Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 November 2006

Current Nationwide Threat Level is ELEVATED — Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks
For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/

Daily Highlights

- WZZM−13 reports there is more concern after the security breach and identity theft problems at Wesco gas stations across West Michigan, and thousands of Fifth Third Bank customers will have their debit cards re−issued as a precautionary measure. (See item 6)
- The Anderson Independent−Mail reports that after an outbreak of whooping cough at a school in Anderson, South Carolina, health officials warn that one vaccination in a person's lifetime is not enough to guard against the disease. (See item 29)
- The Department of Homeland Security and the Advertising Council have unveiled new public service advertisements to support the Ready Campaign, a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies. (See item 32)

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. *November 14, RAND* — **RAND study says renewable energy could play larger role in U.S. energy future.** Renewable resources could produce 25 percent of the electricity and motor vehicle fuels used in the U.S. by 2025 at little or no additional cost if fossil fuel prices remain

high enough and the cost of producing renewable energy continues falling in accord with historical trends, according to a RAND Corporation study issued Tuesday, November 14. Renewable sources currently provide about six percent of all the energy used in the U.S. RAND found that meeting the 25 percent renewable energy target for electricity and motor fuels together would not increase total national energy spending if renewable energy production costs decline by at least 20 percent between now and 2025 (which is consistent with recent experience), unless long−term oil prices fall significantly below the range currently projected by the Energy Information Administration. The study evaluates the goal known as 25x'25. This refers to having 25 percent of the energy used for electricity and motor vehicle fuel in the U.S. supplied by renewable energy sources by the year 2025. The study examined 1,500 cases of varying energy price and technology cost conditions for renewable and nonrenewable resources.
Rand Report (available for purchase): http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR384/
Source: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/11/061113173232.ht m

2. *November 14, Bloomberg* — **Al Qaeda seeks nuclear material for UK attack, ministry says.** Al Qaeda groups are trying to obtain nuclear, chemical and biological material to use in terrorist attacks in the UK, the Foreign Office in London said. "Absolutely, we believe these organizations are trying to get hold of this material," the Foreign Office said in a statement read by a spokesperson on Tuesday, November 14. The announcement follows a warning from the head of the UK's domestic intelligence service, MI5, that the country faces as many as 30 terrorist plots. MI5 Director General Eliza Manningham−Buller, who rarely speaks in public, said her agency is investigating 200 networks comprising 1,600 individuals. "Today we see the use of home−made improvised explosive devices but I suggest tomorrow's threat will include the use of chemical, bacteriological agents, radioactive materials and even nuclear technology," Manningham−Buller said in a November 10 address in London.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aCzPrTiF C2GU&refer=europe

[Return to top]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *November 15, Pocono Record (PA)* — **Chemical spill closes Pennsylvania Route 209.** A long stretch of Route 209 in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was closed Tuesday evening, November 14, as Hazmat crews cleaned up the scene of a truck accident in Lehman Township, PA. A northbound tanker truck carrying cleaning supplies lost control rounding a curve, ran off the road, overturned and knocked down a Met−Ed utility pole, which briefly caught fire. The truck was carrying four tanks filled with a total of 4,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide−based liquid soap. About 20 to 50 gallons had spilled by the time a cleanup crew arrived at the crash site. The downed power pole caused scattered power outages throughout the region, especially in the Lords Valley area.
Source: http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061 115/NEWS/611150345

[Return to top]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *November 15, U.S. Air Force* — **Multinational agreement to advance hypersonic flight.** The U.S. Air Force and Australian Department of Defense signed a multinational research partnership to explore and develop fundamental hypersonic technologies and experimental methodologies that could enable the next generation of weapon systems Friday, November 10, in Canberra, Australia. The Air Force Research Laboratory and the Australian Defense Science and Technology Organization are leading the effort, including coordination of research tasks to be performed with NASA, U.S. industry, the Australian Hypersonics Consortium, and the Hypersonics Research Group at the University of Queensland. The $54 million agreement represents one of the largest collaborations of its kind between the two nations. Hypersonic capability is of interest to the Air Force for its ability to enable "game changing" operations that exploit speed and responsiveness in both near− and far−term applications.
Source: http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123031917

[Return to top]

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 15, Dow Jones* — **U.S. Senators: Shell corps could be money laundering risk.** At a hearing of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Tuesday, November 14, government financial regulators stated that there's a lack of basic details about the ownership of shell corporations, creating opportunities for tax evasion and money laundering. K. Steven Burgess of the IRS said the lack of details about U.S. shell companies is a major problem. "The issue of disguised corporate ownership is a serious one for the IRS in terms of its ability to enforce the tax laws and in our efforts to reduce the tax gap," he said. A Government Accountability Office report found none of the 50 states routinely requires applicants to disclose who will own a limited liability company. The GAO report cited problems such as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement reporting that a Nevada−based corporation received more than 3,700 suspicious wire transfers totaling $81 million over two years. The case wasn't prosecuted because immigration officials were unable to identify the corporation's owners. It also found Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network discovered that between April 1996 and January 2004, financial institutions filed 397 suspicious activity reports, concerning a total of almost $4 billion that involved U.S. shell companies, East European countries, and U.S. bank accounts.
Source: http://www.nasdaq.com/aspxcontent/NewsStory.aspx?cpath=20061114%5cACQDJON200611141555DOWJONESDJONLINE000781.htm&

6. *November 15, WZZM−13 (MI)* — **More fallout from identity theft problems at Wesco gas stations.** There is more fallout from the identity theft problems at area Wesco gas stations. This time, the problem affects customers who never purchased anything at the stores. Thousands of Fifth Third Bank customers will have their debit cards re−issued because of this security breach. The bank says it's only a precautionary measure and no personal information like social security numbers or account numbers have been compromised. Letters went out to customers who hold the Fifth Third Bank Debit MasterCard. The bank says it wants to protect customers because there has been a security breach at a local merchant. The case involved customers who

used their credit cards at Wesco gas stations across West Michigan. Several customers at the gas stations later reported fraudulent charges on their cards between July and September. Fifth Third bank says it was contacted by MasterCard, who said that some of the debit cards may have been compromised. The Secret Service continues to investigate the identity theft problems that occurred at the Wesco gas stations.
Source: http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=65024

7. *November 15, Chicago Tribune* — **Man charged in 800−number scam.** A Chicago man who set up an 800 number and had it listed as a cellular phone company stole credit card and other personal information from people as far away as California and Florida. People who believed they were ordering phones or service from a legitimate company were actually calling Harris Jones, 20, who pretended to be a company representative, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and other prosecutors said. Authorities said Jones called AT&T to get a toll−free business line and received one as "Nextel sales and service." Victims from several states were directed to the line after calling information. "He basically called for a number and said, `I'm Nextel,'" said U.S. Postal Inspector Michael Carroll. One of the people Jones allegedly scammed was Denise Abbott, who called information to get a 1−800 number for Nextel to get it replaced. She was given a number and spoke with someone she thought was a Nextel representative. Allegedly it was Jones. Abbott said he told her would need to get all of her information to process the claim. Abbott said that because she thought she was calling a real company, there were no red flags.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi−0611150059nov15,1,1261020.story?track=rss

8. *November 15, Reuters* — **Wachovia to shut 200 branches before 2009.** Wachovia Corp. on Wednesday, November 15, said it plans to shut about 200 branches nationwide by the end of 2008 as it focuses on aggressive expansion in California, Texas and the U.S. southwest. The No. 4 U.S. bank, which operates 3,400 branches, joins others such as Washington Mutual Inc. that are closing branches to focus on faster−growing markets and businesses. Wachovia expects to open 100 to 130 branches in 2007, but few in the eastern part of the country, including New York. It expects next year to open 25 to 30 branches in southern California, which it entered in March. "We're expanding in the high−growth markets," said Ben Jenkins, head of Wachovia's retail and business banking unit, at a Merrill Lynch & Co. financial services conference. "We're consolidating in the lower opportunity markets that have had traffic pattern changes." He said Wachovia plans to close about 100 branches a year "at least for the next two years." Like most U.S. banks, Wachovia is battling the convergence of long− and short−term interest rates, which narrowed the gap between what it earns on loans and pays on deposits.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2006/11/15/AR2006111500389.html

9. *November 14, SC Magazine (UK)* — **Symantec opens phishing−reporting site to home users.** Symantec's worldwide phishing−reporting network, previously restricted to member companies, will now be open to home consumers. The site allows firms −− and now individual users −− to report and receive information on fraudulent Websites. Symantec also announced that it is adding the National Cyber−Forensics and Training Alliance, a leading anti−fraud organization, to the Symantec Phish Report Network. Vincent Weafer of Symantec said that the company can validate phishing complaints it receives. "We've been trying to expand the amount of people providing information in, so we're just basically expanding the intelligence," he said.

"We actually do some Q−and−A in the back−end, and we vent the URLs coming in for validation," he said. When consumers are targeted by a phishing e−mail with a fraudulent address, they can now submit the malicious URL to the phish report network, which, if it confirms the link is fraudulent, will enter it into its blacklist. That information is then provided to other network members. OpenDNS launched a site with a similar premise last month. PhishTank collects the input of home users on phishing sites, then posts the information.
Source: http://www.scmagazine.com/uk/news/article/604641/symantec−opens−phishing−reporting−site−home−users/

[Return to top]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *November 15, Reuters* — **US Airways makes $8 billion bid for Delta.** US Airways on Wednesday, November 15, said it had made a merger proposal with Delta Air Lines under which the companies would combine upon Delta's emergence from bankruptcy. The proposal would provide about $8 billion of value in cash and stock to Delta's unsecured creditors, US Airways said. Delta is the nation's No. 3 airline, behind only AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, in terms of miles flown by paying passengers. US Airways as it now exists was created when it was purchased by the former America West when US Air emerged from bankruptcy. The downturn in airfares and high fuel prices sent both Delta and Northwest Airlines into bankruptcy on the same day in September 2005.
Source: http://money.cnn.com/2006/11/15/news/companies/us_airways_delta/index.htm?cnn=yes

11. *November 15, Baltimore Sun* — **TSA reiterates carry−on rules.** Airport security rules for toiletries and other liquids have changed twice since summer. Many infrequent fliers don't know them. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screeners don't seem to apply them evenly. And the government, airports, and the airlines don't have a uniform plan to aid the 25 million that are expected to fly in the days surrounding Thanksgiving. So concerned are TSA officials that they've planned 70 public events around the country to advertise the rules about the liquid ban, including one on Tuesday, November 14, at Baltimore−Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. "We still see a large number of [banned] items at the checkpoint and while every occurrence may only take a few minutes, when tens of thousands of people are passing through the checkpoint that can have a significant cumulative effect," said Darrin Kayser, a TSA spokesperson. But already some of the rules have caused trouble because they allow screeners some leeway that Kayser acknowledges may seem inconsistent. Compounding the problem next week will be once−a−year passengers who don't seem to know there are rules for liquids or anything else despite five years of intensified aviation security.
For further information: http://www.tsa.gov/index.shtm
Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bal−bz.travel15nov15,0,2421405.story?coll=bal−business−headlines

12. *November 15, NBC5 (TX)* — **Dallas/Fort Worth airport praised for ground safety measures.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) wants other airports to follow the lead of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to improve safety on the ground to avert the hundreds of runway incursions, or near run−ins, happen every year. Dallas/Fort Worth Airport

has tested a lighted alert system that warns pilots who stray onto an active runway. And, a new taxiway system is also under construction. But, such changes at airports are expensive. The NTSB said it also wants to see improved audio, data, and video recorders on airplanes.
Source: http://www.nbc5i.com/news/10326681/detail.html

13. *November 15, Check* — **T.F. Green opens streamlined security area.** The Rhode Island Airport Corporation on Wednesday, November 15, unveiled a new central passenger queuing area for the upper−level security checkpoint at T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, that is part of a post−9/11 effort to make the airport's lobby "convenient once again." To speed security check−ins, the area where passengers line up for screening has been expanded to eight lanes, each of which is wider and longer than before. And to give additional privacy to passengers who are pulled aside for more thorough searches, secondary screening areas and private screening rooms have been added. Other changes include the relocation of the lobby's escalator and stairs to the front of the terminal, away from the security checkpoint; the addition of structural supports and a terrazzo floor, to help delineate the security area; and a new camera system that airport officials said offers "enhanced surveillance capabilities."
Source: http://www.pbn.com/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/123703

14. *November 15, Charlotte Observer (NC)* — **Audit finds North Carolina DOT squandered millions.** A North Carolina state audit of Department of Transportation (DOT) operations determined the agency has wasted millions of dollars, did not properly document all contracts and has questionable relationships with some contractors. The report, released Tuesday, November 14, by the Legislative Audit Council, represents more than a year's work. Lawmakers said its contents could spur changes within the department when the General Assembly meets next year, while Governor Mark Sanford renewed calls that DOT be moved into his Cabinet. Although the report uncovered at least $50 million that could have been saved through management changes, that's less than 1.5 percent of what DOT spent during the three−year period that was examined. The agency spent more than $3.5 billion on projects and allocations during that time. House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R−Charleston, requested the audit last year. Harrell said a House committee would study the report and recommend changes.
Source: http://www.charlotte.com/mld/charlotte/news/16015026.htm

15. *November 15, Detroit Free Press* — **Northwest to hire 250 attendants at Metro Airport.** Northwest Airlines is hiring new flight attendants for the first time since the September 11, 2001, attacks. The airline wants to fill 250 positions that will be based at Detroit Metro Airport, its largest hub. The vacancies are due to "a number of factors including some modest operational growth and flight attendant attrition," said Northwest spokesperson Dean Breest. The vacancies come after about 830 laid−off attendants agreed to return to the airline, said Ricky Thornton, spokesperson for the Association of Flight Attendants, which represents Northwest's 9,000 attendants. Northwest flight attendants are working under imposed work rules that have cut wages after workers rejected two concessionary agreements.
Source: http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006611150386

[Return to top]

Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *November 15, Associated Press* — **UPS gets transport pact.** The U.S. Transportation Command awarded Tuesday, November 14, a contract worth $47.1 million to United Parcel Services Inc. (UPS) for foreign express delivery. The pact, granted to Louisville, KY−based UPS, will provide funds for international heavyweight express package delivery. Work will be performed worldwide and will be completed September 30, 2007.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061114/ups_contract.html?.v=1

[Return to top]

Agriculture Sector

17. *November 15, Agricultural Research Service* — **Getting livestock vaccines past a maternal block.** Use of a virus linked to the common cold is among the novel approaches Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Iowa are using to bypass maternal defenses that thwart vaccination of very young livestock. Maternal antibodies passed to the young through colostrum, a protective substance in the mother's milk, will also fight off virus strains that are placed in vaccines to initiate immunity against disease. In one study, veterinary medical officers immunized −− against swine flu −− recently born piglets that had suckled maternal influenza−fighting antibodies. They did this by getting the flu strain past the antibodies piggybacked aboard a genetically engineered virus made with weakened adenoviruses. This is a potentially major breakthrough that may close a window of vulnerability during which the maternal antibodies' waning powers still repel vaccines but leave young animals open to contracting diseases. In another project, scientists noticed that exposing suckling calves to bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) generates a T−cell, or immune, response that will repel that virus. BVDV costs U.S. cattle producers millions of dollars in losses each year and induces diseases affecting animal reproduction and nutrition, milk output and digestive and respiratory function.
Source: http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061115.htm

18. *November 14, Associated Press* — **Bovine TB problems remain in northeastern Michigan.** Bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been detected on a private deer ranch in Michigan for the first time in nine years as efforts continue to have most of the state declared free of the disease, officials said Tuesday, November 14. A deer tested positive for bovine TB last month on the ranch in Montmorency County, said Bridget Patrick, coordinator of the state program aimed at eradicating the lung disease. It is fatal for animals but it is different strain than the tuberculosis that usually infects humans. The ranch, a private hunting establishment, has between 150 and 200 deer. The entire herd will be killed, Patrick said. The only other discovery of bovine TB on a private deer ranch in Michigan happened in 1997, she said. Montmorency is within the five−county area of the northeastern Lower Peninsula where most TB cases have been found since the outbreak began in the mid−1990s. The disease has turned up on 40 cattle farms, and 527 whitetail deer −− nearly all wild −− have tested positive.
Source: http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf?/base/news−39/1163549365141840.xml&storylist=newsmichigan

19. *November 14, Horse* — **Equine herpes virus quarantine at Monmouth partially lifted.** In New Jersey, a quarantine of horses at Monmouth Park for cases of equine herpes virus (EHV) was partially lifted Monday, November 13, after tests on two horses showing possible signs of

the disease last weekend came back negative. With those two horses testing negative for the virus, the quarantine was lifted on horses in the "general population" barns at Monmouth. Since the quarantine was instituted on October 26, none of the horses from the general population have become infected with the virus. Those barns housed roughly 1,000 horses. The quarantine was instituted when at least four horses tested positive in late October after they began exhibiting fevers. Those four, and other horses at Monmouth Park that had contact with those horses, were separated from the rest of the equine population there and put in designated quarantine barns. All horses in the quarantined barns at the park will not be permitted to move to other facilities until they have shown no indications of the disease for at least 21 days.
Source: http://www.thehorse.com/viewarticle.aspx?ID=8134

20. *November 14, Agriculture Online* — **Minnesota cattle owners to receive tax credits for bovine TB testing.** Minnesota cattle owners paying for bovine tuberculosis (TB) testing for their cattle can offset the costs of that testing with a new tax credit offered beginning this year. The bovine TB testing credit is a refundable credit available to individuals, trusts, partnerships and corporations. Legislation passed earlier this year allows cattle owners to claim a credit against their taxes for an amount equal to one half of the expenses incurred to conduct TB testing on those animals. The credit is available to cattle owners testing just one animal or an entire herd, and there are no limits on how much can be claimed. State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health Dr. Bill Hartmann said testing is not cheap, but it is necessary to preserve Minnesota's strong cattle industry and return the state to TB−free status.
Source: http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/1163519101302.xml&catref=ag1001

[Return to top]

Food Sector

21. *November 14, Centre Daily Times (PA)* — **Wegmans issues recall for lemon and caper sauce.** Wegmans supermarkets has issued a recall on 11−ounce jars of Wegmans Italian Classics Lemon and Caper Sauce with a "use by" date of November 5, 2007. The jars may contain pieces of glass that could cause injury or a choking hazard, according to a news release from the company. The recall consists of 1,893 cases and sold at Wegmans stores in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and Maryland.
Source: http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/16012079.htm

22. *November 14, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **The Hershey Company recalls seven bottles of Reese's Shell Topping due to possible health risk.** The Hershey Company today announced that it is recalling seven, 7.25−ounce bottles of Reese's Shell Topping manufactured in Canada on October 27, 2006, due to possible contamination with Salmonella. The bottles have the code 30MXB printed on the back of the bottle below the cap. The UPC/Bar Code is 346010. No other Hershey's shell toppings or other Hershey confectionery items are involved in this recall. No illnesses have been reported to date.
Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/hershey11_06.html

[Return to top]

Water Sector

23. *November 14, Pueblo Chieftain (CO)* — **Chlorine leak shuts down part of Colorado water plant.** Part of Pueblo, CO's water treatment plant was shut down Sunday night, November 12, by a chlorine gas leak. The chlorine feed facility at the Whitlock Treatment Plant was shut down at 11 pm, an estimated 90 minutes after a mechanical failure in a coupling caused an estimated 1,300 pounds of chlorine − a little less than an average day's supply − to escape. The delay allowed scrubbers in the building to neutralize the chlorine that had leaked so workers could enter the building and shut it down entirely. The city's water supply will not be affected, the Pueblo Board of Water Works assured customers. Firefighters on the scene were concerned the chlorine might escape into the atmosphere and were prepared to use the reverse 911 system to evacuate nearby residents. However, very little chlorine gas escaped. Firefighters took atmospheric readings and found no threat. The Pueblo Board of Water Works on Monday, November 13, was assessing the damage and still trying to determine the cause of the mechanical failure.
Source: http://www.chieftain.com/metro/1163487667/2

[Return to top]

Public Health Sector

24. *November 15, Scienceline (NY)* — **Poor plumbing system in Hong Kong linked to spread of SARS.** At the height of the severe acquired respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, Hong Kong residents were cautioned not to venture outside without first donning a surgical mask. But nobody suspected that some people might be at risk of contracting the virus in their own homes. Now, a new study reveals that in a Hong Kong housing complex in 2003, SARS spread quickly from one victim to 320 of his neighbors via a poorly maintained plumbing system. According to the study, which appeared in the May 2006 edition of the Journal of Environmental Health, SARS infiltrated the leaky plumbing system through the first victim's bathroom and quickly spread to other residents' lavatories, propelled by large ceiling fans. Until the instance in Hong Kong, there was unsubstantial evidence that SARS could also spread along less direct pathways such as plumbing, ventilation systems and other so−called "environmental transmission" routes.
Source: http://scienceline.org/2006/11/15/health−driscoll−sars/

25. *November 14, U.S. Department of State* — **New research center to combat animal diseases affecting people.** Diseases have been transmitted from animals to humans for thousands of years, but the pace of the pathogenic exchange is accelerating because of sheer numbers −− the size of human populations and the number of animals raised to feed them. "If you look at the significant epidemics over the last 20 to 25 years, there's certainly a preponderance of animal disease going to people," said Dr. Lonnie King, acting director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector−Borne and Enteric Diseases, a newly organized unit at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Recognition that zoonotic diseases, or zoonoses, are a globalized phenomenon is inherent in the mission, "to maximize public health and safety nationally and internationally through the prevention and control of disease, disability and death caused by zoonotics," according to the mission statement of the new center, which still is

pending official status. Although awareness of the connection between diseases affecting humans and animals is growing, King said recognition must evolve into a broad strategy to better control disease in livestock populations, which provide the greatest opportunity for pathogens to make their leap from one species to another.
Source: http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=November&x=20061114105037cmretrop0.2981684

26. *November 14, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **Study: Flu vaccine slightly raises Guillain-Barré risk.** Adults may have a slightly higher risk for hospitalization with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within a few weeks after influenza vaccination than at other times, though their overall risk of the disorder remains very low, researchers from the University of Ontario, Canada, reported Monday, November 13. The researchers studied residents of Ontario and performed two analyses. The results of the first analysis revealed there were 1,601 hospitalizations for GBS between 1993 and 2004, 269 of which occurred within 43 weeks after the patient received a vaccine, presumably for influenza, in October or November. Patients were 1.45 times as likely to be hospitalized for GBS from two to seven weeks after vaccination as they were between 20 and 43 weeks after vaccination. In the second analysis, the authors identified 2,173 hospitalizations for GBS between 1991 and 2004 and found no significant difference between hospitalization rates before and after the universal immunization program took effect. The authors say the study results should be interpreted carefully. "The increase in relative risk we observed corresponds to a very low absolute risk for Guillain-Barré syndrome, given the low baseline incidence of the disease (approximately 1 in 100,000 population)," they write.
Abstract: http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/166/20/221 7
Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/nov1406guillain.html

27. *November 14, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* — **U.S. and Mexico pledge increased cooperation in pandemic influenza preparedness along border.** The United States and Mexico on Tuesday, November 14, announced the signing of an agreement to boost cooperation on pandemic influenza preparedness among the six Mexican states and four U.S. states that share the international boundary. Meeting in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Craig Vanderwagen and the Mexican Director-General of Epidemiology of the Mexican Federal Secretariat of Health Pablo Kuri signed a joint declaration to strengthen the commitment of the two nations to coordinate preparedness efforts, domestic and international disease surveillance activities, and response planning in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza.
For more information: http://www.borderhealth.org/
Source: http://www.dhhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20061114.html

28. *November 14, WTOP (Washington, DC)* — **New gas safely kills anthrax, super bugs.** There's still no surefire treatment for people who inhale anthrax, but now, there is a major breakthrough in prevention. Any post office, hospital, airplane or other enclosed space contaminated by anthrax can soon be quickly sterilized with a dry gas that destroys spores and bacteria. The gas -- called Vaprox -- can also kill drug-resistant super bugs like bird flu and hospital-acquired infections, says Dr. Mark Smith, Chairman of Emergency Medicine at Washington Hospital

Center. "The gas is very effective at filling all the spaces and killing all the bugs," Smith says.
Source: http://www.wtopnews.com/index.php?nid=106&sid=974768

29. *November 14, Anderson Independent−Mail (SC)* — **South Carolina school reports 17 cases of whooping cough.** An outbreak of whooping cough at Centerville Elementary School in Anderson, SC, has health officials warning that one vaccination in a person's lifetime is not enough to guard against the disease. Cases of people infected with pertussis, commonly called whooping cough, is on the rise, breaking records that have not been topped since the 1950s, according to national statistics. To date, more than 340 people at the school have been treated for possible "contact" with the airborne−illness and 17 people from the school have tested positive for whooping cough.
Source: http://www.independentmail.com/and/news/article/0,1886,AND_8203_5143890,00.html

30. *November 13, Department of Health and Human Services* — **HHS releases update to the U.S. pandemic plan.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Monday, November 13, released an update to the U.S. pandemic plan released last November. Refer to source to view this update.
Source: http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/panflureport3.pdf

[Return to top]

Government Sector

31. *October 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−07−39: Critical Infrastructure Protection: Progress Coordinating Government and Private Sector Efforts Varies by Sectors' Characteristics (Report).** As Hurricane Katrina so forcefully demonstrated, the nation's critical infrastructures and key resources have been vulnerable to a wide variety of threats. Because about 85 percent of the nation's critical infrastructure is owned by the private sector, it is vital that the public and private sectors work together to protect these assets. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for coordinating a national protection strategy including formation of government and private sector councils as a collaborating tool. The councils, among other things, are to identify their most critical assets, assess the risks they face, and identify protective measures, in sector−specific plans that comply with DHS's National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined (1) the extent to which these councils have been established; (2) the key facilitating factors and challenges affecting the formation of the councils; and (3) the overall status of the plans and key facilitating factors and challenges encountered in developing them. GAO obtained information by reviewing key documents and conducting interviews with federal and private sector representatives. GAO is not making any recommendations at this time since prior recommendations are still being implemented. Continued monitoring will determine whether further recommendations are warranted.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0739high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−07−39

[Return to top]

Emergency Services Sector

32. *November 14, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* — **Homeland Security launches new ads to demonstrate importance of family emergency planning.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and The Advertising Council unveiled new public service advertisements (PSAs) Tuesday, November 14, to support the Ready Campaign. Ready is a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The new PSAs unveiled Tuesday include television, radio, print, Internet, and outdoor versions. Also released Tuesday was a television ad featuring First Lady Laura Bush discussing emergency preparedness. All of the new PSAs highlight the fact that many families have not yet taken the steps needed to prepare for emergencies including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan and learning more about different emergencies and their appropriate responses. "These new ads will encourage all Americans to take some basic steps to prepare their families for emergencies," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "By simply taking a little time to sit down together and make an emergency plan, families can help answer important questions, such as where to meet, how to communicate with each other and what to do in the event of an emergency."
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1163518483290.shtm

33. *November 13, Enquirer (OH)* — **First responders' toxic risks.** Despite all the advances in protective equipment and medical knowledge, University of Cincinnati (UC) researchers showed in a just−published study that firefighters are much more likely than other workers to develop non−Hodgkins lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and testicular or prostate cancer. UC lung specialist James Lockey and epidemiologist Grace LeMasters looked at data from 110,000 firefighters exposed to chronic, low−dose toxins such as cancer−causing benzene, diesel fumes and hazardous particles. Firefighters may be superbly protected in close when fighting fires, but their worst exposure may occur out at the perimeter when they shed their heavy equipment, or even after they return to the firehouse to clean up. Air quality out on the edges of fires requires further study. The UC researchers also recommend that firefighters shower as soon as they return to their stations.
Source: http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061113/EDIT01/611130345/1090/EDIT

34. *November 13, Government Technology* — **Virginia first responders moving from 10−codes to common language.** Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine last month announced progress in an effort to get Virginia's first responders and public safety personnel to shift to common language instead of 10−codes in day−to−day operations and mutual aid events. The common language protocol was announced at the 2006 Virginia Interoperable Communications Conference, held last month in Portsmouth. "The use of coded language often can result in confusion and miscommunication because local, regional and state public safety agencies use different codes. This is a problem especially during mutual aid incidents where multiple jurisdictions and disciplines must work together," Governor Kaine said. While the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requires common language for mutual aid situations, the state went a step further by encouraging common language usage on a day−to−day basis for all responders.
Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/102326

35. *November 13, GovExec* — **Panelists: Pentagon could take lead role in some disasters.** The Department of Defense (DoD) may be called upon to lead some responses to disasters defense experts said Monday, November 13. The Pentagon's authority could supercede that of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the event of an attack, said David McIntyre, director of the Integrative Center for Homeland Security at Texas A&M University. McIntyre, a 30−year Army veteran, said the Pentagon's role in a disaster leans heavily toward response and recovery, while DHS' is more focused on prevention and mitigation. The Defense Department might be called on to take the lead after an attack, said Paul Stockton, former director of the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security. This could even make the DoD suited to lead responses for some incidents that do not involve an attack, such as a pandemic flu outbreak or massive earthquake, McIntyre said. Colonel Richard Chavez, director of civil support in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, said local and state agencies must be allowed to contribute significantly and argued that instead of a Defense−led response, multi−departmental collaboration is needed.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35478&dcn=to daysnews

[Return to top]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *November 15, VNUNet* — **Windows use could boost mobile malware.** A security expert has warned that the increasing use of Microsoft code in mobile applications could lead to a rise in mobile malware activity. Kevin Hogan, senior manager at Symantec Security Response said that, while very little malware activity is aimed at mobile phones, the situation could change as Microsoft's influence grows. Hogan cited two large Japanese telecoms companies which are actively evaluating Windows CE devices. "If Windows CE is taken up in a big way in a large market we may see some increased malware activity," he warned. "There is not a lot of functionality built in that will stop attacks on that platform, so there could be a problem if it takes off."
Source: http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2168653/windows−boost−mobi le−malware

37. *November 15, SearchSecurity* — **SANS: VoIP, zero−day threats surge.** Since attacks are no longer tied solely to a set of software flaws, the SANS Institute has renamed its annual Top 20 vulnerabilities list this year to the "Top 20 Internet Security Attack Targets." Among this year's top 20 are six major attack trends: 1) A surge in zero−day attacks that go beyond Internet Explorer to target other Microsoft software; 2) A rapid growth in attacks exploiting vulnerabilities in ubiquitous Microsoft Office products such as PowerPoint and Excel; 3) A continued growth in targeted attacks; 4) Increased phishing attacks against military and government contractor sites; 5) A surge in Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) attacks in which attackers can intercept and sell company meeting minutes, inject misleading messages or create massive outages in the old phone network; 6) Ever−increasing attacks against Web application flaws.
SANS Institute's Top 20 vulnerabilities list: http://www.sans.org/top20/?ref=1487
Source: http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,28914 2,sid14_gci1230095,00.html

38.

November 14, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team — **US−CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA06−318A: Microsoft security updates for Windows, Internet Explorer, and Adobe Flash.** Microsoft has released updates that address critical vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows, Internet Explorer, and Adobe Flash. Exploitation of these vulnerabilities could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code or cause a denial−of−service on a vulnerable system. Systems affected: Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Internet Explorer, and Adobe Flash.
Further information is available in the US−CERT Vulnerability Notes Database: http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=ms06−nov
Solution: Microsoft has provided updates for these vulnerabilities in the November 2006 Security Bulletin. The Security Bulletin describes any known issues related to the updates. Note any known issues described in the Bulletin and test for any potentially adverse affects in your environment.
Microsoft Security Bulletin: http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms06−nov.mspx
System administrators may wish to consider using Windows Server Update Services: http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserversystem/updateservices/ default.mspx
Source: http://www.us−cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06−318A.html

39. *November 14, Washington Technology* — **DHS IG to put key programs under microscope.** A controversial data mining prototype developed by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science & Technology Directorate is getting close scrutiny from the department's inspector general (IG). The DHS IG plans to review the Analysis, Dissemination, Visualization, Insight and Semantic Enhancement, or Advise, program, over the next several months to determine how well it is meeting its goals in identifying potential threats, according to the IG's just−released fiscal 2007 Annual Performance Plan. The $40 million program is designed to extract terrorist threat information from large amounts of data. The upcoming evaluation is one of dozens of oversight investigations −− many of them for IT programs at DHS −− that the IG will conduct during the current fiscal year under the 94−page annual plan. Program areas to be reviewed include information security, information sharing, acquisition programs, disaster management, logistics programs, threat assessments, and data mining.
2007 Annual Performance Plan: http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/OIG_APP_FY07.pdf
Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/29715−1.html?topic=homeland

40. *November 14, eWeek* — **Apple releases firmware update for the Mac.** Apple Computer has released a firmware update that the company said will fix problems with its Boot Camp software. The company posted the firmware update on the Apple Website on Monday, November 13. The update affects Intel−based Macs, including the iMac, the MacBook, MacBook Pro and the Mac mini.
Apple firmware update available at: http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2058890,00.asp

41. *November 14, Websense Security Labs* — **Malicious Website / Malicious Code: MS06−067.** Websense Security Labs received proof of concept code for a vulnerability in the "DirectAnimation ActiveX Control" in September 2006. Since that time Websense's miners have been searching for sites that are exploiting this vulnerability. Multiple sites were

discovered to be actively exploiting this in the wild. The majority of these sites have been installing a variant of the HaxDoor backdoor/keylogger. Refer to the source to view a screenshot.
Source: http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertI D=698

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	38973 (−−−), 6881 (bittorrent), 1026 (win−rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 1027 (icq), 1028 (−−−), 21015 (−−−), 25 (smtp), 15281 (−−−), 4672 (eMule) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

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

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

[Return to top]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

42. *November 15, New Scientist* — **Artificial earthquake batters replica house.** A simulated 6.7−magnitude earthquake was set off in a New York laboratory on Tuesday, November 14, to test how a house would stand up to the shaking. The test was carried out at the University at Buffalo, part of the State University of New York. A three−bedroom house, complete with plates on the kitchen table and a car in the garage, was built on top of a "shake table" and rigged with hundreds of sensors before being subjected to the violent wobble test. The simulated quake, which lasted just a few seconds, sent furniture and televisions flying around. It caused surprisingly little damage to the structure and, most unexpectedly, all the windows remained intact. The test was coordinated by researchers from five different U.S. universities as part of a four−year research project aimed at helping architects design houses for earthquake−prone areas. The simulation was the largest ever conducted on a wooden building, the researchers say. More than 250 sensors were used to gather detailed information from each part of the house and a dozen video cameras −− eight inside and four outside −− also recorded the shaking.
Source: http://www.newscientisttech.com/article/dn10576−artificial−earthquake−batters−replica−house.html

[Return to top]

General Sector

Nothing to report.
[Return to top]

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports − The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open−source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983−3644.
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983−3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

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

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

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer