



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 October 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

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Duodote for use by trained emergency medical services personnel to treat civilians exposed to life-threatening organophosphorus-containing nerve agents, such as sarin, and insecticides. (See item [28](#))
- The Associated Press reports in yet another case of school violence, a 32-year-old milk truck driver took about a dozen girls hostage in a one-room Amish schoolhouse Monday, October 2, barricaded the doors with boards, and killed at least three girls and then himself. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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

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

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: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

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

1. *October 01, Canadian Press* — **RCMP investigating anthrax scare at oil and gas company in northern Alberta.** The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) were investigating an anthrax scare at an oil and gas company in northern Alberta on Sunday, October 1. Television station CFRN reported that 12 workers subcontracted to Talisman Energy Inc. had been put under quarantine after an electrician opened up a box of screws and found white powder and a note reading: "Welcome to Anthrax." RCMP Cpl. Wayne Oakes would not confirm the incident was an anthrax scare, but he said RCMP experts from Edmonton had been dispatched to test a

substance found at the worksite. The RCMP said the incident did not pose any risk of harm to the public or the environment but "as a safety precaution, officials are treating this as if the threat is real." The incident took place at a compressor station located about 90 minutes southwest of Grande Prairie.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/story.html?id=f620ee71-ce06-4407-b4be-b86dc4c76a7c&k=49312>

2. *September 29, Reuters* — **Scientists develop more powerful nuclear fuel.** U.S. researchers have designed a reactor fuel that they believe can make nuclear power plants 50 percent more powerful and safer, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said, and it could be ready for commercial use in existing reactors in about 10 years. Uranium fuel typically is formed into cylindrical ceramic pellets about half-inch in diameter. Pavel Hejzlar and Mujid Kazimi of MIT and others recently completed a three-year project for the U.S. Department of Energy. The researchers looked at how to make fuel for pressurized water reactors more efficient while maintaining safety margins. The scientists changed the shape of the fuel from solid cylinders to hollow tubes, adding surface area that allowed water to flow inside and outside the pellets, increasing heat transfer. The new fuel design also is much safer because it reaches an operating temperature of about 700 degrees Celsius, much lower than 1,800 degrees for conventional fuel and further from the 2,840 degrees melting point for uranium fuel.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-09-29T175909Z_01_N29401524_RTRUKOC_0_US-UTILITIES-NUCLEAR-FUEL.xml&WTmodLoc=USNewsHome_C2_domesticNews-3

3. *September 29, Associated Press* — **BP to start cleaning Alaska line.** The shutdown of a satellite field on Alaska's North Slope will not stop BP PLC from beginning the process of cleaning out a corroded transit line in the largest U.S. oil field. "We're going to start a series of maintenance pigs this weekend," spokesperson Steve Rinehart said. On Thursday, September 28, BP shut down a satellite Prudhoe Bay oil field after workers detected natural gas leaking into a manifold building, a key control facility. BP closed the Lisburne production center that processes crude oil and gas coming from the Lisburne field and the neighboring Point MacIntyre oil field. The shutdown of Lisburne, a satellite field that feeds into the Prudhoe production stream, sent production down by 25,000 to 30,000 barrels per day, about four percent of North Slope output. "There's no estimate at this point of when production will return," Rinehart said. The shutdown was a setback in what had been a gradually improving oil production picture since the eastern side of Prudhoe Bay ceased production August 10, a few days after a leak was discovered in a corroded transit line.

Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/09/29/business/NA_FIN_US_Alaska_Oil.php

4. *September 09, Government Executive* — **Report points to flaws in Department of Energy's IT security.** The information security program at the Energy Department division governing the natural gas industry, oil pipelines, and hydroelectric projects fails to meet federal requirements, leaving the agency at risk to cyberattacks, auditors concluded in a recent report. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has taken steps to strengthen its cybersecurity program, the Energy Department's inspector general found in the report (OAS-M-06-10). But passwords to access the agency's information technology systems remain easy to guess, blank or set by default, the report stated, even though this deficiency had been identified before. The review, released Monday, September 25, also concluded that the agency failed to properly

execute or adequately document security assessments and annual security reviews on four systems. Thomas Herlihy, executive director of the regulatory commission, agreed with the IG's recommended fixes. But in a response to the report, he argued that the password problem was insignificant since it affected less than a quarter of one percent of all accounts. He also said the agency has corrected all blank and easy-to-guess passwords, and noted that it has been highly successful at training employees on security awareness.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0906/092906p1.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *September 29, Connecticut Post* — **Chemical company fire prompts road closure in Connecticut.** About 100 pounds of hazardous materials caught fire Thursday, September 28, at Flow Polymers Inc. on Stratford Avenue, in Stratford, CT, causing extensive smoke and water damage to the building and generating potentially harmful fumes. The odor from the building was almost overwhelming in the immediate neighborhood and could be smelled several blocks away. Fire officials said zinc peroxide and other materials were being used at Flow Polymers to heat chemicals when the mixture ignited. The Fire Department closed Stratford Avenue for several blocks in both directions to vehicle and pedestrian traffic until late afternoon, citing potential health and safety risks.

Source: http://www.connpost.com/search//ci_4415954

6. *September 29, WMBB-TV/DT (FL)* — **Paint plant fire prompts road closure in Florida.** A fire Friday morning, September 29, at the Tex-Cote Manufacturing paint plant in Cedar Grove, FL, almost led to the evacuation of an area of 15th Street. Authorities say a worker was pumping one chemical into the tank and pumping another one out, when a flash fire started and caused part of the tank to implode. The flames were contained inside the tank, but authorities detected a chemical leak. Cedar Grove Police closed the eastbound right-hand lane of 15th Street between Sherman Avenue and Transmitter Road for about an hour. Employees of the business were evacuated as a consultant from Arizona Chemical assessed whether there was any chance of the 6,000 gallons of flammable liquid exploding.

Source: http://www.wmbb.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WMBB%2FMGArticle%2FMBB_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149190891370&path=!news!archives

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *October 01, Associated Press* — **Man sentenced in ATM card skimming scam.** A Romanian citizen has been sentenced to nearly six years in prison on charges of stealing thousands of

dollars from bank cash machines in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Ioan Codarcea was convicted of being part of a ring that withdrew about \$363,000 from ATMs at Bank of America branches in the two states between March 2003 and May 2005. Codarcea and unidentified coconspirators were indicted of stealing bank customers' information by installing magnetic card readers over slots at Bank of America ATMs in the Massachusetts communities of Needham, Wellesley, Saugus, and Revere, and in Manchester, NH. The readers recorded the card information while tiny cameras focused on the ATM keypad, capturing customer passwords and transmitting the images to a laptop computer, police said. Codarcea used the information to make duplicate magnetic strips, which he and several accomplices used to withdraw money from more than 400 customers' accounts, police said. Investigators said Codarcea faces similar ATM fraud charges in Canada and believe he has ties to Russian organized crime.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/10/01/man_sentenced_in_atm_card_skimming_scam/

8. *September 29, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury updates anti-terrorist financing guidelines for charitable sector.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury on Friday, September 29, issued updated Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines: Voluntary Best Practices for U.S.-based Charities (Guidelines), taking into consideration the comments and suggestions provided by the public to assist the charitable community in efforts to safeguard itself from the threat of abuse and exploitation by terrorist organizations. Treasury also issued a response to the comments submitted on the Guidelines to further detail the public comment and finalization process. The recently issued Guidelines provide recommended best practices, which are intended to help charities develop, reevaluate, and build upon pre-existing internal controls and protective measures. The Guidelines contain extensive anti-terrorist financing guidance, as well as guidance on sound governance and financial practices that helps to prevent exploitation of charities.

Updated Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines: Voluntary Best Practices for U.S.-based Charities: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/reports/0929%20finalrevised.pdf>
Response to Comments Submitted on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines: Voluntary Best Practices for U.S.-Based Charities: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/reports/0929%20responsecomments.pdf>
Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp122.htm>

9. *September 29, Computerworld* — **Cross-site scripting could enable phishing.** A recent research report stated that cross-site scripting (XSS) is now the top security risk. In a typical XSS scenario, a Web page might use JavaScript to dynamically generate some document content based on a field in a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI). The site itself would generate legitimate information for that field. If the script that generated the new content did not filter the URI, an attacker could feed the page a custom-designed URI that ran a script. The script could do almost anything, and the user would never know that he wasn't seeing legitimate content. This is one way to enable phishing. For example, a Web page with a cross-site scripting vulnerability that belonged to a bank could enable an attacker to could forge e-mails purporting to be from the bank, with URIs that led to the bank's site. Once a user clicked on the link in the e-mail and logged into the bank site, their login credentials (in the form of cookies) would be transmitted to the attacker, who would be able to take over the user's account as long as the session was active.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9003710>

10. *September 28, News-Press (FL)* — **Punta Gorda banks receive bomb threats.** At 11:18 a.m. EDT, Thursday, September 28, the Punta Gorda, FL Police Department received a report of a bomb threat at the Wachovia Bank located at 314 Taylor Street in Punta Gorda. The suspect called the bank and informed them that a bomb would be going off at Wachovias and that everyone should be evacuated by 2:00 p.m. Punta Gorda Police and Fire responded and established unified command at the scene. At 1:40 p.m. the same day, another bomb threat was received by the Wachovia Bank located at 10001 Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda. Facts are present which indicate there may be a connection between the two Wachovia threats.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060928/NEWS01/60928030/1002>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *October 02, Transportation Security Administration* — **Transit security grant in Cleveland to protect rail transit systems.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has awarded \$136 million in grants to protect transit systems and the traveling public. The Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), which is part of the department's Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP), strengthens the nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies that could impact this country's critical infrastructure. This year, transit systems in Cleveland received \$893,600 in TSGP grants. Since 2005, DHS has provided approximately \$2 million to Cleveland through grants and equipment transfer programs administered by the Department's Office of Grants and Training. Infrastructure protection grants considered threat, vulnerability and consequences, and recognize the unique characteristics of our nation's seaports, transit systems and other critical infrastructure assets. Since its inception, the IPP has awarded more than \$1.5 billion to critical infrastructure sectors.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2006/press_release_10022006.shtm

12. *October 02, Daily News & Analysis (India)* — **Maximum alert: Airport security tightened after hijack threat in India.** Security at the airport in Varanasi (a famous Hindu holy city situated on the banks of the river Ganges in Uttar Pradesh) has been tightened in the wake of Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Tayiba's (LeT) alleged plans to hijack a Nepal-bound aircraft, a senior Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) official said on Monday, October 2. The CISF manning the Lal Bahadur Shastri airport has been put on maximum alert and a quick reaction team has been deployed to deal with any emergency, CISF commandant Rohitashva Kumar said. Similar security measures have also been taken at New Delhi and Kolkata airports from where flights for the Himalayan country originate, in wake of the intelligence inputs about LeT's plan to hijack Nepal-bound aircraft, he said. Multi-layered security arrangements have been put in place at the Varanasi airport, with the CISF personnel manning all sensitive points round-the-clock, Kumar said.

Source: <http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?NewsID=1056399>

13. *October 02, Voice of America* — **U.S. airport screeners look for behaviors.** Five years after the attacks of September 11, U.S. transportation officials are rolling out a new type of screening program at airports across the country. It doesn't require computers or high-tech X-ray machines. Instead, it simply calls for screeners to watch. Officials won't say exactly what they're looking for, but Sergeant Peter Didomenica, who pioneered the Behavior Assessment Screening System (BASS) program at Boston's Logan Airport, says someone en route to a suicide mission can't help but display fear. "Adrenaline causes specific reactions to the body," he points out, "like increased heart rate, like perspiration, like sweaty palms, like increased breathing." So while terrorists may be getting better at outsmarting technology, there's almost no way to outsmart the primitive emotion of fear, according to George Naccarra, with the government's Transportation Security Administration in Boston. Boston's Logan Airport was the first in the country to use this type of behavioral screening. The state troopers' BASS program started shortly after September 11th, 2001. The federal program debuted about two years later and was tested at a handful of airports around the country. The TSA's Naccarra says the federal program, known as Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques, or SPOT, is now making a nationwide debut.

Source: http://www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/2006-10-02-voa40_cfm

14. *October 01, Hindu (India)* — **Pressure cookers were used in Mumbai train blasts.** More than 11 weeks after seven bombs ripped through seven of Mumbai's suburban trains at peak hour, killing 181 and injuring more than 700, the Mumbai police and its Anti-Terrorist Squad have got a clearer picture of who was responsible and how they did it. Mumbai Police Commissioner A.N. Roy at a press conference on Saturday, September 30, said that the police have concluded that pressure cookers were used for the blasts. They located the two shops where eight pressure cookers were bought. Seven of these were packed with RDX and ammonium nitrate, placed in carry bags covered with newspapers and an umbrella and then taken to the Churchgate station. The police do not know what was done with the eighth pressure cooker. The timing device used in the bombs is still not clear, say the police. All the seven bombs went off within 11 minutes of each other.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/2006/10/01/stories/2006100107621000.htm>

15. *September 29, Associated Press* — **Suspect arrested after suspicious bag found at JFK parking lot.** A Vermont man was arrested Friday, September 29, on charges of placing a false bomb at a John F. Kennedy International Airport parking lot, officials said. The incident shut down traffic to terminals for hours Thursday night, officials said. Peter Gonick, 55, of Island Pond, VT, was arrested on suspicion of reckless endangerment and placing a false bomb at a transportation facility, said Pasquale DiFulco, a spokesperson for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the airport. It took authorities five hours Thursday night to determine the suspicious bag was not a threat. The bag did contain a powdery substance, but a Hazmat team deemed it non-hazardous, DiFulco said.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2006/09/29/suspect_arrested_after_suspicious_bag_found_at_jfk_parking_lot/

16. *September 22, Reuters* — **U.S. trains Chinese air marshals to protect planes.** Eighteen Chinese air marshals on Friday, September 22, completed two weeks of training in the United States on how to be armed undercover officers aboard China's passenger jets. The program at the U.S. Federal Air Marshal Service's training center near Atlantic City, NJ, was part of a

U.S.–China aviation security agreement that also allows U.S. air marshals to fly on American–flag carriers into China and vice versa. "It's a great way to expand the aviation security network internationally," said Joseph D'Angelillio, special agent in charge at the training center. D'Angelillio said before the training began, U.S. air marshals went to Beijing to assess the Chinese program, which employs about 2,000 air marshals. The program focused mainly on firearms training at shooting ranges and on airplanes or aircraft simulators. Participants also learned how to handle explosives on board a plane. D'Angelillio said about two dozen countries have expressed interest in having their air marshals train in the United States.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2006/09/22/us_trains_chinese_air_marshals_to_protect_planes/

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

17. *October 02, Agricultural Research Service* — **Fighting crop–damaging fungi with bacteria.**

Researchers in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Toxicology and Mycotoxin Research Unit at Athens, GA, have found a bacterium that can greatly reduce the colonization of corn by *Fusarium verticillioides*. That's a good thing, because this is a toxin–producing strain of *Fusarium* fungus that can reduce the marketability of crops infected with it. *F. verticillioides* is an endophyte in corn—that is, it takes up residence inside the corn. *Bacillus mojavensis*, a bacterial endophyte with plant–enhancing traits, greatly reduces the amount of fungus in corn. It can naturally "infect" corn seedlings from a one–time application to seed and persist throughout the corn's growth and development. Greenhouse trials conducted showed that *B. mojavensis* achieves up to a 70 percent reduction in fumonisin mycotoxin. Discovering that *B. mojavensis* forms natural endophytic associations with a wide range of plants is expected to influence the basic approach of using bacterial endophytes as a biocontrol strategy for protecting all plants. The approach offers many advantages over traditional biocontrol bacteria because endophytes are systemic and persist as long as the plant host is alive.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

18. *October 02, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Texas meets criteria for bovine tuberculosis accredited–free status.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is amending its bovine tuberculosis (TB) regulations regarding state and zone classifications by raising Texas's TB designation from modified accredited advanced to accredited free through publication of an interim rule. Texas has met the criteria for accredited–free status by demonstrating that it has a zero percent prevalence of infected cattle or bison herds and has had no significant findings of TB in any cattle or bison herds in the two years since the depopulation of the last affected herd in the state. Under this status, cattle or bison that originate in an accredited–free state may be moved interstate without restriction.

Bovine TB is a contagious and infectious disease that affects cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats and other warm-blooded species, including humans. TB in infected animals manifests itself in lesions of the lung, lymph nodes, bone and other body parts, causes weight loss and general debilitation and can be fatal.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/10/tbtxfree.shtml>

19. *October 01, Associated Press* — **Citrus industry facing potential orange shortage.** Florida growers will pick this harvest's first fruit in October, but some have already declared Florida in for a bad citrus season. Orange juice retail prices are already up eight percent this year, and consumers have responded by buying less (a seven percent dip in gallons sold). Two private analysts using mathematical formulas and sampling techniques reached two very different conclusions. Citrus Consulting International put the orange harvest at 123 million boxes, a number the state hasn't fallen to since freezes two decades ago. Louis Dreyfus Citrus put the figure at 160 million boxes of oranges. Both are well short of the 220 million-box average Florida put out before the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005, but the high end would still better last season's 150 million-box haul. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's tree census determined Florida had just 621,373 acres of citrus, a 17 percent drop from two years ago. A main contributor was a failed public policy that mandated the destruction of all trees within 1,900 feet of one testing positive for canker, a disease that causes fruit to blemish and drop prematurely. Eight million commercial orange trees were destroyed over 10 years before the program was abandoned in January.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/state/orl-bk-orangeshortage100106.0.7291966.story?coll=orl-home-headlines>

20. *October 01, Associated Press* — **Low-grade bird flu found in Illinois.** Tests have found suspected bird flu in wild, migratory ducks in Illinois. Initial test results suggest the ducks had a strain of virus that poses no threat to human health, officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior said. The ducks showed no sign of being sick, which also suggests a common strain of bird influenza. Results from further testing are expected within several weeks and will be made public, officials said. The samples from green-winged teals were collected on September 24 in the Rice Lake Conservation Area of Fulton County in west central Illinois.

Source: http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/79024.4_1JO01_BIRDFLU_S1.article

21. *October 01, Associated Press* — **Spinach growers take stock of industry.** During the recent federal two-week warning about E. coli in fresh spinach, growers said they re-examined the safety of their operations and weathered significant losses as they watched crops go to waste. It's too early to tell how hard the industry was hit, but agriculture experts said unprecedented economic damage was likely. In California, where three-quarters of all domestically grown spinach is harvested, farmers could endure up to \$74 million in losses, according to researchers working with Western Growers, which represents produce farmers in California and Arizona. Last year's spinach crop in California was valued at \$258.3 million, and each acre lost amounts to a roughly \$3,500 hit for the farmer. Growers on California's Central Coast have another four or five weeks to harvest before shutting down for the winter, when spinach production moves to the southern valleys and Arizona. When California Farm Bureau officials visited the Salinas Valley, they found fields of overgrown spinach, too big for the processors who had ordered

them under contract, farm bureau spokesperson Dave Kranz said. Growers are trying to salvage what they can of their crops, but many say a loss of public confidence is the biggest threat to the industry.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/01/AR2006100100417.html>

22. *September 28, WJZ-TV (MD)* — **Quarantined pigs vanish from farm.** Health officials want to know what happened to more than 100 pigs that disappeared from a farm under quarantine in western Carroll County, MD. The farm has been under quarantine since April, when authorities determined some pigs from the farm had trichinosis. Now they're concerned the missing pigs have been taken to slaughterhouses. The State Department of Agriculture was scheduled to test the pigs the week of October 1.

Source: http://wjz.com/topstories/local_story_271124720.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

23. *September 30, Associated Press* — **Food illnesses decline.** Germs in food make 76 million Americans sick, send 323,000 to hospitals and kill 5,000 each year, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates. But the situation greatly improved over the last decade, according to illness statistics the CDC reported Friday, September 29, at a conference of the American Society for Microbiology. In 2005, compared with the 1996–98 period when the CDC's FoodNet tracking system began, illnesses were down for virtually every major germ. CDC estimates the declines as follows: yersinia, 49 percent; shigella, 43 percent; listeria, 32 percent; campylobacter, 30 percent; the dangerous O157 strain of E. coli, 29 percent; and salmonella, nine percent. Only vibrio, a germ spread through raw oysters, rose significantly 41 percent.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=2512315>

24. *September 26, Agricultural Research Service* — **Postharvest food safety innovations improve beef safety.** Over the past decade, researchers at Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, NE, have developed technologies and procedures to control potentially dangerous pathogenic microorganisms. About 73,000 illnesses and 60 deaths are attributed every year to E. coli O157:H7 in the U.S. ARS research showed the pathogen tends to gather on cattle hides, which becomes a problem if meat is contaminated during hide removal. USMARC researchers realized that removing pathogens before removing the hides would be a very effective way to reduce the risk of carcass contamination. Over the last 10 years, the beef-processing industry has spent more than \$750 million to increase the safety of beef products. Much of the effort has focused on ways of removing contaminants from carcasses, said Mohammad Koohmaraie, USMARC director. Koohmaraie and his colleagues developed an effective cattle-washing system to reduce on-hide pathogen levels. The beef industry implemented chemical decontamination based on those tests and saves millions of dollars a year as a result. Before this, researchers first experimented with chemical dehairing. This process proved very effective -- reducing bacterial prevalence from 50 percent to 1.3 percent in one study -- but it was prohibitively expensive.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/oct06/beef1006.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

25. *September 30, Agence France Presse* — **India reports more cases of polio.** Twelve new cases of polio have been registered in India bringing the total this year to 338 -- five times the number last year. The increase from 66 cases in 2005 has prompted New Delhi to launch an emergency immunization drive to vaccinate 120 million children. "This is an outbreak we are seeing," a health ministry official said. The World Health Organization has warned that India was "exporting" the virus to South Asian and African countries.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060930/hl_afp/indiahealthpolio_060930115024;_ylt=AoZxOOV15GhmMZIo6QN1VsmJOrgF:_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNlYwN5bmNhdA--

26. *September 30, Associated Press* — **Mumps cases in Illinois county rise to 63.** The number of mumps cases in DuPage County, IL, has increased to 63 this year, with 40 cases confirmed at Wheaton College, health officials said Friday, September 29. Medical professionals in this suburban Chicago county normally see only three cases per year and are now wondering when the outbreak will end. Federal health experts have called a mumps outbreak that began in Iowa last December and spread to other Midwest states the largest in almost two decades. This year, Illinois has reported more than 600 cases, a huge jump from the previous average of 10 cases a year, DuPage officials said.

Mumps information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/mumps/default.htm>

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=2511244>

27. *September 29, Medical News Today* — **Trends in 'superbug' screening identify most likely carriers of deadly bacteria in hospital settings.** Findings released Friday, September 29, from a new study conducted by Evanston Northwestern Healthcare in Evanston, IL, provide doctors with a more complete epidemiologic picture of high-risk groups most likely to carry deadly organisms. Presumed carriers of multi-drug resistant bacteria ("superbugs") responsible for causing a growing number of U.S. hospital acquired infections (HAIs), were identified through a universal surveillance program encompassing more than 90 percent of admitted patients over twelve months. The study, "Prevalence of Colonization with Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Among 24,045 Patients Screened at an Acute Care Hospital," sampled patients at least once from August 1, 2005, until July 31, 2006. Results show how health care organizations can better target patients colonized with MRSA. Significant predictors of MRSA colonization include the following: being male, older age, living in a nursing home or assisted living facility, and hospital admission within the prior two years.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=52996>

28. *September 29, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA approves treatment for nerve-poisoning agents for use by trained emergency medical services personnel.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Friday, September 29, approved Duodote (atropine and pralidoxime chloride injection) for use by trained emergency medical services personnel to treat civilians exposed to life-threatening organophosphorus-containing nerve agents, such as sarin, and insecticides. The FDA previously approved atropine and pralidoxime chloride injection under the name Antidote Treatment--Nerve Agent Auto-Injector (ATNAA) for military use. "Today's approval facilitates the stockpiling of the product so that it can be used to treat civilians in an emergency," said Douglas Throckmorton, MD, deputy director of FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01473.html>

29. *September 29, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)* — **University develops novel strategy to improve the containment of infectious diseases outbreak.** Crises such as SARS and avian flu in recent years have highlighted the urgent need for continued research to address disease prevention, identify outbreaks and monitor and evaluate control strategies. With this in mind, researchers at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in southwestern Singapore have developed a novel strategy to improve the containment of infectious diseases outbreak. The NTU research involves a novel Digital Ring Fence (DRiF) strategy. In disease epidemiology, the term "ring fence" denotes an activity to corral the spread of infection by isolating and monitoring individuals that have come into contact with infected individuals. The NTU team uses a novel mathematical approach to investigate the spread and control of infectious diseases in closed communities. Their research focuses on rapid containment of acute disease outbreaks, using DRiF strategy that leverages on a Geographical Information System (GIS) platform to map the extent and spread of the outbreak. The DRiF strategy adds value to conventional GIS techniques in disease epidemiology by defining disease risk zones to corral the spread of infection.

Source: [http://www.ntu.edu.sg/corpcomms2/releases/29%20Sep%2006%20Digital%20ring%20fence%20\(news%20release\).pdf](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/corpcomms2/releases/29%20Sep%2006%20Digital%20ring%20fence%20(news%20release).pdf)

30. *September 28, Daily Times-Call (CO)* — **Emergency crews transform fairgrounds into mock pandemic ward.** Emergency workers set up rows of cots and unloaded truckloads of supplies Wednesday, September 27, at the Boulder County, CO, fairgrounds as they simulated how they would prepare for a rash of patients in a flu pandemic. The crew transformed a fairgrounds building into an imaginary "surge capacity hospital" where medics could treat patients suffering from moderate symptoms while sending people with life-threatening ailments to local emergency rooms. Medics and nurses would provide intravenous fluids and basic care for patients suffering from vomiting and dehydration, who would be placed in rows of cots. Large doors on the building's west side would serve as ambulance bays to transport patients with severe symptoms to local hospitals.

Source: <http://www.longmontfyi.com/Local-Story.asp?id=10095>

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

31. *October 02, Associated Press* — **Report of armed teen sparks Las Vegas schools lockdown.**

Two schools were locked down Monday, October 2, while police searched for a teenager who had been spotted on a North Las Vegas high school campus with a gun, authorities said. No students were hurt, and police said there was no initial indication that the teenager, who they said was not a student, had threatened anyone with the weapon, said Sean Walker, a North Las Vegas police spokesperson. The teen ran from the school after being confronted by campus police as students were arriving at Mojave High School, Walker said. A handgun was found behind a nearby church, and both the high school and nearby Elizondo Elementary School were locked down while police searched the surrounding neighborhoods for the teen, Walker said. School districts across the country have been especially sensitive to threats after deadly shootings last week at schools in Wisconsin and Colorado.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/10/02/lasvegas.schools.ap/index.html>

32. *October 02, Associated Press* — **Milkman kills girls at Amish school.** A 32-year-old milk truck driver took about a dozen girls hostage in a one-room Amish schoolhouse Monday, October 2, barricaded the doors with boards and killed at least three girls and then apparently himself, authorities said. It was the nation's third deadly school shooting in less than a week, and similar to an attack just days earlier at a school in Colorado. The gunman, identified as Charles Carl Roberts IV, was inside for over half an hour and had barred the doors with 2x4s with the girls inside, State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller said. By the time officers broke windows to get in, three girls and the gunman were dead, Miller said. At least seven people were taken to hospitals, including at least three girls in critical condition with gunshot wounds. Roberts walked into the one-room West Nickel Mines Amish School with a shotgun and handgun, then released about 15 boys, a pregnant woman, and three women with infants before barring the doors, Miller said. The school has about 25 to 30 students in all, ages six to 13. The school is among farmlands just outside Nickel Mines, a tiny village about 55 miles west of Philadelphia.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/15661267.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Emergency Services Sector

33. *October 02, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Weather Outlook: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: At 5:00 a.m. EDT Monday, October 2, the center of Hurricane Isaac was located near latitude 40.5 north longitude 58.2 west or about 500 miles south-southwest of Cape Race, Newfoundland. Isaac is moving toward the north-northeast near 30 mph and this motion is expected to increase in speed. Maximum sustained winds are near 75 mph with higher gusts. Isaac is a category one hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Hurricane Isaac is not a threat to land, or to any United States interests. Earthquake Activity: There were two minor earthquakes Monday (3.2 at 2:04 a.m. EDT, and 3.1 at 8:46 a.m. EDT) within a mile of the caldera of Mt. St. Helens volcano. No damage or injuries were reported.

To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtml>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat100206.shtml>

34. *October 01, Associated Press* — **New Jersey starts new emergency phone line.** The next time a crisis occurs in New Jersey, either natural or man-made, residents can get non-emergency help by dialing 211 on their telephones. The state has adapted the existing 211 phone hotline, which started last year to connect callers with human services information, to handle calls from people wondering what to do in an emergency, yet not requiring immediate rescue help. The plan is designed to ease the burden on 911 operators and local police dispatchers, who will already be swamped with calls directly related to the emergency. The 211 line is geared toward getting out information such as evacuation routes as a strong storm approaches the area, or advice on where to find food and shelter once the storm, or terrorist attack, has passed and caused damage.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061001/NEWS03/610010431/1007>

35. *September 29, Federal Computer Week* — **Congress wants emergency communications office at DHS.** Congress is calling for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish an Office of Emergency Communications to tackle the kind of long-standing problems that hindered first responders on September 11, and again in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The office, working under the purview of the assistant secretary for cybersecurity and communications, would centralize and coordinate emergency communications work at DHS and promote interoperability among public safety systems at federal, state and local agencies. The House and Senate included the provision in their conference report on the fiscal 2007 DHS Appropriations Act. The provision directs the office to develop a national emergency communications plan, which would outline ways to ensure that first responders and relevant government officials can communicate during natural and man-made disasters. To do that, it would include recommendations for voluntary standards to ensure interoperability among emergency communications systems. Additionally, the plan would identify what interoperable capabilities emergency responders need to continue talking with one another and with federal, state and local officials during an emergency. The plan would also provide a time frame for deploying nationwide emergency communications systems.

Source: <http://fcw.com/article96279-09-29-06-Web>

36. *September 28, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security* — **Congressman proposes seven critical steps to enable law enforcement information sharing.** Thursday, September 28, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, issued a report that analyzes institutional failures and a lack of initiative to enable law enforcement officers as first preventers in the War on Terror. The report, entitled “LEAP: A Law Enforcement Assistance and Partnership Strategy,” finds that a lack of information sharing between Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement dangerously limits the capabilities of police officers. The report lays out seven necessary initiatives, including: 1) Plans to establish a National Center for Intelligence-Led Policing; 2) Help major city chiefs defray the costs of a foreign liaison detail program; 3) Develop a “border intelligence” resource at border state fusion centers; 4) Fund local and tribal participation at those centers; 5) Establish a program at the National Counterterrorism Center to incorporate law enforcement officers in the intelligence production process; 6) A system to get law enforcement executives who need them security clearances; 7) An initiative that can track the progress of these and other intelligence-led policing efforts.

Full report: <http://hsc-democrats.house.gov/SiteDocuments/20060927193035-23713.pdf>

Source: <http://hsc-democrats.house.gov/press/index.asp?ID=141>

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

37. *October 02, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team* — **US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA06-275A: Multiple vulnerabilities in Apple and Adobe Products.** Apple has released Security Update 2006-006 and Mac OS X 10.4.8 Update to correct multiple vulnerabilities affecting Mac OS X, OS X Server, Safari, Adobe Flash Player, and other products. The most serious of these vulnerabilities may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code. Impacts of other vulnerabilities include bypass of security restrictions and denial of service.

Systems Affected: Apple Mac OS X version 10.3.9 and earlier (Panther); Apple Mac OS X version 10.4.7 and earlier (Tiger); Apple Mac OS X Server version 10.3.9 and earlier; Apple Mac OS X Server version 10.4.7 and earlier; Safari Web browser; Adobe Flash Player 8.0.24 and earlier. These vulnerabilities affect both Intel-based and PowerPC-based Apple systems.

Solution: Install Apple Security Update 2006-006:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=304460>

This and other updates are available via Apple Update:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106704>

Updates are also available via Apple Downloads: <http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/>

Users with Intel-based Apple systems should upgrade to Mac OS X 10.4.8 Update (Intel) to receive the necessary security updates:

<http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/macosx1048updateintel.html>

Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06-275A.html>

38. *October 01, Reuters* — **Government keeps control of Web domain group ICANN.** The U.S. Commerce Department said on Friday, September 29, it would retain oversight for three more years of the company that manages Internet domain names, renewing an agreement that was scheduled to expire last weekend. The government said it signed a new agreement with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which controls addresses such as ".com" and country domain names such as ".cn" for China. The U.S. government has previously said it plans to eventually turn over complete control of ICANN, a nonprofit group, to the private sector. The new agreement calls for a review in 2008 of ICANN's progress toward becoming more accountable, the Commerce Department said.

Joint agreement: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/domainname/agreements/jpa/signedmou290906.pdf>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2022848,00.asp>

39. *September 30, eWeek* — **Crime rings target IE 'SetSlice' flaw.** In-the-wild exploits against the latest unpatched Windows vulnerability have started circulating, using Internet Explorer (IE) as the attack vector to load identity theft Trojans and rootkits on infected machines. The exploits are being launched by a known cyber-crime organization operating out of Russia, according to virus hunters tracking the threat. Microsoft has released an advisory with pre-patch workarounds and said an official update is on tap for delivery on Tuesday, October 10. The attack uses IE to trigger an integer overflow error in the "setSlice()" method in the "WebViewFolderIcon" ActiveX control. According to Exploit Prevention Labs, two separate

online crime groups are hacking into legitimate Websites and message boards and quietly planting a malicious HTML tag called an iFrame on the site. When a Web surfer visits the maliciously rigged site, the browser is redirected to an exploit server operated by the gang, which attempts to deposit up to eight different exploits onto the user's computer.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2022805,00.asp>

40. *September 30, CNET News* — **Hackers claim zero-day flaw in Firefox.** The open-source Firefox Web browser is critically flawed in the way it handles JavaScript, two hackers said Saturday, September 30. An attacker could commandeer a computer running the browser simply by crafting a Webpage that contains some malicious JavaScript code, Mischa Spiegelmock and Andrew Wheelsoi said in a presentation at the ToorCon hacker conference. The flaw affects Firefox on Windows, Apple Computer's Mac OS X and Linux, they said. The flaw is specific to Firefox's implementation of JavaScript, a 10-year-old scripting language widely used on the Web. In particular, various programming tricks can cause a stack overflow error, Spiegelmock said. The implementation is a "complete mess," he said. "It is impossible to patch."

Source: http://news.com.com/Hackers+claim+zero-day+flaw+in+Firefox/2100-1002_3-6121608.html?tag=nefd.top

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 22512 (---), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 65530 (WindowsMite), 113 (auth), 32804 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 25 (smtp) 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/>.

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

41. *October 02, Associated Press* — **Louisiana to scrap its levee system.** On Saturday, September 30, Louisiana voters approved consolidating the New Orleans area's levee boards, the generations-old agencies whose politically appointed members were criticized after Hurricane Katrina for failing to maintain the area's levees and floodwalls. The constitutional amendment -- passing with about 81 percent of the vote -- will combine 10 southeast Louisiana boards into two, one for each bank of the Mississippi River. Members of the new boards will be required to have expertise in engineering, geology and hydrology, mandates that advocates of the new structure hope will convince Congress and the nation that Louisiana has shed a system mired in cronyism. After Katrina breached New Orleans' levees in August 2005, the boards were criticized as disorganized, full of patronage and badly lacking in technical knowledge to manage the system of levees. Members of the existing boards are appointed by the governor and need no expertise in flood protection.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/4228585.html>

42. *October 01, Boston Globe* — **Wal-Mart evacuated in Sturbridge over carbon monoxide leak.** Thirteen Wal-Mart workers and one customer were taken to hospitals Saturday morning, September 30, after they were exposed to carbon monoxide gas that spewed from a rooftop heater. The gas emission caused the second evacuation of a Massachusetts Wal-Mart store in the past three months. In Sturbridge, the cause was immediately apparent to fire officials, who were armed with carbon-monoxide detectors. Fire Chief Leonard E. Senecal said firefighters arrived at 10:13 a.m. EDT and traced the leak to a vent system in the lawn-and-garden section of the Charlton Road store. The fumes had been emitted from a propane heating unit on the roof, he said. A full inspection of the store was conducted before employees and workers were allowed back in.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/10/01/workers_sickened_at_sturbridge_store/

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

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

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