



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 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 a fiery train accident in Arkansas has left one person dead and forced the evacuation of hundreds of homes. (See item [4](#))
- The Associated Press reports a passenger accused of punching out an airplane window during a flight from Las Vegas to Tampa could face 20 years in federal prison if convicted of damaging an aircraft while it was operating. (See item [18](#))
- The Associated Press reports authorities have killed thousands of domestic fowl in eastern Romania, seeking to prevent the spread of a deadly strain of bird flu that has decimated flocks and killed dozens of people in Asia. (See item [28](#))

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 14, Atlanta Business Chronicle* — **Colonial Pipeline back to full power.** Colonial Pipeline has reported it now has full commercial power at all of its facilities, allowing its gasoline and distillate mainlines to operate at full rates, subject to product availability. Colonial's pipeline and facilities were undamaged by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, but had to rely on portable power to expedite its return to service. With the return of commercial

power, Colonial has removed the portable power that supplemented commercial power at some pump stations in Louisiana. The pipeline delivers a daily average of 100 million gallons of gasoline, home heating oil, aviation fuel and other refined petroleum products throughout South and the Eastern United States. It has more than 5,500 miles of pipeline stretching from Houston to New York harbor.

Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2005/10/10/daily3_2.html?from_rss=1

2. *October 13, ISO New England* — **Grid operator assesses hurricane impact on region's electricity supply.** ISO New England Inc., the operator of the New England's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets, on Thursday, October 13, released findings of an assessment of the potential impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on New England's electric generation capability for the coming winter. Overall, New England can expect the high cost of fuel, particularly natural gas and oil, to continue through the November-through-March heating season as supplies from the Gulf of Mexico remain uncertain due to heavy hurricane damage to offshore drilling infrastructure and onshore refining capacity. Gordon van Welie, President and CEO of ISO New England, said, "Based on our experience with extreme winter conditions, including the Cold Snap of January 2004, ISO New England is planning for contingencies and implementing mitigation measures to prepare the region's bulk power system for any negative impacts that the hurricanes may have caused on the fuel supply for electricity. And to ensure a reliable supply of electricity this winter, we need all businesses and consumers to take precautionary steps by becoming more energy efficient and conserving electricity, consistent with their own health and safety needs." New England is highly reliant on natural gas and oil for both electric generation and heating.

Report "Post Katrina and Rita Outlook on Fuel Supply Adequacy and Bulk Power Security in New England": http://www.iso-ne.com/pubs/spcl_rpts/2005/wntr_assess/post_hurricane_outlook.pdf

Source: http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/pr/2005/hurricane_impact_release.pdf

3. *October 07, Department of Energy* — **Energy inspector general issues special report on National Nuclear Security Administration's implementation of the 2003 Design Basis Threat.** The Department of Energy (DOE) develops and periodically updates a Design Basis Threat (DBT) analysis, which reflects the most credible threats posed by adversary types to departmental assets and operations. The resulting DBT document provides senior decision makers and site managers with the policy information needed to plan permanent safeguards and security upgrades; identify needed resources; and implement improved programs to successfully protect sensitive DOE assets against defined threats, including terrorism. Due to the heightened terrorist threat environment, DOE established the end of the fiscal year (FY) 2006 for implementing some changes, and FY 2008 as the goal for fully implementing permanent security changes to site protection programs. Given the importance of protecting DOE national security assets, the inspector general's office initiated an audit to evaluate the status of the National Nuclear Security Administration's efforts to implement the changes required by FY 2006. The review emphasized the implementation of permanent and technologically advanced upgrades.

Source: <http://www.ig.doe.gov/pdf/ig-0705.pdf>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *October 15, Associated Press* — **Derailment releases poisonous fumes, prompts evacuations in Arkansas.** A fiery train accident in Arkansas has left one person dead and forced the evacuation of hundreds of homes. Seven empty train cars and a tanker containing a flammable gas derailed in a Texarkana switchyard and exploded in a ball of fire. At least two homes were destroyed. Police said the person who died was in one of them. Several vehicles were totaled in the quarter-mile area surrounding the accident. A plume of smoke covered the south end of the city, and at least seven people went to hospital emergency rooms with complaints of respiratory problems. Police said the chemical that caught fire in a train car is propylene, not the more dangerous vinyl acetate that was originally suspected. Still, they recommend that residents stay away from their homes. A Union Pacific spokesperson said the train was headed for Laredo, TX, when it hit the back of another freight train in the rail yard.

Source: <http://www.wmtw.com/news/5102608/detail.html?rss=port&psp=nationalnews>

5. *October 14, St. Petersburg Times (FL)* — **Fifty-six evacuated when gas line breaks.** A construction crew punctured a high-pressure gas line in Largo, FL, at Ulmerton and Belcher roads on Thursday afternoon, October 13, forcing the evacuation of 56 people and shutting down the intersection. The crew struck the natural gas line at 1:19 p.m. EDT, said Karry Bell, Largo deputy fire chief. The line was fixed at 2:50 p.m. EDT, ending a potential hazard, Bell said. No one was injured.

Source: http://www.sptimes.com/2005/10/14/Northpinellas/56_evacuated_when_gas.shtml

6. *October 14, Click 2 Houston* — **Truck topples, spills acid on Texas highway.** The main traffic artery between Houston and South Texas was closed from Refugio to Sinton after a truck carrying a cargo of acid toppled on Friday, October 14. The tractor-trailer rig carrying more than 3,400 gallons of hydrofluoric acid overturned just before daybreak on U.S. Highway 77, about five miles north of Sinton, TX. The highly corrosive acid is used in glass etching and gives off irritating fumes when exposed to the air. There was no word of injuries, and there was no indication that the tanker trailer was leaking.

Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/5099626/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *October 14, DefenseNews* — **U.S. Navy Chief: stabilize ship plan.** The U.S. Navy's new chief of naval operations (CNO) wants to restructure the way warships are planned and purchased. "What I intend to do is to roll out a plan that I'm able to stick to year to year," said Adm. Mike Mullen. This would help shipbuilders reduce costs, and shipyard executives have repeatedly pointed out the difficulty of maintaining skilled workforces amid vacillating Navy plans. But the fleet's future shape won't be set until the Pentagon presents its Quadrennial Defense Review in February, although one of Mullen's first moves after taking over as CNO in July was to ask for a new study on the size of the Navy's fleet. "We've done a lot of analysis" and "the outcome will be a number," he said. His predecessor, Adm. Vern Clark, had been criticized by lawmakers and analysts for offering a range of ship numbers, rather than specific figures.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=1172389&C=america>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *October 14, Associated Press* — **Deutsche Bank to tighten policies against money laundering.** The Federal Reserve Bank and state regulators have ordered Deutsche Bank to tighten its policies regarding the reporting of suspicious transactions and customer vetting to prevent money laundering. The reprimand follows several other such instances of regulators cracking down on banks: a year ago the Department of the Treasury fined Riggs Bank \$25 million for mishandling of foreign-held accounts, and in August, Arab Bank PLC paid \$24 million for inadequate control against money laundering at its New York location.
Source: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/businesstechnology/2002561539_webdeutschebank14.html?syndication=rss
9. *October 14, IDG News Service* — **Increase in phishing sites, decline in phishing campaigns, according to report.** The Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) found in its August report, released on October 13, that the number of new phishing sites has reached a high of 5,259. The number of days a phishing site remains online has dropped to an average of 5.5 days, however. Compared to 18 months ago when phishing sites would often function for more than a week, financial institutions are now conducting pre-emptive analyses of their websites to catch phishing perpetrators who attempt to produce a counterfeit copy of the site. Phishers are trying new ways to skirt counterphishing techniques, including setting up multiple sites so that one will pop up if one is taken down, and a "redirect" mechanism where sites change from minute to minute.
Report <http://www.antiphishing.org/>
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/pcworld/20051014/tc_pcworld/123027
10. *October 14, Security News* — **Report reveals increase in crimeware and malicious Websites.** According to the 2005 Semi-Annual Web Security Trends Report, the number of malicious websites and amount of crimeware has increased. In the first half of 2005, dramatic increases appeared in the number of smaller, regional banks being targeted. More than 30 small credit unions were targeted by "puddle phishing" scams. This type of phishing has changed considerably, as has spyware, which has been increasingly utilizing keyloggers and "screen scrapers." The report found that although several browser vulnerabilities were exploited, traditional deception through e-mails and IMs to entice users to visit websites in order to infect them is still the method used most often. Researchers predict that scammers will increase their tactic of "hunting in packs," in which groups share tools to create similar large-volume attacks.
Report: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/docs/WebsenseSecurityLabs20051H_Report.pdf
Source: <http://www.securitypark.co.uk/pfv.asp?articleid=24437>
11. *October 14, BBC* — **Lloyds TSB to implement token security system for online banking.** Lloyd's 30,000 customers will receive token security devices, which generate a constantly changing six-digit code, to be used in addition to usernames and passwords for their online

banking. Use of the code is designed to thwart scammers who hack PCs or use "phishing" emails to steal login information. Similar systems are already in use in Asia, Scandinavia and Australia. Matthew Timms, Lloyds TSB's Internet banking director, said that as other banks are trying different devices, the keyring-style token would probably not be the final format for the bank. He said, "The journey we're on will probably end up as a card which can do both Internet banking and card-not-present (credit card) transactions."

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4340898.stm>

12. *October 14, Finextra* — **Western Union and UK police fight fraud.** To curtail the use of money transfer services for fraudulent purposes, money transfer operator Western Union has implemented a new initiative to stop "high volume" fraud. "High volume" fraud includes Internet auction site fraud, lottery scams, check overpayments, false Websites, 'honey traps,' and advanced fee fraud. The initiative is designed to give customer—who appear to be sending money for 'business purposes' or are unsure of the intended recipient—a 'fraud warning' form with information on common frauds, prevention advice, and support contacts. The Metropolitan Police may launch a similar initiative with eBay in the UK.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=14394>

13. *October 13, USA TODAY* — **Counterfeit \$100 bills turning up in banks along East Coast.** The fakes have appeared in states from North Carolina to New York, and predominantly in Maryland. The bills are manufactured using a technique of bleaching a \$5 bill and then reprinting it with the image of a \$100 bill. The bills thwart the litmus-test-like pen that can detect commercial-grade paper when the pen's ink turns a darker color. The fake bills escape detection because the paper is real. Secret Service spokesperson Todd Kreisher said, "It's not being caught by the retailers. It's being caught by the banks. But then it's too late." Secret Service data shows that the percentage of digitally produced fake bills detected has grown from one percent in 1995 to approximately 40 percent today. The Federal Reserve Bank estimates that counterfeit bills total \$43 million of \$725 billion in U.S. currency that is currently in circulation.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-10-13-marylandfunny_money_x.htm

14. *October 12, California State and Consumer Services Agency* — **Report, upcoming summit show California's aggressive actions to curtail identity theft.** A report released on October 12 contains recommendations on how the California State and Consumer Services Agency can work with law enforcement, institutions of higher learning, and businesses to educate consumers about identity theft. The report, drafted from proceedings from a March 2005 identity theft summit, recommends providing special assistance to identity theft victims and conducting broad-based research into criminal identity theft activity. The administration has increased the budget for the California Office of Privacy Protection to carry out the recommendations which will be addressed at the next statewide summit scheduled for February 23, 2006 in Los Angeles. Charlene Zettel, director of the California Department of Consumer affairs, said "Consumers, business, law enforcement, and prosecutors compared notes at the first identity theft summit, identified obstacles to prosecuting this crime, and proposed solutions. Next year's summit will be focused on providing nuts-and-bolts training for these key stakeholders."

California Identity Theft Summit report: http://www.idtheftsummit.ca.gov/2005_report.pdf.

California Identity Theft Summit meeting information: <http://www.idtheftsummit.ca.gov/>

Source: http://www.dca.ca.gov/press_releases/2005/1012_idtheft.htm

15. *October 12, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council* — **Guidance on authentication in Internet banking released.** An updated version of Authentication in an Internet Banking Environment, originally released by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) in 2001, contains guidance on how risk management controls can be used to authenticate the identity of customers accessing Internet-based financial services. The updated version was issued to reflect recent legal and technological changes with regard to protecting customer information; increasing frequency of identity theft and fraud; and improved authentication and risk mitigation strategies.
Guidance: http://www.ffiec.gov/pdf/authentication_guidance.pdf
Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/press/pr101205.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

16. *October 14, Department of Transportation* — **Transportation Secretary Mineta announces contract for transit in hurricane-ravaged Mississippi counties.** Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, on Friday, October 14, announced that \$1.4 million in federal emergency funds are now available to help restore transit service to Mississippi counties ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. The contract draws on funds from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act that was passed to directly aid the Gulf region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The money will help pay for operation of bus routes in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties.
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/DOT15305.htm>
17. *October 14, Associated Press* — **ATA eliminates routes, cuts more jobs.** Discount carrier ATA Airlines will discontinue service between Chicago and the cities of Boston, Minneapolis, and Newark, NJ, as it strives to emerge from federal bankruptcy protection. The Indianapolis-based airline will also lay off about 100 employees and is dropping plans to begin service from Chicago-Midway to Miami and Sarasota, FL, the company said Thursday, October 13. ATA, which is owned by ATA Holdings, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October 2004. It has cut more than 3,000 jobs since it began downsizing from a workforce of 7,800 people two years ago. Passengers with plans to travel on the canceled routes will be rebooked on other carriers or given refunds for their tickets.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-14-ata-cuts_x.htm
18. *October 14, Associated Press* — **Florida man charged with punching out airplane window in flight.** A passenger accused of punching out an airplane window during a flight from Las Vegas to Florida could face 20 years in federal prison if convicted of damaging an aircraft while it was operating, authorities said. Ryan J. Marchione, 24, of Venice, FL, was arrested after the American West flight landed Wednesday morning, October 12, at Tampa International Airport. He was accused of shattering a plastic shield covering a glass window and disconnecting its frame during Tuesday's overnight flight, according to an FBI affidavit in the case. U.S. Magistrate Thomas Wilson ordered Marchione released on \$25,000 bail and home

detention with electronic monitoring.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-14-window-punch_x.htm

19. *October 13, Washington Post* — **FAA upgrading radar to keep planes on controllers' screens.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it is upgrading radar equipment to help prevent aircraft from disappearing from the computer screens of air traffic controllers. Controllers at the FAA's Washington Center in Leesburg, VA, have reported numerous instances over the past month in which a plane or several planes suddenly disappeared from radar screens for more than 30 seconds. Over the weekend, FAA officials upgraded radar in The Plains, VA, that was responsible for some of the incidents. FAA officials said the agency is also working to upgrade radar at two other locations and is ready to respond if the problem recurs, using an aircraft and vehicle equipped with spectrum analysis equipment. Since the radar upgrade was completed in The Plains, FAA spokesperson Laura Brown said there continue to be problems with planes disappearing from the scopes, but she said they are "less severe." On at least one occasion, September 27, multiple radars intermittently went out, which FAA officials said was highly unusual. The FAA said the problem has not occurred since then, although occasionally one radar will "jump" and a plane will disappear for about 12 seconds and then reappear.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/12/AR2005101202016.html>

20. *October 13, Associated Press* — **FAA extends flight caps at O'Hare.** Federal aviation regulators have extended a temporary cap on flights into O'Hare International Airport into next spring as a way to reduce delays, according to a federal order made public Thursday, October 13. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) extended the flight restrictions, which were to expire at the end of this month, to April 1 "to ensure that congestion and delay at O'Hare remain at manageable levels." The FAA and O'Hare's major airlines agreed last year to cut the number of flights at the delay-prone facility, which had the worst delays of the nation's 31 busiest airports in 2004. The limits have worked, according to the FAA. This year, 77 percent of flights arrived at O'Hare on time, up from 70 percent in 2004. United Airlines spokesperson Dave Dimmer said the carrier supported the extension as "the best short-term answer to limiting the congestion" at O'Hare. United accounts for 50 percent of flights at O'Hare.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-13-ohare-caps_x.htm

21. *October 13, Associated Press* — **Delta subsidiary Comair to cut up to 1,000 jobs.** Comair, a regional airline subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, said Thursday, October 13, it will eliminate up to 650 more jobs as it cuts its workforce by as much as 14 percent in a broader bid to save up to \$70 million a year. Comair said it will also cut pay for management and non-union workers and reduce its fleet as parent Delta slashes costs during its Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization. Comair said the pay cuts will start in December. Comair will reduce its fleet of 174 planes by at least 11, and could remove as many as 30 during the bankruptcy reorganization. Atlanta-based Delta said before it filed for bankruptcy last month it would trim service by about 25 percent at its second-largest hub, the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Hebron, KY. Comair employs about 5,000 of its 7,000 workers at the airport.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-13-comair-cuts_x.htm

22. *October 13, Associated Press* — **Northwest Airlines regional feeder Mesaba files for bankruptcy.** Regional carrier Mesaba Airlines followed Northwest Airlines into bankruptcy on Thursday, October 13, a victim of Northwest's cuts as the big airline shrinks to try to fix its own financial problems. Mesaba parent MAIR Holdings said the bankruptcy was prompted by "cash shortages and significant fleet changes and uncertainties imposed on it by Northwest Airlines," which is Mesaba's only customer. The company said it expects to keep flying while in bankruptcy. Mesaba's schedule, passengers and planes all come from Northwest, and its financial problems did, too. Flying under the Northwest Airlink name, Mesaba ferries passengers between Northwest hubs and outposts around the upper Midwest, where it is often the only air carrier. Northwest entered bankruptcy court on September 14 and is cutting its domestic schedule to avoid unprofitable routes. Many of those cuts have fallen on its regional carriers, Mesaba and Pinnacle Airlines Inc. Mesaba is the largest subsidiary of Eagan, MN-based MAIR Holdings, which also owns Billings, MT-based regional carrier Big Sky Transportation, MAIR said on Thursday that it is solvent.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-13-mesaba-bankruptcy_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

23. *October 14, The Ledger (FL)* — **New canker outbreaks found.** Florida inspectors have found citrus canker in two more citrus groves in Frostproof, FL, near a Ben Hill Griffin Inc. grove previously reported to have the bacterial disease. One of the new outbreaks was confirmed Wednesday, October 12, on oranges and grapefruit in another Griffin grove, said Denise Feiber of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services. The other outbreak was confirmed on Valencia oranges in a nearby grove owned by Dudley Putnam Inc., a Bartow grower.

Information about citrus canker:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/emergencyprograms/citruscanker/>

Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051014/NEWS/510140370/1001/RSS02&source=RSS>

24. *October 14, United States Department of Agriculture* — **USDA designates Arkansas a disaster area.** United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Chuck Conneron Friday, October 14, announced that the department designated all 75 counties in Arkansas as primary natural disaster areas due to drought and extremely high temperatures that have continued since May 1, 2005. "The lack of precipitation and heat has devastated farmers, ranchers and others in Arkansas," said Conner. The counties were designated on Thursday, October 13, 2005, making all qualified farm operators eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met.

Farm Service Agency disaster assistance: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Source: 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/0/th/J.2.9D/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?PC.7.2.5JM/contentid=2005%2F10%2F0442.xml&PC.7.2.5JM_navtype=RT&PC.7.2.5JM_parentnav=LAT/EST_RELEASES&PC.7.2.5JM_navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7.2.5JM

- 25. *October 13, Mercury News (CA)* — Mediterranean fruit fly eradication program begins.** Officials in Santa Clara County, CA, on Thursday, October 13, made the first of an indefinite number of planned weekly releases of millions of tiny sterile male Mediterranean fruit flies (medflies) by airplane over a 1.5-mile-radius hot zone. Two 200-meter-radius zones at the center, where medflies were recently identified, have been ground-treated with a protein component that attract the bugs and kills them with a spinosad compound extracted from a bacterium. An 81-square-mile zone around the center will be set with traps that will allow officials to monitor for new outbreaks. The state also has imposed an indefinite quarantine on fruit grown in the 10-square-mile eradication zone. It has been more than a decade since the Mediterranean fruit fly, a major agricultural pest, created a buzz in Santa Clara County, but it has continued to plague various parts of California since the early 1980s. The tiny pest is capable of turning about 250 varieties of fruit to mush, causing major damage to the state's agriculture industry. A permanent infestation could cost California more than \$1.5 billion, including lost fruit and other expenses, officials said.

Information about the Mediterranean fruit fly:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_fa_notice/fs_phmedfly.html

Source: http://www.philly.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/the_valley/12894542.htm?source=rss&channel=mercurynews_the_valley

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Food Sector

- 26. *October 14, High Plains Journal (KS)* — Aflatoxin affecting eastern Iowa corn fields.**

Aflatoxin in corn, according to Charles Hurburgh, Iowa State University (ISU) professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering, is a chemical produced by one of two mold species on the ear that the Food and Drug Administration classifies a carcinogen for its dangers if consumed by man or animal. The molds thrive in hot, dry years, making the drought conditions in southeast Iowa in summer 2005 a high-risk breeding ground for the toxin. In late September and early October, as producers in that area of the state began cutting test loads and wet corn, results were showing aflatoxin amounts anywhere from below the 20 parts per billion (ppb) threshold for acceptance all the way to some extreme instances of more than 1,000 ppb of the toxin. The area for infection, according to ISU Extension crops specialist Virgil Schmitt of Muscatine County, as of October 5, was primarily eastern Iowa.

Information about Aflatoxin: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/fsrio/research/fsheets/fsheet01.htm>

Source: <http://www.hpj.com/edit1/Aflatoxinrearingitsuglyhead.CFM>

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Water Sector

27. *October 16, Associated Press* — **Salina tackles new threat to water supply.** Kansas state officials have been scrambling to head off an underground plume of contaminated groundwater inching toward one of Salina's public water wells. City leaders recently discovered the plume originating from the site of a company that fumigated area grain elevators 35 years ago. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, beginning October 24, plans to start removing about 180 cubic yards of contaminated soil. A large boring machine will dig a series of holes five feet wide and 40 feet deep. The dirt will then be carted off and treated. "We are going to eliminate as much of the source of the contamination as we possibly can," said Ricky Brunetti, district environmental administrator. Tests indicate the plume contains dangerous levels of two chemicals, carbon tetrachloride and 1,2, dichloro-ethane, also called DCA. Both chemicals are often used in grain fumigants and pesticide. Salina has become quite knowledgeable on dealing with contaminated groundwater. The city discovered in the early 1990s that a huge plume of contamination from the former Schilling Air Force Base is slowly moving toward downtown. City officials also found that groundwater under downtown itself was contaminated, probably from a combination of dry cleaners, gas stations, electronics manufacturers and other businesses.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/12919025 .htm>

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Public Health Sector

28. *October 16, Associated Press* — **Romania takes steps to prevent bird flu.** Authorities killed thousands of domestic fowl in eastern Romania on Sunday, October 16, seeking to prevent the spread of a deadly strain of bird flu that has decimated flocks and killed dozens of people in Asia. Officials said they were also awaiting test results from a British laboratory on samples from birds found dead in Maliuc, a village about 20 miles from Ceamurlia de Jos in the Danube River delta, where the H5N1 virus was first detected in Romania. Authorities around the world fear the H5N1 strain could mutate into a form that can be passed among people, leading to a flu pandemic that some say could potentially kill millions. So far, most of the 60 human deaths involving H5N1 have been linked to victims' contact with birds. Experts say migrating birds have spread the disease since it appeared in Southeast Asia two years ago. The strain has already appeared in Turkey, and the European Union has banned all poultry imports from Turkey and Romania. Romanian officials said all domestic birds in Ceamurlia de Jos were killed and the village was being disinfected, but the area would remain under quarantine for 21 days before it could be declared free of the virus.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=1220704>

29. *October 14, Chicago Sun-Times* — **Four Amish children in Minnesota catch poliovirus.** Four children in an Amish community in Minnesota have contracted the poliovirus -- the first known infections in the U.S. in five years, state health officials said Thursday, October 13. Dr. Harry Hull, the state epidemiologist, said the cases do not pose a threat to the public because most people have been vaccinated against polio and are unlikely to have contact with Amish people. But he said he expects to find more infections within the Amish community because some of its members refuse immunizations on religious grounds. Hull said the infections were traced to an oral vaccine that was administered in another country, probably within the last

three years. The use of oral polio vaccine containing the live virus was stopped in the U.S. in 2000. The live-virus vaccine caused an average of eight cases of polio a year in the U.S. The U.S. and Canada now use an injected vaccine made from the killed virus. Officials said they are working with the Amish to determine who may have been exposed, and to encourage immunizations.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-amish14.html>

30. *October 14, BBC* — **Case of bird flu drug resistance.** A Vietnamese patient has become partially resistant to the antiviral drug experts plan to use for a human bird flu outbreak. Several countries are stockpiling Tamiflu, but a report in the journal *Nature* suggests this may not be effective enough should an outbreak occur. The paper, "Drug Resistant H5N1 virus" is available online before print publication due to current concern about avian flu. British authorities said the study did not obviate the need to stockpile Tamiflu. It may be that using Tamiflu for too little time or at too low a dose could contribute to the emergence of resistant virus, Yoshihiro Kawaoka, an author of the *Nature* report from the University of Tokyo, and colleagues say. The 14-year-old Vietnamese girl with partial Tamiflu resistance had been given the drug in February as a preventative measure. Although she had not had any known direct contact with infected poultry, she had been caring for her brother who was thought to have caught bird flu. The virus detected in the girl resembled that found in her brother. The girl recovered without any problems, but her case raises the possibility that she could have been infected by her brother, rather than directly by birds.

"Drug Resistant H5N1 virus" study:

http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/pdf/43711_08a.pdf

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4343136.stm>

31. *October 13, Washington Post* — **Virginia officials bolstering plans to fight avian flu.** Health officials in Virginia say they have stepped up plans to combat a possible flu pandemic in response to increasing concern about the spread of avian flu in Asia, but most measures are months from completion. Officials have conducted informational sessions about the disease around the state and have convened a panel of doctors, scientists and medical ethicists to talk about such thorny issues as who should be first in line for a limited supply of vaccines or antiviral drugs. The panel is scheduled to complete preliminary recommendations by the end of the month. In Northern Virginia, officials are planning drills on dispensing medicines to large groups of people quickly. They also are planning to expand a program to share information about emergency room activity at hospitals with emergency management authorities. Emergency management officials have received a \$2.9 million federal grant to expand Arlington's Metropolitan Medical Response System throughout the region. The homeland security measure would be key to fighting a flu pandemic, officials said. The program would link hospitals with emergency management centers around the region so officials would know how many beds are available in an emergency. It also would allow jurisdictions to stockpile emergency pharmaceuticals.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/11/AR2005101102131.html>

32. *October 13, Reuters* — **Laos gets U.S. funds for bird flu fight.** The U.S. will give Laos \$3.4 million to fight the deadly bird flu, including money for rapid-response teams to swoop on new outbreaks. Details of the funding for the country — a weak link in Asia's fight against the virus

— were announced during a visit by U.S. Health Secretary Mike Leavitt. Leavitt is leading U.S. and U.N. health experts on a fact-finding mission in the region seen as the potential spark for a global human pandemic which could kill millions of people. Some of the U.S. funds will go to develop a pandemic plan for Laos. Up to 100 rapid response teams would be trained and equipped to "institute emergency control measures in the event of an outbreak", the U.S. embassy in Laos said in a statement. Cambodia, where four people have died from bird flu, received \$1.85 million in U.S. money to bolster its surveillance. Experts fear a human outbreak in Laos and Cambodia — where basic health care barely exists outside urban areas — would not be detected until it is too late. The U.S. funding is part of a \$25 million package to help the region fight bird flu.

Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=globalNews&storyID=2005-10-13T113058Z_01_ROB335469_RTRUKOC_0_US-BIRDFLU-LAOS.xml&archived=False

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *October 14, Noticias* — Exercise tests international chemical attack defenses. Over 1,000 emergency personnel from 12 NATO and partner countries practiced dealing with the effects of a chemical attack by terrorists in a major exercise in Ukraine held on October 9–13. In a dramatic scenario, terrorists set off homemade chemical bombs in a chemical factory near Lviv, releasing chlorine and chemical warfare agents into the surrounding area. A swift international response was mounted, with specialist emergency teams from NATO and partner countries moving in to assist Ukrainian teams in protecting the local population and ensuring an effective response. This is the sixth such exercise organized by NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center. These field exercises allow international rescue teams to practice working together so that they can respond quickly and effectively in the event of real-life disasters. In recent years the exercises have focused increasingly on the threat posed to civilian populations by terrorists equipped with weapons of mass destruction.

For further detail regarding the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center:

<http://www.nato.int/docu/handbook/2001/hb140503.htm>

Source: http://www.noticias.info/asp/aspComunicados.asp?nid=108121&s_rc=0

34. *October 13, News from Russia* — European countries send disaster response teams to Sicily for weekend exercise. Disaster response teams from across Europe headed to Sicily this past weekend for an exercise that tested their search, rescue and other skills in dealing with a simulated natural disaster. Teams from France, Greece, Portugal, Sweden, Italy and Britain were participating in the exercise to respond to damage caused by a simulated earthquake. The teams are part of the European Civil Protection Mechanism (ECPM) that coordinates civil protection assistance from 30 European countries. The ECPM often trains rescue teams,

sending them through simulated disaster scenarios. It also coordinated European Union aid after Hurricane Katrina and the December tsunami in Southeast Asia.

For more detail on the European Civil Protection Mechanism:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/306&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Source: <http://newsfromrussia.com/world/2005/10/13/65188.html>

35. *October 13, Columbia Flier (MD)* — Emergency calls in Maryland to test new alert system.

Howard County, MD, citizens can soon expect a telephone call from the authorities. Beginning Monday, October 17, the county government will begin conducting a ground-breaking test of a new emergency telephone system designed to alert residents to instructions and information from officials during a storm, attack or other emergency. County officials intend to call every residence and business in Howard. "We have already tested the system on a very small basis," said Victoria Goodman, a spokesperson for Howard County Executive James Robey. "This is the first time we're trying it on the whole county." The automated calls will be made between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EDT, Goodman said, adding that the process should take several days to complete because the county has available only 20 phone lines with which to make tens of thousands of calls. The automated calls work in conjunction with the county's Geographic Information System, which allows the government to direct the calls to specific areas of the county during emergencies that affect only those areas. The test will allow the county to eliminate numbers that are out of service from its roster, thereby cutting down on unnecessary phone calls during a real emergency.

Source: http://news.mywebpal.com/news_tool_v2.cfm?pnpID=658&NewsID=667585&CategoryID=1825&show=localnews&om=1

36. *October 13, WCAX-TV News (VT)* — Vermont, Quebec share terrorism exercise.

Terrorism was the target for first responders from the U.S. and Canada in a drill conducted Friday, October 14. Both countries teamed up for an exercise called Operation Double Impact, in which the scenario calls for cargo containers that arrive at the Port of Montreal to wind up exploding in southern Quebec and northern Vermont. The exercise was in the planning stage for over a year and began with a tabletop exercise in October 2004. The full-scale exercise that followed a year later was designed to be a realistic test of how well separate emergency responders can work together. Denis Paradis, a member of the Canadian Parliament, stated, "I think it's very important that our local people get together with the provincial authorities here in Quebec, with the federal authorities — and with the Americans also — to make sure that if something happens on the border or near the border, that we're ready to respond, to act." As residents in this area know well, fire departments on both sides of the border are routinely waved across the international crossing, without even stopping. Today's cross-border exercise reinforces that long-standing relationship.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=3976479&nav=4QcS>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

37. *October 14, Security Focus* — Computer Associates iGateway debug mode HTTP GET request buffer overflow vulnerability. The Computer Associates iGateway common

component, which is included with several CA products for UNIX/Linux/Windows platforms, contains a buffer overflow vulnerability. This could allow remote attackers to execute arbitrary code on Windows platforms, or cause iGateway denial of service on UNIX and Linux. The vulnerability is due to improper bounds checking on HTTP GET requests by the iGateway component when debug mode is enabled.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/archive/1/413408>

38. *October 13, Security Focus* — **Cisco IOS firewall authentication proxy buffer overflow vulnerability.** Cisco IOS Firewall Authentication Proxy is prone to a buffer overflow condition. Successful exploitation of this issue could cause a denial of service or potential execution of arbitrary code. This feature allows network administrators to apply specific security policies on a per user basis. This issue affects the FTP and Telnet protocols, but not HTTP.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14770/references>

39. *October 13, TechWorld* — **U.S. still world's top spammer.** Despite anti-spam laws the United States is still the world's top spammer. According to the latest report by Sophos, the US is still number one with 26 percent of all worldwide spam. However, the figure has been falling over the years. According to Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos, "It has been lowering for awhile for a number of reasons. The anti-spam task forces and the authorities and the ISPs in North America are getting much better at putting into practice methods that are lowering the amount of spam."

Source: <http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?NewsID=4573>

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 reports that Microsoft has released updates that address critical vulnerabilities in Windows, Internet Explorer, and Exchange Server. Exploitation of these vulnerabilities may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code with SYSTEM privileges or with the privileges of the user. If the user is logged on with administrative privileges, the attacker could take complete control of an affected system. An attacker may also be able to cause a denial of service.

Microsoft Security Bulletins for October 2005 address vulnerabilities in Windows and Internet Explorer. Further information is available in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Notes:

VU#214572 – Microsoft Plug and Play fails to properly validate user supplied data

VU#883460 – Microsoft Collaboration Data Objects buffer overflow

VU#922708 – Microsoft Windows Shell fails to handle shortcut files properly

VU#995220 – Microsoft DirectShow buffer overflow
 VU#180868 – Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator vulnerable to buffer overflow via specially crafted network message
 VU#950516 – Microsoft COM+ contains a memory management flaw
 VU#959049 – Several COM objects cause memory corruption in Microsoft Internet Explorer
 VU#680526 – Microsoft Internet Explorer allows non-ActiveX COM objects to be instantiated

Microsoft has provided the updates for these vulnerabilities in the Security Bulletins and on the Microsoft Update site. For more information please visit URL:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms05-oct.msp>

Top Source Port / IP Addresses: Increased reported port activity: 1028 UDP, 1029 UDP, 1030 UDP, 1434 UPD from the following IP blocks, located in China: 222.77.185.242, 220.164.140.140, 221.10.254.31, 218.27.16.180, 222.77.185.228, 222.241.95.6, 218.66.104.186, and 220.164.141.140

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	6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 6882 (----), 1025 (win-rpc), 25 (smtp), 137 (netbios-ns) 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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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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