



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 October 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

## Daily Highlights

- The Buffalo News reports efforts to restore power and clean up Buffalo, New York, are being slowed in some neighborhoods by theft and assaults against utility crews and other cleanup workers; thieves steal downed electrical wire to sell the copper and aluminum as scrap metal. (See item [3](#))
- Federal investigators have removed data recorders from a train that derailed and burst into flames over a bridge in southwestern Pennsylvania, as ethanol tanker cars continued to burn; at least 50 trains use the tracks daily and must be detoured. (See item [14](#))
- Israeli security experts gave a preliminary assessment of vulnerabilities with recommendations for further fortifying Los Angeles International Airport against terrorist attacks, after examining terminals, the airfield, and the perimeter. (See item [16](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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## Energy Sector

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

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

1. *October 20, Reuters* — **Oil steady as OPEC surprises with bigger cut.** Oil prices steadied at over \$58 a barrel on Friday, October 20, after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to more output curbs than expected and some members said the cartel

could even cut production again before the end of the year. OPEC ministers agreed to reduce output by 1.2 million barrels per day, some 200,000 bpd more than anticipated. The group, which supplies about a third of the world's crude, said after an emergency meeting in Doha, Qatar, that oversupply had destabilized the oil market. The cut was its deepest since January 2002 and is equal to about 4.3 percent of September supply. "It was a surprise. It shows the determination of OPEC," Tetsu Emori, chief strategist at Mitsui Bussan Futures Ltd. in Tokyo, said. Some ministers said a further cut of 500,000 bpd could follow when OPEC next meets in Nigeria in December. They said they were concerned about high fuel stocks in consumer countries, particularly in the U.S., and a projected drop in demand for OPEC oil in 2007 as competitors bring more supplies online.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/20/AR2006102000439.html>

2. *October 20, Star Bulletin (HI)* — **Power outage necessary to save system, utility says.**

Hawaiian Electric Co. (HECO) officials told the Public Utilities Commission Thursday, October 19, that the utility had to restore power gradually after Sunday's earthquakes to prevent extensive damage to the system, and that two Oahu units shut down by operators did not cause the islandwide blackout. A public outcry by state officials and customers inquired why it took nearly 19 hours for power to be restored for all but 2,200 of Hawaiian Electric's 291,000 customers on Oahu. Tom Joaquin of Hawaiian Electric told the state commission during a briefing that the only thing HECO would have done differently would be to improve its communication with the media and the public. "Our whole goal...was to make sure we didn't damage any of our equipment, because we've seen it happen before where you damage the equipment where it's out for not 12 hours, but 12 days or 36 days," Joaquin said. Joaquin said that trying to strike a delicate balance between supply and demand necessitated bringing up the system slowly. He said it took longer to power up on Oahu than other islands because Hawaiian Electric's system is more complex than its sister utilities, Hawaii Electric Light Co. and Maui Electric Co.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2006/10/20/news/story01.html>

3. *October 19, Buffalo News (NY)* — **Thefts, assaults hamper efforts to restore power.** Efforts to restore power and clean up the city are being slowed in some Buffalo, NY, neighborhoods by theft and assault against utility crews and other cleanup workers. Since the cleanup began last weekend, police reported at least six such incidents, including: a city cleanup crew was pelted with rocks, bottles and snowballs by a group of youths; angry residents took to the streets when a utility crew informed residents in an area not previously affected by a loss of electricity that they would temporarily lose power Saturday while other lines were re-energized; a mobile GPS unit was stolen from a power company truck; three men were arrested attempting to steal a National Grid transformer; and downed electrical wire was stolen from one of several communities where thieves cut down and removed fallen lines to sell the copper and aluminum as scrap metal. According to a worker for State Electric Corp, "Power could have been restored...days ago" if the wire hadn't been stolen.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20061019/1031081.asp>

4. *October 19, Baltimore Sun* — **County seen as unable to handle an LNG crisis.** Baltimore County, MD, lacks enough emergency responders and the proper equipment to handle an accident at a proposed liquefied natural gas plant on Sparrows Point, the county's homeland

security chief told a group studying the project Wednesday, October 18. "We'd be taxed to say the least," said Richard G. Muth of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. County firefighting vehicles don't carry the type of foam needed to douse burning LNG, Muth said. Evacuating parts of the county would be extremely difficult because there are few exit routes and no reliable way to notify residents, he said. Muth was also concerned about the lack of data on LNG spills, as all of the major studies relied on models to calculate likely emergency scenarios. Muth's comments came during the third meeting of the state's LNG task force, a panel of residents and state officials assigned to report about the effects of the proposed LNG facility on Sparrows Point.

Source: [http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/698695/county\\_seen\\_as\\_unable\\_to\\_handle\\_an\\_lng\\_crisis\\_emergency/index.html?source=r\\_science](http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/698695/county_seen_as_unable_to_handle_an_lng_crisis_emergency/index.html?source=r_science)

5. *October 19, Times-Gazette (TN)* — **Cattle rustling case reveals gasoline thefts.** Gasoline was being stolen from storage tanks at service stations and truck stops along Interstate 65 in Marshall and Maury counties, according to information from a Bedford County, TN, Sheriff's Department investigation. "They would drive up to an underground tank and drop a pump in and draw out 100 gallons," Sheriff Randall Boyce said Wednesday, October 18, while discussing developments arising from the department's continuing investigation into cattle rustling. A submersible pump and a 100-gallon tank were confiscated in connection with an arrest on October 11 at a Marshall County farm where the alleged thief confessed to stealing cows. Fuel thefts went undetected by a number of the victims because of the size of the tank and because of assumptions that an accounting error had been made. "Most places would think they had misfigured because they'd only take 100 gallons at a time...They would do it at different stations so no one would get alarmed," Boyce said. A stolen pickup truck would be parked at night on the side of an access cap to a station's fuel tank, he said. A hose would be used with a pump in the bed of the truck.

Source: <http://www.t-g.com/story/1173616.html>

6. *October 19, Sacramento Business Journal* — **Cal-ISO cuts short-term power contracts by 60 percent.** In a sign of growing stability in the state's electric market, the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) has cut the volume of power it will buy in 2007 on one-year contracts by 60 percent, from an expected 9,963 megawatts down to 3,995. Long-term power contracts signed by the state's three largest electric utilities have enabled the Cal-ISO to cut costs on one-year power contracts. The ISO manages power deliveries over the high-voltage grids owned by Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, and San Diego Gas and Electric. During the energy crisis of 2001, the ISO took on a secondary task as a power buyer to stabilize the grid. One-year contracts that required power plants to run on demand from the ISO became a key tactic for maintaining grid stability. State regulations enacted last year require the utilities to line up 115 percent of the power they need through their own power plants or long-term contracts.

Source: [http://www.bizjournals.com/losangeles/stories/2006/10/16/daily37.html?from\\_rss=1](http://www.bizjournals.com/losangeles/stories/2006/10/16/daily37.html?from_rss=1)

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

7.

*October 20, Associated Press* — **Evacuation in Kentucky lifted after acid leak.** Hundreds of people evacuated from homes, schools and businesses after a train car began leaking hydrochloric acid at rail yard in Fulton, KY, were allowed to return early Friday, October 20. As many as 200 homes and two schools in an area three-quarters of a mile from the rail yard had been evacuated Thursday afternoon after the leak was discovered. Two people complaining of headaches and a burning sensation were treated at a hospital. Canadian National Railroad spokesperson Jim Kvedaras said it appeared the inner liner of the tanker car had failed, allowing the chemical to eat through the outer shell of the car. City emergency management officials said the tanker had contained 187,000 pounds before the leak.

Source: [http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/content/shared-gen/ap/National/Chemical\\_Spill.html](http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/content/shared-gen/ap/National/Chemical_Spill.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *October 19, U.S. Air Force* — **U.S. Transportation, Joint Forces commanders sign joint vision statement.** U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) and U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) recently took the next step in improving the military's joint deployment and distribution efforts in support of the warfighter with the release of a joint vision statement. The statement, signed by Gen. Lance L. Smith, USJFCOM commander, and Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, USTRANSCOM commander, represents a strategic partnership, the intent of which is to align interrelated joint deployment and distribution actions for better mutual performance and to add value for the warfighter. Included in the joint statement are five key goals to improve interrelated warfighter support: a) Advance faster, more efficient and reliable deployment and distribution processes; b) Experiment with new concepts and operationalize new expeditionary capabilities; c) Develop joint officers, NCOs and civilians; d) Field modeling and simulation capabilities; e) Codify the Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise in doctrine and techniques, tactics and procedures.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123029594>

9. *October 19, U.S. Department of Defense* — **Joint Forces experiment looks at gaps in urban warfare.** The U.S. Joint Forces Command is in the midst of the most important and complex experiment the command has conducted since Millennium Challenge in 2002, officials said Thursday, October 19. The experiment is Urban Resolve 2015 and is designed to test solutions for that most complicated warfighting task: combat in cities. Dave Ozolek, executive director of the Joint Futures Lab at the command, said the experiment is designed to examine solutions for current and future gaps in warfighting capabilities. He said the experiment is enabling the command to get inside two concepts. First, how does the U.S. military operate in the new urban environment? The military must make the urban environment “toxic” to the enemy and achieve success in ways other than trying to hunt them down one at a time and kill them, he said. The second concept is stabilization operations. How does the military stabilize the situation in a city, transition to local control and rebuild a shattered economy? “How do we bring safety and security to the city without destroying it?” Ozolek asked. The experiment ends Friday, October 27, but the analysis should be a very quick turnaround, Ozolek said.

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=1700>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *October 20, Associated Press* — **Chinese banks stop transfers to North Korea.** Chinese banks have stopped financial transfers to North Korea under government orders as part of sanctions imposed for Pyongyang's nuclear test, bank employees said Friday, October 20, in a possibly serious blow to the country's frail economy. China is North Korea's main trading partner and aid donor, and the disruption of financial transfers is a forceful expression of Beijing's anger at the October 9 nuclear test by its isolated ally. All four major Chinese state-owned banks and British-owned HSBC Corp. have stopped financial transfers to the North. It is unclear how long the suspension would remain in effect. China is believed to be North Korea's main link to the world financial system. China's importance increased after Washington imposed sanctions on a Macau bank that served North Korean companies, making other financial institutions uneasy about dealing with Pyongyang.  
Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-China-NKorea-Banks.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-China-NKorea-Banks.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)
11. *October 20, ZDNet* — **National Australia Bank hit by DDoS attack.** The National Australia Bank (NAB) has warned its customers to beware of new phishing attacks after the bank's Website was hit by a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack earlier this week. NAB customers experienced problems accessing the online banking service on Wednesday, October 18, according to a bank spokesperson. "We first noticed [the attack] on Wednesday. For the moment it is not having any impact and has been OK for the past 24 hours but there was a bit of residual impact yesterday," the spokesperson said. According to the spokesperson, the bank decided to re-issue its phishing warning in case the scammers use future attacks to try and trick customers into visiting spoofed versions of the bank's Website. NAB's CIO, Michelle Tredenick, said that customer's details had not been compromised by the attack. Last month, NAB customers received a batch of phishing e-mails that tried to trick them into running a malicious file that had been placed on a hacked Web server run by Sarajevo Airport.  
Source: [http://www.zdnet.com.au/news/security/soa/National\\_Australia\\_Bank\\_hit\\_by\\_DDoS\\_attack/0.130061744.339271790.00.htm](http://www.zdnet.com.au/news/security/soa/National_Australia_Bank_hit_by_DDoS_attack/0.130061744.339271790.00.htm)
12. *October 18, East Bay Business Times* — **Bank of America targets identity theft.** The International Association of Chief of Police (IACP) and Bank of America (BoFA) have launched a three-year project targeting identity theft. The two have launched a Website to help people prevent and report identity crime and also to aid victims. BoFA and IACP plan to develop a nationwide program aimed at raising awareness of identity crimes, as well as bolstering law enforcement's expertise in conducting investigations.  
Website: <http://www.IDSafety.org>  
Source: [http://www.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2006/10/16/daily2\\_3.html?t=printable](http://www.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2006/10/16/daily2_3.html?t=printable)
13. *October 18, Websense Security Labs* — **Multiple Phishing Alert: Taunton Federal Credit Union, Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union, Neighborhood Credit Union, OSU Federal Credit Union, Britannia Building Society.** Websense Security Labs has received new reports of a phishing attacks targeting bank customers. All e-mails described below provide a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect customer information.  
Taunton Federal Credit Union: A spoofed e-mail message claims that the user's account has an



error and must be updated. Users are asked to log on to verify account information.

Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union: A spoofed e-mail message claims that the user's account will be credited \$150 for filling out a survey. Users are asked to log on to verify account information.

Neighborhood Credit Union: A spoofed e-mail message claims that the user's account access has been limited due to unauthorized credit card use. Users are asked to log on to verify account information.

OSU Federal Credit Union: A spoofed e-mail message claims that the user's account will be suspended. Users are prompted to click a link in the email and log on to verify account details.

Britannia Building Society: A spoofed e-mail message claims that the services listed on the e-mail will be deactivated if not renewed immediately. Users are asked to log on to prevent service suspension.

Screenshots:

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=671>

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=670>

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=669>

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=668>

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=667>

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

### **14. *October 22, Associated Press* — Investigators remove data recorders from derailed train.**

Federal investigators removed data recorders from a train that derailed and burst into flames over a bridge in southwestern Pennsylvania as ethanol tanker cars continued to burn.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on Saturday, October 21, also removed a section of track that was broken in two when 23 cars from the train's midsection derailed late Friday, October 20. Robert Sumwalt, vice chairman of the safety board, said preliminary indications from the data recorders from three locomotives showed that the train was traveling 36 to 39 mph when it crashed. The speed limit is 45 mph along the rail bridge. The train — 89 tanker cars pulled by three locomotives — was traveling from Chicago to New Jersey when it derailed over the Beaver River in New Brighton, PA, about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. At least nine of the cars leaked ethanol and caught fire, and some were still burning Saturday night. NTSB officials will investigate mechanical issues, human factors, track and engineering issues, and the emergency response to the crash. About 50 to 70 trains use the tracks daily. "We're working on a plan to detour as many of those trains as we can," Norfolk Southern spokesperson Rudy Husband said.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-10-21-burningtrain\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-10-21-burningtrain_x.htm)

### **15. *October 20, USA TODAY* — Upkeep costs rise as U.S.'s bridges age.** The George Washington Bridge in New York, one of the busiest spans in the world, turns 75 years old on October 25. For its birthday, its 604-foot-tall steel towers have received a \$62 million makeover. The five-year-long facelift comes just in time for the planned celebrations. More important, the scraping away of rust and application of more than 49,000 gallons of fresh paint are designed to indefinitely protect the bridge's glistening steel from decay. The anniversary and refurbishing

highlight the challenge as thousands of bridges across the nation reach the upper limits of their originally planned life spans and struggle to handle crushing traffic loads not envisioned when they were built. The needs may be most acute in the Northeast, where many bridges are among the country's oldest. "Northeastern states face a tremendous challenge in paying for the cost of rebuilding those older bridges, and with their limited resources they're trying to keep them serviceable," says Frank Moretti, director of policy and research for TRIP, a Washington DC-based research group that supports highway construction to relieve congestion and make travel safer. Of particular concern, Moretti says, are bridges that are 50 years and older, heavily traveled and vital links in regional transportation networks.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-10-19-bridges\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-10-19-bridges_x.htm)

- 16. *October 20, KTLA (CA)* — Israeli airport experts advise on LAX security.** Israeli security experts provided local aviation officials with recommendations Thursday, October 19, for further fortifying Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) against terrorist attacks. A trio of security officials from the authority that operates Ben-Gurion airport, near Tel Aviv, Israel, gave a preliminary assessment of vulnerabilities at LAX to local experts after a three and one-half day tour, during which they examined terminals, the airfield, and the perimeter. "They had a half-dozen suggestions; some of them are very low tech, some of them are very high tech," said Airport Commission President Alan Rothenberg. Ben-Gurion International Airport serves as many passengers annually as the Tom Bradley International Terminal at LAX, he said. Some suggestions would be easy for the city's airport agency to implement itself, he added, but others would require assistance from the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The visit represents the latest effort by city officials to upgrade security at LAX, which is considered the state's No. 1 terrorist target and has been singled out by the al Qaeda network. Israeli airport security is recognized throughout the world as the gold standard, known for employing fortification and behavioral recognition tactics to keep terrorists off balance.

Source: <http://ktla.trb.com/news/ktla-laxsecurity.0,3611171.story?co ll=ktla-news-1>

- 17. *October 20, Associated Press* — French Muslim airport workers lose clearances.** Authorities at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris have stripped several dozen employees — almost all of them Muslims — of their security badges in a crackdown against terrorism, a government official said Friday, October 20. Four baggage handlers who lost their clearance filed a joint discrimination complaint alleging they had been unfairly associated with terrorism because they are Muslims, their lawyers said. Some had been in their jobs for up to five years. The baggage handlers and other employees have been barred from secure areas at the airport since February, Jacques Lebroton, an official who oversees the airport, said. The cases were "linked to terrorism, of course," he said, adding that the crackdown followed recommendations by France's anti-terrorism coordination unit, UCLAT, as part of an 18-month investigation. "You don't strip people of their badges for small matters," he said. The crackdown was part of heightened security in France, after terror attacks in Britain, Spain, and the United States in recent years. In letters from the regional government office, the employees were told that they presented a "significant danger to airport security," or had shown "personal behavior threatening airport security."

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-france-airport-terrorism.0,4606419.story?coll=sns-ap-world-headlines>

18. *October 19, Department of Transportation* — **Texas becomes first state to seek more than \$1.8 billion in private bonds for highway work.** Texas can move forward with plans to raise more than \$1.8 billion for work on State Highway 121 outside Dallas now that the federal government has approved its request to seek private–sector funds, Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters announced on Thursday, October 19. Peters said Texas officials were the first to request and receive authorization to pursue plans to pay for a highway project using Private Activity Bonds. Under the terms of the application, the state will hold a competition to select, by early next year, a single private company with the authority to design the project and build the highway. The state would then go back to the Department for final approval to issue up to \$1.866 billion in Private Activity Bonds by the fall of 2007 and transfer the proceeds to the company, she added. As part of new surface transportation legislation signed by President Bush last year, states can issue and transfer to private companies up to \$15 billion in tax–exempt bonds, known as Private Activity Bonds, to finance a range of highway, freight and transit projects.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot9906.htm>

19. *September 29, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–06–982: Transportation Security: DHS Should Address Key Challenges before Implementing the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program (Report).** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is developing the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to ensure that only workers that do not pose a terrorist threat are allowed to enter secure areas of transportation facilities. TSA completed TWIC program testing in June 2005 and is moving forward with implementing the program in the maritime sector by the end of this year. To evaluate the status of the TWIC program, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined (1) what problems, if any, were identified during TWIC program testing and what key challenges, if any, do the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and industry stakeholders face in implementing the program; and (2) to what extent, if at all, did TSA experience problems in planning for and overseeing the contract to test the TWIC program. To address these issues, GAO interviewed DHS officials and industry stakeholders, reviewed documentation regarding TWIC testing, and conducted site visits to testing locations. GAO recommends that, before implementing TWIC in the maritime sector, TSA develop and test solutions to problems identified during testing to ensure that key components of the program work effectively and strengthen contract planning and oversight practices before awarding the TWIC implementation contract. DHS reviewed a draft of this report and concurred with GAO’s recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06982high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-982>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**



**20. *October 20, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture* — Pennsylvania's animal health database system offered nationally.** Pennsylvania's animal health database system has become a national model for use by other states, the Department of Agriculture said Friday, October 20. Launched this week at the U.S. Animal Health Association annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN, the U.S. Animal Health Emergency Response and Diagnostic System (USAHERDS) is the national version of PAHERDS, Pennsylvania's innovative program to protect millions of livestock and poultry flocks from the outbreak of disease. Indiana and Kentucky were the first to adopt the technology and entered into a new partnership with Pennsylvania to work together to better protect the health of animals and consumers. Pennsylvania, Indiana and Kentucky formed a multi-state partnership called the Animal Health Information Management Consortium (AHIMC) to set a new standard for monitoring animal health incidents, investigations, licenses and regulatory events in the U.S. USAHERDS is a computerized data program available to state departments of agriculture, which helps to prevent, detect, contain and eradicate outbreaks of dangerous diseases among animals. Key features of the system includes premises identification, animal testing and inventory, program disease management, import and export management, licensing, and emergency response management.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture/cwp/view.asp? A=390&Q=141991>

**21. *October 18, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — Rabies vaccine distributed in three states.** Wildlife Services, a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, began distributing oral rabies vaccine baits on October 16, to prevent the spread of raccoon rabies in portions of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. Baits containing the oral rabies vaccine will be distributed over rural areas using low-flying twin-engine aircraft and hand baiting will occur in populated regions using ground vehicles. The projected one-week program will target raccoons and result in the distribution of more than one million baits covering roughly 8,940 square miles in three states. This bait distribution will complete this year's Appalachian Ridge vaccination campaign, which has been underway since August.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/10/rabise06.shtml>

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## **Food Sector**

**22. *October 20, USAgNet* — European Union to propose tests of U.S. rice imports.** The European Commission will propose mandatory testing for unauthorized genetically modified organisms (GMO) in all imports of U.S. long grain rice. This follows the lack of agreement by the U.S. authorities to a common sampling and testing protocol which would ensure a high level of consistency and accuracy in the tests for the unauthorized GMO rice LLRICE601 in consignments to the European Union (EU). The measures are being taken in response to findings four weeks ago of LLRICE601 in shipments of U.S. long grain rice, despite the rice having been certified as free from this unauthorized GMO. On October 4th, the European Commission gave Commissioner Markos Kyprianou the mandate to introduce this counter-testing, but to first allow 15 days to seek agreement with the U.S. on a common approach to sampling and testing. However, despite extensive discussions, the Commission and the U.S. authorities were unable to agree on such a protocol.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2181&yr=2006>

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## **Water Sector**

23. *October 22, Associated Press* — **Daily routines tapped to save water.** Life in the Western U.S. is full of changes people hardly even notice anymore — watering schedules, desert landscaping and limits on how often you can wash your car in the driveway. Around Las Vegas, NV, outsiders may wonder where all the grass has gone. Since 2003, no new home has been allowed to have turf in the front yard. For older houses, the Southern Nevada Water Authority offers rebates to homeowners who rip out grass and replace it with water-smart landscaping, which means a lot of rocks and usually some cactus. Other cities in the West do the same. In 2003, with the West in the thick of the drought, the Southern Nevada Water Authority shut down all decorative water fountains. In Southern California, a weekly watering index guides homeowners on how to use sprinklers more efficiently. It is based on a scientific formula that takes evaporation rates into account. Water cops in cities such as Albuquerque, NM, Denver, CO, and Tucson, AZ, enforce the rules on when residents can water lawns. School sports fields across the West have been converting to fake turf, golf courses are ripping out grass, and many cities offer rebates for low-flow toilets and water-efficient washing machines.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061022/NEWS07/610220600/1009>

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## **Public Health Sector**

24. *October 22, All Headline News* — **Passengers on riverboat cruise remain hospitalized.** Ten passengers on a riverboat cruise remain in the hospital after falling ill while on the boat. The passengers came down with flu-like symptoms while touring the Ohio River. More than 30 passengers on the Mississippi Queen riverboat grew ill while on the tour, 22 people suffered from nausea and vomiting. The riverboat left Cincinnati, OH, on Wednesday, October 18, and was scheduled to arrive in St. Louis, MO, on Tuesday, October 24.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7005258791>

25. *October 20, Agence France-Presse* — **Indonesia to force city residents to cage poultry.** Indonesia plans to enforce a law banning residents in major cities from keeping free-roaming poultry in a bid to curtail bird flu outbreaks which have claimed 55 lives. A move to force people to cage poultry would require a massive effort in Indonesia, the world's fourth-most populous nation, where even in cities many people keep poultry in their backyards and chickens scratch for food alongside roads. Agriculture Minister Anton Apriyantono, who could not say when the ban would come into effect, said the plan needed to be further coordinated with other ministries, the military and provincial administrators.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061020/hl\\_afp/healthfluindonesia\\_061020104223;\\_ylt=Am.cCNVQRqg\\_ACJYkj5dJOJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDM](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061020/hl_afp/healthfluindonesia_061020104223;_ylt=Am.cCNVQRqg_ACJYkj5dJOJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDM)

26. *October 20, Sun–Sentinel (FL)* — **Smallpox scare locks down emergency room at hospital.** Hollywood, FL's Memorial Regional Hospital's emergency room was put under lockdown for a short time on Friday, October 20, over worries a sick patient was suffering symptoms similar to smallpox, a hospital official said in an e-mail release. Infectious disease experts at the 690-bed hospital and trauma center quickly confirmed that a patient complaining of a high fever and a skin rash was not suffering from smallpox. As part of standard procedure, however, the hospital's emergency room was reported closed off for 30 to 45 minutes while doctors diagnosed the symptoms.  
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-1020-smallpoxscare.0.7274963.story?coll=sfla-home-headlines>
27. *October 19, Associated Press* — **Louisiana works on fixing health care system.** As a federal deadline neared, Louisiana officials worked Thursday, October 19, on the final version of a proposed overhaul of the New Orleans public health system, which was decimated by Hurricane Katrina. The plans involve a type of universal health insurance for the uninsured that will give them more choices on where they receive care, a key proposal sought by Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt, whose office is working with the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative to rebuild the flood-ravaged health care system. It also includes plans to establish "medical homes" for the poor and uninsured — doctors' offices, clinics or other facilities that would provide primary care, track patients' medical treatments and direct them to specialists. Officials hope that will better manage diseases for patients, better coordinate care and redirect many from costly emergency rooms to clinics.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/19/AR2006101900955.html>

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## **Government Sector**

28. *October 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–89: Homeland Security: Opportunities Exist to Enhance Collaboration at 24/7 Operations Centers Staffed by Multiple DHS Agencies (Report).** Because terrorists do not operate on a 9–5 schedule, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its operational components have established information gathering and analysis centers that conduct activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Staff at these operations centers work to help detect, deter, and prevent terrorist acts. DHS has determined that out of 25 operations centers, four require higher levels of collaboration that can only be provided by personnel from multiple DHS agencies, and other federal, and sometimes state and local, agencies. For these four multi-agency operations centers, this report (1) describes their missions, products, functions, and customers and (2) assesses the extent to which DHS efforts to promote collaboration among the multiple agencies responsible for the centers reflect key practices for enhancing and sustaining collaborative efforts. To do so, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) visited operations centers, reviewed data and reports from the centers, and interviewed center and other DHS officials. GAO recommends that the Director of the DHS Operations Directorate provide guidance to multi-agency operations centers to implement key practices to enhance and sustain

collaboration. DHS agreed with our recommendations and identified a number of actions that the Operations Directorate plans to take to enhance collaboration.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0789high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-89>

- 29. *October 20, Associated Press* — Wisconsin schools emphasize safety measures in wake of violence.** The past few weeks have brought violence and threats to several schools in Wisconsin, both high schools and colleges. For example, on Monday, October 16, a former Craig High School student, in Janesville, was charged with disorderly conduct after he told a student he planned to bring a gun to school on Halloween and shoot anyone who got in his way, officials said. Schools are trying to allay fears by informing parents about security precautions they've taken and, in some cases, adding new measures. At Craig High School, along with having Officer Tom Lemery patrol the Craig campus in uniform, the school uses 16 cameras to monitor entrances, hallways, and school grounds. Some schools have had students rehearse lockdown procedures and teachers patrol the halls. At Hortonville High School, about 10 miles west of Appleton, students may no longer carry backpacks in hallways. District administrator Greg Joseph said the ban is intended to limit the scope of a search if school officials learn of contraband or dangerous items in the building. Other school officials said the best ways to reduce violence are reaching out to at-risk teens and having a well-developed action plan ready in emergencies.

Source: [http://www.winonadailynews.com/articles/2006/10/20/wi/03wiss\\_schoolsafety.txt](http://www.winonadailynews.com/articles/2006/10/20/wi/03wiss_schoolsafety.txt)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

- 30. *October 20, Honolulu Advertiser* — California experts say emergency alerts vary.** As Hawaii emergency officials re-examine their response to the Sunday, October 15, earthquakes and blackout amid criticism about information delays, experts elsewhere say it's important to remember that each situation is different. Officials in earthquake-prone California say the emergency communication system there is designed to quickly cut into commercial radio and television broadcasts if necessary, but that such action would depend on the nature of the emergency. California's Emergency Alert System (EAS) is designed primarily to warn people of a specific impending threat, and would not necessarily be activated after a quake. Hawaii's state Civil Defense agency activated a similar EAS nearly two hours after the first and strongest quake struck, but information had already been trickling in by telephone from other sources to the few radio stations that were able to continue operating with backup power supplies. Oahu's county Civil Defense agency had tried to send out a message nearly one hour after the quake through the older Emergency Broadcast System. But the information was not broadcast because radio stations that had not been knocked off the air by the blackout did not activate a switch that would allow the message to come through.

Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061020/NEWS01/610200359/1001/NEWS>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

31. *October 20, eWeek* — **Microsoft blocks Vista rootkit exploit.** Microsoft has blocked the attack vector used to slip unsigned drivers past new security policies being implemented in Windows Vista, according to Joanna Rutkowska, the stealth malware researcher who created the exploit. Rutkowska, who demonstrated the exploit at the Black Hat conference in August, said she tested the attack against Windows Vista RC2 x64 and found that the exploit doesn't work anymore. "The reason: Vista RC2 now blocks write-access to raw disk sectors for user mode applications, even if they are executed with elevated administrative rights," said Rutkowska. Rutkowska, a Windows Internals expert at Singapore-based IT security firm COSEINC, however warned that the way the exploit is being blocked could be problematic and cause application compatibility issues. She warned that malicious attackers could develop a disk editor together with a raw-disk-access kernel driver, then sign it and use it to insert code into the Vista kernel.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2034307,00.asp>

32. *October 20, IDG News Service* — **Ruling averts a legal showdown over enforcing a U.S. ruling across the global Internet.** A U.S. judge has denied an order that would have suspended the domain name for The Spamhaus Project, averting a potential quagmire over how U.S. legal rulings apply across the global Internet. Spamhaus, a group of computer security experts based in London, creates a database used by security vendors to block unsolicited bulk e-mail, known as spam. Last month, an e-mail marketing company, e360 Insight, won an \$11.7 million judgment against Spamhaus in U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. The ruling also called for Spamhaus to remove e360 from its blacklists. On October 6, e360 asked the U.S. court to force the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Spamhaus' domain registrar, Tucows, to suspend its domain name. The request sparked speculation that ICANN, which is subject to U.S. law, would be required to enforce that law internationally by, for example, shutting down a foreign Website. ICANN said later that even if a court did order it to shut down a domain, it couldn't do that since that power lies with individual registrars.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/10/20/HNspamhausdomain\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/10/20/HNspamhausdomain_1.html)

33. *October 19, Security Focus* — **Outlook Express MHTML URI handler information disclosure vulnerability.** Outlook Express is prone to a cross-domain information disclosure vulnerability. This vulnerability may let a malicious Website access properties of a site in an arbitrary external domain in the context of the victim user's browser. Attackers could exploit this issue to gain access to sensitive information (such as cookies or passwords) that is associated with the external domain. This issue was previously reported as an Internet Explorer vulnerability, however the affected component is found to be part of Outlook Express. Microsoft confirmed that this is an Outlook Express vulnerability that can also be exploited through Internet Explorer.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17717/info>

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

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17717/references>

34. *October 19, Security Focus* — **Python Repr() function remote code execution vulnerability.** Python is prone to a remote code execution vulnerability because the application fails to



properly handle UTF-32/UCS-4 strings. Exploiting this issue allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary machine code with the privileges of the Python application.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/20376/info>

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

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/20376/discuss>

35. *October 19, CNET News* — **Windows XP update delayed.** While Windows Vista is nearing completion, Microsoft has delayed the next service pack update for its predecessor, Windows XP. Last week, Microsoft updated its lifecycle Website to note that the introduction of Service Pack 3 — the next XP update — has been pushed back until the first half of 2008. The last service pack for XP, Service Pack 2, included a greater than usual number of changes, particularly around security, and debuted in August 2004.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Windows+XP+update+delayed/2100-1016\\_3-6127551.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/Windows+XP+update+delayed/2100-1016_3-6127551.html?tag=nefd.top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	44913 (---), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 65530 (WindowsMite), 7073 (---), 1026 (win-rpc), 139 (netbios-ssn), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 51344 (---) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at <a href="mailto:soc@us-cert.gov">soc@us-cert.gov</a> or visit their Website: <a href="http://www.us-cert.gov">www.us-cert.gov</a> .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <a href="https://www.it-isac.org/">https://www.it-isac.org/</a> .	

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

36. *October 18, Associated Press* — **All-Star Game, Super Bowl provide security experience for World Series.** Security threats large and small — from a nerve gas attack inside Detroit's Comerica Park to the antics of drunken fans — are on the minds of federal, state and local officials rushing to prepare for Saturday, October 21's start of the World Series. The successes of the All-Star Game at the ballpark last year and the Super Bowl at nearby Ford Field this past February give Detroit law enforcement and baseball officials confidence they can safely handle the World Series, too. They've prepared for the worst, conducting a drill on simultaneous sarin nerve gas, anthrax bacteria, and bomb attacks at the stadium. They're also hoping for the best. "We had a couple of dry runs ... with the All-Star Game and the Super Bowl," said Detroit-based U.S. Attorney Stephen Murphy, who chairs the region's interagency Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council. Some security measures will be highly and deliberately visible, such as a Michigan State Police helicopter buzzing overhead and the many uniformed police officers inside the stadium. Others will be out of sight, such as the interagency operations coordinated by the federally run Joint Operations Center in downtown Detroit, said Capt. Robert Clark, commander of the state police's six-county southeastern district.
- Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2>

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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

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