



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 October 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 a Northwest Airlines flight in Minneapolis bound for Minot aborted takeoff when flames were seen shooting from an engine. (See item [11](#))
- The Antelope Valley Press reports mosquitoes have brought Western Equine Encephalomyelitis to the Los Angeles area; horses can die if they contract the infection and people are also susceptible to the virus. (See item [18](#))
- According to a Johns Hopkins University study, more than one-half of 631 physicians tested were unable to correctly diagnose diseases caused by agents most likely to be used by bioterrorists, such as smallpox, anthrax, botulism, and plague. (See item [24](#))

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](#)
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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 04, Minerals Management Service* — **Norton reports on Gulf of Mexico energy status.** With the United States extremely dependent on the Gulf of Mexico for energy resources, the one-two punch delivered by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has created unprecedented challenges. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton on Tuesday, October 4, provided a preliminary report on damage to oil and gas facilities and the ongoing efforts of the

energy industry and the Federal Government to restore these resources. Of the 4,000 platforms that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) administers, 3,050 platforms were in the path of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The preliminary damage assessment indicates that 108 of the older “end of life” facilities not built to MMS’ upgraded design standards were destroyed. They account for only 1.7% of the Gulf’s oil production and 0.9% of the Gulf’s gas production. Another 53 platforms suffered significant damage. As a result, only a very small percentage of production is expected to be permanently lost. Major new facilities withstood the storms better, with only one major facility destroyed and four receiving significant damage. Repairs are already underway on the damaged facilities, but a substantial portion of production is expected to require several months to resume.

Hurricane Katrina/Hurricane Rita Evacuation and Production Shut-in Statistics Report as of Tuesday, October 4, 2005: <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2005/press1004.htm>

Source: <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2005/press1004a.htm>

2. *October 03, Associated Press* — **Chesapeake to acquire Columbia.** Chesapeake Energy Corp., the nation's third-largest natural gas producer, agreed on Monday, October 3, to acquire rival Columbia Natural Resources LLC for \$2.2 billion in cash. The deal will cement Chesapeake's place as a major gas producer. Chesapeake's proven reserves of natural gas equivalent will increase 1.1 trillion cubic feet of gas (tcf) and it will gain 1.4 tcf of probable and possible reserves. Columbia's daily net production now is 125 million cubic feet of natural gas equivalent, officials said. Columbia's proved reserves are long-lived, have low production decline rates, and are 99 percent natural gas, officials said. The properties are in West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. The acquisition is expected to close by December 15 and is subject to regulatory approval.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Chesapeake-Columbia-Acquisition.html>

3. *October 03, The Enterprise (TX)* — **Power restored to nearly half of Hurricane Rita affected area.** Entergy Texas has restored power to more than half the customers who lost service more than a week ago when Hurricane Rita slammed into Southeast Texas, the utility's president and chief executive said Monday, October 3. In a morning conference call with reporters, Joe Domino continued to caution that restoration numbers would start to slow down as crews moved into more rural areas where damage is more extensive and there are fewer customers. As of early Monday, power was back on for 144,000 of the 286,000 customers left without electricity. Domino said it would be more than two weeks before the last customer gets back power. However, significant progress will continue to be made during the next several days as the utility adds more transmission and generation to the system, he added. Hurricane Rita took out service to 82 percent of Entergy's transmission lines in Texas and 38 percent of transmission lines in Southwest Louisiana.

Source: http://www.southeasttexaslive.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15321900&BRD=2287&PAG=461&dept_id=512588&rfi=6

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4.

October 04, Wisconsin State Journal — **Ammonia leak in Wisconsin prompts evacuations.**

A Central Storage Warehouse employee received minor injuries and five other businesses were evacuated after an ammonia leak on the far East Side of Madison, WI, Monday afternoon, October 3. Workers at the warehouse were repairing the refrigeration system when one of the valves for the anhydrous ammonia broke at 11:35 a.m. CDT, Madison Fire Department spokesperson Eric Dahl said. A gas station, restaurant, accounting firm and dental office were evacuated downwind from the warehouse, and children at a nearby day care center were also evacuated as a precaution while firefighters ventilated the ammonia. Cottage Grove Road was blocked off for several hours until the Hazmat team decided the air quality was safe enough to open the area to traffic.

Source: <http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/index.php?ntid=56410&ntpid=4>

5. *October 03, KTVU (CA)* — **Ruptured gas line forces evacuation of homes in California.**

Twenty-eight homes were evacuated Monday morning, October 3, after a hazardous materials team was called out to a ruptured natural gas line in Mountain View, CA. The natural gas line was ruptured just before 9 a.m. PDT by a third-party construction crew in Mountain View and has since been sealed off, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. spokesperson Jeff Smith said Monday. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/5051336/detail.html>

6. *October 03, The Daily Star (NY)* — **Chemical spill shuts New York interstate for hours.**

A chemical spill on Exit 2W of Interstate 81 in Broome County, NY, closed the ramp and restricted traffic in the area for much of the day Sunday, October 2. State police in Kirkwood, NY, said a tractor-trailer carrying 39,000 pounds of sodium hydrosulfite overturned on its side when the driver lost control as he was leaving the interstate. One of the steel transport vessels on the trailer was breached and an unknown quantity of the powdered chemical spilled into the median, troopers said. Sodium hydrosulfite is commonly used as a bleaching material for products including textiles, leather goods and food. Troopers said there were no injuries or evacuations. Interstate 81 was reduced to one northbound lane in the area around Exit 2, and state Route 17 was closed for much of the day. Troopers said that by Sunday night, the roadways had all been reopened with the exception of Exit 2W, which remained closed.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.com/news/stories/2005/10/03/sp25.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *October 04, SAPA-DPA* — **Swedish bank shuts down Website after phishing attack.** Bank group Nordea shut down its Website for Swedish customers after an illegal attempt to glean personal information was discovered, reports said on Tuesday, October 4. Nordea has approximately 1.6 million customers in Sweden. Late on Monday, October 3, many received an

e-mail sent by alleged scammers requesting sensitive information about their bank accounts and access codes. The illegal activity aimed at luring customers to reveal their data is known as phishing. The scammers allegedly set up a Website in front of the bank's normal Website. There were indications that the false Website was based on a server in South Korea, Stockholm tabloid Expressen reported.

Source: <http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=2902909>

8. *October 03, Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury designates seven al Qaeda associates.**

The Department of the Treasury designated seven Egyptian individuals pursuant to Executive Order 13224 for acting for and on behalf of Egyptian Islamic Jihad, a terrorist group that merged with al Qaeda in 2001. The activities of these individuals included training and providing material support to al Qaeda, as well as conspiring to commit terrorist acts. These individuals are wanted by Egyptian authorities for their involvement in terrorist cases and membership in a terrorist organization. The United States is taking this action pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1617, which requires member states to financially isolate individuals and entities added to the UN 1267 Committee's consolidated list of terrorists tied to the Taliban, al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden. This action prohibits any transactions between U.S. persons and the designees and also freezes any assets they may have within U.S. jurisdiction. The seven are Abdullah Muhammad Rajab Abd Al-Rahman, Madhat Mursi Al-Sayyid Umar, Hani Muhammad Yusuf Al-Siba'i, Al-Sayyid Ahmad Fathi Husayn Alaywah, Zaki Izzat Zaki Ahmad, Ali Sa'd Muhammad Mustafa Bakri, and Muhammad Ahmad Shawqi Al-Islambuli.

Source: <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2960.htm>

9. *October 02, MarketWatch* — **Identity theft scammers stay one step ahead.**

Identity thieves are increasingly finding their jackpot is not in your mailbox or kitchen trash bag, but the computer files stored at your chiropractor, accountant or doctor, an industry expert is warning. With identity fraud, "the future is burglaries — not burglaries of your home, but of dentists, CPAs, insurers," said James Hudson, a former fraud detective and co-founder and president of Amcrin Corp., in West Linn, OR. The thinking among some identity thieves now is, "why should I risk being seen by you when I steal from your mailbox for one piece of data, when I can get thousands of records at a time?" said Hudson. He showed a videotaped interview of an identity thief who detailed her strategies in exchange for reduced prison time. As an apartment manager, she used the wealth of information on rental-application forms to apply for credit cards in other people's names. As a methamphetamine addict, she would also barter that drug to other users in exchange for stolen consumer profiles. She refrained from stealing from mail boxes — "I'm not brave enough," she said. Instead, she bought consumer data from those who filched the information from their workplaces, including cell-phone stores and banks.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?dist=¶m=archiv e&siteid=mktw&guid=%7B52A381E0%2D91E0%2D4572%2DB151%2DB819EB B19C5E%7D&garden=&minisite=>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10.

October 04, Associated Press — **Authorities: Overturned New York boat was understaffed, nearly full.** With only one crewmember and just a passenger short of full capacity, a tour boat that flipped over and killed 20 elderly tourists was unprepared to handle the dangers they faced, authorities said. The state late Monday, October 3, suspended the operating certificates for all five boats run by tour company Shoreline Cruises, including that of The Ethan Allen, which sank Sunday afternoon during what was supposed to be a relaxing, one-hour fall foliage tour for a group of senior citizens. The suspensions followed the determination that The Ethan Allen carried only one crewmember, 74-year-old Capt. Richard Paris, according to Wendy Gibson, spokesperson for the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Ethan Allen has a maximum capacity of 50 people — 48 passengers and two crew, Gibson said. Commercial boats in New York that carry between 21 and 48 passengers must have two crewmembers. The Lake George Park Association and the sheriff's department are responsible for enforcing safety on the lake, and they may reconsider the rules governing crew size and life jacket use, particularly when elderly or infirm passengers are involved, said James Hood, a spokesperson for the association.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/10/04/boat.overturned.ap/index.html>

11. *October 04, Associated Press* — **Northwest plane aborts takeoff after engine problem.** In Minneapolis, a Northwest Airlines flight bound for Minot, ND, aborted takeoff on Monday, October 3, when flames were seen shooting from an engine, KSTP-TV reported. Northwest has been operating with replacement mechanics since union mechanics went on strike in late August. On Sunday, the Star Tribune reported that Federal Aviation Administration inspection reports filed during the first month of the strike showed several examples of mistakes by the replacements. Northwest said it remained confident in the quality of the mechanics' work, but the airline has acknowledged that it conducted "refresher training" for replacements to make sure they're properly documenting their work.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-03-aborted-takeoff_x.htm

12. *October 04, USA TODAY* — **Air service to New Orleans makes slow return.** Airlines are slowly ramping up flights from New Orleans, but it will be months, if not years, before air service there returns to pre-Hurricane Katrina levels. Only nine of the 13 airlines that flew from New Orleans' Louis Armstrong International Airport before Katrina have resumed service or announced plans to resume flying from this once-bustling tourist city. All carriers have sharply reduced flights since Katrina pounded New Orleans on August 29. Only 19 flights departed from the city on Friday, September 30, down from 164 daily before the storm. Midwest, Frontier, Air Canada, TACA International and US Airways — the new name for the merged US Airways and America West — have not resumed service. US Airways will resume November 1. The airport's revenue has shrunk to \$25,000 a day from \$200,000 a day before the hurricane. Still, signs of commercial life are returning as ground transportation and concessions have begun to operate on a limited basis. Airport officials say many of the airline passengers now are government officials, relief workers and returning residents. Southwest Airlines, once the airport's largest carrier, with 57 daily departures, is operating only two flights now, both to Houston.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-03-orleans-air-usat_x.htm

13. *October 04, USA TODAY* — **Delayed, canceled flights on upswing.** Flight delays and cancellations are mounting for U.S. travelers as the financially ailing airline industry juggles

rising fuel prices, weather, labor troubles, and more passengers. One of every four domestic flights was late in August, worse than a year ago, when nearly 80% arrived on time, according to monthly data released Monday, October 3, by the Department of Transportation. It was the third-worst August on record. Sometimes an airline will cancel a flight with few passengers and put those passengers on a flight that leaves for the same destination a few hours later, analyst Randy Babbitt says. This can save an airline thousands of dollars on jet fuel, which soared to about \$126 a barrel Monday from about \$63 a year ago.

Report: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot14505.htm>

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-03-late-flights-usat_x.htm

- 14. *October 04, Department of Transportation* — **Transportation Secretary Mineta announces \$47 million to restore transit services in New Orleans and Baton Rouge.**** Forty-seven million dollars in federal emergency funds are now available to help restore transit service to New Orleans and to expand service to address the rising population in Louisiana's capital of Baton Rouge, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced on Tuesday, October 4. The \$47 million in emergency funding will be used by the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and Baton Rouge Capital Area Transit System (CATS) to fund bus routes and services in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. The funding will remain available over the next six months and draws on funding made available in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act that was passed to directly aid the Gulf region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Federal funds will be used to prepare New Orleans to restart transit operations as citizens move back into the area. In Baton Rouge, CATS requires assistance because the city's population doubled from 400,000 to 800,000 due to Hurricane Katrina, straining a transit system that was already operating near its capacity.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot14605.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

- 15. *October 04, USAgNet* — **Most grain facilities in Gulf of Mexico have resumed operations.****

Less than a week after a second major hurricane swept through the Gulf of Mexico, grain facilities in most of the region's ports have resumed loading U.S. grain onto vessels headed to destinations around the world, reported the U.S. Grains Council. The Port of New Orleans and the Port of Houston both reported little to no damage from Hurricane Rita which hit the region on Saturday, October 1. The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has reported their offices in Texas and New Orleans are operational, with the exception of the offices in Beaumont, TX, and Lake Charles, LA, where the condition of the FGIS offices and the grain export facilities is unknown.

U.S. Grains Council: <http://www.grains.org/>

Federal Grain Inspection Service: <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/>

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=991&yr=2005>

16. *October 04, Associated Press* — Officials continue to find Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

New Hampshire public officials continue finding animals and birds infected with Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The disease is spread by infected mosquitoes, which pass it on to humans and other animals. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services says that in the past two days the disease has been found in two alpacas in Madbury and Rochester and two birds in Bow and Nashua. State health officials say the mosquito season was ended in northern New Hampshire by frosts that kill the insects, but they cautioned that humans and animals are still vulnerable in southern parts of the state.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/eeefact.htm>

Eastern Equine Encephalitis in New Hampshire:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/CDCS/West+Nile+Virus/default.htm>

Source: <http://www.citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051004/N>

[EWS0201/51004004/-1/CITIZEN](http://www.citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051004/N)

17. *October 04, New York Times* — Wasting—disease culprit may be tongue.

The mystery of how deer and elk spread chronic wasting disease from one animal to another may be solved: their tongues are infectious. When the animals lick or slobber on each other — a fairly common occurrence, especially among elk — the agent that causes the fatal disease may be shed from their tongues via saliva. When they graze, leaving sloughed-off tongue cells and saliva in grass and soil, the disease could be widely transmitted. Dr. Richard Bessen, an associate professor of veterinary molecular biology at Montana State University in Bozeman, discovered the infectious agent, called a prion, in deer and elk tongues. Details of disease transmission still need to be worked out, he said, but he believes the prions in saliva are significant in the growing national epidemic of the disease. Since it was first identified two decades ago in deer in Colorado, chronic wasting disease has spread to a dozen states and two Canadian provinces.

Chronic Wasting Disease information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahps/cwd/>

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/04/science/04tong.html>

18. *October 04, Antelope Valley Press (CA)* — Mosquitoes bring different disease to Los

Angeles area. More sentinel chickens tested positive — this time not for West Nile virus, but another mosquito-borne disease. Karen Mellor, entomologist for the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District in California, learned Monday, October 3, that blood samples from two test chickens at separate sites in Lancaster showed the presence of Western Equine Encephalomyelitis. Though the disease is not fatal in chickens, and they will not develop symptoms, horses can die if they contract the infection. Mellor described encephalomyelitis as a more severe form of encephalitis, which causes the brain to become inflamed.

Encephalomyelitis results in inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, she said. The disease was "first discovered in horses in the '30s," Mellor said. People are also susceptible to the virus.

Western Equine Encephalomyelitis information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/weefact.htm>

Source: http://www.avpress.com/n/04/1004_s10.htm

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Food Sector

19. *October 04, Reuters* — **Japan panel says near decision on U.S. beef safety.** Japan moved closer on Tuesday, October 4, to possibly lifting a ban on U.S. beef after a key panel said it had almost completed its risk assessment of American beef and would soon rule on its safety. The panel, a subcommittee of Japan's Food Safety Commission, accelerated its discussions amid mounting U.S. pressure to end a nearly two-year-old ban on American beef imposed after a case of mad cow disease was discovered in Washington state. "We would like to discuss how to conclude our talks at the next meeting," Yasuhiro Yoshikawa, the chairman of the 12-member subcommittee, told reporters after the three-hour meeting. At the meeting, Yoshikawa presented a report that said beef and beef offal from American cattle aged 20 months or younger was at low risk from mad cow disease if risk materials that could transmit the disease were properly removed. Some panel members proposed revisions to the report, and Yoshikawa said he would prepare a revised report by the next meeting. Asked if he would make major changes, Yoshikawa said he was unlikely to change the bottom line that U.S. beef to be shipped to Japan under the U.S. government's export program was at a low risk from the disease. Deliberation of the Japanese Food Safety Commission on the beef and beef offal imported from the U.S.A. and Canada: <http://www.fsc.go.jp/sonota/bse-iinkai-giron-english.pdf>
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/T137405.htm>

20. *October 04, Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA proposes additional mad cow safeguards.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday, October 4, announced new measures to help further protect consumers against the agent thought to cause bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, also known as "mad cow disease"). The FDA is proposing to amend its animal feed regulations to prohibit from use in the food or feed of all animals certain high-risk cattle materials that can potentially carry the BSE-infectious agent. All of the proposed prohibitions, except for those related to tallow, have already applied to cattle feed since 1997. These high risk cattle materials prohibited in the new proposed rule include: the brains and spinal cords from cattle 30 months of age and older, the brains and spinal cords from cattle of any age not inspected and passed for human consumption, the entire carcass of cattle not inspected and passed for human consumption if the brains and spinal cords have not been removed, tallow that is derived from the materials prohibited by this proposed rule if the tallow contains more than 0.15 percent insoluble impurities, and mechanically separated beef that is derived from the materials prohibited by this proposed rule.
Information about FDA's work on BSE: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/bse.html>
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2005/new01240.html>

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Water Sector

21. *October 01, Associated Press* — **Authorities investigate break-ins at water tower, reservoir.** A water tower in east Spokane, WA, and a reservoir across the border in Idaho were both broken into recently, and both water systems were found to be contaminated with coliform bacteria. The intrusions were confirmed Friday, September 30, by the East Spokane Water District and a member of the Hauser Lake Water Association. Officials do not know if the cases are related, or if the water was contaminated deliberately. Users of both water systems were told to boil their water or drink bottled water. Authorities said they do not believe the cases are

related to E.coli contamination earlier in the week in north Spokane or to the discovery of a toxic chemical recently in a well in Colbert. An official with the state Department of Health said special attention is now paid to water supply break-ins. "Over the years it's not unusual for kids to break into a reservoir," said Dan Sander, a regional manager with the Department of Health's office of drinking water. "But since 9/11, we take those reservoir incidents very seriously."

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/aplocal_story.asp?category=6420&slug=Water%20Break%20ins

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Public Health Sector

22. *October 04, The Daily Telegraph (Australia)* — Australia begins bird flu vaccine trials and sends team of advisors to aid Indonesia in bird flu battle. Hundreds of Australian volunteers will begin testing different formulations of a bird flu vaccine this week amid growing fears of a global pandemic. The Australian trial is aimed at obtaining a vaccine to prevent the spread of bird flu in the event of a pandemic. About 400 healthy Australians aged 18 to 45 in Melbourne and Adelaide will receive their first vaccinations later this week. CSL Ltd is sponsoring the trial and has received \$3.8 million from the Australian federal government to fast track production of a pandemic flu vaccine. Australia will also send a team of advisers and specialists to Indonesia this week to help it cope with a bird flu outbreak. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said AusAID director-general Bruce Davis would head the deployment of specialists to Indonesia. "The team, drawn from a number of commonwealth government departments, is expected to meet with the Indonesian Ministers for Health and Agriculture, relevant Indonesian government officials and senior personnel from the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization," he said. Australia has already funded 50,000 doses of the anti-viral medication Tamiflu for Indonesia, which is due to arrive in Jakarta this week.

Source: http://dailytelegraph.news.com.au/story/0,20281,16809592-500_1022,00.html

23. *October 03, Reuters* — U.S. finds Francisella tularensis bacteria present during war protest last weekend. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said several government environmental air monitors at Washington's National Mall detected low levels of Francisella tularensis bacteria over the weekend of September 24–25, as thousands of protesters marched against the Iraq War, U.S. health authorities said on Saturday, October 1. Francisella tularensis bacteria is the cause of tularemia, commonly known as "rabbit fever." Public health agencies had no reports of any related human or animal illnesses caused by the bacteria. The CDC said it issued an alert on Friday night, September 30, as a precaution so medical personnel were aware of the situation and could report any suspected cases. The CDC waited a week to notify city officials of the detected bacteria because it took that long to test the samples at labs and confirm its presence. According to the CDC's Website, people can get rabbit fever by being bitten by a infected tick, deerfly or other insect, handling infected animal carcasses, eating or drinking contaminated food or water, or, breathing in the bacteria. The CDC also said the bacteria can be used as a weapon if made into an aerosol that could be inhaled.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2005-10-03T193200Z_01_KRA360004_RTRUKOC_0_US-FEVE

24. *October 03, The JHU Gazette* — **Many physicians ill prepared to diagnose or treat bioterrorism diseases, according to study.** More than one-half of 631 physicians tested were unable to correctly diagnose diseases caused by agents most likely to be used by bioterrorists, such as smallpox, anthrax, botulism and plague, according to a Johns Hopkins University study published in the September 26 issue of Archives of Internal Medicine. However, test scores improved dramatically for the same physicians after they completed an online training course in diagnosing and managing these diseases caused by bioterrorism agents, according to the study. In the study, 631 physicians at 30 internal medicine residency programs in 16 states and Washington, DC, were tested before and after taking an online course in bioterrorism disease on how to recognize and treat bioterrorism-related diseases. On the pretest, correct diagnosis of diseases due to bioterrorism agents was smallpox, 50.7 percent; anthrax, 70.5 percent; botulism, 49.6 percent; and plague, 16.3 percent, for an average of 46.8 percent, the researchers report. Correct diagnosis averaged 79 percent after completion of the course. Correct management of smallpox in the pretest was 14.6 percent; anthrax, 17 percent; botulism, 60.2 percent; and plague 9.7 percent, for an average of 25.4 percent. Correct management averaged 79.1 percent after course completion.
- Johns Hopkins University study: <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/165/17/2002>
Source: <http://www.jhu.edu/~gazette/2005/03oct05/03illpre.html>

25. *October 03, All Headline News* — **Asia scrambles to contain dengue virus.** The dengue virus-carrying Aedes mosquito has adapted to urbanized human environments and traditional methods used in most Asian countries to control their breeding, making it more difficult to control its spread. "It's a global pandemic," says Dr. Duane Gubler, director at the Asia-Pacific Institute of Tropical Diseases in Hawaii. "It's quite clear that the disease...has evolved. There just is more dengue in the world." All across Asia, governments are scrambling to contain the virus, which is only carried by the Aedes mosquito. Singapore has already reported more than 11,000 cases this year, far more than the record-setting 9,459 set in 2004. Neighboring Malaysia, meanwhile, has reported close to 28,000 human infections — more than 25 percent compared to one year ago. Philippines and Thailand are also battling a rash of infections. Dengue is sometimes called bone-breaker's disease because it causes severe joint pain. Other symptoms include high fever, nausea, and a rash. In the worst cases, it may cause internal bleeding. There is no known cure or vaccine.
- Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7000366583>

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Government Sector

26. *October 04, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS takes steps to ensure procurement integrity in the Gulf Coast region.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has taken unprecedented actions to ensure procurement integrity is maintained during one of the largest recovery efforts in the nation's history. The department has established a procurement control board to oversee and review contracts for Hurricane Katrina relief. The board is staffed by the DHS Inspector General's Office and performs internal control reviews and contract audits. DHS is working with the Defense Contract Management Agency to obtain on-site

administrative contracting personnel who have extensive knowledge of the contractors' management systems to assess contractor compliance with technical performance requirements. Their expertise is providing real-time assistance in reviewing, evaluating, analyzing costs, negotiating and awarding contracts and task orders in support of relief efforts required by Hurricane Katrina. In addition to these proactive efforts to ensure internal procurement integrity, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the DHS Office of the Inspector General are actively addressing external fraud issues.

For more information on DHS oversight and contracting opportunities, visit

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_04_16.xml

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4873>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *October 03, The Arizona Republic* — Arizona county hosting terror attack drill. Pinal County, AZ, will host a statewide emergency services drill beginning about 7:30 a.m. MDT Friday, October 14. "The state of Arizona has a very aggressive emergency exercise program," said Judy Kioski, a spokesperson for the Arizona Department of Emergency Management (ADEM). The drill will involve a simulated terrorist attack and will focus on government responses in Arizona's eastern regions, including Gila, Graham, Greenlee and Pinal counties. ADEM couldn't provide more details without compromising the nature of the drill, officials said. This is an annual drill; at least 100 agencies and 1,000 personnel participated in last year's drill.

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1003_EV-PinalDrill.html

28. *October 03, Federal Computer Weekly* — Geographical Information System aids the Coast Guard in post-Hurricane Katrina operations. Talbot Brooks, director of Delta State University's Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies in Cleveland, MS, has assembled geographic information system (GIS) experts to help with post-Hurricane Katrina rescue and recovery efforts. For the Coast Guard, his team translated more than 100 street addresses into degrees, minutes and seconds required for helicopter and land-base rescues. GIS professionals from various Mississippi universities and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association's GISCorps volunteered to help Brooks with numerous tasks at the state's emergency operations center in Jackson County. The experts also created a missing persons database and plotted their last known locations on a map. At last count, they produced more than 400 search and rescue maps for first responders showing the last known location of more than 10,000 missing persons. Additionally, they collected and mapped vital data such as power outages, cell tower and coverage areas, location of hazardous material, location of wells, electrical substations and other critical infrastructure, and locations of shelter, food and water distribution points and capacities.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article90937-10-03-05-Web>

29. *October 03, Military.com* — Cutting-edge military communications terminal used in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Developed by the military as a solution to the communication problems of 9/11, the Incident Commanders, Command, Control and Communications Unit (IC4U) is a mobile communications terminal recently deployed to aid

hurricane relief operations. “The IC4U was developed specifically as a homeland security asset to enable interagency cross talk [among] local civic entities after a disaster,” said Master Sgt. Tony May of the Georgia Air National Guard’s 283rd Combat Communications Squadron (CCS). Georgia sent its IC4U package to support the Texas National Guard after Hurricane Rita devastated the area. “These can be set up and running in about 15 minutes,” said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy McGinnis of the 283rd CCS. The IC4U had its first operational test in New Orleans and at the Houston Astrodome in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Currently there are a handful of IC4Us operating in various states, according to Tech. Sgt. Andrew Smiley, also of the 283rd CCS. The equipment is so new, most commanders and civilian emergency responders do not understand its full capabilities, he said. Besides telephone and Internet service, the unit is also capable of relaying video and radio traffic from forward-deployed locations.

Source: <http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,78084,00.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *October 04, Security Focus* — Mozilla Browser/Firefox arbitrary HTTP request injection vulnerability. Mozilla and Firefox browsers have been found to be prone to a vulnerability that permits the injection of arbitrary HTTP requests. This issue is due to a failure in the application that properly sanitizes user supplied input and exploits server or proxy flaws from the user's machine. This vulnerability can also trick a server or proxy into thinking a single request is a stream of separate requests.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14923/discuss>

31. *October 03, Vnunet* — Multiple passwords creating insecurity. According to a recent report users are being burdened with too many passwords, and their confusion could undermine IT security. According to the survey creators, the survey of 1,700 ordinary IT users claims that nine out of 10 have grown frustrated with this situation and are getting around it with poor password practice that diminishes IT security. Survey creator, Victor DeMarines stated “Often employees of companies will write passwords down and stick them to the sides of screens, or put them in insecure places like their PDA or personal organizer that are vulnerable to spyware and malware.” According to the results 98% of responded agreed that they would rather have a master password or a single sign-on system.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/computing/news/2143054/multiple-passwo-rds-creating>

32. *October 01, FrSIRT* — Citrix MetaFrame presentation server security policies bypass issue. A vulnerability has been identified in Citrix MetaFrame Presentation Server. This could be exploited by attackers to bypass security policies. This issue is due to an access validation error when policy filtering decisions are based on the name of a client device. This vulnerability could be exploited by remote clients to bypass security rules by changing the name of the client device via the file "launch.ica.”

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1923>

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 is aware of publicly available exploit code for a format string vulnerability in the Helix Player. Please note that this vulnerability affects all media players based on the Helix Player, such as Real Player on UNIX / LINUX systems. The vulnerability exists in the way Helix Player handles certain media files. A remote attacker who is able to convince a user to view a specially crafted media file, may be able to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the Helix Player process.

More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

* VU#361181 – Helix Player format string vulnerability

Until a patch is available to address this vulnerability, US-CERT strongly encourages users to review the workarounds section of the Vulnerability Note (VU#361181).

Top Source Port / IP Addresses: Increased reported port activity: 1029 UDP, 1030 UDP, 1028 UDP, 1434 UPD from the following IP blocks, located in China and Taiwan: 220.164.140.141, 218.66.104.186, 221.208.208..17, 61.235.155.2, 222.241.95.14 , 222.77.185.242, and 203.66.92.168

US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events such as Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. For more information please refer to: <http://www.us-cert.gov/current/#kat>

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice. <http://www.fema.gov/>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6881 (bittorrent), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 40000 (----), 8189 (----), 80 (www), 53 (domain) 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

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

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Contact DHS

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

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

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