



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 08 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 Departments of Homeland Security and Energy have announced the first phase of the Secure Freight Initiative, an unprecedented effort to build upon existing port security measures by enhancing the federal government's ability to scan containers for nuclear and radiological materials overseas and to better assess the risk of inbound containers. (See item [16](#))
- The New York Times reports green onions have been identified as the source of E. coli cases in Taco Bell restaurants, and government investigators have begun an intensive search to identify the exact origin of the contamination. (See item [21](#))

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 07, Associated Press* — **Railroads struggle to meet coal demand.** The nation's two largest railroads have hauled record amounts of coal from the mines in northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana this year, but Union Pacific Corp. and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. still struggle to keep up with utility demand and existing contracts. If utilities run low on coal during the high demand of winter, they might be forced to buy fuel on the open market at higher prices that could be passed on to customers, said Jim Owen, with the utility trade group

Edison Electric Institute. The problems began in May 2005 when two derailments disrupted traffic and slowed deliveries for months. Some utilities last winter even imported coal from overseas to help make up for the Wyoming delivery problems. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said coal imports were up 11.7 percent in 2005 over the previous year. The problems have eased somewhat this year, but Owen said utilities were still not getting all the coal they want. To compound the problem, utilities all across the country are burning more coal. Last year, coal consumption nationwide increased 1.9 percent, to 1.13 billion tons, according to a report from the EIA.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/07/AR2006120700031.html>

2. *December 06, New York Times* — **Department of Interior report says oil royalties go unpaid.** An eight-month investigation by the Department of Interior's chief watchdog has found pervasive problems in the government's program for ensuring that companies pay the royalties they owe on billions of dollars of oil and gas pumped on federal land and in coastal waters. In a report to Congress, the Department of Interior's inspector general says the agency's data are often inaccurate, that its officials rely too heavily on statements by oil companies rather than actual records and that only about 9 percent of all oil and gas leases are being reviewed. The report undermines claims by top Interior officials that the department is aggressively pursuing underpayments and outright cheating by companies that drill on property owned by the American public. Interior officials defended the program on Wednesday, December 6, but announced that they would develop "an action plan" to address the inspector general's recommendations. Report: <http://www.doioig.gov/upload/2007-G-00011.pdf>
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/07/washington/07royalty.html?em&ex=1165640400&en=c8b06a23bdb12337&ei=5087%0A>
3. *December 06, Associated Press* — **Florida utility companies required to strengthen power poles, wires.** The Florida Public Service Commission says the state's electric companies must strengthen their infrastructure to lessen hurricane damage. The utilities for the most part have already begun plans to toughen their poles and transmission wiring in an effort to minimize the damage after storms. But a ruling today by the commission requires certain standards, including that the companies' systems be able to withstand winds up to a certain speed. The state's biggest electric companies, including Florida Power and Light and Progress Energy Florida, have already started to bolster their systems.
Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=45037>
4. *December 05, Department of Energy* — **New world record achieved in solar cell technology.** Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Alexander Karsner announced that with DOE funding, a concentrator solar cell produced by Boeing-Spectrolab has recently achieved a world-record conversion efficiency of 40.7 percent, establishing a new milestone in sunlight-to-electricity performance. This breakthrough may lead to systems with an installation cost of only \$3 per watt, producing electricity at a cost of 8-10 cents per kilowatt/hour, making solar electricity a more cost-competitive and integral part of our nation's energy mix. Attaining a 40 percent efficient concentrating solar cell means having another technology pathway for producing cost-effective solar electricity. Almost all of today's solar cell modules do not concentrate sunlight but use only what the sun produces naturally, what researchers call "one sun insolation," which achieves an efficiency of 12 to 18

percent. However, by using an optical concentrator, sunlight intensity can be increased, squeezing more electricity out of a single solar cell. The 40.7 percent cell was developed using a unique structure called a multi-junction solar cell. This type of cell achieves a higher efficiency by capturing more of the solar spectrum.

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/4503.htm>

5. *December 05, U.S. Energy Information Administration* — **New EIA Outlook reflects energy market shift towards nuclear, biofuels, coal-to-liquids, and accelerated efficiency improvements.** The Annual Energy Outlook 2007 (AEO2007) reference case, released December 5 by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), reflects the evolution of energy markets in an era of high prices by projecting growth in nuclear capacity and generation, more biofuels (both ethanol and biodiesel) consumption, growth in coal-to-liquids (CTL) capacity and production, growing demand for unconventional transportation technologies, and accelerated improvements in energy efficiency throughout the economy. Despite the projected rapid growth of biofuels and other non-hydroelectric renewable energies and the expectation of the first new orders for nuclear power plants in over 25 years, oil, coal, and natural gas are nonetheless projected to provide roughly the same 86 percent share of the total U.S. primary energy supply in 2030 as they did in 2005 absent changes in existing laws and regulations. Projected energy prices and recently enacted public policy help to support greater use of alternative fuels, such as ethanol, biodiesel, and CTL. The reference case projections from the AEO2007 and an overview of the results are available at

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/index.html>

Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press277.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *December 07, Daily Item (PA)* — **Train derails, leaks 7,500 gallons of lye.** Officials in communities downstream from Bloomsburg, PA, have been warned to monitor their water supplies after a train derailed near Route 487, spilling 7,500 gallons of caustic soda less than 100 yards from the Susquehanna River. A 25-car Norfolk Southern train derailed shortly after midnight Thursday, December 7, sending rescue workers racing to the scene and forcing the East Bloom Bridge to close until further notice. Two of the train's cars contained sodium hydroxide, or what's more commonly known as lye.

Source: <http://www.dailyitem.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061207/NEWS/61207001>

7. *December 07, Associated Press* — **Ohio Wal-Mart closes because of methane gas fumes.** A Wal-Mart store built atop a landfill closed during the busiest shopping time of the year because of a methane gas leak. Employees at the store in suburban Cleveland, OH, reported a bad smell, evacuated customers and shut the doors Tuesday night, December 5. Wal-Mart says it doesn't know when the store will reopen, and fire officials say the methane fumes are not enough to be dangerous. Wal-Mart officials and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said the source of the methane had not been identified.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/16185858.htm>

8. *December 06, North Lake Tahoe Bonanza (NV)* — **Chemical fire closes Nevada highway.** A chemical fire at the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) public works yard in Incline Village, NV, on Sweetwater Road caused the stretch of highway 28 from Lakeshore Drive to Country Club Drive to be closed down for at least three hours Wednesday night, December 6. Residents of the area were not forced to evacuate their homes nor were injuries reported as IVGID workers were forced to leave the site. This shortly after the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District received a call from an employee that one of the yard's Hazmat bins was emitting smoke. Early air-quality tests were not conclusive but fire district officials did not believe toxins were emitted into the air.

Source: <http://tb.us.publicus.com/article/20061206/BREAKING/61206001>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *December 05, Associated Press* — **Air Force drops disputed WTO language in tanker contract.** The Air Force agreed to drop criteria for a multibillion-dollar tanker contract that could have crippled the bid of an international consortium that wants to build the plane in Mobile, AL. Ken Miller, special assistant to Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne, said Tuesday, December 5, the Air Force would hold all bidders harmless from international trade disputes pending before the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Air Force previously had asked bidders to explain how such disputes might affect their ability to execute the contract. The provision was widely viewed as benefiting Chicago-based Boeing Co., which is competing with the parent of European jet maker Airbus SAS over the contract.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061205/apfn_air_force_contract.html?.v=1

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *December 06, Herald (UK)* — **Warning over direct debit security as scam hits bank accounts.** A new financial scam warning has been issued after a growth in the number of scammers using direct debits to target unsuspecting victims. Crooks are obtaining bank details, including sort codes and account numbers, from company invoices to set up direct debits for goods such as TV and phone services. The problem has grown since a number of companies stopped asking for a signature when setting up direct debits. The Financial Ombudsman in the UK has seen the number of complaints about current accounts, which includes direct debit issues, rise by a third in a year to nearly 5,000. Disputed transactions rose by 80 percent. Often, in cases where scammers are using the financial details to obtain services, the amounts in each case are small and they become low priority cases. However, the total lost to direct debit scammers is thought to run into millions annually.

Source: <http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/76014-print.shtml>

11. *December 06, PC Pro (UK)* — **Phishing domains should be quarantined: security company.** F-Secure has issued an open letter to the domain-registration industry, calling on them to proactively deny the registration of domains clearly destined to become phishing sites.

It notes a recent registration of "signin-ebay-c.com" with registrar directNIC, which is currently being run as a phishing site. Contact details for the domain are an anonymous gmail address and a phony phone number: 123142311. In March, F-Secure ran a search of domains using the names of well-known banks and found thousands registered, many of which were phishing sites. Strato, which recently launched a domain-only service into the UK said that it found there was a "demand from Asian companies that want to register domains in the UK".

Source: <http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/99561/phishing-domains-should-be-quarantined-security-company.html>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *December 07, USA TODAY* — **Airline luggage complaints remain high.** The latest government figures show airplane luggage problems remain near their highest level in more than a decade despite new rules that encourage travelers to check fewer bags. Department of Transportation figures released Wednesday, December 6, for the month of October put 2006 on track to be the worst year for lost, delayed, damaged or stolen baggage since 1991. The figures show that in October, passengers reported 383,000 pieces of checked luggage were mishandled — an average of 12,350 a day. That's the fourth-largest monthly total ever recorded. The problems persisted in October even though the Transportation Security Administration lifted a prohibition on carrying any liquids on board airplanes. The ban, imposed in August after British authorities foiled an alleged plot to bomb U.S.-bound airlines using liquid explosives, led passengers to check millions more bags and was widely blamed for the initial increase in lost luggage. US Airways spokesperson Valerie Wunder said many passengers continued to check luggage because they were uncertain of the policy concerning liquids. A steady increase in luggage problems since 2002 prompted a House Aviation Subcommittee hearing in May that looked at airline staffing shortages and other causes.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/reports/2006-12-06-bags_x.htm

13. *December 07, Department of Transportation* — **JFK was top international freight gateway by value in 2005.** John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York maintained the position of top U.S. international freight gateway by value of shipments in 2005, according to the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). BTS, a part of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), reported that JFK handled \$59.3 billion in export trade and \$75.6 billion in imports, totaling \$134.9 billion in merchandise that moved through the port in 2005 (See Table). JFK airport has been the number one U.S. international gateway by value for all but one year between 1999 and 2005, the exception being 2003 when the water Port of Los Angeles took the number one spot. In 2005, JFK handled \$547 million more freight than the second largest gateway, the Port of Los Angeles. Ranked third is the land port of Detroit, MI with \$131 billion. The top three gateways represent each of the transportation modes – water, air, and surface transportation on land, illustrating the diversity of freight movements into and out of the United States.

A list of the top 50 international freight gateways in 2005 can be found at

http://wwwl.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/Gateways2005/Top_50_US_Gateways_by_Value_2005.htm

Additional information on international freight and gateways is available at the International

page of the BTS Website at <http://www.bts.gov/itt>
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/bts5806.htm>

14. *December 07, Associated Press* — **Airlines asked to take runway safeguards.** A year after a plane skidded onto a busy street after landing at Chicago's Midway International Airport, the head of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) urged airlines Wednesday, December 6, to change the way they calculate stopping distances on slick runways. The comments by NTSB Chairman Mark Rosenker came 10 1/2 months after the government panel recommended a more conservative method to figure out how much landing room is needed and two days before the anniversary of the accident that killed a child in a car struck by the airplane. On December 8, 2005, Southwest Airlines Flight 1248 landed in a snowstorm, skidded off the runway and into traffic. The accident killed a six-year-old boy who was riding in a nearby car. While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has recommended that airlines make the change, which entails not assuming thrust reversers will stop a plane on slippery runways, a new rule requiring the change has not yet been adopted. Rosenker noted that Midway has improved safety at its runways by installing a lightweight concrete bed designed to prevent planes from overshooting the runway. The arrester bed of 1,764 water, foam and cement blocks is the first of four planned buffer zones at the airport.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061206/runway_safety.html?.v=1
15. *December 07, Associated Press* — **Frontier interested in other partners.** Fresh off a new alliance with AirTran Airways that it says will add as much as \$6 million in annual revenue, Denver-based Frontier Airlines is interested in pursuing other similar ventures. "We're definitely open," Frontier Chief Financial Officer Paul Tate said in an interview on Wednesday. "We'll be happy to talk to anybody about it." On November 14, Frontier Airlines Holdings Inc. and AirTran Holdings Inc. agreed to a marketing and frequent flier partnership that will double the number of destinations available to each carrier's customers by encouraging passengers to connect from one carrier to the other. While Frontier is not actively negotiating with any other carriers, Tate said similar relationships might make sense with airlines such as privately held Spirit Airlines, JetBlue Airways Corp. and Midwest Airlines, a unit of Midwest Air Group Inc.
Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061206/frontier.html?.v=3>
16. *December 07, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS and DOE launch Secure Freight Initiative.** The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Energy on Thursday, December 7, announced the first phase of the Secure Freight Initiative, an unprecedented effort to build upon existing port security measures by enhancing the federal government's ability to scan containers for nuclear and radiological materials overseas and to better assess the risk of inbound containers. This announcement includes the endorsement from a broad coalition of terminal operators, ocean carriers, and shippers, who pledged to support this effort at facilities they operate overseas. The initial phase of Secure Freight involves the deployment of a combination of existing technology and proven nuclear detection devices to six foreign ports: Port Qasim in Pakistan; Puerto Cortes in Honduras; Southampton in the United Kingdom; Port Salalah in Oman; Port of Singapore; and the Gamman Terminal at Port Busan in Korea. Beginning in early 2007, containers from these ports will be scanned for radiation and information risk factors before they are allowed to depart for the United States. Data gathered on containers bound for the United States in foreign ports participating in the Secure Freight Initiative will be transmitted in near real-time to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers

working in overseas ports and to the DHS National Targeting Center.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1165520867989.shtm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *December 06, Lexington Herald-Leader (KY)* — White powder sends state work to hospital.

A worker at the National Guard Association of Kentucky was taken to Frankfort Regional Medical Center Wednesday evening after opening an envelope that contained a suspicious white powder. The worker, budget analyst Kim Knight, was opening what appeared to be a piece of junk mail when she noticed a puff of white powder, said the association's executive director, Retired Col. Tom Rickerd. Knight began feeling a "slight burning sensation in her eyes and lips" two hours later as she was driving home, said Lt. Col. Phil Miller, a spokesperson for the Kentucky National Guard. She pulled over and called for help from a Walgreen's parking lot. Knight went through a decontamination process at the hospital, but no "residue" was found, said hospital marketing director Brad Wands. The matter is under investigation.

Source: http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/breaking_news/1618_0074.htm

18. *December 06, USPS News* — USPS, APWU reach tentative contract agreement. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) have reached a tentative four-year contract agreement. Upon ratification by union members, the agreement will run through November 20, 2010, and affect approximately 272,000 career employees in the Clerk, Maintenance, and Motor Vehicle crafts. This year was the first time new contracts were negotiated separately at the same time with all four of the Postal Service's largest unions. Negotiations continue with two other unions, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. Negotiations with the National Association of Letter Carriers were not successful and the two parties will now enter the dispute resolution process, which may include binding interest arbitration.

Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/news/press/2006/pr06_080.htm

19. *December 06, USPS News* — USPS expands mail-sorting technology to improve service, reduce costs. Technology that successfully boosted postal efficiencies in the processing, distribution, and delivery of letter mail will soon be applied to the sorting of what the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) refers to as "flats"—large envelopes, magazines, catalogs, and circulars. Known as the Flats Sequencing System (FSS) program, the initiative approved by the Postal Service Board of Governors allows the agency to move forward with plans to employ sophisticated equipment to sort flat-mail pieces for letter carriers, who now must manually sequence this mail before leaving the office for their routes. A prototype FSS was installed earlier this year at the Indianapolis, IN, Mail Processing Annex, where it was tested sorting mail in delivery sequence for carriers in that area. A full-size pre-production machine will be installed at the Dulles, VA, mail processing facility, where it will operate six days a week for one year. "Delivery remains our largest cost, accounting for 43 percent of all expenses," said Walt O'Tormey, vice president, Engineering. "That, combined with costs to serve almost two million new addresses each year, means we must pursue every opportunity to improve our efficiency and the service we provide to our customers."

Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/news/press/2006/pr06_081.htm

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Agriculture Sector

20. *December 06, Food and Agriculture Organization* — Livestock impacts on the environment.

A new report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) says livestock production contributes to the world's most pressing environmental problems, including global warming, land degradation, air and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity. Using a methodology that considers the entire commodity chain, it estimates that livestock are responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, a bigger share than that of transport. However, the report says, the livestock sector's potential contribution to solving environmental problems is equally large, and major improvements could be achieved at reasonable cost. Based on the most recent data available, the report takes into account the livestock sector's direct impacts, plus the environmental effects of related land use changes and production of the feed crops animals consume. It finds that expanding population and incomes worldwide, along with changing food preferences, are stimulating a rapid increase in demand for meat, milk and eggs, while globalization is boosting trade in both inputs and outputs.

Study: http://www.virtualcentre.org/en/library/key_pub/longshad/A07_01E00.pdf

Source: <http://www.fao.org/ag/magazine/0612sp1.htm>

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Food Sector

21. *December 07, New York Times* — Green onions identified as source of E. coli cases. After Taco Bell traced a growing E. coli outbreak to green onions at its restaurants Wednesday morning, December 6, government investigators began an intensive search to identify the source of the contamination. The total number of cases in three Northeastern states swelled to 99, implicating several additional restaurants and a second food distributor. Taco Bell officials said Wednesday that their preliminary tests had traced the E. coli to three samples of green onions. In what the company president, Greg Creed, called “an abundance of caution,” Taco Bell removed green onions from its 5,800 outlets across the U.S. A Suffolk County, NY, laboratory later confirmed E. coli in three of four green onions taken from a previously unopened package at one of the restaurants, “suggesting that it was already contaminated before it arrived,” said Suffolk’s acting health commissioner, Dr. David G. Graham. As the inquiry widened, federal and state officials were investigating two New Jersey suppliers to Taco Bell: McLane Foodservice, of Burlington and Ready Pac Produce in Florence.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/07/nyregion/07coli.html?hp&ex=1165467600&en=dc1db1f25d0e7902&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

22. *December 06, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — Statement by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns regarding the rejection of U.S. beef shipments by South Korea. "I am very disappointed in the decision by South Korea to reject all three U.S. beef shipments sent since South Korean leaders announced on September 11, 2006 that their border is open to U.S. beef.

The rejection of the third shipment clearly illustrates that South Korean officials are determined to find an excuse to reject all beef products from the United States. "There is absolutely no food safety issue with any one of these shipments. I find it difficult to accept that bone fragments the size of one half of a grain of rice were found through visual inspection of ten metric tons of beef, as is South Korea's claim regarding the third shipment, despite the fact that it went through unusually rigorous inspection by the U.S. exporter before it was shipped. I can only conclude that these actions are designed to restrict beef trade. "Today, South Korean officials have sent the message that their market is not commercially viable for U.S. beef. South Korea is attempting to claim its border is open to U.S. beef while refusing to allow trade to take place. This is unacceptable and certainly not the way trading partners should work with one another."

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB/.cmd/a.d/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/.ce/7.2.5JM/.p/5.2.4TQ/.d/1/th/J.2.9D/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?PC.7.2.5JM.contentid=2006%2F12%2F0458.xml&PC.7.2.5JM.parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC.7.2.5JM.navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7.2.5JM

23. *November 28, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **East Coast Foods Inc. issues an alert on uneviscerated fish.** East Coast Foods Inc. is recalling 48 cans of Kaija brand uneviscerated Herring in Special Brine. The uneviscerated fish was discovered by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets inspectors during a routine inspection and subsequent analysis of the product by Food Laboratory personnel confirmed that the fish had not been eviscerated prior to processing. This product may be contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum* spores, which can cause botulism, a serious and potentially fatal food-borne illness. The recalled Kaija brand uneviscerated Herring in Special Brine in an uncoded metal can with Cyrillic but no English labeling, was sold nationwide. No illnesses have been reported to date. Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/EastCoastFoods11_06.html

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Water Sector

24. *December 07, Bay City News Wire (CA)* — **Sunnyvale water treatment facility back on track after fire.** Operations at a Sunnyvale, CA, water treatment plant where fire broke out Wednesday, December 6, releasing a small plume of noxious gas, are back on track, Sunnyvale spokesperson John Pilger said Thursday. It was a cutting torch that ignited a sulfur deposit inside a digestion tank Wednesday that caused the shutdown of the plant and the evacuation of a nearby park and recycling facility, Pilger said. After the fire started, maintenance crews used water to try and put it out, causing the noxious cloud to form and sending one man to a nearby hospital for treatment of respiratory distress, Pilger said. The damaged tank was already out of service and is scheduled for demolition already, Pilger explained, so the plant is still functioning normally and all evacuations have been called off for the adjacent park and SMaRT recycling center. "The crew working on the tank had a good safety record," Pilger said. "We're looking to see what we can do differently." Source: http://cbs5.com/localwire/localfsnews/bcn/2006/12/07/n/HeadlineNews/DIGESTION-TANK/resources_bcn.html

25.

December 07, Associated Press — **Explosion at water line affects potable water supply to parts of Sri Lankan capital.** Parts of the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo were without potable tap water Thursday, December 7, after an explosion at a supply line, the government said. "The main water distribution pipeline to Colombo was damaged ... due to an explosion," the Ministry of Defense said on its Website. The Media Center for National Security said powerful explosives were used in the blast, which occurred late Wednesday. No one had yet been blamed for the explosion that took place hours after the government imposed tough laws to deal with Tamil Tiger separatists, who are fighting to create a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.1 million ethnic Tamil minority.

Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/12/07/asia/AS_GEN_Sri_Lanka_Water_Supply.php

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Public Health Sector

26. *December 06, WTEN (NY)* — **Whooping cough outbreak spreading in New York schools.** Montgomery County, NY, has confirmed 20 cases of the highly contagious condition, and more than a dozen other kids are suspected of having it as well. Health officials are now scrambling to track the disease, and keep it contained. All of those infected are students at Fonda-Fultonville or Fort Plain schools, between the ages of five and 17. In the Fonda-Fultonville School District, there are 17 reported cases, in which eight of those have been confirmed with lab tests. In the nine other cases, the people came into direct contact with someone who is infected, and are showing symptoms themselves. In the Fort Plain school district, there are 18 reported cases; 12 of those are confirmed, and six others are symptomatic. Source: <http://www.wten.com/Global/story.asp?S=5780110>

27. *December 06, Lansing State Journal (MI)* — **Restaurant struggles to get rid of norovirus.** Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar on West Saginaw Highway in Delta Township, MI, remained closed Wednesday, December 6, to prevent the potential spread of norovirus. The restaurant has been scrubbed a third time with a bleach solution, according to the Barry-Eaton District Health Department. The first two cleansings, which were done last week, weren't enough to rid the eatery of norovirus, which causes vomiting and diarrhea. Since November 22, more than 250 Applebee's customers reported falling ill. The restaurant first closed November 28, reopened Thursday and then closed again Monday after another outbreak over the weekend. Health officials and Applebee's are taking steps to try to make sure the third cleansing will work. This time it's accompanied by a 72-hour shutdown -- long enough to ensure that employees who might have been sick are no longer contagious. People can remain contagious three full days after symptoms subside. Source: <http://www.lsj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061206/NEWS01/612060344/1001/news>

28. *December 06, Reuters* — **Bird flu experts meet to fight virus, complacency.** Experts fighting bird flu around the world met on Wednesday, December 6, to plot the next stage of their campaign to control the disease and avert a devastating human flu pandemic. The three-day meeting in Mali, the fourth global bird flu summit since late last year, includes a donor conference on Friday seeking an extra \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion over 2-3 years to add to \$1.9

billion pledged in Beijing last January. But the meeting began with a warning that complacency threatened to undermine international efforts against bird flu. "Technical experts are sometimes accused of having overestimated the risks from this disease, or of exaggerating its potential threat," said Modibo Traore, head of the African Union's InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources. "The rampant demotivation that has resulted seems to have affected the main players in the struggle on all continents, and notably the donor community," Traore told the opening session.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L06730047.htm>

29. *December 04, WGHP (NC)* — **Chicken pox outbreak in three North Carolina elementary schools.** Parents and school officials are on alert as dozens of children in three Yadkin County, NC, elementary schools are being treated for chicken pox, and one 8-year-old has died while recovering from a mild case of the disease. At Jonesville Elementary, almost 60 of the schools 480 students have been diagnosed with or displayed symptoms of chicken pox over the past month. The exact cause of the child's death has not been determined, but local health officials say they doubt chicken pox is to blame. According to the school's principal, the outbreak isn't limited just to students who haven't been vaccinated. "We have had both kids who have had vaccination and those that haven't to have the chicken pox," said principal Rick Swaim.

Source: <http://www.myfoxwghp.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=1681516&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

30. *December 01, Associated Press* — **Six hundred sickened after eating at New York bar.** At least 600 people came down with a gastrointestinal illness after eating at a popular biker bar and restaurant in Syracuse, NY, health officials said Friday, December 1. Bacteria have been ruled out as the cause, meaning last weekend's outbreak linked to the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que is probably viral and could have spread through air particles, said Cynthia Morrow, health commissioner of Onondaga County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were notified because the people who may have been affected were from across the country, Morrow said. Patrons from as far away as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont and California have reported symptoms. Some were sickened after eating at the restaurant, while others became ill after being exposed to those who had, health officials said. The most common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps and chills lasting 12 to 48 hours.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/content/shared-gen/ap/Health_Medical/Restaurant_Sickness.html

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *December 05, Arizona Daily Star* — **Exercise in Arizona simulates nuclear disaster.** A training exercise sent more than 300 members of local, state, and federal agencies onto

Davis–Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, AZ, Monday morning, December 4, for a simulation of what might happen if a U.S. airplane hauling four nuclear weapons crashed in Tucson. Davis–Monthan is taking part in the national exercise to ensure that all agencies know how to respond to a natural or human–induced disaster on U.S. soil, said Colonel Kent Laughbaum, the base installation commander. The base has conducted exercises with local agencies before but never on such a large scope, Laughbaum said. National agencies participating included the Departments of Defense, Energy, and Homeland Security.
Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/158931>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *December 07, eWeek* — **DoCoMo to recall 1.3 million Sanyo cell phone batteries.** NTT DoCoMo Inc., Japan's top mobile phone operator, said on Thursday, December 7, it would recall 1.3 million cell phone batteries made by Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. because they may overheat and rupture. The recall comes as the latest blow to Sanyo, which warned last month that it would fall into the red for the third straight year in 2006/07 amid weak sales of digital cameras and mobile phones. Sanyo is the world's largest maker of lithium–ion batteries.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2069683.00.asp>
33. *December 07, IDG News Service* — **StopBadware names MP3 site worst of the bad applications.** Two consumer protection groups are asking the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate FastMP3Search.com.ar, a Website that distributes software that can be used to search for digital music on the Web. The FastMP3Search plugin disables the Windows Firewall, installs adware and Trojan horse programs, and generally hobbles the user's PC, said John Palfrey, the Harvard Law School professor who is StopBadware.org's co–director. The software is also virtually impossible to remove once installed, he added.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/07/HNworstofthebad_1.html
34. *December 07, Associated Press* — **Three convicted in Microsoft software scam.** Three people accused of scamming Microsoft Corp. by buying sharply discounted software intended for educational institutions and reselling it to nonacademic customers were convicted on conspiracy and fraud charges. Federal prosecutors Wednesday, December 6, said the trio illegally bought and resold more than \$29 million worth of Microsoft software between 1997 and 2001. They allegedly formed front companies and bought existing corporations to take advantage of a program offering reduced prices on software if it's resold to academic institutions. Microsoft said it lost more than \$60 million as a result of the scam. Two of the three defendants were also convicted on money laundering charges for using the proceeds to buy property under the name of their son and wiring more than \$300,000 to Pakistan.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061207/ap_on_hi_te/scamming_microsoft
35. *December 07, USA TODAY* — **Wireless firms say prepaid phone prices may go up.** Prepaid wireless companies say they may have to sharply raise the prices of their discount cell phones after a federal ruling that hobbles their ability to crack down on a rampant foreign black market in the devices. Such a price increase could damage the prepaid wireless business, says Ovum

analyst Roger Entner. Prepaid has become the cell phone industry's fastest-growing segment by targeting lower-income consumers who often can't afford traditional plans. This week, TracFone, the No. 1 prepaid provider, sued to overturn the Library of Congress's November 22 decision granting new exemptions to copyright law. Its ruling lets consumers remove software locks that prevent cell phones from being used on another carrier's network. The effect on carriers such as Sprint and Cingular is minimal, because subscribers get a free or discounted phone when they sign a two-year contract. But prepaid companies say the ruling has weakened their ability to sue members of roving gangs that buy truckloads of phones, remove the software and sell them for mark-ups of 100 percent or more in markets such as South America and Hong Kong. The black market is possible because prepaid plans require no contracts.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/telecom/2006-12-07-prepaid-phone-prices_x.htm

36. *December 07, VNUNet* — **Researchers spot first mobile spyware.** Researchers at McAfee claim to have found the first spyware application that targets the Symbian operating system for mobile phones. The spyware application comes bundled with a variant of the MultiDropper mobile phone Trojan. McAfee refers to the new online pest as SymbOS/MultiDropper.CG. The malware tracks text messages and copies log files with the phone number of incoming and outbound phone calls. "Although SymbOS/MultiDropper.CG does not appear to be a winner, it does signify a probable switch in malware authors' goals," Jimmy Shah, a mobile antivirus researcher at McAfee, noted on a company blog. "Rather than destroying data and information, it is stealing it for profit." The spyware author is not spreading the software himself, but is renting out the application to others and providing them with a personal account on a server that gathers the data from infected phones. The application provides further evidence that malware will increasingly target mobile phones.

McAfee blog: <http://www.avertlabs.com/research/blog/?p=145>

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2170423/researchers-spot-first-mobile>

37. *December 06, eWeek* — **VoIP costs dip, as fixed-mobile convergence looms.** As voice over IP (VoIP) completes its first decade, the technology has become firmly established in corporate voice, data and video communications networks. Now the eyes of the VoIP community are turning to what might be the next big thing on the horizon, fixed-mobile convergence (FMC), or the ability of cell phones and VoIP devices to send and receive voice and video calls -- even though significant technology hurdles stand in the way. In a demonstration that such convergence might not be too far off, Jeff Pulver, chairman of Pulvermedia, initiated at the show a video call from his laptop PC to the cell phone of a worker at the offices of Radvision in Tel Aviv, Israel. The call worked and Pulver's Radvision contact appeared in a video screen, although the video quality was not completely life-like. Whether or not FMC happens anytime soon, plenty of companies are taking advantage not only of VoIP's lower costs, but of its ability to integrate better with data applications.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2069276.00.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 42689 (---), 6881 (bittorrent), 4672 (eMule), 1027 (icq), 1028 (---), 58787 (---), 25 (smtp), 32805 (---) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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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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