



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 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 Idaho State Journal reports that the dislodging of three bolts from the Advanced Test Reactor at Idaho National Laboratory has prompted questions about safety measures. (See item [2](#))
- The Associated Press reports state and federal health officials are investigating nine reported cases of suspected sporadic Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in Idaho this year. (See item [22](#))

### 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](#)

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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 15, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Hurricane–damaged refinery back online.** Despite a damaged shipping terminal and cooling towers, Chevron’s largest refinery is producing gasoline at the same rate — approximately 325,000 barrels of gasoline and other products per day — as before Hurricane Katrina hit. The return to service of the refinery in Pascagoula, MS, marks an important milestone as the Gulf Coast's oil industry continues its slow recovery from this year's devastating storms. Three weeks after Hurricane Rita landed in Texas and Louisiana, most of the area's refineries are coming back to life, although they largely aren't processing crude at their normal rate. Three in Texas remain closed, while three in Louisiana damaged during Katrina are still offline.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/10/15/BUGCGF8LMH1.DTL&feed=rss.business>

2. *October 15, Idaho State Journal* — **Dislodged bolts at reactor raise questions about safety measures.** Three bolts dislodged from the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has prompted concern about safety in the event of an earthquake. The bolts, found on the floor of the reactor, were presumed to have fallen out of seismic support anchor plates earlier this spring. INL spokesperson John Walsh claims that the bolts never proved a safety risk, and in the event of an earthquake, the reactor would automatically shut down. He said, “At no time did we have a concern that the safety or security of those seismic supports were compromised. We think ATR is a premiere test facility and is certainly up to the challenge of plutonium production.” This summer, the Department of Energy released a draft environmental impact statement that called for renewing the domestic production of plutonium-238 at INL. Plutonium-238, a substance used for powering space batteries, has not been produced in the United States for 20 years. Diminishing foreign supplies may have led to an interest in its renewed production.

Source: [http://www.journalnet.com/articles/2005/10/15/news/local/new\\_s03.txt](http://www.journalnet.com/articles/2005/10/15/news/local/new_s03.txt)

3. *October 15, Associated Press* — **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission predicts tight winter natural gas supply, high prices.** According to analysts at a meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 12, natural gas prices will remain high throughout the winter. The tight supply is due, in part, to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which disrupted about 20 percent of the country's natural gas production. FERC Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher said that since the U.S. only imports about 15 percent of its gas supply, the imports will not completely offset the loss. A FERC report revealed that natural gas prices were already high before the hurricanes because of an unusually hot summer and rising oil prices. Prices rose less in the West than in the east, however, due to cooler weather and improved access to newer western gas supplies. Analysts predict that heating costs could vary widely among regions this winter, and the U.S. will rely on Canadian imports, consumer conservation measures, and higher-than-average storage supplies to fulfill its energy needs.

FERC Report: <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/Files/20051012100132-Gaspricereport.pdf>

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2005/10/15/news/regional/654e20edcfc5252d872570980072d743.txt>

4. *October 14, Federal Computer Week* — **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must audit, monitor cybersecurity system to maintain security, report finds.** The Department of Energy's inspector general released a report stating that although the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has improved its continuity of operations and disaster recovery plans, problems still exist in the areas of access controls, configuration management, and a lack of detail about cybersecurity weaknesses. Inspector General Gregory Friedman stated in the report: “The problems we observed placed the commission at risk of unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification or disruption of its information, operations and assets.” Several contradictions exist between FERC's policies and employee actions. For example, despite FERC's policy that indicates passwords must be unique, difficult, and of a minimum length, employee passwords were found to be “easily guessed, blank, or default.” Vulnerability scanning also revealed outdated versions of software with known security vulnerabilities.

Inspector General Report: <http://www.ig.doe.gov/pdf/ig-0704.pdf>

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article91099-10-14-05-Web>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

5. *October 17, Associated Press* — **Tanker explosion kills one, shuts down major Los Angeles freeway.** A gasoline tanker crashed and exploded on Interstate 5 in Los Angeles, CA, early Monday, October 17, killing the driver and forcing the closure of the busy freeway while crews fought the blaze and cleaned up thousands of gallons of fuel that leaked from the truck, authorities said. The rig, pulling two tankers of gasoline, overturned on the rain-slickened freeway and hit the center divider around 1:50 a.m. PDT near the Los Angeles Zoo north of downtown, according to California Highway Patrol officer David Porter. Weather was a factor in the crash, he said. No other vehicles were involved. About 2,000 gallons of gas leaked from the tanks.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking\\_news/12923707.htm](http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/12923707.htm)

6. *October 16, Associated Press* — **Oil from plant spills into Cuyahoga River.** A faulty pump at a steel plant spilled about 500 gallons of oil into the Cuyahoga River just south of downtown Cleveland, OH, Sunday, October 16. Mittal Steel Co. workers discovered the leak about 4 a.m. EDT in a pump that delivers oil from a tank to a blast furnace, company spokesperson Dave Allen said. The pump was turned off, but not before oil spilled into the plant and river. Floats were used to contain the oil on the water, Allen said. Vacuum trucks started removing the oil about four hours after workers discovered the leak and were expected to continue overnight.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1110AP\\_BRF\\_Oil\\_Spill.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1110AP_BRF_Oil_Spill.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *October 17, Help Net Security* — **A sophisticated Trojan-worm hybrid threatens users' privacy and their bank accounts.** PandaLabs has reported the appearance of a new kind of hybrid malware species, with both worm and Trojan features, which could be used to steal confidential information of any kind, such as banking information, personal details or other type of information entered in Web registration forms. Eyeveg.D is a sophisticated hybrid with two sides to it: it carries out Trojan actions against the infected computer, and acts as a worm to spread. This type of hybrid of two malware species is becoming more and more common, as malware creators look for increased capacities and versatility in their creations.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/press.php?id=3524>

8. *October 17, TechWeb News* — **U.S. online consumers more guarded than Europeans.**

Consumers in Europe and the United States are spending money more online than ever. However, Americans are more worried about fraud and identity theft than their counterparts across the Atlantic, a new survey shows. Momentum Research Group reported Monday, October 17, that market confidence was higher in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom than in the United States during September. The survey shows that spending appears to be influenced by fears of online fraud. Only sixteen percent of U.S. respondents and thirteen percent of those in the U.K. said they were spending less than previously. In Germany, only six percent had decreased their online spending. In France, only nine percent had cut back on Internet purchases. Ninety percent of U.S. consumers were familiar with identity theft, while one out of three consumers in Germany and France was aware of the problem, according to the study commissioned by RSA Security Inc. Consumers in all countries said they were more likely to trust a site if they had prior experience with it. Most said businesses should protect their personal data and reimburse them if their accounts are breached.

Survey details: [http://www.rsasecurity.com/press\\_release.asp?doc\\_id=6130&id=1034](http://www.rsasecurity.com/press_release.asp?doc_id=6130&id=1034)

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/ebiz/172301572;jsessionid=MRMMEHBDE1JKOQSNDBGCKH0CJUMEKJVN>

9. *October 16, IT Weekly* — **UAE banks face phishing threats.** Phishing attacks are the latest security threats to be hitting banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a number of the country's banks being hit in the past month. Customers are being warned to be wary about such threats, with some experts claiming the problems are endemic in the UAE. The round of phishing follows on from a wave of attempted hacking incidents earlier in the year, which targeted a number of banks in the UAE. The National Bank of Abu Dhabi said it had been hit last month, with phishers sending e-mails to its customers claiming to be from the bank with links to a fake Website. An information security manager at Mashreqbank said it had also faced the attentions of phishers, with a fake Website being hosted from New York. "We were able to get that site shut down," the manager said, claiming no customers had lost money.

Source: <http://www.itp.net/news/details.php?id=18441&category=>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. *October 17, Del Rio News-Herald (TX)* — **Texas county supports Operation Linebacker.**

Val Verde County Commissioners and County Judge Mike L. Fernandez are backing the county sheriff's participation in the Texas Border Sheriffs Coalition's "Operation Linebacker." County commissioners court during the October regular term meeting on Monday, October 10, unanimously passed a resolution supporting Operation Linebacker, a move by Texas, border sheriffs to seek funding for a border security plan. The commissioners court's resolution notes that Val Verde County consists of 3,233 square miles, and that the county shares 109.5 miles of border with Mexico. The resolution "supports legislation to establish a border law enforcement assistance pilot program to assist sheriffs' offices in contiguous counties to provide a second line of defense in assisting United States Customs and Border Protection in patrolling the border and preventing lawlessness in border areas as embodied in (the concept of) Operation Linebacker." The resolution also calls on the federal government to appropriate \$100 million from Department of Homeland Security funds to pay for Operation Linebacker "so long as a

threat of terrorism exists.”

Source: <http://www.delrionewsherald.com/story.lasso?ewcd=fee8ec3a2ed2968a>

11. *October 17, Associated Press* — **Arizona officials to focus federal dollars on border security.** Arizona officials say they want to focus more of the state's federal Homeland Security dollars on border enforcement and disaster preparation. Until now, a large portion of Arizona's federal grants has been used by state and local public safety agencies to buy equipment ranging from communication vans and fire vehicles to biohazard protection suits and gas masks. Arizona Homeland Security Director Frank Navarrete has met with state lawmakers to discuss new priorities for millions of dollars in federal grants that were bulked up by Congress after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Navarrete and key lawmakers have reached a tentative agreement that some Homeland Security grant dollars should be used to improve control of the Mexican border.

Source: [http://www.azdailysun.com/non\\_sec/nav\\_includes/story.cfm?storyID=117411](http://www.azdailysun.com/non_sec/nav_includes/story.cfm?storyID=117411)

12. *October 17, Agence France–Presse* — **EU, U.S. try to get "open skies" talks going.** The European Union (EU) and the United States resumed on Monday, October 17, long-stalled talks on opening up the huge transatlantic air market to greater competition, aiming to strike a deal by the end of the year. "I'm hopeful that we can reach an agreement by the end of the year, I hope to initial an agreement in November," the head of the transport department at the European Commission, Francois Lamoureux, told journalists. The latest round of "open skies" talks is expected to last all week in Brussels and will be followed by another round in Washington for the week beginning on November 14. The goal is to do away with existing patchwork of bilateral agreements between various EU members and the United States and set up one system regulating transatlantic air transport. The talks also covered plans to step up transatlantic cooperation on safety. The stakes are huge for the U.S. and the EU, as well as passengers and consumers. A study commissioned by the European Commission has calculated that an agreement with the United States would reap benefits worth as much as US\$5 billion dollars per year to consumers.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-17-open-skies\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-17-open-skies_x.htm)

13. *October 17, Associated Press* — **Private planes resume landing at Reagan National.** Private planes can land at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, VA, Tuesday, October 18, for the first time since a hijacked jet crashed into the Pentagon on September 11. National was the last major airport to re-open following the terrorist attacks, largely because of concerns about how close it is to District landmarks such as the White House and Capitol. The Transportation Security Administration has strict rules for landing at National: Passenger and crew manifests have to be submitted 24-hours in advance, and everyone is subject to a background check. There also has to be an armed sky marshal aboard each flight.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/1005/269498.html>

14. *October 17, Arizona Republic* — **Permanent barriers to go up at Arizona airport.** Phoenix plans to spend more than \$70,000 on new concrete barriers to shore up the perimeter fence at Sky Harbor International Airport. Officials set up hundreds of the blockades along portions of the fence line after the June incident in which a man drove through an open gate into a fire station parking lot and smashed through a wrought-iron fence to get onto the taxiway. However, many of those walls were rented in order to get them in place quickly. The city has

now opted to buy new blockades that could be put in place permanently. A panel charged with evaluating the fence line has also recommended new cable restraints and guardrails, as well as the installation of a hydraulic barrier that could be raised in an instant if a vehicle tried to break through a gate. Altogether, Phoenix could spend nearly \$16 million on improvements.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1017security17.htm>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

**15. *October 13, WTVG-TV (OH)* — New anthrax detection system.** Toledo, OH, is using new technology to prepare for a possible anthrax postal attack. Ray Jacobs from the U.S. Postal service said, "We never envisioned that as a postal service we would have to become experts in bio-terror detection systems." But that is what postal officials have been researching for the past four years, after anthrax-tainted letters claimed the lives of five people in the Washington, DC metro area. Postal service officials say the detection system constantly samples the air, and tests letters for the presence of anthrax spores, as the mail runs through a cancellation machine. The cancellation machine can process 35,000 letters an hour, about the time it takes for the system to detect anthrax. Officials say the detection system does not slow the mail process or affect how employees do their jobs

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtv/story?section=news&id=3533699>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**16. *October 17, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution* — New genetic test can detect clam disease.** A sensitive new genetic test can now detect a crippling disease called QPX occurring in clam beds from Massachusetts south to Virginia and north to Canada. Although it does not affect humans and it is not as well known as red tide, the disease can have a significant impact on a local economy by killing clams and devastating shellfish harvests and commercial aquaculture operations. QPX — for quahog parasite unknown — is a single-celled organism related to slime mold. It was first detected in 1995 in Provincetown, MA, and spread to nearby clam beds, killing nine of ten clams in many of the beds. Rebecca Gast, an associate scientist in the Biology Department at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, has developed a genetic test to detect the organism not only in clams but in seawater and sediment. Gast is working with a veterinarian at the Marine Biological Laboratory, to find out what triggers the organisms to reach concentrations that become deadly, and whether that threshold varies among clam strains. Gast's genetic test can also be used to ensure clams without visible symptoms are not carrying the disease.

Source: <http://www.whoi.edu/mr/pr.do?id=7766>

**17. *October 15, KPVI (ID)* — Idaho ranch quarantined.** The Idaho Department of Agriculture has quarantined a Swan Valley ranch while the department investigates a possible brucellosis case. A cow that reacted positively to a routine brucellosis test was traced to that location. Veterinary officers are now testing cows from the herd for infection. Brucellosis is caused by

bacteria and can result in spontaneous abortion, decreased milk production, weight loss, and lameness. Cattle, bison and elk are susceptible to the infection.

Idaho Department of Agriculture statement:

<http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/NewsEvents/Documents/PressReleases/Brucecellosis%2010-14-05.pdf>

Source: <http://www.kpvi.com/index.cfm?page=nbheadlines.cfm&ID=28961>

- 18. *October 14, Associated Press* — Fourth cattle herd tests positive for bovine tuberculosis.** A fourth cattle herd in Minnesota has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB), the Minnesota Board of Animal Health said Friday, October 14. The newly detected operation is in Roseau County, the northwestern Minnesota county where the other three herds tested positive. The respiratory disease in cattle was detected in the first herd in mid-July. Until then, the state hadn't had a case of bovine TB in 34 years. Health officials said the herd that was first infected had purchased cattle from an operation outside the state. The U.S. Department of Agriculture then purchased about 50 animals from the same producer to have them tested for bovine TB. Three of those animals tested suspect for the disease early this month and the diagnosis was confirmed on October 13. Minnesota animal health officials since July have been testing herds and have quarantined 31 herds. Nine of the herds were removed from quarantine after tests showed no infection. The remaining 22 herds either have exposed animals or testing is being conducted on entire herds, said Bill Hartmann, the board's executive director and state veterinarian.

Status of Minnesota Cattle Herds Quarantined:

[http://www.bah.state.mn.us/diseases/tuberculosis/current\\_updates.htm](http://www.bah.state.mn.us/diseases/tuberculosis/current_updates.htm)

Source: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/state/minnesot a/12905069.htm>

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## **Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Water Sector**

- 19. *October 17, Arizona Republic* — New water rule costing Arizona communities.** Cities and private water companies across the state are under the gun to build plants and install systems that will make Arizona's water safer. The large municipal water plants are shelling out millions to meet a new federal requirement to cut arsenic that begins January 23. But rural Arizona will be hit the hardest. There, hundreds of small private water companies pump only groundwater, which tends to have more arsenic. Those firms have less cash to treat water than a big city operation and will be more likely to pass the cost on, regulators and industry experts say. In 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency slashed the federal standard for arsenic in water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. The penalty for violators is high. Under the worst-case scenario, a water company can be charged up to \$25,000 a day for violating federal drinking-water standards or could be shut down. Shuttering a utility could devastate a small town with no alternate water source. The new rule has big cities feeling the pain, too.

Scottsdale, which has 23 wells affected by the new rule, expects to spend \$85 million on water system improvements. Chandler is spending more than \$16 million and Phoenix \$24 million. Source: [http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1017\\_arsenic17.html](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1017_arsenic17.html)

20. *October 17, Boston Globe (MA)* — **Untreated sewage released into bay.** About 25 million gallons of untreated sewage emptied into Quincy Bay Saturday, October 15, after a transformer accident in Boston, MA, triggered a massive power outage at the Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant. The plant was operating at full capacity to handle the heavy rainfall throughout the region when it lost its power shortly after 5 p.m. EDT. The plant's emergency backup power was quickly activated, but the station took several hours to resume peak operations. The station had been treating 1.2 billion gallons of wastewater daily, three times its usual rate, for the past several days. In the meantime, operators were forced to drain polluted water from communities south of Boston into the bay, to avoid overflowing local systems, streets, and cellars. Smaller amounts of sewage and storm water were also emptied into the Charles River and parts of Boston Harbor from several Boston-area overflow stations, said Frederick Laskey, executive director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which runs the Deer Island plant. MWRA officials conducted water tests yesterday off Nut Island in Quincy, where the bulk of the wastewater was released. Laskey said he expected elevated bacteria levels but predicted they would soon return to normal. Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/10/17/untreated\\_sewage\\_released\\_into\\_bay/?rss\\_id=Boston+Globe+---+City/Region+News](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/10/17/untreated_sewage_released_into_bay/?rss_id=Boston+Globe+---+City/Region+News)

21. *October 16, WFMY (NC)* — **Sewer spill in North Carolina.** Wilmington, NC's third sewage spill in four months sent about 15,000 gallons of wastewater into the Cape Fear River Sunday, October 16. City officials say the spill didn't threaten drinking water but advised residents not to make contact with water in the area of the spill. Wastewater services were not interrupted by the spill. City crews diverted the wastewater back into the sewer system. In July, three million gallons of raw sewage spilled into Hewletts Creek after a force main broke. The same line ruptured again in September, allowing 750,000 gallons of waste flow into the creek. Source: <http://www.wfmynews2.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=50268>

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## **Public Health Sector**

22. *October 17, Associated Press* — **Nine cases of suspected sporadic Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in Idaho.** State and federal health officials are trying to get to the bottom of nine reported cases of suspected sporadic Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (CJD) in Idaho this year. "One thing is very clear in Idaho the number seems to be higher than the number reported in previous years," said Ermias Belay, a CJD expert with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "So far, the investigations have not found any evidence of any exposure that might be common among the cases." Normally, sporadic CJD only strikes about one person in a million each year, with an average of just 300 cases per year in the U.S., or just over one case a year in Idaho. Over the past two decades, the most cases reported in Idaho in a single year has been three. Of the nine suspected cases reported so far in 2005, three tested positive for an infectious disease of the nervous system, though more tests are pending to determine if the fatal illness was in fact sporadic CJD. Four apparent victims were buried without autopsies. Two



suspected cases tested negative.

CJD information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/cjd/index.htm>

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=1222034>

23. *October 17, Reuters* — **Congo: Ebola crisis over, government says.** The Ebola hemorrhagic fever, which hit the Republic of Congo's Cuvette–Ouest Department between April and July and killed around 10 people, is now over, an official of the Ministry of Health and Population said on Sunday, October 16. However, the official, a technical adviser at the ministry, Jean Vivien Mombouli, said the Ebola virus remained a threat because its natural habitat was unknown and researchers had not discovered any vaccine against the virus. Ebola kills 50 to 90 percent of all cases. "We have declared that the epidemic was over, but our statement was mixed," he said. "The virus remains a constant threat since we have found carcasses of primates in the forests located between Odzala Park, Mambili River and Likouala River." Primates, especially gorillas and chimpanzees, as well as bats, are suspected to be carriers of the virus. In Congo, sites close to Odzala National Park seem to be the epicenter of the circulation of the virus. Consequently, the cities of Mbomo, Itoumbi, and Kelle close to the Park are considered high–risk areas.

Ebola information: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/index.html>

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/53668c78343b4d82bcc475f7aed2b6a6.htm>

24. *October 17, Agence France–Presse* — **European Union team in Turkey to investigate bird flu outbreak.** European Union (EU) experts visited a small village in northwestern Turkey where a lethal strain of bird flu was identified earlier this month. "Two experts tasked by the EU's Agriculture Commission arrived in Turkey on Sunday, October 14, and Monday, October 17, they are visiting Kiziksa" village, Turkish agriculture ministry spokesperson Faruk Demirel said. The EU team will hold talks with local officials on the situation in the area and visit the nearby nature reserve of Manyas, a favorite with migratory birds which are believed to have introduced the H5N1 strain to Turkey, Demirel said. The Turkish government says the virus, which scientists fear may spark a global epidemic, has been contained in Kiziksa where veterinary officials have slaughtered more than 9,000 birds.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051017/hl\\_afp/healthfluturkey\\_051017104306;\\_ylt=AqEgzjFY7TAPiHZISfvzj6GJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051017/hl_afp/healthfluturkey_051017104306;_ylt=AqEgzjFY7TAPiHZISfvzj6GJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU)

25. *October 17, National Institutes of Health* — **Sequencing research network sets its sights on disease targets.** The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), one of the National Institutes of Health, Monday, October 17, announced plans to devote a portion of its large–scale sequencing capacity to efforts aimed at identifying the genetic roots of specific diseases that have long eluded gene hunters. The National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research recently approved a plan for NHGRI's Large–Scale Sequencing Network that, for the first time, includes a portfolio of "medical sequencing" projects. "Medical sequencing has the potential to make a substantial impact on both biological and medical research. While many of the genes we will initially be pursuing are responsible for rare disorders, what we learn from rare disorders often has profound consequences for our understanding of more common conditions. Thus we expect the cumulative impact of this acceleration in disease gene discovery to be profound, as many of the discoveries will shed new

light on the biological pathways involved in human health and disease,” said NHGRI Director Francis S. Collins.

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/oct2005/nhgri-17.htm>

- 26. *October 17, Financial Times* — H5 virus detected in Greece.** Greece on Monday, October 17, became the first member state of the European Union to report a case of bird flu when the H5 virus was identified in a turkey from the Aegean island of Oinoussa. The Greek veterinary institute in Athens said flu antibodies were discovered in one of nine birds sent for testing at the weekend. Evangelos Basiakos, agriculture minister, said further tests would be made at a laboratory in Thessaloniki to determine whether the virus was from the deadly H5N1 strain. He said the laboratory had been licensed by the European Union to carry out avian flu testing. Oinoussa was placed under quarantine, while officials inspected poultry farms on the nearby island of Chios. Several thousand birds were slaughtered last week at a turkey farm near Turkey's Aegean coast. Greece last week banned poultry imports from Turkey and Romania. The virus continues to spread to wild birds in Asia. On Monday Thai officials said they had found H5N1 in sparrows. Part of the problem confronting Asian authorities is that they cannot afford to compensate farmers for culling their birds, so many farmers who depend on poultry for income or food have little incentive to report sick birds.

Greek Department of Agriculture and Food:

[http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/index.jsp?file=animal\\_health/avian\\_influenza/index.xml](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/index.jsp?file=animal_health/avian_influenza/index.xml)

Map of Greece: <http://www.greektravel.com/maps/map1.jpg>

Source: <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/abe741ea-3f2a-11da-932f-00000e2511c8.html>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

- 27. *October 17, Times Record (ME)* — Maine task force begins review of security.** The Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs hosted their first meeting Monday, October 17. Four panels — with members representing the first responders, state officials, health care officials and federal administrators dealing with emergency preparedness — appeared before the task force. The task force will be looking into how Maine can best be prepared for a natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina. It will also review whether the state is prepared for a terrorist attack. The task force will review Maine's homeland security needs in areas such as law enforcement, emergency preparedness, public health, port and airport security and sensitive-target security. In addition, the task force will review the current state of homeland security preparedness, spending priorities and any gap that might exist between available resources and identified needs in such areas as personnel, equipment and training. The study will also focus on the impact of the Maine National Guard and Reserve deployments abroad on Maine's emergency preparedness.

Source: <http://www.timesrecord.com/website/main.nsf/news.nsf/0/78DBE>

28. *October 16, Gazette (CO)* — **Disaster training in Colorado faulted.** Colorado has practiced for disasters 211 times in four years, spending \$2.7 million in federal homeland security money. State officials are working to build bonds among levels of government they hope will hold if a major disaster hits. They want to avoid the breakdowns among local, state and federal authorities that were exposed when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. But how each county and city measures up in preparedness or what each could offer during a widespread disaster isn't clear, because the state hasn't identified the training needs of all responders, said Tommy Grier, director of Colorado's Division of Emergency Management. Although a committee met to discuss "the unmet training and awareness needs of all responders," it produced no report or assessment, he said. Grier admitted an assessment, like a master exercise calendar to enable agencies to observe and learn from drills of others, is a burden the state has had trouble addressing.

Source: <http://www.gazette.com/display.php?id=1311305&secid=1>

29. *October 15, Arizona Republic* — **Arizona drill features weapons, terror scenario.** Arizona conducted a statewide emergency management drill Friday, October 14, in Pinal County, AZ, featuring a weapons of mass destruction and terrorism scenario. Areas of concern include the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and terrorists crossing what has been criticized as a poorly protected and patrolled border with Mexico. With a network of state roads and a long segment of Interstate 10 running through it, Pinal County makes for an inviting target, officials said. "There are highways and rail lines that carry hazardous materials every day around Pinal County," said Frank Navarrette, Arizona Homeland Security director. Friday's drill included Casa Grande emergency personnel, coordination through Pinal County and state emergency management operations centers, and treatment of volunteer victims at Casa Grande Regional Medical Center. Participating citizen corps responders included neighborhood watch groups and medical staffers, volunteers from fire and police departments, and state-certified Community Emergency Response Team members. These volunteers make up 95 percent of first responders to an emergency, said Embe Kugler, program coordinator for the state's citizen corps. Despite some problems with new communications equipment linking local, county, state, and federal agencies, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs spokesperson Jan Lindner called the drill a success.

Source: [http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/1015gr-p\\_inaldrillZ12.html](http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/1015gr-p_inaldrillZ12.html)

30. *October 15, Komo 4 News (WA)* — **Terrorism drill held under the Alaskan Way Viaduct.** A terrorist bomb explosion on a bus traveling on the viaduct shuts down one of Seattle's busiest roads in a major mock terrorist attack on the Alaskan Way Viaduct held Saturday, October 15. "We also are concerned about earthquake, and likely sometime in our life time an earthquake will take the structure out," said Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. In either case, there would be massive deaths and injuries. If the viaduct collapsed it would sandwich cars between thousands of pounds of concrete and recycled steel. Every day, 100,000 travel on the viaduct, which could make it a target for terrorists, or a victim of an earthquake. So, police, fire fighters, transportation teams and utility crews are practicing how to respond. Experts say there is a one in 20 chance the viaduct would fall if there was another earthquake the magnitude of the Nisqually earthquake. Despite a potential terrorist attack, there are valid worries about the viaduct structure itself due to its current instability — it's the state's number one transportation

concern.

Source: [http://www.komotv.com/news/story\\_m.asp?ID=39755](http://www.komotv.com/news/story_m.asp?ID=39755)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**31. *October 17, eWeek* — Palm, RIM unite Treo and BlackBerry server.** Palm Inc. and Research in Motion Inc. have announced plans to let Palm's Treo 650 smartphones connect to push-based e-mail and calendar synchronization software on a BlackBerry server. Through RIM's BlackBerry Connect licensing program, connectivity with a BlackBerry server will be an option on Palm's VersaMail e-mail client. BlackBerry connectivity should be available for the Treo in early 2006 from Cingular Wireless.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.1871987.00.asp>

**32. *October 16, Security Focus* — Security Focus: Sun Solaris Proc Filesystem local denial of service vulnerability 10-16.** Sun Solaris is prone to a local denial of service vulnerability. This can be susceptible to a system panic in the '/proc' filesystem and cause a denial of service. The system will panic with a message similar to the following: BAD TRAP: type=e (#pf Page fault) rp=d48dce48 addr=24 occurred in module "procfcs" due to a NULL pointer dereference.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15115/info>

### **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.mspx>

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**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Top 10 Target Ports</b> | 6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 18129 (---), 1025 (win-rpc), 25 (smtp), 80 (www)<br><small>Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a>; Internet Storm Center</small> |
|----------------------------|---|

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/>.

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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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## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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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](mailto: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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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