



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 08 May 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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## Daily Highlights

- Computerworld reports Idaho Power Co. recently discovered that company disk drives — containing proprietary company information — had been sold on eBay without having been scrubbed first. (See item [3](#))
- The New York Times reports five men on an American Airlines flight from Dallas to Newark set off a security alert and were detained after passengers and crewmembers said they were acting suspiciously and reading flight manuals. (See item [13](#))
- The Associated Press reports a Naples, Florida sheriff's pilot was temporarily blinded when someone aimed a green laser into his helicopter's cockpit. (See item [20](#))

## 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. *May 08, Courier* — **Flash fire reported at Bayou Black natural-gas pipeline.** A flash fire flared up and blazed out Wednesday morning, May 3, at a natural-gas compression facility in Bayou Black, LA, leaving one employee with minor burns, said Chris Stockton, spokesperson for Williams, the natural gas company that operates the facility. A turbine engine that pushes compressed natural gas through the Transco pipeline at a compression facility on Bayou Black

Drive ignited briefly, he said. Damage to the facility was "not significant," he said. Company officials used an emergency—shutdown system to cut off the flow of gas to the engine and, in doing so, had to release an unknown amount of natural gas into the air. The company plans to investigate the cause of the blaze. The line is a transmission line — not a distribution line — meaning it only delivers gas to utility companies and power generators.

Source: <http://www.houmatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060504/NEWS/605040313/1026/NEWS01>

2. *May 05, Globe and Mail (Canada)* — **Hydro-Québec targets energy for export in \$25-billion plan; Aims to sell excess power to Ontario, U.S.** Hydro-Québec plans to invest \$25-billion in new hydroelectric projects over the next ten years, aiming the power straight at lucrative markets in Ontario and the U.S. The hydro projects will eventually produce a total of 4,500 megawatts (MW) of power, part of an energy strategy unveiled Thursday, May 4, by the Quebec government. The utility plans to produce another 4,000 MW of wind power by 2015. Hydro-Québec has already started work on two other wind power projects worth \$5-billion that will generate 3,000 MW by 2013. Quebec anticipates signing energy agreements both in Canada and the United States. The Quebec government estimates that by 2025, the eastern U.S. will require 12,400 MW.

Source: [http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20060505.RQ\\_UEBEC05/TPStory/Business](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20060505.RQ_UEBEC05/TPStory/Business)

3. *May 04, Computerworld* — **Idaho utility hard drives -- and data -- turn up on eBay.** Idaho Power Co. recently discovered that company disk drives had been sold on eBay without having been scrubbed first. The Boise, ID-based utility serves approximately 460,000 customers in the southern part of Idaho and in eastern Oregon. Data on the drives contained proprietary company information such as memos, correspondence with some customers, and confidential employee information, the company said. Idaho Power had recycled approximately 230 SCSI drives through a single salvage vendor, Grant Korth, which then sold 84 of the drives to 12 parties through eBay. The company recovered 146 of the drives from the vendor. It also got assurances from 10 of the 12 parties that bought them on eBay that the drives would be returned or the data on them would not be saved or distributed. The other two drives are still being tracked down. Idaho Power said that in the future, it will destroy drives rather than sell them for salvage.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/printthis/2006/0.4814.111148.00.html>

4. *May 03, Tampa Bay Business Journal (FL)* — **Progress Energy finds electricity from natural sources.** As part of its ongoing support for renewable energy and developing technologies, Progress Energy Florida has signed a long-term contract to purchase electricity generated by a natural energy source. Biomass Investment Group, Inc. plans to build an environmentally friendly power plant in Central Florida using a crop known as E-Grass. It will generate about 130,000 kilowatts, or enough to power approximately 83,000 homes. The plant is expected to avoid the need to burn nearly nine million tons of coal over the 25-year life of the contract. Once constructed, it will be the world's first commercial-scale, biomass power plant using crops grown on site.

Source: <http://tampabay.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2006/05/01/daily9.html>

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

5. *May 05, KTBS 3 (LA)* — **Valve problem causes hydrogen leak.** Thursday, May 4, the packing around a valve split and began leaking hydrogen at Shreveport, LA's, Calumet refinery. Police blocked off some streets in the area until the fire department and plant workers fixed the problem.

Source: <http://www.ktbs.com/news/local/2747036.html>

6. *May 04, Decatur Daily News (AL)* — **Chemical spill snarls Interstate.** A tractor-trailer loaded with chemicals overturned on Alabama Interstate 65 on Wednesday, May 3, seriously injuring the driver and delaying northbound traffic for more than four hours. The tractor-trailer, carrying 2700 pounds of sodium fluoride, wrecked about three miles south of Falkville.

Source: <http://www.decaturdaily.com/decaturdaily/news/060504/spill.s.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

7. *May 05, Defense News* — **Aerospace, defense offsets take center stage at industry conference.** The future of the global offsets and countertrade industry, trends and developments in legal and procedural reality, buyers' aspirations and industry's response dominate the agenda of the second Global Industrial Cooperation Conference. More than 400 offset and industrial cooperation experts and government officials from around the world are participating Sunday-Wednesday, May 7-10. Some issues that will be discussed at the conference include offset activities and guidelines from specific countries, European industrial restructuring, the future of procurement and offsets in the e-business world, NATO and U.S. perspectives on offsets, emerging national offset guidelines, defense procurement financing, offsets and global industrial re-allocation, aerospace and defense mergers and acquisitions, and offset swaps.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=1754747&C=europe>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *May 04, Computerworld* — **ATMs linked to IP networks vulnerable to threats, security firm says.** A continuing trend by banks to take automated teller machines off proprietary networks and put them on the banks' own TCP/IP networks is introducing new vulnerabilities in the ATM transaction environment. The reason is that most ATM transaction data is not encrypted and can be more easily compromised when it is traversing an IP network compared with dedicated lines, according to a white paper from Redspin Inc. "A number of bad scenarios can come out of this situation, the biggest being mass card theft," said John Abraham, president of Redspin. According to Abraham, the situation is the result of a move by banks to comply with regulations requiring them to convert electronic funds networks to the secure triple Data Encryption Standard (DES). Many banks have used the opportunity to migrate ATMs from proprietary networks to open TCP/IP infrastructures, he said. Apart from the personal

identification number (PIN) data, all other ATM transaction details such as the card number, expiration date, account balances, and withdrawal amounts frequently remain unencrypted. Unless protective measures are taken, a hacker tapping into a bank's network would have access to every ATM transaction flowing over its network, he said.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/printthis/2004/0.4814.111158.00.html>

9. *May 04, IDG News Service* — **Trojan Horse lurks in World Cup tournament e-mail.** The Baden-Württemberg State Bureau of Criminal Investigation (LKA) warned on Wednesday, May 3, of an e-mail with a link to a self-extracting Excel file that claims to contain the game plan for the World Cup soccer tournament. The German-language e-mail contains the message "Fussball Weltmeisterschaft 2006 in Deutschland" (2006 World Cup Soccer Tournament in Germany) and the link "googlebook.exe." When clicked, the link will install a Trojan horse on users' PCs, according to LKA. The Trojan horse appears to have originated from a server in the U.S., and the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been notified. LKA officials were unable to say whether an English-language version of the spam e-mail with the googlebook.exe exists. Mikko Hyppönen of F-Secure Corp. is concerned that the soccer tournament could also be fertile ground for mobile phone viruses.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/printthis/2004/0.4814.111143.00.html>

10. *May 04, Finextra* — **Reuters and CME to launch global FX marketplace.** Reuters and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) are forming a joint venture to establish FXMarketSpace, a centrally-cleared, global foreign exchange (FX) marketplace that is being billed as the world's first. CME will provide clearing and trade matching services; Reuters will provide trading access, trade notification, and market data distribution. The companies say FXMarketSpace will capitalize on the growing demand for broader access to the FX market, the emergence of FX as an asset class, the growth of non-bank financial institutions in global FX markets, and the growth of electronic and algorithmic trading. The two parties have begun developing the network platform and expect to launch in early 2007, following regulatory approval.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15267>

11. *May 04, Finextra* — **Global electronic payment volumes to double by 2010.** The annual number of electronic payment transactions, currently at approximately 210 billion worldwide, is expected to double by the end of the decade, according to research released by ACI Worldwide. The payments study, which spanned 79 countries, found that the annual number of electronic payment transactions is growing at a compounded annual rate of 12.9 percent, which is equal to four times the expected growth in real gross domestic product. During the five-year period from 2004 to 2009, forecast volumes are expected to double across the world, with China and India doubling more quickly at a rate of every three and four years, respectively. But the Eastern Europe and Asia/Pacific regions are forecast to lead the world in electronic payment transaction growth, predicted at 21.6 percent and 19.2 percent respectively, for the period of 2004 to 2009. The study shows that the use of paper checks will continue to decline — around 20 percent of non-cash transactions were check-based in 2004 but this is expected to fall to ten percent in 2009.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15269>

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

12. *May 07, Associated Press* — **San Francisco ferry crash injures nine.** A ferry experienced a mechanical problem and crashed into a pier in a busy tourist area, injuring nine people, authorities said. The Coast Guard was investigating the exact cause of the accident, which occurred about 4:20 p.m. PDT Saturday, May 6. The Baylink ferry, carrying 138 people, plowed into Pier 43 in the city's Fisherman's Wharf district. It had just left Pier 41 when it apparently lost control of its steering and veered into the wood pilings of the other pier, fire officials said. "There was a mechanical problem when they were backing out," said Assistant Fire Chief Jim Barden. Nine people were taken to local hospitals with minor injuries.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/05/07/ferry.crash.ap/index.html>
13. *May 07, New York Times* — **Five on plane are detained at Newark.** Five men on American Airlines Flight 1874 from Dallas to Newark set off a security alert and were detained on Saturday, May 6, after passengers and crewmembers said they were acting suspiciously and reading flight manuals, officials said. But officials said they determined that the men posed no threat, and released them. At least four of the men were members of the Angolan military, one official said, and had just finished helicopter training in Texas. After the plane landed safely at Newark Liberty International Airport, the men were searched, handcuffed, and taken into custody by police officers from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport, authorities said. The men were eventually interviewed by the FBI and allowed to leave, officials said. Steve Siegel, a special agent with the FBI in Newark, said that the five men were speaking in a foreign language — the official language of Angola is Portuguese — and switching seats, and that "between the passengers and the flight crew, there were some suspicions."  
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/07/nyregion/07plane.html>
14. *May 06, Associated Press* — **British cruise ship catches fire in English Channel.** A fire broke out Saturday, May 6, in the engine room of a cruise ship carrying 708 people in the English Channel, the British coast guard said. Firefighters extinguished the blaze within three hours after the Calypso, a Cyprus-registered ship, issued a Mayday, said Eric Birkett, a duty watch manager at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.  
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,194509,00.html>
15. *May 05, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA-certified canine teams begin patrolling Baltimore mass transit.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) announced that three explosives detection canine teams are now providing security for MARC, MTA buses and light rail. The teams are part of a joint effort between the federal TSA and local MTA and MdTA to provide authorities with a reliable, efficient, and mobile tool to enhance security. All three dogs are German Shepards and were trained through the TSA National Explosives Detection Canine Handler Course in San Antonio, TX. Launched in August 2005, the mass transit canine initiative looks to expand TSA's successful training program involving approximately 400 dogs at 77 airports nationwide to eleven of the nation's busiest mass transit systems. Baltimore's MTA and MdTA are among the first systems in the country to have all three teams on the job as part of this program. Because canine teams combine excellent



mobility with reliable detection rates, their use has evolved to include searching areas in response to bomb threats associated with airport terminals and aircraft, rail facilities, luggage, cargo, and vehicles, as well as serving as a proven deterrent to would-be terrorists or criminals. Source: [http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198\\_01d729e](http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_01d729e)

16. *May 05, Honolulu Advertiser* — **Hawaiian Airlines expands West Coast service.** Hawaii's largest airline said it will add 21 round-trip flights a week to the Mainland starting this fall, increasing the total weekly round-trip flights to 116. The airline also plans to recall 22 furloughed pilots and hire 100 new flight attendants to staff the new flights. "This expansion allows us to bring back more of our furloughed employees, which is an important goal," said Mark Dunkerley, Hawaiian's president and chief executive officer. The move comes as Hawaiian has faced increased competition on its Mainland routes from large U.S. carriers. Hawaiian, which emerged from bankruptcy protection last June, initiated or was the dominant carrier on many of the West Coast routes, Dunkerley said. During Hawaiian's two-year reorganization, the local airline lost some ground on those routes to its Mainland competitors, the airline said.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-05-05-hawaiian-e xpand x.htm>

17. *May 05, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Major step in U.S. port security.** The U.S. House passed a port security bill Thursday, May 4, that proponents called a major step in protecting the nation's shipping system against terrorist attacks, but critics said most containers entering the country will still not be inspected. Currently, about six percent of the containers are inspected. The bill provides \$7.4 billion to improve port security, with money going to hire 1,200 new port inspectors over six years, a \$2.4 billion grant program to port authorities and a requirement that the Department of Homeland Security come up with a strategy for eventual screening of containers for radiation. The bill also would require all ports to issue new identification cards to all workers by 2008. Some said the technology exists to scan all containers overseas for radiation, which could indicate the presence of a nuclear or radiological bomb being smuggled into the United States. They pointed to Hong Kong, the world's second-busiest container port, where every container at two busy truck terminals is now scanned before being sealed for shipment.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2006/05/05/MNG23IL8QJ1.DTL>

18. *May 05, Reuters* — **ExpressJet plans to keep Continental planes.** ExpressJet Holdings Inc. said on Friday, May 5, it has told Continental that it plans to keep all 69 aircraft it leases from the larger airline. The move sets up a potential dispute with Continental, which said last year that it planned to take back the 69 jets operated by Continental after failing to win a cheaper contract for supplying regional services. The regional carrier is the latest to come under pressure from larger partners trying to save money as they struggle with soaring fuel prices.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2006-05-05T204833Z\\_01\\_N05235882\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_AIRLINES-EXPRESSJET-UPDATE-1.XML](http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2006-05-05T204833Z_01_N05235882_RTRIDST_0_AIRLINES-EXPRESSJET-UPDATE-1.XML)

19. *May 04, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-738T: Air Traffic Control: Status of the Current Modernization Program and Planning for the Next Generation System (Testimony).** Over a decade ago, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) listed the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) effort to modernize the nation's air traffic control

(ATC) system as a high-risk program because of systemic management and acquisition problems. Two relatively new offices housed within FAA — the Air Traffic Organization (ATO) and the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO) — are now primarily responsible for planning and implementing these modernization efforts. Congress created ATO to be a performance-based organization that would improve both the agency's culture, structure, and processes, and the ATC modernization program's performance and accountability. Congress created JPDO, made up of seven partner agencies, to coordinate the federal and nonfederal stakeholders necessary to plan a transition from the current air transportation system to the "next generation air transportation system" (NGATS). This statement is based on GAO's recently completed and ongoing studies of the ATC modernization program. GAO provides information on (1) the status of ATO's efforts to improve the ATC modernization program, (2) the status of JPDO's planning efforts for NGATS, and (3) actions to control costs and leverage resources for ATC modernization and the transformation to NGATS.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06738thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-738T>

20. *May 04, Associated Press* — **Laser light blinds Florida sheriff's helicopter pilot.** A sheriff's pilot was temporarily blinded when someone aimed a green laser into his helicopter's cockpit, authorities said. Two Collier County sheriff's pilots were searching for a loud party in Naples, FL, Friday, April 28, when the laser beam was directed into their cockpit, sheriff's Lt. Mark Cherney said. One of the pilots was wearing night vision goggles, which amplified the beam and temporarily blinded him. It is a felony to point a laser at an aircraft.

Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/9160976/detail.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

21. *May 06, Associated Press* — **Postal worker arrested in Capital Beltway bomb threat.** Police have made an arrest in an early Saturday morning, May 6, bomb threat that caused the evacuation of two charter buses and the closure of the Washington Capital Beltway for an hour-and-a-half. Maryland State Police say a passenger aboard one of the buses received a telephone call from a person claiming that there was a bomb somewhere on the bus. Police searched the buses and found nothing dangerous. Investigators traced the phone call to a woman at the U.S. Postal Service center in Merrifield. U.S. Postal inspectors arrested the woman.

Source: [http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=49079](http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=49079)

22. *May 05, DMNews* — **First Class volume slips, Standard Mail is up.** The U.S. Postal Service's revenue and expenses rose in the first three months of 2006 versus the year-ago period, acting chief financial officer Robert Pedersen told the agency's Board of Governors at its meeting in Washington, DC. From January 1 to March 31, revenue was up 7.7 percent while expenses rose 4.5 percent, Pedersen said. For the first six months of the fiscal year, revenue is up 2.9 percent while expenses have climbed 4.2 percent. Also for the fiscal year to date, First Class volume is 1.3 percent below the same period last year while Standard Mail volume has grown 1.5 percent and Priority volume is up 7 percent. Transportation costs, including fuel-related expenses, are

11.7 percent higher. At the meeting, the board approved \$101 million to fund design and construction of an 831,000 square-foot mail-processing center in Oklahoma City to replace the 40-year-old structure now serving customers in the Oklahoma District.

Source: [http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article\\_id=36738](http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=36738)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**23. *May 05, Southeast Farm Press* — Wheat DNA bank will speed up breeding process.** A group of public wheat breeders and scientists from the Southeast have been awarded \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The funds are earmarked to make using DNA technology a routine part of wheat breeding nationwide. The project involves wheat scientists from Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia. “This grant gives us the opportunity to map a lot of very important wheat traits that aren’t available at the present time,” says Jerry Johnson, head of the small grains breeding program in the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. “The DNA markers will allow us to develop wheat cultivars much more efficiently and quickly.” Using traditional breeding methods, it can be up to 10 years from the time a researcher begins crossbreeding plants before a farmer can plant the new variety.

Source: <http://southeastfarmpress.com/news/050506-Georgia-wheat/>

**24. *May 05, Illinois Ag Connection* — Black cutworm threat continues in Illinois.** Reports of intense black cutworm flights continue from several areas of Illinois, according to the latest University of Illinois Pest Bulletin. These flights indicate that all areas of the state are now susceptible to potential economic infestations of black cutworm larvae.

University of Illinois bulletin: <http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/bulletin/article.php?id=491>

Source: <http://www.illinoisagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?id=396&y r=2006>

**25. *May 05, Reuters* — China confirms bird flu in remote far west.** China on Friday, May 5, confirmed an outbreak of bird flu among wild birds in a remote area of far-western Qinghai province. The outbreak was confirmed by the national bird flu laboratory on Wednesday, May 3, and the number of dead wild birds had risen to 123 by Thursday, May 4, the Ministry of Agriculture said on its Website.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK214152.htm>

**26. *May 04, Reuters* — Europe's bird flu risk easing but not over.** The risk from migratory birds carrying the H5N1 virus from Africa to Europe may be easing but countries looking to relax measures protecting their poultry still need to be on guard, experts said on Thursday, May 4. The spring migration involving millions of birds from Africa to the northern hemisphere has been underway for weeks, and yet so far there has been no recorded case of the Asian bird flu strain in Europe linked to wildfowl from the continent. Conservation groups say the international trade in poultry is more to blame for spreading the virus that has killed more than 100 people, mostly in Asia. But animal health experts still believe migration is key, saying one reason H5N1 has not spread from Africa may be that it has largely been confined to poultry farms in the six African countries to confirm cases. The African migration season lasts until the



end of May, but already some European countries have begun easing bans on keeping their domestic poultry flocks outside.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03737787.htm>

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## **Food Sector**

**27. *May 05, Food Production Daily (Europe)* — Aspartame safe for consumption, food regulator concludes.** The European Union's food safety regulator Friday, May 5, said aspartame is safe for consumption, contradicting a scientific study by the Ramazzini Foundation that claimed the artificial sweetener caused cancer. The regulatory rejection of the study means food and beverage makers will not have to reformulate their products and find a substitute. The European Food Safety Authority said it has evaluated the Ramazzini long-term study on the carcinogenicity of aspartame and concluded that "there is no need to further review the safety of aspartame nor to revise the previously established Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI)". The current ADI for aspartame is 40 mg/kg body weight.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=67529-efsa-aspartame-ramazzini>

**28. *May 05, Food Production Daily (Europe)* — Deadly Escherichia coli strain traced to Gilde slaughterhouse.** A slaughterhouse partially owned by meat supplier Gilde — located in Rudshøgda in Hedmark County in eastern Norway — was contaminated with a virulent strain of the Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria that hospitalized about a dozen children and resulted in one death, Norway's food safety authority said Thursday, May 4. Since the outbreak in March this year, Gilde has been fighting to clear its name. It was Gilde that produced a private label brand of cured sausages that were eventually linked to E. coli outbreak and the death, serving as warning to the processing industry that a company's future lies in the hands of its plant food safety managers. A month after the outbreak, Gilde was found to have sent nearly 600 kilos of salami suspected of being E. coli contaminated to shops in Norway instead of destruction. Gilde has since issued an apology for the mistake and received a warning from the food authority.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=67516-gilde-e-coli-norway>

**29. *May 05, Food Production Daily (Europe)* — PepsiCo lawsuit comes amid growing concerns of benzene in soft drinks.** Lawyers have filed a lawsuit against PepsiCo in California, alleging one of its drinks may contain the cancer-causing chemical, benzene. The class action suit, launched against the Pepsi Twist drink, marks the first time one of America's "big three" soft drinks firms has been drawn into a legal battle over recent concern about benzene in drinks. Renewed concerns about benzene's presence in soft drinks have grown since a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) scientist revealed in February that recent tests had again found some soft drinks with benzene above the maximum level considered safe in U.S. tap water. The suspected source of benzene is two common ingredients — sodium benzoate and ascorbic acid (vitamin C) — in the drinks, although potassium benzoate has been shown to cause the same problem.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=67528-pepsi-co-benzene-soft-drinks>

30. *May 05, Integrated Regional Information Networks* — **Poultry cull in city markets after bird flu outbreaks in Cote d'Ivoire.** Health and government officials in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa, have announced a range of measures to stamp out bird flu after the discovery of at least three outbreaks in the main city Abidjan. Minister of Animal Production and Fish Resources, Alphonse Douaty, said on Friday, May 5, that veterinarians are to cull all poultry in markets through the city as the government prepares a system for reimbursement.

Source: [http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=53176&SelectRegion=West\\_Africa&SelectCountry=COTE\\_D\\_IVOIRE](http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=53176&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=COTE_D_IVOIRE)

31. *April 28, Food Navigator* — **Lead contamination prompts U.S. candy recall.** An Oregon chocolate manufacturer has recalled batches of organic confectionery after fears that the products could contain high levels of lead. Dagoba Organic Chocolate manufacturer issued the recall for six types of its candy. The company said that the recall was a precautionary measure against any health risks associated with lead poisoning. The products in question were sold through resale and wholesale vendors specializing in health foods throughout the U.S., as well as via Internet Websites.

Source: <http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/news/ng.asp?n=67329-candy-lead-chocolate>

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## **Water Sector**

32. *May 05, Reuters* — **Environmental Protection Agency says more than half of U.S. streams polluted.** More than half of U.S. streams are polluted, according to a study by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In its first-ever study of shallow streams, the agency found 42 percent were in poor condition, 25 percent were considered fair, and only 28 percent were in good condition. Five percent were not analyzed because of sampling problems. The survey found activities such as farming raised levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in the water, said Mike Shapiro, an EPA administrator who worked on the report. Those chemicals promote the growth of plants and algae that gobble up oxygen. That, in turn, kills aquatic life.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060505/us\\_nm/environment\\_streams\\_pollution\\_dc\\_1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060505/us_nm/environment_streams_pollution_dc_1)

33. *May 05, Access News (NV)* — **California water district ordered to remove chemicals from drinking water.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently ordered the Mariposa Public Utility District in California to reduce the disinfection byproducts levels of total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids from treated drinking water it provides to its 1,800 customers. While the system exceeds the federal health standards, no effects on human health are anticipated from this short-term exposure. The EPA does not suggest that customers need alternative sources of drinking water or bottled water. After many years of consumption, these chemicals may cause liver, kidney or central nervous system problems and may increase the risk of cancer.

Source: <http://www.accessnews.com/modules/wfsection/article.php?articleid=9421>

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## **Public Health Sector**

34. *May 05, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (CDC)* — **Brief Report: Respiratory illness associated with boot sealant products — five states, 2005—2006.** Over the period February 2005 to February 2006, six regional poison control centers in five states were consulted regarding 172 human and 19 animal exposures to shoe or boot leather protection or sealant products resulting in respiratory illness. One product was associated with 126 cases of human illness and another product with seven cases. An ongoing investigation, begun in December 2005, is being conducted by the poison centers. The majority of cases occurred in Michigan, where poison control centers are collaborating with the Michigan Department of Community Health to further document exposures and adverse health effects from the products.  
Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5517a5.htm>
35. *May 05, Reuters* — **APEC agrees long-term plan to fight avian flu.** Asian countries hardest hit by avian flu would keep ringing alarm bells in a push for transparency and international cooperation to prevent a possible global pandemic, health officials said on Friday, May 5. Health and agriculture ministers from the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) agreed to an "action plan" that promotes early detection, sharing biological specimens, fighting illegal chicken trade, and reforms of poultry production. The May 4–6 gathering in Danang, Vietnam, was the latest in a series of conferences as the highly-pathogenic H5N1. APEC, which says it accounts for 47 percent of world trade and includes economic powers China and the U.S., emphasized improving cooperation and communication among members. To address chicken smuggling that is rife on Vietnam's borders and elsewhere, the plan promotes poultry trade according to international standards.  
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN170678.htm>
36. *May 05, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* — **CDC: Fusarium Keratitis update.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is continuing its investigation on the multi-state outbreak of Fusarium keratitis that may be associated with contact lens use. As of Friday, May 5, 2006, CDC has received reports of 102 confirmed cases, 12 possible cases and 81 cases still under investigation from 31 U.S. states and territories. Updated case count numbers will be available on Tuesdays and Fridays. The press release also clarifies information that has appeared in a number of recent media stories on the outbreak. CDC is continuing its investigation into identifying whether there are specific factors that may have placed people at risk for developing fungal keratitis, including hygiene practices, overnight contact lens wear, and specific solutions used.  
Information on fungal keratitis: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/fungal\\_fusariumKeratitis.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/fungal_fusariumKeratitis.html) and <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/contacts.html>.  
Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r060505.htm>
37. *May 05, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* — **HHS awards BioShield contract for AVA anthrax vaccine.** The Department of Health and Human Services on Friday, May 4, awarded a \$122.7 million contract to BioPort Corporation of Lansing, MI, for the manufacture and delivery of 5 million doses of Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed (AVA), a licensed anthrax vaccine. This supply of AVA anthrax vaccine, which is being purchased under the Project BioShield program, will be placed in the nation's Strategic National Stockpile where it will be available for use in the event of a bioterror anthrax incident. Together with the existing

stockpile of antibiotics, these medical countermeasures represent a critical component of the President's strategy for "Biodefense in the 21st Century." The award is part of Project BioShield, a program intended to accelerate the development, purchase and availability of medical countermeasures for biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear threats.

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2005pres/20050506.html>

38. *May 04, Associated Press* — **Kansas has first measles cases since 2000.** With Kansas already seeing an unusual outbreak of mumps, health officials confirmed the state's first cases of measles in more than five years. The Department of Health and Environment announced Thursday, May 4, that its lab had identified four measles cases in Harvey County, all in people under 21. County officials said they don't know whether the three cases are related. The last confirmed measles cases were in 2000, when two people had the disease. The outbreak has been widespread in the Midwest, with Iowa reporting 1,552 confirmed, probable, and suspect cases of mumps as of Wednesday, with disease activity in 74 counties. That was up from 1,487 cases as of Monday, May 1.

Additional information: [http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap\\_h\\_ealth13may04.1.6291847.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap_h_ealth13may04.1.6291847.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth)

Source: [http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap\\_h\\_ealth14may04.1.6685064.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap_h_ealth14may04.1.6685064.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth)

39. *May 04, CNET News* — **Computing grid hunts for bird flu cure.** Scientists in the United Kingdom and Asia have deployed a computing grid to find a potential cure for Avian flu. The Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) said Thursday, May 4, that it put up a grid computing project, which was originally designed for particle physicists to perform data searches, for an international effort aimed at locating drug components to combat the virus H5N1, known as the Avian flu. The virus has taken a deadly toll on bird populations in Asia and Europe, and scientists fear it could spread to humans, causing a flu pandemic. As part of the international collaboration, known simply as the "Grid," about 2,000 computers from various research labs were used throughout April to run a drug discovery application and analyze 30,000 different compounds for a potential virus inhibitor. Scientists are now reviewing results from the computer screening to predict which compounds and chemical fragments would be most effective at blocking the virus if it mutated, according to PPARC.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Computing+grid+hunts+for+bird+flu+cure/2100-11393\\_3-6068895.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/Computing+grid+hunts+for+bird+flu+cure/2100-11393_3-6068895.html?tag=nefd.top)

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

40. *May 05, USA Today* — **Military plans quicker hurricane response.** The Pentagon's homeland-defense branch pledged major improvement Thursday, May 4 in readiness,

resources and response speed to help with catastrophic hurricanes this year. New procedures are in place so disaster assistance can be requested and sent days quicker than in last year's response to Hurricane Katrina, said Admiral Tim Keating, commander of the U.S. Northern Command. The help ranges from damage assessment, mass feeding and air support to fuel distribution, medical evacuation and route clearing.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-05-04-hurricane-response\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-05-04-hurricane-response_x.htm)

41. *May 05, Associated Press* — **Disaster drill shows Illinois preparedness strengths, weaknesses.** Illinois officials say their emergency disaster drill this week was so successful, they almost got no practice. Part of the three-day exercise included a fake terrorist attack on a suburban Chicago manufacturer. Participants used tips, rumors and other "intelligence" to correctly pick the site, evacuate the building and secure it from invaders, Jill Morgenthaler, the state's homeland security director, said Friday, May 5. And while the drill showed strengths in Illinois' response plan, it revealed weak spots that need tightening, officials said at a news conference at the statewide emergency operations center. The practice session also included a mock pandemic. State officials at the emergency operations center communicated with local authorities in Chicago and other areas to respond to the mock problems. They discovered several drawbacks, including a shortage of people.

Source: <http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/politics/14511325.htm>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

42. *May 05, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-426: Telecommunications: Broadband Deployment Is Extensive throughout the United States, but It Is Difficult to Assess the Extent of Deployment Gaps in Rural Areas (Report).** Both Congress and the President have indicated that access to broadband for all Americans is critically important. Broadband is seen as a critical economic engine, a vehicle for enhanced learning and medicine, and a central component of 21st century news and entertainment. As part of our response to a mandate included in the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act of 2004, this report examines the factors that affect the deployment and the adoption of broadband services. In particular, this report provides information on (1) the current status of broadband deployment and adoption; (2) the factors that influence the deployment of broadband networks; (3) the factors that influence the adoption, or purchase, of broadband service by households; and (4) the options that have been suggested to spur greater broadband deployment and adoption. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) develop information regarding the cost and burden that would be associated with various options for improving the information available on broadband deployment and report this information to the relevant Senate and House committees to help them determine what actions, if any, are necessary. FCC provided technical comments on this report, but did not comment on this recommendation.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06426high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-426>

43. *May 04, Security Focus* — **Mozilla Thunderbird multiple remote information disclosure vulnerabilities.** Mozilla Thunderbird is susceptible to multiple remote information disclosure



vulnerabilities. These issues are due to the application's failure to properly enforce the restriction for downloading remote content in e-mail messages. Analysis: Thunderbird's HTML rendering engine insufficiently filters the loading of external resources from inline HTML attachments. External files are downloaded even if the "Block loading of remote images in mail messages" option is enabled. These issues allow remote attackers to gain access to potentially sensitive information, aiding them in further attacks. Attackers may also exploit these issues to know whether and when users read e-mail messages.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16881/info>

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

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16881/references>

44. *May 04, Security Focus* — **Mozilla Suite, Firefox and Thunderbird debug mode insecure temporary file creation vulnerability.** Mozilla Suite, Firefox, and Thunderbird create temporary files in an insecure manner. Analysis: A local attacker would most likely take advantage of this vulnerability by creating a malicious symbolic link in a directory where the temporary files will be created. When the program tries to perform an operation on a temporary file, it will instead perform the operation on the file pointed to by the malicious symbolic link. For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14443/info>  
Solution: The vendor has addressed these issues in subsequent versions of the affected applications. For more information: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14443/references>  
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14443/discuss>

45. *May 04, Associated Press* — **Report: Hate groups use U.S. Internet servers.** Hate groups around the world, including Islamic militants, often use Internet servers based in the U.S. to send propaganda and instructions to followers, according to a report released Thursday, May 4, by the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC). The Center said it had logged some 6,000 Websites in the past year used by racists and bigots to incite violence. Extremist anti-Americans often find it easier and cheaper to use a site hosted in America since the U.S. has free speech and little Internet censorship. Recently, the center also has been intercepting an increased number of online tutorials and how-to manuals aimed at sympathizers who might actually be recruited to carry out attacks.

SWC press release: [http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/apps/nl/content.asp?c=fwLYKnN8LzH&b=312458&content\\_id={433F72C6-2173-4360-8981-0BB7B508C4 87}&notoc=1](http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/apps/nl/content.asp?c=fwLYKnN8LzH&b=312458&content_id={433F72C6-2173-4360-8981-0BB7B508C4 87}&notoc=1)

SWC's interactive report will be available for purchase May 2006:

<http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/pp.asp?c=fwLYKnN8LzH&b=242023>

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=1925141>

### 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,

working exploit code for an unpatched vulnerability in Oracle Export Extensions. Successful exploitation may allow a remote attacker with some authentication credentials to execute arbitrary SQL statements with elevated privileges. This may allow an attacker to access and modify sensitive information within an Oracle database.

More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following:

**Secunia Advisory19860**

<http://secunia.com/advisories/19860>

**Security Focus Oracle Vulnerability Report**

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17699/discuss>

**Red Database Security Oracle Exploit Report**

[http://www.red-database-security.com/exploits/oracle-sql-injection-oracle-dbms\\_export\\_extension.html](http://www.red-database-security.com/exploits/oracle-sql-injection-oracle-dbms_export_extension.html)

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

**Restrict access to Oracle:**

Only known and trusted users should be granted access to Oracle. Additionally, user accounts should be granted only those privileges needed to perform necessary tasks.

**Change login credentials for default Oracle accounts:**

Oracle creates numerous default accounts when it is installed. Upon installation, accounts that are not needed should be disabled and the login credentials for needed accounts should be changed.

**Oracle has released Critical Patch Update April 2006.** This update addresses more than thirty vulnerabilities in different Oracle products and components.

<http://www.oracle.com/technology/deploy/security/pdf/cpuapr2006.html>

**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](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**

38566 (----), 1026 (win-rpc), 7674 (----), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 50497 (----), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 41170 (----), 80 (www)

Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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

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

Nothing to report.

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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

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

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

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

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Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

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### **Contact DHS**

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

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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