



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 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 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday proposed the first significant changes in quarantine rules in 25 years in an effort to broaden the definition of reportable illnesses, to centralize their reporting to the federal government and to require the airline and shipping industries to keep passenger manifests electronically for 60 days. (See item [18](#))
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation issued an alert Monday about a scam involving unsolicited e-mails, purportedly sent by the FBI, that tell computer users that their Internet surfing is being monitored by the agency. (See item [24](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)
Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)
Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)
Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)
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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 22, CNET News.com* — **Worker shortage in oil industry discussed at conference.** Oil and gas companies are in the midst of a personnel crisis, according to several speakers and attendees at the International Petroleum Technology Conference taking place in Doha, Qatar this week. Global enrollment in geosciences and other university majors relevant to the oil industry is dropping at the same time that the demand to devise new fuels and refining processes is rising. In the U.S., enrollment in geosciences hit a peak of 35,000 students in 1982, but now meanders around the 5,000 level, according to Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of

Economic Geology at the University of Texas. "It is now around 1965 levels," Tinker said. While enrollment in these programs is rising in China and a few other nations, it's mostly below the level required in nations where oil is being produced. "The industry is having a real tough time filling jobs," said Raul Restucci, executive vice president of exploration and production in the Middle East at Shell. "People availability will be a key constraint for a supply side response to increasing demand. In Houston, half of the work force will retire in the next 10 to 12 years," said Restucci.

International Petroleum Technology Conference:

http://www.spe.org/spe/jsp/meeting/0,2460,1104_1535_2513521,00.html

Source: http://news.com.com/Image+problems+lead+to+worker+shortage+i+n+oil+industry/2100-11395_3-5967211.html?tag=nefd.top

2. *November 22, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Bodman confident Saudis can meet oil target.**

Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman on Tuesday, November 22, said he is confident that Saudi Arabia can meet its target to expand crude oil output capacity. "I came away impressed and with an increasing sense of confidence that they can do what it is they say they're going to do," Bodman told reporters after his return from an official visit to the Middle East. One of the main reasons for the trip, he said, was to gain information about the ministers' plans to increase supply both of oil and natural gas. "They're increasing the capacity to produce and they spoke with enormous confidence about their capability to do that and they also talked about their investments in refining" Bodman said of Saudi officials. Still, Bodman said it is too early to know with certainty whether the planned expansion will be enough to keep oil prices at adequate levels.

Source: http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_rt_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji§ion=news&news_id=dji-00065020051122&date=20051122&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *November 22, Monitor (TX)* — **Chemical spill in Texas prompts road closure.** A minor chemical spill Monday morning, November 21, forced emergency crews to block an area between Taylor Road and 3 Mile Line in McAllen, TX. Shortly after 7 a.m. CST, firefighters were alerted of possible hazardous material scattered along the roadway, said Lt. Rene Alaniz with the McAllen Fire Department. A sample of the substance was taken which turned out to be a form of hydrogen chloride, according to Hazmat personnel, who surveyed the area throughout the morning. Emergency crews used carbon sodium to neutralize the spilled matter, fire officials said. If it had mixed with water, the hydrogen chloride would have become hydrochloric acid, which can cause irreversible damage to human lungs. "The amount spilled wasn't enough to initiate an evacuation of the immediate residential area," Alaniz said. Fire investigators still do not know where the hazardous material came from but did find a gallon-sized container with a small amount of the material inside.

Source: <http://www.themonitor.com/SiteProcessor.cfm?Template=/GlobalTemplates/Details.cfm&StoryID=10252&Section=Valley>

4.

November 22, Alice Echo News (TX) — **Truck overturns; spills 3000 gallons of diesel on roadway.** A Schlumberger 18-wheeler flipped on its side as it attempted to make a left turn off Highway-44 onto Flournoy Road Sunday, November 20, 5 p.m. CST in Alice, TX. The truck flipped on its side and rested with its cab facing west in the grassy portion of a local bank. According to Alice police officials, the cargo truck was carrying about 3,000 gallons of some type of diesel gel mixture. Police said it was unknown how much of the flammable chemical spilled onto Flournoy Road, but the mixture was contained by about a dozen Schlumberger crewmembers who cleaned up the area. They used white foam to keep the diesel from flowing into a nearby creek. The cleanup took about five hours to complete.

Source: http://aliceecho.com/articles/2005/11/21/local_news/news_03.txt

5. *November 21, 3 WCAX-TV (VT)* — **Hazmat scare in Vermont prompts evacuations, closes interstate.** A truck carrying hazardous materials rolled over on Interstate-91 in Ascutney, VT, early Monday morning, November 21. Very little of the chemicals spilled onto the highway. But the mixture of those chemicals inside the truck would have been a recipe for disaster and could have resulted in the release of a toxic chemical fire plume throughout the area, according to officials. The accident closed the interstate for hours while crews worked to secure the scene. Firefighters also knocked on doors of area residents, asking anyone within a one-mile radius to leave their homes. The Hazmat team determined one of the potentially dangerous materials was sodium persulfate. They were able to remove it from the truck, reducing the risk of an explosion or rapid fire.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=4151042&nav=4QcS4R3i>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *November 22, Associated Press* — **Portsmouth overhaul of submarine to save Navy millions.** A decision to repair a nuclear submarine, the USS Philadelphia, at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME, instead of at privately owned Electric Boat in Groton, CT, will save the U.S. Navy \$59 million, a Navy spokesperson said. "The issue was cost savings," said Lt. John Gay. Electric Boat said it would be forced to lay off 150 workers who had been scheduled to maintain the Philadelphia. The Philadelphia returned to its home base in Groton last week after a five-month deployment during which it collided with a Turkish cargo ship. The submarine suffered modest damage, but the planned maintenance was scheduled before the accident.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2005/11/22/portsmouth_overhaul_of_sub_to_save_navy_59_million/

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *November 21, The Gazette-Times (OR)* — **Bank employee arrested for identity theft.** A Corvallis, OR, credit union employee was arrested last week, suspected of first-degree aggravated theft and five counts of identity theft. Mark D. Graybill of Albany, OR, allegedly

embezzled \$70,000 from Addison Avenue Federal Credit Union, where he worked. According to a news release issued Monday, November 21, Graybill allegedly opened a number of fraudulent bank loans utilizing the names and information of unsuspecting bank clients. He then transferred the money from the fraudulent loans to his personal accounts.

Source: <http://www.gazettetimes.com/articles/2005/11/22/news/communi ty/tueloc01.txt>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *November 21, U.S. Department of Transportation* — **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta announces over \$337 million in new funding for expansion of Chicago O’Hare International Airport.** Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta signed a letter of intent Monday, November 21, to make available more than \$337 million in federal funds over the next fifteen years to expand Chicago O’Hare International Airport, saying the airport must expand to stay ahead of increasing air traffic. “O’Hare must expand to keep pace with the growing demand for air travel,” said Secretary Mineta. “If it doesn’t, our entire national aviation system will suffer.” The new federal funds will help cover the costs of building new runways, taxiways and a terminal that are part of the first phase of a long-term plan to significantly expand the O’Hare airport. The Secretary said backups at O’Hare affect over 40 percent of all U.S. flights on a given day. The expansion project is expected to allow O’Hare to handle nearly 482 more flights each day, increasing capacity by 18 percent when work is finished later this decade, the Secretary noted.

Secretary Mineta's remarks: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/minetasp112105.htm>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot17305.htm>

9. *November 21, U.S. Department of State* — **United States, European Union reach tentative air transport pact.** The United States and the European Union (EU) have accomplished another step in the quest for a liberalized trans-Atlantic aviation transport market. U.S. and EU negotiators announced Friday, November 18, in a joint statement that they have agreed on the text of a comprehensive first-step air transport agreement. The deal must now be approved by the EU’s Transport Council of Ministers, which represents all 25 EU member states. The tentative agreement would allow every EU and U.S. airline to fly between every city in the European Union and every city in the United States. It would allow U.S. and EU airlines to determine the number of flights and their routes and fares according to market demand, as well as to enter freely into such cooperative arrangements with other airlines as code-sharing and leasing. “More broadly, this agreement would bring nearly 750 million people and twenty-six countries together to comprise the largest and most lucrative open aviation market ever created,” U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said in a statement welcoming the pact.

Secretary Mineta's statement: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot17105.htm>

Source: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=November&x=200511211512181CJsamohT0.8147852&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>

10. *November 21, WCNC (NC)* — **North Carolina city plans to spend \$300 million for airport expansion.** Statistics show Charlotte's airport is thriving even as many airlines struggle to survive. The city is spending more than \$300 million to expand Charlotte-Douglas in hopes of

attracting more planes and passengers. A \$333 million expansion is already underway, including a new runway and 24 more gates with parking places for planes right next to the terminal. Numbers released Monday, November 21, show the number of people flying in and out of the airport was up 10 percent in 2004, making it the 19th busiest airport in the country. Source: <http://www.wncn.com/news/local/stories/112105-ad-wncn-airport.81e86a3f.html>

11. *November 21, Government Computer News* — **House committee advances border security legislation.** The House Homeland Security Committee has passed broad-ranging border security legislation that would strengthen surveillance IT at U.S. borders and increase usage of Department of Defense (DoD) technology in border surveillance, among other goals. The Border Security and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005, HR 4312, was sponsored by Committee Chairman Rep. Peter King (R-NY). It would enhance personnel at the borders and beef up communications and use of canine teams, among other features. The legislation requires that Homeland Security secretary Michael Chertoff submit a comprehensive plan for surveillance of land and maritime borders within six months. The plan should assess existing surveillance technologies, describe new surveillance technologies to be used and their compatibility with the legacy systems, and describe the role of the Science & Technology directorate. It also should describe obstacles to deployment and provide a detailed estimate of all costs of implementation and maintenance. The bill also asks Chertoff and the DoD to work together to develop a joint strategic plan to increase the usage of Pentagon equipment — including unmanned aerial vehicles, tethered aerostat radars and other surveillance equipment — in assisting with border surveillance.

Border Security and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2005, HR 4312:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h4312ih.txt.pdf

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/37626-1.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

12. *November 22, Agricultural Research Service* — **Website helps growers plan greenbug control.** Great Plains wheat growers looking to keep greenbugs in check have an assortment of information tools at their fingertips, thanks to a website developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and colleagues at Oklahoma State University (OSU). Among the site's features is a printable version of "Glance 'n Go," a sequential sampling form that growers can use out in the field. Greenbugs are tiny, light-green aphids that are the key insect pests in winter wheat in much of the southern and central Plains. In some years, they cause more than \$100 million in losses. The website, called the Greenbug Management Decision Support Tool, helps users make money-based decisions on greenbug control by helping with aphid identification, offering information about the insect's natural enemies and registered

insecticides. It also features an "Economic Threshold Calculator" that helps users determine how many greenbugs a field can hold before their crop is impacted. The easy-to-carry "Glance 'n Go" forms include a simplified version of this calculator. The forms estimate the level of greenbug infestation by counting the number of infested stalks and determine the presence of beneficial wasps that attack greenbugs.

Greenbug site: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/gbweb/>

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/051122.htm>

13. *November 22, Associated Press* — **Researchers identify compound that led to 2004 elk deaths.** Wyoming wildlife biologists and federal researchers have identified the chemical responsible for the death of hundreds of elk in southern Wyoming last year. They say using acid, a substance found in lichen the elk ate, is responsible for the deaths of perhaps as many as 600 elk in a die-off that began in February 2004. Terry Kreeger, supervisor of veterinary services at the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish, said "It started with a couple of coyote hunters finding an elk that was alive but couldn't get up...Our people went out and found other elk down. They've look at you, but they couldn't move. You could pat them on the head." Wildlife workers eventually found 327 dead elk on the prairie, Game and Fish biologist Greg Hiatt said. "But we know we didn't find all of the bodies," Hiatt said. "Our best estimate would be that 500 or 600 died." Because of the drought that lingered into the winter of 2003–2004, biologists say they believe the elk moved out of their normal winter range into an area filled with the lichen.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2005/11/22/news/wyoming/76571dd9be1c8245872570c0005f881a.txt>

14. *November 21, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Kudzu patch in Georgia test positive for soybean rust.** Georgia officials reported finding soybean rust in a roadside kudzu patch in Whitfield County. The county is in the northwest corner of the state, adjacent to the Tennessee/Georgia border. Georgia now has 35 counties positive for soybean rust in 2005, the most of any state. There are 135 U.S. states known to have soybean rust infections in 2005. The Georgia state commentary also said the state has received a report from USDA scientists affirming the Tuesday, November 1 find of Asian soybean rust on Florida beggarweed in Georgia. Mycologists with the USDA–APHIS reported that they found spores and pustules on a beggarweed sample (*Desmodium tortuosum*) submitted from Georgia that are consistent with Asian soybean rust. Additional PCR tests by the USDA have been positive for the pathogen *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=637>

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Food Sector

15. *November 21, Center for Science in the Public Interest* — **Vegetables, fruits cause more US food illnesses.** Contaminated fruits and vegetables are causing more food-borne illness among Americans than raw chicken or eggs, according to a report released by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) on Monday, November 21. Common sources of food illnesses include salmonella and E.coli that can make their way into manure used to fertilize plants; manure fertilizer is used in Latin America, a growing source of U.S. imports. "Although poultry

has historically been responsible for far more Salmonella infections, in the most recent years...produce seems to be catching up," the CSPI report said. According to the report, vegetables and fruits triggered 31 outbreaks from 2002 to 2003, compared with 29 for chicken and other poultry. Overall, contaminated tomatoes, sprouts, and other produce made 28,315 people sick during 554 outbreaks from 1990 to 2003 — 20 percent of all cases CSPI analyzed. Seafood caused the most outbreaks but led to fewer illnesses. "FDA should require growers to limit the use of manure to times and products where it poses no risk. And packers and shippers should mark packaging to ensure easy traceback when fruits and vegetables are implicated in an outbreak," said Caroline Smith DeWaal, CSPI's food safety director.

Report: <http://www.cspinet.org/new/pdf/outbreakalert2005.pdf>

Source: <http://www.cspinet.org/new/200511211.html>

- 16. *November 21, Bloomberg* — U.S. bans British Columbian poultry after avian flu.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in an interim measure, banned imports of poultry from British Columbia after a duck tested positive for avian influenza. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said the low pathogenic H5 strain confirmed in a duck from a British Columbia farm is a milder North American form of bird flu, different from the deadly Asian variety. There is no risk to human health, the agency said in a statement. "The U.S. continues to accept imports from the rest of Canada," said Matt Tolley, spokesperson for Canadian Agriculture Minister Andrew Mitchell. "We are working expeditiously with the U.S. to resume trade as soon as possible," he said. "So far the avian influenza infection in British Columbia has been exclusively confined to ducks," said Ron Kilmury, chairman of the British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board. No chickens have been infected, he said. Canada plans to destroy all birds on the farm where the infected duck was found, the Food Inspection Agency said. The Globe and Mail newspaper put the number of birds to be culled at 67,000. All farms within five kilometers of the farm are being tested for signs of the disease.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency press release:

http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2005/200_51120e.shtml

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000082&sid=awJZkpu4SraY&refer=canada>

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Water Sector

- 17. *November 22, San Mateo Times (CA)* — Emergency use of water is considered.** Four billion gallons of water have been stored in a northern San Mateo County, CA, underground aquifer through a pilot project involving the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), San Bruno, Daly City, and California Water Services Company (CalWater). The water is stored for a future drought or an emergency. The aquifer, called the Westside Groundwater Basin, historically was used as a regular source of drinking water supplies for residents in the area. The project among the governmental entities, aimed at cutting down on the pumping of groundwater, began in 2002. Since that time, water resources have been enhanced with surface water bought from the SFPUC, allowing natural rainwater recharge to supplement the water in the underground aquifer. The SFPUC has budgeted \$25 million to build new wells in San Mateo County that would tap the stored water in the event of a drought or an emergency that interrupts the regular water supply. Daly City, San Bruno, and CalWater are looking at potential

well locations.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/c_i_3241334

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Public Health Sector

18. *November 23, New York Times* — CDC proposes new rules in effort to prevent disease outbreak. Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday, November 22, proposed the first significant changes in quarantine rules in 25 years in an effort to broaden the definition of reportable illnesses, to centralize their reporting to the federal government and to require the airline and shipping industries to keep passenger manifests electronically for 60 days. The proposals would also clarify the appeals process for people subjected to quarantines to allow for administrative due process and give health officials explicit authority to offer vaccination, drugs and other appropriate means of prevention on a voluntary basis to those in quarantine. The proposals could cost the airline industry hundreds of millions of dollars, the CDC said. One proposed change would require airline and ship manifests to be kept electronically for 60 days and made available to the CDC within 12 hours when ill passengers arrive on international and domestic flights. An executive order of the president limits quarantine to nine diseases: cholera, diphtheria, infectious tuberculosis, plague, smallpox, yellow fever, viral hemorrhagic fevers like Ebola, SARS and influenza caused by new strains that could cause a pandemic. The CDC has opened 10 new quarantine stations at major ports of entry in the past 18 months and plans to add several more in the coming year. The U.S. now has medical officers at 17 airports and at the busy border crossing in El Paso, TX, to screen people entering the country for communicable diseases.

CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/nprm/index.htm>

Additional reporting from the New York Times:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/22/health/22quarantine.html>

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/23/national/23cdc.html?hp&ex=1132808400&en=8c8c15875e974fe9&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

19. *November 22, Associated Press* — China vows to boost steps against bird flu. China called bird flu a "serious epidemic" and pledged to step up measures to fight the deadly virus Tuesday, November 22, as officials announced three new outbreaks of the disease in poultry in the country. The outbreaks were detected last week in western and southern China, resulting in the killing of nearly 175,000 birds. The latest outbreaks brings the total for China in recent weeks to 20. China has reported one human fatality and one suspected death. In Indonesia, Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said the number of human bird flu cases is likely to be far higher than reported in his sprawling country because of poor surveillance outside the capital, Jakarta. The government planned a nationwide campaign to measure the extent of the virus in Indonesia, Supari said. All but two of Indonesia's 11 confirmed cases of bird flu have occurred in the greater Jakarta area.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/22/AR2005112200601.html>

20.

November 21, Reuters — **Fungus could replace bed-nets in preventing malaria.**

Fungus-impregnated fabric could soon replace chemically-soaked bed-nets as a defense against malaria, researchers claim. As a week-long international malaria conference wrapped up in Cameroon, researchers unveiled findings that showed a fungus could be used to kill malaria carrying mosquitoes. Researchers sprayed black fabric with fungi spores which infected and killed mosquitoes in tests in a Tanzanian village. The cloths, hung from the ceilings of villagers' huts, within six days killed nearly one quarter of the female mosquitoes that carry the disease. "At a 23 percent coverage rate in houses acquiring an infection, the number of infectious bites per person per year would drop from 262 to 64 — that is a reduction of infections of 75 percent," said Bart Knolls, medical entomologist at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Some 1,500 scientists, health workers, and politicians gathered for the fourth annual pan-African malaria conference.

Malaria information: <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/>

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/e2ccf7fba2235d3505bafdeb999f8dc1.htm>

21. *November 21, Reuters* — **World Health Organization's "war room" prepares for bird flu pandemic.** Known as the "war room" or the "bunker," it is the world's nerve-center for tracking deadly diseases from Ebola to bird flu. Each day, officials at the World Health Organization (WHO) use its sophisticated communications systems to monitor suspected disease outbreaks and contact experts in the field. The screen-filled room will become a global command center if the H5N1 bird flu virus, which has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003, mutates into a form which spreads easily among humans, sparking an influenza pandemic. The Strategic Health Operations Center (SHOC) is a five million dollar state-of-the-art facility in a former cinema at the WHO's Geneva, Switzerland, headquarters. Funded by donors led by the U.S., it has screens for video-conferencing and displaying Web sites and satellite feeds. Round-the-clock, computers transmit audio, video and data from some 66 offices connected to the hub so far.

Source: http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=oddlyEnoughNews&storyID=2005-11-21T131732Z_01_KNE147816_RTRIDST_0_LIFESTYLE-BIRDFLU-ROOM-COL.XML

22. *November 21, Associated Press* — **Medical shortage declared in some areas of Louisiana.**

The federal government has recognized more health care shortage areas in Louisiana as a result of the relocation of people because of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The designation affects parishes included in federally declared hurricane disaster zones and makes the areas eligible for federal programs aimed at recruiting and retaining primary care, dental, and mental health professionals. Some parishes already had shortages in some medical professions, but the storms aggravated the situation. Other parishes got new designations as health care professionals were uprooted. Parishes with new shortage designations in all three categories include Plaquemines, Washington, Saint John, Saint James, Ascension, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, Saint Mary, Iberia, Saint Martin, and Allen. Orleans, Saint Bernard, Jefferson, Terrebonne, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Saint Helena, Livingston, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, Acadia, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, and Cameron parishes all previously had primary care professional shortages.

Source: <http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4147270>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *November 21, University of California–San Diego News* — **University of California–San Diego engineers, physicians test wireless technologies for first responders in drill.** Last week, a mock explosion in at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in San Diego, CA, triggered a six-hour disaster drill simulating the aftermath of a car bomb attack and accidental release of lethal chemicals. The drill brought together roughly 1,100 emergency officials, first responders, volunteer "victims" and nearly two dozen researchers and staff from the University of California–San Diego (UCSD) and the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2). The UCSD team is part of the Wireless Internet Information System for Response in Medical Disasters (WIISARD), a \$4 million project funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine. The drill marked the first full deployment of WIISARD's wireless system software, which has been under development more than two years. It is optimized to allow the system to continue working even if a piece of the network fails or a device disappears out of range. One technology that was put to the test during the drill was an advanced, active radio frequency identification tag called, iTAG. Other systems tested included PDA hardware with a bar code scanner for triaging and treating patients and pulse-oximeters running on wireless-enabled PDAs to monitor pulse rate and blood-oxygen levels of victims.

Source: http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2005/nov/11_21_emergency.a.sp

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

24. *November 22, CNN* — **Federal Bureau of Investigation warns of e-mail scam.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) issued an alert Monday, November 21, about a scam involving unsolicited e-mails, purportedly sent by the FBI, that tell computer users that their Internet surfing is being monitored by the agency. The users are told they have visited illegal Websites and are instructed to open an attachment to answer questions. The FBI did not send these e-mails and does not send any other unsolicited e-mails to the public. The FBI is investigating the scam. Recipients of these e-mails are asked to report them by visiting the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Internet Crime Complaint Center: <http://www1.ifccfbi.gov/strategy/051122.pdf>

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/TECH/internet/11/22/email.scam.ap/in.dex.html>

25. *November 22, Federal Computer Week* — **SANS: Cybercriminals targeted popular applications, network systems in 2005.** According to the SANS Institute's latest update to its 20 Most Critical Internet Security Vulnerabilities in 2005 report, cybercriminals have launched

massive attacks on two largely undefended fronts in cyberspace, leaving government and industry more vulnerable than they have been in years to data theft and security breaches. Ten of the vulnerabilities were in cross-platform applications installed on millions of systems, including backup software, antivirus software, database software, and media players. Three affected network operating systems that control routers, switches, and other devices. Alan Paller, director of research at the SANS Institute, stated: “The bottom line is that security has been set back nearly six years in the past 18 months. Six years ago, attackers targeted operating systems, and the operating system vendors didn’t do automated patching. In the intervening years, automated patching protected everyone from government to grandma. Now the attackers are targeting popular applications, and the vendors of those applications do not do automated patching.” Since 2003, attackers have infiltrated Defense Department networks by exploiting vulnerabilities in hardware and software.

SANS report: <http://www.sans.org/top20/>

Source: <http://fcw.com/article91516-11-22-05-Web>

26. *November 22, Security Focus* — Vulnerability in the way Internet Explorer handles

onLoad events could allow remote code execution. Microsoft Internet Explorer has been affected by a remote code execution vulnerability. This vulnerability presents itself when the browser handles a JavaScript 'onLoad' handler in conjunction with an improperly initialized 'window()' JavaScript function. This issue was originally publicly reported in May 2005 as being a stability issue that caused the browser to close. Since then, new information has been posted that indicates remote code execution could be possible. This issue may be exploited to execute arbitrary remote code in the context of the user running the affected application. Failed exploitation attempts likely result in the application crashing. Security Focus reports having no knowledge of a vendor-supplied patch for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/13799/references>

27. *November 22, Computer Weekly* — IT departments get faster at patching systems. IT

departments have significantly reduced the time they take to patch their systems when new security vulnerabilities, viruses, or worms become public. The average time taken for IT departments to patch half of their external-facing systems has fallen to 19 days, down from 21 days a year ago, and from 30 days two years ago, according to IT security supplier Qualys. IT departments have reduced the time taken to patch half of their internal systems from 52 days to 48 days, according to an analysis of 32 million vulnerability scans of Qualys systems. However, the research showed that 80% of security exploits appear before companies patch half of their systems. Similarly, it showed worms cause most damage within the first 15 days of an outbreak.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2005/11/22/213048/ITdepartmentsgetfasteratpatchingsystems.htm>

28. *November 21, Security Focus* — Symantec Dynamic VPN services IKE traffic denial of

service vulnerabilities. Various Symantec products have been found to be prone to denial of service attacks. These issues are due to a failure of the product's IPSec implementation to properly handle malformed IKE packets. Successful attacks will cause the ISAKMP service to crash, denying service to dynamic VPN tunnels. According to Security Focus, Symantec has released an advisory, along with fixes to address this issue. Symantec has made the fixes available via the Symantec Enterprise Support site.

Symantec Enterprise Support site:

http://www.symantec.com/techsupp/enterprise/select_product_updates.html

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15516/references>

29. *November 21, Securiteam* — **Google Search Appliance Proxystylesheet XSLT multiple vulnerabilities (XSS, Information disclosure, Java Code Execution)**. The Google Search Appliance allows customization of the search interface through XSLT style sheets. Certain versions of the appliance allow a remote URL to be supplied as the path to the XSLT style sheet. This feature can be abused to perform cross-site scripting (XSS), file discovery, service enumeration, and arbitrary command execution. Securiteam reports that the vendor has issued a fix.

Source: <http://www.securiteam.com/securitynews/6S0000AEKM.html>

30. *November 21, Government Computer News* — **Data disaster: When continuity-of-operations plans aren't enough**. Disasters — both natural and man-made — require that agencies ensure that data held on IT systems and devices remain accessible in order to support mission-critical operations. Continuity-of-operations plans—those that keep government going in the face of emergencies—are important, but far from foolproof. In a recent survey by Asigra Inc. of Toronto, 75 percent of respondents said their organizations had lost backed-up data because of unreadable, lost, or stolen media. Almost two-thirds of the respondents had run into unreadable backup tapes when trying to recover data. New data-handling techniques not designed for disaster recovery could apply to agencies trying to reconstruct critical information. One application being created by the National Institute of Standards (NIST) and Technology for courtroom investigations is high-resolution images of magnetic data that can tell an investigator when data has been written, erased or altered, said physicist David Pappas, project lead at NIST. The technique, called second harmonic magnetoresistive microscopy, uses powerful magnetic readers designed for server drives to image the fields on other magnetic media, such as tapes and disks. “You’re actually taking a picture of the magnetic field above it, rather than just scanning it really fast and averaging the data,” Pappas said.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/24_33/tech-report/37577-1.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 a vulnerability in the way Microsoft Internet Explorer handles requests to the window() object. If exploited, the vulnerability could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user. Additionally, the attacker could also cause IE (or the program using the WebBrowser control) to crash.

Exploit code for this vulnerability is publicly available. We have confirmed that the public exploit is successful on Windows 2000 and Windows XP systems that are fully patched as of November 21, 2005. For more information please see US-CERT Vulnerability Note: VU#887861: Microsoft Internet Explorer vulnerable to code execution via scripting "window()" object.

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/887861>

US-CERT strongly encourages Windows users to implement the following workaround:

*Disable Active scripting by following the instructions at URL:

https://www.cert.org/tech_tips/malicious_code_FAQ.html#ie56.

* Microsoft Security Advisory (911302):

* Microsoft is investigating new public reports of vulnerability in Microsoft Internet Explorer on Microsoft Windows 98, on Windows 98 Second Edition, on Windows Millennium Edition, on Windows 2000 Service Pack 4, and on Windows XP Service Pack 2. Customers who are running Windows Server 2003 and Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 in their default configurations, with the Enhanced Security Configuration turned on, are not affected. Microsoft was made aware of proof of concept code targeting the reported vulnerability but are not aware of any customer impact at this time. For more information please review:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/911302.mspx>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 27015 (halflife), 80 (www), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap), 32789 (---), 6588 (AnalogX)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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

31. *November 22, Houston Chronicle* — Man thwarted in effort to climb Houston building. The man known as the French "Spiderman" was foiled in his attempt to scale a downtown high-rise in Houston on Tuesday, November 22, just moments after he dashed by police officers and leaped onto the side of One Houston Center. "Had we been three or four seconds late, he'd have been history" on his way up the building, said Sgt. K. Perkins of the Houston Police Department special operations unit. "He's an excellent climber. He moves so swiftly," added Perkins. Alain Robert was arrested at the building about 9:45 a.m. Known for scaling more than 70 tall structures around the world without a safety net and often with his bare hands, Robert has scaled some of the most famous structures in the U.S., including the Sears Tower in

Chicago, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and New York's Empire State Building. Police received a tip that the skyscraper scaler would be coming to One Houston Center, and Perkins said six officers and about half a dozen members of building security had been waiting for him since 6 a.m. Scaling buildings counts as criminal mischief in Texas, Perkins said. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/3478454.htm> 1

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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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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