



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 04 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 Associated Press reports the first major snowstorm of the season forced a plane off a runway, canceled hundreds of flights, and closed highways in the Plains and Midwest; crews from 14 states were called in to help repair the power outages. (See item [1](#))
- Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Arizona, will soon test a new federal screening system called backscatter that takes X-rays of passenger's bodies to detect concealed explosives and other weapons. (See item [14](#))

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. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Snow, ice, freezing rain drill Midwest.** The first major snowstorm of the season forced a plane off a runway, canceled hundreds of flights and hobbled highways in the Plains and Midwest, and more sloppy weather rolled in Friday, December 1. About 2.4 million customers across central and southern Illinois and parts of Missouri were without power early Friday after ice snapped tree limbs and power limbs. About 191,000 Ameren Energy customers remained without power Saturday night; crews from 14 states that were called in to help repair the damage following Friday's storm. Ameren says it could be days before everyone is back online. As the storm moved east, gusty winds blacked out more

customers from Tennessee to New York. About 20,000 homes and businesses were still without power Saturday across upstate New York. More than 25,000 waited for power in Michigan. In Pennsylvania, more than 19,000 homes, mostly in the western part of the state, had no electricity, state official Justin Fleming said.

Additional information provided by WREX-TV 13 (IL)

<http://www.wrex.com/News/index.php?ID=12504> and Associated Press

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/news/nation/16155050.htm>.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061201/ap_on_re_us/wintry_weather

2. *December 01, Miami Herald* — **Despite claims, problems plague Venezuela's oil industry.**

The state-owned Petróleos de Venezuela SA oil company pumps up its future on its Website, touting creation of the "New PDVSA" and boldly declaring it will reach 5.8 million barrels per day of production by 2012. But the reality, punctuated by refinery fires, electricity blackouts and doubts over production, may be something far more sobering for the world's fifth largest exporter and one of the top suppliers of crude to the U.S. Projections aside, production seems stagnant. While the Venezuelan government claims PDVSA produces 3.3 million barrels per day, the U.S. government, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, and the International Energy Agency all say the company is producing somewhere in the range of 2.6 million barrels. Meanwhile, the refineries troubles cannot be hidden. The latest mishap occurred Friday, November 24, when PDVSA had what it called an "operational event" at its Amuay refinery. PDVSA did not clarify, but a local newspaper reported an explosion. It wasn't the first incident at the troubled refinery that has come to symbolize the problems the company has had since a national strike to force President Hugo Chávez from power in 2002 and 2003 led to the dismissal of at least 19,000 workers.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/international/16136643.htm>

3. *December 01, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC releases plan for continued 'mission-essential' operations during an avian flu pandemic.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has released its 90-page plan outlining how the agency would maintain mission-essential and supporting functions during a possible flu pandemic. The pandemic plan complements the agency's existing Continuity of Operations Plan and reflects considerations provided by the Department of Homeland Security pandemic planning guidelines. The federal government planning assumptions for the pandemic include absenteeism as high as 40 percent for periods of weeks in the course of a 12- to 18-month period. The nuclear power industry is creating its own business continuity planning and site-specific options, and is discussing its efforts and potential needs with the NRC. Among other items, the plan includes a three-stage implementation process of initiation, execution and reconstitution, and designated lines of succession for agency leadership. Identified "pandemic priority functions" include incident response, threat assessment and dissemination, external communications, critical licensing activities, enforcement and administrative support. Some routine licensing, exercises and inspections may be deferred, delayed or cancelled depending on the availability of staff. The plan will be updated annually.

Pandemic plan: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/com-m-secy/2006/2006-0033comscy-attachment2.pdf>

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-147.html>

4.

December 01, Reuters — **U.S. says OPEC shouldn't cut output.** U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman said on Friday, December 1, that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) does not need to cut its oil output when the producer group meets later this month, because markets still need OPEC's crude to meet global demand. Bodman said he was worried about the impact an OPEC cut would have on winter heating oil supplies in the United States. OPEC meets on December 14 and some of the group's ministers are pushing for a production cut because of fears of lower global oil demand, especially in the second quarter of next year. However, Guy Caruso, who heads the federal Energy Information Administration, said that U.S. refiners will need OPEC oil in the second quarter to make gasoline for the busy summer driving season. Saudi Arabia Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said in Cairo on Friday that U.S. oil inventories were high and that was helping to "significantly" oversupply the world oil market. The Energy Department reported that U.S. commercial oil stocks stood at 341 million barrels, well above the average range for this time of year. But Caruso said OPEC ministers won't have complete information about U.S. oil inventories by their December meeting.
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N01305253.htm>

5. *November 30, Billings Gazette (MT)* — **Conoco planning for tar sands oil.** ConocoPhillips is preparing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in retrofitting its Billings, MT refinery to handle the heavier, dirtier Canadian crude flowing from the oil sands of northern Alberta. The company is evaluating various technologies and its board will vote on the project early next year, ConocoPhillips Board Chairman and Chief Executive Jim Mulva said. "We are studying both an expansion and a capability improvement at the Billings refinery," Mulva said. "That means our ability to handle tougher crudes, worse-quality crudes." Although at least two tons of this black tar sand is needed to give up a single barrel of crude, the petroleum-rich tundra crisscrossing hundreds of miles of northern Alberta contains enough oil to eventually replace the Middle East in supplying U.S. imports. With an eye to dwindling light-crude supplies, ConocoPhillips — the third-largest oil company in the U.S. — announced in October a joint venture with EnCana Corp. of Canada. EnCana gets half ownership in two U.S. refineries, Wood River in Illinois and Borger in Texas.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/11/30/news/loca1/20-oil.txt>

6. *November 27, MSNBC* — **Nuclear plant info available to public.** What if an airplane were to crash into a nuclear plant? How long would it take terrorists to penetrate security barriers outside nuclear facilities? What are the most vulnerable parts of a nuclear plant to attack in order to inflict maximum damage? The answers to all those questions, and many more, are available to the public, as NBC News discovered in a recent investigation. Accessing that very information — along with thousands of other sensitive documents from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) — is as easy as walking into a public library. Many of the documents accessed were among the thousands of files the NRC pulled from its Website after 9/11, deemed too sensitive to be available to the public. But that same effort to clean out sensitive information, it seems, was never made with NRC's document collections in public libraries across the country. E-mails and letters show that after 9/11, the NRC did, in fact, compile a list of sensitive documents to be pulled from public collections. But in early 2002, the agency made the decision not to pull the information, so the request, and that list, were never passed on to libraries. The documents were never removed.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15922717>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *November 30, GovExec* — **IG: Defense broke buying rules with purchases through NASA.**
A study of Department of Defense contracts placed through NASA found most violated acquisition regulations and department policy. The Defense inspector general (IG), acting on a requirement in the fiscal 2006 Defense authorization act, conducted a review of contracts placed through a major NASA governmentwide acquisition contract vehicle for information technology called the Scientific and Engineering Workstation Procurement (SEWP). Defense reported placing 6,569 orders worth \$343.2 million through SEWP contracts in fiscal 2005. But after reviewing 111 selected contract orders worth \$85.9 million, auditors found that 98 had major contracting or funding problems. Based on the findings, auditors recommended that top Defense acquisition officials require contracting officers to check, before placing an order on a non-Defense contract, whether the same goods or services can be obtained on a Defense contract with the same convenience and price. They proposed that contracting officers be required to document in writing their justification for going outside the department.
IG Report: <http://www.dodig.osd.mil/Audit/reports/FY07/07-023.pdf>
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35579&dcn=to_daysnews
8. *November 29, Federal Times* — **KBR pays \$8 million to settle overcharging claims.**
Halliburton subsidiary KBR has agreed to pay the government \$8 million to settle claims that it overcharged the Army for logistical support during the Kosovo conflict in 1999 and 2000, the Department of Justice announced Wednesday, November 29. KBR and 10 of its foreign subcontractors allegedly double-billed the Army and delivered inadequate products during the construction of Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.
Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=2389484>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 01, Honolulu Advertiser* — **Victims stuck with \$80,000 scam loss.** Two Windward Oahu, HI, residents who thought they had been hired by legitimate foreign companies to distribute checks were victims of a scheme that's left them responsible for \$80,000. One victim is a Kaneohe businessman who negotiated a contract with a Japanese company. The other is the wife of a Kaneohe Bay Marine who filled out an online application with a Chinese corporation claiming to be a subsidiary of oil giant Sunoco Inc. Both believed they would be acting as "check distributors" for companies. After being "hired," they agreed to receive checks from these companies and keep a percentage while wiring large sums to accounts in China and Japan, police said. Unwittingly, both the man and woman were about to cash fraudulent checks

and wire the money back to the perpetrators. The checks from the "foreign companies" initially cleared the local banks, and the residents were each able to wire \$40,000 to accounts in Japan and China as instructed by their employers. But federal regulators discovered that the checks deposited by the residents were counterfeit, and the banks are holding the residents responsible for the funds. This is a new twist on the Nigerian letter fraud.

Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061201/NEWS06/612010362/1010/NEWS>

10. *December 01, VNUNet* — **Phishers don't like Mondays.** Symantec is declaring 2006 as the year that fraud grew up. The company said that online fraud and in particular phishing became much more sophisticated in 2006. Symantec observed more than seven million phishing attempts each day with more than 900 unique messages per day over the first six months of this year. This is an 80 percent increase over the second half of 2005, when Symantec logged roughly 500 unique phishing messages per day. According to the report, 70 percent of the brands that were spoofed in phishing attacks are based in the U.S. And nine of the top 10 phishing targets were financial institutions. New phishing techniques that target VoIP services and SMS are becoming more more popular, said the report. Symantec also suggests that phishers seem to favor the three day weekend. The company noted that the volume of phishing e-mails tends to dip during weekends and rebounds on Tuesdays.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2169996/symantec-phishers-mondays>

11. *November 30, Bloomberg* — **U.S. warns of cyber attack on financial institutions.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued an advisory about a potential attack on U.S. financial institutions' computers. The U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, which sent the warning to financial institutions on Thursday, November 30, had "no information to corroborate" the seriousness of the threat, Joanna Gonzalez said. The advisory stemmed from a posting on the Website of a group called al-Firdaws urging an attack on financial institutions. Al-Firdaws is related to al Qaeda, the Islamic radical group behind the September 11 attacks, according to the Center for Nonproliferation Studies. A Homeland Security official said that the Website posting called for denial of service attacks against financial institution Websites starting tomorrow and continuing through the "infidel new year." The al-Firdaws posting asked for people with computer skills to conduct the attacks on their own, the official said. Russ Knocke of DHS said the posting "is a relatively unsophisticated threat and something that these institutions are well fortified for."

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ajkTEM6MGhWE&refer=home>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *December 02, Itar-Tass (Russia)* — **Finnair plane flight delayed because of increased radiation level.** Finnair's Airbus-319, which made a flight on the route Berlin-Helsinki-Moscow, was detained at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Saturday, December 2, because of an increased radiation level, the Russian Transport Ministry's press service reported. According to the ministry's statement, "Special structures have been involved to conduct a thorough check for radioactivity. Necessary measures have been taken to perform

decontamination work. All 70 passengers who were going to fly to Helsinki will leave there aboard other planes.” At present, the Airbus-319 left for Helsinki. According to Finnair reports, the increased radiation level may be conditioned by a cargo transported to the Russian capital. The Russian Transport Ministry has tightened radiation control at airports, after radioactive isotopes were detected on three British Airways planes. One of the planes is now at Russia's Domodedovo airport. According to federal aviation regulations, the Federal Service for Transport Supervision has circulated a directive among its regional branches and international airports, ordering them to tighten control over foreign planes, in safe transportation of liquids and gels, as well as in radiation safety of cockpits and cabins.

Source: <http://www.tass.ru/eng/level2.html?NewsID=11045278&PageNum=0>

13. *December 02, Toledo Blade (OH)* — **Ohio derailment probe cites loose chain.** A chain dragging from a railroad car appears to have caused a two-train derailment Thursday afternoon, November 30, in North Baltimore, OH, that injured three motorists, including one seriously, according to a preliminary investigation report. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio report states that the chain, dragging from the south side of the fifth car in a westbound CSX Transportation Corp. train, snagged the handle on a switch for a side track leading to a nearby grain elevator and yanked the switch loose. That force was enough to cause the switch rails to change position under the moving train, causing 12 cars to enter the sidetrack and derail, piling up near the North Tarr Street crossing. Gary Sease, a CSX spokesperson, confirmed the finding and said a directive has been issued to employees emphasizing, “that all tie-down devices [on railcars] are to be secured properly.” Sease also said the railroad will modify all similarly situated switches so their handles are pointed away from the direction that a train would travel to enter a side track.

Source: <http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061202/NEWS11/61202001/-1/NEWS>

14. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Phoenix airport to test X-ray screening.** Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, AZ, will test a new federal screening system that takes X-rays of passenger's bodies to detect concealed explosives and other weapons. The technology, called backscatter, has been around for several years but has not been widely used in the U.S. as an anti-terrorism tool because of privacy concerns. The Transportation Security Administration said it has found a way to refine the machine's images so that the normally graphic pictures can be blurred in certain areas while still being effective in detecting bombs and other threats. The security agency's Website indicates that the technology will be used initially as a secondary screening measure, meaning that only those passengers who first fail the standard screening process will be directed to the X-ray area. Even then, passengers will have the option of choosing the backscatter or a traditional pat-down search.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AIRPORT_X_RAY_SCREENING?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

15. *December 01, Washington Post* — **Train hits two Metro workers, killing one.** The third fatal accident involving a Washington, DC, Metro worker and one of its trains in a little more than a year brought an unusually harsh rebuke from federal transportation officials, who called the transit agency's performance "unacceptable." "When we see three accidents in 13 months, we want to know what happened," said Mark Rosenker, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, which took over the accident investigation. The workers had been walking the

rails looking for cracks, part of a routine inspection done twice a week, Metro officials said. They were walking away from Huntington Station when Train No. 307, with four rail cars, hit them as it was leaving the station. The two previous accidents involved similar circumstances of employees working on the tracks being hit and killed by trains. The most recent prompted several changes aimed at improving safety. The three fatalities equal the number of employees killed on the tracks in the agency's first 29 years. Metro's Operations Control Center knew the two workers were doing inspections, said Steve Feil, Metro's chief operating officer for rail. The workers were wearing safety equipment, including neon-green fluorescent safety vests. Feil added that Metro will also conduct an investigation.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/30/AR2006113000298.html>

16. *December 01, Reuters* — **U.S. and Guyana probe chemical threat to airlines.** American and Guyanese authorities said they were investigating on Saturday, December 2, a threatened chemical attack against U.S. airlines flying out of the tiny Caribbean country. An e-mail sent to newspapers, airlines, and the U.S. Embassy in Guyana threatened an attack from an "independent militant group" against U.S. carriers, American Airlines and North American Airlines, as well as Trinidadian carrier BWIA. The threat involving flights to Britain, the Caribbean and Africa came as Guyana is making security a priority before next year's cricket world cup, when the country expects about 30,000 visiting fans. The FBI and the U.S. Transportation Safety Authority have begun an investigation, U.S. Embassy spokesperson Niles Cole said.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-12-02T190135Z_01_N02413868_RTRUKOC_0_US-THREAT-AIRLINES-GUYANA.xml&WTmodLoc=NewsHome-C1-topNews-6

17. *November 30, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation approves \$15.7 million for public transportation in Louisiana.** New Orleans' trolleys and buses will continue running, as will bus service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, thanks to nearly \$16 million in new federal funds being made available to the city's transit agency, Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters announced on Thursday, November 30. Secretary Peters said that the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration had approved \$13.6 million to continue operation of public transportation in the city of New Orleans. Because of an emergency federal provision, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority will be able to receive the money without having to put up a local match, and will be free of federal regulations that prohibit spending capital funds on operating expenses. The Secretary added that the Department is also making \$2.1 million in federal funding available to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for the continuation of the LA SWIFT program, which provides bus service from Baton Rouge to New Orleans for former residents of New Orleans who were displaced last year. The federal funding will allow the LA SWIFT to continue operation while the State of Louisiana explores permanent funding options for the program.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot10906.htm>

18. *November 28, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA sets fee for Registered Traveler Program.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has issued its notice on the standard fee amount for the Registered Traveler (RT) Program in the Federal Register. The

RT program is comprised of two fees, one for private industry and one for TSA. TSA's portion is \$28 and will cover the cost of completing a security threat assessment for each applicant and program management expenses. Passengers will be enrolled in the program and issued an RT card as airports begin to offer the program. The timeframe for enrollment and verification is driven strictly by private sector providers. Passengers choosing to join the RT program will submit limited biographic information coupled with a biometric identifier. TSA will conduct security threat assessment on applicants to determine program eligibility. Currently TSA is working with five airports and one air carrier to begin enrollment and verification.

Approximately 20 airports have expressed interest in offering the program to travelers. RT is a fully-fee funded, private sector program that is facilitated by the federal government. TSA will not compromise security, or adversely impact travelers who do not participate in the RT program.

For more details on the Registered Traveler program, click here:

http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/layers/rt/index.shtm

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2006/press_release_11282006.shtm

19. *November 28, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS statement on security improvements to the Visa Waiver Program.** President Bush has announced his intention to work with Congress to reform the Visa Waiver Program by strengthening security measures to better facilitate the increased interest among some international allies in joining the program. Americans rightly expect this Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to fulfill its legal and moral obligation to secure our borders from those who would do us harm, while maintaining our great legacy as a welcoming country to legitimate foreign visitors. These reforms will accomplish both objectives, and encourage international allies that their goal of joining the Visa Waiver Program is a realistic one. DHS envisions a secure travel authorization system that will allow us to receive data about travelers from countries before they get on the plane. Countries that are willing to assist the United States in doing effective checks on travelers could be put on track to enter the program soon. For countries seeking admission to the Visa Waiver Program, this would be an opportunity to set a standard that will be applied to the program generally.

Fact Sheet: Security improvements to Visa Waiver Program:

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1164919987951.shtm

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1164753617598.shtm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *November 30, WDBJ 7 (VA)* — **Suspicious letter brings Hazmat team to Virginia post office.** A Galax, VA, post office was placed on lockdown Wednesday, November 29, after someone found white powder in a piece of their mail. Galax Police Chief Rick Clark was buying stamps when it all happened. He said a woman opened up what she thought was junk mail and found the powdery substance. The postmaster was alerted. The building went on lockdown immediately. State Police responded and turned the evidence over to the postal inspector. Preliminary results did not test positive for any poisons. The substance will be sent to a lab for more testing.

Source: <http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=5746682>

Agriculture Sector

21. *December 01, Patriot–News (PA)* — **Good news for growers in Pennsylvania: “Stone fruit” ban is lifted.** For years, Adams County, PA, was among the biggest peach–producing counties in the country. But the Adams County peach was threatened with extinction by the 1999 onset of the plum pox virus. The disease, which spreads rapidly, saps the production of trees producing "stone fruits," such as peaches, nectarines, apricots and plums. To contain the virus, the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture ordered the destruction of 1,599 acres, or approximately 225,000 trees. Now, the Adams County peach might reclaim its place in midstate summertime culture. The state Department of Agriculture Thursday, November 30, announced it is lifting an orchard–destroying, no–replanting quarantine on 200 square miles in Adams, Cumberland and York counties. It clears the way for orchard owners to replant "stone fruit" trees.

Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/new/s/1164948938305540.xml&coll=1>

22. *November 30, USAgNet* — **Rice Federation issues plan to rid GE traits from supply.** The USA Rice Federation released a recommended plan of action this week to remove genetically engineered (GE) rice from the U.S. supply to re–establish a marketable supply of U.S. rice. “We are requesting that state authorities take specific actions to ensure that commercial seed supplies for the 2007 crop have tested negative for the presence of Liberty Link genetically engineered traits, said Al Montna, a California rice producer and chairman of the USA Rice Federation. The closure of Europe and other markets to U.S. long–grain rice, and the imminent threat of closure or onerous testing in other markets, makes the promulgation of this action plan an immediate and necessary act of leadership, Montna said.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story–national.php?Id=2496&yr=2006>

23. *November 30, USAgNet* — **Deer feeding restriction reduce bovine TB transmission.** In an effort to reduce the possibility of bovine tuberculosis (TB) transmission among wild deer and elk, supplemental deer feeding has been banned this winter in a 4,000–square–mile area of northwestern Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced Wednesday, November 29. The ban, which was required by the 2006 Minnesota Legislature, is aimed at reducing close contact among wild deer and elk over piles of supplemental feed in the vicinity of livestock farms where bovine TB has been documented. Such circumstances increase the chance of transmitting bovine TB and other wildlife diseases. The ban is also a requirement for reinstating Minnesota's bovine TB–free status from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In January, Minnesota lost its bovine TB–free status after the disease was discovered in cattle in northwestern Minnesota.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story–national.php?Id=2499&yr=2006>

24. *November 30, Winnipeg Sun (Canada)* — **Anthrax kills record number of animals.** A record number of animals were killed by anthrax in Manitoba, Canada, this year. The disease, which can be lethal to cattle, was reported on 22 different premises in 2006 and left 148 animals dead. The outbreak was the largest documented in Manitoba since the Canadian Food Inspection

Agency (CFIA) began keeping official records in the 1960s. One hundred cattle died due to anthrax this year along with 45 bison, two horses and a donkey. Anthrax bacteria is often brought to the surface when an area experiences a lot of moisture followed by high temperatures, as was the case in northeastern Saskatchewan this year. Dr. Sandra Stephens, a disease control specialist with the CFIA, said many farmers in areas where anthrax was reported this year will likely get their livestock vaccinated against the disease next year.

Source: <http://winnipegssun.com/News/Manitoba/2006/11/30/2560679-sun.html>

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Food Sector

25. *December 01, Dow Jones* — South Korea to stop beef imports from U.S. slaughterhouse.

South Korea said Friday, December 1, it would suspend imports of American beef from a U.S. slaughterhouse after government inspectors found three pieces of bone in a shipment. The National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service said the shipment containing the bone came from Premium Protein Products LLC, a beef processing plant in Hastings, NE. The move came a week after Seoul suspended beef imports from a Kansas slaughterhouse after a tiny piece of bone was found in a shipment of meat. South Korea, which had banned U.S. beef for almost three years over fears of mad cow disease, said in September it would allow shipments under strict regulations, which included that imported beef must be boneless.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.com/ag/futuresource/FutureSourceStoryIndex.jhtml?storyId=74401109>

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Water Sector

26. *November 29, Wisconsin State Journal* — Wisconsin city report warns that road salt threatens drinking water and lakes.

Over the past 16 years, sodium in tap water from at least three of Madison, WI's, 24 municipal wells has repeatedly exceeded recommended levels, and could eventually affect human health if it continues to rise, a new city report warns. Madison's lakes also are routinely "shocked" by high levels of salt-laden snowmelt that threatens the health of aquatic plants and animals, the report says. Madison's Salt Use Subcommittee is ready to finalize a report to the city's Commission on the Environment, which could propose changes to the City Council. Subcommittee members are mulling a set of proposals they hope will kick-start a countywide effort to better protect local waters from the harmful effects of road salt. Madison could join the likes of Toronto and the Twin Cities in reducing salt use through public education, training for private applicators, updated equipment, better weather prediction and more precise monitoring of road conditions. Longer-term recommendations being debated include laws to regulate private and public use of salt, including mandatory training and certification for those who apply road salt.

Source: http://www.madison.com/wsj/mad/top/index.php?ntid=109332&ntp_id=1

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Public Health Sector

27. *December 01, News—Medical (Australia)* — **Canada says warnings needed on bird flu drug Tamiflu.** Canadian health authority Health Canada has requested that the manufacturer of the antiviral drug Tamiflu place warnings on its labels of adverse effects. Health Canada wants the Swiss pharmaceutical group Roche to place warnings of side-effects such as abnormal behavior, including self-harm, on the drugs packaging. According to Health Canada, up to November 11th there have been 84 reports of patients having adverse effects when using Tamiflu and ten of those cases died, though no causal link has been established as yet. Health Canada has said there have been "international reports of hallucinations and abnormal behavior, including self-harm, in patients taking the antiviral drug Tamiflu."
Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=21134>
28. *December 01, Reuters* — **EU extends import ban on captive birds to guard against bird flu spread.** European Union (EU) veterinary experts on Friday, December 1, extended a ban on all imports of captive live birds from outside the bloc for a further three months to guard against the spread of bird flu, the European Commission said. The ban would now remain in force until March 31, 2007. The Commission, the EU's executive arm, said it needed more time to assess an opinion delivered last month by the EU's leading food safety agency EFSA on the animal health and welfare risks associated with live bird imports.
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L01888435.htm>
29. *December 01, Reuters* — **Pakistan, Afghanistan to try to stop polio on border.** Pakistan and Afghanistan are to set up five checkpoints on their common border to screen children for polio and give them vaccine drops in the hope of eliminating one of the world's last reservoirs of the disease. The infectious disease has been eliminated in developed nations but persists in parts of India, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Most of the Afghan and Pakistani cases have occurred along their border where both country's forces are battling Islamist militants. Vaccination teams have been unable to reach some areas because of the insecurity. Pakistani health officials say the movement of an estimated 1.7 million children across the porous border every year can spread the disease.
Source: <http://health.yahoo.com/news/169439: ylt=AvtcI4dGYRhVPpqKwZ Hg9GmxbAB>
30. *November 30, City News (Canada)* — **Toronto, Canada, health officials warn of deadly Meningitis C scare at local bar.** Officials are warning patrons who were at a downtown Toronto, Canada, bar that they may have been exposed to Meningitis C, a dangerous and contagious ailment that experts call one of the more serious strains of the disease. A single case surfaced in a patient in Toronto last week. The man in question frequented a local tavern and may have accidentally infected other patrons. The 23-year-old died from the disease on Sunday, November 26. Health officials think there were as many as 500 people at the Crews and Tango Bar at 508 Church St. on Friday, November 17, and Saturday, November 18. "There may have been 200 to 300 people there each night and we understand he was there for a prolonged period of time," advises Dr. Rita Shahin.
Source: http://www.citynews.ca/news/news_5735.aspx
31. *November 27, Associated Press* — **Virginia hunters' game tested for avian flu.** Waterfowl

hunters in Virginia are being enlisted in the fight against avian flu. Along eastern Virginia's waterways, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is scouting out hunters at wildlife management areas, popular hunting spots and boat ramps. There, some of them are being asked to allow a swab of their bagged game to test for the highly pathogenic version of H5N1 avian flu, according to Bob Ellis, assistant director of the department's wildlife division. Species being sampled include tundra swan, mute swan, snow goose, Atlantic brant and mallards. People are also encouraged to report to game officials unusual sickness or death they observe in waterfowl or shorebirds.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/science/4362982.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *December 01, Reuters* — Spy case raises questions on United Kingdom radiation response.

A week after former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko was killed by the radioactive poison Polonium 210, some security analysts see major flaws in the emergency response system and question its ability to cope with a larger crisis. Independent nuclear expert John Large told Reuters: "It's taken us three to four weeks to literally get on the case. In terms of us being prepared for a radiological incident, this is a very bad portent." Security officials have been braced for years for the scenario of a dirty bomb — a device containing a mix of explosives and radioactive material — that might only kill a few people but would contaminate a wide area and spread panic. But the detection challenge would be much greater in the event of a more insidious attack such as spreading radioactive material in a public place where many people would be exposed and only gradually fall ill, said Robert Ayers, a former U.S. intelligence officer now working for London's Chatham House think-tank. "What we should be focusing on is our ability to detect and react to events like this in the future," he said.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L01126951.htm>

33. *December 01, Agence France–Presse* — Thailand adopts new wireless network for disasters.

The Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand, has unveiled a state-of-the-art mobile wireless network that can be used to establish communication for emergency workers after a disaster. The network, developed with groups in France, Japan, and other countries, will allow rescue teams at a disaster site to communicate even if conventional forms of communication break down. The network allows emergency workers to set up a mobile satellite station that creates a wireless network for laptop computers or personal digital assistants (PDA). Each laptop or PDA is then able to act as a node that can transmit the wireless signal to other devices further out in the field and extend the network into hard-to-reach areas. Users on the network could use video, SMS, or e-mail to communicate with others on the network or over the Internet.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061201/tc_afp/thailandfrancete lecom

34. *December 01, Washington Technology* — Statewide radio interoperability carries hefty price tag. State emergency managers estimate it will cost \$7 billion to achieve statewide interoperable communications for first responders, according to a new survey published by the National Emergency Management Association. The group also believes it will cost \$1.5 billion to build, retrofit, and upgrade emergency operations centers nationwide, which includes expenditures for equipment, software, and personnel. These are nerve centers where emergency managers, police, fire and medical supervisors gather to coordinate their activities in responding to a disaster. Nearly \$400 million is needed for urgent improvements to state operations centers, and \$1.1 billion for local operations centers, the report said. The survey is the basis for the 2006 Biennial Report issued by the association highlighting major concerns and trends in the field. It is a professional group representing state emergency managers, who plan and direct state response to disasters and major incidents. The survey collected information from state emergency managers in 46 states.

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/29800-1.html

35. *November 30, GovExec* — Hurricane season closes without major incident. Thursday, November 30, marked the passing of the 2006 hurricane season, the first full season with R. David Paulison at the helm of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The agency has taken steps since Hurricane Katrina to set up as many contingency contracts as possible in advance of disasters, Paulison said. This way, employees will not find themselves scrambling to gather necessities once they are needed. Paulison strongly cautioned state and local responders against waiting until the last moment to secure disaster supplies, and said they should avoid no-bid contracts. FEMA successfully implemented the first phase of its Total Asset Visibility system and installed 20,000 GPS tracking units on supplies. The tracking devices can tell officials an emergency shipment's whereabouts "right down to the very street corner it sits on," Paulison said. In addition, the agency is undergoing assessments of its human resources, logistics, budgeting, communications, financial management and procurement and data systems.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35576&dcn=to_daysnews

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *December 01, Associated Press* — Companies face new rules on keeping data. U.S. companies will need to know more about where they store e-mails, instant messages and other electronic documents generated by their employees in the event they are sued, thanks to changes in federal rules that took effect Friday, December 1, legal experts say. The changes, approved by the Supreme Court's administrative arm in April after a five-year review, require companies and other parties involved in federal litigation to produce "electronically stored information" as part of discovery, the process by which both sides share evidence before a trial. Companies still could routinely purge their archives if the data aren't relevant to cases companies have pending or expect to face, though specific sectors such as financial services remain governed by other data-retention rules. The new rules make it more important for companies to know what electronic information they have and where.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061201/ap_on_hi_te/storing_email

37. *December 01, CNET News* — Company challenges FCC rules on cell phone–jamming gear.

A small Florida company is taking on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to change regulations prohibiting the sale of equipment used to scramble cell phone signals to local and state agencies. The company, CellAntenna, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Appeals in the 11th Circuit in Atlanta on November 22 challenging the Communications Act of 1934, which is enforced by the FCC. The 1934 act and the FCC regulations that go along with it prohibit the use of cellular and radio frequency–jamming equipment, except by federal agencies. This means that local and state officials are not permitted to use such equipment, which could be used to help prevent terrorist attacks. CellAntenna argues that the Communications Act and the FCC regulations that interpret the law are unconstitutional because they are in conflict with the Homeland Security Act of 2002, adopted by Congress in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Although it's widely known that cell phones can be used to remotely detonate some types of bombs, local and state law enforcement agencies, which would be the first responders to a U.S. terrorist attack, are prohibited by law from obtaining such gear.

Source: http://news.com.com/Company+challenges+FCC+rules+on+cell+phone-jamming+gear/2100-1036_3-6139854.html?tag=nefd.lede

38. *December 01, CNET News* — Another suspected NASA hacker indicted. A Romanian man was indicted Thursday, November 30, for allegedly breaking into more than 150 U.S. government computers. The indictment charges Victor Faur, 26, of Arad, Romania, with leading a hacking group called the "WhiteHat Team," according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles. The group allegedly hacked into the government systems because of their reputation as some of the most secure in the world. "After hacking into and taking control of the government computers, Faur allegedly caused the compromised machines to display screens that flaunted the computer intrusion," the U.S. Attorney's Office said. Faur is charged with conspiracy and nine counts of computer intrusion.

Source: http://news.com.com/Another+suspected+NASA+hacker+indicted/2100-7350_3-6140001.html?tag=nefd.top

39. *November 30, Washington Times* — Chinese hackers prompt Navy college site closure.

Chinese computer hackers penetrated the Naval War College network earlier this month, forcing security authorities to shut down all e-mail and official computer network work at the Navy's school for senior officers. Navy officials said the computer attack was detected November 15 and two days later the U.S. Strategic Command raised the security alert level for the Pentagon's 12,000 computer networks and 5 million computers. A spokesperson for the Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command said "network intrusions" were detected at the Newport, RI, military school two weeks ago. "The system–network connection was terminated and known affected systems were removed and are being examined for forensic evidence to determine the extent of the intrusion," said spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Doug Gabos.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/national/20061130-103049-5042r.htm>

40. *November 30, VNUNet* — McAfee releases top 10 virus threat predictions. Security firm McAfee has released its top 10 virus threat predictions for next year: 1) The number of password–stealing Websites will increase using fake sign–in pages for popular online services such as eBay; 2) The volume of spam, particularly bandwidth–eating image spam, will

continue to increase; 3) The popularity of video sharing on the Web makes it inevitable that hackers will target MPEG files as a means to distribute malicious code; 4) Mobile phone attacks will become more prevalent as mobile devices become "smarter" and more connected; 5) Adware will go mainstream following the increase in commercial Potentially Unwanted Programs; 6) Identity theft and data loss will continue to be a public issue — at the root of these crimes is often computer theft, loss of back-ups and compromised information systems; 7) The use of bots, computer programs that perform automated tasks, will increase as a tool favored by hackers; 8) Parasitic malware, or viruses that modify existing files on a disk, will make a comeback; 9) The number of rootkits on 32-bit platforms will increase, but protection and remediation capabilities will increase as well; 10) Vulnerabilities will continue to cause concern fueled by the underground market for vulnerabilities.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2170030/update-viruses-com ing-screen>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	44113 (----), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 9697 (----), 57714 (----), 6881 (bittorrent), 4672 (eMule), 30743 (----), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 1026 (win-rpc), 5900 (vnc) 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

41. *November 30, NBC 4 (OH)* — Supermarket reopens after suspicious letter found. A Kroger supermarket in Columbus, OH, was evacuated Thursday, November 30, for more than two hours after police said an employee opened a threatening letter with a gritty substance inside. Police contacted the fire department and a hazardous materials unit, who then contacted members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. The store was evacuated as a precautionary measure. Police said they would not get into specifics about the letter but said the threats were not targeted to the Kroger Co., but to another organization. Columbus police said they would take the letter and investigate who sent it and check for DNA and why it was sent to the Kroger. The Ohio Department of Health was assigned to investigate what the gritty substance was that was found inside the envelope, Burton reported. Police said the substance was not a biological hazard.

Source: <http://www.nbc4i.com/news/10430905/detail.html>

42. *November 30, Associated Press* — Second Harford County, Maryland, grocery targeted by bottle bomb. State fire investigators say two soda bottle bombs exploded at a Harford County grocery store Wednesday night, November 29. It's the second such bombing at a county grocery store this week. No one was hurt in either incident. The State Fire Marshal's Office says two devices were detonated at the Klein's market in the 16-hundred block of Dooley Road in

Cardiff, MD. One device exploded in the soft drink aisle of the store and a second exploded in a trash can on the sidewalk near the entrance. Officials say two teens, a boy and girl, are being sought for questioning. On Sunday, a soda bottle bomb was detonated in front of the Edgewood Mars store. Investigators say evidence shows that the two incidents are unrelated.

Source: <http://www.wmdt.com/wires/displaystory.asp?id=56196534>

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General Sector

43. *December 01, CNN* — Radiation found on dead spy's wife. The wife of former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko has tested positive for traces of polonium-210, a family source said Friday, December 1. She would be the second person who knew the victim to show signs of exposure. "The levels are not significant enough to result in any illness in the short term, and the results are reassuring in that any increased risk in the long term is likely to be very small," the British Health Protection Agency (HPA) said in a written statement. The agency has been testing urine samples from people who were in close contact with Litvinenko after he became ill on November 1. He died about three weeks later. Earlier Friday, the HPA said a "significant quantity" of the radioactive substance ingested by former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko before his death has been found in a person who had "very close contact" with him. The HPA did not identify the person, but Italian Senator Paolo Guzzanti confirmed that it was Italian security expert Mario Scaramella, who was one of the last people to meet with Litvinenko before he was hospitalized. Meanwhile on Friday, the post-mortem examination on Litvinenko's body was completed in London — the result may not be available for several days.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/12/01/uk.spywrap/index.html>

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