from Kazakhstan.


25. **August 07, USA Today — More outbreaks expected in slow-to-start West Nile season.** The West Nile virus season has been milder than it was at this time last year, but scientists say the worst is yet to come. "We might be right on the cusp" of outbreaks in several regions of the country, says entomologist Harry Savage of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC's tally of 109 cases of West Nile infection nationally does not reflect recently detected cases in several states. In Louisiana, health officials Friday, August 5, reported 22 new cases, including two deaths. Officials in Illinois, California, and South Dakota also have seen new illnesses. "We're just on a hair trigger here," says Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist in South Dakota, where four new cases reported early last week brought the state total this year to 20. "Since then, we've had about a dozen more human cases under investigation," and surveillance has been increased. Entomologist Vicki Kramer of the California Department of Health Services says West Nile activity also has picked up there in the past week or so. Sixty-four cases in humans have been detected this year, and two people have died.


26. **August 07, Associated Press — Study: Shot protected some from monkeypox.** Some people infected in the U.S. monkeypox outbreak in 2003 were protected by previous smallpox vaccinations, a finding that could be of a benefit in the event of a bioterror attack. As many as 100 million Americans have at least some residual protection from smallpox vaccines they received as children, even if it was many decades ago, said Mark K. Slifka, who led the team that conducted the study. The 2003 outbreak of monkeypox, a related illness, sickened 72 people in several Midwestern states, but there were no deaths. Using a new test, researchers have found three people who were infected with monkeypox but who developed no symptoms of the illness, and five who had some symptoms but did not become severely ill, who previously tested negative or equivocal for the virus. All had been previously vaccinated against smallpox. This shows that the outbreak was larger than was realized and, more importantly, that protection against monkeypox can continue for decades after smallpox vaccination. "Unvaccinated people were the most susceptible," Slifka said in a telephone interview. Routine smallpox vaccination was halted in 1972 in the U.S. The U.S. outbreak of monkeypox provided a rare opportunity to test whether there was residual protection, Slifka said.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2005/08/07/AR2005080700369.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2005/08/07/AR2005080700369.html)

27. **August 07, Agence France Presse — Indonesian polio cases top 200.** The number of children affected by the poliovirus in an outbreak in Indonesia has risen to 205, a health official said. "The latest figure we obtained on Friday, August 5, shows that the number of cases across the country was now at 205," said Efi Delfino of the Jakarta health office. Delfino said the highest number of cases was recorded in West Java province with 54. Only one case could be
confirmed in Jakarta, she added. The office's head, Abdul Chalik Masulili, was quoted by the state Antara news agency as saying that a second round of a nationwide anti-polio vaccination campaign had fewer takers because of parents' fears of possible harmful side effects. Two other rounds are scheduled for August 30 and September 27 targeting 24.3 million children nationwide. Polio, which can cause paralysis, muscular atrophy and death, is believed to have returned to Indonesia via Saudi Arabia, either through migrant workers or Muslim pilgrims returning from Mecca.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050807/hl_afp/healthindonesiapolio_050807212214;_ylt=Ai4chNC1uyvp8SCpw90UzSVeJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNlYwMIJVPUCU1

28. **August 06, Agence France–Presse — China approves human trials for new Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome vaccine.** The vaccine, developed by a Beijing–based inspection and quarantine body, was created in October and is undergoing clinical trials. Tests on monkeys at Wuhan University in central China's Hubei province proved successful, a state–run newspaper cited an official surnamed Dong with the Beijing Entry–Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau as saying. Dong claimed antibodies were found in the animals injected with the vaccine, and none of them developed symptoms of the deadly disease. Dong said the vaccine could be produced in large quantities and had a longer shelf life than other existing vaccines which could enable it to prevent an outbreak more effectively. Another vaccine was meanwhile ready for a second phase of human trials. Zhong Nanshan, president of the Chinese Medical Association, said last month that scientists in Beijing would test the effectiveness of the vaccine produced by a Beijing–based company among volunteers aged 20 to 60. Initial trials involving 36 volunteers in Beijing found antibodies against the disease developed in all volunteers, without obvious side effects. The new vaccine, produced by Beijing's Sinovac Biotech Co Ltd, must go through three phases of trials before it can be licensed for public use.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050806/hl_afp/healthsarschina_050806150153;_ylt=ArLnk2ocY2_MiCPCzyFwbIOJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNlYwMIJVPUCU1

**Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

**Emergency Services Sector**

29. **August 08, The Daily Press (VA) — Anti-terrorism drills planned in Virginia.** An anti-terrorism exercise to test Fort Monroe, VA, procedures in response to an attack will be held Wednesday, August 17. Emergency–response drills are scheduled throughout the day, according to Bill Moisant, Fort Monroe's anti–terrorism officer. People entering the post can expect thorough security checks at gates, restrictions near emergency–response drill sites and temporary closure of some customer–service activities, Moisant said. He said the exercise could involve Hampton, VA, police and fire officials as well as other agencies. The exact times
and locations of the drill have not been released.
Source: http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp−63115sy0aug08.0.1907
233.story?coll=dp−news−local−final

30. August 08, San Diego Union−Tribune (CA) — Federal grant providing rescue tools for California county. A portion of San Diego, CA's, $40 million federal Homeland Security money is buying thousands of protective bubble suits for first−responders, a fleet of vans, trailers and trucks, and anti−terrorism training and prevention. The suits are said to be uncomfortable, bulky — and necessary to survival in the event of a chemical or biological attack. "It's a lot like wearing a big Glad bag," San Diego police Seargent Philip Terhaar. In the wake of the recent London subway bombings, preparations for terrorist attacks have become more urgent and more expansive, according to August F. Ghio, director of the San Diego Office of Homeland Security. As part of the first purchases, San Diego County is getting six casualty vans to take equipment and medical supplies to victims at disaster sites and prepare them for ambulance transport, four mass−contamination trailers to decontaminate first−responders, one explosive−detection van costing to respond to bomb calls, and thousands of bubble suits for San Diego police, fire and emergency personnel countywide.

31. August 07, Associated Press — Montana National Guard pilots start training for fire duty. Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer declared an emergency for wildfire danger Thursday, August 4, because of hot, dry weather and forecasts for more of the same, authorizing National Guard pilots to begin training to fight wildfires. Department of Natural Resources Director Mary Sexton and Major General Randy Mosley, who heads the Montana National Guard, requested the Guard activation, writing in a memo to Schweitzer that current fire and weather conditions "indicate strong potential for significant wildfire activity" in the state within the next 60 days. They warned of shortages in "critical resources" like helicopters and ground crews in the next week if fire conditions continue to worsen, as expected. Under the governor's program, National Guard helicopter crews will be trained in firefighting techniques in conjunction with regular monthly training, beginning next week. Starting Friday, August 12, or later, the Guard's Black Hawk helicopters will be available for initial attacks on wildfires in the Helena, Kalispell and Missoula areas of western Montana, although other areas could be added if necessary. The Guard helicopters, in compliance with federal law, will be deployed only if comparable resources are not available from local, state and commercial sources, Schweitzer said.
Source: http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2005/08/07/news/regional/f44b16ccaac075c687257053007ced76.txt

32. August 07, The Oakland Tribune (CA) — California boosts domestic intelligence. For almost four years, California law enforcement agencies were convinced that federal agents were holding back important information, and they set off on their own domestic intelligence operations. Turf wars broke out as the California Highway Patrol and this year, more secretly, the California National Guard made power plays for their own intelligence centers and control of some of the most sensitive information on people, industry and government. However, in the last 18 months, the California Highway Patrol, the Office of Homeland Security and the California Department of Justice agreed to revamp the state's immediate post−September 11 intelligence creation, known as the California Anti−Terrorism Information Center, into a more serious, joint operation called the State Terror Threat Assessment Center, or
STTAC, where analysts from as many as 15 local, state and federal agencies work together. Today, instead of filling the e-mail in–boxes of police chiefs with rehashed news reports on drugs, gangs and crime, STTAC analysts try to pass along terrorist tradecraft — indicators of terror financing, of target surveillance, attack planning.

Source: http://insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_2921461

33. **August 07, Rochester Eccentric (MI) — Surprise drill tests fire, lifeguard responders.** In Rochester Hills, MI, fire and parks personnel participated in an emergency rescue drill at Thelma Spencer Park Thursday, August 4. Unbeknownst to all but their supervisors, lifeguards and paramedics took part in a staged incident in which, they were told, someone known to have seizures had gone missing at the lakefront. The "victim," Jerry Yurgo, is actually a firefighter–paramedic and scuba diver who had concealed an oxygen tank underwater, allowing him to breathe. He was located within five minutes by the lifeguard in the kayak.

Source: Today, instead of filling the e-mail in–boxes of police chiefs with rehashed news reports on drugs, gangs and crime, STTAC analysts try to pass along terrorist tradecraft — indicators of terror financing, of target surveillance, attack planning.

34. **August 07, NP Telegraph (NE) — Mock drill in Nebraska deemed a success.** Volunteers answered the call Saturday, August 6, to help during a mass–dispensing exercise in Nebraska and did everything from control traffic to hand out Raymonditus medication. A disaster can quickly stretch the resources of a community so local agencies and organizations and North Platte Public Transportation system pooled resources and people to test how North Platte, NE, would respond if a disaster actually occurred. Public service announcements asked for more than 1,500 people to play victims, although only about 250 actually arrived for the drill.

According to Jim Nitz, director of the Lincoln County, NE, Office of Emergency Management, the drill went fairly well. "We weren't tested to the capacity like we were hoping," he said. "But, we did learn a few things and emergency plans will be modified to incorporate those lessons," he continued. Agencies and organizations participating in Saturday's exercise included: West Central District Health Department, Great Plains Regional Medical Center, Lincoln County Emergency Management, American Red Cross, North Platte Police and Fire Departments, North Platte Public Schools, CERT volunteers, United Way, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Health and Human Services and Nebraska Emergency Management Association.


35. **August 06, Associated Press — Federal Emergency Management Agency aims to improve hurricane inspections.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has outlined efforts to improve inspector training and prevent waste in a document prepared after reviewing problems that cropped up following the four hurricanes that smashed through Florida last year. FEMA is using better techniques to verify damage as well as providing stronger guidelines to make sure aid isn't given out that shouldn't be, according to a document titled "Building on Success." For instance, the agency will pay for disaster victims' funeral expenses only if a family can present a letter from a medical examiner or similar authority that the death was related to the storm. The agency was criticized for paying for more than 300 funerals when the official death toll from the storm was just over 120. The agency also will cut rental assistance to one month instead of two, and then only if there is documentation that there is a need to be
relocated. Residents can apply for additional assistance after the first month if they prove they actually relocated. Inspectors will be required to take an online test before being sent out in the field and additional performance requirements will be asked of contractors who hire inspectors. Source: [http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/state/12316927.htm?source=rss&channel=miamiherald_state](http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/state/12316927.htm?source=rss&channel=miamiherald_state)

36. **August 06, The Edmond Sun (OK) — Oklahoma's emergency response team training includes 16-hour marathon testing officers' limitations.** When the Edmond, OK, Police Department's Emergency Response Team (ERT) is called out to a hostage or barricaded subject situation, they never really know whether the situation will resolve itself quickly or drag on for hours; hence, they must be prepared for the worst. Though the team has scenario-based training monthly, once a year that training includes a 16-hour marathon to test the officers' physical and mental limitations. The marathon session happens every August, and team members completed it last week. "It allows us to see what our limits are for fatigue and sleep deprivation," said team member Bryan Weathers, who has been on the ERT team since its inception three years ago. A typical training scenario includes moving targets, some that officers are supposed to shoot, and some they aren't, Weathers explained.

Source: [http://www.edmondsun.com/articles/2005/08/06/front/front.txt](http://www.edmondsun.com/articles/2005/08/06/front/front.txt)

37. **August 05, In-Forum News (ND) — North Dakota city schools develop new response plan.** Fargo, ND, educators never want to experience a school shooting, an explosion or a hostage situation. To avoid these scenarios, new safety procedures have been implemented to leave the district better prepared, school officials said Thursday, August 4. About 140 principals, teachers and staff attended a daylong training session on the new procedures. They will train others in their buildings. A manual provides step-by-step responses to 22 situations ranging from fire to a hostage situation to severe weather. It also clarifies the roles of school employees until emergency responders arrive on the scene. The new plan was approved by police, firefighters and paramedics, which means those agencies will be able to respond more efficiently. This fall, the district also will start staging "situation" drills, according to Lowell Wolff, the district's administrator of community relations and planning. Instead of a fire drill, district officials and emergency responders will ask schools to address another emergency, such as a bomb threat. Other local school districts said they are fine-tuning their security policies this year.


Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. **August 06, Security Focus — Acunetix Web Vulnerability Scanner remote denial of service vulnerability.** Acunetix Web Vulnerability Scanner is affected by a remote denial of service vulnerability. This issue affects the Web sniffer component of the application. An attacker can exploit this issue by gaining control of a server through some means or by sending spoofed traffic to the network. A successful attack can result in a denial of service condition due to resource exhaustion. Acunetix Web Vulnerability Scanner version 2.0 is affected. Other versions may be vulnerable as well. Security Focus is not currently Source: [http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14488/info](http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14488/info)
39. **August 06, Security Focus** — **PHP–Fusion Messages**. **PHP SQL Injection vulnerability.**

PHP–Fusion is prone to an SQL injection vulnerability. This issue is due to a failure in the application to properly sanitize user–supplied input to the 'messages.php' script before using it in an SQL query. Successful exploitation could result in a compromise of the application, disclosure or modification of data, or may permit an attacker to exploit vulnerabilities in the underlying database implementation. Security Focus is not currently aware of any vendor–supplied patches for this issue.


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### Internet Alert Dashboard

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<th>DHS/US–CERT Watch Synopsis</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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**US–CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US–CERT is aware of no significant anomalous activity in the last 24 hours, however, nine new exploits for known vulnerabilities have surfaced over the weekend. This may be the calm before the storm as the script kiddies begin to play with the new exploits. Microsoft Anti–Spyware Beta expired 31 July 2005. If you were running it, check your System Tray. You will probably find the Icon is gone. Microsoft says you should go to Microsoft and get a new copy (No URL provided). US–CERT checked the Microsoft Downloads page and found the new MS Antispyware Beta at the following URL: [http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=321cd7a2–6a57–4c57–a8bd–dbf62eda9671&displaylang=en](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=321cd7a2–6a57–4c57–a8bd–dbf62eda9671&displaylang=en)

**Current Port Attacks**

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<th>Top 10 Target Ports</th>
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<tr>
<td>1026 (----), 445 (microsoft–ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 139 (netbios–ssn), 135 (epmap), 53 (domain), 25 (smtp), 6346 (gnutella–svc), 4672 (eMule), 32772 (sometimes–rpc7)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: [http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center](http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html)

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us−cert.gov](mailto:soc@us−cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us−cert.gov](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/](https://www.it−isac.org/)

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### Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

40. **August 08, Chicago Tribune** — **Surveillance cameras for public places.** The striking images of London subway bombers captured by the city’s extensive video surveillance system and a rising sense that similar attacks could happen in the U.S. are renewing interest in expanding police camera surveillance of America’s public places. The London bombings showcased the capabilities of a digital video surveillance system. After the July 7 and July 21 attacks, authorities quickly produced relatively high-resolution images of the suspected bombers that
benefited fast−moving investigations. But to critics, whose reservations are based primarily on privacy concerns, the London attacks also highlighted the limitations of camera surveillance: they did not prevent terrorist bombings in the heart of the city. Still, even with suicide bombers, camera surveillance can help with the hunt for the terrorist cells that provide them crucial logistical support. Emerging technologies offer even greater promise. Chicago is installing gunshot detection equipment on cameras to automatically alert authorities and point the camera in the direction of the sound. New Jersey Transit has a pilot project in one station that uses computer analysis of video to alert authorities to suspicious behavior, such as someone leaving a package behind. Authorities also are experimenting with facial recognition software, though existing versions are of limited use in scanning crowds for suspected terrorists.
