Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 10 May 2006

Daily Highlights

- Fox News reports Hawaii, whose drivers pay the highest gasoline pump prices in the nation, has given up on price caps after an eight–month, first–in–the–nation experiment. (See item 17)

- The Star–Ledger reports thirteen patients, including one in critical condition, were evacuated from Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey, when the power failed and the three backup generators didn't work or couldn't handle the load. (See item 26)

- The Department of Homeland Security says that for the third consecutive year, Minor League Baseball is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign to educate and empower Americans to prepare for natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. (See item 31)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: **Energy**; **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials**; **Defense Industrial Base**

Service Industries: **Banking and Finance**; **Transportation and Border Security**; **Postal and Shipping**

Sustenance and Health: **Agriculture**; **Food**; **Water**; **Public Health**

Federal and State: **Government**; **Emergency Services**

IT and Cyber: **Information Technology and Telecommunications**; **Internet Alert Dashboard**

Other: **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons**; **General**; **DHS Daily Report Contact Information**

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: ELEVATED, <u>Cyber</u>: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. *May 09, Associated Press* — **New York governor announces new ethanol plant.** Construction of New York's first dry mill ethanol plant is scheduled to begin this summer, with the state contributing nearly $6 million as part of a strategy to reduce dependence on foreign

energy, Governor George Pataki said. Western New York Energy's $87.4 million Orleans County facility is expected to produce about 50 million gallons of the fuel each year. The facility "will help us take advantage of this opportunity to reduce our dependence on unstable foreign energy supplies," Pataki said near the 144−acre site of the future plant in Shelby. Pataki also announced a $20 million program to develop more efficient ethanol technology, known as cellulosic ethanol. He said, "Ethanol from corn is relatively inefficient. You might have to put a unit of energy in to get two units of energy out −− 1.67 out...But the next generation of technology, instead of just using the sugar in the corn, is going to be able to use the cellulose from the corn, from the corn stalk, from grasses, from trees, from lumber mills. And there the efficiency is as high as 20−to−1." The plant is expected to begin production in January 2008.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP−Farm−Scene.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

2. *May 09, Energy Information Administration* — **Energy Information Administration releases Short−Term Energy Outlook May 2006.** The prospects for significant improvement in the world petroleum supply and demand balance appear to be fading. While U.S. production in 2006 will grow with recovery from the hurricanes, only moderate increases in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other non−OPEC production and capacity are expected. Steady and continued growth in world oil demand will likely combine with only modest increases in world oil production capacity leaving little room to increase production in the event of geopolitical instability. Crude oil prices will remain high through 2007. By September 2006, fuel prices are expected to be lower than last year because of the return of crude oil and natural gas production and refineries affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. With another active hurricane season possible this year, news of developing hurricanes and tropical storms with a potential to cause significant new outages could add to volatility in near−term prices in the latter part of the summer.
Source: http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo

3. *May 08, Associated Press* — **Chavez tax targets foreign oil companies.** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is targeting foreign oil companies again with a new tax aimed at lucrative projects in the oil−rich Orinoco River basin. The measure announced over the weekend comes shortly after Bolivian President Evo Morales nationalized his country's natural gas sector. Chavez said Sunday, May 7, that a new 33.3 percent tax on extraction would be applied to all oil operations in the country. Companies will be allowed to deduct what they pay in royalties from the new tax, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said. For foreign companies, that effectively means the measure will affect those extracting heavy crude in the Orinoco tar belt, including BP PLC, Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., ConocoPhillips, France's Total SA, and Norway's Statoil ASA. Those companies now pay a 16.6 percent royalty tax, meaning they will pay the difference −− an additional 16.7 percent. Chavez also said the Orinoco projects will see their income tax rate raised to 50 percent from 34 percent, confirming a long−expected move. The changes will shortly be presented to congress for approval, and the new law should go into effect within 15 days, Ramirez said.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2006/05/08/AR2006050801018_pf.html

4. *May 08, U.S. Department of Energy* — **DOE issues landmark rule for risk insurance for advanced nuclear facilities.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued on Saturday, May 6, the interim final rule required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT) for risk insurance

to facilitate construction of new advanced nuclear power facilities. The rule establishes the requirements for risk insurance to cover costs associated with certain regulatory or litigation–related delays in the start–up of new nuclear power plants. The provisions authorize the Secretary of Energy to enter into contracts to cover financial losses due to certain nuclear plant delays up to $500 million for the first two reactors licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and up to $250 million for each of the following four new reactors. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman said, "Hopefully, by providing companies with the assurance that they will be protected against certain regulatory and legal delays that are beyond their control, this will encourage a renaissance of nuclear power in this county." The rule identifies events that would be covered by the risk insurance, including delays associated with the NRC's review of inspections, tests, analyses and acceptance criteria or other licensing schedule delays, and certain delays associated with litigation in state, federal, or tribal courts.
More information: http://www.nuclear.gov/
Source: http://www.energy.gov/news/3630.htm

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *May 09, KUTV (UT)* — **Propane leak prompts temporary evacuation of business, road closure.** A Lowe's Home Improvement store in Sandy, UT, was forced to shut down Tuesday morning, May 9, due to a propane leak in a 500–gallon tank. Authorities evacuated the building, and closed off a side street.
Source: http://kutv.com/topstories/local_story_129104429.html

6. *May 08, WTWO (IN)* — **Freight train chemical leak causes traffic disruptions in Indiana.** Monday night, May 8, Sullivan, IN, emergency responders arrived on the scene of a reported toxic leak from a freight train. The substance turned out to be sulphate turpentine, which is highly flammable but non–toxic. Three train crossings were blocked during the emergency and disrupted traffic for more than an hour.
Source: http://www.wtwo.com/news/default.asp?mode=shownews&id=6467

7. *May 08, WIS News 10 (SC)* — **Chemical spill prompts plant and river closure.** Several people had to be evacuated Sunday night, May 7, because of a chemical spill in North Charleston, SC, at the Quala Systems plant. The plant and the nearby Cooper River were both shut down for several hours while crews cleaned the scene.
Source: http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4876519&nav=0RaP

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *May 09, Agence France–Presse* — **Australia increases military funding.** Australia will increase the number of staff at its spy agency by 50 percent and boost funding to the military by three percent annually for the next decade to prevent terror attacks and improve its defense capability, the government said Tuesday, May 9. In delivering the nation's annual budget,

Treasurer Peter Costello said the government would spend 1.15 billion U.S. dollars over the next five years to improve national security. Attorney−General Philip Ruddock said extra funding for the spy agency would strengthen its "intelligence collection and assessment, surveillance, technical operations, border security and IT systems."
Full budget release: http://www.defence.gov.au/media/budget/0607/057_2006.htm
Source: http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=1762228&C=asiapac

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *May 09, Canadian Press* — **Canadian commissioner says organized crime and terrorists working closely.** The head of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Giuliano Zaccardelli, says his agency is increasingly concerned about evidence that organized crime groups are helping to fund terrorists. He said the evidence is clear, and continually mounting. Zaccardelli told Canadian senators on an anti−terrorism committee on Monday, May 8: "There seems to be an emerging trend...that some terrorist groups are clearly using certain organized crime groups to funnel or to fund some of their activities." Zaccardelli said that terrorist ties to organized crime were traditionally low−level, or not serious enough to make it a top RCMP priority. The basic training for al Qaeda recruits includes at least four major components: handling firearms, making bombs, ideological reinforcement, "and supporting yourself through credit−card fraud," said John Thompson of the Mackenzie Institute, a Toronto−based think−tank. He points to ex−Montrealer Ahmed Ressam, who was convicted of trying to blow up Los Angeles airport on New Year's Eve 1999. Ressam also planned to set up a side business to help fund his terrorist jihad. Thompson said, "He was going to try and set up a shop so they could access people's credit cards and start counterfeiting them."
Source: http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=875 9e7a1−3c37−436b−966e−c62164006a47&k=60410

10. *May 08, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Wauchula State Bank.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Wauchula State Bank. Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims that the Internet banking services are due for renewal, and that they will be cancelled if action is not taken immediately. This message provides a link to a phishing Website, which prompts users to enter account information to resolve the issue. This phishing site is hosted in China and was up at the time of this alert.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =482

11. *May 08, IT Business (Canada)* — **Money laundering watchdog tweaks reporting rules.** Canadian financial institutions, casinos, and other businesses must report large cash transactions and suspicious activities to a federal agency whose job is to fight money laundering and fraud. Some of the rules for that reporting will change at the end of this month, and businesses and their software providers must make adjustments. The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) was set up in 2000 to collect, analyze, and sometimes disclose financial intelligence in order to detect and prevent money laundering. FINTRAC rules themselves are not changing at present. On May 29, however, a new set of guidelines governing the details of FINTRAC reporting will take effect. The changes involve

things like the addition of new fields to the reports, said Peter Lamey, a spokesperson for FINTRAC. FINTRAC will also start sending reports back to the business that submits them if data is missing or incomplete, he said. The new reporting rules are an improvement in some respects, Natarajan said. For instance, they allow more information to be bundled into a single report rather than requiring it to be broken out into multiple reports. He said "almost all the banks will have to change their submission process."
Source: http://www.itbusiness.ca/it/client/en/home/News.asp?id=39324 &cid=2

12. *May 06, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: First City Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of First City Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims that they must confirm their e−mail address. This e−mail message contains a link to a phishing Website which prompts the user to enter confidential information. This phishing site is hosted in Germany and was up at the time of this alert.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID =481

13. *May 05, Philadelphia Business Journal* — **States pass new laws on ID theft; Banks face multiple, inconsistent requirements.** Amid rising reports of identity theft, legislatures in more than 25 states have passed laws establishing procedures for businesses to follow in the event of a security breach involving their customers' personal data. In Pennsylvania and New Jersey, banks and other businesses now deal with two very different state laws. Pennsylvania's law is viewed as more business−friendly and New Jersey's more consumer−friendly. But what the banking industry would really like is for Congress to pass an overarching federal law that would create one set of compliance guidelines. While the two laws have similar definitions of what constitutes a breach of security, stark differences exist between them in how and when consumers must be notified of a breach. The scope of New Jersey's law also goes beyond security breaches, enabling consumers to place a "freeze" on their credit reports, limit disclosure of Social Security numbers, and establish requirements for disposing of information. Last year several federal agencies banded together to create guidelines for financial services data security compliance. And without a federal law, states have created their own. That has left banks and other businesses with the task of complying with multiple, often inconsistent requirements.
Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/stories/2006/05/08/f ocus1.html?t=printable

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *May 09, Boston Globe* — **MBTA readies a garble−free public address system.** Officials at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) said on Monday, May 8, that they have been testing a crystal clear public address system that announces when a train (the T) is approaching the station, is delayed, or is canceled. The new announcements can be heard at all stations and are synchronized with electronic message boards repeating the information. All 71 MBTA subway stations will have them by summer 2007. Daniel A. Grabauskas, general manager of the MBTA, said a similar system at commuter rail stations could be in place in from eight months to a year. The transformation started last week when the T replaced the 25−year−old central computer terminal that generated the announcements with new digital

recordings. When the trains pass sensors outside stations, the recordings are triggered. A T employee makes live announcements about delays and other service bulletins. Once acoustic engineers install and adjust new speakers over the next year, T officials say, there will be a major improvement in getting information to passengers, who have complained for decades about garbled announcements.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/05/09/mbta_readies_a_garble_free_pa_system/

15. *May 09, Evening Chronicle (UK)* — **UK passenger jet in near miss.** A passenger jet landing at the UK's Newcastle Airport was forced to take evasive action when a light aircraft strayed on to the runway. EasyJet's 737 flight from Prague took action after the small plane took a wrong turn and ended up in its path on Sunday, May 7. The jet was three to four miles away, a minute from landing, before the pilot was alerted. Newcastle Airport spokesperson Eleanor Gregson said, "I am sure Air Traffic Control had a good talk to the pilot of the light aircraft and found out how he managed to get into the wrong place and what happened."
Source: http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningc hronicle/news/tm_objectid=17052805&method=full&siteid=50081– name_page.html

16. *May 09, USA TODAY* — **United likely to raise airfares, cut more jobs after posting loss.** United Airlines on Monday, May 8, warned of higher airfares and more layoffs as it issued its first financial results since exiting Chapter 11 –– a $306 million quarterly loss excluding bankruptcy items. Extraordinary fuel prices were behind the airline's $306 million loss for the January–March quarter. Fuel expense, along with other costs, erased a 14 percent jump in revenue from ticket sales, cargo shipments, and other operations. Jet fuel cost the carrier $314 million, or 33 percent more than in the year–ago quarter. Crude oil prices Monday closed just below $70 per barrel, up from about $25 per barrel when United entered Chapter 11 protection in December 2002. In February, United emerged from the longest and costliest airline bankruptcy reorganization in history. In the process, it shed jobs, cut its fleet, dumped debt and renegotiated contracts with every type of supplier and business partner. United's workforce, which hovered around 100,000 before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, now numbers about 57,000 mainly because of layoffs and retirements after the attacks and during bankruptcy.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006–05–08–united–ear nings_x.htm

17. *May 08, Fox News* — **Hawaii stops gasoline price controls.** The island state whose drivers pay the highest pump prices in the nation has given up on price caps after an eight–month, first–in–the–nation experiment. Some complained that the restrictions actually led to higher prices, because oil companies knew they could charge up to the maximum allowed. Gas is particularly expensive in Hawaii because of high state taxes and because of the costs of transporting oil across the Pacific. Last fall, Hawaii became the only state to cap the cost of fuel to try to give some relief to motorists. Under the price control legislation, Hawaii set weekly caps on wholesale gas prices. Those caps were based on the average of prices in Los Angeles and New York and on the Gulf Coast. Then allowances were added for what it costs wholesalers to ship to Hawaii and distribute gas to more remote islands. But there was no cap on the markup added by gas stations. Because the oil refiners keep their profit margins and costs private, it was difficult for even experts to say whether Hawaii drivers were paying more or less than they would without the gas cap.
Source: http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,194709,00.html

18. *May 06, Pittsburgh Tribune−Review* — **PSA Airways fires workers after walkout.** PSA Airlines, which operates as US Airways Express, said Friday, May 5, it fired 11 of an estimated 125 ramp and gate workers who walked off their jobs last week at Pittsburgh International Airport to protest the failure to reach a new contract. A few more workers might be terminated as a result of the two walkouts by about 125 workers on the morning and afternoon shifts on April 26, said Phil Gee, a spokesperson for US Airways, which owns PSA. Workers walked off the job in frustration over the lack of progress in contract talks, which were being held before a federal mediator in Washington, DC, last week. The first walkout by 75 workers lasted about four hours and delayed about a dozen planes, affecting between 200 and 300 passengers in the morning and afternoon of April 26, PSA Airlines said in its lawsuit. A second walkout occurred about in the evening on April 26, which prompted the airlines to use about 35 managers to perform the work handled by the Teamsters. No flights were delayed during the second walkout, the company said.
Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s_45_1065.html

Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *May 09, KRIS TV (TX)* — **Bomb scare shuts down Texas post office.** A suspicious package was found early Monday morning, May 8, behind the Aransas Pass Post Office. Authorities didn't take any chances dealing with it. It looked like a bomb −− a small box, with a timer taped on it and wires sticking out. It was a scary sight for an Aransas Pass Police Officer who made the discovery outside the post office early in the morning. "He notified the Corpus Christi bomb squad, ATF, FBI, and because of its proximity to the post office, the postal inspectors were also called," said Aransas Pass Asst. Chief Bill Haines. For several hours, the post office was surrounded and intersections blocked off. "They were able to determine that the package was not a threat. It was not an explosive, and that was when everybody stood down," Haines said.
Source: http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4873043&nav=Bsmh

Agriculture Sector

20. *May 09, Xinhua (China)* — **Foot−and−mouth disease spreads to 36 Vietnamese localities.** Foot−and−mouth disease (FMD) has jumped to 36 cities and provinces across Vietnam, hitting some 36,500 pigs, bulls and buffaloes. The disease has infected 26,000 bulls and buffaloes, and 10,500 pigs in 433 communes. The spread is partly due to cross−border smuggling of cattle, some of which contract the disease, and transport of animals, especially unvaccinated ones, among localities. Last week, major local newspapers reported outbreaks of FMD in 17 cities and provinces.
Source: http://english.people.com.cn/200605/09/eng20060509_264244.ht ml

21. *May 09, USAgNet* — **Oklahoma's wheat crop may be worst in fifty years.** Oklahoma's wheat harvest in 2006 could be the worst in nearly 50 years, industry officials said after touring the

state's drought−stricken fields. The yield for hard red winter wheat this summer may be only 67 million bushels, far below the yearly average of 150 million bushels, said Mark Hodges, president of the Oklahoma Wheat Commission. Depending on prices, Oklahoma's crop is normally worth $500 million to $750 million a year, but the total may only reach $250 million this year, Hodges said. "It will affect rural communities drastically, from the grain elevators to equipment dealers to rural grocery stores," Hodges said. "The effects will be dramatic, and it won't just be with the wheat producers."
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story−national.cfm?Id=849&yr=2006

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Food Sector

22. *May 09, Associated Press* — **U.S. team to meet with Japanese agricultural officials on beef ban.** U.S. and Japanese agricultural officials could meet as soon as next week to discuss the lifting of Tokyo's ban on American beef, officials from both countries said Tuesday, May 9. The U.S. is inspecting American beef facilities and will soon dispatch a technical team to give Tokyo the findings, the officials said. Japan banned U.S. beef in January after a shipment violated a prohibition on bones, which Tokyo considers a mad cow disease risk. The prohibition had been a condition for easing a previous two−year ban in December 2005. The Asahi newspaper reported that if Japan finds no major problem in the U.S. report, it plans to hold more public hearings in major cities across the country for about two weeks before making a final decision, which could come in mid−June at the earliest.
Source: http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/state/14536217.htm

23. *May 09, Agence France−Presse* — **Three dead, 111 hospitalized after poisoned funeral banquet.** Three people died and 111 were hospitalized in southern Turkey after eating poisoned food at a funeral banquet. Mainly women and children, the guests were sharing a meal that was served in a banquet hall that had been treated beforehand with at least two kinds of insecticide, according to local authorities.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060509/hl_afp/turkeyhealthacci dent_060509112733;_ylt=Amg4wzCTZdZoXI4OjVtUrFyJOrgF;_ylu=X3o DMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNlYwN5bmNhdA−−

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.
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Public Health Sector

24. *May 09, Reuters* — **West siphons nurses from third world to meet shortage.** Nurses have become an essential import in what the World Health Organization and other critics have called an insidious "brain drain" of health care workers from developing nations to wealthier

countries, where nursing jobs go unfilled because of an aging workforce and a shortage of nursing school graduates. "Around the world the nurse is becoming a commodity to be traded among nations, and firms are lining up to become part of the profit that occurs in this exchange," said Peter Bruehaus of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. A global industry of nurse recruiters and nursing schools has emerged in developing countries to fill the job openings in the West. Bruehaus estimated the current U.S. nurse vacancy rate at nine percent, among more than two million nursing jobs, and U.S. projections anticipate a shortage of 800,000 nurses by 2050. In the Philippines, thousands of doctors train to become nurses to qualify for openings in the West; South Korea recently pledged 10,000 nurses over the next five years to bolster New York hospital staffs; and African and Caribbean countries with precarious health care systems have seen their nurses leave for the U.S., Europe and Australia.
Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N27185350.htm

25. *May 09, Agence France−Presse* — **Australia to spend $34 million to fight bird flu.** Australia will spend an extra $34 million to prevent deadly bird flu from reaching its shores. The money will be spent over three years to improve quarantine measures, fund research and develop vaccination strategies, Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran said. More quarantine officers will be placed at airports and seaports and methods to detect the virus improved. The extra funding will also refine national procedures for responding to an avian influenza outbreak.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060509/hl_afp/australiaeconomy budgethealthflu_060509134503;_ylt=AkWOfv3oudvAiMj5VsrEIlKJOr gF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNlYwN5bmNhdA−−

26. *May 08, Star−Ledger (NJ)* — **Overlook Hospital in six−hour blackout.** Thirteen patients, including one in critical condition, were evacuated from Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, Sunday, May 7, when the power failed at the hospital at about noon, according to public relations personnel. Eight additional patients were moved to other area hospitals later in the afternoon as a precautionary measure. The hospital lost both its power feeds from Jersey Central Power and Light, said Abigail Meisel, a public relations coordinator for Atlantic Health System. The hospital has three backup generators −− one was under repair, another malfunctioned and the third worked but could not handle the power load, Meisel said. The hospital resorted to backup generators brought in by fire and emergency crews, and power was eventually restored to emergency levels.
Source: http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news−3/ 1147062641288840.xml&coll=1

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

27.

May 09, Times−Picayune (LA) — **Pump operators want to see storm plan.** The day after Hurricane Katrina lashed New Orleans, the city drainage department's internal radio channel echoed with the appeals of workers stranded in Pump Station No. 5, a fortress that was deluged by nine feet of water gushing in through gashes in the Industrial Canal. "They kept calling and asking for some kind of rescue," said Rufus Burkhalter, a pump and power operator who recently recalled those eerie pleas. "Then somebody got on the radio and said, 'Do what you do best. Do what you got to do.'" He then realized that his colleagues would be abandoned, at least until daybreak, when Coast Guard and other rescuers would restart their frantic recovery missions. Officials at the Sewerage & Water Board, which manages the city's drainage pump stations, said they were not the source of the radio dispatch. But they acknowledged that when Katrina struck, no formal plan existed for rescuing workers from flooded pump stations. A plan is in the works, officials said, although no draft of it has been given to pump operators for review. And that has left some employees worried that they may be left to fend for themselves again in another disaster.
Source: http://www.nola.com/news/t−p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news−5/1147155064303390.xml

28. *May 09, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−06−746T: Federal Emergency Management Agency: Factors for Future Success and Issues to Consider for Organizational Placement (Testimony).** The size and strength of Hurricane Katrina resulted in one of the largest natural disasters in the nation's history and raised major questions about the nation's readiness and ability to respond to catastrophic disasters. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has a large body of completed and ongoing work on a range of issues relating to all phases of the preparation, response, recovery, and rebuilding efforts related to Hurricane Katrina, as well as a wealth of historical experience in reviewing the federal government's response to disasters and catastrophic events. A great deal of attention has been focused on lessons learned from the 2005 hurricane season and many recommendations have been advanced on how to improve the nation's preparedness and ability to effectively respond to catastrophic disasters. GAO's testimony describes some factors for success and other issues that Congress may wish to consider as it determines what changes to make, including those of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's organizational placement, to improve the nation's readiness and ability to respond effectively to major disasters, including catastrophic disasters, regardless of cause. GAO is not making recommendations at this time.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06746thigh.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−06−746T

29. *May 08, GovExec* — **Hurricane drills catch local officials by surprise.** The Department of Homeland Security last week kicked off a series of regional hurricane preparedness exercises, but some local officials have yet to be notified about the drills. "I haven't heard anything," said William Smith, emergency planner at the Atlanta−Fulton County Emergency Management Agency, on Friday, May 5. The Atlanta−Fulton County emergency management office has about 10 employees, Smith said, and two officials said they have not received notice of the drill, which begins Wednesday, May 31. Atlanta will be at the center of an emergency preparedness exercise that will involve participation from eight states, including Georgia. After contacting officials in the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Smith said, "They don't have anything on their calendar." A spokesperson for GEMA verified his claim. "I haven't gotten any information on that drill," said Ken Davis, a public affairs officer for GEMA.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34008&dcn=to daysnews

30. *May 08, Associated Press* — **Turf wars delay response: Chertoff.** Unless police, firefighters and other emergency responders end turf wars and talk to each other during disasters, billions of dollars spent on high–tech communication systems will go to waste, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Monday, May 8. Chertoff said the value of the technology provided through federal grants has been diminished by local and state disagreements over control of the equipment. "What these various turf issues mean −− or these lack of priority issues mean −− is that first responders, even if they're given the tools, don't have the availability to use these tools to share vital information," Chertoff said. "And therefore lives and property are put at risk." Chertoff said his department has provided $2.1 billion over the last three years to buy the equipment and train emergency responders to use it. But police and fire officials said those funds only scratch the surface of what's needed nationwide.
Chertoff's remarks: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5596
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1152AP_Disaster_Turf_Wars.html

31. *May 08, Department of Homeland Security* — **Minor League Baseball teams, Boy Scouts prepare for emergencies nationwide.** For the third consecutive year, Minor League Baseball is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign to educate and empower Americans to prepare for natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. More than 35 teams are stepping up to the plate during the 2006 season to help encourage fans to prepare for emergencies. Teams across the country will hold Ready nights, during the 2006 season, where local Boy Scouts, Citizen Corps volunteers and other community members will distribute emergency preparedness brochures to fans. Teams will also feature the Ready public service announcements on their scoreboards and in game programs.
Brochures and other materials are available at: http://www.ready.gov/
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5595

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *May 09, Security Focus* — **Multiple Mozilla products memory corruption/code injection/access restriction bypass vulnerabilities.** Multiple Mozilla products are prone to multiple vulnerabilities. Analysis: These issues include various memory corruption, code injection, and access restriction bypass vulnerabilities. Successful exploitation of these issues may permit an attacker to execute arbitrary code in the context of the affected application. This may facilitate a compromise of the affected computer; other attacks are also possible.
For a complete list of vulnerable products: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16476/info
For more information on obtaining fixes: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16476/references
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16476/discuss

33. *May 09, Reuters* — **Botmaster gets nearly five years in prison.** Jeanson James Ancheta, a well–known member of the "Botmaster Underground" who pleaded guilty in January to federal charges of conspiracy, fraud and damaging U.S. government computers, was sentenced Monday, May 8, to nearly five years in prison for spreading computer viruses. Prosecutors say

the case was unique because Ancheta was accused of profiting from his attacks by selling access to his "bot nets" to other hackers and planting adware into infected computers.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060509/tc_nm/crime_botmaster_dc
;_ylt=AuAzPlcqryDNlBx5rov1ohkjtBAF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNl
YwN5bmNhdA−−

34. *May 08, Security Focus* — **Cisco Secure ACS insecure password storage vulnerability.**
Cisco Secure ACS is susceptible to an insecure password storage vulnerability. Analysis: With the master key, the user can decrypt and obtain the clear text passwords for all ACS administrators. With administrative credentials to Cisco Secure ACS, it is possible to change the password for any locally defined users. This may be used to gain access to network devices configured to use Cisco Secure ACS for authentication. If remote registry access is enabled on a system running Cisco Secure ACS, it is possible for a user with administrative privileges typically domain administrators to exploit this vulnerability.
For a complete list of vulnerable products: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16743/info
ACS 3.x for UNIX, and ACS 4.0.1 for Windows are not affected this issue.
For more information: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16743/references
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16743/discuss

35. *May 08, Security Focus* — **IBM WebSphere Application Server welcome page security restriction bypass vulnerability.** IBM WebSphere Application Server is prone to a security restriction bypass vulnerability. Analysis: This issue is due to a failure of the application to properly enforce security restrictions and users who try to access the welcome page of their application by giving the default context root in the browser.
Vulnerable: IBM Websphere Application Server 6.0.2.
Solution: IBM has released fixes and an advisory to address this issue. For information on obtaining fixes: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17900/references
Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17900/discuss

36. *May 08, eWeek* — **World Cup virus season kicks off.** The FIFA World Cup 2006 tournament won't get underway in Germany until early June, but computer virus writers are already attempting to cash in on the planet's most popular sporting event with viruses aimed at deceiving eager soccer fans. Researchers at UK−based Sophos released notification of a new attack that infects Microsoft Excel files and has been disguised as a spreadsheet charting the national teams participating in the World Cup. Identified by the security company as XF97/Yagnuul−A, the virus lives in an Excel file that offers to help people set up fantasy sports competitions related to the international soccer championship, and also attempts to market itself specifically to fans of the English Premiership, one of the world's top professional leagues. Once the World Cup virus has infected a PC, it begins forwarding itself to other people using the corrupted machine and may also send itself to people listed in any e−mail client software on the device, Sophos said. The Excel virus marks the second World Cup−oriented attack identified by the company in the last week.
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1959084,00.asp

37. *May 08, Tech Web* — **Microsoft Vista's security will be highly annoying: Yankee Group analyst.** Windows Vista's new security features will so annoy users that Microsoft won't meet its goal of 400 million copies in two years, Yankee Group's Andrew Jaquith said Monday, May

8. Although Microsoft touts Vista as its most secure operating system ever, Jaquith sees it as somewhat of an albatross. "Anytime you put in a new security system, you're asking users to make changes," he said. But the shift in Vista, which Jaquith characterized as the first major security modifications since Windows NT, will require a huge alteration in how people interact with Windows. "In the Windows world, there are few limits on what a user can do," says Jaquith. That's part of the problem, says Microsoft, which has instituted a feature in Vista dubbed "User Account Control" (UAC) which takes a least−privilege approach to changes made to the OS and will require a user password for many common chores, including software installation.
Source: http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/187201321;jsessionid=FO DGNYAZCAXS2QSNDBGCKH0CJUMEKJVN

38. *May 05, eWeek* — **Researchers chart leap in Mac vulnerabilities.** The volume of security vulnerabilities discovered in Apple's Macintosh platform has increased significantly over the last several years, according to a new report released by McAfee's Avert Labs. The security software maker contends that the number of flaws found in the Mac operating system has increased by 228 percent since 2003. While the researchers said the number of serious vulnerabilities isolated in the latest version of Apple's operating system software, Mac OS X, is dwarfed by the quantity of problems unearthed in Microsoft's rival Windows during the same period, McAfee maintains that as Apple's products have become more popular, a larger number of glitches are being identified. Perhaps even more disturbing, based on how closely Apple can tie its current wave of success to hot−selling consumer multimedia products, McAfee said that many of the reported issues have actually been related to the company's iPod devices and iTunes download service.
McAfee Avert Labs whitepaper:
http://download.nai.com/products/mcafee−avert/WhitePapers/Ne wAppleofMalwaresEye.pdf
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1958180,00.asp

Internet Alert Dashboard

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−inj
ection−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/cpuapr2 006.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

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), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft–ds), 41170 (–––), 80 (www), 32459 (–––), 49159 (–––), 8672 (–––)
	Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us−cert.gov.

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

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

39. *May 09, Columbus Dispatch (OH)* — **Movie theater prop leads to visit from bomb squad.** To herald Friday, May 5's release of the new film, Mission: Impossible III, the staff at Marcus Crosswoods Ultrascreen Cinema just north of Worthington, OH, made a number of movie−related props for scavenger hunts in the lobby. Their mission: entertain patrons and plug the movie during the opening weekend. Those items included a briefcase, a cell phone, and "this object, which was supposed to represent C−4 plastic explosives from the film," said Carlo Petrick, communications manager for Marcus Theatres. The promotion didn't lead to any problems until someone, police don't know who, removed the C−4 prop from the lobby and left it in the lot out front of the theater near I−270 and Rt. 23. A passer by spotted it there, sending Columbus, OH, police, fire crews, and the bomb squad to the theater, fire Capt. Steve Saltsman said. "We think it was intentionally placed there as a hoax," he said. Only after speaking with theater managers later did investigators realize the device came from the theater.
Source: http://www.columbusdispatch.com/news−story.php?story=184689

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General Sector

Nothing to report.
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