



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 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

- Officials announced Sunday that an avian flu early warning system, able to alert countries and communities to the arrival of potentially infected wild birds, is to be developed by an alliance of organizations led by the United Nations. (See item [21](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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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 19, New York Times* — **Utility struggles to relight New Orleans.** Vast stretches of New Orleans without access to electrical power represent the magnitude of work utility Entergy New Orleans must perform before the city can recover. Nearly three months after Hurricane Katrina, the afflicted areas include not only devastated sections of town like the Lower Ninth Ward, but also neighborhoods that suffered relatively little water and wind damage. It is not just a lack of electrical power that is hindering the city's revival. Almost half of New Orleans lacks natural gas for cooking or heating, according to Entergy, even as temperatures have fallen sharply in recent days, dipping below 40 degrees at night. Under pressure from the New Orleans City Council and residents, Entergy has developed a plan to be providing electricity to at least 80 percent of customers by year's end, and gas services to 80 percent by mid-January. However, the company declines to attach a target date to the restoration of power in areas "too devastated to even make a reliable prediction," said Daniel F. Packer, chief executive of Entergy New Orleans. That includes parts of the Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans East, and

Lakeview.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/19/national/nationalspecial/1\\_9power.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/19/national/nationalspecial/1_9power.html)

2. *November 18, Agence France–Presse* — **Qatar, U.S. launch huge gas project in strategic alliance.** Qatar and Washington have launched a joint project to build the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) refinery mostly for export to the United States, in a \$14 billion strategic alliance between the two countries. Qatar Petroleum has a 70 percent stake in the project and ExxonMobil Ras Laffan III Limited, a subsidiary of the U.S. oil major ExxonMobil, the remaining 30 percent. Under the 25 year accord starting in 2008 — signed Tuesday, November 15, during a visit by Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman — Washington will import 25–30 percent of its LNG needs from Qatar, said Qatari Energy Minister Abdullah bin Hamad al–Attiya. Qatar's giant North Field, which has proven reserves of more than 900 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, is the third largest in the world.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051118/wl\\_mideast\\_afp/qatarusg as 051118154534](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051118/wl_mideast_afp/qatarusg as 051118154534)

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

3. *November 18, WPXI (PA)* — **Gas leak in Pennsylvania prompts evacuations.** Equitable Gas spokesperson Dave Spigelmeyer said his crews smelled a strong odor of gas inside a building on Sixth Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh, PA, housing the Burlington Coat Factory and other businesses after Equitable Gas crews repaired a leaking gas line late Friday, November 18. The gas was shut off to the area. Crews were able to pinpoint the exact location of leak in the service line from street to the building's meter. No injuries were reported. People were allowed to return to the evacuated building at about 1:30 p.m. EST. However, several buses were detoured Friday as a result of the leak.

Source: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/5355911/detail.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *December 01, National Defense Magazine* — **Defense courts commercial vendors to help defeat weapons of mass destruction threats.** The Pentagon is seeking non–traditional commercial suppliers of chemical and biological defense products. Of particular interest are vaccines, long–range sensors that can detect unknown deadly agents and warning systems that can alert potential victims of a bio–warfare attack. Backed by a \$400 million annual budget for research and development, the Defense Threats Reduction Agency (DTRA) plans to lure contractors who so far have been reluctant to work with the U.S. government. DTRA has found that the cadre of suppliers the Pentagon usually relies upon is not enough to meet the agency's growing demands for innovative technologies, officials said. “As we have begun to take a leadership role, we believe it's necessary to have access to traditional and non–traditional contractors,” said John Connell, who runs the chemical–biological defense technology transition division at DTRA. In early September, DTRA released a so–called “sources sought” solicitation intended to attract commercial suppliers that generally would not consider getting

involved in Pentagon programs. "We are confident we can tap into new vendors," said Connell.  
Source: [http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2005/Dec1/UF-Defense\\_Dept.htm](http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2005/Dec1/UF-Defense_Dept.htm)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *November 19, Reuters* — **Nigerian scammers jailed for Brazilian bank scam.** A court has sentenced two men to a total of 37 years in prison for their part in defrauding a Brazilian bank of \$242 million, the biggest scam in Nigerian history. The sentencing of Emmanuel Nwude to 25 years and Nzeribe Okoli to 12 years follows negotiations in which they agreed to plead guilty to 16 of the 91 original charges, and to forfeit assets worth at least \$121.5 million to the victims of the scam. A third scammer, Amaka Anajemba, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison in July after agreeing to return \$48.5 million to the Sao Paulo-based Banco Noroeste S.A., which collapsed after the theft. The scammers obtained the money by promising a member of the bank staff a commission for funding a non-existent contract to build an airport in Nigeria's capital Abuja. These are the first major convictions achieved by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), which was established in 2003 to crack down on Nigeria's thriving networks of e-mail scammers. Ranked the world's sixth most corrupt country, according to an index by Transparency International, Nigeria has given new powers to the EFCC which is prosecuting about 200 fraud and corruption cases.

Source: [http://za.today.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-11-19T130314Z\\_01\\_BAN947026\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_OZATP-CRIME-NIGERIA-FRAUD-20051119.XML](http://za.today.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-11-19T130314Z_01_BAN947026_RTRIDST_0_OZATP-CRIME-NIGERIA-FRAUD-20051119.XML)

6. *November 19, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* — **Laptop stolen from aerospace company holding personal information on employees.** Boeing announced on Friday, November 18, that personal information on 161,000 current and former employees was put at risk of exposure with the theft of a laptop computer belonging to a company human-resources employee. The exposed information includes names, Social Security numbers and, for some, birth dates, bank names and account numbers. Also on the stolen computer are some employees' home addresses and bank-account routing numbers for direct-deposit paychecks. Boeing said it has no evidence that the theft, which took place away from Boeing's offices, has resulted in any information being revealed. It said there was no classified, supplier, customer, engineering or material financial information on the computer. It's very possible no one has accessed the data, and even if they did, it would be quite an effort to put it together in a usable format," said spokesperson Tim Neale. The computer is password-protected, though the data on it isn't encrypted, he said.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/249011\\_idrisk19.html?source=rss](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/249011_idrisk19.html?source=rss)

7. *November 18, Associated Press* — **Website operators admit role in phishing ring.** Six more people pleaded guilty Thursday, November 17, to operating a Website that investigators claimed was one of the largest online centers for trafficking in stolen identity information and credit cards. With others who pleaded guilty in recent weeks, that brings to 12 people who acknowledged roles with the site, [www.shadowcrew.com](http://www.shadowcrew.com), which had about 4,000 members who dealt with at least 1.5 million stolen credit card numbers and caused more than \$4 million in losses, federal prosecutors said. "The losses incurred were to the issuing banks and

MasterCard, Visa, American Express, who reimbursed those who were victimized by these crimes," Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Dowd said. The site used techniques such as phishing and spamming to illegally obtain credit and bank card information, which were used to buy goods on the Internet.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=L50TYLHXHJJ02QSNDBOCKHSCJUMEKJVN?articleID=174400097>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

8. *November 18, Associated Press* — **Delta exec says airline losing \$5M a day.** Delta Air Lines needs to cut pilots' pay and benefits because it is losing \$5 million each day, much of it due to high jet fuel prices, even as it works to stay afloat, the company's chief financial officer testified at a bankruptcy court hearing Thursday, November 17. Delta CFO Edward Bastian said the company's cash flow would break even for 2006 and generate \$1 billion in 2007, but he argued that the airline would need to impose deep wage and benefit cuts on more than 6,000 pilots to fight volatile fuel prices, pay down debt and hedge against other unforeseen circumstances. Delta currently has \$1.4 billion in available cash on hand. Delta has an additional \$1.2 billion in cash in the bank, but cannot use the money because the airline's contracts with its credit card processor and workers compensation insurance provider require Delta to keep cash on hand as collateral due to its deteriorating financial situation. Delta, which filed for Chapter 11 on September 14, has recorded losses of more than \$11 billion since January 2001 and over that period has announced it would cut up to 33,000 jobs.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-17-delta-pilots\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-17-delta-pilots_x.htm)

9. *November 18, Associated Press* — **As airlines outsource, more oversight is needed, official says.** As airlines cut costs by having others do their maintenance, federal safety inspectors need to keep a closer eye on the work, the Department of Transportation's inspector general Kenneth Mead told Congress Thursday, November 17. Airlines contracted out 54 percent of their repair work last year, half again as much as they did in 1996, Mead told the Senate aviation subcommittee. "The transition to increased use of outside repair facilities is not the issue," Mead said. "It is that maintenance, wherever it is done, requires oversight." There are 212,188 repair stations in the United States, with 31,932 in California alone, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Some do routine day-to-day work, others do comprehensive inspections and overhauls. Most do maintenance on specific airplane components, according to the Aeronautical Repair Station Association. Mead said airline maintenance officers do a lot of inspecting of the airline's own maintenance, and they're supposed to do the same for outsourced repair work. More than two years ago, Mead's investigators reported that contract mechanics used incorrect parts, improperly calibrated tools and outdated manuals at 18 of 21 aircraft maintenance facilities they visited.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-17-airline-safety-oversight\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-17-airline-safety-oversight_x.htm)

10. *November 18, Associated Press* — **United Arab Emirates no longer using passports.** Dubai, a small province on the Arabian Peninsula, is expanding how it uses its e-gate border control card. Instead of standing in long lines waiting to get a passport stamped, e-gate card holders can show up at a terminal, swipe the card, give a fingerprint and head off to baggage claim.

Since 2004, the system has been used at Dubai International Airport, but the Naturalization and Residency Department announced this month that it will expand the program to three more airports. In addition, Dubai will begin a trial with the United Kingdom, which has begun looking into a similar program. Hence, an individual going from Heathrow to Dubai will not have to carry a passport at all. The e-gate card could pass for a gym card or security badge. It includes a person's name, address, nationality, and picture. Citizens and foreign nationals with work visas can get cards.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-18-uae-passports\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-11-18-uae-passports_x.htm)

11. *November 17, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-266T: Aviation Safety: FAA's Safety Oversight System Is Effective but Could Benefit from Better Evaluation of Its Programs' Performance (Testimony)**. The U.S. commercial aviation industry has an extraordinary safety record. However, when passenger airlines have accidents or serious incidents, regardless of their rarity, the consequences can be tragic. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) works to maintain a high level of safety through an effective safety oversight system. Keys to this system are to: (1) establish programs that focus resources on areas of highest safety risk and on mitigating risks; (2) provide training and communication to ensure that inspectors can consistently carry out the agency's oversight programs; and (3) have processes and data to continuously monitor, evaluate, and improve the numerous oversight programs that make up the safety oversight system. This statement focuses on these three key areas and is based on recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports on FAA's inspection oversight programs, industry partnership programs, enforcement program, and training program. In order to help FAA fully realize the benefits of its safety oversight system, GAO has made a number of recommendations to address weaknesses identified in previous reviews, such as improving program evaluation and data. These recommendations have not been fully implemented, although in some cases FAA has taken steps towards addressing them. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06266thigh.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-266T>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

12. *November 19, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **First soybean rust found in Kentucky**. The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of Asian soybean rust Friday, November 18, on a single kudzu leaf collected November 11 in Caldwell, KY. The find is the first in that state and now the northern-most U.S. rust location this year. University of Kentucky plant pathologist Don Hershman found the one leaf with rust lesions and pustules among several he picked up in a Princeton kudzu patch in western Kentucky. "The kudzu patch in question has since been killed back by freezing temperatures," Hershman said. Before cold weather arrived, he said, Kentucky plant disease diagnostician Paul Bachi found no soybean rust on samples



collected from Ballard, Fulton, and Hickman counties in the far western part of the state, or from Perry County in the southeast corner of the state. Hershman also said the kudzu patch with the infected leaf was about a mile away "as the crow flies" from a spore trap at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center that picked up "rust-like" spores five times this summer and fall.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=634>

13. *November 18, Ledger (FL)* — **Canker is killing Florida's citrus nursery industry.** While citrus canker has wiped out 10 percent of Florida's commercial citrus groves, damaging hundreds of growers, the bacterial disease may have destroyed the state's citrus nursery industry in South Florida. The eruption of the disease since the 2004 hurricanes has destroyed eight of the state's largest citrus nurseries, including Ben Hill Griffin Inc. in Frostproof and Southern Citrus in Dundee, which produce about 65 percent of the state's stock of new trees. Others have been quarantined because of their proximity to canker infections. That puts Reed Bros. Citrus in Dundee out of business because a quarantine prevents him from moving trees outside the area, said owner Chuck Reed. At the least, recovery will take two years because state law prohibits replanting on cankerinfected land for that time. But recovery could take even longer if the affected nurseries are forced to move out of the South Florida citrus belt as far north as Georgia. State and industry officials are considering enacting such a prohibition to protect the nursery stock from infection by canker and citrus greening, a fatal disease caused by bacteria. State officials are discussing that proposal with nursery industry leaders, said Craig Meyer, the deputy commissioner at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051118/NEWS/511180432/1039>

14. *November 17, KMIT (IA)* — **Program prepares area for potential of livestock disease outbreak.** Some farmers in Iowa are better prepared for a potential disease outbreak thanks to a local training session. The program is called Agroville. Experts explain to everyone from producers to emergency management the proper way to handle a potential livestock disease outbreak. Mark Shearer from the Iowa Department of Agriculture tells KIMT Newschannel Three, "We have to get a coordinated response and it's going to take lots of people and lost of resources in order to effectively control and manage a disease outbreak so producers can get back to producing meat products for our economy." More Agroville sessions are planned for spring and summer of next year.

Source: [http://www.kimt.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=KIMT/MGArticle/IMT\\_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128768218946&path=](http://www.kimt.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=KIMT/MGArticle/IMT_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128768218946&path=)

15. *November 17, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources* — **Bovine tuberculosis not detected in white-tailed deer in northwestern Minnesota.** Recent testing by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has greatly minimized concern that deer in part of northwestern Minnesota may have contracted bovine tuberculosis (TB). None of the lymph node samples collected from 479 deer harvested by hunters in northwestern Minnesota had lesions consistent with bovine tuberculosis. DNR staff and veterinary students from the University of Minnesota collected the lymph node samples near farms where the disease was discovered in four cattle herds this summer. Testing was completed by the University of Minnesota Diagnostic Laboratory. Although the samples did not have lesions consistent with bovine TB, they will also be cultured for the presence of bovine TB bacteria. In July, bovine

TB was diagnosed in a Roseau County beef cattle herd. Subsequent testing found three additional TB infected herds in the same county. The DNR will continue surveillance for deer that show symptoms consistent with bovine TB.

Source: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/releases/index.html?id=11322\\_44677](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/releases/index.html?id=11322_44677)

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## **Food Sector**

**16. *November 17, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture* — **Pennsylvania implements new food inspection and reporting system.**** Pennsylvania is investing \$600,000 to replace an antiquated food inspection process with a new web-based system that will give consumers online access to food inspection reports. The state Department of Agriculture Thursday, November 18, announced the planned implementation of the Garrison Enterprises Digital Health Department System. Implementation of the system is planned for December. "By using the Garrison System our inspectors will be able to complete their inspections more quickly, efficiently and accurately," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "They will also be better able to detect potential food hazards." In addition to the adoption of the Garrison System, the Department has changed internal processes including risk-based reporting, employee health monitoring and other food safety advancements.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp? Q=137154&A=390>

**17. *November 16, Food and Drug Administration* — **Olive tapenade recalled.**** Harry & David Operations Corp., of Medford, OR, is recalling 200 jars of Black and Kalamata Olive Tapenade because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium which can produce a toxin that can cause life-threatening illness or death. Consumers are warned not to use the product even if it does not look or smell spoiled. Botulism, a potentially fatal form of food poisoning, can cause the following symptoms: general weakness, dizziness, double-vision and trouble with speaking or swallowing. Difficulty in breathing, weakness of muscles, and abdominal distension may also be common symptoms. People experiencing these problems should seek immediate medical attention. The Black and Kalamata Olive Tapenade was distributed throughout the U.S. at Harry and David retail stores. No illnesses have been reported to date. The recall was initiated after it was discovered that product had an unstable pH, an indication of inadequate processing. Subsequent investigation indicates the problem was caused by a temporary breakdown in the co-packer's production and packaging processes. The product was produced by a co-packer, WDSR Foods, LLC, dba Hagerty Foods, now owned by Enterprise Custom Foods, Inc., Orange, CA, for Harry and David.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/harrydavid11\\_05.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/harrydavid11_05.html)

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## **Water Sector**

**18. *November 20, Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **State cites El Dorado water system.**** California state health investigators have cited the supplier of El Dorado Hills' drinking water for several safety violations. Operators at an El Dorado Irrigation District water treatment plant mistook a 25-ton

delivery of coal fly ash, used in making concrete, for soda ash, an additive in water purification. Water containing toxic metals from the coal ash flowed to 9,000 consumers for 21 hours on October 18 and 19 before operators discovered the mishap. The ash was added at an automated rate too small for laboratory analysts to detect any trace of hexavalent chromium or other metals, said Carl Lischeske, Northern California regional chief of drinking water safety for the state Department of Health Services. Lischeske nonetheless cited the district. Health officials cited three violations: using an unapproved water treatment chemical — the coal ash; ignoring its own procedures for receiving shipments of water-treatment chemicals; and failing to obtain state health officials' approval before issuing and then lifting its precautionary unsafe water notice to customers. Plant operators would have caught the mistake but for a disconnection in the plant's monitoring system, according to the state's findings. Devices that check water quality after the soda ash treatment were not linked to the plant's centralized control board.

Source: [http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/environment/story/1388466\\_0p-14723726c.html](http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/environment/story/1388466_0p-14723726c.html)

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## **Public Health Sector**

**19. *November 21, VNA* — Bird flu hits 17th province in Viet Nam.** The northern province of Phu Tho on Friday, November 18, declared a bird flu outbreak after finding 100 ducks dead at a farm in Dong Think village, Yen Lap district. The new outbreaks brought the total number of provinces and cities hit by the epidemic to 17, said the Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Thai Binh province discovered the death of 49 chickens at a farm in Hung Ha district, on Sunday, November 13. The dead birds tested positive for the H5N1 strain of the avian flu virus. So far almost 900,000 poultry across the country have been culled in the fight against bird flu.

Source: [http://www.vnagency.com.vn/newsA.asp?LANGUAGE\\_ID=2&CATEGORY\\_ID=29&NEWS\\_ID=175460](http://www.vnagency.com.vn/newsA.asp?LANGUAGE_ID=2&CATEGORY_ID=29&NEWS_ID=175460)

**20. *November 20, Associated Press* — United States said unready for super-flu pandemic.** The U.S. is unprepared for the next flu pandemic, lacking the manufacturing capacity to provide 300 million doses of a vaccine for three to five more years, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt said Sunday, November 20, on NBC's "Meet the Press." Leavitt said "What we all learned from (Hurricane) Katrina is sometimes we have to think clearly about the unthinkable...We're probably closer to a pandemic at any time in the last 37 years. We're not as prepared as we need to be." Anthony Fauci, director of the infectious disease division of the National Institutes of Health, said "I can't put a number on how likely...It's probably a low probability. When the consequences are unimaginable, you have to assume the worst-case scenario." The U.S. has only enough doses now for 4.3 million people. President Bush has proposed stockpiling enough of the anti-flu drugs Tamiflu and Relenza for 81 million people. Leavitt said the low supplies means state and local governments will have to make tough choices on how best to allocate the vaccine should an outbreak occur. The federal government has suggested top priority be given to first responders.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051120/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/flu\\_us\\_preparedness](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051120/ap_on_he_me/flu_us_preparedness)

**21. *November 20, United Nations Environment Programme* — Avian flu early warning system given green light.** An avian flu early warning system, able to alert countries and communities



to the arrival of potentially infected wild birds, is to be developed by an alliance of organizations led by the United Nations. The system will be designed to alert authorities on different continents that migratory water birds are on their way. Special maps are to be developed for individual countries pin pointing the precise locations such as lakes, marshes and other wetland areas where the birds are likely to go. Armed with such information, local health and environment bodies on continents like Africa, Asia and in Latin America will be better able to prioritize their planning and response. Advice may include recommending that farmers move poultry away from key wetlands so as to minimize cross transmission with migratory birds up to hygiene advice to licensed hunters on handling harvested birds. The warning system, details of which were announced at an international wildlife conference taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, is to be developed by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) with support and funding from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Conference Website: <http://www.cms.int/>

Source: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=457&ArticleID=5041&l=en>

22. *November 18, Associated Press* — **Growth of Valley fever cases in Arizona stumps researchers.** Valley fever infections have continued to climb in Arizona over the past decade, with half of all cases in the country now being contracted in Maricopa County, health officials report. This year, 3,300 cases of the airborne fungal disease are expected to be reported, compared to less than 1,000 annually during the 1990s. "We're seeing more cases and a higher rate of illness, and we're not fully understanding what the cause of that is," said David Engelthaler of Arizona Department of Health Services. Next to influenza and sexually transmitted diseases, Valley fever is the most commonly reported infectious disease in Arizona, he said. The Center for Disease Control sent a team of researchers to Arizona this month to help state health workers collect patient information and analyze data for an ongoing study. There are about 150,000 people in the southwestern United States infected with Valley fever each year, with about 50,000 becoming sick. Of those, a few go on to have severe complications, said Dr. John Galgiani, director of the Valley Fever Center for Excellence at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Arizona, primarily Phoenix and Tucson, accounts for 60 percent of all cases in the country.

Valley Fever information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/coccidioidomycosis.t.htm>

Source: [http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1118\\_valleyfever1118.html](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1118_valleyfever1118.html)

23. *November 17, Saint Louis University* — **Financial impact of flu pandemic on hospitals likely to be massive.** The financial effect of the avian flu on hospitals that treat stricken patients likely will be enormous, predicted James Romeis, Ph.D., professor of health services research at Saint Louis University. He says, "If avian flu occurred in the U.S., a large financial loss would probably be borne by the treating institution unless the government offsets losses not covered by insurance...We may be reasonably well prepared to respond to the clinical aspects of the epidemic, but may be inadequately prepared for the economic and operational impact." Romeis made his observations based on the impact of SARS, another infectious disease, on the Taiwanese health care system in 2002–2003. He found that patients there delayed care, postponed elective procedures, and stayed away from the emergency rooms of hospitals known to treat SARS patients because they were afraid of contracting the disease. He says, "For instance, during the peak of the SARS crisis, the National Taiwan University Hospital's number

of surgeries dropped from 3,576 in May 2002 to 519 in May 2003, an astonishing decrease rate of 85 percent...At one point early in the epidemic, the hospital temporarily closed down its emergency room."

Source: <http://www.slu.edu/readstory/newslink/6254>

**24. *November 17, Boston Herald* — Skin disease hits prisoners, guards.** An outbreak of the skin disease methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) has spread through Massachusetts prisons this year, infecting dozens of inmates and at least one correction officer who passed the dangerous bacteria on to his young son, according to the Boston Herald. Department of Correction officials said 68 inmates have been infected with MRSA since January 1. Currently, 15 of those convicts are being treated for the staph diseases. Four of the prisoners are under "contact precaution" at prison infirmaries, and 11 others are being treated with antibiotics in general population, said DOC spokeswoman Diane Wiffin. The correction officer who contracted MRSA was rushed to the hospital with a severe rash in late October, and one of his children tested positive for MRSA in recent weeks, said Massachusetts Correction Officers Federated Union President Steve Kenneway. "My membership is deeply concerned about this. We have asked that all the inmates who have contracted MRSA be quarantined," Kenneway said. The strain has infected inmates at MCI-Concord; MCI-Framingham; MCI-Shirley; the Souza Baranowski Correctional Center; MCI-Norfolk and two state treatment centers. There were also cases at Old Colony and South Middlesex Correction Centers.

MRSA information: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub\\_mrsa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_mrsa.htm)

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=112566>

**25. *November 17, NBC4 (Los Angeles)* — Bioterrorism drill at Los Angeles sports arena.** First responders conducted a bioterrorism drill Thursday, November 18, 2005 at the Los Angeles, CA, Memorial Sports Arena, simulating a biological attack or pandemic. County health officials, local politicians, police, and firefighters were all involved in testing the county's Cities Readiness Initiative Plan (CRI). "The goal of this exercise is to test Los Angeles County's response to this challenging scenario and provide an opportunity for county and city agencies and our local jurisdiction partners to see how they would respond if faced with a biological terrorism attack or with a pandemic flu outbreak," said Jonathan Fielding, public health director. In the event of a pandemic in Los Angeles County, hospitals could provide up to 5,000 beds before needing help from the state and federal government, and medication could be distributed within 48 hours to 500 people an hour in the event of a pandemic flu or anthrax outbreak. The CRI plan is funded through a two million dollar grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: <http://www.nbc4.tv/news/5348556/detail.html>

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

26. *November 19, Rocky Mountain News (CO)* — **Colorado mayor: Drill shows Denver unprepared to face disaster.** A tabletop exercise was conducted last month so that 120 agencies in the Denver, CO, area could practice responding to the explosion of a radioactive "dirty bomb" in a packed Pepsi Center. Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper was so displeased with the response that he has ordered a Cabinet-level review of the October 19 exercise and a plan of action to improve Denver's emergency response. He's also searching for a new emergency manager for the city. "The experts ruled the exercise was a success. I hold us to a much higher standard, evidently," Hickenlooper said in an interview Friday, November 18. The mayor said the drill revealed faulty radio communications. In addition, managers had trouble coordinating the 120 agencies that came to help 20,000 people supposedly fleeing an explosion and radioactive contamination at a Nuggets game. Denver Assistant Fire Chief Greg Champlin, one of the exercise facilitators, said the drill also found a shortage of radiation sensors. And he'd like better equipment for predicting the path of a plume of contamination. Officials also need to work on the flow of information to both emergency personnel on the scene and the public, Champlin said.  
Source: [http://rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0.1299.DRMN15\\_4252099.00.html](http://rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0.1299.DRMN15_4252099.00.html)
27. *November 19, Caledonian-Record (VT)* — **Recent storm in Vermont uncovers communication gaps.** The lack of timely information has been discovered as a key emergency management problem in an investigation of recent storm-caused power outages in Vermont. Vermont Emergency Management, some utilities and many customers found themselves handicapped in the aftermath of an October 25-26 snowstorm because of the lack of information, state and utility officials said last week. Some utilities did not provide Vermont Emergency Management with timely information about the number of customers affected by the outages, said new emergency management director Barbara Farr. However, according to Vermont Electric Cooperative, Vermont Emergency Management did not provide them current information about who to contact for first responders in towns crippled by the snowstorm. And that problem goes right back to some towns in Vermont that have not updated their lists of community emergency response teams, Farr said. This lack of information may have slowed the response time to storm-caused emergencies. Vermont Governor Jim Douglas has asked the Vermont Department of Public Service, as advocate for power consumers, to look into the emergency response of the state and the utilities and recommend improvements.  
Source: [http://www.caledonianrecord.com/pages/local\\_news/story/3684efad2](http://www.caledonianrecord.com/pages/local_news/story/3684efad2)
28. *November 18, WIVB (NY)* — **Western New York emergency responders to begin implementation of new, interagency radio network.** Emergency responders in Western New York will soon be better prepared to handle potential disasters. Erie and Chautauqua Counties will be among the first to implement the state's new Public Safety Radio Network allowing police, fire, and other emergency personnel to talk with each other during an emergency. The statewide system was developed after communication failures hampered rescue efforts during 9/11. The new radio system is expected to be up and running in Erie County in 15 months.  
Source: <http://www.wivb.com/Global/story.asp?S=4140989>
29. *November 17, Government Technology* — **Statewide emergency response drill conducted in Nebraska.** Several state agencies are involved in a joint exercise to test Nebraska's readiness to

respond to a public health emergency. Dubbed "TERREX 2005," the exercise involves an estimated 1,500 participants from local health departments, as well as state and local agencies in responding to a simulated outbreak of a wide-scale infectious disease. The scenario began early last week with simulated reports of a flu-like illness in central Nebraska. By Wednesday morning, November 16, the Nebraska Public Health Lab had identified the hypothetical outbreak as the pneumonic plague, and participants were briefed, as the exercise became fully operational Thursday morning, November 17. Dr. Joann Schaefer, Chief Medical Officer, said, "We are working to identify areas where our response plan can be strengthened should we ever face an outbreak that puts Nebraskans at risk." TERREX 2005 is designed to test a number of statewide functions, including compliance with the National Incident Management System and the Nebraska Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program. Key objectives being tested as part of the exercise include: rapid confirmation of the nature of the incident; the ability to gather information and coordinate with local health departments; and activation of the state Emergency Operations and Joint Information Centers.

Source: [http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel\\_story.php/97317](http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/97317)

30. *November 17, Government Technology* — **Virginia governor announces national emergency accreditation for Virginia.** Virginia's Governor Mark R. Warner announced Thursday, November 17, that Virginia has become the fifth state in the nation to receive full accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), meeting the Governor's commitment for the Commonwealth to attain full EMAP accreditation by December 2005. EMAP accreditation demonstrates that an emergency management program meets national standards. To achieve full accreditation, Virginia documented compliance with 54 national standards in 15 functional areas, which include: planning and procedures; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations and corrective actions; and communications and warning. Virginia joins Pennsylvania and the consolidated city/county government of Jacksonville/Duval County, FL, in receiving full accreditation. Arizona, Washington, DC, Florida and North Dakota had already received full accreditation. EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for state, territorial and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters. It fosters benchmarking against consistent standards and continuous improvement in local and state government emergency management, and it is the only accreditation process for state and local emergency management.
- Source: [http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel\\_story.php/97304](http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/97304)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

31. *November 18, Yahoo* — **Cisco Systems to buy Scientific-Atlanta.** Cisco Systems Inc. has agreed to buy the cable television technology company Scientific-Atlanta Inc. in a \$6.9 billion deal that would create a one-stop shop for sending TV over the Internet. The acquisition is expected to help fuel the revolution in how TV is distributed and watched — a change that's accelerating as telephone companies barge into the domain of cable operators and begin offering programming over fiber-optic networks using the language of the Internet. Mike Volpi, a Cisco senior vice president, stated, "Over the next two or three years, we are going to see a dramatic change in the landscape, where video-over-broadband infrastructure becomes the centerpiece of investments that service providers make and the expectations that consumers

have."

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051118/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/cisco\\_scientific\\_atlanta;\\_ylt=At0V0LnzTAXUzVYbHZJNpS534T0D;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051118/ap_on_bi_ge/cisco_scientific_atlanta;_ylt=At0V0LnzTAXUzVYbHZJNpS534T0D;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

**32. *November 17, FrSIRT* — Qualcomm Eudora worldMail server directory traversal**

**vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been identified in Qualcomm Eudora WorldMail Server. This may be exploited by attackers to retrieve arbitrary files from a vulnerable system. This flaw is due to an input validation error in the IMAP daemon that does not properly handle specially crafted commands containing directory traversal sequences. This may be exploited by authenticated attackers to retrieve arbitrary files from a vulnerable system or read/manage other user's email messages. The FrSIRT is not aware of any official supplied patch for this issue.

Source: <http://www.frstirt.com/english/advisories/2005/2479>

**33. *November 17, FrSIRT* — Hitachi WirelessIP5000 IP phone multiple remote vulnerabilities.**

Multiple vulnerabilities have been identified in Hitachi WirelessIP5000 IP Phone. They could be exploited by remote attackers to gain unauthorized access or cause a denial of service. The issues include a design error where a default password ("0000") can be used to access administrative functions, a vulnerability which resides in the default index page of the HTTP server (port 8080), an error in the HTTP server that does not require authentication, a design error where the device provides an SNMP service accessible with any credentials, and an undocumented open port (TCP/3390).

Source: <http://www.frstirt.com/english/advisories/2005/2475>

**34. *November 14, San Antonio Business Journal* — SBC closes on purchase of AT&T.**

The California Public Utilities Commission on Friday, November 18, approved SBC Communications Inc.'s long-expected \$16 billion merger of AT&T Corp. The two companies closed the deal shortly after the vote. The combined firm will be renamed AT&T Inc. San Antonio-based SBC and Bedminster, NJ-based AT&T first announced plans to combine the two firms on January 31, 2005. California regulators voted in favor of the deal 4-1. California's vote was SBC and AT&T's final regulatory hurdle before closing on the merger. The two companies had to secure approvals from 36 states, the District of Columbia, the Justice Department, the Federal Communications Commission and 14 countries. SBC is one of seven regional "Baby Bell" companies formed after the 1984 breakup of AT&T. The new AT&T, based in San Antonio, will provide local and long-distance phone service, data, networking, e-business, directory publishing and advertising services to homes and businesses. It will also own a 60 percent stake in Cingular Wireless and market satellite television. It is the largest telecommunications company in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

Source: <http://sanantonio.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/stories/2005/11/14/daily39.html>

## 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 several vulnerabilities regarding the XCP Digital Rights Management (DRM) software by First 4 Internet, which is distributed by some Sony BMG audio CDs. The XCP copy protection software uses "rootkit" technology to hide certain files from the user. This technique can pose a security threat, as malware can take advantage of the ability to hide files. We are aware of malware that is currently using this technique to hide.

One of the un-installation options provided by Sony also introduces vulnerabilities to a system. Upon submitting a request to uninstall the DRM software, the user will receive via email a link to a Sony BMG web page. This page will attempt to install an ActiveX control when it is displayed in Internet Explorer. This ActiveX control is marked "Safe for scripting," which means that any web page can utilize the control and its methods. Some of the methods provided by this control are dangerous, as they may allow an attacker to download and execute arbitrary code.

US-CERT recommends the following ways to help prevent the installation of this type of rootkit:

- \*Do not run your system with administrative privileges. Without administrative privileges, the XCP DRM software will not install.
- \*Use caution when installing software. Do not install software from sources that you do not expect to contain software, such as an audio CD.
- \*Read the EULA (End User License Agreement) if you do decide to install software. This document can contain information about what the software may do.
- \*Disable automatically running CD-ROMs by editing the registry to change the Autorun value to 0 (zero) as described in Microsoft Article 155217.

Additional information is available in VU#312073, First 4 Internet XCP "Software Updater Control" ActiveX control incorrectly marked "safe for scripting:"

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/312073>

### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 80 (www), 27015 (halflife), 135 (epmap), 1025 (win-rpc), 39014 (---), 139 (netbios-ssn) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; 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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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

35. *November 20, CNN* — **Tacoma mall shooting suspect surrenders.** A man accused of shooting six people at a Tacoma, WA, shopping mall surrendered to police after a three-hour hostage standoff Sunday, November 20, authorities said. One of the wounded was in critical condition Sunday evening, a hospital spokesperson said. The man barricaded himself in a music store at Tacoma Mall, taking three employees hostage, after opening fire with a semi-automatic rifle about 12:15 p.m. (PST), Tacoma Police spokesman Mark Fulghum said. A SWAT team arrested the suspect after a period of negotiations, Fulghum said. Jon Lendosky, Tacoma's deputy fire chief, said five of the six people wounded had minor injuries.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/11/20/mall.shooting/index.html>

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## General Sector

Nothing to report.

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

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

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

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to <a href="mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov">dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov</a> or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.
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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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