



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 December 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 Atlanta Journal–Constitution reports federal immigration agents on Wednesday, November 29, arrested six illegal immigrants who had security badges that gave them access to restricted areas of Hartsfield–Jackson International Airport, including the tarmac. (See item [15](#))
- DeKalb Medical Center Infectious Disease Specialist says Atlanta is 'epicenter' of a potentially deadly MRSA epidemic, with up to 30 percent of metro Atlanta residents carrying a dangerous strain of staph infection, known as Pantone–Valentine–Leukocidin Staphylococcus Aureus. (See item [30](#))
- The San Francisco Chronicle reports polonium–210 — the poison suspected in the death of an ex–Russian spy in England — can be purchased on the Internet, a trace amount of it sells for \$69 and is sent via the U.S. Postal Service or UPS. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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

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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 30, Washington Post* — **Widespread county fuel thefts suspected in Fairfax.** They sometimes filled up their tanks in the dead of night, keying in a generic code at any of dozens

of Fairfax County fuel pumps, then sticking the nozzle into the tanks of their personal cars or into drums to bring home for snowblowers or lawn mowers. The county's auditor and several county supervisors say they suspect the abuse of fuel pumps by employees assigned government cars went on for years. They are uncertain how many workers were involved — it could have been hundreds — or how much fuel was stolen, inflating a monthly fuel bill that has doubled in three years because of rising prices. But in a report that the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to receive Monday, December 4, the county is getting a handle on the scope of the fraud with help from new controls. The county auditor will report that the Fairfax fleet is on track to use close to 75,000 gallons less this year than last, and officials suspect that most of that amount was stolen.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/29/AR2006112901397.html>

2. *November 29, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **NRC conducts special inspection at Catawba regarding water issues.** Inspectors from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have begun a special inspection at Duke Energy's Catawba nuclear power plant in South Carolina to look into issues involving water flowing into underground electrical penetrations. NRC said the special inspection would review the facts surrounding degraded penetration seals in some areas and the lack of seals in others, determine if there are any generic issues for other nuclear plants, and assess the company's overall response and investigation, including areas of the plant where the lack of watertight seals or degradation might be an issue. In May, water from the Catawba-2 reactor's cooling towers flowed into a diesel generator room, and plant employees decided that other electrical conduits and penetrations had degraded seals, NRC said. During a heavy rainstorm in late August, water entered the turbine building through unsealed electrical penetrations and the water accumulated around some electrical transformers. An NRC inspection in early November determined that the standby shutdown facility was also susceptible to flooding from two possible sources. The facility would be used as a command center if a plant had a severe nuclear accident.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6326500.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News>

3. *November 29, Guardian (UK)* — **BP faces \$384,000 fine for safety lapses at Indiana refinery.** Safety regulators have proposed fines of \$384,000 on BP for a string of infringements at an Indiana oil refinery, adding to a long list of woes to hit the company's American operations. Inspectors discovered 13 lapses during a visit to BP's Whiting factory, which is the fourth largest refinery in America producing 16 million gallons of fuel a day and employing 1,200 people. Citations include failures to update documentation when pipes and valves were changed, heat alarms set at the wrong temperature and a failure to test fire hydrants. An independent study of BP's safety culture chaired by James Baker, the former U.S. secretary of state, is due to report its findings next month.

Source: <http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,1959337,00.html>

4. *November 29, WLOX-13 (MS)* — **Reward offered for info on copper wire theft.** Mississippi Power and the Hattiesburg, MS Police Department are looking for thieves who stole more than 6,000 pounds of copper and aluminum wire from a substation. The materials, along with an 18-foot trailer, were discovered missing Sunday morning, November 26. Investigators say those responsible broke into the gate around the substation to gain access to the wire.

Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=5746686&nav=6DJI>

5. *November 28, Reuters/Associated Press* — **Alaska to dissolve major oil and gas field lease.**

The state of Alaska plans to strip oil companies of their leases on the Point Thomson oil and gas field after finding that the primary lease holder, Exxon Mobil, failed to come up with a viable plan for developing the field's vast reserves. Governor Frank Murkowski announced the decision Monday, November 27. The governor said that Exxon Mobil, despite being granted numerous extensions over several decades, failed to make good on its obligations as operator of the field. Other oil companies being stripped of their leases include BP, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips. Critics long have accused Exxon of "warehousing" the Point Thomson field since 1977. They say that Alaska is losing out on tax income for as long as the field remains undeveloped. If the decision is upheld, the leases could be voided and offered for sale as early as October. Point Thomson is the second largest natural gas field in the North Slope, after Prudhoe Bay. It is estimated to hold more than a quarter of the known natural gas in all North Slope fields. Murkowski said that under the proper lease terms, the Point Thomson reserves could be an incentive for companies to build a natural gas pipeline.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/11/28/business/oil.php>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *November 30, Associated Press* — **Pleasant Hope, Missouri, evacuated as fire damages pork processing plant.**

A fire at a pork processing plant in southwest Missouri forced the evacuation of nearly 100 people from the neighboring town of Pleasant Hope amid concerns of ammonia fumes released by the blaze. Following a check of the air quality after the blaze was extinguished, residents were allowed to return home. People living near the plant were first evacuated to Pleasant Hope High School, then moved to the middle school farther from the plant site. Police Chief Paul Byer later called for the voluntary evacuation of the rest of the city's roughly 550 residents to the middle school.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/16127206.htm>

7. *November 29, WLBT 3 (MS)* — **Diesel spill brings Jackson, Mississippi, traffic to a halt.**

A diesel spill shut down traffic on I-20 for over two hours Wednesday, November 29, while crews worked to clean up the mess. The spill occurred in the westbound lane near the Terry Road exit in Jackson, MS. The driver of the 18-wheeler punctured his gas tank on a trailer being pulled by a pickup, when he tried to go around him. One hundred and fifty gallons of diesel fuel ended up on the interstate pavement. Traffic backed up for several miles, while crews worked to dump sand and dirt on top of the diesel.

Source: http://www.wlbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=5746923&nav=menu119_3

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *November 30, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-115: Defense Acquisitions: Challenges Remain in Developing Capabilities for Naval Surface Fire Support (Report).**

The Marine Corps have studied ways to better protect landing forces. As new operational concepts evolved, the Marine Corps identified requirements for naval surface fire support and the Navy began developing two systems to meet these needs — the Extended Range Munition for existing classes of ships and the future Zumwalt class destroyer. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to address (1) whether requirements for fire support have been established and (2) the Navy's progress on the Extended Range Munition, Zumwalt class destroyer, and follow-on systems. GAO also analyzed whether these Navy systems fulfill the requirements and whether gaps remain. To address these objectives GAO analyzed key documents on requirements and programs and held discussions with officials from the Navy and Marine Corps as well as other interested organizations. GAO recommends that the Department of Defense (DoD) clarify requirements for volume of fire, clarify Navy and Marine Corps roles in managing resources, comprehensively review the Extended Range Munition program, and assign responsibility for assessing the gap in command and control. DoD concurred with the first and third recommendations, and partially concurred with the others. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07115high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-115>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 30, VNUNet* — **Hackers take aim at financial institutions.** Hackers are increasingly targeting financial institutions, according to "Computers, Networks and Theft: Part 2", a report published by Kaspersky Lab. Attacks against such establishments in the first half of 2006 increased by 17 percent compared with the last six months of 2005. The findings of the report are bad news for the many financial organizations that in the middle of 2005 began implementing procedures to protect their clients from data theft. Initially, the measures — which included the introduction of two-part authentication, among others — appeared to be having an effect, but since 2003, attacks have increased year-on-year by an average of 39 percent, Kaspersky estimates. Yury Mashevsky of Kaspersky Lab, said that it is becoming more common to detect spy programs written with the aid of insider collaboration. In addition, an increase was seen in the number of malicious programs capable of attacking the users of several payment systems simultaneously. For example, Trojan-Spy.Win32.Banker.asq targets almost 50 financial systems and institutions at the same time, including Paypal, Caixabank, Postbank in Germany, and other institutions around the world. The report found other less obvious organizations attracting unwanted attention from hackers, for example, tour firms and transport companies.

Report: <http://www.viruslist.com/en/analysis?pubid=204791908>

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2169953/hackers-aim-financial>

10. *November 29, Times-Herald (CA)* — **Man discovers scam with fake bank letter.** Almost as soon as he opened the letter, Ronald Milani of Vallejo said he suspected it was a scam. A quick trip to the bank confirmed it. The official-looking though unsigned letter, bearing the Bank of America name and logo, claimed to offer Milani help with ATM machine problems. It asked him to verify his Personal Identification Number or PIN and account number. The PIN and account numbers the letter noted, bear no relationship to Milani's real PIN and account number, and his first inclination was to correct the error. A Bank of America spokesperson and a local

identity theft law enforcement officer said the letter looks like a new twist on an old phishing line. "We haven't seen this exact letter before, but it sounds like just another attempt to get to that information," said Lt. Rick Nichelman of the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force. "It's a different form with the same designed goal."

Source: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/todaysnews/ci_4739248

11. *November 29, eWeek* — **Password theft, video files top list of security threats.** McAfee's Avert Labs on November 29 released its annual report on the Top 10 security threats likely to grow in severity during the coming year. McAfee researchers said that the volume and variety of Websites built to steal users' information, such as in phishing schemes, will continue to proliferate. Unwanted spam e-mail continues to serve as the primary delivery method for many phishing attacks and botnet programs. Another source of threats projected to increase during 2007 is the use of "potentially unwanted programs" to serve up adware onto users' PCs. The use of botnet programs by hackers to carry out other crimes will also continue to grow. Among the newly-emerging threats identified as growing in significance and frequency in 2007 will be attacks carried out over video-sharing sites and technologies, as malware writers try to capitalize on the rapidly increasing popularity of YouTube, MySpace and similar Web destinations, and peer-to-peer file sharing systems. Dave Marcus at McAfee Avert Labs said that hackers will specifically target music and video MPEG files as a manner for hiding their code. Another emerging target for attacks are mobile devices, specifically driven by the growing adoption of smart phones.

Source: http://www.eweek.com/print_article2/0,1217,a=195160,00.asp

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *November 30, World Times Online (UK)* — **Russian jet held at Heathrow as spy death case unfolds.** Former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko, a longstanding critic of President Vladimir Putin, died in a London hospital last week and doctors have revealed that he had been poisoned with the radioactive isotope polonium-210, traces of which since been found at about a dozen locations in the UK and on two British Airways aircraft used on the London-Moscow route. Earlier on Thursday, November 30, a Russian jet was surrounded by police after landing at Heathrow and its passengers forced to stay on board while experts checked it for radioactive contamination. The Boeing 737-400, leased by the private Russian airline Transaero, was later declared free of contamination and allowed to return to the Russian capital. Briefing MPs today, John Reid, the Home Secretary, announced that the Russian jet had been stopped in Heathrow and said that detectives were also interested in another Russian aircraft. Reid also told the Commons that traces of radioactivity had been found at a dozen sites in the UK out of "around 24" that police have checked.

Source: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2479543,00.html>

13. *November 30, USA TODAY* — **US Airways set to pitch Delta its buyout bid.** Two weeks after proposing the biggest airline merger ever, US Airways (LCC) on Thursday, November 30, expects to make its case directly to Delta Air Lines and its creditors at a meeting in New York. The gathering will be Delta's first face-to-face meeting with its suitor since US Airways' \$8 billion hostile bid on November 15 to create the world's biggest airline. Senior executives at

Delta, which is in Chapter 11 reorganization, have rebuffed the offer, saying Delta would be better off as a stand-alone carrier because a merger would be too risky. CEO Gerald Grinstein, at the time of the bid, reiterated his target for emerging from Chapter 11 in 2007. But both Delta and its committee of unsecured creditors are obligated to study the offer, which includes \$4 billion in cash and 78 million shares of US Airways stock, worth \$4.5 billion at Wednesday's closing share price of \$56.76. The merger would require approval from Delta's creditors committee, Delta's bankruptcy judge, US Airways' shareholders, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Transportation.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-11-29-delta-usat_x.htm

14. *November 30, South Florida Business Journal* — Air executives to meet in Fort Lauderdale.

Passenger Terminal Expo USA will hold its 2006 conference at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, December 6–8. The conference will offer presentations on management, capacity, and master-planning, information technology, project management, finance and revenue, personal rapid transit, retail concessions, and customer service. Keynote speakers include Mario Rodriguez, deputy director of the New Orleans Aviation Board. He is to share lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina that could be useful to airports that may encounter similar conditions. Kenneth Gordon, general manager at Continental Airlines, is to discuss the importance of planning in determining the success and speed with which a terminal can reopen in the wake of such a disaster.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/061130/1383521.html?.v=1>

15. *November 29, Atlanta Journal–Constitution* — Illegals immigrants working at Atlanta airport arrested.

Federal immigration agents arrested six illegal immigrants Wednesday, November 29, who had security badges that gave them access to restricted areas of Hartsfield–Jackson International Airport, including the tarmac. The immigrants, all of Mexico, worked installing drywall for T.C. Drywall, Inc. of Alpharetta, according to a statement from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. None of the men was considered a security threat. The six likely will be deported to Mexico. The arrests are a part of the focus on facilities such as airports, power plants, oil refineries, and military bases. The goal is to protect against the risk of terrorism posed by unauthorized individuals working in secure areas.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2006/11/29/1129airportarrests.html>

16. *November 29, Enquirer (OH)* — Bomb found along I–71 in Ohio. Authorities still don't know how a bomb ended up in heavy underbrush alongside Interstate 71 near Norwood, OH, but concerns over the device shut down the busy highway just after the last of the rush-hour traffic tapered off Wednesday morning, November 28. A maintenance crew cutting brush near the Williams Road overpass off I–71 stumbled across the homemade bomb. Within a half an hour, both directions of the interstate closed as more police, fire officials, and a terrorist task force moved in. The bomb was detonated around noon. The interstate and main side roads leading to and from the highway remained closed for a few hours as Ohio Department of Transportation workers scoured other areas in search of more devices. None were found. Norwood police say they have no leads in the case and have been asked not to divulge information about what the device looked like as the search moves for clues moves beyond the immediate area of Norwood, Oakley, and Hyde Park. "The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) is trying to match it up with other devices that may have been found to see if there is a link," said Sgt.

Ronald Murphy of the Norwood Police Department.

Source: <http://edit.enquirer.gannettonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061129/NEWS01/399990018/1056/COL02>

17. *November 28, MosNews (Russia)* — **Five Russians detained over illegal purchase of portable surface to air missiles.** Police detained five people trying to sell anti-aircraft missile systems in the South of Russia Monday, November 27. According to the statement of the regional police four Strela 2M missiles were seized from the criminals. The raid took place in the town of Adler, just south of the resort city of Sochi. The heat-seeking Strela missiles are produced in Russia, Eastern Europe, China, Egypt and elsewhere and are the anti-aircraft weapon of choice for guerrillas, rebel forces, and terrorists worldwide. Three years ago, the United States, Russia and 31 other countries declared the Strela missiles, which are small enough to pack in a suitcase, were a serious threat to civil aviation and agreed to take steps to keep terrorists from obtaining them.
Source: <http://mosnews.com/news/2006/11/28/manpadsellers.shtml>
18. *November 22, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-118: National Transportation Safety Board: Progress Made, Yet Management Practices, Investigation Priorities, and Training Center Use Should Be Improved (Report).** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) plays a vital role in advancing transportation safety by investigating accidents, determining their causes, and issuing safety recommendations. To support its mission, NTSB's training center, which opened in 2003, provides training to NTSB investigators and others. It is important that NTSB use its resources efficiently to carry out its mission. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to examine the extent to which NTSB follows leading management practices, how NTSB carries out its transportation safety function, and the extent to which NTSB's training center is cost-effective, including potential options for improving the center's cost-effectiveness. GAO reviewed NTSB documents and data concerning management practices and accident investigations, interviewed relevant NTSB and other federal officials, and evaluated NTSB's management practices based on leading practices identified in prior work. GAO recommends that NTSB fully implement leading management practices, develop risk-based criteria for determining which accidents to investigate, increase its utilization of safety studies, determine whether to develop a business plan to increase the utilization of its training center or vacate it, and take steps to rectify its violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act. NTSB agreed with the recommendations.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07118high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-118>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *November 30, Toronto Sun (Canada)* — **Radioactive parcels stop mail at border.** A Canada Post tractor-trailer loaded with thousands of pieces of mail was refused entry into the U.S. after radioactive goods were detected. Radioactive detector alarms at the Port Huron border crossing began sounding last Saturday, November 25, as the rig and trailer pulled up for processing, officers said. Armed guards gathered around the truck and its cargo, which U.S. agents suspected was destined for use by terrorists. That turned out not to be the case. "This is very

rare," said Chief Ron Smith of U.S. Customs Border Protection in Windsor. "This is the first time I can recall we have refused entry to a postal vehicle." Smith said the vehicle was returned to Canada after agents failed to identify the source of the radioactivity. Canada Post spokesperson Scott Lewis said radioactive items were found on four parcels, including three in which stamps were licked by a man undergoing cancer-fighting treatments and a fourth from foot patches that contained a certain chemical.

Source: <http://torontosun.com/News/TorontoAndGTA/2006/11/30/2560785-sun.html>

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Agriculture Sector

20. *November 29, Agricultural Research Service* — **Adjusting fertilizer to create low-phytate crops.** Giving too much phosphorus to wheat and barley plants has been shown to raise the amount stored as phytate, rather than as more digestible forms of phosphorus. This finding is important for two reasons: Livestock that are fed high-phytate grains excrete more phosphorus in their manure, which can pollute water. Also, phosphorus is a finite resource that could be irreplaceable once it has been thoroughly mined — which could happen in the next 25 years. The researchers found that soil phosphorus levels may affect grain phytate levels as much as plant breeding can, offering two complementary solutions to the nutritional and environmental problems caused by high phytate levels in grains. Besides being more environmentally sound, getting the application rate for phosphorus fertilizers just right might improve the nutrients delivered by grain crops such as wheat and barley. Not only is the phosphorus in low-phytate grain crops more digestible by people, but low-phytate grains free up minerals essential to human nutrition: zinc, manganese and iron.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061129.htm>

21. *November 29, USAgNet* — **Bush signs Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act into law.** President Bush has signed the "Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act," which expands criminal prohibitions against the use of force, violence, and threats involving animal enterprises and increases penalties for violations of these prohibitions. As defined by the bill, "animal enterprises" include commercial and academic enterprises that use or sell animals or animal products for profit, food, agriculture, education, research and testing. This definition also includes equine activities such as rodeo, horse shows and similar lawful equine events.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2482&yr=2006>

22. *November 29, USAgNet* — **Canada launches feed investigation.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has launched an investigation and is monitoring livestock movement related to non-compliant feed shipments to cattle farms in Quebec and Ontario the past two to three weeks. The efforts came after supplier Agribrands Canada Inc. reported a small amount of meat and bone meal had contacted ingredients used in production of ruminant feed. In addition, CFIA will verify that suppliers to Agribrands Canada have revised their processes and procedures to prevent such situations in the future. The agency also will inspect all feed mills, farms and transport vehicles handling the contaminated material to ensure proper cleaning of equipment.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2487&yr=2006>

23. *November 28, Wichita Eagle (KS)* — **Disease decimates Kansas buffalo.** Nearly one-fourth of the buffalo have died at the Kansas State-owned Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, home to one of the oldest surviving wild buffalo herds. A new disease is decimating buffalo herds across the state and has prompted the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to cancel its annual buffalo auction, typically held in mid-November. The animals are infected with *Mycoplasma bovis*, a bacterium that causes pneumonia, mastitis and arthritis in cattle. It was first detected in some U.S. cattle in the 1960s. Cliff Peterson, manager of the Maxwell refuge, said he was aware of two other infected buffalo herds in Kansas. Half of one herd and a third of the other have died. It's not clear how the buffalo became infected. Kansas State University veterinarian Larry Hollis said *Mycoplasma bovis* infections are rare in native Kansas cattle herds. He said the best advice for cattlemen is to make sure they have a double fence between buffalo herds and cattle herds to prevent nose-to-nose contact. "The bacteria is spread by sneeze droplets or nose-to-nose contact," he said. For now, Kansas Wildlife and Parks officials are putting the diseased buffalo in quarantine

Source: <http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/sports/16113148.htm>

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Food Sector

24. *November 29, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **FSIS alerts consumers not to eat recalled Honeybaked Foods products due to risk of Listeriosis.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing a public health alert to remind consumers of the November 24 recall of cooked ham and turkey products from HoneyBaked Foods Inc. that were sold nationwide through Internet and telephone catalogue sales as well as at retail establishments and kiosks in Toledo, OH, that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* and to provide safe food handling information for people at risk for listeriosis. The ham and turkey products were sold before Thanksgiving and any leftovers should be discarded. Listeriosis could take a few days or weeks to show symptoms that may appear mild. Individuals are often unaware they have listeriosis due to the extended incubation period and presence of mild symptoms. Early signs of illness include fever, chills, muscle aches, diarrhea and upset stomach. If consumers experience these symptoms they should contact their doctor or local healthcare provider. If illness spreads to the nervous system, symptoms may include headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance or convulsions. Blood tests can be performed to determine if symptoms are caused by listeriosis and can be treated by a doctor.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_112906_01/index.as.p

25. *November 28, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (MN)* — **Certified kitchen managers may reduce restaurant food hazards.** Restaurants that have a certified kitchen manager (CKM) seem to have a lower risk of serving food that triggers infectious illnesses, according to a study comparing restaurants that were involved in disease outbreaks with those that were not. Certified kitchen managers—those who have completed a food safety training course—are required in some states but not all, the researchers say. Most restaurants, regardless of outbreak history, relied on on-the-job food safety training for workers, the authors found. They surmised that CKMs probably improved the quality of this training, leading to less bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods and better control of food temperatures. In addition,

the researchers found that most restaurants had policies requiring food workers to report illnesses and barring staff members from working while sick, but those policies appeared to make little or no difference in the rate of outbreaks or in the role of infected food handlers as contamination sources. The findings suggest that food safety training programs need to put more emphasis on managing food worker illnesses, the authors say. On the basis of previous studies on gastrointestinal illness, they estimate that 50,000 U.S. food workers are likely to work while infected with norovirus.

Study abstract: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iafp/jfp/2006/00000069/00000011/art00018>

Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/food-disease/new_s/nov2806food.html

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Water Sector

26. *November 29, KLAS News (NV)* — **Bottled water recalled in Wynn Las Vegas hotel.** A batch of bottled water is causing concerns at Wynn Las Vegas in Nevada. Operators have now taken the big step of ordering bottles with a specific label removed from service throughout the hotel and casino. The removal order from the hotel applies only to water bottles with the Wynn or the Le Reve logos. It went into effect on Friday, November 24. Wynn's distributor, Nevada Water Company, told KLAS News it bottles and distributes water to several hotels and casinos in Las Vegas, including the Wynn, but that the bottles involved in the removal came from its subcontractor, Niagara Water, based in Irvine, CA. Nevada Water says it sells 100 million bottles of water a year and says it uses city water, then does its own purification before bottling and selling it. Niagara Water bottles and sells filtered and purified groundwater. And it's not aware of any issues at its other clients.

Source: <http://www.lasvegasnow.com/global/story.asp?s=5741875>

27. *November 29, Tri-Valley Herald (CA)* — **Copper thieves steal wire from city water pump.** The soaring cost of copper has continued to whet the appetite of money-hungry bandits, even leading a pair to steal from Manteca, CA's city water pump station. On Thursday, November 23rd, two men were arrested with a trunk load of electrical wiring stolen from the municipal well at Woodward Park, police said. Manteca Police and the San Joaquin County Sheriffs Office have been battling copper thieves for months. To counter the problem, the police department has increased patrols and cameras have been added at some sites. The general public can help as well. They need to be vigilant for suspicious activity, said Mantecas Chief of Police Charles Halford. That would include calling the police when a guy wearing a ring of copper wire around his neck rides by on a bike, a sight that actually caused a Manteca resident to call the authorities.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_4738406

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Public Health Sector

28.

November 30, Government Accountability Office — **GAO-07-52: Foreign Physicians: Data on Use of J-1 Visa Waivers Needed to Better Address Physician Shortages (Report).** Many U.S. communities face difficulties attracting physicians. To address this problem, states and federal agencies have turned to foreign physicians who have just completed graduate medical education in the U.S. under J-1 visas. Ordinarily, these physicians must return home after completing their programs, but this requirement can be waived at the request of a state or federal agency if the physician agrees to practice in an underserved area. In 1996, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that J-1 visa waivers had become a major source of physicians for underserved areas but were not well coordinated with Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs for addressing physician shortages. GAO was asked to examine (1) the number of waivers requested by states and federal agencies; (2) waiver physicians' practice specialties, settings, and locations; and (3) the extent to which waiver physicians are accounted for in HHS's efforts to address physician shortages. GAO surveyed states and federal agencies about waivers they requested in fiscal years 2003-2005 and reviewed HHS data. GAO recommends that the Secretary of HHS collect and maintain data on waiver physicians and use these data when identifying areas experiencing physician shortages and placing physicians in these areas.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0752high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-52>

29. *November 29, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **WHO urges careful investigation of H5N1 cases.** The World Health Organization (WHO) this week released guidelines for investigating human cases of H5N1 avian influenza in an effort to shed more light on the mysterious virus and improve the chances of detecting changes that could turn it into a pandemic strain. The 14-page document calls for a thorough probe of each case, from interviewing the patient and searching for contacts through hunting for other cases nearby and sifting data for any signs of human-to-human transmission. It calls for investigating suspected cases before laboratory test results are available. The new guidance comes less than a month after the WHO issued a report on how much remains unknown about the H5N1 virus. The full report is currently under revision and will be posted soon at the following link:

http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/WHO_CDS_EPR_GIP_2006_4/en/index.html

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/nov2906invest.html>

30. *November 29, Go DeKalb (GA)* — **Atlanta is 'epicenter' of potentially deadly MRSA epidemic.** An infectious disease expert is calling Atlanta the "epicenter" of a potentially deadly bacterial epidemic. DeKalb Medical Center Infectious Disease Specialist, Robin Dretler, M.D., says up to 30 percent of metro Atlanta residents carry a dangerous strain of staph infection, known as Pantone-Valentine-Leukocidin (PVL) Staphylococcus Aureus (also known as MRSA USA 300). According to Dretler, up to two-thirds of those infected with the PVL staph infection have no way of knowing they're infected, and only one-third exhibit symptoms such as unexpected outbreaks of acne, boils, and skin irritation similar to "spider bites." Dretler says staph infections are always a concern, but the PVL staph infection is an "aggressive" strain that carries a "much graver risk" of developing serious infection. Dretler says PVL staph carriers are in grave danger if they get the flu, as secondary staph pneumonia is a complication of the flu, and a potential cause of death. "We are seeing an epidemic of staph carriers, and we are seeing

large and increasing numbers of people with highly aggressive staph infections,” said Dretler.
Source: <http://www.godekalb.com/news/healthcare-news/flu-could-be-deadly-for-30-percent-of-atlanta-residents-20061129.html>

31. *November 29, Day (CT)* — **About a dozen Norwich, Connecticut, residents found to have latent TB.** About a dozen people in the Norwich area have tested positive for exposure to the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB) and are taking antibiotics to prevent them from contracting the lung disease, state and local public health officials said during a news conference Tuesday, November 28. Those found with latent tuberculosis were all friends or relatives of two local women diagnosed over the last seven months with the active form of the contagious illness, the officials said. The dozen or so people found thus far with latent TB will be tracked for about nine months by local health workers to make sure they take the complete regimen of antibiotics.

Source: <http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=f5f6d777-5c94-4ac6-a4d3-aa3592086e15>

32. *November 28, San Francisco Chronicle* — **Polonium-210 can be purchased on the Internet.** It's one of the deadliest imaginable poisons, a radioactive substance about 100 billion times as deadly as cyanide — and a Website run by a physicist and flying saucer enthusiast offers to sell you a trace amount of it for \$69 and send it via the U.S. Postal Service or UPS. Contrary to early news reports, polonium-210 — the poison suspected in the death of an ex-Russian spy in England — is not some exotic material available solely from nuclear laboratories. The isotope is available from firms that sell it for lawful and legitimate uses in industry, such as removing static electricity from machinery and photographic film. If ingested in large enough amounts, polonium-210 causes a hideous death. Former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko died Thursday, November 23, in London, the victim of what health officials said was polonium-210 poisoning at a hotel bar or a sushi restaurant on November 1. Kelly L. Classic, a radiation physicist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, who is not involved with the British police investigation, speculated that, assuming the ex-spy was poisoned, his killer might have done so by sprinkling the poison in liquid rather than powdered form — perhaps on the spy's food.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/11/28/POLONIUM.TMP>

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Government Sector

33. *November 29, Government Computer News* — **DHS floats proposal for 'Global Envelope' of terrorist info sharing.** A senior Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official on Wednesday, November 29, sketched the outline of an ambitious plan for internationally sharing biometric identification information about individuals who pose terrorist threats. Robert Mocny, acting director of the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology program, outlined a proposal under which the United States would begin exchanging information about terrorists first with closely allied governments in Britain, Europe, and Japan, and then progressively extend the program to other countries as a means of foiling terrorist attacks. The Global Envelope proposal apparently opened the door to the exchange of biometric information about persons in this country to other governments and vice versa, in an environment where even officials' pledges to observe privacy principles collide with inconsistent or absent legal protections. In remarks to the International Conference on Biometrics and Ethics in Washington

Wednesday afternoon, Mocny repeatedly stressed DHS' commitment to observing privacy principles during the design and implementation of its biometric systems. He emphasized repeatedly that information sharing is appropriate around the world on biometric methods of identifying terrorists who pose a risk to the public.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/42677-1.html

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *November 29, Associated Press* — **Kentucky getting nation's first quick-response air support unit.** Kentucky is getting the nation's first quick-response air support unit made up entirely of Air National Guardsmen. Described as an "air base in a box," the unit can carry on its planes all the equipment needed to swiftly set up an airfield at the site of a disaster or remote war zone. The new 123rd Contingency Response Group will mirror Air Force quick-deployment units, but the 144-member unit is the first of its kind operated by the Air National Guard, military officials said. "In many instances, the 123rd will be the first to lead emergency response efforts," Governor Ernie Fletcher said at an announcement of the new unit Tuesday, November 28. "In many instances, you'll be called upon to make decisions that will save and protect lives."

Source: <http://news.kypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061129/N EWS02/611290357/1014>

35. *November 29, Government Technology* — **International broadcast of vital environmental data.** At an international conference Tuesday, November 28, in Germany, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) introduced a vital new capability called GEONETCast. "Once fully operational, this service will put a vast range of essential environmental data at the fingertips of decision-makers and many others around the globe who might not otherwise have timely access to this information. With a 24/7 data stream, GEONETCast will provide the critical information required to protect lives and more effectively manage a world of resources," said José Achache, director of the GEO Secretariat. GEONETCast is a cooperative effort being organized by the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, the U.S., China, and the World Meteorological Organization. GEONETCast is a milestone in the growing Global Earth Observation System of Systems and will yield a broad range of basic societal benefits, including the reduction of loss of life and property from tsunamis, hurricanes and other natural disasters; improved water resource and energy management; and improved understanding of environmental factors significant to public health. Through GEONETCast, data about disease, agriculture, biodiversity, natural disasters, air and water quality, ocean conditions, ecosystems and much more will be broadcast in free or low-cost, near real-time, user-friendly formats.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=102557>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *November 30, IDG News Service* — **Existing malware could affect Vista users.** Microsoft has touted Vista as a more secure version of Windows, but on the day of Vista's official launch, a security company has identified malware already in circulation that can infect computers running the OS. Sophos identified three viruses typically spread through e-mail that can infect Vista customers who use a third party Web e-mail client. While Vista's e-mail client stops Stratio-Zip, Netsky-D, and MyDoom-O, the malware slips past Vista's defenses when users receive infected messages through a Web-based e-mail service, Sophos said. Stratio-Zip topped Sophos' list of malware affecting computer users in the month of November, accounting for 33.3 percent of malware in circulation. Combined, the three viruses that can affect Vista users make up 39.7 percent of all malware in circulation during the month, Sophos said.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/30/HNmalwareaffectvista_1.html
37. *November 30, VNUNet* — **Sun, Nokia, and Ericsson aim for standard telecoms platform.** Sun Microsystems on Thursday, November 30, announced details of a global tie-up with Ericsson and Nokia to create a forum for Network Equipment Providers, telecommunications operators and service providers. Dubbed the Telecommunications Platform Initiative, members will work to jointly develop the requirements for a standardized, integrated telecommunications technology platform to simplify technology integration. "By collaborating on a series of publicly available requirements documents for the Operations, Administration and Management Layer and Service Layer environments, the members of this initiative will provide the broader telecommunications industry with new alternatives to improve time to service, time to market and ultimately, time to revenues," the firms said in a statement.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2169934/sun-nokia-ericsson-aim-standard>
38. *November 30, VNUNet* — **ActiveX flaw leaves Adobe applications vulnerable.** Adobe is warning users of a newly-discovered security flaw that could give attackers control over compromised systems. According to Adobe, the vulnerability affects the ActiveX components for versions 7.0.0 through 7.0.8 of both its Reader and Acrobat applications. The vulnerability can be exploited when a user views a specially-crafted Webpage with Internet Explorer. Once the exploit has been executed, an attacker would have the ability to remotely install and execute malware. The vulnerability was originally reported by French security research firm FrSIRT. Both FrSIRT and Adobe rate the vulnerability as "critical" — the highest alert level for both organizations.
FrSIRT advisory: <http://www.frstirt.com/english/advisories/2006/4751>
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2169909/activex-flaw-leaves-adobe-apps>
39. *November 29, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team* — **US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA06-333A: Apple releases security update to address multiple vulnerabilities.** Apple has released Security Update 2006-007 to correct multiple vulnerabilities affecting Mac OS X, Mac OS X Server, and Safari Web browser. Systems affected: Apple Mac OS X version 10.3.x and 10.4.x; Apple Mac OS X Server version 10.3.x and 10.4.x; Apple Safari Web browser. These vulnerabilities affect both Intel-based and PowerPC-based Apple systems. Vulnerabilities in OpenSSL, gzip, and other products are also addressed. The most serious of these vulnerabilities may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code. Attackers may take advantage of the less serious vulnerabilities to bypass security restrictions or cause a denial-of-service.
Further details are available in the related US-CERT vulnerability notes:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=apple-2006-007>

This security update also addresses previously known vulnerabilities in PHP, Perl, OpenSSL, and gzip, which are shipped with Mac OS X. The OpenSSL vulnerabilities are documented in multiple US-CERT vulnerability notes:

http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=openssl_secadv_20060928.VU%23845620

Information is also available through the OpenSSL vulnerabilities page:

<http://www.openssl.org/news/vulnerabilities.html>

Information about the vulnerabilities in gzip is available in a series of US-CERT vulnerability notes: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=VU%23933712.VU%23381508.VU%23554780.VU%23596848.VU%23773548>

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/byid?searchview&query=VU%23933712.VU%23381508.VU%23554780.VU%23596848.VU%23773548>

Solution: Install Apple Security Update 2006-007:

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=304829>

This and other updates are available via Apple Update:

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

Or via Apple Downloads: <http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/>

Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06-333A.html>

40. *November 29, IDG News Service* — Spyware Slayer vendor settles false advertising suit.

The sellers of the Spyware Slayer anti-spyware program have agreed to pay \$300,000 in fines to settle charges that they violated Washington State spyware and consumer protection laws.

Both the charges and the settlement were filed Wednesday, November 29, in King County Superior Court in Seattle, said Washington State Assistant Attorney General Katherine Tassi.

Two companies, both controlled by the same owners, were named in the settlement, she said: High Falls Media LLC, of Hilton, NY, and Roc Telecommunications LLC, of Rochester, NY.

High Falls promoted Spyware Slayer with false pop-up ads warning victims that their computer was infected with spyware, Tassi said. If the victim tried to leave the site, another pop-up cautioned, "if you leave now, damage could be done by harmful worms, viruses, adware, spyware, malware or hacker code." Roc Telecommunications ran a number of music download sites, including 24/7 Downloads, Free Download Club, and MP3s Unlimited, which also engaged in deceptive marketing practices, Tassi said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/29/HNspywareslayer_1.html

41. *November 29, Computer World* — Gartner urges IT managers to act quickly on pandemic planning. Gartner Inc. is recommending that businesses complete planning by the second quarter of next year for an influenza pandemic and in particular stock up on supplies that would be needed by data center workers. Among the suggestions offered: Store 42 gallons of water per data center worker — enough for a six-week quarantine — and don't forget food, medical care, cooking facilities, sanitation issues and electricity. As well as ensuring that their own operations continue during such a pandemic, IT managers should also review the contingency plans of their vendors. Vendor contracts should include service guarantees and "extraordinarily harsh terms if that vendor does not come through," said Gartner analyst Ken McGee.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9005516&intsrc=hm_list

42. *November 29, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-80: Telecommunications: FCC Needs to Improve Its Ability to Monitor and Determine the Extent of Competition in

Dedicated Access Services (Report). Government agencies and businesses that require significant capacity to meet voice and data needs depend on dedicated access services. This segment of the telecommunications market generated about \$16 billion in revenues for the major incumbent telecommunications firms in 2005. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has historically regulated dedicated access prices. With the Telecommunications Act of 1996, FCC reformed its rules to rely on competition to bring about cost-based pricing. Starting in 2001, FCC granted pricing flexibility on the basis of a proxy measure of competition. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined (1) the extent that alternatives are available in areas where FCC granted pricing flexibility, (2) how prices have changed since the granting of pricing flexibility, and the effect on government agencies, and (3) how FCC monitors competition. GAO's work included analyzing data on competitive alternatives, list prices, and average revenue, and interviewing FCC officials and industry representatives. GAO recommends that FCC better define effective competition, and consider additional data to measure and monitor competition. FCC disagreed that they need to better define competition and collect additional data. GAO maintains that additional data collection is necessary for FCC to better fulfill its regulatory responsibilities.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0780high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-80>

Internet Alert Dashboard

| Current Port Attacks | |
|---|---|
| Top 10 Target Ports | 44113 (----), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 3724 (----), 1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 38973 (----), 4672 (eMule), 1027 (icq), 1028 (----), 37384 (----) |
| | 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

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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