



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 October 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

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

## Daily Highlights

- The Contra Costa Times reports that due to the high prices of oil and natural gas, the electricity industry is turning back to coal to drive a new generation of power plants, and is proposing to build 154 coal-fired power plants in the next 25 years. (See item [2](#))
- The Los Angeles Times reports the bribery of federal and local officials by Mexican smugglers is rising sharply, along with the fear that a culture of corruption is taking hold along the 2,000-mile border from Brownsville to San Diego. (See item [12](#))

## 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 23, Asbury Park Press (NJ)* — **Thickness of barrier at reactor is checked.**  
One-sixteenth of an inch is about all that separates the existing thickness of an important radiation barrier at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant from what is considered adequate. That seemingly thin safety margin comes from measurements taken of the barrier in 1994, the most reliable set of numbers available on the 100-foot-tall steel structure, according to plant operator AmerGen Energy Co. and federal regulators. Regulators earlier this year asked AmerGen for a new set of numbers. At issue is whether the barrier is in good enough shape for regulators to issue the plant a 20-year renewal on its operating license. Rust found on a lower

portion of the liner during the early 1980s had caused certain sections to become thinner. On average, rust ate away about one-third of the liner's thickness in its lower region, which was originally just over an inch thick, according to the 1994 measurements. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will ensure the measurements are taken correctly, NRC spokesperson Neil Sheehan said.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061023/NEWS/610230345>

2. *October 21, Contra Costa Times (CA)* — **Utilities making plans to return to coal power.** Due to the high prices of oil and natural gas, the electricity industry is turning back to coal, America's oldest and most abundant fossil fuel, to drive a new generation of power plants. Utilities are proposing to build 154 coal-fired power plants in the next 25 years, according to "Coal's Resurgence in Electric Power Generation," a recent Department of Energy report. New coal-fired plants are proposed in every state but three — Alabama, Hawaii and Tennessee — including 17 in Illinois and 12 in Texas. If they all were built, they'd add 93 billion watts of electric-generating capacity — enough to service 93 million homes — by 2030. Existing plants produce about 300 billion watts of electricity. As a result, coal's share of U.S. electricity production is projected to rise from 50 percent today to 58 percent in 2030. Some authorities think the electricity industry is making a mistake by investing billions of dollars in a technology that will be outdated soon. They predict that future federal and state regulations probably will restrict carbon emissions. That would force utilities to refit their pulverized-coal plants with carbon-capture systems.

State-by-state list of proposed new coal-fired plants:

<http://www.netl.doe.gov/coal/refshelf/ncp.pdf>

Source: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/nation/15815181.htm?source=rss&channel=cctimes\\_nation](http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/nation/15815181.htm?source=rss&channel=cctimes_nation)

3. *October 20, Utility Automation & Engineering* — **FERC proposes approval of 83 NERC standards.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proposed in a rulemaking to approve 83 of 107 reliability standards for the nation's bulk-power system, including six of eight regional differences, and the glossary of terms submitted earlier this year by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC). In the notice of proposed rulemaking, the commission describes NERC's filing as "comprehensive". However, the commission notes, "much work remains to be done." Many of the 83 reliability standards the commission proposes to approve require additional work or clarification. The commission proposes to order NERC to make significant necessary modifications pursuant to section 215(d)(5) of the Federal Power Act. As for the remaining 24 of the 107 reliability standards filed for FERC review, many are so-called "fill-in-the-blank" standards that require regional reliability organizations to develop regional procedures and submit particular criteria that would apply to a given region. The proposal would have these 24 standards remain pending at the commission until further information is provided that will enable the commission to evaluate the standard.

Source: [http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display\\_article/275362/22/ARTCL/non e/none/Commission\\_proposes\\_approval\\_of\\_83\\_NERC\\_standards/](http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/275362/22/ARTCL/non e/none/Commission_proposes_approval_of_83_NERC_standards/)

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

4. *October 20, CBS 4 Boston* — **Chemical leak prompts evacuation of school, nearby homes.** The Kennedy Elementary School and nine homes were evacuated in Canton, MA, Friday, October 20, following a chemical leak at the Draper Knitting Company. No one was injured but the worker who discovered the leak was hospitalized as a precaution. Canton Police identified the chemical as sodium hydrosulfite.  
Source: [http://cbs4boston.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_293131400.html](http://cbs4boston.com/topstories/local_story_293131400.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *October 20, EE Times* — **Pentagon urges 'relevant' R&D.** U.S. military planners, faced with mounting casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan along with a decline in federal research and development (R&D) spending, are pressing contractors to shift their focus from gee-whiz technologies to relevant ones that can save lives and improve capabilities today. As procurement and military health and retirement costs soar, pressure is building to reduce the Pentagon's science-and-technology budget. Increasingly, experts said, Pentagon technologists are moving away from high-risk, high-payoff research to instead identify technologies needed to counter immediate threats. A prime example is sensor systems to detect and destroy improvised explosive (IED) devices in Iraq and, increasingly, in Afghanistan. Budget forecasters said the Department of Defense is spending upwards of \$200 million this year on IED detection and training. As a result, electronics, sensors and networks are becoming the guts and sinew of a future American military. Industry forecasters said the Pentagon will continue to spend large portions of the military budget on developing missile defenses and an emerging U.S. "space force." But the search is also on for "transformational technologies" — many to be purchased off the shelf — that are needed to link commanders with troops on patrol in the streets of Baghdad and Kabul.  
Source: <http://www.eet.com/news/latest/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=52JMIND3J0XHIQSNDLOSXH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=193400997>
6. *October 20, U.S. Department of Defense* — **Unmanned aircraft key to future operations.** "Decision superiority" attained with the help of unmanned aircraft will play a key role in future air, space and cyberspace missions for the Air Force and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe said Wednesday, October 18. Acting in his role as director of the multinational Joint Air Power Competence Center, Air Force Gen. William T. Hobbins spoke at the annual JAPCC Air Power Conference. Beginning with a discussion of the history of unmanned aircraft systems (UASs) the general highlighted the circumstances that led to their further development. The decrease in electronics cost, along with increases in computing capability and miniaturization combined with improved communications and sensor capabilities, the general explained, leading to greater availability. "Growth is not limited to the United States," he said. "The growth of UAS is occurring around the world." The reason for the extent of growth, said Hobbins, is that people are discovering that unmanned systems can accomplish a multitude of missions. A key part of addressing NATO UAS issues is integration, he said. Integrating airspace avoids inefficiencies to forces. Integrating command and control allows commanders to assimilate, task, prioritize, analyze, fuse and interpret UAV products in real time.  
Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=1730>

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *October 21, WOOD TV 8 (MI)* — **Michigan Attorney General issues new identity theft warning.** Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox is warning people about a new identity theft scam which involves the use of a fake caller ID. People receive what appears to be a call from the district court. Once on the phone, they're told they failed to appear for jury duty. They're asked for specific information, which is then used to steal their identity. So far, the scam has not reached Michigan.  
Source: <http://www.woodtv.com/global/story.asp?s=5571282>
8. *October 20, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Department of the Treasury Secretary to unveils currency with new signature.** Department of the Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson visited the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) on Monday, October 23, for the unveiling of the first paper currency with the new Secretary's signature. BEP engravers first transferred the Secretary's signature to steel plates, which will be used to print all new U.S. paper currency. Since the introduction of the smaller-size notes in 1929, the signatures of 25 Treasury Secretaries and 16 Treasurers — including Secretary Paulson and Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral — have appeared on U.S. paper currency. The new \$20 Series 2006 Paulson-Cabral notes are expected to be sent to the Federal Reserve for distribution as needed.  
Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp143.htm>
9. *October 20, Tribune News (CA)* — **Spamming worm gets into California Polytechnic State University computers.** Cal Poly is notifying nearly 7,000 former and current students that their names and Social Security numbers were on a computer system recently breached by a worm. The computer system, used in conjunction with the campus telephone billing system, contained personal information on students who lived in Cal Poly's residence halls and had a campus telephone account between 2001 and 2005. Students who lived on campus but didn't have a telephone account aren't affected. University officials do not believe any personal information was accessed. This is the sixth case in less than two years in which information about Cal Poly students was exposed. It also has affected the biggest number of students. In the latest incident, the worm burrowed into a computer connected to the Cal Poly network and started generating spam, said Tim Kearns, Cal Poly's chief information officer. It's unknown where the worm was generated or how long the worm had been infecting the Cal Poly system, but officials believe it was over a two-week period.  
Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/15804627.htm>
10. *October 20, eWeek* — **Cost of data breaches rises sharply.** Leaks of sensitive customer information and other corporate data are costing companies in the U.S. substantially more in related financial and business losses in 2006, according to the Ponemon Data Breach Study. The study found that information losses cost U.S. companies an average of \$182 per compromised record in 2006, compared to an average loss of \$138 per record in 2005, for an increase of about 31 percent. The report, which is based on interviews held with 56 individual companies known to have experienced a data loss in the last year, maintains that roughly \$128 of the 2006 figure is related to indirect fallout from information leaks, such as

higher-than-normal customer turnover. Other associated costs spurred by data mishandlings or thefts were an average price tag of \$660,000 per company in expenses related to notifying customers, business partners and regulators about data leaks. Companies in the study paid almost \$300,000 on average to investigate their data leaks and spent just over \$1.24 million on average for other efforts aimed at responding to records losses, such as setting up customer support hotlines or offering credit monitoring services to help protect against related fraud.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,2034667,00.asp?kc=EWRSS03129TX1K0000614>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

11. *October 23, Associated Press* — **Boston commuter train hits truck, 20 injured.** A commuter train heading into Boston struck a flatbed truck that had gotten stuck at a railroad crossing Monday morning, October 23, injuring about 20 people, fire and transit authorities said. The driver of the truck had walked up the tracks to try and warn the approaching train, but the engineer was unable to stop in time, said Joe Pesaturo, a spokesperson for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/10/23/train.crash.ap/index.html>

12. *October 23, Los Angeles Times* — **Rise in bribery tests integrity of U.S. border.** Bribery of federal and local officials by Mexican smugglers is rising sharply, and with it the fear that a culture of corruption is taking hold along the 2,000-mile border from Brownsville, TX, to San Diego. At least 200 public employees have been charged with helping to move narcotics or illegal immigrants across the U.S.-Mexican border since 2004, at least double the illicit activity documented in prior years, a Times examination of public records has found. Thousands more are under investigation. Criminal charges have been brought against Border Patrol agents, local police, a county sheriff, motor vehicle clerks, an FBI supervisor, immigration examiners, prison guards, school district officials, and uniformed personnel of every branch of the U.S. military, among others. The vast majority have pleaded guilty or been convicted. Officials in Washington and along the border worry about what lies below the surface. "It is the tip of the iceberg," said James "Chip" Burrus, assistant director of the criminal investigation division of the FBI. Though America's southern border may evoke images of a poor backwater, it is alive with vast amounts of ill-gotten wealth, shadowy organizations that ply the waters of the Rio Grande, and brazen schemes that seem borrowed out of Cold War espionage.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/politics/socal/la-na-border23oct23,0,2778084.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

13. *October 23, USA TODAY* — **Airfare climbs for holiday.** Thanksgiving 2006 is shaping up as an expensive, crowded holiday for air travelers. The average advance round-trip fare for Thanksgiving weekend travel has soared to \$434, up 15 percent from a year ago, an analysis by consulting firm Sabre Airline Solutions for USA TODAY shows. Higher fares aren't deterring travelers. Early bookings are 42 percent ahead of last year, Sabre says. Frequent flier Jim Fletcher of Burnet, Texas, booked his round-trip ticket on American Airlines from Austin to Washington seven weeks in advance. He paid \$540 despite a corporate discount and a return flight that doesn't depart until the Monday after Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving traditionally



ranks as one of the year's busiest holidays for travel. Many airports are concerned not only about the number of travelers, but also that many don't fly frequently and may not be aware of the liquid and gel carry-on rules implemented in August and relaxed in September. "There is great confusion among travelers about baggie sizes and what size gels are permissible," says Reno-Tahoe airport spokesperson Brian Kulpin.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-10-22-holiday-travel-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-10-22-holiday-travel-usat_x.htm)

**14. *October 23, CSO Magazine* — German railroad tests biometric security technology.**

Terrorists attempting to smuggle bombs into trains could be stopped by intelligent surveillance technology being tested by German railway company Deutsche Bahn. "We're a couple of weeks into a pilot project that is testing technology designed to automatically detect terrorists or other criminals entering trains and alert security personnel," Jens Puls, director of corporate security at Deutsche Bahn, said Monday, October 23, at the Systems IT trade show in Munich. The project comes on the heels of foiled attempts to bomb two German regional trains in July, Puls said. German investigators have meanwhile learned that the terrorists had planned to bomb trains during the World Cup soccer tournament in Germany earlier this year but decided to wait because of the country's tight security measures during the games. In the Deutsche Bahn test in Mainz, special cameras scan the train station in search of 200 people who have volunteered to have their pictures stored in a database and features detected by special biometric facial recognition software. The technology could help Deutsche Bahn pinpoint suspected terrorists among the 1.8 million passengers traveling by train each day and take action, according to Puls.

Source: [http://www2.csoonline.com/blog\\_view.html?CID=26002](http://www2.csoonline.com/blog_view.html?CID=26002)

**15. *October 23, 24dash.com (United Kingdom)* — Anti-flu spray could be used on UK's trains.**

UK Main line and Tube trains and stations could be sprayed with a powerful new anti-flu disinfectant, it was revealed on Monday, October 23. The non-toxic disinfectant, called nano silver-titanium dioxide coating (NSTDC) is being introduced on the Hong Kong metro rail system by the MTR company. MTR is part of a consortium bidding for two new UK rail franchises: London Rail and West Midlands. The NSTDC disinfectant, which has been certified as effective in killing a wide range of bacteria, viruses and mould including the H1N1 flu virus, will be used on escalator handrails, the buttons on ticket issuing machines, Add Value Machines, as well as buttons and handrails in elevators within MTR's stations.

Source: <http://www.24dash.com/health/12008.htm>

**16. *October 22, Associated Press* — Six injured October 10 on British jet.** Six people were injured when a British Airways passenger jet was ordered to descend after a privately operated Beechcraft King Air nearby triggered its collision warning system, officials said Saturday, October 21. Four crewmembers and two passengers suffered cuts and bruises on the October 10 flight from Tampa to London, British Airways spokesperson Richard Goodfellow said. Goodfellow said the aircraft, which had 175 passengers onboard, was put into a quick descent, dropping 500 feet within seconds after the collision avoidance system went off. However, the Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson Kathleen Bergen said that the plane made a "controlled descent" of about 700 feet and was not in danger of collision.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/21/AR2006102100824.html>

**17.**

*October 20, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS awards contracts to three firms to support emerging counter-MANPADS technologies.** The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology directorate announced Friday, October 20, the selection of three firms to receive \$7.4 million in combined contract awards to support efforts to counter the threat posed to commercial aircraft by shoulder-fired, anti-aircraft missiles, known as Man-Portable Air Defense Systems or MANPADS. In 2003, Congress directed DHS to develop anti-missile technology already in use in the military for application on commercial aircraft. That program, which relies on infrared technology onboard aircraft, is now in an operational testing phase. In 2006, Congress further directed DHS to explore emerging countermeasure technologies, including those that are ground-based, airborne, or a combination of the two. Over the next 18 months, DHS will work closely with the Department of Defense and these select vendors to assess the maturity and effectiveness of relevant technologies, application of resources to determine potential system approaches, and suitability in the civilian aviation environment.

Source: [http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1161601469252.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1161601469252.shtm)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

**18. *October 18, CBC.ca (Canada)* — Mystery powder at Saskatchewan post office was drugs.**

A leaking package of white powder that caused a scare at Regina's downtown post office Tuesday night, October 17, turned out to contain illegal drugs, police said. Canada Post employees called emergency services after discovering the powder at around 8 p.m. local time. Emergency and hazardous materials units rushed to the scene, streets were blocked off and several floors of the building were evacuated. Police said Wednesday morning, October 18, they still haven't confirmed what the powder was, but a preliminary investigation indicates illegal drugs. Additional tests are planned.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2006/10/18/powder-post-office.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**19. *October 23, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — USDA makes final exotic fruit fly strategic plan available to the public.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on Monday, October 23, released a revised plan to further protect the health and value of American agricultural resources against the introduction and establishment of exotic fruit fly pests. APHIS' plant protection and quarantine program officials updated the Exotic Fruit Fly Strategic Plan, which was first released in February, after receiving comments from stakeholders, cooperators and the general public. The Exotic Fruit Fly Strategic Plan is an integrated, multi-faceted approach that incorporates surveillance activities, control programs, and regulatory actions to safeguard American agriculture against a number of fruit fly species, including Mediterranean (Medfly), Mexican and Oriental fruit flies. Increased globalization of the transportation industry and increased availability of affordable travel can inadvertently create pathways for exotic fruit fly

introductions here in the U.S. Over the next five years, APHIS officials intend to bolster USDA's capacity to control exotic fruit flies, one of the most destructive pests of fruits and vegetables in the world.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/10/fflypln.s.html>

20. *October 23, Stop Soybean Rust* — **Five new soybean rust counties in Kentucky and Missouri.** Over the weekend, Kentucky reported three and Missouri reported two new counties with Asian soybean rust. The U.S. total rose to 179 rust-positive counties and parishes in 15 states. Kentucky has 16 positive counties. Missouri has four. "Finding soybean rust at this time will have absolutely no impact on the 2006 soybean crop in Kentucky. In fact, soybean rust will 'go away' from Kentucky as soon as there is hard freeze. It simply cannot survive this far north. However, these finds are of great importance for refining the soybean rust predictive models," said University of Kentucky plant pathologist Don Hershman on the National Soybean Rust Commentary Website. Missouri state commentary said that soybean rust was found in two new Missouri counties: Stoddard and Scott. In both cases, only a few soybean rust pustules were found on a small number of leaves in the submitted samples.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=992>

21. *October 22, Baltimore Sun* — **Maryland poultry industry feels repercussions from Asian flu cases overseas.** Incidences of avian flu in far-flung parts of the world have taken a large bite out of Maryland's biggest farm business, poultry production. An Asian strain of the flu, which has never been detected in the U.S., has been blamed for at least 140 deaths in other parts of the world and has led to the destruction of millions of chickens overseas. One repercussion was a significant decline in chicken exports last year, said Bill Satterfield, executive director of Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc. Exports account for about 15 percent of U.S. chicken production. Although poultry processors in the region are not big participants in the export market, they felt the impact of this decline. Poultry is the top product in Maryland agriculture, accounting for about 35 percent of the state's \$565 million in farm sales during 2005.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/bal-ha.farm22oct22,0.5208576.story?track=rss>

22. *October 19, Deseret Morning News (UT)* — **Whirling disease hurts Utah aquaculture industry.** Utah's aquaculture sales plummeted 70 percent in the seven-year period ending in 2005, largely due to the spread of whirling disease, according to the latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In a statement released last week, the USDA reported that "the bulk of all aquaculture sales (in Utah) are for trout, and trout production has taken a tremendous hit due to the spread of whirling disease across the state." Results of the 2005 Census of Aquaculture revealed that Utah's aquaculture sales declined from \$1.9 million in 1998 to \$559,000 in 2005. "Food-size trout" accounted for \$463,000, or 83 percent, of all aquaculture sales in the state in 2005, according to the study.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0.1249.650199841.00.html>

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## **Food Sector**



23. *October 23, Agricultural Research Service* — **Food safety: from the farm to the table.** The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is in its third year of a multiagency U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) effort to routinely track the origins of certain disease-causing bacteria that can occur in meat animal production. The program will also enhance overall understanding of bacteria that pose food safety risks on farms and in processing plants. In 2003, ARS — along with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Food Safety and Inspection Service — began what is called the Collaboration in Animal Health and Food Safety Epidemiology program. The goal is to find out which pathogens are moving from the farm to the processor and then on to retail outlets. Despite significant producer interventions, ongoing research efforts and regular surveillance, outbreaks of foodborne illnesses continue to occur. Also, the emergence of foodborne bacteria that are resistant to multiple antimicrobial treatments has amplified concern. Because pathogens change over time, it's necessary to gather information for a long period of time and across the production spectrum to determine the impact that any particular change in animal health issues or plant production will have on the characteristics of bacteria, such as their prevalence.  
Source: [http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261&pf=1&cg\\_id=0](http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261&pf=1&cg_id=0)

24. *October 21, Associated Press* — **Third carrot juice-linked botulism case in Canada.** A third Canadian case of botulism tied to tainted carrot juice has been reported. The latest victim is from Quebec and comes after two cases were earlier reported in Ontario. Four others have been documented in the U.S. The products affected are sold under the names Bolthouse Farms 100 Percent Carrot Juice, Earthbound Farm Organic Carrot Juice, and President's Choice Organic 100 Percent Carrot Juice. Botulism attacks the nerves and symptoms usually occur 12 to 48 hours after ingestion. They include trouble swallowing, blurred vision, paralysis, and in about ten percent of cases, death.  
Source: [http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20061021/botulism\\_case\\_061021/20061021?hub=Canada](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20061021/botulism_case_061021/20061021?hub=Canada)

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

25. *October 23, Reuters* — **More bird flu vaccine capacity needed.** The World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday, October 23, called for a multi-billion-dollar drive to make more pandemic flu vaccines, saying bird flu still threatened a global pandemic. Outlining a plan to protect the world's 6.7 billion people against bird flu, or other flu viruses with pandemic potential, the WHO said manufacturing capacity would shield only a percentage of the population. "We are presently several billion doses short of the amount of pandemic influenza vaccine we would need," said Marie-Paule Kieny, director of the WHO's initiative for vaccine research. Global output of seasonal flu vaccination — which could be switched to anti-pandemic production if needed — stands at 350 million doses, with existing spare

capacity for around a further 150 million if needed, the WHO said. Current expansion plans could see this figure rise to some 780 million doses by 2009, but this was still far short of what might be required in the event of a global epidemic of a killer flu strain.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-10-23T160944Z\\_01\\_L23859025\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-BIRD\\_FLU-WHO-VACCINES.xml&WTmodLoc=HealthNewsHome\\_C1\\_%5BFeed%5D-7](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-10-23T160944Z_01_L23859025_RTRUKOC_0_US-BIRD_FLU-WHO-VACCINES.xml&WTmodLoc=HealthNewsHome_C1_%5BFeed%5D-7)

26. *October 23, Los Alamos Monitor (NM)* — **Court's biosafety ruling requires terrorism analysis.** A decision by a California Court of Appeals will delay the opening of a biological facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), calling attention to a similar project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico. The two Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons design laboratories have each built Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facilities in order to enable research on "select agents" capable of causing serious or potentially lethal disease. An initial lawsuit in August 2003 sought an injunction against both labs, but LANL withdrew from the case in early 2004, agreeing to perform an Environmental Impact Statement. LLNL stuck with its Environmental Assessment, a less rigorous analysis and won a first round in District Court. The court ruling concluded, "AFFIRMED in part, REVERSED in part and REMANDED for further action consistent with this decision." Affirmed in part was a lower court's summary judgment in favor of DOE, brushing aside the plaintiff's procedural complaints and some environmental concerns. A footnote concerning the plaintiff's "substantial concerns," cautioned DOE on one of the environmental issues raised in the case: "We note in particular the Department of Energy's minimal assessment of earthquake risks despite the presence of known, active faults that run directly under nearby Alameda County, CA." Source: [http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2006/10/23/headline\\_news/news02.txt](http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2006/10/23/headline_news/news02.txt)

27. *October 22, Agence France-Presse* — **Four Israelis die after receiving flu vaccination.** Israel's Health Ministry ordered an immediate halt to all flu vaccinations after four people died shortly after receiving the French-made antidote, the ministry said. "The Health Ministry ordered the health assurance organizations to stop giving flu vaccinations following the death of three people several days after they were given flu vaccinations," it said in a statement. But shortly after releasing the statement, Health Minister Yaacov Ben Yizri informed reporters that a fourth death under similar circumstances had been reported. According to the ministry the vaccination was manufactured by the French drug company Aventis Pasteur. The four — aged 53, 67, 70 and 75 — received the vaccination at the same site in the town of Kiryat Gat in southern Israel during the past eight days. Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061022/hl\\_afp/israelhealth\\_061022183100;\\_ylt=Ajuigp8RAxhVtFl55vgZ7X2JOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061022/hl_afp/israelhealth_061022183100;_ylt=Ajuigp8RAxhVtFl55vgZ7X2JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

28. *October 22, Richmond Times–Dispatch (VA)* — **Statewide simulation aimed at preparing officials for a pandemic in Virginia.** A virtual flu pandemic will assail Virginia this week. State health officials will simulate a fight against a global outbreak of influenza by holding real mass vaccinations, directing acute–care hospitals to cope with a flood of stricken patients and evaluating how emergency responders and law enforcement interact with health–care providers. The state will coordinate health, hospital, communications, emergency management, law enforcement, first–responders and other officials who in a real pandemic would respond to the massive illness and deaths that could overwhelm the public–health system. All 35 of Virginia's health districts are participating in the two–day FLUEX 06 event, which began Monday, October 23. FLUEX 06 is the latest aspect of the state's ongoing pandemic preparations. A drill in July tested Virginia's ability to disperse drugs from the national stockpile. A month later, the Richmond region's Metropolitan Medical Response System tested its coordination among first responders, physicians, emergency rooms, hospitals and public–health officials.  
Source: [http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD\\_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149191289749](http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149191289749)
29. *October 22, Staten Island Advance* — **Money allocated for second weapons response team in New York.** Nearly \$5 million has been allocated to establish a second Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team in New York State. Governor George Pataki announced Saturday, October 21, that the money for the team will be included in the Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Appropriations Bill. Manned by members of the New York National Guard, the terror response team will train and align emergency plans with local response organizations such as fire and police departments, Hazmat Teams and emergency management offices. This is another step the state is taking to protect its people, Pataki said. He added that along with the existing team, it will further enhance the state's homeland security efforts to prevent any future attacks.  
Source: <http://www.silive.com/news/advance/index.ssf?/base/news/116150943032210.xml&coll=1>
30. *October 22, USA TODAY* — **Cost of Hawaii earthquake damage soaring.** One week after Hawaii's biggest earthquake in 23 years, damage estimates are soaring, and a review is underway of how state, emergency and utility officials responded. Initial estimates after the magnitude–6.7 quake Sunday, October 15, and another minutes later that measured 6.0, were less than \$10 million, but the figure surpassed \$100 million by the end of the week as damage to hotels, roads, a harbor and homes was discovered, said Ed Teixeira of the state Civil Defense office. More than 1,130 houses on the island of Hawaii, called the Big Island, were damaged and 29 more were uninhabitable, he said. Most homeowners did not have private earthquake insurance and probably are not eligible for federal assistance, Hawaii County Mayor Harry Kim said. Teixeira said he planned to meet with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to seek an expanded presidential disaster declaration that could clear the way for aid to homeowners.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-10-22-hawaii-quake- toll\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-10-22-hawaii-quake- toll_x.htm)
31. *October 21, Honolulu Advertiser* — **Oahu, Hawaii, sets up plan for future disasters.** The next time Oahu faces a civil emergency, the city plans to get out information more quickly

through direct links to broadcast media. Mayor Mufi Hannemann announced Friday, October 20, plans to use the city's Traffic Management Center to communicate directly with radio and TV stations equipped to receive live updates straight from the center. Individuals providing emergency alert information to the public could thereby view all the city's traffic cameras. Hannemann said the city's first responders had information but had no way to immediately pass it on to Oahu residents. State adjutant general Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee said he wants Civil Defense to be able to interrupt TV and radio broadcasts with disaster alerts shortly after major earthquakes. The messages would be similar to flood and storm watches Civil Defense airs during heavy rains, Lee said. State Civil Defense did not send its first earthquake message until almost three hours after Sunday's 6.7-magnitude temblor. Lee said part of the problem was that local broadcasters weren't staffed at the time of the early morning earthquakes and were broadcasting recorded programming.

Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061021/NEWS01/610210344/1001/NEWS>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

32. *October 23, VNUNet* — **September marred by spam e-mail explosion.** September saw an increase in spam, with Web monitoring firm Postini counting a monthly total of seven billion spam, phishing and virus infected e-mails emanating from 50,000 separate computers at any given time. Postini reported that 80 percent of all the e-mail it tracked was spam and that it blocked 22 million viruses in a single month. The firm said hundreds of thousands of separate Web-connected computers showed malicious behavior, and that on average, each attacked in two-hour bursts before becoming dormant again. Postini's September top five viruses were: 1) netsky-4,078,646; 2) mytob-2,880,131; 3) bagle variants-2,541,480; 4) mime-2,427,418; and 5) mydoom-1,495,505.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2167058/september-marred-s-pam-email>

33. *October 23, Federal Computer Week* — **DHS to boost use of secure data-sharing net.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is pushing to strengthen the deployment of the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). The department recently established a HSIN advisory committee to provide independent advice from representatives of state, local and tribal governments, as well as from the private sector, about what users specifically need from HSIN, which could go a long way toward answering complaints about the network. There were high expectations when the initiative was first proposed several years ago. The network was seen as a vital means for quickly sharing information about security threats among all levels of government. DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff, speaking at the recent International Association of Chiefs of Police annual conference in Boston, reiterated the need for real-time data sharing. "We are going to build upon some of our early initial efforts...by creating a national network of intelligence fusion centers to support state and local decision-makers, chiefs of police, and state and local intelligence officials," he said. A part of that will entail use of a new homeland secure data network. Charlie Allen, DHS' chief intelligence officer, said there are plans for providing HSIN, which was initially designed as an unclassified network, with a classified component.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article96546-10-20-06-Web>

34. *October 21, Canadian Press* — **Backup system didn't work during Newfoundland phone, Internet outage.** A backup system designed to prevent a massive communications outage failed to kick in when a small fire knocked out phone and Internet service to thousands of Newfoundlanders, a Bell Aliant spokesperson said Saturday, October 21. The utility said it would investigate how a fire confined to a single strand of cable late Friday night could interrupt phone service for 100,000 customers in St. John's as well as Internet access across the island. All services were restored early Saturday morning, after the five-hour outage interrupted 911 emergency service, residential lines, cell phones and automated bank machines. Police said it didn't appear any major emergencies were missed. Bell Aliant spokesperson Brenda Reid said the location of the DC power cable that caught fire meant the backup system could not take over. Shahrokh Valaee, who specializes in telecommunications systems at the University of Toronto, said it's extremely rare for a single cable to contribute to such a large outage.  
Source: [http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/061021/national/nl\\_phone\\_fire\\_6](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/061021/national/nl_phone_fire_6)
35. *October 20, Secunia* — **Symantec Mail Security for Domino Mail relaying vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been reported in Symantec Mail Security for Domino, which can be exploited by malicious people to use it as an open mail relay. An error in the "Premium Antispam" feature causes it to fail recognizing and rejecting certain SMTP recipient address formats. This can be exploited to send mails to arbitrary recipients.  
Affected Software: Symantec Mail Security for Domino 5.x.  
Solution: Update to version 5.1.2.28.  
Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/22490/>
36. *October 20, eWeek* — **Spam Trojan installs own anti-virus scanner.** Veteran malware researcher Joe Stewart was fairly sure he'd seen it all until he started poking at the SpamThru Trojan — a piece of malware designed to send spam from an infected computer. The Trojan, which uses peer-to-peer technology to send commands to hijacked computers, has been fitted with its own anti-virus scanner. Most viruses and Trojans already attempt to block anti-virus software from downloading updates by tweaking hosts file to the anti-virus update sites to the local host address. But, as Stewart discovered during his analysis, SpamThru takes the game to a new level, actually using an anti-virus engine against potential rivals. At start-up, the Trojan requests and loads a DLL from the author's command-and-control server. This then downloads a pirated copy of Kaspersky AntiVirus for WinGate into a concealed directory on the infected system. It patches the license signature check in-memory in the Kaspersky DLL to avoid having Kaspersky refuse to run due to an invalid or expired license, Stewart said. Ten minutes after the download of the DLL, it begins to scan the system for malware, skipping files which it detects are part of its own installation.  
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2034680.00.asp>
37. *October 20, CNET News* — **Gartner: Vista anti-trust tweaks to take years.** Anti-trust related changes to security in Windows Vista 64-bit will take years to complete and will cause compatibility trouble in the interim, according to Gartner. Users of security technologies such as host intrusion-prevention systems (HIPS) should postpone buying 64-bit versions of Vista, Gartner analyst Neil MacDonald wrote in a research note published on Wednesday, October 18. MacDonald also noted that many integrated security products today include HIPS functionality. "Recognize that many of these products will not deliver full functionality using 64-bit Vista,"



MacDonald wrote. "Do not plan for initial use of 64-bit Vista if you are using incompatible products for which no suitable alternative exists." People should ask their security vendor for Vista compatibility guarantees, he suggested.

MacDonald's research note: [http://www.gartner.com/DisplayDocument?doc\\_cd=144225](http://www.gartner.com/DisplayDocument?doc_cd=144225)

Source: [http://news.com.com/Gartner+Vista+antitrust+tweaks+to+take+years/2100-1016\\_3-6128157.html](http://news.com.com/Gartner+Vista+antitrust+tweaks+to+take+years/2100-1016_3-6128157.html)

## Internet Alert Dashboard

**Current Port Attacks**

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	44913 (---), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 7073 (---), 1026 (win-rpc), 37130 (---), 6881 (bittorrent), 37384 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 65530 (WindowsMite)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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

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

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

**38. *October 23, Mercury News* — California to fix 29 levees by November.** California's top water official said Friday, October 20, that 29 dangerously eroded levees that were the subject of an emergency declaration earlier this year would be repaired before the official start of the flood season on November 1. An additional four badly eroded levees that were discovered more recently will be repaired by the end of November, said Lester Snow, director of the Department of Water Resources. And 71 additional sites that were damaged by storms in January and April will be worked on through the winter in an attempt to get them fixed next year. State officials estimate it will take \$13 billion to adequately protect residents, infrastructure and the water supply from floods. The bill to repair the 33 levees by the end of November will be about \$195 million. The repairs included placing 1.3 million tons of rock on six miles of eroded levees and replacing about 4,000 feet of levee.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/northern\\_california/15821761.htm](http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/northern_california/15821761.htm)

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## General Sector

Nothing to report.

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