



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 November 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports pieces of highly radioactive fuel rods are missing from a nuclear plant in southeast Georgia, and Georgia Power acknowledged that it's likely some will never be found. (See item [2](#))
- Sandia National Laboratories published a report entitled “Guidelines to Improve Airport Preparedness Against Chemical and Biological Terrorism” that should aid security managers of airports and other transportation facilities in reducing the risk of possible chemical and biological attacks. (See item [9](#))
- WJZ-TV reports Baltimore City is ready for phase three of a major bioterrorism drill, known as the Harbor Base III, in which a new alert system will be used, a reverse 911 call to business CEO's about whether to lock down or evacuate. (See item [30](#))

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. **November 11, Local10 (FL) — Power restoration complete in Florida.** Florida utility Florida Power & Light (FPL) announced on Friday, November 11, that 100 percent of power customers in South Florida now have their power restored. FPL President Armando Olivera said the

number of FPL customers who lost power due to Wilma — 3.2 million — is the most from any single event in company history, including when Hurricane Andrew struck 13 years ago. Wilma's damaging winds not only took down trees, power lines, and traffic lights, it also damaged substations and transformers, making the restoration of power a difficult task.

Source: <http://www.local10.com/news/5306747/detail.html>

2. *November 11, Associated Press* — **Pieces of nuclear fuel rods missing at plant.** Pieces of highly radioactive fuel rods are missing from a nuclear plant in southeast Georgia, and Georgia Power acknowledged that it's likely some will never be found. The utility said more than five feet of spent fuel rods, removed in the 1980s from a reactor at the Hatch nuclear plant near Baxley, GA, could not be found during an inventory last month. The pencil-thin rods, kept in containment pools at the plant, emit lethal doses of radiation. Georgia Power spokesperson Tal Wright said the pieces likely remain unfound in the pools or were shipped to a waste disposal facility. Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesperson Roger Hannah said the deadly radioactivity of the pieces makes them virtually impossible to steal. He said they would not have left the plant without setting off its radiation monitors. Workers continue to search 40-foot-deep containment pools with robotic cameras for the rods.

Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/news4georgia/5302195/detail.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *November 10, Denver Post (CO)* — **Chemical cloud prompts evacuation in Colorado.** An evacuation area of about two miles was established near Boulder, CO, after a chemical cloud was released Thursday morning, November 10. The incident occurred at the Lexmark plant — a leading developer, manufacturer, and supplier of printing solutions — north of Boulder. The chemical cloud formed when part A and part B epoxy were being mixed together, creating an unexpected reaction, said Boulder police spokesperson Julie Brooks. Justin Dombrowski, interim director of emergency management for the city and county of Boulder, says at least seven people have complained about respiratory problems at the Lexmark plant. Buildings in the area were evacuated, some workers and residents were told to stay inside, and all roads near the plant were closed.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_3202035

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *November 11, Washington Post* — **Defense firms may be losing investor confidence.** For the makers of the military's ships and fighter jets, the boom times may be coming to an end. At least that's what some Wall Street analysts and recently sluggish defense contractor stock prices suggest. In the face of a stubborn budget deficit fed by hurricane relief bills and rising war costs, the surge in defense spending following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is likely to level off, experts say. Gordon England, the acting deputy secretary of defense, has ordered the military leadership to find \$32.1 billion in budget savings over the next five years. The

Pentagon also is awaiting completion of a department-wide reassessment of missions, weapons and force that could recommend further changes. This has created a sense of anxiety within the defense industry, however, any cuts are expected to be spread over several years. Still, some analysts feel the slump in investor enthusiasm could soon trickle down to the usually buoyant stocks of the industry's small to mid-size players. Many of the firms specializing in information technology and electronics continue to have "premium valuations" that are "unwarranted," Joseph B. Nadol, aerospace and defense analyst for J.P. Morgan, said in a recent note to clients. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/10/AR2005111002124.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 11, The Age (Australia)* — **Man jailed over massive credit card scam network.** A Malaysian man has been jailed for his part in a massive international credit card scam that could have cost a Trinidad-based bank alone \$100 million. Wee Heong Teoh used a line-tap modem and voice recorder to decipher computer signals transferred through phone lines during Electronic Fund Transfer Point Of Sale (EFTPOS) purchases at Melbourne, Australia, shops. Noises made during the transactions were decoded to obtain credit card numbers. A Victorian County (Australia) Court heard that Teoh obtained 867 card numbers from local and overseas credit card holders. He then transferred the money to Malaysia. Police believe unknown organizers in Malaysia control a wider credit card syndicate in which Teoh became involved, the court heard. In sentencing Teoh, Judge Irene Lawson described his role in the scam as a runner. "The Crown accepts that you were at the lowest end of the echelon of this scheme. You were still a very necessary part," she said. Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/man-jailed-over-massive-credit-card-scam-network/2005/11/10/1131578172458.html?oneclick=true>

6. *November 10, Messaging Pipeline* — **New instant messaging phishing attack appears.** Users of Yahoo's instant messaging (IM) service are being warned of a new phishing attack which sends IM users a message telling them their account will be blocked unless they respond to a terms of service violation. The new attack, dubbed IM.Marphish.Yahoo, sends a message that appears to be from the Yahoo "abuse department" informing users that they are in violation of their agreement. To prevent their account from being deactivated, users are directed to a URL to a malicious site hosted at the 42.pl domain. From there, users are redirected to a Web page that appears to be the Yahoo login page to collect login and password information. Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=173601765>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

7. *November 11, Department of Transportation* — **United States, Canada reach Open-Skies aviation agreement.** The United States and Canada on Friday, November 11, reached a full Open-Skies aviation agreement that removes all economic restrictions on air services to, from

and beyond the other's territory by the airlines of both countries. This agreement, reached after three days of talks in Washington, builds on the liberalized accord reached in 1995 between the two countries, will make Canada the United States' 73rd Open-Skies partner. Open-Skies agreements permit unrestricted service by the airlines of each side to, from, and beyond the other's territory, without restrictions on how often carriers fly, the kind of aircraft they use, and the prices they charge. The new agreement will amend the 1995 accord, which eliminated most restrictions on air service between the United States and Canada. The earlier agreement fell short of a full Open Skies agreement in that it provided virtually no rights for airlines to fly beyond the other country and severely limited express cargo services. These restrictions are removed in the new agreement. The two governments anticipate that the agreement will formally take effect in September 2006.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot16605.htm>

8. *November 11, Associated Press* — **United to hire flight attendants.** United Airlines plans to hire 2,000 flight attendants in the coming year, the company said. United finished recalling furloughed attendants last month and has 15,500 on active duty, Jane Allen, senior vice president of onboard service, said Thursday, November 10. The airline has not hired new cabin crew employees in more than four years. Allen said United needs additional attendants to staff more daily flying hours and international flights, as well as make up for attrition that has come during parent company UAL's restructuring of the airline under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Elk Grove Village, IL-based UAL has said it is on schedule to emerge from bankruptcy in early February 2006.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-11-united-attendants_x.htm

9. *November 10, Sandia National Laboratories* — **Airport protection guidelines to be distributed to emergency planners and airport executives.** A published report developed by a joint team of researchers from Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) in Livermore, CA, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, is being distributed to airport executives and emergency planners and is expected to aid security managers of airports and other transportation facilities in reducing the risk of chemical and biological attacks. Sandia is a National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) laboratory. The research leading to the development of the guidance document was funded by the Department of Homeland Security. "Guidelines to Improve Airport Preparedness Against Chemical and Biological Terrorism" is a 100-page document that makes concrete recommendations on improving security and assessing vulnerable areas, and helps its readers understand the nature of chemical and biological attacks. The report has been turned over to Airports Council International (ACI) and the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), two large organizations that together represent the interests of thousands of airport personnel and facilities in the U.S. and around the world. The project was an extension of PROACT (Protective and Responsive Options for Airport Counter-Terrorism), a five-year Sandia-led program most recently supported by the Department of Homeland Security.

PROACT fact sheet: http://www.ca.sandia.gov/chembio/factsheets/chembio_fs.pdf

Source: <http://www.sandia.gov/news-center/news-releases/2005/def-non-prolif-sec/proact-guidelines.html>

10. *November 10, Washington Technology* — **New security system to be installed at Baltimore port.** The Maryland Port Administration is spending \$5.5 million to design and install a

security system at the Port of Baltimore. The project will include the installation of a remote video surveillance system as well as enhancements to terminal perimeter security. The expected completion date for the project is fall 2006. Real-time intrusion detection technology and thermal and low-light cameras will allow security personnel to monitor fences, terminals, gates, and piers in order to respond to suspicious activities. The communications network will be a wide-area network with both wireless and fiber optic links to connect the public terminals. Besides safeguarding the cargo that flows in and out of the port, the system also will provide expanded safety and security for employees, visitors, and nearby citizens.

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/27403-1.html

- 11. *November 09, St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MO)* — Birds may have confused air traffic radar system.** Large flocks of migrating waterfowl are suspected of causing St. Louis' air traffic radar system to malfunction Wednesday morning, November 9. Around 7 a.m. CST, radar screens at the air traffic control center in Weldon Spring, MO, showed thousands of blips that controllers knew were not aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported. The radar system, which helps controllers keep planes on proper flight paths and avoid collisions, became overloaded and crashed. Air traffic controllers in Kansas City began guiding pilots through St. Louis airspace at 8:49 a.m. until St. Louis controllers made a switch to a secondary radar system 15 minutes later, FAA spokesperson Elizabeth Isham Cory said. Waterfowl have caused radar systems serving other airports to shut down and were believed to have caused the October 10 radar malfunction at Logan International Airport in Boston. On November 2, migratory birds caused the same type of radar system to shut down in Kansas City.

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/69B5A23CB6ACF3F1862570B5001C7AA4?OpenDocument>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

- 12. *November 10, Indiana Ag Connection* — Emerald ash borer found in Randolph, Indiana.**

The emerald ash borer, an exotic species of beetle that destroys ash trees, has been confirmed at a location in Randolph, IN. As a result of the confirmed discovery, the state Department of Natural Resources issued a quarantine for most ash products in White River Township in Randolph County. The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed that larvae have been discovered in about seven trees that follow a small drainage ditch a half-mile from a site where Michigan nursery stock was introduced several years ago. Officials say it is possible that another source is in the area, however. Robert Waltz, state entomologist, said the quarantine prohibits transportation of ash trees and most ash tree products out of White River Township. This rule includes nursery stock, logs or untreated lumber with the bark attached; any type of firewood except for pine; and any composted or uncomposted ash chips or bark chips that are one inch or larger.

Emerald ash borer information: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

Source: <http://www.indianaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=688&yr=2005>

13. *November 10, Agricultural Research Service* — **Study probes spread of U.S. corn pest in Europe.** The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has helped shed new light on the spread in Europe of the western corn rootworm beetle, the most destructive pest of corn in the U.S. It was thought that the European spread of this pest, *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*, could be traced exclusively to its accidental 1992 introduction from North America into the former Yugoslavia. But a new study, headed by researchers Thomas Guillemaud and Nicholas Miller at Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) in Sophia Antipolis, France, has found that it's the result of at least three independent transatlantic introductions. This suggests that such incursions may be occurring more often than previously thought. The study entailed analysis of genetic variation in European and American western corn rootworm populations, specifically at eight microsatellite loci within their DNA. ARS Molecular biologist Kyung Seok Kim developed the microsatellite DNA markers needed for the study. Kim explained that the pests are usually most easily controlled by rotating crops between corn and soybean. He added that the findings also bear significance because of the emergence of a new variant of the western corn rootworm in the U.S. that lays its eggs in soybeans and whose offspring hatch in corn. Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

14. *November 10, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **First soybean rust found in Texas.** U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists Thursday, November 10, confirmed the presence of Asian soybean rust on kudzu leaves collected near Dayton, TX, in Liberty County. This is the first rust sighting in Texas ever, said Tom Isakeit, Extension plant pathologist at Texas A&M University. It also becomes, by far, the western-most county with rust ever in the U.S. The find brings the U.S. rust-county total to 122 in eight states. Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=618>

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Food Sector

15. *November 12, Associated Press* — **U.S. will maintain higher mad cow testing standard.** The government plans to maintain indefinitely its faster level of testing for mad cow disease, rather than scaling back testing in December as originally envisioned. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns says he wants government scientists to continue testing about 1,000 cattle a day. "I have just been very reluctant to even set a date as to when we would bring that to a close," Johanns said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's safe to say the enhanced surveillance is going to extend beyond the end of December." Johanns said he wants to make sure testing represents all regions of the country and that healthy animals are tested. The government has been testing only sick, injured, or dead cows, those deemed to be at "high risk" of having mad cow disease. "High risk" means animals showing signs of mad cow disease, such as nervous system problems or emaciation, "downer" animals that can't walk, or dead animals. The nation's first case of mad cow disease was confirmed in December 2003 in a Canadian-born cow in Washington state. In response, the Agriculture Department increased its testing in June 2004 from an average of about 55 daily to more than 1,000 a day. Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ats-ap_health19nov12.0.14

16. *November 10, Agricultural Research Service* — **New film created from milk is edible, water resistant.** Several products commonly found in grocery store dairy aisles could soon be coated in an edible and water-resistant milk protein, thanks to a new process developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists that makes possible the continuous manufacture of casein film. The process uses the unique characteristics of casein, a milk protein that is the chief nutritional ingredient in cheese. Casein is also used in nonfood products including adhesives, finishing materials for paper and textiles, and paints. The casein films could serve as stand-alone sheets or as thin coatings that form a barrier to outside substances while protecting a product from damage or contamination. The edible film locks in moisture, so it can coat dairy food products, such as cheese, or function as part of a laminate in packaging for cottage cheese or yogurt. Flavorings, vitamins or minerals could be added to enhance flavor and nutrition. Michael Kozempel, a recently retired ARS chemical engineer, developed a continuous pilot plant process to produce the film. He found a suitable belt material and feeding mechanism so that the solution can be uniformly spread and dried to form a film that is readily removed from the belt. The process can be modified for other proteins.
Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/051110.htm>

17. *November 10, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Chicken salad recalled.** Isabelle's Kitchen, Inc., a Harleysville, PA, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 5,523 pounds of chicken salad products that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Thursday, November 10. The chicken salads were distributed to supermarkets and institutions in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The problem was discovered through company microbiological sampling. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of the product. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.
Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall_049_2005_release/index.asp

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Water Sector

18. *November 10, Boston Herald (MA)* — **Ipswich residents warned not to drink water.** The Ipswich, MA, Water Department has issued a warning to all residents not to use their water under any circumstances until further notice. High pH levels were detected in the system Thursday, November 10, due to a chemical spill in the water supply. Approximately 40 gallons of potassium hydroxide leaked into the clear well holding tank at the Water Treatment Plant, according to selectmen Chairman James Foley. The clear well is a holding tank for treated water and holds about 100,000 gallons of water that is distributed to the town. The state Department of Environmental Protection was notified and told the town to warn residents “not to drink, bathe or come in contact with the water until the system is flushed,” said Foley, adding that contact with the chemical can cause burns to the skin or eyes. The filtration plant has been shut down and the Water Department is flushing the water mains as well as draining the contaminated well.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=111530>

19. *November 10, Boston Globe (MA)* — **Fluoride shortage causes scramble for new source.** A nationwide shortage of fluoride has caused some communities in Greater Boston, MA, to scramble for the compound used to prevent cavities. In mid-August, a Florida manufacturer notified its distributor that it would no longer produce hydrofluosilicic acid, one of the products used to fluoridate drinking water. The effect of a plant shutdown in Fort Meade, FL, by US Agri-Chemicals, one of only three such manufacturers in the country, has cascaded to this region. Exacerbating the shortage, California just passed a statewide referendum requiring the addition of fluoride to all drinking water supplies. "The decrease in supply has had a ripple effect through the industry," said Ria Convery, communications director for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. The MWRA provides water to 14 communities. Although the MWRA has found an alternate fluoride supplier in Houston, TX, the authority will have to pay a higher price, Convery said. "It used to cost us \$618 per ton, and we're now up to \$816 under this new contract," she said. Convery said the MWRA will pass the additional cost on to its customers. The MWRA and local officials predicted that by next year the market will normalize and the price of fluoride will come back down.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/11/10/fluoride_shortage_causes_scramble_for_new_source/

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Public Health Sector

20. *November 12, Agence France-Presse* — **China reports new bird flu outbreak, Thailand probes first Bangkok case.** China reported its eighth outbreak of bird flu in less than a month, as Thai authorities rushed to investigate the first confirmed human infection in the capital Bangkok. China's latest outbreak occurred in two villages in Jingshan, part of Hubei province in the country's vast rural interior, the agriculture ministry said. Hubei is in between Anhui and Hunan, two other provinces where avian flu has been confirmed since October, when the virus suddenly returned to China. Health and agricultural departments in the northeastern province of Liaoning said Friday, November 11, a chicken farmer was undergoing further tests to determine whether she had bird flu, making her the fourth suspected human case in China. The details of the three other suspected cases are being investigated by World Health Organization (WHO) experts. In Thailand, authorities Saturday, November 12, rushed to investigate the home of an 18-month-old boy who was diagnosed with bird flu. The house where the boy contracted the virus had two chickens and one fighting cock, which died on October 31 but were only reported to authorities after the boy fell ill. The boy is the 21st case of bird flu diagnosed in Thailand since the H5N1 virus was first detected in the country in January 2004.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051112/ts_afp/healthflu_051112122030;_ylt=Alisn6k0XJLL2SF2K_18t92JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI

21. *November 11, HealthDay News* — **Bird flu triggers severe immune system distress levels.** Reporting in the November 11 online edition of *Respiratory Research*, Michael Chan from the University of Hong Kong and his collaborators in Vietnam found that the H5N1 virus can trigger levels of inflammatory proteins called cytokines and chemokines that are more than 10

times higher than those that occur during a bout of the common flu. This massive increase in cytokine and chemokine activity can inflame airways, making it hard to breathe. It also contributes to the unusual severity of the avian flu, which can result in life-threatening pneumonia and acute respiratory distress. The study authors wrote: "The recent re-emergence of H5N1 disease in humans is a cause for renewed pandemic concern and highlights the need for a better understanding of the pathogenesis of human H5N1 disease...Such understanding will lead to new strategies for managing human H5N1 disease and enhance our preparedness to confront pandemic influenza, whether from H5N1 or other influenza A subtypes."

Report: <http://respiratory-research.com/content/6/1/42>

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/lifestyle/health/feeds/hscout/2005/11/11/hscout529060.html>

- 22. *November 11, World Health Organization* — International effort stops polio epidemic across 10 west and central African countries.** Public health experts have confirmed that a polio epidemic in 10 countries in west and central Africa — Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and Togo — has been successfully stopped. The epidemic has paralyzed nearly 200 children since mid-2003, but no new cases have been reported in these countries since early June. At the same time, polio eradication efforts are intensifying in Nigeria, where extensive disease transmission continues, as part of a mass polio campaign across 28 African countries beginning Friday, November 11. The 10 countries, which had previously been polio-free, participated in a series of mass immunization drives across 23 countries, reaching as many as 100 million children with multiple doses of polio vaccine over the last 18 months. Experts cautioned, however, that ongoing disease transmission in remaining endemic areas continues to pose a risk of more outbreaks across the region.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/pr60/en/in_dex.html

- 23. *November 11, PLoS Pathogens* — Human neutrophils kill *Bacillus anthracis*.** *Bacillus anthracis* spores cause natural infections and are used as biological weapons. Inhalation infection with *B. anthracis*, the etiological agent of anthrax, is almost always lethal, yet cutaneous infections usually remain localized and resolve spontaneously. Neutrophils are typically recruited to cutaneous but seldom to other forms of anthrax infections, raising the possibility that neutrophils kill *B. anthracis*. In this study, researchers infected human neutrophils with either spores or vegetative bacteria of a wild-type strain, or strains, expressing only one of the two major virulence factors. The human neutrophils engulfed *B. anthracis* spores, which germinated intracellularly and were then efficiently killed. Interestingly, neutrophil killing was independent of reactive oxygen species production. Researchers fractionated a human neutrophil granule extract by high-performance liquid chromatography and identified defensins as the component responsible for *B. anthracis* killing. These data suggest that the timely recruitment of neutrophils can control cutaneous infections and possibly other forms of *B. anthracis* infections, and that defensins play an important role in the potent anti-*B. anthracis* activity of neutrophils.

Source: <http://pathogens.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.ppat.0010023>

- 24. *November 10, Associated Press* — Deadly strain of bird flu confirmed in Kuwait.** A flamingo found on a Kuwaiti beach had the strain of bird flu that has devastated poultry stocks

and killed more than 60 people in Asia — the first known case of the deadly bird flu in the Arab world. Mohammed al-Mihana of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries said tests showed the flamingo had the deadly H5N1 flu strain, while a second bird — an imported falcon — had the milder H5N2 variant. Both the flamingo and falcon were destroyed. Officials said there was no indication bird flu had spread to humans and they saw no need to slaughter domestic bird stocks. Poultry and eggs from local farms were free of the disease, they said. Al-Mihana said teams would continue to fumigate farms and bird markets and are checking places where birds stop on their migration from Asia to Africa. There have been worries about outbreaks of bird flu in the Middle East because the region sits on important migratory routes. Migratory birds earlier spread the virus to Russia, Turkey, and Romania. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20051111-1016-birdflu.html>

25. *November 08, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* — **Update: West Nile Virus activity in the United States, 2005.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released surveillance data on West Nile Virus (WNV) as of Tuesday, November 8, 2005. A total of 42 states reported 2,653 cases of human WNV illness in 2005. By comparison, a total of 2,282 WNV cases had been reported as of November 8, 2004. A total of 1,405 (56 percent) of the 2,490 cases in 2005 occurred in males; the median age of patients was 51 years. Dates of illness onset ranged from January 2 to October 21; a total of 86 cases were fatal. A total of 381 presumptive West Nile viremic blood donors (PVDs) have been reported during 2005. Of these, 88 were reported from California; 57 from Texas; 53 from Nebraska; 22 from Louisiana; 20 from Arizona; 19 from Kansas; 18 from Iowa; 17 from South Dakota; 13 from Oklahoma; 11 from Minnesota; 10 from Illinois; five each from Michigan, New Mexico, and North Dakota; four each from Alabama, Pennsylvania, and Utah; three each from Nevada and Wisconsin; among other states. Of the 381 PVDs, three persons had neuroinvasive illness; seven persons subsequently had other illnesses; and 84 persons subsequently had West Nile fever. Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5444a6.htm>

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Government Sector

26. *November 10, Associated Press* — **Car prompting Colorado city hall evacuation no threat.** Arvada City Hall and a post office were evacuated and a bomb squad was called in after a car carrying chemical tanks was parked nearby, but officials later determined the vehicle was not a threat. The two adjacent buildings in the west Denver suburb were evacuated after a witness reported that a man carrying a duffel bag had run from the car in the city parking lot on Thursday, November 10, shortly before 7 a.m. MST, police spokesperson Susan Medina said. The motorist contacted police after seeing television coverage of the scene, where two bomb squad robots and someone in a hazardous materials suit had been deployed. He said he merely left his car after he got tired of waiting for his girlfriend, who was in police offices in City Hall, Medina said. Propane and acetylene tanks found in the car were related to the man's construction work, she said. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051110/ap_on_re_us/city_hall_evacuation;_ylt=ApducDWbTuPgVacDLS28m3us0NUE;_ylu=X3oDMTA3MjBwMWtkBHNIYwM3MTg-

Emergency Services Sector

27. *November 11, Daily Reflector (NC)* — North Carolina county tests response to terror attacks. Emergency responders in Pitt County, NC, grappled with a series of hypothetical terrorist attacks Thursday, November 10, in an exercise designed to prepare them for responding to the real thing. About 100 people from law enforcement, fire, medical, public school, communications and National Guard backgrounds gathered at the Pitt County Agricultural Center for the exercise. "It gives all agencies a chance to test their plans and see how all the agencies can work with one another during a true time of disaster, a bio-terrorism or weapon of mass destruction event," Pitt County Emergency Services Director Noel Lee said of the drill. IN the drill, an explosion in a chemical lab at East Carolina University (ECU) occurred, followed by an ECU transit bus crash into Belk Hall. Emergency medical and fire personnel hurried to that site, while ECU police tried to divide forces between the two scenes. Officials discussed setting up a joint command center and access routes to get additional personnel on scene. John Meredith, medical director for emergency preparedness response, said the exercise highlighted the importance of increased communication between agencies and pointed to a need to look at alternative triage sites.

Source: <http://www.reflector.com/local/content/news/stories/2005/11/11/20051111GDRdrill.html>

28. *November 10, San Francisco Examiner* — San Francisco emergency warning system has problems. A newly upgraded public warning system in San Francisco, CA, intended to alert city residents of an earthquake, terrorist attack or other emergency is riddled with problems and can only be heard by roughly half of San Francisco, city officials said Thursday, November 10. City officials blame the problems on ATI Systems, the Boston-based company that won the contract to upgrade the system. San Francisco is the first major city to install a state-of-the-art outdoor warning system, which is supposed to allow officials to quickly relay vital and accurate information and help it avoid the type of chaos seen in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. City officials said around 350 of the 1,100 drivers that power the system's speakers failed during testing, as did replacements provided by the contractor. Even if the drivers worked, city officials said the speakers aren't loud enough, resulting in only 50 to 60 percent of the city being covered by the warning system, instead of the 90 percent specified in the contract.

Source: http://www.sfexaminer.com/articles/2005/11/11/news/20051111_ne03_emergency.txt

29. *November 10, Mercury News (CA)* — "Safety Summit" for educators held to prepare them for emergencies. City police and fire officials Wednesday, November 9, coached scores of schoolteachers and administrators in San Jose, CA, how to think and act like emergency responders. About 200 public and private school officials from northern and central San Jose attended the "Safety Summit" at City Hall. San Jose has 19 school districts, with 300 public and private schools, more than 230,000 K-12 students and 18,000 teachers. But city officials said each has different safety policies, procedures and plans. And none of those are aligned with San Jose police and fire emergency procedures, or coordinated with neighborhood groups or community centers near schools. Wednesday's event aimed to solve that problem. The half-day session was sponsored by Mayor Ron Gonzales' Gang Prevention Task Force and San Jose

Unified School District under a state Department of Education emergency response and crisis management grant. Rios said the summit is a first step toward developing a citywide crisis response and training protocol that will help save lives and ease anxiety in emergencies ranging from earthquakes and fires to school shootings, gang wars or terrorist attacks.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/131298_86.htm

30. *November 09, WJZ-TV (MD)* — **Drill in Maryland to test new alert system.** Baltimore City, MD, is gearing up for phase three of a major bioterrorism drill, known as the Harbor Base III. It includes a scenario where a biological agent is released into the air, thousands of residents become ill and need medical attention. This drill will test emergency medical service personnel, hospital workers, police and city officials. A new component of this drill is the testing of a new alert system for downtown workers, called "BECON." It involves a reverse 911 call to the top business CEO's in which they will receive information about whether to lock down or evacuate. Officials are keeping the exact date a secret, in order to simulate real emergency conditions. But city officials say the drill is planned for sometime during the week of November 14.

Source: http://wjz.com/topstories/local_story_313140941.html

31. *November 09, Disaster News* — **International emergency response study reveals U.S. response voids.** Disaster response in developing countries is stunted by lack of communication and an inability to work together — and these same weaknesses hamper U.S. response, new research shows. Susan Forbes Martin, co-author of a new report released by Georgetown University, said disaster management is rife with poor communications. In addition, there seems to be a worldwide hyper-focus on immediate response rather than disaster mitigation and prevention, Martin said. The study also found most partnerships that get established with local response groups are unequal partnerships, because national or international groups don't always communicate well with local players. "There's a tendency for those coming in nationally or internationally to think they know what's best, and then they miss being able to capitalize on the much greater knowledge, usually, of local conditions and local realities." Martin says there are lessons the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can learn from international disaster research: "Local communities — whether it's health services, fire, police — they're the ones who can do the most effective mitigation. They are the ones on the scene initially. What FEMA needs to do...is to provide the environment of support, financial resources, and leadership that will allow the first responders to respond."

The full study, "Disaster Management and Response: Capacity Building for Developing Country Institutions," is available at:

<http://www.georgetown.edu/sfs/programs/isim/Publications/Gra ntReports/Disaster%20Management%20and%20Response.pdf>

Source: <http://www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2948>

32. *November 09, Associated Press* — **Three governors say disaster response best left to locals.** States should continue to rely on their local authorities and National Guard troops to respond to disasters, rather than have the active military take a greater role in the aftermath of such emergencies, three western governors said Tuesday, November 8. The governors of Arizona, Montana and Utah said it makes more sense for disaster response efforts to be coordinated by local authorities and National Guard units, because they have expertise in confronting those types of emergencies. "You really have to begin with your first-responders and work upward and outward, as opposed to working from Washington, DC, downward," Arizona Governor

Janet Napolitano said at a news conference Tuesday at the opening of a Western Governors' Association meeting in Arizona. Utah Governor Jon Huntsman said emergencies in his state have been well managed because local and state authorities have expertise in disaster response and familiarity with their communities. "Those closest to disaster, those closest to the emergency, are best equipped to deal with it," Huntsman said. If local and state authorities can't handle the demands of a disaster, they can reach out to the federal government for help, Huntsman said.

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/13122911.htm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *November 11, Secunia* — Nortel CallPilot multiple vulnerabilities. Nortel Networks has found multiple vulnerabilities in Nortel CallPilot, which potentially can be exploited by malicious, local users to gain escalated privileges, or by malicious people to cause a DoS (Denial of Service), or compromise a user's system or vulnerable system. The vulnerabilities have been reported in versions 3.0 and 4.0. The vulnerability in MS05-050 (SA17160) also affects versions 1.07 and 2.x.

The vendor recommends users follow the instructions in Security Advisory P-2005-0056-Global (access to this document requires an active support agreement with Nortel): http://www130.nortelnetworks.com...63252&RenditionID=REND359_659
Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/17509/>

34. *November 11, Security Tracker* — Sudo input validation flaw in perl-related environment variables lets certain local users execute arbitrary perl code. Sudo does not properly validate the PERL5LIB, PERLLIB, and PERL5OPT environment variables. A local user with sudo permissions to run a perl script (without the tainting option) can set these variables to execute an arbitrary file with a name that is identical to the name of a system library included by the perl script.

The vendor has issued a fixed version (1.6.8p12), available at:
<http://www.sudo.ws/sudo/download.html>

Source: <http://www.securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Nov/1015192.html>

35. *November 11, Security Tracker* — Kerio WinRoute firewall may let users of disabled accounts authenticate to the system. A vulnerability was reported in Kerio WinRoute Firewall. A remote previously authorized user may be able to authenticate. A remote user may be able to authenticate to the system even if their account has been disabled. The firewall does not properly process certain RTSP streams. A remote user may be able to cause denial of service conditions.

The vendor has issued a fixed version (6.1.3): www.kerio.com/kwf_home.html

Source: <http://www.securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Nov/1015194.html>

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 proof of concept code for an Oracle worm. Currently, US-CERT cannot confirm if this code works. We are working with Oracle to determine the threat posed by this code.

Although there is limited information concerning this potential threat, US-CERT strongly encourages Oracle system administrators to implement the following workarounds:

- * Change default user credentials for Oracle installations
- * Change the default port for the TNS listener
- * Restrict Oracle network access to trusted hosts only
- * Revoke CREATE DATABASE LINK privileges from the CONNECT role

US-CERT will continue to investigate the issue and provide updates as they become available.

For more information please review URL:

http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#oraclewm

There are variants of Breplibot (aka Stinx aka Ryknos) trying to hide under the cloak provided by the Sony DRM software. However, none of the variants we have so far analyzed are successful in installing on a machine that has an unpatched Sony DRM running.

<http://www.f-secure.com/weblog/>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 32789 (---), 25 (smtp), 6588 (AnalogX) 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

36. *November 11, Associated Press* — City proposes shortened Mardi Gras. While New Orleans officials debate a scaled-down version of the annual party, tourist officials warn against limiting the parades too severely. City officials are looking into a six-day celebration — about half the normal length. It would begin February 23 and run through Fat Tuesday, February 28. A final decision is expected by November 18. A shorter season would reduce the cost for the cash-strapped city, which foots the bill for police overtime and garbage pickup. Police have been working 12-hour shifts since the hurricane hit but will return to eight-hour shifts late this month, acting superintendent Warren Riley said. There's no money in next year's budget for Carnival overtime, so each day's parades must be finished in eight hours, he said. Some locals have suggested calling off Mardi Gras 2006 altogether. They say staging the huge party at a time of such great need in the city and region will send the wrong message to other parts of the country.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-11-katrini-mardi_gras_x.htm

37. *November 10, Associated Press* — New York steps up patrols of hotels after Jordan bombings. Police stepped up patrols of Manhattan hotels as a precaution following the suicide bombings of three hotels in Jordan on November 9. The number of critical response patrol vehicles was increased, with special attention paid to hotels in midtown and downtown Manhattan, police said Thursday, November 10. One officer said they were instructed to watch for suspicious packages and activity. Police officers and squad cards were posted at several midtown hotels early Thursday, including the Grand Hyatt New York, next to Grand Central Terminal.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/11/10/us.security.ap/index.html>

38. *November 10, Voice of America* — Chinese police warn of possible hotel terror attacks. The U.S. Embassy says the Chinese police warning was specific: Islamic extremists are planning to attack five and four-star hotels in China "sometime over the course of next week". The embassy advised Americans staying at luxury hotels to remain vigilant and to exercise caution. The warning comes as Chinese and U.S. officials are preparing for President Bush's November 19 arrival in Beijing. A host of U.S. officials including U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former President George Bush, the father of the current president, also are visiting Beijing next week. There are few known Islamic militant groups operating in China. However, China's northwestern frontier region is home to minority Muslim groups such as the Uighurs. China considers one Uighur group, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, to be engaged in terrorist activities. The U.S. Embassy said Chinese authorities have made assurances that they are taking appropriate security measures and are investigating the threat. But the Chinese government has not made any formal comment about the matter.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2005-11-09-voa14.cfm>

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General Sector

39. *November 10, Associated Press* — Feds accuse two California men in scheme to smuggle missiles into U.S. A California federal grand jury on Wednesday, November 9, indicted Chao Tung "John" Wu of La Puente and Yi Qing Chen of Rosemead, both naturalized U.S. citizens

born in China. Prosecutors say the pair agreed to arrange the shipment of three shoulder-fired, surface-to-air missiles into the United States. Federal officials say no allegations of domestic terrorism were involved. "The smugglers were told the weapons would be sent abroad and not be used in the United States," said Thom Mrozek, spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office. But authorities say the case provides a chilling glimpse into what's for sale on the international black market. The indictment marks the first time a 2004 anti-terrorism statute has been used. The statute calls for a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years and the possibility of life in prison without parole if convicted. The men have been in custody since August when they were arrested as part of Operation Smoking Dragon, a federal undercover investigation into smuggling operations in Southern California.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20051110-0014-ca-missilesmuggling.html>

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Contact DHS

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

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

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