



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 May 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has initiated planning to address the potential effects of an avian flu pandemic on its operations, holding a workshop Thursday, April 27, to discuss relevant issues focusing on critical functions that must be maintained in the event of high absenteeism. (See item [2](#))
- The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has announced that U.S. and Colombian authorities have arrested 24 suspects for allegedly laundering drug proceeds through an illegal money exchange market in Colombia. (See item [10](#))
- The Washington Post reports the Pentagon has stopped processing security clearances for government contractors, potentially exacerbating a shortage of employees authorized to work on the government's most secret programs. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

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

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

1. *May 01, Associated Press* — **Texas town to boycott Exxon Mobil over high gas prices.** High gas prices are unquestionably painful in the small town of Beeville, TX, located an hour's drive from malls and specialized medical care, but some residents are doubting the wisdom of the

county board's call for a boycott of Exxon Mobil Corp. Opponents of the boycott that starts Monday, May 1, note that oil and gas taxes fund much of Bee County's budget, and they say a boycott could harm mom-and-pop gas stations whose main profits are not from oil. The boycott against the world's largest oil company will continue until gas is down to \$1.30 a gallon, said County Judge Jimmy Martinez. A gallon of regular unleaded cost \$2.92 on average around the nation Sunday, May 1, according to AAA. A Beeville Bee-Picayune poll showed 72 percent of those surveyed plan to participate in the boycott. Martinez said Exxon was targeted because of its size and the message it sent with its recent compensation and pension package to its former chief executive. Commissioner Susan Stasny noted the irony of the boycott coming from the heart of oil country. In the past five years, she said, the county received \$8 million in oil and gas tax revenues.

Source: http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_rt_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji§ion=news&news_id=dji-00002020060501&date=20060501&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw

2. *April 28, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC plans for possible avian flu pandemic.**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has initiated planning to address the potential effects of an avian flu pandemic on its operations and held a workshop Thursday, April 27, to discuss relevant issues. The NRC is focusing on critical functions that must be maintained in the event of high absenteeism caused by an avian flu pandemic and the regulatory relief or other actions that may be necessary to maintain the safe operation of nuclear power plants facing similar staff shortages. The NRC is determining how to maintain mission-critical functions with absenteeism as high as 40 percent for periods of weeks in the course of a 12- to 18-month period. Other federal government agencies are conducting similar assessments. The nuclear power industry is creating its own business continuity planning and site-specific options. The workshop drew attendees from other federal agencies, state government, and power companies. Discussions included a status of the flu and the availability of vaccines and antiviral medication; steps to minimize the spread of the disease, including sequestering employees; status of resident inspectors; granting regulatory relief from minimum staffing or work hour requirements; and deferring activities, such as exercises. Portions of a report will be made public when finalized.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-059.html>

3. *April 28, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* — **Nuclear alert draws inspection: Some say**

Kewaunee plant went too far with warning. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspectors were at the Kewaunee nuclear plant near Carlton, WI, Thursday, April 27, after the reactor's owner declared its first alert in decades — mobilizing local and state emergency response personnel. There was no evacuation and no hazard to plant employees or the public, but questions were being raised about whether the plant operator went too far declaring an alert. This was the first time since that system was imposed that such an alert has been declared at either of Wisconsin's nuclear plants, industry spokespersons said. Viktoria Mitlyng, a spokesperson for the NRC, said the action Dominion was quite "conservative, because essentially the equipment where the malfunctions occurred were not safety-related." The NRC has not made any conclusions about whether Dominion should have declared an alert. The events that led to the alert began Tuesday, April 25, when Kewaunee operators detected a small leak in a cooling system pipe for an emergency diesel generator and began to shut the plant down to fix the leak. The state's Emergency Operations Center was activated and emergency

management groups in the Department of Health and Family Services were in contact with the Kewaunee plant and Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties.

Source: <http://powermarketers.net/contentinc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8knpp%5E%5Bhfpgwuv%5BVgbt9K%22bfel%5Dv>

4. *April 27, Reuters* — **California agency agrees to broadband-over-power-lines test.** The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved a plan on Thursday, April 27, allowing providers of high-speed Internet services to test electricity lines to deliver online access throughout the state. CPUC commissioner Rachelle Chong said broadband over power lines, or BPL, could become a new competitor to Internet services delivered via telephone, cable and satellites and help reduce prices for consumers. BPL uses existing utility lines delivering power to neighborhoods to carry broadband signals into homes. BPL technology could allow utilities to develop so-called smart grid applications to more actively monitor and manage the distribution of electricity, said Chong, a former member of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission. Until recently, U.S. utilities interested in BPL have faced various financial and technical problems. The signals that carry data over electrical lines can cause interference with radio equipment and can travel only a short distance before weakening, requiring repeaters in many areas. Nevertheless, utilities such as TXU Corp. and Cinergy Corp. are testing the service with BPL provider Current Communications Group, of Germantown, Maryland.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2006-04-27T211641Z_01_N27428854_RTRIDST_0UTILITIES-BROADBAND-CALIFORNIA-UPDATE-4.XML

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *May 01, Mercury News (CA)* — **Shelter-in-place issued after refinery release in California.** A shelter-in-place issued Monday morning, May 1, in Rodeo, CA, has been lifted after a power outage at the Conoco Phillips Refinery caused the release of heavy smoke. The plume of black smoke was caused by materials being burned prior to the power outage, health services said. The smoke likely contained hydrocarbons and sulfur.

Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/14474066.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *April 29, Washington Post* — **Dubai firm cleared to buy military supplier.** President Bush Saturday, April 28, approved the takeover by a Dubai company of U.S. plants that make precision-engineered components for the Pentagon — and this time, the deal stirred little opposition in Congress. The approval allows Dubai International Capital LLC, which is owned by the Dubai government, to take control of nine plants in the United States, some of which supply the military with parts used in aircraft and tanks. The plants are owned by a British firm, Doncasters Group Ltd., which is being purchased by the Dubai company for \$1.2 billion.

Lawmakers said the Doncasters deal underwent a lengthier, full investigation by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. In a statement, presidential spokesperson Scott McClellan said the panel carefully considered the fact that the plants owned by Doncasters are the Pentagon's sole source of supply for turbine–engine blades. Doncasters has nine plants in the United States, including two each in Connecticut and Alabama and one each in Massachusetts, South Carolina, Georgia, California and Oregon.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/28/AR2006042800748.html>

7. *April 28, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–06–592: Chemical and Biological Defense: DoD Needs Consistent Policies and Clear Processes to Address the Survivability of Weapon Systems Against Chemical and Biological Threats (Report)**. The possibility that an adversary may use chemical or biological weapons against U.S. forces makes it important for a weapon system to be able to survive such attacks. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, Congress mandated that the Department of Defense (DoD) submit a plan to address weapon system chemical and biological survivability by February 28, 2005. This plan was to include developing a centralized database with information about the effects of chemical and biological agents on materials used in weapon systems. DoD did not submit its plan as mandated. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to evaluate (1) the extent to which DoD addresses weapon system chemical and biological survivability during the acquisition process, and (2) DoD's internal controls for maintaining a comprehensive database that includes chemical and biological survivability research and test data for weapon system design and development. GAO is recommending modifications to DoD's current weapon system acquisition policy to ensure that (1) weapon system chemical and biological survivability is consistently addressed and (2) that DoD's chemical and biological scientific and technical information database is comprehensive. DoD concurred with GAO's recommendations and currently has actions underway for their implementation. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06592high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-592>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *April 28, Finextra* — **U.S. financial sector passes resiliency test**. Federal regulatory agencies in the U.S. say that clearing and settlement organizations and other firms that play significant roles in critical financial markets are now considerably more resilient to wide-scale disruptions than before September 11. The findings are disclosed in a study prepared by The Federal Reserve, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The paper states that core clearing and settlement firms, which present the greatest potential risk to the operation of the financial system, have made significant investments in improving infrastructures. All core clearing and settlement organizations, which are located in Manhattan, now have remote backup data and operations centers. Several organizations also share or periodically shift processing work between primary and remote backup sites. Banks and broker dealers have completed implementation, or should do so this year. The paper says that firms are reviewing their business continuity arrangements to cope with a possible widespread outbreak of avian flu and are working to find ways to contain the

spread of such an influenza, protect employees, and maintain continuity of critical operations.
Report: <http://finextra.com/finextra-downloads/newsdocs/soundpractices.pdf>
Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15245>

9. *April 28, Computerworld* — **Ohio recalls voter registration CDs; Social Security numbers included.** The Social Security numbers of potentially millions of registered voters in Ohio were included on CD-ROMs distributed to 20 political campaign operations in recent months. The problem was discovered Tuesday, April 25, said James Lee, a spokesperson for Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell. The organizations were immediately contacted and have agreed to return the discs for replacements that won't include the Social Security numbers, Lee said. The records of about 7.7 million registered voters in Ohio are listed on the CDs, but Lee said it was unclear how many voter records included Social Security numbers. Last month, an Ohio man sued the state for posting his and other residents' Social Security numbers for years on state Websites where publicly searchable records are stored, showing retail purchases made using credit cards or bank loans. Chris Hoofnagle of the Electronic Privacy Information Center said although Ohio has no laws allowing people to "freeze" their credit to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining their personal information and opening credit accounts in their names, the state does have a security breach notification law that requires a state entity to contact residents if unencrypted personal information included in computerized data is acquired by unauthorized persons.
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/printthis/2006/0.4814.110983.00.html>

10. *April 02, Department of State* — **U.S., Colombia arrest 24 people in drug, money-laundering scheme.** U.S. and Colombian authorities have arrested 24 suspects for allegedly laundering drug proceeds through an illegal money exchange market in Colombia, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency announced. In an April 27 statement, ICE said that in addition to laundering drug proceeds, those arrested also were charged with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and various other money laundering charges. The suspects face potential penalties of up to life imprisonment. ICE said the U.S. investigation of the case, code-named Operation Rainmaker, indicated the drug organization laundered drug proceeds in several ways through what is known as the Black Market Peso Exchange. ICE describes the peso exchange as a decades-old money-laundering scheme that handles billions of dollars' worth of illicit funds annually. It is among the primary means by which Colombian drug cartels convert their U.S.-based drug dollars into "clean" pesos that they can use in Colombia. ICE director Julie Myers said the Black Market Peso Exchange "blurs the line between crime and commerce, using global trade to mask international money laundering." A total of 30 people were charged in indictments with participating in the laundering scheme, but six of those individuals remain fugitives.
Source: <http://usinfo.state.gov/wh/Archive/2006/Apr/28-183643.html?chanlid=wha>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *May 01, Associated Press* — **Hells Angel arrested trying to board a Canadian flight with loaded gun.** A man believed to be a member of the Hells Angels motorcycle club is accused of trying to board a plane in British Columbia with a loaded gun. Villy Roy Lynnrup, 41, of

Langley, British Columbia, was charged with possession of a firearm without a license; possession of a loaded, prohibited firearm; and carrying a concealed firearm. He was released on bail Saturday, April 29, a day after being stopped by security screeners at Vancouver International Airport who found a fully-loaded semi-automatic handgun in his carry-on luggage. Also in the bag were Hells Angels T-shirts and colors identifying the wearer as the sergeant-at-arms of the White Rock chapter of the motorcycle club.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-05-01-hells-ange l-flight_x.htm

12. *May 01, Associated Press* — **Hawaii prepares for ferry service on the islands.** Without passenger boats, bridges, or tunnels linking the islands of Hawaii, the state's four island counties in some ways are as isolated from each other as they are from the mainland. That may change when the Hawaii Superferry, a four-story catamaran, begins running between the islands in a little over a year. Some are worried that the Superferry project is being rushed without researching traffic effects on each of the islands, without planning to prevent humpback whales from being struck by the big boats. The Superferry is expected to start service with one boat the length of a football field offering daily service from Honolulu to the islands of Maui and Kauai. It will carry up to 900 people and 250 cars at one-way fares of \$42 per person and \$55 per vehicle. The ferry will travel up to 40 mph, with a trip from Honolulu to Maui taking about three hours compared to about 40 minutes by plane.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2006-05-01-hawai i-ferry_x.htm

13. *May 01, Springfield News-Leader (MO)* — **Plane lands safely after cockpit fire emergency.** American Airlines Flight 5546 to St. Louis made an emergency landing at Springfield-Branson National Airport with a fire and smoke in the cockpit of the plane. Airport spokesperson Kent Boyd said Saturday, April 29, that the plane was about 30 miles from Springfield, MO, and traveling at 37,000 feet when the pilot radioed the airport to report that there was smoke in the cockpit. Boyd said crewmembers at one point saw flames in the cockpit. He quoted the pilot as saying that the smoke appeared to die down, but then "started increasing greatly, and smoke was coming out of the vents." The crew reported nearly "zero visibility" in the cockpit as the jet neared Springfield. The three-person crew and most of the 29 passengers on board were unharmed, Boyd said, but a few were treated for smoke inhalation at the scene, and one woman was reportedly taken to a Springfield hospital with undetermined injuries after she slipped during the hasty evacuation of the plane. Flight 5546 is an Embraer Regional Jet operated by American Airlines regional feeder Trans State Airlines. The emergency caused an hour-long shutdown at the airport.

Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060430/NEWS01/604300422>

14. *May 01, Associated Press* — **Hundreds of trespassers killed on tracks.** Hundreds of trespassers are killed on the nation's 233,000 miles of track each year. It's a toll that has generally risen over past quarter-century, even as the number of deaths from crashes with vehicles at railroad crossings has plunged. There's no single reason for the upward trend, authorities say. Railroad and safety officials say the growing popularity of all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles could be part of the problem, and so could increased residential and commercial development along railroad lines. Trains are also quieter than ever, their traditional clickety clack mostly eliminated by welded track. Train engineers regularly see people using railroad property to ride ATVs and snowmobiles, to walk and jog, to swim and fish from

trestles, said Amtrak engineer Erik Young. Until 1997, most train fatalities resulted from vehicle–train collisions at railroad crossings. Crossing deaths fell by more than 50 percent between 1981 and last year, from 728 to 355, according to Operation Lifesaver, an Alexandria, VA–based railroad education group established in 1972 to promote safety at railroad crossings and on rights of way. The decline in crossing fatalities is credited to extensive educational outreach programs and better crossing gates and signs.

Federal Railroad Administration: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/>

Operation Lifesaver: <http://www.oli.org/>

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/05/01/hundreds_of_trespassers_killed_on_tracks/

15. *April 29, Reuters* — **Largest cruise ship set for maiden voyage.** The world's largest cruise ship docked in England on Saturday ahead of its inaugural trip — a floating behemoth that dwarfs the Titanic, with facilities never imagined at the dawn of the liner age. At 158,000 tons, the Freedom of the Seas offers a pool with artificial waves for surfers, an ice rink and cantilevered whirlpools that extend out from the sides of the ship, 112 feet above the sea. The vessel, which will sail next Wednesday, May 10, for New York before heading to its Miami base from where it will ply the Caribbean trade, wrested the crown as the world's biggest liner from the 151,000–tonne Queen Mary 2 launched over two years ago. The ship can hold over 3,600 guests, is 15 decks high and is the length of 37 buses. But although the industry appears committed to building ever–larger ships, there is disquiet among some operators that vessels are becoming too big and the market too crowded.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/04/29/britain.ship.reut/index.html>

16. *April 27, Department of Transportation* — **Transportation Secretary Mineta outlines plan to confront high gas prices.** While President Bush is taking steps to confront high gasoline prices this summer, the nation's top transportation official says consumers also can save money at the pump by leaving their cars at home and giving transit a try. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta was in Orlando on April 26 to promote the President's four–part plan to address rising gas prices and encourage greater transit use as an alternative for commuters. Mineta said the President's plan will help ensure that all consumers are treated fairly by investigating whether the price of gasoline has been unfairly manipulated since last year's hurricanes and extending tax credits to consumers who buy hybrid and clean diesel vehicles this year. The plan also would boost supplies of gasoline over the short term by putting a temporary freeze on deposits to the nation's strategic petroleum reserve, and encouraging additional future oil exploration and new refinery capacity, Mineta said. Mineta noted that transit systems in many cities, including Ft. Lauderdale, Dallas, and Kansas City were seeing dramatic increases in ridership this year.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot5206.htm>

17. *March 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–06–166: Airport Security: Progress Made to Set Up Program Using Private–Sector Screeners, but More Work Remains (Report).** In November 2004, as required by law, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) began allowing all commercial airports to apply to use private screeners in lieu of federal screeners as part of its Screening Partnership Program (SPP). The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) prior work found that airports and potential private screening contractors had concerns about the SPP, including whether they would be liable in the event of a terrorist attack

and how roles and responsibilities would be divided among TSA airport staff and private screening contractors. This report addresses TSA's efforts to (1) provide liability protection to private screening contractors and airports and address other SPP stakeholder concerns; (2) achieve cost-savings through the SPP; and (3) establish performance goals and measures for the SPP. GAO is recommending that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) direct TSA to document and communicate roles and responsibilities for managing screener operations under the SPP, and establish a time frame for finalizing the SPP performance measures and targets. DHS reviewed a draft of this report and generally concurred with GAO's findings and recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06166high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-166>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *May 01, Daily Breeze (CA)* — **Bomb scare closes Torrance post office, street.** The main Torrance, CA, post office was evacuated and a block of Monterey Street shut down Friday afternoon, April 28, after a bomb scare prompted by the discovery of an unattended heavy knapsack near the drive-up mailboxes, authorities said. The Sheriff's Department bomb squad discovered the knapsack contained some short lengths of rebar, candles, and other miscellaneous items, said Torrance Police Department Lt. Robert Picker. It's unknown whether the bag was placed there as a hoax or whether someone was trying to dispose of garbage, he said.

Source: <http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/articles/2717101.html>

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Agriculture Sector

19. *May 01, USAgNet* — **South Dakota State University releases information on West Nile vaccinations.** A South Dakota State University (SDSU) publication updated for 2006 discusses vaccinating horses against West Nile Virus. SDSU Extension Veterinarian Russ Daly said epidemiological data suggests that vaccinated horses are three to 16 times less likely to die from West Nile Virus infections than are non-vaccinated horses.

To read the SDSU publication: <http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/ExEx11009.pdf>

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=786&yr=2006>

20. *May 01, Missouri Ag Connection* — **Cutworm model predicts corn damage starting May 9.** Entomologists monitoring night flights of black cutworm moths predict that heavy damage to corn seedlings could start around Tuesday, May 9. That date is projected by a computer model of the cutworm life cycle. The model is based on "degree days" accumulated after moths arrive, said Wayne Bailey, University of Missouri Extension Integrated Pest Management specialist. Bailey said farmers should start scouting their cornfields for the insects by Monday, May 1, much earlier than typical for Missouri, in order to catch damage in time to treat with insecticides. "The predictive model is based on 30-year average temperatures," Bailey said.

"As every farmer knows, this has not been an average year, so the model may not accurately estimate the start of first cutting by black cutworm larvae."

Assessing black cutworm damage: <http://agebb.missouri.edu/weather/reports/bcwforecast.htm>

Reports of degree day accumulations: <http://agebb.missouri.edu/weather/reports/gddTable.asp>

Source: <http://www.missouriagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=314&yr=2006>

21. *May 01, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Chronic Wasting Disease eradication program not working as hoped in Wisconsin.** Wisconsin's attempt to wipe out Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a 210-square-mile area within Dane and Iowa counties seems to be taking a step backwards. Since Wisconsin began its campaign to kill deer after the discovery of CWD in 2002, the number of deer per square mile in the zone dropped from 35 in 2003 to 23 in 2005. However, last week, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reported that the deer population in that region actually increased during the past year.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=520&yr=2006>

22. *May 01, Illinois Ag Connection* — **Illinois Department of Agriculture lab receives certification to test for avian influenza.** Governor Rod R. Blagojevich Friday, April 28, announced that the Illinois Department of Agriculture laboratory in Galesburg is the first lab in the state to receive certification to perform viral testing for avian influenza. The updated status of the lab will significantly cut down the time it takes to determine whether a suspected case of bird flu may in fact be positive, allowing Illinois to quickly activate the response. There are two components that allow the Galesburg lab to test for avian flu. Through funding from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, the lab obtained state of the art equipment nearly two years ago to test for a variety of diseases including avian influenza. Now, the lab has received the necessary certification to conduct the initial screening test for avian flu.

Source: <http://www.illinoisagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=373&yr=2006>

23. *May 01, Associated Press* — **Bird flu strain, not dangerous to people, found in poultry market.** A strain of bird flu not dangerous to people turned up at a live poultry market in southern New Jersey during routine testing last week and samples are undergoing further tests, the state Department of Agriculture said. Preliminary results from the National Veterinary Services laboratory showed the samples, taken from birds at a live poultry market in Camden County, did not have the N1 type of virus. "Anything that was sold, if it was properly cooked and handled, it would not be of any consequence to humans," said Agriculture Department spokesman Jeff Beach. Once the initial results were received, the market owner voluntarily killed the remaining 137 birds there. The market was then cleaned and sanitized under supervision of staff from the state Agriculture Department. Beach said that the results will be back this week, possibly as soon as Tuesday, May 2.

New Jersey Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/avianinfluenza.htm>

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=topNews&storyid=2006-05-01T154646Z_01_SIB154527_RTRUKOC_0_US-BIRDFLU-NEWJERSEY.xml&rpc=22

24. *April 28, Reuters* — **Fifteen herdsmates in mad cow case exported to U.S.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) said on Friday, April 28, that 15 herdsmates of Canada's latest mad cow case were exported to the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has located one of the 15 animals in Washington State and continues to trace the others, agency

spokesperson Ed Loyd said. "We have just under 150 animals that we are tracing...and 23 were located in Canada and quarantined," said Dr. George Luterbach, senior veterinarian with the CFIA. The 23 cattle quarantined in Canada, as well as the one located in Washington, will soon be euthanized and tested for bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Statement by USDA Chief Veterinary Officer John Clifford regarding Canada's BSE epidemiological investigation:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/04/bsecan.shtml>

Source: http://www.metronews.ca/reuters_national.asp?id=144320

25. *April 28, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources* — **Four additional deer test positive for Chronic Wasting Disease in West Virginian county.** Preliminary testing has detected the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) agent in four more free-ranging white-tailed deer recently collected in Hampshire County, WV, as part of an ongoing and intensive CWD surveillance effort, it was announced Friday, April 28, by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR). This brings the total of CWD-positive deer found in Hampshire County since last fall to nine. These most recent samples were collected in March and April by DNR's deer collection teams working in Hampshire County. When CWD was first confirmed last September in Hampshire County, DNR immediately implemented its CWD Incident Response Plan. As part of that plan, DNR has been engaged in intensive CWD surveillance efforts designed to determine the distribution and prevalence of the disease. CWD is a neurological disease found in deer and elk, and it belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. There is no known treatment for CWD, and it is fatal for the infected deer or elk.

Source: <http://www.wvdnr.gov/2006news/06news083.shtml>

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Food Sector

26. *April 28, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Phages eyed as new way to control Salmonella.** Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and university cooperators have collected and partially characterized beneficial viruses, called bacteriophages, that could help control Salmonella bacteria in swine waste lagoons. Disease caused by Salmonella costs pork producers an estimated \$100 million annually. Mike McLaughlin, a virologist in ARS' Waste Management and Forage Research Unit and collaborators from Western Kentucky University's Department of Biology have devised and adapted methods to collect, isolate and identify bacteriophages that attack and kill Salmonella strains. They'll use the phages that have now been characterized to develop new tools to control Salmonella.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/060428.htm>

27. *April 28, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **USDA allows citrus imports from Peru.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced Friday, April 28, that it is amending its fruits and vegetables regulations to allow, under certain conditions, the importation of fresh commercial fruit from approved areas of Peru. APHIS is requiring that a written permit be issued and that the fruit originate in an approved citrus-producing zone.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/04/perucitrus.shtml>

Water Sector

28. *April 29, Press Democrat (CA)* — Santa Rosa, California, to start drilling emergency wells.

It has been 49 years since the city of Santa Rosa, CA, drilled a well, but neighbors of two city parks will soon hear mid-morning pounding announcing the city's renewed search for water. The two wells could be capable of producing more than 700,000 gallons a day each, said Supervising Engineer Mike Prinz. Prinz said the wells will be the first of up to 15 emergency wells the city is likely to install over the next decade or so, at a cost of about \$1 million each. Virginia Porter, the city's deputy director of water resources, said the expansion stems from a mid-1990s study that recommended development of a backup water system. The idea, Porter said, is to have ground water available in case the county's aqueduct system, which supplies Santa Rosa with all its drinking water, is shut down due to an earthquake, blackout or spill of toxic material into the river. The new wells, coupled with seven existing but rarely used wells, would be enough to supply about 15 million gallons a day, the minimum required for drinking and sanitation needs for the city's growing population as well as fire protection.

Source: <http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060429/NEWS/604290334/1033/NEWS01>

29. *April 29, Traverse City Record Eagle (MI)* — Contamination found at Bay Harbor in

Northwest Michigan. A newly discovered area of contamination in the Bay Harbor resort area of Northwest Michigan prompted health officials to issue a watercraft advisory. Officials on Friday, April 28 warned watercraft to stay out of a channel that serves a small, private harbor at the eastern edge of the resort. Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency official Scott Kendzierski said contamination was discovered this month during observation flights. "It was noticed there was a large, dark area in the channel," he said. Further study revealed a contamination seep extending about 400 feet along the bottom of the channel, 15–20 feet underwater. Testing found elevated pH levels between 9.1 and 12, health officials said. The contamination is alkaline, and contact can cause irritation to the eyes or skin.

Source: <http://www.record-eagle.com/2006/apr/29bayharbor.htm>

Public Health Sector

30. *May 01, Associated Press* — Spray flu vaccine may be better for babies. Spraying flu vaccine into the noses of babies and preschoolers offers significantly more protection than shots, says one of the largest comparisons of flu inoculations ever performed. The study found the spray vaccine was 55 percent more effective than traditional flu shots when given to nearly 8,000 children under age five. The nasal spray FluMist, the only flu vaccine made of live but weakened influenza virus, now is sold only for children five and older. The manufacturer plans to seek government approval to sell FluMist for younger children as well. Flu experts feel the findings have important public health implications. Doctors have long known that flu shots don't work quite as well in very young children as they do in older youngsters or adults. And

children are the prime spreaders of flu virus, fueling infections in older people who may not survive. Each winter, flu kills 36,000 Americans, most of them elderly. Said Dr. Robert Belshe, a vaccine specialist at St. Louis University: "Our current thinking is that to control influenza, we really have to vaccinate all children...Anything that makes it easier and more effective (to vaccinate) children is going to contribute a lot to the protection against influenza."

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap_health10may01.1.4915585.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth

31. *May 01, Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)* — Warning over use of wrong antibiotics.

Patients are being placed at greater risk of acquiring harmful infections because doctors are giving them the wrong antibiotic before surgery, according to infectious disease experts. An analysis of almost 18,000 surgical procedures in 27 Australian hospitals by the government, shows the proportion in which the choice of antibiotic is described as "inadequate" ranges from 2.3 percent for cardiac surgery to 56.7 percent for hysterectomies. The timing of antibiotic administration is also crucial. A patient should be given a shot of antibiotics ideally in the hour before the surgeon makes the first incision, and no more than two hours before. Too much antibiotic use can build resistance. Victorian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System director Mike Richards said using antibiotics as a prophylaxis — as a means of preventing infections — was one of the most effective strategies, but not all surgery required antibiotics. He said it was not known how many patients who were inappropriately given antibiotics developed an infection. And patients given the right antibiotics might still develop an infection because of other factors. Richards said the choice of antibiotic was crucial, because surgery on different parts of the body left patients exposed to different types of bugs.

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/allergies/warning-over-use-of-wrong-antibiotics/2006/05/01/1146335650474.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap1>

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Government Sector

- 32. *May 01, Washington Post* — Pentagon halts contractor clearances.** The Pentagon stopped processing security clearances for government contractors this week, potentially exacerbating a shortage of employees authorized to work on the government's most secret programs. The Defense Security Service (DSS) blamed overwhelming demand and a budget shortfall for the halt, which caught the government contracting community by surprise. Already, 3,000 applications have been put on hold, said Cindy McGovern, a DSS spokesperson. "We're holding them [the applications] now to see if we can resolve the issue. The more drastic step would be not accepting them" at all, McGovern said, a step the agency considered but dropped for now. The demand for security clearances among private companies has grown dramatically since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as the government increasingly relies on contractors to do intelligence gathering and work on classified programs. There has been growing frustration with the wait time, which some companies have described as up to a year, to obtain clearances for new employees. The move affects not only defense contractors, but also those who work on projects for more than 20 other agencies, including NASA and the Department of Homeland Security. DSS blames, in part, the sheer volume of requests. Between October and March, more than 100,000 security-clearance applications were submitted.
- Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04>

33. *March 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-375: Information Technology: Near-Term Effort to Automate Paper-Based Immigration Files Needs Planning Improvements (Report)**. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) relies on about 55 million paper-based files to adjudicate applications for immigration status and other benefits. Ensuring the currency and availability of these manual files, referred to as alien files, or A-Files, is a major challenge. To address this challenge, USCIS has initiated efforts, both long and near term, to automate the A-Files. The long-term effort is now being re-examined within the context of a larger USCIS organizational transformation initiative. In the near term, USCIS has begun a digitization program, which it estimates will cost about \$190 million over an 8-year period to electronically scan existing paper files and store and share the scanned images. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to determine whether USCIS was effectively managing its A-Files automation efforts. GAO is making recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security to help ensure that USCIS's long-term organizational transformation initiative is effectively managed and that improvements are made to USCIS's planning for its near-term A-Files digitization and document management effort. In written comments on a draft of this report, the Department of Homeland Security agreed with GAO's recommendations and described actions that are planned and under way to address them.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06375high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-375>

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *April 30, Huntsville Item (TX)* — **Texas hurricane exercise starts May 2**. The emergency management teams from Walker County, TX, and the city of Huntsville will join other Gulf Coast communities Tuesday, May 2, through Thursday, May 4, in a drill simulating the trying days of Hurricane Rita last September. "This is a functional hurricane exercise," said county emergency management coordinator Butch Davis. "It's a statewide drill, and we'll have the emergency operations center up and running for three days." Other elements of the drill will include scenarios with weapons of mass destruction, missing children, getting alerts to the community through media outlets, supply shortages and defunct phone lines.
Source: http://www.itemonline.com/local/local_story_120010151.html?keyword=secondarystory
35. *April 30, Richmond Times-Dispatch (VA)* — **Virginia prepares roads for hurricanes**. Learning from the lessons that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita taught the Gulf Coast in 2005, the state of Virginia is spending about \$3 million for gates to funnel Hampton Roads traffic west on I-64. Virginia has been planning since 2000 to make all lanes of I-64 one way to the west to speed evacuating traffic out of Hampton Roads, an idea emergency managers call "contraflow" or "lane reversal." To make sure Virginia's lane-reversal evacuation strategy works, the state government is: installing gates to block off exit ramps on the eastbound lanes of I-64 between Richmond and Hampton Roads so traffic can use both sides of the highway to move west; contracting for 12 wreckers to clear disabled vehicles; lining up fuel tankers to supply gas and

diesel fuel at various locations along I-64 and U.S. 58; working to ensure gas stations at critical points along the evacuation route receive fuel and stay open to sell it; planning to have up to 24,000 half-liter bottles of drinking water on hand at various points along I-64 and U.S. 58; and expanding the traffic-management camera system's coverage to pick out trouble spots.

Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1137835675317

36. *April 30, KTVZ 21 (OR)* — **Power outage hits Portland 911 dispatch.** The computerized dispatch center at Portland, Oregon's 9-1-1 center shut down for an hour-and-a-half Sunday morning, April 30, possibly because of a power surge. That forced dispatchers to go back to the old-fashioned way of doing business -- with pens and paper. It happened early Sunday when call volume was at its lowest. The director of the center said they handled about 100 calls during that period and no calls were missed. By mid-morning, the computerized system was back on line. The center is preparing a mobile unit if a worst-case scenario were to happen and dispatchers had to evacuate, they could move to the mobile unit and still work electronically. The mobile unit should be ready next year.

Source: <http://www.ktvz.com/story.cfm?nav=oregon&storyID=10464>

37. *April 30, Rutland Herald (VT)* — **Vermont emergency communication improves.** Emergency responders in Vermont will soon be able to communicate with other emergency personnel more easily because of a federal mandate from the Department of Homeland Security. The mandate requires that all states put in place a "Homeland Security Tactical Interoperations Plan," said Newport Police Chief Paul Duquette, chairman of the Vermont Communications board, or VCOMM. The plan requires that all first responders, such as fire departments and police, be able to communicate with one another by using their radio dispatch equipment. The group hired a company to survey the communications equipment used by emergency first-responders in the state and to estimate the cost of linking all the different systems together. VCOMM board members realized that building a brand new system was far too expensive for Vermont, so the current "interoperability plan" is to build a "life-line system," said Duquette. "There are some federal frequencies that are available that we would make sure that everybody gets loaded into their radios," he explained. Emergency responders could then access those national channels when they traveled to parts of the state outside their home radio range.

VCOMM Website: <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/need/index.html>

Source: <http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2006/0430/NEWS/604300360/1004/EDUCATION05>

38. *April 29, Daytona Beach News-Journal (FL)* — **Florida counties prepare for disaster.** Volusia County, FL, in conjunction with local, state and federal emergency officials, held an emergency exercise on Friday, April 28. The drill involved a school bus which was rammed by a stolen ambulance, causing a horrific crash, and an explosion that caused a train carrying hazardous materials to derail. The exercise was designed to test the county's readiness to handle the aftermath of an attack. There was some confusion during the DeBary exercise, officials there said, but that was to be expected with dozens of agencies participating in the drill. J.L. Mauney, deputy fire chief for Volusia's Emergency Management Services, said Volusia County received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security to run the drills. The train exercises were three years in the making, Mauney said, with emergency management officials here conferring with their counterparts in Madrid, Spain, and London after terrorist attacks on

those cities' rail systems in 2004 and 2005, respectively.

Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Local/newWEST01042906.htm>

39. April 29, KXTV-TV (CA) — Commission finds California unprepared for major disaster.

California is unprepared for a major disaster, including earthquakes, flooding, pandemics or terrorist attacks, according to the findings of an independent state agency released Friday, April 28. The report compiled by the Little Hoover Commission concluded the state's emergency management was severely lacking readiness and would be quickly overwhelmed in the event of a serious disaster.

Commission's Website: <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/lhc.html>

Source: <http://www.news10.net/storyfull2.aspx?storyid=17301>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

40. April 29, Security Focus — Linux kernel CIFS/SMB CHRoot security restriction bypass vulnerability.

The Linux kernel is prone to a vulnerability that allows attackers to bypass a security restriction. Analysis: This issue is due to a failure in the kernel to properly sanitize user-supplied data. The problem affects chroot inside of an SMB-mounted filesystem ('cifs' or 'smbfs'). A local attacker who is bounded by the chroot can exploit this issue to bypass the chroot restriction and gain unauthorized access to the filesystem.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17742/info>

Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17742/references>

41. April 29, Security Focus — Linux kernel USB subsystem local denial-of-service vulnerability.

A local denial-of-service vulnerability affects the Linux kernel's USB subsystem. Analysis: This issue is due to the kernel's failure to properly handle unexpected conditions when trying to handle USB Request Blocks. Local attackers may exploit this to trigger a kernel 'oops' on computers where the vulnerable USB subsystem is enabled. This would deny service to legitimate users.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14955/info>

Solution: Please see the referenced vendor advisories for further information on obtaining and applying the appropriate updates: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14955/references>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14955/discuss>

42. April 28, Secunia — HP Oracle for OpenView multiple vulnerabilities.

HP has acknowledged some vulnerabilities in HP Oracle for Openview, which can be exploited by malicious people to conduct SQL injection attacks, compromise a vulnerable system or with unknown impacts. Analysis: Details have been disclosed for the following vulnerabilities: 1) An input validation error in the Log Miner component ("dbms_logmnr_session" package) can be exploited to manipulate SQL queries by injecting arbitrary SQL code. 2) A boundary error in the "VERIFY_LOG" procedure (provided by the "sys.dbms_snapshot_util" package) can be exploited by a malicious user to cause a buffer overflow and execute arbitrary code on the

system. Affected software: HP Oracle for OpenView 8.x; HP Oracle for OpenView 9.x.
Solution: Install the Oracle Critical Patch Update — April 2006.
Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/19859/>

43. April 28, InfoWorld — Despite discovery of second IE bug, Microsoft will not issue a fix.

For the second time in a week, hackers have discovered a previously unknown bug in Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer (IE). Although "proof-of-concept" code showing how this vulnerability could be exploited has been published, there are some mitigating factors. Attackers would first need to trick users into visiting a specially coded Webpage and then somehow get them to perform certain actions, such as writing "specific text in a text field," before they could run their malicious software, FrSIRT said. Furthermore, the bug reportedly does not affect the latest versions of Microsoft's Windows and Windows Server 2003 operating systems, FrSIRT said. Because of these factors, Microsoft has decided not to fix the bug in a security update to IE.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/04/28/77853_HNsecondbug_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 publicly available exploit code and materials explaining how to exploit a race condition vulnerability in Sendmail. Sendmail improperly handles asynchronous signals causing a race condition vulnerability. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user. For more information please review the following:

TA06-081A – Sendmail Race Condition Vulnerability
<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06-081A.html>

VU#834865 – Sendmail contains a race condition
<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/834865>

Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory
<http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/>

US-CERT recommends the following actions to mitigate the security risks:

Upgrade to the latest version: Sendmail 8.13.6.
<http://www.sendmail.org/releases/8.13.6.html>

Review the Sendmail MTA Security Vulnerability Advisory for steps to reduce the impact of this vulnerability. <http://www.sendmail.com/company/advisory/#mitigation>

US-CERT is not aware of any working exploit code at this time.

Phishing Scams

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 UDP, 1027 UDP, 1030 UDP, 4081 UPD, 4257 UPD from IP address blocks located in China: 61.156.42.117, 89.94.99.104, 221.208.208.102, 202.97.238.131, 202.99.172.172, 66.11.89.161, 204.16.208.74, 61.180.228.245, 82.93.91.206, and 218.27.16.131 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

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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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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