



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 November 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- The Dallas Morning News reports that two vials of radioactive material have been missing in Texas for three weeks, but experts say they do not contain enough radiation to cause serious health problems if used in a dirty bomb. (See item [2](#))
- 9 News reports Colorado is the first state to set up a hospital bed surge cache as part of an emergency preparedness plan to relieve stress on existing hospitals and medical centers in the event of a disaster or trauma. (See item [27](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 23, The Christian Science Monitor* — **Refinery bottleneck to ease.** In a move that could bode well for Americans' gas tanks, the oil industry is quickening its pace of investing in more refining capacity. Over the past two months, energy companies have announced refinery expansions of almost one million barrels of oil per day — nearly six percent of the amount of gasoline produced today. More announcements may come this spring. Increasing refining capacity has been the subject of congressional hearings this fall, and related legislation is pending in Congress. "It looks like refining investment is on the uptick," says Robert Slaughter, president of the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association in Washington. "But there are two cautions: All these additions must be permitted, and people can change their minds," said

Slaughter. Companies prefer expansions — that is, adding more refining facilities — instead of building new ones on different sites because it's faster and will probably not require new zoning. Overall, the new planned capacity is expected to come on line in three to five years. Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1123/p01s03-usec.html>

2. *November 23, Dallas Morning News* — **Liquid missing, but threat of dirty bomb minimal.**

Two vials of radioactive material missing in Texas for three weeks do not contain enough radiation to cause serious health problems if used in a dirty bomb, experts say. "It plays into people's psychology," said Ivan Oelrich, a nuclear specialist with the Federation of American Scientists. There's no indication that the missing antimony-124 is in the hands of terrorists. However, no one knows who has it or where it might be despite searches by the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous arm of the Department of Energy. The shipment originated in New Mexico and was destined for Texas. Antimony-124 is used as a tracer in oil and gas exploration. The missing vials, with a total of a quarter-cup of the liquid, were supposed to be packed inside heavy lead containers, which were then to be put in a sand-filled ammunition box. The box, in turn, was supposed to go into a 20-gallon metal drum that was then sealed for shipping. When the shipment arrived in Kilgore, TX, on November 3, the original outside seal on one drum was intact, but the drum was empty.

Source: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/DN-radioactive23_pro.ART0.North.Edition2.e9941d4.html

3. *November 23, Agence France-Presse* — **Activists break into grounds of Dutch nuclear power plant.**

Two dozen Greenpeace activists broke into the grounds of a Dutch nuclear power plant located in Borssele, Netherlands, on Wednesday, November 23, to demonstrate that the facility is not secure and protest against plans to keep it open another quarter of a century. The Dutch security services arrested 11 protesters. In the coming weeks the Dutch government is set to decide on proposals to keep the plant open until 2033.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051123/sc_afp/netherlandsenvironment_051123163540

4. *November 22, Associated Press* — **Demand for natural gas outpaces supply.**

Progress is being made in restoring offshore natural gas facilities shut down by hurricanes, but gas prices will remain high as demand outpaces supply, the head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said Tuesday, November 22. Even with recovery of operations along the Gulf Coast, "I don't think they'll go back to the level they were a few years ago," said FERC chairman Joseph Kelliher. He said that shut-in, or halted gas production along the Gulf has gone from 54 percent of normal output three weeks ago to 32 percent, representing significant progress but also pointing to the remaining damage that has disrupted supplies and driven up heating fuel costs. Twenty percent of U.S. natural gas supply comes from the offshore Gulf.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/22/AR2005112201039.html>

5. *November 22, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **Nuclear Regulatory Commission looks at lessons learned from hurricanes.**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has created a task force to continue assessing the preparations for and response to the 2005 hurricane season by the NRC, affected states and licensees. The task force will focus especially

on agency actions related to hurricanes Katrina and Rita and their effects on nuclear power plants in Louisiana and Florida. The task force will review the agency's actions to monitor the storms, interact with state officials and work with nuclear facility operators licensed by the NRC. Based on the review, the task force will make recommendations for improvements. The task force will also review actions related to radioactive material licensees in areas that could have been, or were, affected by the severe weather. As part of its mission, the task force will pay particular attention to the adequacy of primary and back-up communication systems linking the NRC, other government organizations and the licensees.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-159.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *November 23, Associated Press* — **Tanker fire in Nation's capital closes parts of Interstate-95.** Traffic was snarled around the U.S. capital early Wednesday, November 23, after a tanker truck carrying 8,700 gallons of gasoline exploded on Interstate-95 on one of the busiest travel days of the year. The truck driver, Boyor Chew, was able to escape unharmed after he noticed one of his rear wheels burning as he headed south from Baltimore, MD, around 5 a.m. EST. Chew works for Ocean Petroleum in Newark, MD, and had filled his tanker earlier in the morning at the Port of Baltimore to deliver gasoline to a station in Silver Spring, MD. Flames shot high into the air for nearly two hours as firefighters let the fire burn itself out. Drivers stopped near the scene were told to get out and abandon their cars for fear of a larger explosion, but no injuries were reported. Metro buses were brought in to help transport holiday travelers from the Greenbelt Metro station to Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/11/23/tanker.fire.ap/index.html>

7. *November 22, Daily News Transcript (MA)* — **Area evacuated in Massachusetts after gas line punctured.** Homes and businesses in Westwood, MA, were evacuated Monday morning, November 21, after a construction crew broke a natural gas line, according to police. Police said crews working on the Route 109 overhaul punched through the line at 10:14 a.m. EST while digging in the road. About 100 people were evacuated from homes and businesses. No one was injured.

Source: <http://www3.dailynewstranscript.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=67488>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

8.

November 23, TechWeb News — **Browser makers band together against phishers.**

Representatives from the most prominent browser makers recently gathered to discuss ways to make it clearer to users which Websites are safe and which are fake. Developers speaking for Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera, and Konqueror met in Toronto last week to hash over ideas on how their browsers could better identify trusted and suspicious Websites. Additionally, they talked about changes to browser pop-ups that would make it more difficult for scammers to spoof sites or trick users into divulging personal information such as bank or credit card account numbers and passwords. "This should go a long way toward addressing phishing attack issues," said George Staikos, a developer for the open-source Linux/Unix KDE graphical environment. The basic plan would be for all browsers to tint the address bar green when users visit major-brand sites with a "highly-assured" digital certificate. Suspicious sites that might be sources of phishing scams would be indicated by a red address bar. A padlock icon would be also be set in the address bar, where it's more visible, when users are at an SSL-secured page. The move couldn't come too soon, as phishers have already used self-signed certificates to fool users into trusting fraudulent sites.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/174401623>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *November 24, Associated Press* — Federal investigators conduct interviews into crash.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators interviewed emergency workers, hoping to learn why a commuter train slammed into vehicles at a backed-up intersection, injuring 16 people, officials said Thursday, November 24. The train struck five vehicles and set off a chain reaction during Wednesday's evening rush hour that ultimately involved as many as 15 vehicles, Metra spokesperson Judy Pardonnet said. Pardonnet said Thursday that 13 of the injured were taken to hospitals, and three people remained hospitalized Thursday morning. Pardonnet had said cross gates appeared to be working properly when the train went through the intersection. But witnesses gave conflicting reports Wednesday as to whether the gates were up or down. The train, which left Chicago's Union Station at 4:25 p.m. headed for Antioch, probably was carrying between 400 and 500 passengers when the accident happened, Pardonnet said. Officials did not know how fast the train was traveling, but the speed limit for express trains on that line is 70 mph, Pardonnet said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/11/24/train.crash.ap/index.html>

10. *November 23, News Interactive (Australia)* — Hundreds of security cards missing at

Australian airport. Hundreds of security cards giving people access to restricted areas at Australia's Sydney Airport are lost or stolen each year, a parliamentary inquiry has heard. Australia's Qantas Airlines security boss Geoff Askew Wednesday, November 23, said thousands of Aviation Security Identification Cards (ASIC) were issued every year to people who worked in restricted areas at Sydney airport, including the airstrip and baggage rooms. But Australia's largest airline could not account for 384 of the cards, handed out by the Department of Transport and Regional Services in the past two years, Askew told the Public Accounts and Audit Committee in Sydney, Australia. Of the cards, which expire in 2006, 24 were indirectly stolen while the "vast majority" had simply been lost, the committee's inquiry was told. Askew said the airline filed a police report once it was aware a card was missing. It then disabled the

card so it could not work in the control access system. But a spokesperson for Sydney Airport later confirmed the card could still be used to get into areas that were manned.

Source: <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,17340763-29277,00.html>

- 11. *November 22, Kodiak Daily Mirror (AK)* — Rifle goes off at Alaska airport, no injuries.** A rifle went off at the Kodiak Airport in Alaska Friday, November 18, injuring no one, Alaska State Troopers said. A passenger traveling to Kodiak from Fairbanks via Anchorage brought the gun with him on an Era Aviation flight to Kodiak as one of his checked bags. The gun arrived on the island damaged, trooper spokesperson Greg Wilkinson said. Airline employees inspected the gun and took pictures of the damage. As they were putting the gun back in its case, it went off. No one was injured. "The question remains, How did a loaded gun get on the plane? Even in the cargo hold," Wilkinson said. The investigation will proceed with participation from both Alaska Airlines and Era Aviation. In addition to the troopers, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the federal Transportation Security Administration are also on the case.

Source: <http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=2327>

- 12. *November 22, Reuters* — European Union court: Giving airline data to U.S. illegal.** The European Union's transfer of airline passenger data to the United States — part of U.S. efforts to fight terrorism — should be declared illegal, an adviser to the European Union's (EU) highest court said on Tuesday, November 22. Since May, 2004, the EU has shared with U.S. authorities 34 categories of information on airline passengers flying to U.S. destinations, including name, address, all forms of payment information and contact phone numbers. A court statement said: "Neither the [European Union] Council decision approving the agreement nor the [European] Commission decision holding that information be sufficiently protected by the United States have an adequate legal basis." If the European Court of Justice accepts the advice of its adviser, the data-sharing system will be made illegal. The Luxembourg-based court will likely rule next year. It follows the lead of its advisers in most cases. Jarrod Agen, a spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said the opinion would have no immediate effect on air travel between Europe and the U.S. "Until we see the final judgment, it's impossible to evaluate the impact on the aviation industry or passengers," Agen said.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-11-22T133749Z_01_SIB248488_RTRUKOC_0_US-AIRLINE_S-EU-COURT.xml&archived=False

- 13. *November 22, Associated Press* — American Airlines seeks deal with Vietnam Airlines.** American Airlines, the largest U.S. carrier, is asking federal officials to let it and Vietnam Airlines sell seats on each other's flights beginning early next year. American said Monday, November 21, that the so-called code-sharing agreement would begin with Vietnam Airlines putting its two-letter symbol on American flights from the U.S. to Japan and Europe. Those flights would connect to Vietnam Airlines flights to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The airlines would also sell seats on some of each other's domestic flights, American said. American, a unit of Fort Worth, TX,-based AMR Corp., said it had filed the code-sharing request with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Vietnam Airlines is interested in selling seats on American flights from the U.S. to Tokyo and Osaka in Japan and to Paris and Frankfurt, Germany. Eventually, American intends to sell seats on the Vietnam Airlines flights from Vietnam to Japan and Europe, which would let it sell a single ticket to a traveler going from Hanoi to the

U.S. Henry Joyner, American's senior vice president for planning, said Vietnam is among the top Asian destinations and traffic between the U.S. and Vietnam has grown quickly.

Source: <http://www.airportbusiness.com/article/article.jsp?id=4344&siteSection=3>

14. *November 22, GovExec* — **Former NASA executive to head Department of Homeland Security aviation unit.** Robert Bonner, the outgoing commissioner of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) bureau, on Monday, November 21, announced that he has selected a permanent leader for the agency's newly created aviation wing, known as CBP Air. Michael Kostelnik will become assistant commissioner for CBP Air, replacing acting assistant commissioner Charles Stallworth, according to a November 21 e-mail message from Bonner to CBP staff. Kostelnik, a former Air Force command pilot who retired as a major general in January 2002, was most recently NASA's deputy associate administrator for the International Space Station and the space shuttle, where he served as the program executive officer for human space flight operational programs. DHS created CBP Air earlier this year in a merger of aviation personnel and assets from the Border Patrol and the former Air and Marine Operations (AMO) office, a legacy Customs unit whose primary mission was to support counternarcotics operations across government. The new organization is focused on border security and gives Border Patrol sector chiefs tactical control of much of the aircraft in CBP's inventory, decisions that have caused considerable angst among personnel formerly with AMO.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32868&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32868&dcn=to%20daysnews)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *November 23, Asahi Shimbun (Japan)* — **Three arrested in postal money order scam.** Tokyo police on Tuesday, November 22, arrested three people who they said cheated post offices out of \$133 thousand by cashing bogus international money orders. A 38-year-old Nigerian man, 47-year-old French woman, and 39-year-old Japanese man were arrested.. Police suspect the trio is part of a U.S. based crime group that produces forged money orders. Police say the suspects used about 190 fake money orders to swindle three post offices in Yokohama on May 16 and 17 of this year. The forgeries are all copies of U.S. Postal Service (USPS) international postal money orders. Each has a face value of \$700, and a company name in English written under "name of sender." The fakes were discovered after being processed by Japan Post's Tokyo Business Center of Postal Savings, where all international money orders are checked after being converted to cash. Center officials discovered the scam after asking USPS to confirm the money orders. In total, post offices in nine prefectures have now fallen victim to the scam, Japan Post said. All the fake international postal money orders discovered in Japan this year were forged USPS ones, according to investigators with the Metropolitan Police Department.

Source: <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200511230102.ht ml>

16. *November 23, Federal Times* — **Union to fight mail processing plant closures .** The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) is gearing up to frustrate U.S. Postal Service plans to consolidate first-class mail processing operations at nine plants, most of them on the East and West coasts. Hundreds of postal workers could be asked to relocate, although no jobs will be

eliminated except by attrition. As part of his strategy to head off the consolidation effort, APWU President William Burrus on October 24 provided 17 local APWU presidents a packet of materials that included information about legal and contractual provisions governing consolidations, as well as material designed to help locals engage in a campaign to safeguard the jobs of APWU members. But the effort may already be too late. At least Postal Service management thinks so. “This one is going,” Tom Day, Postal Service senior vice president of government relations, told Federal Times. “Over the next six months we will have made all the changes. There is no possibility of frustrating these nine consolidations.” “This is being done to improve the efficiency of the overall network,” Day said.

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index2.php?S=1364591>

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Agriculture Sector

17. *November 23, Associated Press* — **Chronic wasting disease found in three deer in Wisconsin.** Three deer killed in a buffer area surrounding the chronic wasting disease zone in Wisconsin have tested positive for the disease, state officials say. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said this week that the deer determined to have the fatal brain disease were in the herd reduction zone, which is outside the eradication zone where most of the deer infected with the disease have been found. They included a three-year-old doe shot between state Highway 26 and Lake Koshkonong in Jefferson County, a three-year-old doe shot in Dane County east of Stoughton and a two-year-old doe killed by a bow hunter west of Plain in Sauk County. The DNR said it did not plan to take any immediate action in response to the test results and will wait until getting results from this fall's hunting season before deciding on future actions to stem the spread of the disease. Chronic wasting disease was first confirmed in the state in February 2002. The DNR has tried to control it by reducing the deer population in areas where concentrations of deer with the disease were found.

Source: http://wfrv.com/topstories/local_story_327080536.html

18. *November 23, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Shelby County, Alabama, positive for soybean rust.** Alabama has reported a positive soybean rust find in Shelby County, just south of Birmingham, AL, as of Sunday, November 13. No state commentary is yet available. Alabama now has 32 counties positive for soybean rust. The U.S. total is 136.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=638>

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Food Sector

19. *November 23, Associated Press* — **Food poisoning hits Iowa chamber luncheon.** Officials say 73 people fell ill due to food poisoning last week after a Mason City, IA, Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Most had minor stomach problems, and no one was hospitalized. The Cerro Gordo County health department is investigating. The event was catered by Farmhouse Specialties in Mason City. The caterer, Gail Schurtz, says food samples sent to Iowa City turned up a bacteria in the meat that's the result of the meat being improperly cooled.

Source: <http://www.whotv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4158657&nav=LotJ>

20. *November 22, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Ham and beef products recalled.** Goetz Western Meats, an Everett, WA establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 340 pounds of boneless honey cured hams and smoked beef strips that may contain *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Tuesday, November 22. The hams and beef strips were produced on Wednesday, October 26 and Friday, October 28, 2005. The products were shipped to retail establishments and institutions in the Everett, WA, area. The problem was discovered by FSIS. Common symptoms of ingesting products with *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal cramping.
Source: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_ & Events/Recall_051_2005_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_051_2005_Release/index.asp)

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Water Sector

21. *November 24, Bloomberg* — **Russia prepares for Chinese chemical spill to cross border.** Russia will declare an emergency and cut water supplies in the Khabarovsk region before contamination from a chemical plant explosion on a river in neighboring China flows across the border. "We're testing the Amur River every six hours and we expect the contamination to reach Russia by December at the latest," said Sergei Zimin, a spokesman for the regional government. China's northeastern city of Harbin Wednesday, November 23, cut off water to its 3 million residents to test for contamination after a chemical factory blast on the Songhua River, which flows north into the Amur River, a natural border between the two countries and the main water source for Khabarovsk's 1.4 million people. The explosion occurred on November 13 at a unit of PetroChina Co. about 220 miles upstream from Harbin. China's State Environmental Protection Administration said on its Website Thursday that the chemicals in question included benzene, a colorless flammable hydrocarbon, and aniline, a derivative. Khabarovsk officials are stockpiling drinking water and organizing delivery trucks, Zimin said. The federal government will pay for the water and distribute it for free if the Amur becomes contaminated, according to Kamil Iskhakov, the presidential envoy to the Far East Federal District.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000080&sid=aR1mBrAuLbq8&refer=asia>
22. *November 23, Akron Beacon Journal (OH)* — **Bacteria found in rest-area water.** The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will pay a \$110,400 fine to resolve drinking-water violations at highway rest areas in Portage and Hancock counties. The fine, to be paid to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), stems from total coliform bacteria problems at the eastbound rest stop on Interstate 76 in eastern Portage County and two rest areas on I-75 near Findlay, said EPA spokesperson Dina Pierce. Tests of drinking water at all three rest stops indicated levels of bacteria that could indicate the presence of other pathogens, the EPA said. The bacteria problems at the Portage County rest area include total coliform violations in 2003, 2004 and 2005, Pierce said. In those cases, ODOT also failed to conduct EPA-mandated follow-up testing in the first 24 hours and again the following month, after coliform bacteria was detected, she said. The problems at the I-75 sites in Hancock County go back to 2000, she

said. ODOT will also be required to address drinking–water problems at six other Ohio rest areas. Water supplies at rest areas are subject to specific treatment and monitoring requirements as public water supplies.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/news/13240134.htm>

23. *November 23, Christian Science Monitor* — In central North Carolina, there's little water anywhere. All seems ordinary until you breach Woodpecker Ridge and descend to Falls Lake. That's when you can see that the water is almost gone, creating a moonscape with an exposed lake bed. A severe local drought -- one of three in the U.S. right now -- has nearly emptied Falls Lake, the only water supply for North Carolina's capital city. After no rain for too long and water users failure to cut consumption by 15 percent, Raleigh last week started handing out \$1,000 fines -- some of the heaviest in history for a city in the East -- for violating watering restrictions. In Raleigh, seven water–thief detectives rely on tips to investigate illegal taps. In nearby Chatham County, people must limit their showers to four minutes. Officials say they have no choice: Unless there's heavy rain, the lake could be empty by January. The dry spell is affecting a 700,000–square–mile watershed, which supplies water to some 600,000 people. To some, the low water is a precursor to water wars east of the Mississippi. Many fast–growing cities, especially those in the Southeast, are vulnerable to shortages. Add rapid construction, land annexations, and new immigration and, suddenly, a blip in the weather can turn into a drought.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1123/p02s02–ussc.html>

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Public Health Sector

24. *November 23, Agence France Presse* — European Union holds Europe–wide flu pandemic exercise. European Union (EU) health officials were holding a surprise Europe–wide exercise to prepare them for any outbreak of a flu pandemic. "Officials in command centres across Europe are reacting to imaginary emergency scenarios which are evolving as the course of the exercise continues," European Commission spokesperson Philip Tod told journalists. The aim was "to rehearse their decision–making and their coordination at the European level and our communication between ourselves," he added. The two–day exercise involved officials from all 25 EU member states, the European Commission, various agencies, and the World Health Organization but there was no "real–world" mobilization of health services.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051123/hl_afp/healthflueexercise_051123133023;_ylt=ApBM2WQ9GemULxYwu2nWnZaJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

25. *November 23, CNN* — China reports second bird flu death. A second Chinese woman is reported to have died from bird flu in the eastern Anhui province, the third confirmed human case in the country. The 35–year–old female farmer with the surname died Tuesday, November 22, after falling ill on November 11, the Ministry of Health announced Wednesday, November 23. She reportedly had contact with sick and dead poultry. A 24–year–old female poultry worker in Anhui died from the virus on November 10, and a 9–year–old boy who fell ill with the virus last month in Hunan Province is still alive. China's Ministry of Health has reported a fourth human case of bird flu -- the boy's 12–year–old sister, who died on October 17 -- but

the World Health Organization (WHO) said there were no samples to test if she had the virus because she was cremated. According to the WHO, 131 people have been infected with the H5N1 avian flu strain in China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Of those, 67 have died.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/conditions/11/23/birdflu/>

26. *November 22, Seattle & King County Health Department* — **Unvaccinated child may spread measles.** Seattle & King County Health Department in Washington is announcing one confirmed case of measles in a child who acquired the disease abroad. The child with measles visited public areas in King County while contagious, prior to diagnosis, and may have exposed other persons to the disease. Also known as rubeola, measles is a potentially severe disease caused by the measles virus. “We live in a global village where infectious diseases can rapidly spread from distant parts of the globe to our doorstep in a matter of hours,” said Dorothy Teeter, Interim Director and Health Officer for Public Health – Seattle & King County. “This instance shows why immunizations are critically important in protecting the health of our community.” “If you aren’t immune to the measles and were in a location where the person with measles was while contagious, it’s important that you contact your health care provider,” said Dr. Jeff Duchin, Chief of Public Health’s Communicable Disease Section.

Measles information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/measles/default.htm>

Source: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/news/05112201.htm>

27. *November 22, 9 News (CO)* — **Colorado's unique preparedness plan includes use of hospital bed surge caches.** Colorado is the first state to have a stash of hospital beds and corresponding supplies clandestinely hidden in various places across the state. These 6,500 beds part of a emergency preparedness plan that's ready for action in the event of the unthinkable. Technically it's called a "hospital bed surge cache," and Colorado now has thirteen of them hidden across the state. Each cache contains 450 adult beds, 50 cribs, several play-pens, and privacy dividers. "Everything in the cache is meant to be self-sustaining," explains Robin Koons, who heads up the state's Hospital Preparedness Program within the Bioterrorism & Emergency Preparedness Section of the Department of Public Health and Environment. One goal of the cache program is to relieve stress on existing hospitals and medical centers in the event of a disaster or trauma. A large emergency could temporarily overwhelm facilities, and these portable hospitals could pick up the overflow. The plan also considers that hospitals are not immune to any type of attack, natural or man-made, and the cache plan is a safety valve for that type of surge in patients as well.

Source: http://www.9news.com/acm_news.aspx?OSGNAME=KUSA&IKOBJECTID=b447ebdb-0abe-421a-01b3-dc8b941eddbb&TEMPLATEID=0c76dce6-ac1f-02d8-0047-c589c01ca7bf

28. *November 22, University of Iowa College of Public Health* — **Swine workers at increased risk of infection with influenza virus.** People with work exposure to pigs, are at heightened risk of contracting swine influenza, according to researchers in the University of Iowa College of Public Health. The researchers examined farmers, veterinarians, meat processing workers, and a control group of people who had no occupational contact with pigs. They discovered that, of the four groups, farmers were most likely to be seropositive — that is, to have antibodies in their blood against swine influenza, indicating previous infection with swine influenza virus. Veterinarians also had increased odds of seropositivity. Meat processing workers had elevated

antibody levels as well, though the odds were not as high, perhaps due to the workers' limited exposure to live pigs. Pigs' physical makeup allows them to contract and to spread influenza viruses to and from other species, such as humans and birds. Due to their susceptibility to influenza virus infections from other species, pigs may also serve as "mixing vessel hosts" that can produce new influenza virus strains. There is no human vaccine against swine influenza at this point, but increasing surveillance for influenza both the human and the zoonotic forms among swine workers is one key component of helping to prevent a pandemic.

Source: http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/newsletter/rd.asp?rlsId=2_10

29. *November 22, United Press International* — **First study of chronic wasting disease on humans.** Binghamton University scientists are conducting the first study to determine if chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer can infect humans who eat deer meat. Ralph Garruto, professor of biomedical anthropology, is leading the study that monitors the health of a group of people known to have consumed venison infected with CWD. Recently discovered in both wild and captive deer, CWD is similar to mad cow disease in that it concentrates in the spinal cord and brain. Garruto hopes the study will determine if the disease can affect humans in the same way mad cow disease has been shown to cause neurological disease in those who consume infected beef. The study will monitor the health of the participants during a six-year period.

CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>

Source: <http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20051122-055629-9824r>

30. *November 21, CNet News* — **Grid to take on AIDS.** The World Community Grid, counted among the top 10 supercomputers in the world, will work with the La Jolla, CA, based Scripps Research Institute in designing new therapeutic tools to counter HIV, the fast-mutating virus that causes AIDS, IBM said Monday, November 21. The initiative, dubbed FightAIDS@Home, will draw idle computing power from more than 170,000 computers. "The computational challenges in approaching this problem are the vast number of possible mutations that may occur, and the huge number of possible chemical compounds that might be tested against them," Arthur Olson, of the Scripps Department of Molecular Biology said. "The new World Community Grid project will run millions upon millions of docking computations to evaluate potential interactions between compounds and mutant viral proteins." The nonprofit World Community Grid project, unveiled by IBM last year, already completed the Human Proteome Folding Project. That venture, carried out in collaboration with the Institute of Systems Biology over a one-year period, could produce a database of approximately 120,000 protein structures. The supercomputer at the institute would have taken more than 100 years to complete the same work.

Source: http://news.com.com/Grid+to+take+on+AIDS/2100-11395_3-5965000.html?tag=nefd.top

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Government Sector

31. *November 23, Washington Technology* — **Brief offers communications interoperability model.** The loss of life and property during and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita underscores a big problem facing government: the inability of public safety officials from different

government sectors to communicate with one another and coordinate their efforts. A research brief published recently by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers highlights the interoperability problems facing federal, state and local officials, and offers a map toward improved communication. Getting first responders, law enforcement, transportation officials, public health officials, utility workers and public works employees all communicating on the same system is no simple problem, according to the brief. There are technical issues because of limited, fragmented radio spectrum and proprietary technology, the brief stated. There are political concerns, with different agencies competing for funding, inhibiting the partnership required to develop interoperability. Also, there are cultural questions, with agencies reluctant to give up control over their communications systems, according to the brief. To address the interoperability problem, agencies must share decision-making, accountability, business applications and infrastructure. Also, the issue must be addressed as part of a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional plan that involves all stakeholders, the brief stated.

Research brief: <https://www.nascio.org/nascioCommittees/interoperability/Interop.%20Gov.%20Research%20Brief%20Final.pdf>

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/homeland/27490-1.html

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *November 23, Topeka Capital-Journal (KS)* — Software glitch disrupts 911 in Kansas. The Shawnee County, KS, 911 system was disabled for six hours Tuesday, November 22, because of a software malfunction at the dispatch center. David Laird, of the Shawnee County Consolidated Emergency Communication Center, said the 911 system "locked up" in the communications center at about 2:30 p.m. CST, but "a few of the lines remained up and working, so complete service was not lost." Don Brown, spokesperson for ATT Kansas, said technicians isolated the problem within the system early Tuesday evening, repaired the damage and gradually increased its function capacity until it was declared restored by 8:22 p.m. CST. Emergency calls were routed into switchboards at the Topeka, KS, Police Department while the system was repaired at the Shawnee County Emergency Communication Center. While 911 dispatch was being conducted from the police department, volunteer radio operators from the Kaw Valley Amateur Radio Club staffed fire stations to take reports from anyone who couldn't get through to 911.

Source: http://cjonline.com/stories/112305/loc_911.shtml

33. *November 22, GovExec* — Lawmakers seek more disaster relief contracts for small businesses. A bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced legislation this week that would require the Department of Homeland Security to create a database of small, disadvantaged businesses that could help with relief and recovery work after a disaster strikes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Small Business Database bill (H.R. 4427) would require agencies to consult the database before making contract awards. "The database will categorize these businesses based on their type of work, geographical location and small-business status," said Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS), ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee, in a letter seeking support for the bill. "Registration in this database will provide small businesses with the notice and information necessary to compete

for government contracts within their region and thus help to jump-start the local economy after the tragedy of a national disaster or other emergency event." Thompson and several other lawmakers maintain that FEMA has been too slow in contracting with small and disadvantaged businesses since hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast.

Source: http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32864&dcn=todays_news

34. *November 18, National Institute of Health* — **9/11 Panel makes recommendations for DNA-based identification after mass disasters.** Only days after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, an advisory panel was formed, known as the Kinship and Data Analysis Panel (KADAP), to develop a process to identify victims using DNA collected at the site of the tragedy. At the time of the September 11 attacks, no infrastructure existed for the rapid identification of large disasters with more than 500 victims. A new information technology infrastructure had to be established to optimize data transfer between the state police and medical examiner's office, as well as to interconnect the databases and analytical tools used by panel members. In an article published November 18 in the journal *Science*, the panel reports that DNA-based efforts led to the identification of more than one-quarter of those reported missing. The panel also made suggestions on how to improve DNA-based identification efforts in the event of any future mass disasters or terrorist attacks. KADAP members recommend conducting more research to develop more sensitive forensic DNA typing systems; improving software to integrate analytical, database and workflow functions; and designing processes to test and validate novel identification procedures as they are being developed.

KADAP's report in the journal *Science*:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/310/5751/1122>

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/nov2005/nhgri-17.htm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35. *November 25, Iowa State Daily* — **Students fight IT pros in hacker competition.** Students at Iowa State University competed in the university's second-annual Cyber Defense Competition on Friday, November 18 through Saturday, November 19. During the event, several student teams competed against a group of Internet technology professionals whose job it is to hack into and disrupt each team's network. Thad Gillispie, a graduate student in electrical and computer engineering, said that the students had a chance to see what they really know about network security as well as learn more. It also provides the students with an opportunity to see Internet security from a point of view that is not often represented and helps them start to appreciate Internet services being there when they want them, Gillispie said.

Source: <http://www.iowastatedaily.com/media/paper818/news/2005/11/18>

[/News/Students.Fight.It.Pros.In.Hacker.Competition-1110048.shtml?norewrite&sourcedomain=www.iowastatedaily.com](http://www.iowastatedaily.com/News/Students.Fight.It.Pros.In.Hacker.Competition-1110048.shtml?norewrite&sourcedomain=www.iowastatedaily.com)

36. *November 23, Yahoo* — **Bogus e-mails contain new 'Sober' worm.** Austria's equivalent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that it is investigating a flurry of bogus e-mails sent in its name to people in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. The Federal Criminal Investigations Office said the e-mails warn recipients that they are illegally in possession of pirated software,

and that the messages contain the computer-crippling "Sober" worm.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051123/ap_on_hi_te/austria_bogus_e_mails;_ylt=Ag3jMivxpBnWCHf3M8c5PE8jtBAF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

37. *November 22, Security Focus* — **Linux Kernel network bridge incorrectly forwarded packets information disclosure vulnerability.** Linux Kernel is susceptible to an information disclosure vulnerability in its network bridging functionality. This issue allows attackers to poison the bridge forwarding table, causing packets to be incorrectly forwarded to the wrong interface. Security Focus is reporting that Kernel version 2.6.11.12 is available to address this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15536/discuss>

38. *November 17, Zeichner Risk Analytics* — **Study finds telecom consolidation will aid network reliability during disasters.** The current consolidation occurring in the telecommunications industry is a step toward ensuring network reliability following threats to our nation's security, according to a study released by homeland security expert Lee Zeichner. The study, entitled "State Public Utility Commissioners: Homeland Security & National Preparedness Responsibilities," concludes that state public utility commissioners' current review of major telecom mergers must address traditional regulatory issues as well as issues like network reliability and resilience. According to the study, "Telecommunications regulators can affect state and local government response to catastrophic disasters in profound and meaningful ways, directly impacting consumers as well as small to large-sized corporations." The study states that with multiple carriers and multiple networks, there is no comprehensive communications infrastructure map to guide disaster planning and response. "A certain amount of consolidation...is critical to support delivery of essential citizen services in the aftermath of a disaster." The study offers recommendations for state public utility commissioners to emphasize network reliability and resiliency while maximizing traditional regulatory issues. These include the need to consider issues related to communications resiliency during their deliberations and the adverse impact of divestiture requirements on resiliency during merger proceeding. They should also commit to resolving operational impediments.

Study: <http://www.zra.com/docs/UC&CR.pdf>

Source: <http://www.zra.com/docs/ZRAPR.pdf>

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 publicly reported vulnerability in the way Cisco PIX firewalls process legitimate TCP connection attempts. A remote attacker may be able to send spoofed, malformed TCP packets with incorrect checksum values through affected PIX firewalls. Legitimate network

traffic to the destination, PIX protected hosts may be blocked until the invalid PIX connection attempt entry times out around two minutes by default. Until a patch or more information becomes available, US-CERT recommends that system administrators who may be affected consider reconfiguring certain connection timers on Cisco PIX systems. Public exploit code for this reported vulnerability may be useful for automating a sustained attack.

For more information please review the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note (VU#853540) "Cisco PIX TCP checksum verification failure report:"

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/853540>

W32/Sober Revisited: US-CERT is aware of several new variants of the W32/Sober virus that propagate via email. As with many viruses, these variants rely on social engineering to propagate. Specifically, the user must click on a link or open an attached file. A recent variant sends messages that appear to be from the CIA or FBI, while a German version appears to be coming from the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), the German Federal police service. Additionally, US-CERT strongly encourages users not to follow unknown links, even if sent by a known and trusted source.

US-CERT encourages users to review the FBI alerts public to recent e-mail scheme at URL: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel05/emailscheme112205.htm>

BKA warnt vor gefälschten E-Mails mit BKA-Absender – Variante des Sober-Wurms: <http://www.bka.de/>

US-CERT strongly encourages users to install anti-virus software, and keep virus signature files up to date.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 27015 (halflife), 6588 (AnalogX), 6999 (iatp-normalpri), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1025 (win-rpc) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

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

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

39. November 22, Wisconsin State Journal — County bomb squad in Wisconsin handles pipe bomb in parking ramp. A pipe bomb found and reported to police Tuesday, November 22, in a parking ramp in downtown Madison, WI, was neutralized by a bomb squad. The bomb, which Madison police spokesperson Mike Hanson called an "improvised explosive device," was found in a covered stall on the sixth level, one-half level below the uppermost stalls. Dane County, WI, leases that stall to a business, but Hanson wouldn't say which business. "There was

never any danger, the bomb squad took care of it right away," ramp manager Karen Shevet Dinah said. "It was a small pipe bomb. They found it on the floor," said Dinah. As the city doesn't have a bomb squad, Dane County's bomb squad defused the device. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was called in because they investigate all bombs, Hanson said.

Source: <http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/index.php?ntid=62577>

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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>

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Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov 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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