



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 November 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

- USA TODAY reports Congress has ordered an investigation into the "skyrocketing costs" of fixing and maintaining machines that scan luggage for bombs at the nation's airports. (See item [9](#))
- Government Health IT reports the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention plans to start streaming real-time emergency room data from hospitals to help detect an avian flu outbreak or bioterrorism attack. (See item [17](#))
- The University of Illinois at Chicago has developed a video game that simulates biological, chemical, radiological, and natural disasters in a major metropolitan area as an aid to prepare health workers for real life emergencies. (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](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## 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 31, Miami Herald* — **Energy situation in Florida improving.** Florida Power & Light (FPL) issued a more optimistic appraisal of its restoration efforts on Sunday, October 30, estimating that 95 percent of the utility's customers who lost power in Hurricane Wilma will have electricity by November 8. The new projection — for all counties hit by Wilma — moves

up the company's anticipated recovery schedule by one week. It comes at a time when some 620,000 homes in Miami–Dade and Broward counties are still without power. As more neighborhoods gain electricity — and gas stations light up with them — the fuel frustration has largely subsided. A Miami Herald survey of 73 Broward stations found 60 percent were pumping gas, and none had the blocks–long lines that frustrated motorists throughout the region last week. FPL also said Sunday that its power poles did not receive as much damage as first thought. Company President Armando Olivera said the utility now believes 7,000 to 10,000 poles were cracked or toppled by Wilma's winds — not the 12,000 to 16,000 first estimated.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/13040057.htm>

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

2. *October 30, Associated Press* — **Fumes force evacuation of Federal Emergency Management Agency building in Maryland.** About 200 employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were evacuated from an office building Sunday, October 30, because of fumes from a gas can left on the roof. Thirty–one people were taken to area hospitals with suspected carbon monoxide exposure. The illnesses were not considered serious. Mark Brady, spokesperson for the Prince George County, MD, Fire and Rescue, said that a five–gallon gas can — possibly left on the roof by workers — was found next to a fresh–air intake for the building's ventilation system. The building was ventilated hours later, but the FEMA employees had been given the rest of the day off.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-fema30.1.4000957.story?track=rss&ctrack=1&cset=true>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

3. *October 31, Washington Technology* — **Defense seeks industry opinion on its business transition plan.** Having delivered its plan to Congress on time, the Department of Defense (DoD) now wants industry's opinion of its design for transitioning business systems to its new architecture. Paul A. Brinkley, Deputy Defense Undersecretary for Business Transformation, asked an audience of more than 700 federal and vendor executives to download Version 3.0 of the Business Enterprise Architecture (BEA) and the transition strategy and submit comments on it. “We need to learn the lessons you have accumulated,” he said during the opening keynote of the Executive Leadership Conference 2005 sponsored by the Industry Advisory Council and the American Council for Technology. “The plan and architecture articulates to the taxpayer and to our own internal constituency in clear, layman's terms how we are investing in technology to benefit the warfighting mission of the department,” said Brinkley. Lawmakers required DoD to submit the transition plan and architecture through a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2005. Starting October 1, senior Defense leaders could be held in violation of Title 31 of the Antideficiency Act and face jail time and fines if they fail to review all business projects worth more than \$1 million to make sure agency initiatives are aligned

with the BEA.

Information about Business Enterprise Architecture 3.0 and business transition plan:

[http://www.dod.mil/bmmp/tools\\_bea.html](http://www.dod.mil/bmmp/tools_bea.html)

Executive Leadership Conference 2005:

[http://www.actgov.org/portal/server.pt?space=CommunityPage&cached=true&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=8&in\\_hi\\_userid=2&control=SetCommunity&CommunityID=393&PageID=-393](http://www.actgov.org/portal/server.pt?space=CommunityPage&cached=true&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=8&in_hi_userid=2&control=SetCommunity&CommunityID=393&PageID=-393)

Source: [http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1\\_1/defense/27303-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/defense/27303-1.html)

- 4. *October 28, GovExec* — Procurement fraud investigation at Florida base continues.** A widening fraud investigation at the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL, is raising new questions about contractors' role in federal procurement. William Burke, a private contractor advising on acquisitions, pleaded guilty to bribery-related charges earlier this month. He admitted to favoring certain companies by recommending their products to USSOCOM, which leads military operations against terrorist networks, in return for cash and unspecified future compensation. "There are internal and external checks in the system," said Ken McGraw, a USSOCOM spokesperson. "Mr. Burke's job was to research and make recommendations on projects, but he did not have decision-making authority over USSOCOM acquisitions," said McGraw. McGraw said USSOCOM is reviewing the contracts on which Burke worked, as well as some of the command's procedures. After that review is complete, McGraw said, "we will determine what changes need to be implemented." He said USSOCOM will wait to decide if additional controls are needed.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=32684&dcn=to\\_daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32684&dcn=to_daysnews)

- 5. *October 28, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency* — Immigration officials arrest illegal workers at Department of Defense facilities.** John P. Clark, Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that ICE agents have teamed up with Department of Defense authorities to intercept dozens of illegal aliens in the past ten days who were performing contract work at the U.S. Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base–New Orleans in Belle Chasse, LA; the White Sands Missile Range in Las Cruces, NM; the U.S. Army's Fort Irwin Training Center in San Bernardino, CA; and the U.S. Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow, CA. "Unauthorized workers who gain access to sensitive U.S. military installations through fraudulent documents or other methods pose serious homeland security threats. Not only are their identities in question, but they are also vulnerable to potential exploitation by terrorists and other criminal organizations given their illegal immigration status in this country. Removing these individuals from sensitive worksites is a priority for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security," said Clark.

Source: [http://www.ice.gov/graphics/news/newsreleases/articles/051028washington\\_2.htm](http://www.ice.gov/graphics/news/newsreleases/articles/051028washington_2.htm)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

- 6. *October 31, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network* — Insurance companies required to establish anti-money laundering programs and file suspicious activity reports.** Under two final rules announced on Monday, October 31, by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

(FinCEN), certain U.S. insurance companies are required to both establish anti-money laundering programs and file Suspicious Activity Reports. The final rules apply to insurance companies that issue or underwrite certain products that present a high degree of risk for money laundering or the financing of terrorism or other illicit activity. The insurance products subject to these rules include: permanent life insurance policies, other than group life insurance policies; annuity contracts, other than group annuity contracts; and any other insurance products with features of cash value or investment features. “These rules represent key steps in ensuring that the Bank Secrecy Act is applied appropriately to these businesses and in protecting the insurance industry from potential abuse by those seeking to launder money or finance terrorism or other illicit activity, said William J. Fox, Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. “The rules enhance the protection of the U.S. financial system generally, given that the characteristics of financial products, including certain insurance products, can make those products vulnerable to those seeking to launder money or finance terrorism or other illicit activity,” said Fox.

Anti-Money Laundering Programs for Insurance Companies (Final Rule):

<http://www.fincen.gov/amlforinsurancecompany.pdf>

Requirement that Insurance Companies Report Suspicious Transactions (Final Rule):

<http://www.fincen.gov/sarforinsurancecompany.pdf>

Suspicious Activity Report by Insurance Companies (Notice and Request for Comments):

<http://www.fincen.gov/sarcomments10312005.pdf>

Source: <http://www.fincen.gov/newsrelease10312005.pdf>

- 7. *October 28, Radio New Zealand International* — U.S. to establish program to fight money laundering in Pacific.** The United States is to set up an Anti-Money Laundering Program in the Pacific Islands region, to be run by the Pacific Islands Forum. The Director of the U.S. State Department’s Money Laundering Group, Edward Rindler, says the U.S. is providing establishment funding of US\$1.4 million, with the hope of more to come, over the next four years. Rindler says the program will use four or five mentors, covering areas such the law, investigations, banking regulations and finance. “The effort to create a seamless Web if you will within the Pacific, to protect against use of illegal proceeds from all source of transnational crime and domestic, as well as combating the potential for abuse of financial systems by terrorist organizations, those supporters of those organizations, is of fundamental importance to the global effort to do the same,” says Rindler.

Pacific Islands Forum: <http://www.forumsec.org.fj/>

Source: <http://www.rnzi.com/pages/news.php?op=read&id=20186&PHPSESSID=beb310aa4c482ba67d4b6fb43bbfad76>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

- 8. *October 31, Associated Press* — United Airlines' parent reports record \$1.77 billion quarterly loss.** The holding company for United Airlines reported a record third-quarter net loss Monday of \$1.77 billion, citing heavy aircraft rejection charges as it nears the completion of its three-year bankruptcy restructuring. UAL characterized the \$1.7 billion in non-cash aircraft restructuring costs as "common" for a company in the final stages of a Chapter 11 overhaul and said it had operating earnings of \$165 million for the period despite higher fuel

expenses. The Elk Grove Village, IL-based company noted that it expects to record a large gain when it exits bankruptcy early next year, when the aircraft rejection claims are settled for less than the amounts originally recorded. The company has lost \$14.2 billion since last turning a profit in the second quarter of 2000, including \$9 billion since entering bankruptcy.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-31-ual-earns\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-31-ual-earns_x.htm)

9. *October 31, USA TODAY* — **Maintenance costs for airport scanners increase.** Congress has ordered an investigation into what it says are "skyrocketing costs" of fixing and keeping up machines that scan luggage for bombs at the nation's airports. Taxpayers will spend about \$200 million in the current fiscal year fixing and maintaining about 1,200 luggage scanners, roughly double the repair costs that the Department of Homeland Security says were needed two years ago. Travelers are likely to see delays at airports related to the repairs because flights are often held up when the machines break down and screeners must check bags by hand. Part of the problem is the huge load of baggage the machines scan each day in the USA, where about 28,000 flights take off daily. Airport security consultant Richard Roth says the luggage scanners are "very delicate, sensitive equipment" not used to running 16 hours a day. Congress has required the Government Accountability Office, its investigative arm, to explain the cost increases in a report due by April.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-30-airport-scanner-costs\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-30-airport-scanner-costs_x.htm)

10. *October 31, Associated Press* — **Philadelphia transit unions go on strike.** Commuters who rely on the Philadelphia's buses, subways, and trolleys were forced to walk, hitch rides, and take taxis to work Monday, October 31, after thousands of city transit workers went on strike. In a city where one in three households lacks a car, about 920,000 trips are taken on a typical weekday along the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority lines now shut down by the strike. City preparations for the strike included setting up extra bicycle racks, deploying more officers at intersections, urging car pooling, and allowing more parking. Some commuters, though, were frustrated. City schools, which don't provide bus service for high school students, plan to remain open but could reconsider if there is a prolonged strike. Commuter rails were expected to remain in service since those employees have a different union contract.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-10-31-philly-transit-strike\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-10-31-philly-transit-strike_x.htm)

11. *October 31, Los Angeles Times* — **Violent border clashes surging.** Assaults against U.S. Border Patrol agents nearly doubled along the Mexican border over the last year as patrols cracking down on drug trafficking and migrant smuggling encountered increasing resistance — including the use of rocks, Molotov cocktails, and gunfire. At least 687 assaults against agents were reported during the fiscal year that ended September 30, up from the previous year's total of 354 and the highest since the agency began tracking assaults across the Southwest border in the late 1990s, according to Border Patrol officials. Most assaults occurred near urban smuggling havens such as Nogales, AZ, and Tijuana, Mexico, but cross-border skirmishes took place from remote California deserts to the banks of the Rio Grande in Texas. In Tucson and San Diego, the most violent sectors, agents reported being shot at 43 times — up from 18 the previous year. Officials attribute the increased number of assaults to rising frustration among drug and immigrant traffickers, who have seen traditional smuggling routes blocked by the border buildup. About 11,000 agents — more than ever — patrol the 2,000-mile border with Mexico. Stadium lighting, sensors, remote cameras and triple fences protect some frontiers.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-assault31oct31.0.2535221.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

### **12. *October 31, Associated Press* — Virginia weighs first open water release of Asian oysters.**

State regulators are considering a request by the oyster industry to allow the first open water release of disease-tolerant Asian oysters into the Chesapeake Bay. The Virginia Seafood Council wants the state to plant ten thousand of the sterilized oysters onto a small patch at the bottom of the Piankatank River. A new state law gives William Pruit, the head of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the authority to approve the move. He said he would make his decision within 60 days after discussing the proposal with scientists, lawyers, environmentalists, seafood merchants, fishermen, and others. But the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said last week that Virginia needs a federal permit to conduct the open-water experiment. The corps is the lead agency for native oyster restoration in Virginia, and is heading the environmental study of whether to introduce Asian oysters into the bay.

Source: <http://www.wavy.com/Global/story.asp?S=4048121&nav=23ji>

### **13. *October 28, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — Agriculture Secretary announces hurricane disaster assistance.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns Friday, October 28, announced a proposal to dedicate \$800 million in hurricane recovery funds for agricultural and timber producers, rural low-income housing assistance, restoration of natural resources and national forests, commodity food assistance programs, and rebuilding of USDA facilities. "The hurricanes dealt a blow to agricultural and timber producers in the Gulf region," said Johanns. "These funds will provide direct assistance to producers, as well as indirect aid through grants and loans." USDA is authorizing \$250 million for crop disaster, livestock, dairy, tree, and aquaculture assistance. Additionally, \$550 million in hurricane recovery aid is proposed through a reallocation of existing funds. These funds would go toward cost-share assistance for emergency cleanup of agricultural and timber lands as well as watersheds, rental and home repair assistance for low-income rural residents, the rebuilding of USDA research centers and relocation of USDA personnel.

Source: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2005/10/0469.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2005/10/0469.xml)

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## **Food Sector**

14.

*October 31, Associated Press* — **Japanese panel paves way for U.S. beef imports to resume.**

The risk of mad cow disease from U.S. beef is extremely low if proper precautions are taken, a Japanese government panel ruled on Monday, October 31, in a decision that is expected to lead to an easing of an import ban that has provoked tensions with Washington. "Based on the assumption that all precautions are taken as requested, we consider the difference in risk between U.S. and Japanese beef to be extremely small," the panel's chairman, Yasuhiro Yoshikawa, said in reading the report to his colleagues. The panel forwarded the report to the Food Safety Commission, which is expected to consider it on Wednesday, November 2. Approval by the commission, however, will not automatically lift the ban. The health and agriculture ministries would then hold a month of public hearings before a decision by the government. Shoichi Nakagawa, who became the agriculture minister on Monday, October 31, said Japan "will move ahead step by step by taking the necessary procedures."

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/10/31/business/beef.php>

15. *October 31, Associated Press* — **Hurricanes blamed for milk jug shortage.** This year's Gulf Coast hurricanes are being blamed for another shortage — plastic resins used to make milk jugs. Paper cartons are replacing familiar plastic jugs in some parts of the country. The shortage is being blamed on damage from Hurricane Katrina at a hydrogen production facility in New Orleans and on disruptions in railroad service in the Gulf region. To help ease the crunch, the Food and Drug Administration is preparing to temporarily relax the standards for use of alternative plastics that don't deviate significantly from the preferred polyethylene.

Source: [http://www.thewbalchannel.com/news/5213411/detail.html?rss=b\\_al&psp=news](http://www.thewbalchannel.com/news/5213411/detail.html?rss=b_al&psp=news)

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## Water Sector

16. *October 31, Asheville Citizen-Times (NC)* — **Canton water plant put back on line following testing.** Canton, NC's water plant was put back on line Monday, October 31, after testing showed the water supply was safe, officials said. The plant was shut down after nine barrels containing a potentially hazardous substance were found nearby Saturday, October 29. David Teague, Haywood County public information officer, said police are continuing to investigate who placed the barrels near the water plant. One container was leaking a black, sticky substance the consistency of tar, said Kevin Wheeler of the Canton Fire Department. A crew was called in to clean a 20 to 30 foot section of the Pigeon River where a sheen appeared.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051031/NEWS01/51031008/1001>

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## Public Health Sector

17. *October 31, Government Health IT* — **Automated system will monitor data feeds from emergency rooms.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plans to start streaming real-time emergency room data from hospitals to help detect an avian flu outbreak or bioterrorism attack, and 11 cities could be part of such a system by the end of this year. Another

20 are expected to join by the end of 2006. Blake Caldwell, senior adviser at CDC's Coordinating Center for Health Information and Service, said the CDC BioSense system will automatically pull real-time disease diagnosis data from emergency rooms to a central CDC repository via secure Internet connections. The data will include information on medical complaints, such as fevers or respiratory infections, that might indicate an avian flu outbreak, Caldwell said. The system will then send the data to a CDC data center where detection algorithms will sift through the data to pinpoint disease clusters or outbreaks. This information will correlate with automatic biosurveillance detectors operated by the Department of Homeland Security under its BioWatch program. That information will be added to data that BioSense already collects from hospitals run by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Pentagon, Caldwell said. She emphasized that this will be real-time data, and hospitals will stream new information at least every 15 minutes.

Source: <http://www.govhealthit.com/article91245-10-31-05-Print>

**18. *October 31, Reuters* — Novartis takes over Chiron.** Drugmaker Novartis has agreed to buy the remainder of U.S. vaccine maker Chiron Corp. that it does not already own for \$5.1 billion. The Swiss company, which already owns 42 percent of Chiron, raised its cash bid on Monday, October 31, for the remaining 58 percent to \$45 a share, \$5 a share more than its original bid in September. Plagued by production problems which affected its ability to deliver flu vaccines to the U.S. market last year, Chiron has been struggling to increase sales and profits this year. It said last week it would not reach its full-year earnings forecasts. Novartis's proposal was unanimously approved by Chiron's independent directors. Novartis intends to turn around Chiron, the world's fifth-largest maker of vaccines, which has been plagued by production problems at a plant in Britain. Chiron operates three business segments — the fast-growing vaccines division, blood testing, and BioPharmaceuticals, which makes drugs for infectious diseases and cancer. Novartis has already spent eight billion dollars this year on two generic drugmakers and spent a further \$660 million on Bristol-Myers Squibb's portfolio of non-prescription drugs.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-novartis.ht ml>

**19. *October 31, Reuters* — Thai woman tests positive for bird flu.** A Thai woman has tested positive for bird flu, senior health officials said on Monday, October 31, making her the 20th person to have caught the disease since it hit the country two years ago. "A 50-year-old woman is confirmed to have bird flu after all three lab tests showed positive results," Pajit Warachit, head of the Department of Medical Sciences, told Reuters. Thirteen Thais have died of bird flu since the H5N1 virus struck in late 2003 and the woman was the third person to have caught bird flu in Thailand this year. She was admitted to a Bangkok hospital on Saturday, October 29, after telling her doctor she had been helping her husband clean up a farm where chicken were culled after laboratory tests showed they had the virus, another official said. The farm was in Nonthaburi, on the outskirts of Bangkok, and one of six provinces hit by a fresh rash of bird flu outbreaks this year, officials said.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BKK263938.htm>

**20. *October 31, Agence France-Presse* — China offers rewards for reporting mysterious animal deaths.** China has banned the sale, transportation, and consumption of animals and birds that die of unknown illnesses and is offering rewards for reports of sudden animal or bird deaths as it battles bird flu. The east China province of Shandong also activated a daily



surveillance of migratory birds out of fear they would spread the virus. Hundreds of thousands of migratory birds began arriving from north China, Mongolia, and Russia in late October and are expected to spend their winter in or pass through the coastal province on their way to warmer Pacific islands. The Ministry of Agriculture ordered agriculture and veterinary authorities nationwide immediately to report deaths of animals or birds. Cities across China have stepped up measures to combat bird flu after recent outbreaks in the Inner Mongolia region and the provinces of Hunan and Anhui. The State Forestry Administration had ordered localities to set up 118 monitoring stations nationwide to monitor migratory birds as the migration season arrives. More than 400 similar monitoring stations have also been established by local governments across China.

Source: [http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/10/31/051031163035.k00erj\\_2q.html](http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/10/31/051031163035.k00erj_2q.html)

21. *October 30, Associated Press* — **Firms try to speed up flu vaccine process.** The flu vaccine-making system relies on millions of chicken eggs, takes nine months to produce each year's flu shots, and has changed little since the 18th century. This system poses a problem if a new, deadly strain emerges once the annual production process begins. Several biotechnology companies are at work on a new and quicker way of making a flu vaccine they hope can replace one that requires people to be inoculated with the entire influenza virus. Their technique: extract just a few genes from the virus and inject it into people. The technology is called DNA vaccines. Under the current system, the three flu bug versions that are expected to be the coming season's most prevalent strains are injected in chicken eggs to multiply before undergoing a long process of inactivation, sterilization, and packaging. The researchers touting DNA vaccines say they are getting close to making vaccines with less effort. They claim they can soon produce flu vaccines in less than three months that would allow for injecting people with key bits of a flu's DNA. If a flu were to mutate into something unexpected, researchers say they can simply grab a gene from the new strain and gin up more vaccine.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051031/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/a\\_new\\_flu\\_vaccine:ylt=AksADIPny7kdCWxkh3p48pdZ24cA;ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051031/ap_on_he_me/a_new_flu_vaccine:ylt=AksADIPny7kdCWxkh3p48pdZ24cA;ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI)

22. *October 29, Houston Chronicle (TX)* — **Suspect jailed in fake flu shot investigation.** The owner of a home health business faces at least 10 years in prison if found guilty of Medicare fraud charges accusing him of injecting fake flu vaccine into as many as 1,600 Baytown, TX, employees of Exxon Mobil, as well as 14 residents of a La Porte, TX, nursing home. Iyad Abu El Hawa, the owner of Comfort & Caring Home Health, was arrested Thursday, October 27, and is being held without bail. El Hawa, 35, made an initial appearance Friday, October 28, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Johnson, who scheduled a probable cause and detention hearing for Monday, October 31. "Because he intended to bill Medicare (for the nursing home shot recipients), as if he was providing a vaccine, this is a fraud on that federal program," said U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg. "We are trying to ascertain as quickly as possible whether more victims received fake flu shots and whether they, too, are at risk," Rosenberg said. "Other charges may follow." Initial tests indicate the shots given October 19 and 20 contained nothing more than purified water, authorities said. There have been no reports of adverse effects from the fake vaccinations. Testing of the syringes and the liquid inside is continuing.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/topstory/3424405>

23.

*October 27, Tulane University (LA)* — **University receives hemorrhagic fever research grant.** The National Institutes of Health awarded Tulane University in New Orleans a grant of more than \$3.8 million for a three–year study designed to develop better tests for one of the deadliest group of diseases called viral hemorrhagic fevers. In partnership with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Ft. Detrick, MD, and three corporate partners, Robert Garry and his Tulane team will develop modern diagnostic tests for the Lassa fever virus and other hemorrhagic fevers. "This project has importance for the public health and also for biodefense, because these viruses are potential bioterror agents," says Garry, professor of microbiology and immunology at the Tulane University School of Medicine. In the first project of its kind, Garry will lead the effort to develop tests that would not require biosafety Level 4 (the highest level) laboratories, the requirement for tests currently available. Hemorrhagic fevers begin with fever and muscle aches, then may worsen until the patient becomes very ill with severe bleeding (hemorrhage), lung or kidney problems, and shock. Lassa Fever information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/lassaf.htm>  
Source: <http://www.tulane.edu/pressreleases/GarryGrant.pdf>

24. *October 27, University of Illinois* — **Video game prepares health workers for disasters.** A video game that simulates biological, chemical, radiological, and natural disasters in a major metropolitan area, developed by a team from the University of Illinois at Chicago, will be used to prepare public health workers for real life emergencies. Until recently, public health workers have been trained using role–playing exercises and actual disaster drills, which are costly and time–intensive when preparing thousands of people for a multitude of catastrophic scenarios. The first scenario in the project simulates a bioterrorism response focused on training thousands of people to dispense mass amounts of drugs and vaccines in the wake of an anthrax attack. Health workers are faced with real–life situations, including a person who may have been exposed to anthrax and a hysterical woman who believes the world is going to end. Throughout the simulation, the game tracks how the health workers respond to various situations and how quickly patients are being evaluated and treated. The simulation project was developed for the Chicago Public Health Department and was unveiled at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Distance Learning Summit in September.  
Source: <http://tigger.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/newsbureau/cgi-bin/index.cgi?from=Releases&to=Release&id=1272&frommain=1>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

25. *October 30, Morning News (AR)* — **Emergency network will allow statewide communication among first responders.** Arkansas is cashing in on federal emergency management grants to fund an interconnected emergency response program throughout the state. The Arkansas Wireless Information Network, which is expected to be completed next

year, will allow responders to communicate about man-made and natural disasters through an interconnected radio system. For example, when tornadoes move across the state, state officials will be able to link quickly and wirelessly to compare notes, find shelter for homeless people, and direct traffic away from clogged or damaged highways and roads. The program has, to date, cost \$64 million in federal funding, and more spending is expected in order to further develop the program. A joint-county emergency preparedness drill is scheduled for next year. Andy Jaeger, chief of Beaver Lake Fire Department in Benton County, AR, says, "As you go into a situation you will be directed to the correct frequency...I'm going to be able to talk to [other agencies] without a problem." In addition to [new communication tools] agencies are also using federal funding to buy multi-purpose equipment, such as multi-gas detectors to detect poison gas attacks that will also enable users to see if a crashed airplane is leaking fuel. Source: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2005/10/30/front/01prepare.txt>

**26. *October 29, Stamford Advocate (CT)* — Stamford gets emergency alert tool.** On Friday, October 28, the City of Stamford, CT, announced a new program that will enable businesses and public emergency officials to communicate during crises. The Fairfield County Business Alert System was developed after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to help groups to communicate and manage emergency situations. In an emergency, e-mail and voice mail messages are immediately sent to contacts at participating businesses. Each contact is allowed to register up to 10 contact points, including e-mail addresses, pager numbers, and multiple phone numbers. The messages are simultaneously sent to each of those numbers, ensuring redundancy. According to Don Hubbard, head of global securities for PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the private sector's actions must mesh with the government's during an emergency. He said, "When you describe the critical infrastructure in the United States, the private sector owns 85 percent of that." Because Stamford is in close proximity to Interstate 95, a major transit center, and a large securities trading floor, Hubbard says that it's not a "quantum leap of logic" that criminals could target Stamford. The group tasked with organizing the program is looking to recruit more businesses and municipalities to participate. Program information: <http://www.businessfairfield.com>  
Source: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/business/scn-sa-emergencyoct29.0,3626530.story?coll=stam-business-headlines>

**27. *October 28, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — Disaster recovery center for hurricane victims to open in Texas.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management are opening another Disaster Recovery Center in Beaumont, TX, to accompany eight other fixed centers and seven temporary centers already open in the state. At the centers, visitors are able to talk face-to-face about recovery options with representatives from local, state and federal agencies, and voluntary organizations. Visitors can inquire about the status of their grant applications; receive referrals to crisis counseling, legal aid, or disaster unemployment assistance; get help completing U.S. Small Business Administration loan applications; receive information about different types of state and federal disaster assistance; receive referrals to the American Red Cross and other voluntary organizations to help with immediate unmet needs; and learn cost-effective measures to reduce the impact of future flooding or disaster losses. To date, more than 231,506 people have visited these centers. Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=20160>

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

28. *October 31, Government Technology* — **U.S. Census Bureau releases report on computer and Internet usage.** The U.S. Census Bureau has released the "Computer and Internet Use in the United States: 2003" report. The report states that 40 percent of adults used the Internet to obtain news, weather, or sports information in 2003 — a sharp increase from only seven percent six years earlier. Also, more than half of adults (55 percent) used e-mail or instant messaging in 2003, which is a dramatic increase from the 12 percent who did so in 1997. Report: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/computer.html>  
Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=97088>
29. *October 29, Security Focus* — **Advanced Transfer Manager remote unauthorized access vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been found in the PHP Advanced Transfer Manager. This can allow remote attackers to gain unauthorized access to sensitive files, which can lead to an attacker issuing a GET request to obtain a user's password hash. According to Security Focus there is not a patch available at this time.  
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15237/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 is aware of publicly available exploit code for a buffer overflow vulnerability in the Snort Back Orifice preprocessor. This vulnerability may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code, possibly with root or SYSTEM privileges.

More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following:

\* VU#175500 – For buffer overflow in Snort Back Orifice preprocessor information please see URL: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/175500>

\* TA05-291A – For Snort Back Orifice Preprocessor Buffer Overflow information please see URL: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA05-291A.html>

US-CERT encourages Snort users to upgrade to version 2.4.3 as soon as possible. Until a fixed version of Snort can be deployed, disabling the Back Orifice preprocessor will mitigate this vulnerability.

#### **Current Port Attacks**

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 6881 (bittorrent), 139 (netbios-ssn), 40000 (----), 25 (smtp), 80 (www), 32789 (----) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at <a href="mailto:soc@us-cert.gov">soc@us-cert.gov</a> or visit their Website: <a href="http://www.us-cert.gov">www.us-cert.gov</a> .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <a href="https://www.it-isac.org/">https://www.it-isac.org/</a> .	

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

**30. *October 31, Florida Today* — Florida school evacuated after locker blast.** A middle school in Orlando, FL, was evacuated on Monday, October 31, after a pipe bomb exploded in the girls' locker room. Investigators said the device was thrown through the window of the locker room at Memorial Middle School and caused a small fire sometime over the weekend. The school was evacuated as a precaution.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051031/BREAKINGNEWS/51031010>

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## **General Sector**

**31. *October 30, Des Moines Register* — State broadens anti-terror network.** Iowa is spending millions of dollars to increase its law enforcement intelligence network so authorities are better equipped to catch terrorists before they strike. In addition to law enforcement information already being shared across Iowa, such as reports of stolen vehicles and arrest warrants, the expanded network could include the statewide exchange of such information as avian flu cases, attempts to breach security at power plants, bomb threats and break-ins involving the theft of explosives. "It's connecting the dots and seeing if they present a pattern," said David Miller, Iowa's homeland security chief. Iowa's expanded system for gathering, analyzing and sharing intelligence data could extend beyond law enforcement to include information from transportation, agricultural and public health sources, as well as private industry. Diseases could be spread that threaten people, livestock or crops. Attacks also could be mounted against privately owned critical infrastructure — such as factories and power plants, said Miller. Most of the money being spent to upgrade Iowa's intelligence system is coming from federal homeland security grants totaling nearly \$12 million. The goal is to create an information clearinghouse for intelligence data gathered across the state.

Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051030/NEWS10/510300353/1001/rss01>

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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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