



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 November 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

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Daily Highlights

- The Los Angeles Times reports the two largest known tunnels on the border that link Nogales, Mexico, with Nogales, Arizona, remain an ongoing tactical problem for authorities to monitor. (See item [14](#))
- The Washington Post reports a new plan to improve information sharing about terrorism establishes a Washington-based threat assessment group that includes federal, state, and local officials, and restructures the way intelligence and other information is handled. (See item [30](#))
- The Associated Press reports three people were shot during what appeared to be a gangland-style confrontation in the food court of the Westfield mall in Annapolis, Maryland. (See item [40](#))

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. *November 18, Daily News-Miner (AK)* — **Crews battle blaze at University of Alaska power plant.** A fire broke out inside a wall at the University of Alaska Fairbanks power plant Friday night, November 17, drawing emergency vehicles from across the city. Crews were able to control the fire without shutting down the plant. In addition to the normal exhaust from the

plant, black smoke escaped from a fire burning between two metal walls. There was no cause of the fire as of Friday night. The university power plant uses two coal-fired and two oil-fired boilers to generate steam for electricity and heat. The plant was built in 1964 and has been continually upgraded. It has a power generating capacity of 23 megawatts.

Source: <http://newsminer.com/2006/11/18/3410/>

2. *November 18, Associated Press* — **Instead of gas flares, fireballs arc from refinery.** A refinery's flare system separates oil residue from natural gas and burns the waste oil at a safe height. But a malfunction at the Dominion Exploration gas-compressor station near Schriever, LA, emitted fireballs of thick oil up the 50-foot stack, shooting them another 50 feet into the air early Friday, November 17. The first Dominion Exploration employee to show up shut down valves, and the fireballs subsided back to a normal flare soon afterward, volunteer Fire Chief Ken Pitre said. Shutting off the flare would have let large amounts of gas into the air, creating the risk for a much larger explosion, Pitre said.
Source: <http://www.katc.com/Global/story.asp?S=5701648>
3. *November 16, North American Electric Reliability Council* — **NERC reports electricity reliability adequate this winter.** North America's electricity generating capacity, transmission systems, and generation fuels will be adequate this winter, Rick Sergel, president and CEO of the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) announced Thursday, November 16, in conjunction with the release of NERC's 2006/2007 Winter Assessment. Generating capacity margins have not changed significantly since last winter, according to Sergel, with winter 2006/2007 margins judged to be adequate across North America. Transmission reinforcements in southwestern Connecticut and Boston also will result in significant improvements to reliability in these areas, which NERC had previously placed on its reliability "Watch List." Coal deliveries from the Powder River Basin, which were cited as an issue in NERC's 2006 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, have improved significantly and coal stocks are increasing. Peak demands for this winter are forecast to be higher than actual peaks recorded last winter in all areas except New England, Texas, the Southwest, and parts of Missouri. Transmission systems will be adequate for reliability purposes, but some constraints may reoccur that may limit desired market transactions.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/cnw/061116/nj_nerc_winter_report.html?.v=1
4. *November 16, Reuters* — **U.S. largest nuclear plant may be under special watch.** The largest nuclear power plant in the U.S. needs to pass three special inspections on possible safety violations that could put it under increased scrutiny and cost its operator millions of dollars, the federal nuclear regulator said on Thursday, November 16. The Palo Verde plant in Arizona has already come under scrutiny after a series of operational problems in the past two years that caused prolonged outages. "[APS] has had a problem with human performance, and in properly identifying problems and finding resolution" over the past few years, said Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesperson Victor Dricks. While Dricks said the NRC may put Palo Verde on extra watch, the plant is not a danger to public safety and is operating safely. Dricks said additional scrutiny such as that possible at Palo Verde has costs operators millions of dollars mainly to fix problems they report. Of the 103 U.S. nuclear power reactors, only three currently undergo the additional scrutiny that Palo Verde could face. Those units are the Point Beach 1 and Point Beach 2 in Wisconsin owned by Wisconsin Energy Corp., and the Perry plant in Ohio owned by First Energy Corp..

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=governmentFilingsNews&storyID=2006-11-17T010855Z_01_N16435719_RTRIDST_0_UTILITIES-PINNACLEWEST-APS.XML&pageNumber=1&imageid=&cap=&sz=13&WTModLoc=InvArt-C1-ArticlePage1

5. *November 15, EERE Network News* — **Waste-to-energy projects gain momentum in U.S.** A large number of projects are now underway throughout the U.S. to convert waste into electricity. Most projects are using methane generated either by landfills or by anaerobic digesters, devices that use anaerobic bacteria to break down organic substances. Landfill gas-to-energy efforts are progressing in Alabama, California, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Anaerobic digester projects are underway in California, Maryland, and Nebraska. Source: http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm?id_10404

6. *November 15, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **NRC releases final rulemaking package on the design basis threat.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission released the final rulemaking package Tuesday, November 14, to revise the design basis threat (DBT). The amendments to the DBT regulations, 10 CFR 73.1, would codify security measures imposed by the agency in April 2003 orders. The DBT defines the minimum characteristics and capabilities that reactor licensees must use to devise defensive strategies for protecting their plant. The revised rule will require licensees to consider cyber threats. The rulemaking package is available electronically through NRC's document system Adams under accession number ML062130289. ADAMS: <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/scripts/securelogin.pl> Source: <http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7879493.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *November 17, Muskegon Chronicle (MI)* — **Welder killed in tanker blast.** A 27-year-old welder was killed in an explosion Thursday, November 16, in Dorr Township, MI, while working inside a gasoline tanker. The explosion put a hole through the roof of a trailer repair company and rocked another nearby business. Authorities said Kristofer Lee Lorback was inside a 13,000-gallon gasoline tanker fixing a leak in one of the rig's four compartments when a blast erupted at Liquid Haulers Maintenance Inc. Investigators were unsure what caused the explosion and planned to continue checking. The detonation bowed the roof of the large sheet-metal garage and apparently sent one of three round covers on top of the tanker flying through the ceiling. While a handful of other workers in the area were not injured, they were lucky. A natural gas line running across the ceiling ruptured amid the flying debris and gas was pouring into the building. Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/muchronicle/index.ssf?/base/news-5/116377653384230.xml&coll=8>
8. *November 17, Washington Post* — **Overtaken propane tanker forces evacuations in Maryland.** At least half a dozen homes were evacuated in the southern part of Anne Arundel County, MD, Friday morning, November 17, after a propane tanker truck overturned and began to leak. The accident occurred at Owensville Road and Tenthouse Road in the eastern Maryland

county. Six to eight homes in the vicinity were evacuated, and police closed sections of Owensville Road (Route 255) and Muddy Creek Road.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/17/AR2006111700719.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *November 17, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-96: Space Acquisitions: DoD Needs to Take More Action to Address Unrealistic Initial Cost Estimates of Space Systems (Report)**. Estimated costs for the Department of Defense's (DoD) major space acquisition programs have increased by about \$12.2 billion from initial estimates for fiscal years 2006 through 2011. Cost growth for ongoing Air Force programs above initial estimates accounts for a substantial portion of this 44 percent increase. In light of the role that optimistic estimating is believed to have played in exacerbating space acquisition cost growth, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) was requested to examine (1) in what areas space system acquisition cost estimates have been unrealistic and (2) what incentives and pressures have contributed to the quality and usefulness of cost estimates for space system acquisitions. GAO recommends that DoD take a number of actions to increase the likelihood that independent, more realistic cost estimates will be developed and utilized. DoD concurred with the overall findings of this report and provided information on the specific actions it was already taking to improve the Air Force's cost-estimating capability.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0796high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-96>

10. *November 16, Federal Computer Week* — **Contractors should comply with DoD security training rules**. Contractors who are serious about getting Department of Defense (DoD) contracts should make sure now that their employees who have information assurance roles meet the standards set by DoD Directive 8570.1, according to panelists who spoke Thursday morning, November 16, at an Information Technology Association of America event. "There's not a downside to contractors being certified," said Phyllis Scott, president of training firm TTSC. Contracts will require it, and contractors who are already certified will have an immediate advantage, she said. DoD approved the directive's proposal to train and certify at least 80,000 department employees in four years in December 2005. The directive applies to every aspect of DoD — military, agencies and contractors. It divides positions into technical or management, and applies different standards to each group, further subdivided by tiers.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article96859-11-16-06-Web>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *November 16, Infozine* — **Should banks stop mailing customers to avoid phishing concerns?** Sophos stresses caution in recent statements that banks should stop emailing customers to avoid providing more temptation for phishers. The call to action, made by a

security expert at Dimension Data, is in response to a recent legitimate Citibank e-mail that customers mistakenly took for a phishing scam. Sophos says that instead of halting useful e-mail communications, banks should ensure they are taking proper security measures and are consistent with their messaging so customers can easily distinguish between official e-mails and phishing attacks. The email in question described a new sign-on procedure that guaranteed customers even more security. Customers were asked to update their log-ins by going to Citibank's Website, and entering their ATM number, pin and account number...all well-known signs of a phishing scam. Citibank's request contradicted itself with a warning written at the bottom of the message stating that the bank would never ask customers for such information via e-mail.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/18999/>

12. *November 16, VNUNet* — **Spanish police nab Webcam blackmailers.** Four suspected cyber-criminals have been arrested in Spain in connection with a series of online crimes including malware creation, blackmail, data theft, and credit card fraud. According to Spanish newspaper reports, two 17 year-olds were arrested Wednesday, November 15, in Alicante charged with creating a Trojan horse which allowed them to take control of Webcams at local educational institutions. The hackers allegedly spied on students and recorded compromising images which were then used to blackmail the victims. Two adults were also arrested in Madrid in connection with the original inquiry, accused of using the teenaged malware authors to obtain confidential data in order to commit credit card fraud. Using fake credit card details, the two individuals allegedly made purchases amounting to more than €60,000. The investigation, codenamed 'Praxis', has been ongoing since a Spanish computer science organization fell victim to a hack attack in August 2005.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2168823/police-nab-spanish-webcam-spies>

13. *November 16, Bankrate* — **'Second-chance' online auction scams.** Scammers sometimes watch bidders in high-dollar auctions, especially on big-name auction sites, such as eBay, and try to dupe unsuspecting buyers out of their money after an auction closes. The scheme, known as a second-chance auction scam, is just one of many types of Internet auction fraud — the leading type of offense reported to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). Second-chance scams are one of the most popular auction fraud complaints currently reported to the center, says Aaron Naternicola of the IC3. Of the 17,933 auction fraud complaints it received within the past 12 months, 1,381, or 7.7 percent, involved second-chance online scams. Second-chance scammers wait until auctions end and then offer non-winning bidders a phony second chance to purchase the item — usually through a wire transfer service. April Wall of the National White Collar Crime Center explains that by targeting bidders in specific auctions, the scammer can cash in on the victim's invested interest in the product. A majority of second-chance auction fraud complaints come through eBay auctions, says Wall, but "this is more than likely simply a function of the huge popularity of the eBay site...All auction sites have the potential for this type of fraud."

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/brn/061116/19824.html?.v=1>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *November 19, Los Angeles Times* — **Tunnels act as highways for migrants.** One mile deep into the drafty tunnel under the hilly frontier city of Nogales, Mexico, a flashlight beam cuts through the pitch-black darkness and illuminates a yellow line painted on the concrete wall: the U.S.–Mexico border. Inside the largest known tunnels on the border — two passages that make up an enormous drainage system linking Nogales, Mexico, with Nogales, AZ — migrants stumble blindly through toxic puddles and duck low-flying bats. Methamphetamine-addicted assailants lurk. And young men working as drug mules lug burlap sacks filled with contraband. As the United States prepares to fence much of the border above ground, the situation below ground could grow increasingly chaotic. Authorities have discovered dozens of illegal tunnels in recent years, including a nearly half-mile passage connecting Tijuana with San Diego. In the smaller one, called the Morley Tunnel, an ankle-high stream of raw sewage and chemical runoff from factories in Mexico usually flows. The neighboring Grand Tunnel is up to 15 feet high and wide enough to fit a Humvee. Dozens of illegal immigrants can travel through it at one time. Patrolling the tunnels is a tactical nightmare for law enforcement on both sides of the border.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-tunnel19nov19.0.1619996.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

15. *November 17, Department of Transportation* — **Iowa Northern Railway receives RRIF loan.** The Iowa Northern Railway (IANR), a short line freight carrier located in northeastern Iowa, is receiving a \$25.5 million loan from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The funds will be used to: upgrade mainline track from Linn to Waterloo and from Cedar Falls to Manly; construct new sidings at Palo, Shell Rock, and Nora Springs; and rehabilitate rail yards in Waterloo and Manly. These improvements will allow the railroad to accommodate heavier railcars and move freight more quickly, safely, and efficiently. Agricultural products account for most of the cargo carried by the IANR, but in recent years demand for ethanol shipments has grown. The loan, which is to be repaid over a period of 25 years, was provided under the FRA's Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot10606.htm>

16. *November 17, AXcess News (TX)* — **U.S. and Mexico sign spectrum agreement over border security.** The United States and Mexico signed a border security agreement Thursday, November 16, that deals with authorities on both sides of the border sharing a telecommunications spectrum meant to give border security personnel in Mexico and the US a means of communicating with each other. The agreement also supports the operations of commercial entrepreneurs who are expected to deploy advanced wireless services along the border. For public safety licensees in the U.S., the agreement provides access to twelve megahertz of primary spectrum in the border area. For commercial services, the agreement provides certainty regarding network operations for new broadband wireless service providers once broadcasters complete their conversion from analog to digital television in spectrum now used for TV channels 52 to 69. The agreement will be implemented by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States and by the Ministry of Communications and Transportation and the Federal Telecommunications Commission in Mexico.

Source: http://www.axcessnews.com/modules/wfsection/article.php?arti_cleid=12004

17. *November 16, Associated Press* — **American Airlines pilots cooperate for China flights.** The pilots' union at American Airlines has offered to settle a dispute that could hold up American's

bid to offer more flights to China. The union's contract requires side agreements before the airline can operate unusually long flights, such as the 16-hour flights proposed from Dallas–Fort Worth International Airport to Beijing. But negotiations had stalled. On Thursday, November 16, the union representing American's 13,000 pilots said it had given American a signed agreement and asked American to sign it too. President Ralph Hunter said the group was seeking "a number of no-cost items for our pilots." The items range from starting the pilot's work day when he signs in for duty, to letting pilots fill otherwise empty cabin jumpseats, to getting free high-speed Internet access in layover hotels. While the union and company jockey over China service, they are also negotiating an overall contract — the first since 2003, when pilots accepted wage and benefit concessions to keep the company out of bankruptcy. American and three other U.S. carriers are competing to offer several new weekly nonstop flights between the United States and China beginning next spring. The U.S. carriers view China as a growing and potentially lucrative market.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061116/tx_american_airlines_china.html?v=1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *November 17, Associated Press* — **UPS raises rates for 2007.** United Parcel Service (UPS), the world's largest shipping carrier, said Friday, November 17, that it was raising its average ground, air and international rates by a higher percentage in 2007 than it did this year. The Atlanta-based company also said it would maintain its two percentage point fuel surcharge reduction on air and international shipments. UPS said that starting next year there will be an average 4.9 percent increase for ground shipments and an average increase of 6.9 percent on all air express and U.S. origin international shipments. The new rates for 2007 do not affect this year's holiday shipping season.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061117/ups_rates.html?v=2

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Agriculture Sector

19. *November 17, Agricultural Research Service* — **Beneficial bacteria boost intestinal health.** A probiotic supplement was found to stimulate the immune system and improve nutrient absorption in two separate animal studies recently conducted by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. Probiotics are living microorganisms that, when added to foods or dietary supplements in sufficient numbers, can benefit the consumer in one or more ways. In the first study, the common probiotic strain Bb 12 was fed to three pregnant sows, while a placebo treatment was fed to three pregnant control sows. The scientists then fed the same Bb 12 treatment to half of each sow's litters, resulting in four experimental groups. The researchers studied gene expression patterns in tissue taken from each animal and then compared the patterns in the pigs from all four groups. The probiotic was found to induce innate immune activity in the colon where the probiotic was in highest concentration. In a separate study, half of a group of test pigs were treated with the Bb 12 probiotic before all of the test pigs were exposed to a worm infection. Preliminary results show better response to the infection—and

improved nutrient absorption—in the group of pigs that were supplemented with the probiotic treatment prior to the infection.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061117.htm>

20. *November 16, WISC-TV (WI)* — **Report: State's efforts at fighting CWD in deer aren't working.** An audit released on Thursday, November 16, finds Wisconsin's multimillion-dollar efforts to slow chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the state's deer herd aren't working. The Legislative Audit Bureau's report said that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has spent more than \$32 million battling the disease since it was discovered in Wisconsin in 2002. The DNR has been working to thin the deer herd in areas where the disease has been found. Those efforts include increasing the length of hunting seasons, requiring hunters to shoot a doe before a buck, banning baiting and feeding deer in 26 counties and using sharpshooters to kill more deer. The audit finds the number of deer in the special CWD zones has actually increased from about 26 deer per square mile in 2002 to about 38 deer in 2005. The report also said that 651 free-ranging deer statewide have tested positive for CWD. All of those deer were found in the southern part of the state with roughly 90 percent in Dane and Iowa counties.

Report: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lab/reports/06-13Full.pdf>

Source: <http://www.channel3000.com/news/10340474/detail.html>

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Food Sector

21. *November 17, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **USDA delays removal of exemptions from inspection and user fee requirements for Canada.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is delaying the effective date and establishing a staggered implementation for the collection of user fees for inspections of Canadian-grown fruits and vegetables, commercial vessels, trucks, railroad cars and aircraft, as well as international passengers entering the U.S. from Canada. The delay will allow affected industries time to prepare for the change. The interim rule establishing these fees was originally scheduled to take effect on November 24. All inspections on the U.S.-Canada border are conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP). These inspections are necessary to further prevent the introduction of plant and animal pests and diseases into the U.S. via conventional pathways or through bioterrorism. Recent inspections along the U.S.-Canadian border resulted in numerous interceptions of prohibited fruits and vegetables, originating from regions other than Canada. These products pose a risk of introducing plant pests into the U.S. APHIS is also concerned about agricultural and other products originating in Canada that could serve as host material for pests and diseases if left uninspected.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB/.cmd/a.d/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/.ce/7.2.5JM/.p/5.2.4TQ/.d/1/th/J.2.9D/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?PC.7.2.5JM.contentid=2006%2F11%2F0451.xml&PC.7.2.5JM.parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC.7.2.5JM.navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7.2.5JM

22. *November 16, Canadian Press* — **Hershey says soy ingredient was source of contamination.** Fears of salmonella contamination at the company's factory in Smith Falls, Ontario, prompted a

recall last weekend of a variety of popular chocolate bars and candies. Hershey now says soy lecithin used in chocolate making tested positive for salmonella contamination. The ingredient is used to help chocolate flow more easily during manufacturing. However, just because soy lecithin tested positive for salmonella, doesn't mean it was the source of contamination, said Garfield Balsom, a food safety and recall officer with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. "Because the bacteria was found does not necessarily mean that it was the source," he said.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/cp/health/061116/x111633A.html>

23. *November 16, American Chemical Society* — Edible food wrap kills deadly E. coli bacteria.

Researchers have improved upon an edible coating for fresh fruits and vegetables by enabling it to kill deadly E. coli bacteria while also providing a flavor-boost to food. Composed of apple puree and oregano oil, which acts as a natural antibacterial agent, the coating shows promise in laboratory studies of becoming a long-lasting, potent alternative to conventional produce washes, according to a team of scientists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the University of Lleida in Spain. "All produce-cleaning methods help to some degree, but our new coatings and films may provide a more concentrated, longer-lasting method for killing bacteria," says research leader Tara H. McHugh, Ph.D., a food chemist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Researchers have known about the antimicrobial activity of plant-derived essential oils for some time, but McHugh says that her group is the first to incorporate them into a fruit- or vegetable-based edible food wrap for the purpose of improving food safety. Three years ago, she and her associates developed a similar edible food wrap, but without the antimicrobial properties.

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news82908229.html>

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Water Sector

24. *November 16, Associated Press* — Vancouver, Canada, region issues boil-water alert after fierce storm. Health authorities warned Vancouver, Canada, residents Thursday, November 16, not to drink tap water and to brush their teeth with boiled water after a fierce storm packing high winds and heavy rainfall drenched the region. The heavy rainfall stirred up water supplies, turning tap water cloudy and brownish. "Because the water is so turbid right now, the medical officers are advising that people with immune conditions certainly to avoid the water, but for everybody right now, not to drink the water, not to use it to clean your teeth, not to wash your vegetables with it," said Johnny Carline, water commissioner for the Greater Vancouver Regional District. The high levels of turbidity may cause stomach illnesses, but so far health authorities have not found any actual contamination. Drinking water in the Vancouver area often gets a bit murky when storm season arrives, but the regional district said turbidity levels this week had reached "levels unprecedented in recent years." Carline said a filtration project due to be completed in 2009 should solve the annual turbidity problem.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420AP_Canada_Storm_Water.html

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Public Health Sector

25. *November 17, Nature* — **Drive to stamp out polio looks hopeful.** Polio has been making a comeback in India, but researchers say that a new vaccination campaign has a very good chance of finally eradicating the disease, by the end of the decade. Polio is a highly infectious virus that can invade the nervous system, leading to paralysis and in some cases death. Vaccines have helped eliminate the virus from most of the world, but it still remains endemic in some countries. This year particularly has seen a jump in the number of cases in India, with a total of 490 recorded, up from 66 in 2005. Nicholas Grassly at Imperial College London, together with colleagues at the World Health Organization, modeled the factors contributing to the outbreak in India and found that, perhaps unsurprisingly, poor sanitation and high population density are to blame. This not only means that polio spreads more easily, but also reduces the efficiency of protective jabs — vaccines need time to infect the gut in order to confer immunity, and so children with diarrhea often lack protection. The good news is that Grassly's team predicts that a targeted campaign of high-density areas using a more specific vaccine should boost the efficiency of the treatment enough to allow polio to be eliminated from India.
Source: <http://www.nature.com/news/2006/061113/full/061113-17.html#B.1>
26. *November 16, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **HHS says stockpiled H5N1 vaccine is losing potency.** Federal health officials say much of the H5N1 avian influenza vaccine bought for the U.S. stockpile is losing potency, with the result that the number of people who could be vaccinated has dropped by about one million since July. A pandemic planning report released by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt last week says the stockpile contains enough courses of H5N1 "clade 1" vaccine to vaccinate about three million people. The previous update, released in early July, said there was enough to vaccinate about four million. The stockpile is part of U.S. preparation for a potential flu pandemic.
Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/nov1606potency.html>
27. *November 16, Expatica (Netherlands)* — **Boy dies of Creutzfeld–Jakob Disease in Netherlands.** A 16-year-old schoolboy from North Brabant, Netherlands, died at the end of October from Creutzfeld–Jakob Disease after being infected with the human variant of mad cow disease. The male youth, of Bennebroek, was admitted to hospital in July, but it is not yet certain how he became infected with the disease. The boy is the second person to die from Creutzfeld–Jakob disease in a short period. A 26-year-old Utrecht woman died in 2005. The Creutzfeld–Jakob research center in Rotterdam has indicated that probably two other Dutch nationals have been infected with the brain disease. They were both allegedly infected after eating British meat that was imported into the Netherlands in the 1990s.
Source: http://www.expatica.com/actual/article.asp?subchannel_id=19&story_id=34432
28. *November 16, News 14 Charlotte* — **Whooping cough outbreak in North Carolina.** The Mecklenburg County, NC, Health Department is warning that an outbreak of pertussis — also known as whooping cough — has hit the area. At least 20 people have been diagnosed with the disease in the past month. "We average about one case, two cases per month," said Mecklenburg County Medical Director Dr. Stephen Keener. "So this is a significant increase in the incidents of a disease that is treatable and preventable." The disease is highly contagious and attacks the breathing passages.

Source: http://www.news14charlotte.com/content/top_stories/default.asp?ArID=130109

29. *November 15, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **OSHA updates guidance on avian flu.** The U.S. Department of Labor Tuesday, November 14, released revised Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance to help employers protect their workers from job-related exposure to H5N1 avian influenza. The OSHA guidance, last updated in 2004, gives separate recommendations for several specific employee groups that may be most likely to encounter animals or people infected with the H5N1 virus. Updated OSHA guidance: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html>
Department of Labor press release: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/osha/osha20061463.htm>
Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/nov1506osha.html>

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Government Sector

30. *November 17, Washington Post* — **Group will sort terrorism alerts for local governments.** A new plan to improve information sharing about terrorism, signed by President Bush and delivered to Congress on Thursday, November 16, establishes a Washington-based "threat assessment group" that includes federal, state and local officials. It also aims to reduce more than 100 restrictive and confusing categories of "sensitive" federal information to a half-dozen or fewer so local-level officials can better understand what they are told. State and local governments and law enforcement officials have long complained of a lack of coordination among the federal agencies that send terrorism-related alerts, analysis and instructions. The new plan allows state and local officials to participate in deciding what players outside the federal government need to know and designates an online channel to distribute the information. The 165-page plan complies with part of the intelligence reorganization mandated by Congress in 2004, which created the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the National Counterterrorism Center to facilitate coordination within the federal intelligence community. The newly released plan "restructures the way we handle intelligence and other information so that state and local customers get products that they can use," said Thomas E. McNamara, whose office, under Director of National Intelligence John D. Negroponte, wrote it with input from across the government.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/16/AR2006111601424.html>
31. *November 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-227R: Capitol Power Plant Utility Tunnels (Correspondence).** The Architect of the Capitol (AOC), through the Capitol Power Plant operates five walkable utility tunnels containing steam and chilled water pipes associated with serving the heating and cooling requirements of the U.S. Capitol and 23 surrounding facilities. The Office of Compliance, which is responsible for advancing safety, health, and workplace rights in the legislative branch, and the tunnel workers have raised concerns about health and safety issues in the tunnels. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) requested comments on the draft of this letter from AOC and OOC. AOC has started to address problems in the tunnels, but their condition remains hazardous. For example, AOC has installed supports in some areas of one tunnel to minimize the potential for falling concrete and

has required individuals entering the tunnels to wear protective equipment and clothing to shield them from potential asbestos exposure. Most other AOC efforts are in the study, planning, or procurement stage. As a result, the potential for falling concrete, asbestos exposure, excessive heat, poor communications, and inadequate escape procedures continue to pose problems. AOC issued its Utility Tunnel Improvement Plan on August 31, 2006, as directed by the House Committee on Appropriations, but the plan is incomplete.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-227R>

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *November 17, KOBTV (NM)* — New Mexico university in forefront of terrorist research. As terrorists adapt new, more deadly means of spreading fear, a New Mexico university is at the epicenter of antiterrorism research in the hopes of giving first responders tools that will save lives and provide investigators with leads. Studying explosives and explosions is nothing new at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech) in Socorro, NM. Explosives have been used in extracting ore from the ground for centuries. What is relatively new is a focus by New Mexico Tech on preparing first responders for what they may face in the immediate wake of a terrorist act. Each week, New Mexico Tech gives dozens of first responders the opportunity to witness the destructive results of explosive devices ranging in size from a letter bomb containing one ounce of explosives to a van packed with 500 pounds of ammonium nitrate. The training first responders receive gives them insights into the nature of explosions enabling them to more effectively analyze terrorism scenes and collect vital evidence.

Source: <http://www.kobtv.com/snapshotskob/html/28871.html>

33. *November 17, San Francisco Chronicle* — California's tsunami warning system failed at crucial point. Problems in California's fledgling tsunami warning system were exposed in its response to the Pacific tsunami on Wednesday, November 15, which unleashed waves that wreaked hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage in Crescent City. "There are bugs that need to be worked out," said Allen Winogradov, emergency services coordinator for Del Norte County, whose coastal community of Crescent City suffered the most damage from the tsunami. Del Norte officials received a timely warning that the tsunami had occurred and took minor precautions in the belief that the tsunami was unlikely to hit and, even if it did, would cause negligible damage. However, they failed to receive a timely warning of a follow-up analysis that showed that the wave was headed toward Crescent City and could conceivably be high enough to cause serious damage. In the predawn hours Wednesday, the tsunami warning system seemed to function smoothly as alerts fanned out across the Pacific from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami alert center. But the warning system's holes became evident farther down the communication chain, as more personnel in different agencies became involved in spreading the word about the potentially damaging tsunami.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/11/17/WARNING.TMP>

34. *November 16, Santa Maria Times (CA)* — Emergency drill exposes flawed communication. Officials said the statewide emergency response drill in California on Wednesday, November

15, exposed one critical shortcoming in the Central Coast's preparedness — poor communication. Assuming a major disaster unfolded — in this case, a hypothetical earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area — local hospital and ambulance agencies would scramble for resources as casualties were flown in. If authorities at the highest level aren't reporting to their local counterparts, however, Central Coast emergency responders may not know how to distribute patients in time, said Tracey Vardas, Emergency Services Coordinator in San Luis Obispo County. It took nearly the entire day to establish contact with the state's liaison communication center in Southern California, which relays information to agencies in the Central Coast, she said. The mandatory 8th annual Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise included eight hospitals in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

Source: <http://www.santamariatimes.com/articles/2006/11/16/news/centralcoast/news04.txt>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35. *November 16, eWeek* — Exploits surface for MS Patch Day flaws. Proof-of-concept exploit code offering step-by-step instructions to attack worm holes in Microsoft Windows have started appearing on the Internet, prompting a new round of "patch-now-or-else" warnings from computer security experts. The exploits, publicly released on the Milw0rm Website and privately available to partners of penetrating testing firm Immunity, target a pair of critical vulnerabilities patched by Microsoft on Tuesday, November 14. The Milw0rm exploit, released by a hacker called "cocoruder," takes aim at the high-severity bug covered in the MS06-070 bulletin and can be used to launch a network worm against unpatched Windows 2000 systems. Amol Sarwate, manager of the vulnerability research lab at Qualys, is strongly urging businesses running Windows 2000 to test and deploy the MS06-070 patch because of the ease in which a hacker could launch an exploit.

Milw0rm Website: <http://www.milw0rm.com/>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2060481.00.asp>

36. *November 16, Network World* — Researchers seek disruption-tolerant nets. Researchers are creating mobile networks that can sustain communications even in the face of broken links and long delays. The quest for such disruption-tolerant networks (DTNs), is being driven by military, scientific and emergency-response wireless networks, which typically lack the connectivity, stability and predictability of conventional wired networks. Instead, researchers say, the hallmarks of a DTN are the very problems that quickly bring a conventional wireless network to its knees: frequent and unpredictable disconnects, changing nearby nodes and very long delays. The trade-off: it takes a lot longer to send and receive data over a DTN.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2006/111606-dtn.html>

37. *November 16, IDG News Service* — Gartner meeting sees big network role. IT professionals and Gartner Inc. analysts are looking beyond networks to the whole enterprise this week at the research company's Enterprise Networking Summit in Las Vegas. Everything system and application administrators want to do affects networks, especially now that voice and other forms of communication are moving onto IP data networks, participants said Tuesday, November 14. That trend toward unified communications, along with richer Web-based applications and a proliferation of consumer-oriented devices, is among the key issues

emerging for enterprise networks in the next few years, Gartner analyst David Willis said in a keynote address. Another looming trend is virtualization of IT resources, which Cisco Systems Inc., Microsoft Corp. and IBM all want to dominate, he said. Together, it spells more chaos on networks, which have always been chaotic, he said. Don't rush into IP telephony, Gartner analyst Jeff Snyder warned attendees in a breakout session. They should have a good reason, such as replacing aging phone systems or building a distributed contact center, before moving in that direction, he said. But network experts will take on a bigger role in overall corporate strategy as the new technology comes in, he added.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9005143&intsrc=news_ts_head

38. *November 16, Federal Trade Commission* — Guidance Software Inc. settles FTC charges.

Guidance Software Inc. has agreed to settle Federal Trade Commission (FTC) charges that its failure to take reasonable security measures to protect sensitive customer data contradicted security promises made on its Website and violated federal law. According to the FTC, Guidance's data-security failure allowed hackers to access sensitive credit card information for thousands of consumers. The settlement will require the company to implement a comprehensive information-security program and obtain audits by an independent third-party security professional every other year for 10 years. According to the FTC complaint, Guidance failed to implement simple, inexpensive and readily available security measures to protect consumers' data. In contrast to claims about data security made on Guidance's Website, the company created unnecessary risks to credit card information by permanently storing it in clear readable text.

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2006/11/guidance.htm>

39. *November 14, Register (UK)* — The world's most prolific spammers. Spamhaus has published a revised list of the world's 10 worst spammers. The top 10 are: 1) Alex Blood; 2) Leo Kuvayev; 3) Michael Lindsay; 4) Ruslan Ibraqimov; 5) Amichai Inbar; 6) Pavka; 7) Vincent Chan; 8) Alexey Panov; 9) Yambo Financials; 10) Jeffrey Peters.

For further detail: <http://www.spamhaus.org/statistics/spammers.lasso>

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/11/14/spamhaus_worst_spammer_list/

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6881 (bittorrent), 1027 (icq), 10416 (----), 4672 (eMule), 57714 (----), 1028 (----), 8509 (----), 445 (microsoft-ds)
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/ .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

40. *November 19, Associated Press* — **Three wounded in gangland-style shooting in Maryland mall.** Three people were shot during what appeared to be a gangland-style confrontation in the food court of the Westfield mall in Annapolis, MD, on Saturday evening, November 18, and one was critically wounded. Two victims, including the most seriously injured, were flown to area hospitals, said Lt. Roy Phillips, a spokesperson for the Anne Arundel County fire department. The third was driven to a local hospital, Phillips said. Two of the victims were male, and Phillips did not know the gender of the third victim. Ray Leone, manager of the Borders Books & Music, which is located across from the food court, said he heard at least 10 gunshots. He said he believed the shooting, which happened in front of a Panda Express, was gang related, and that the shots sounded like they came from automatic weapons. Anne Arundel County police closed the mall and ordered shoppers to leave over the public address system. Police tape was strewn around the food court, where meals sat unfinished on the tables and personal property was left behind.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=53746

41. *November 19, CNN* — **Police probe radioactive find at New Mexico fairground.** A criminal investigation is under way into how radioactive material ended up at an Albuquerque fairground, police said Sunday, November 19. No one was endangered by the chemicals that were found, said Lt. Juan Martinez, a spokesperson for New Mexico State Police. About 500 people were evacuated from the New Mexico State Fairgrounds Expo on Saturday evening as a precaution after low levels of radiation were detected, he said. A Geiger counter registered the presence of radiation after two objects were discovered at the 236-acre fairground in the heart of Albuquerque, Martinez said. One object originally thought to be a possible pipe bomb was later identified as a casing used to transport cesium, a radioactive element, he said. The casing and the second object, a paint can, were found under a car parked near the fairground's fine arts building, Martinez said. One object was marked "nuclear" and the other, "cobalt," he said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/11/19/fair.radioactive/index.html>

42. *November 16, Associated Press* — **Copper theft closes park.** A state park on Oahu, HI, was closed Wednesday, November 15, after the theft of copper electrical wire. The Department of Land and Natural Resources says an electrical transformer at the Sand Island State Recreation Area was broken into. Officials say wire was removed from the damaged transformer to a sewage pumping station in the park. The station pumps sewage from the park to the adjacent sewage treatment plant. The park will remain closed until repairs are made. A number of copper thefts on Oahu in the past few months have cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Source: <http://www.kpua.net/news.php?id=9914>

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General Sector

43. *November 17, Associated Press* — **NYPD: Limo bomb favored by al Qaeda operative.** An al Qaeda operative conducting surveillance on U.S. soil in 2000 favored using a limousine packed with explosives or a hijacked oil tanker truck to attack financial institutions in Manhattan and New Jersey, New York Police Department (NYPD) police officials said. "The most obvious technique to utilize, that comes to mind ... would be a limousine in the VIP underground car

park," the operative, Dhiren Barot, wrote in a memo about the Prudential Building in Newark, NJ. Police say Barot was fixated on the black sedans regularly used by corporate executives in New York because they were given easy access to parking around corporate areas. The memo was quoted during a NYPD briefing Thursday, November 16, on terror threats for private security officials from Wall Street firms and other businesses. The memo and briefing shed more light on the designs of Barot, a 34-year-old British convert to Islam who was sentenced to life in prison in Britain last week after pleading guilty to conspiring to commit mass murder. Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/11/17/D8LEU5581.html>

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