



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 May 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports Cracker Barrel pulled hamburgers from hundreds of restaurants after a patron in South Carolina reported cutting her mouth on a piece of metal embedded in a patty, (See item [28](#))
- The Alameda Times–Star reports cell phones could save lives in California under an alert system state officials expect to provide in 12 to 14 months that will send warnings about campus massacre threats, road calamities, wildfires, as well as terrorist attacks, floods, and tsunamis. (See item [43](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

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. *May 09, Reuters* — **China, India to lead luring green projects by 2012.** China and India will become the most attractive countries for investment in renewable energy projects by 2012, Ernst & Young said in a report on Wednesday, May 9. In its quarterly Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness rankings, the accounting firm said the two Asian countries are expected to share the top three spots along with the U.S. on its overall All Renewables Index within the next five years. For the first quarter of 2007 the U.S. retained the top place as individual states there continue to adopt legislation favorable to wind and solar power. "Despite recent

predictions by the International Energy Agency that China may overtake the U.S. as the world's biggest source of greenhouse gases within months, the Chinese government is showing a commitment to renewable energy sources," Jonathan Johns of Ernst & Young, said. "(China's) investment in renewable energy is increasing at an impressive rate, with the annual installation of wind turbines more than doubling in the last 18 months." India held second place on the Ernst & Young overall index again this quarter, with tax exemptions and government legislation on compulsory renewable obligations stimulating growth in the sector, the report said.

Source: <http://www.ndtvprofit.com/homepage/news.asp?id=297310>

2. *May 09, Associated Press* — **Four U.S. workers seized in Nigeria.** Gunmen seized four American workers as violence escalated in Nigeria's southern petroleum-producing region, a Chevron spokesperson said Wednesday, May 9. Chevron Corp. spokesperson Femi Odumabo said the four kidnapped workers were subcontractors with U.S. citizenship. "Four American employees of Global Industry Ltd. were taken hostage," he said. "There is no current threat to production." Earlier Tuesday, militants staged coordinated attacks on three pipelines in the wetlands region, the most damaging assault on the country's vital oil infrastructure in over a year, marking a heightening of hostilities. Nigeria is Africa's largest producer of crude, one of the top 10 exporters in the world and a leading supplier of oil for the United States. The near-simultaneous blasts Tuesday followed the kidnappings of dozens of foreign oil workers last week, a sequence of events militants say is intended to shut down the continent's largest crude exporter. Analysts believe armed groups are heightening the tempo of attacks in a bid to demonstrate their relevance ahead of this month's handover of power to a newly elected government.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/09/AR2007050900727.html>

3. *May 08, U.S. Department of State* — **Renewable energy industry vows to meet more of U.S. energy needs.** With congressional and administration support, renewable energy industries promise to meet a substantially larger portion of projected U.S. demand for energy than they currently meet. Wind, solar, biofuels and other renewable energy industries have the potential to provide up to 40 percent of electricity and a similar share of transportation fuel supplies projected for 2025, a new industry-funded report says. The expansion of the renewable sector on a scale envisioned in "The Outlook on Renewable Energy in America, Volume II: Joint Summary Report" would produce considerable benefits, such as reduced dependence on oil and natural gas imports. Although some experts view the projections, published earlier in May by the American Council on Renewable Energy, as realistic, others, such as George Douglas of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, consider them extremely optimistic. Brandon Owens of the Cambridge Energy Research Associates has doubts that so much electricity can be produced so quickly from renewables. Owens explained that there is a significant geographical mismatch between the areas of greatest demand — mostly on both coasts — and those where renewable resources are available. A second problem, he said, is storing electricity for use during periods of peak demand.

Source: <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2007&m=May&x=20070508164950saikceinawz0.6212885>

4.

May 08, ABC 7 (CA) — **Grease to power sewage plant.** The city of Rialto, CA, will use kitchen grease, waste sludge and a hydrogen fuel cell to power the wastewater treatment plant. The project is a teamed effort with the city, Chevron Energy Solutions and FuelCell Energy. This will be the nation's first system to power a hydrogen fuel cell using methane gas from decomposing grease and sewage waste. The project could be in operation by February.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=local&id=5285665>

5. *May 08, Energy Information Administration* — **EIA releases Short–Term Energy Outlook.** The Energy Information Administration's most recent Short–Term Energy Outlook states that continuing problems for refineries in the U.S. and abroad, combined with strong global gasoline demand, have raised projected average summer gasoline price by 14 cents per gallon from its last Outlook. Retail regular grade motor gasoline prices are now projected to average \$2.95 per gallon this summer compared with the \$2.84 per gallon average of last summer. During the summer season, the average monthly gasoline pump price is projected to peak at \$3.01 per gallon in May and again in August, compared with \$2.98 per gallon last July. The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil is expected to average over \$66 per barrel this summer, compared with over \$70 per barrel last summer, and to average about \$64 per barrel annually in both 2007 and 2008. The average cost of all crude oils to U.S. refiners is projected to be only about \$2 per barrel less this summer than last summer. The Henry Hub natural gas spot price is expected to average \$7.84 per thousand cubic feet in 2007, a 90–cent increase from the 2006 average, and \$8.16 per mcf in 2008.
Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *May 09, Toledo Blade (OH)* — **Propane plant erupts into inferno.** A fire at a Bedford Township, MI, propane plant near Toledo, OH, burned one employee, destroyed at least two buildings, blew small propane tanks hundreds of feet into the air, and forced a three–hour evacuation of homes and businesses within a 1 1/2–mile radius. The fire at Reliance Propane and Fuel Oil, 180 Lavoy Road, near Telegraph Road was considered so dangerous that firefighters withdrew from the scene for about three hours late Tuesday afternoon, May 8. The worker, Robert Wilcox, Jr., suffered first, second, and third degree burns. He blamed the blaze on static electricity or a spark created by the screwdriver he was using to loosen a screw from a propane tank. The blaze destroyed the pump house and spread to a production facility, where 20 and 100–pound propane tanks were located. Flames spread to a tractor–trailer rig containing at least 100 small tanks, then to a building housing a garage, office, and loading dock with more cylinders. Within 30 minutes of the inferno, two nearby rail lines were shut down, the Federal Aviation Administration was notified to close air space, and Consumers Energy was asked to cut power to the facility.
Source: <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070509/NEWS07/705090478>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *May 08, New York Times* — **EADS hopes to increase military work for the U.S.** The European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS) wants to expand its military activities in the United States, and friendly governments in both France and Germany could help further that goal, the company's co-chief executive said on Monday, May 7. "We now have two leaders who have no prejudice against the United States, who are not labeled as anti-American," the co-chief executive, Louis Gallois, said in an interview. The winner in the French presidential election Sunday, Nicolas Sarkozy, is a center-right politician seen as more pro-American than his predecessor, Jacques Chirac. The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, has been making efforts to mend her country's relations with the United States, which have been strained in recent years. The changing of the political guard comes at a strategic moment for EADS. Gallois said that EADS was prepared to make acquisitions in the military industry in the United States and elsewhere. "We are not against acquisitions if this makes sense" financially and if EADS is "not de facto excluded because we are not American," he said. He declined to identify any possible targets, but said that midsize military contractors and aircraft maintenance businesses were among the assets being considered.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/08/business/worldbusiness/08a_irbus.html?ref=europe
8. *May 07, U.S. Air Force* — **Air Force officials evaluating KC-X proposals.** The Air Force source selection evaluation team is poring over industry proposals for the KC-X program, the replacement for the Air Force's aging KC-135 Stratotanker strategic refueling aircraft. The evaluation team, made up of a broad spectrum of acquisition and operational professionals, is currently sequestered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, supporting a multi-month effort to carefully dissect and evaluate each proposal submitted in April 2007. The source-selection process is rigorous, requiring months of preparation and several more months of evaluation in a tightly controlled environment. Prior to official source selection start, KC-X program officials had continuous dialogue with industry representatives. This dialogue continues through the evaluation process. The selection will be announced and contract award made after receiving authority to proceed from the undersecretary of Defense for acquisition logistics and technology through the Defense Acquisition Board scheduled later this year.
Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123052308>
9. *May 07, RAND Corporation* — **Navy should start next nuclear submarine design phase early.** The Navy should start designing the next class of nuclear submarines five years ahead of schedule and stretch out the design period to prevent a critical erosion of skilled submarine designers and engineers, according to a RAND Corporation study issued Monday, May 7. As an alternative, the study suggests the Navy support efforts by the submarine-building shipyards to retain skilled design workers instead of laying them off. For the first time since the creation nuclear-powered submarines, the Navy is facing a period when it will have no design program underway for a new class of nuclear submarine or a major upgrade of an existing class. As a result, the Navy's access to highly specialized submarine designers and engineers could dwindle, burdening the next submarine design effort with additional costs, delays and risks, according to the study. The study by RAND, a nonprofit research organization, is titled "Sustaining U.S. Nuclear Submarine Design Capabilities." It was sponsored by the U.S. Navy and conducted within the Acquisition and Technology Policy Center of the RAND National

Defense Research Institute.

Study: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2007/RAND_MG608.pdf

Source: <http://www.rand.org/news/press.07/05.07.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *May 09, Washington Post* — States offer consumers new tool to thwart identity theft.

George Fitzgerald never imagined he would take on the nation's largest financial services industry and win. But his upstart coalition of consumer and business groups did just that when they took up the cause of identity theft victims in Delaware, winning passage last September of a state law enabling residents to opt out of America's instant-credit economy. Delaware became the seventh state to enact a law enabling consumers to "freeze" their credit reports as a means of preventing identity thieves from establishing new, fraudulent lines of credit. Altogether, 26 other states and the District of Columbia have secured such rights for their citizens, and more states are considering similar measures. Credit freezes can be an effective, if blunt, tool to fight identity theft. A freeze directs the three major credit reporting bureaus to block access to a consumer's credit report and credit score. While a freeze does little to stop abuse with existing accounts that have been compromised by criminals, it can limit victims' total exposure, saving them the time and expense of clearing new, fraudulent accounts from their records.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/09/AR2007050900427_pf.html

11. *May 08, Daily 49er (CA)* — Death threat e-mail found to be a hoax. An e-mail containing a death threat was sent to a California State University, Long Beach, employee of the journalism department days after the Virginia Tech shootings, but was later determined to be a hoax that had been distributed worldwide, according to University Police Capt. Stan Skipworth. The content of the e-mail — said to have originated from Egypt — was written in broken English and asked the recipient to pay an amount in the thousands of dollars or else she would be killed. "The Internet provider assisted in the investigation and said that they had received several inquiries from a number of other parties from around the world asking about the same e-mail," said Skipworth. "They had determined that it was basically a hoax." Skipworth called the e-mail a phishing scam. "Unfortunately it was done, obviously, in very bad taste and in a very bad time," said Skipworth, referring to the shootings at Virginia Tech on April 23. Skipworth said that Information Technology Department helped the University Police with the investigation and coordinated with IT experts around the world.

Source: http://media.www.daily49er.com/media/storage/paper1042/news/2007/05/08/News/Death.Threat.EMail.Found.To.Be.A.Hoax-289702_5.shtml

12. *May 08, New Mexican* — E-mail scam targets massage therapists. A new scam e-mail claims to be from a massage therapist named John Green who lives in the United Kingdom. He has a client — a fashion model — who plans to come to "your area" soon and will need massages when she arrives. The only hitch is that she wants to know if she can pay for the massages with a certified bank check. She wants the e-mail recipient to cash her \$5,520 check, take out fees for the massages and wire the rest of the money — to an "equipment company" that the model uses in her work. Phil Sisneros, spokesperson for the New Mexico state Attorney

General's Office, said he hopes no massage therapists respond to the e-mail. The e-mail has all the makings of a scam, Sisneros said. Bob Hagan, spokesperson for the state Regulation and Licensing Department, said the e-mail preys on the misconception that cashier's checks from banks are as good as cash.

Source: <http://www.freewmexican.com/news/61394.html>

13. *May 08, Chicago Tribune* — **Seventeen penalized in mortgage flipping.** As part of an elaborate mortgage-flipping scheme that has bilked lenders and blighted neighborhoods, a vacant house in the 5300 block of South Laflin Street, Chicago, IL, sold for \$165,000 last year and was resold for twice that amount just hours later, state officials said Tuesday, May 8. After a three-month investigation, 17 businesses and individuals have been disciplined for their involvement in a mortgage-fraud ring that falsified documents and created bogus appraisals, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation officials announced Tuesday. Mortgage flipping involves purchasing a property for below market price and reselling it—often later that day. Called the new street hustle by gang members, mortgage fraud is raking cities like Chicago as con artists use high-tech identity theft and face-to-face scams to secure six-figure bank loans that are never repaid. Officials said actions against mortgage brokers, loan originators, appraisers and title agencies involved in the ring included license revocations and suspensions. State officials said criminal prosecution is likely. The state regulating agency and the Mortgage Fraud Task Force are investigating 120 additional property transactions for wrongdoing.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-070507mortgages.0_3855158.story

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *May 09, Associated Press* — **Box cutter onboard Dallas-bound plane delays flight.** A box cutter found by a passenger onboard a United Airlines plane delayed a Denver to Dallas flight for nearly two hours Tuesday, May 8. Flight 490 had left the gate and was taxiing toward a runway when the passenger found the cutting instrument and notified a flight attendant, United Airlines spokesperson Megan McCarthy said. The flight attendant notified authorities, and Transportation Security Administration officials met the plane on the tarmac. McCarthy said all the passengers were taken off the plane and re-screened while officials checked the plane for additional weapons. None were found and the plane took off at 2:25 p.m., nearly two hours after its scheduled takeoff.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-05-09-box-cutter-delay_N.htm

15. *May 09, WUSA (DC)* — **Fumes at Dulles Airport tower.** On Wednesday, May 9, shortly after 10 a.m. EDT Airport Authority Fire Department responded to the Dulles Air Traffic Control Tower following reports of fumes entering the tower. The fumes appear to have come from the new airport train system construction. The air traffic controllers were relocated to an alternate tower site adjacent to concourse B. At no point was the airport closed. Six patients are being evaluated and four were hospitalized. No word on transport of patients. The airport authority could confirm whether controllers were ever out of contact with planes in the air.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=58455

16. *May 09, Associated Press* — **FAA backs DFW navigation technology.** The administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) gave her support Tuesday, May 8, to wider development of satellite-based navigation technology that has been used for more than a year at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) and other U.S. airports. FAA Administrator Marion C. Blakey said the new technologies would help airports cope with projected growth in air traffic and make flying safer. In remarks prepared for an event in Washington, Blakey said the satellite-based system called area navigation is saving \$8.5 million per year at DFW Airport and a reported \$36 million in Atlanta. Officials at American Airlines, the nation's largest carrier, say area navigation saves fuel and lets planes take off simultaneously from parallel runways at DFW. Area navigation systems let pilots fly along a tightly controlled path entered into the plane's computer, resulting in more direct routes. It replaces the decades-old and more roundabout method of flying from one ground-based navigation point to another, then finding the runway and landing. Alaska Airlines pioneered use of the new technology in the mid-1990s to navigate through mountains and bad weather. Delta Air Lines Inc. uses the technology in Atlanta, and AMR Corp.'s American Airlines has been using it at DFW since about 2000.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070509/tx_runway_technology.html?v=1

17. *May 09, Government Technology* — **Barcode in proposed Real ID driver's license would be inadequate for security, privacy.** According to the Smart Card Alliance, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should not rely on static 2-D barcode technology to store citizens' personal information on Real ID driver's licenses or identification cards due to its inherent security drawbacks. These comments were made in response to the DHS Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on minimum standards for Real ID cards. Instead, the Alliance strongly recommends that DHS raise the security level for state-issued driving credentials to equal that which has been mandated in other federal programs, namely by using smart card technology. The Alliance suggests that smart cards represent a much more secure platform for preventing forgery, cloning, counterfeiting and theft or alteration of personal data stored on Real ID cards, tactics which are far easier to employ against barcode-based systems. The Alliance also notes that Real ID credentials will become high-profile targets for identity thieves and fraudsters, since they will be used to establish identity, the right to drive and the right to travel. These factors make it all the more crucial that DHS get the choice of protective technology for Real ID documents right.

Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/105401

18. *May 09, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-784T: Next Generation Air Transportation System: Status of the Transition to the Future Air Traffic Control System (Testimony).** The nation's current air traffic control system is reaching its capacity limits as demand for air transportation grows. The Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) represents a new system that will use state-of-the-art technologies and procedures. Transitioning to NextGen will require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to continue to sustain the current air traffic control system while acquiring new systems on schedule and on budget. In 2003, Congress authorized the creation of the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO), housed within FAA, to plan NextGen and coordinate the transition. The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) testimony focuses on the progress FAA is making in implementing businesslike operations that could provide a foundation for managing the transition to NextGen, the status of JPDO's planning and facilitation of NextGen, and some key

challenges that FAA and JPDO need to address in moving toward NextGen. This statement is based on GAO's November 2006 report and recent testimonies as well as ongoing work. GAO's November report recommended that FAA study its technical and contract management expertise and that JPDO take actions to institutionalize its collaborative practices. FAA and JPDO said they would consider our recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07784thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-784T>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *May 07, USPS News Release* — New postage rates take effect May 14. A new U.S. Postal Service (USPS) approach to pricing will reshape the future of mail on Monday, May 14, enabling customers to save money by in some cases simply folding the contents of an envelope. The new pricing system is based on the shape of mail, not just the weight, reflecting the fact that the costs for handling letters, large envelopes and packages differs. Customers can reduce their mailing costs simply by choosing different packaging. For example, if the contents of a First Class Mail large envelope are folded and placed in a letter-sized envelope, customers can reduce postage by as much as 39 cents per piece. If the contents of a First Class Mail package are laid out to fit into a large envelope, customers can save 33 cents per piece. Shaped-based pricing, in effect, creates a more flexible rate system by giving mailers the opportunity to obtain lower rates if they find ways to configure their mail into shapes that reduce handling costs for the Postal Service and that helps to keep rates affordable for everyone.

More information: <http://www.usps.com/ratecase>

Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2007/pr07_041.htm

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Agriculture Sector

20. *May 08, Delta Farm Press* — Seedling disease in frost-stressed rice. With some exceptions, the Arkansas rice crop fared well considering the below-freezing weather that damaged many other crops around Easter. However, one rice expert has recently become concerned over the severity of pythium seedling disease that has shown up. "It has really shown up fairly widespread," said Chuck Wilson, Arkansas Extension rice specialist. "I think the rice being stressed from the freeze and the cold weather that followed it caused pythium to show up." Wilson said a number of fields that a few days earlier appeared fine were dying. "The majority of the crop will survive, but more acreage than I had originally thought will have to be replanted because of seedling disease." Wilson expects Arkansas rice farmers to plant 1.2 million acres of rice this year, 13 percent lower than last year and the lowest acreage since 1996. "The main reasons for the decrease include extremely high input costs across the board, lack of adequate pricing opportunities and lack of seed availability," said Bobby Coats, Arkansas Extension economist. A planting restriction on CL 131 and Cheniere varieties this year prompted widespread concern about seed supply, Wilson noted.

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/070508-rice-freeze/>

21. *May 08, Farm & Ranch Guide* — **Livestock producers warned about anthrax danger.** The North Dakota state veterinarian says recent heavy rainfall in portions of North Dakota should prompt livestock producers to take measures to protect their animals from anthrax. "Producers in areas that have had a recent history of anthrax should vaccinate their cattle and horses as soon as possible if they have not already done so," said Dr. Susan Keller. "Producers in these areas and throughout the state should be monitoring their herds for unexpected deaths and reporting them to their veterinarians or to animal health authorities." Keller said the 2005 outbreak should serve as a warning about the danger of anthrax to grazing animals. More than 500 confirmed deaths from anthrax were reported that year, and total losses were estimated at more than 1,000 head, including cattle, bison, horses, sheep, llamas and farmed deer and elk. Source: http://www.farmandranchguide.com/articles/2007/05/08/ag_news/updates/update03.txt
22. *May 08, Oregonian* — **Officials stop boat covered with zebra mussels.** Washington wildlife enforcement officials on Tuesday, May 8, stopped a driver who was towing a 35-foot-long houseboat toting zebra mussels north on Interstate 5 in Ridgefield, WA. The boat had the invasive mussels attached to its hull, but all appeared to be dead, said Pam Meacham of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Meacham said the houseboat, which was being towed from Missouri to Canada, was decontaminated and released. Canadian officials also were alerted about another houseboat that the boat's owners had recently delivered to Sprout Lake in British Columbia. Northwest wildlife officials are worried that the fast-multiplying zebra mussels and their close cousins, quagga mussels, could infest the region's lakes and streams. The tiny mussels — which form colonies as dense as 700,000 in a square yard — have caused millions of dollars in damage in the Midwest, choking water-supply pipes and spoiling aquatic life. Source: http://blog.oregonlive.com/breakingnews/2007/05/officials_stop_boat_covered_wi.html
23. *May 08, Edmonton Journal (Canada)* — **Deer cull finds more wasting disease.** A springtime cull of 1,400 deer in eastern Alberta, Canada, has identified nine more animals infected with chronic wasting disease (CWD), a condition of the central nervous system similar to mad cow disease. Researchers with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development conducted the cull after a surveillance program during the 2006–2007 hunting season that found CWD was present in the brains of four mule deer that were among 3,000 heads submitted to the ministry by hunters in the province. Based on the geographic distribution of those four deer, researchers then conducted a cull of 1,400 animals in the most-suspect areas between March 15 and March 27. The nine latest samples brings to 29 the number of diseased wild deer discovered since the first documented case in September 2005. In recent years, CWD has spread. Originally detected in Colorado, it subsequently spread to Wyoming, then Wisconsin, then Saskatchewan and it is now turning up in other areas. Source: <http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=8e087c6d-8a21-423c-93bc-4b5861b93452&k=8929>
24. *May 08, KTRV Fox 12 (ID)* — **Disease outbreak at Idaho hatchery.** Nearly a quarter of a million rainbow trout have died as a result of a disease outbreak at the Nampa, ID, fish hatchery. This is the second such outbreak of "ich" in as many years at the Fish and Game hatchery. Officials say stress from overcrowding weakened the trout, making them more

susceptible to the parasite. The 250,000 fish that died represent an eight–percent loss of Idaho's annual output of catchable–size trout. The disease poses no threat to humans, but Fish and Game will still test the trout before releasing them into Idaho waters.

Source: <http://www.fox12news.com/Global/story.asp?S=6482424>

25. *May 07, American Phytopathological Society* — Plant pathologists fighting global threat to wheat supply. A new, highly destructive strain of wheat stem rust is continuing to evolve and has the potential to devastate wheat production worldwide, say plant pathologists with The American Phytopathological Society. Stem rust of wheat was responsible for massive epidemics on wheat during the early 20th Century in North America. In the mid–1950s, wheat breeders developed wheat that had genetic resistance to the disease, making it all but disappear. Despite this success, a new, virulent strain of wheat stem rust, Ug99, evolved in Uganda and has already spread into Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen, with the potential to spread into Pakistan, India, and China, and eventually North America. "This new race could attack wheat varieties in many countries and could virtually overcome most of the wheat resistant varieties around the globe," said David Marshall, research leader with the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service. According to Marshall, if this new strain were to reach regions at risk, it could create epidemics more severe than farmers have encountered in decades and destroy farmers' harvests in wheat–producing areas worldwide.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=46712

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Food Sector

26. *May 09, Reuters* — China acts on food safety after pet food saga. China will launch a nationwide cleanup of its food industry after two Chinese companies were found to have illegally exported contaminated wheat gluten and rice protein for pet food blamed for a spate of animal deaths in the U.S. The application of fertilizer and pesticides in vegetable planting as well as animal medicine and additives used in livestock feed are priority areas for inspection, according to a notice from China's cabinet. Tests would be conducted on food including cooking oil, flour and beverages as well as baby food. Unqualified producers will have their licenses revoked.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK371294.htm>

27. *May 09, The Standard (China)* — Forty–seven people arrested in alleged food scam at five–star hotels. China's Independent Commission Against Corruption has arrested 47 people in connection with an alleged scam over the supply of food to five– star hotels and other luxury establishments. Acting chief investigator Diana Pang Wai–sum said Tuesday, May 8, those arrested included staff members of seven hotels, nine restaurants, four private clubs and a Japanese department store. "The 39 males and eight females arrested include 22 food purchasers and chefs, 21 food suppliers' staff and operators, and four other individuals," Pang said. She did not rule out more arrests. Pang said separate bribes ranged from a few hundred dollars to thousands, and involved the sourcing of meat, seafood, fruit and other Japanese food products. The amount was usually two percent to five percent of the food price involved in the transaction. "In the worst cases, the accused had placed so–called blank orders for which no goods were actually involved," Ng said. According to Pang, the syndicate — in operation for

the past two to three years — performed within a "small-circle" network, with buyers of different food products introducing each other to chefs to establish long-term relationships, and allegedly bribing the latter for orders in return.

Source: http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?pp_cat=11&art_id=44027&sid=13509103&con_type=1

28. *May 09, Associated Press* — Cracker Barrel pulls burgers. Cracker Barrel pulled hamburgers from hundreds of restaurants after a patron in South Carolina reported cutting her mouth on a piece of metal embedded in a patty, authorities and the restaurant chain said Tuesday, May 8. "We are putting out a wide net," said Julie Davis, spokesperson for the Lebanon, TN-based restaurants. Some 313 restaurants were told to remove burgers produced on and around the same date as those served in the Myrtle Beach, SC, restaurant where the woman was cut Saturday night, Davis said. Cracker Barrel has 557 restaurants in 41 states. Cracker Barrel and police are investigating, officials said. The burgers — delivered to the restaurants frozen and preformed — came from Cargill Meat Solutions of Wichita, KS, which is the restaurant chain's largest burger supplier, Davis said. Mark Klein, a spokesperson for Cargill's meat businesses, said his company also is investigating.

Source: http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=96713

29. *May 08, HealthDay News* — Farmed fish ate melamine: FDA. After finding its way to America's dinner tables via pork and chicken, the melamine contaminant in recalled pet food may have also been fed to farmed fish, federal health officials announced Tuesday, May 8. Levels of melamine in the fish are probably far too small to affect human health, stressed officials at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The FDA has so far not disclosed which fish farms received the contaminated food, or how many fish, of what type, may have eaten it. It's also not clear how much of the potentially tainted fish — if any — has made it to supermarkets. David Acheson, the FDA's assistant commissioner for food protection, said the contaminated material used in the pet food and imported from China turns out to be wheat flour, not wheat gluten or rice protein concentrate, as had been widely reported. "We have discovered that the wheat gluten and rice protein was mislabeled," Acheson said. Some of the mislabeled wheat flour was shipped first to Canada and then to the United States as fish meal used to feed commercially raised fish, Acheson said.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/forbeslife/health/feeds/hscout/2007/05/08/hscout604453.html>

30. *May 08, Meatingplace.com* — Ammonia leak at Illinois meat plant prompts evacuation. An ammonia leak at an Ed Miniat plant in South Holland, IL, on Monday, May 7, prompted the evacuation of the facility and some nearby homes and businesses. The plant, which processes fully cooked meats, used the ammonia in its refrigeration system. The leak occurred in an isolated room inside the plant. A thick cloud then formed inside the building, and a strong odor was noticeable outside. Electricity and gas service to the plant were cut off soon after the leak was reported, and a hazardous-material team monitored the situation, authorities said.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=128085>

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Water Sector

31. *May 08, 1010 WINS (NY)* — **Advisory extended for Hudson River sewage spill.** Health officials are extending an advisory for boaters and others who use the Hudson River after millions of gallons of raw sewage leaked into the water. A spokesperson for the Westchester County Health Department (NY) said they have not seen any health problems related to sewage and ingesting bacteria. But Mary Landrigan says the department is continuing the advisory until they can gather more data on the discharge. Yonkers residents discovered Friday, May 4, that a pipe was leaking sewage into the river. Workers spent the weekend fixing the pipe. The pipe was ruptured when a hillside broke off and slid down, carrying trees with it. The movement snapped the pipe.
Source: <http://www.1010wins.com/pages/429893.php?contentType=4&contentId=477373>

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Public Health Sector

32. *May 09, Reuters* — **Roche says Tamiflu data shows very low resistance.** Swiss pharmaceutical group Roche Holding AG said on Wednesday, May 9, new data showed patients using its anti-flu drug Tamiflu rarely developed resistance to it. The data, published by the United Nations' World Health Organization, showed resistance of around 0.3 percent to Tamiflu, also called oseltamivir, during the influenza seasons in which there had been substantial Tamiflu use in Japan. "This level of resistance is extremely low compared to rates of 65 percent seen in Japan with another antiviral, amantadine," Roche said in a statement.
Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/174976;_ylt=AIEPKkJztLUeaU4CpOI1WjOmxBAB
33. *May 08, Telegraph (India)* — **Mystery fever in India blamed on Nipah virus.** The mystery fever that has claimed three lives in Nadia, India, is being blamed on a rare virus that is spread by pigs and bats and killed 49 people in Siliguri six years ago. The Nipah virus, discovered in Malaysia in 1999, has since been known to strike only two other places, Bangladesh and Bengal, causing epidemics in both. The Nadia infection, which now afflicts at least 30 people, was first thought to be a new strain of dengue. But blood samples of the three dead patients have tested positive for Nipah at the National Institute of Virology, Pune. All the 30 patients may not have the Nipah virus, though. The hitherto unexplained fever had afflicted 50 people since February but some 15 have recovered and two of the five dead actually died of encephalitis.
Source: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1070508/Asp/Frontpage/Story_7747136.asp
34. *May 08, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy* — **Poll shows many unready for public health crisis.** A recent survey sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA) indicates that about a third of Americans have made no preparations for a public health emergency and nearly 90 percent have prepared less than they think they should. The APHA survey, released in April at an expert roundtable discussion during National Public Health Week, was recently posted on the association's Website. Among the survey's key findings: Thirty-two percent of the public have taken no special steps to prepare for a public health emergency that could leave them short of food, water, or medication; An 87 percent majority said they knew they had not done enough and could do more to prepare for a public health emergency; Forty percent of respondents said they had taken steps to prepare in the past, but

had since let their plans lapse; More than a quarter said they were prepared for an emergency, but only about half had the 3–day supply of food, water, and medication currently recommended by the American Red Cross for general disaster planning; Close to half of respondents had not assembled a disaster supply kit.

APHA opinion survey on public health preparedness:

http://www.nphw.org/2007/pg_tools_poll.htm

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may0807survey.html>

- 35. *May 08, Reuters* — Bird flu not only pandemic risk, U.S. experts warn.** While many health experts see the H5N1 bird flu virus as a likely cause for an influenza pandemic, another influenza virus could just as likely mutate into a global killer, U.S. health experts said on Tuesday, May 8. "You can not accurately predict if and when a given virus will become a pandemic virus," said Anthony Fauci, head of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Fauci said too little is known about exactly how and when a virus will mutate. Focusing too much on one suspect — even a very likely suspect such as H5N1 — may be a mistake. "We should not...forget the fact that historically pandemics have evolved. We should be building up the knowledge base and expanding the capabilities of making vaccines," he said. Fauci and colleagues, writing in a commentary in the Journal of the American Medical Association, said pandemic prevention strategies must be based on "expecting the unexpected and being capable of reacting accordingly." They recommend companies expand their research on vaccine design, develop new classes of drugs and improve tests to diagnose influenza.

Abstract: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/297/18/2025>

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/174970;_ylt=At3CjI.MgrPkmj8Umbx HEx0qLcsF

- 36. *May 08, National Institutes of Health* — Health officials renew Indo–U.S. Vaccine Action Program.** U.S. and Indian health officials have renewed the Indo–U.S. Vaccine Action Program (VAP), a 20–year–old bilateral collaboration supporting research on vaccines, immunology and related biomedical issues. The VAP aims to reduce the burden of vaccine–preventable diseases of public health significance in India, the United States and other parts of the world, and to promote vaccines as one of the most cost–effective health technologies. VAP’s research priorities include acute respiratory illnesses, hepatitis, rotavirus diarrhea, cholera, leishmaniasis, typhoid, rabies, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and emerging and re–emerging infectious diseases.

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/may2007/niaid-08.htm>

- 37. *May 08, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* — Rotavirus outbreak strikes children in Canada.** Health officials have reported an outbreak of rotavirus among young children in the St. John's area in Canada, with dozens appearing for treatment at a city hospital. "There's a fairly quick onset, particularly in children, that can cause fairly significant dehydration if it's not addressed fairly quickly," said Dr. David Allison, the medical officer of health in the St. John's region. What has made this outbreak significant — prompting an advisory from the Eastern Health regional authority — is that it is mainly affecting young children. As many as 30 children per day have been seeking treatment at the Janeway Child Health Center in St. John's since late last week.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2007/05/08/rotavirus-stjohns.html>

38. *May 03, University of Florida* — Anthrax paralyzes immune cells with lethal toxin.

University of Florida (UF) researchers have revealed how the inhaled form of anthrax paralyzes the body's defenses and prevents immune cells from reaching the site of infection. The UF findings, published last week in the EMBO Journal, may lead to quicker diagnoses for anthrax victims. Once inhaled, anthrax releases a lethal toxin that immobilizes the white blood cells that normally seek and destroy invading bacteria. Just traces of the toxin can slow movement of these cells, called neutrophils, by 50 percent, UF researchers discovered. "Neutrophils have to get to the infection to kill anything. If you paralyze them so they don't move, they can't protect you," said Dr. Fred Southwick, division chief of infectious diseases at the UF College of Medicine and the study's lead author. "Actin is important because it's the motor that causes neutrophils to move," said Southwick. "So it's like cutting the gas to the motor." Anthrax literally cuts the gas line. The toxin works like a pair of scissors, snipping off the ends of a key protein and preventing the transmission of messages within the cell. As a result, immune cells never receive the green light to assemble the actin motor, Southwick's findings demonstrate.

Abstract: <http://www.nature.com/emboj/journal/v26/n9/abs/7601687a.html>

Source: <http://news.ufl.edu/2007/05/03/anthrax-4/>

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Government Sector

39. *May 09, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-564: Homeland Security: DHS Enterprise Architecture Continues to Evolve but Improvements Needed (Report).

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated the transformation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as high risk in 2003, and it continues to do so today. One essential tool for facilitating organizational transformation is an enterprise architecture (EA)—a corporate blueprint that serves as an authoritative frame of reference for information technology investment decision making. The Congress required DHS to submit a report that includes its EA and a capital investment plan for implementing it. The Congress also required that GAO review the report. In June 2006, DHS submitted this report to the Congress. GAO's objective was to assess the status of the EA, referred to as DHS EA 2006, and the plan for implementing it. To meet this objective, GAO analyzed architectural documents relative to its prior recommendations; evaluated stakeholder comments and the process used to obtain them; and analyzed the implementation plan against relevant guidance. GAO is making recommendations to DHS for tracing the implementation of prior GAO recommendations to EA content, and for more effectively soliciting and addressing EA stakeholder comments. DHS agreed to trace GAO's recommendations, but stated that it already adequately deals with stakeholder comments. GAO does not agree for reasons cited in this report, and thus stands by its recommendation.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07564high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-564>

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Emergency Services Sector

40. *May 09, Denver Post* — **Responders in Colorado get a taste of terror.** In Watkins, CO, would-be terrorism first responders watched improvised bombs explode. One was a water bottle, another a briefcase. There were also envelopes packed with plastic explosives. The responders studied the fireball as a flaming tire rocketed 300 feet into the sky. They sniffed the fumes as milk jugs filled with gasoline ignited. They rushed to the scene after a 15-pound bucket of diesel-soaked fertilizer — the recipe used in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 — shattered a Chevy Astro van. This was the scene at a new Department of Homeland Security-funded course — the first of several nationwide — designed to help police, sheriff's deputies, paramedics and firefighters prepare for a terrorist attack. Some 31 participants from agencies across the country including U.S. military personnel gathered for this three-day course Tuesday, May 8, at a University of Denver field station. First responders worked on sifting through blast shards for evidence that could be used to track terrorists after blasts, and on recognizing secondary bombs designed to kill them.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/ci_5849753
41. *May 08, Government Technology* — **Texas reports on 911 service for Internet-based phone service.** The majority of Texas emergency call centers now receive 911 calls from customers whose telephone service relies upon Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology. In a recently released report, the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications provided a status of statewide efforts to provide 911 service to VoIP telephone subscribers. VoIP is the term broadly used to describe telephone services that transmit voice communications over a digital data network using Internet protocol technology. Since VoIP telephony is increasingly being adopted by the public, it is critical that VoIP customers have access to emergency services through dialing 911. In June 2005, the Federal Communications Commission issued an order requiring that companies providing interconnected VoIP telephone service also provide their customers with Enhanced 911, or "E911." E911 service means that a 911 call is routed to the correct answering point along with the caller's telephone number and location information, which greatly improves emergency response effectiveness. In Texas, E911 is almost universally available on traditional wireline and wireless phones.
Report: [http://www.911.state.tx.us/files/pdfs/resources/VoIP_Deployment_Report_08Mar07_\(Final\).pdf](http://www.911.state.tx.us/files/pdfs/resources/VoIP_Deployment_Report_08Mar07_(Final).pdf)
Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=105390>
42. *May 08, Government Technology* — **Maine governor helps to test emergency message over radio airwaves.** Maine Governor John E. Baldacci delivered a test message over a network of 16 radio stations Monday morning, May 7, informing Bangor area listeners about the importance of the group called the United Radio Broadcasters of Eastern Maine. "These stations have put aside their competitive spirit and have put you first to ensure safety in the event of a catastrophe," Baldacci said in the message. "Should we experience a major emergency, they will bring you coordinated news updates as quickly as possible." Nine commercial radio stations in the Bangor area and the seven statewide public radio stations of the Maine Public Broadcasting Network have teamed up to inform listeners as soon as possible in the case of an emergency.
Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=105373>
43. *May 08, Alameda Times-Star (CA)* — **California to provide cell-phone warning system for disasters.** Cell phones could save lives when dealing with disasters, under an alert system state

officials said Tuesday, May 8, they expect to provide in 12 to 14 months. With Bay Area officials leading the way, warnings about threats ranging from campus massacres, road calamities, wildfires and quake aftermaths to terrorist attacks, floods, and tsunamis will come over the cell phone. Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, who sits on the state Emergency Council, told lawmakers at an information-gathering hearing that California is working alongside U.S. agencies that are developing a federal alert system via cell phone but is ready to proceed without them. With utility regulators' backing and no legislation required, authorities are planning to use cell-phone towers to broadcast tone and text warnings of imminent dangers to all cell phones and Blackberry-type devices in a specific zone. For example, the phone would emit a sound unlike the usual ring followed by a written message appearing on the screen.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/ci_5849363

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

44. *May 08, Federal Computer Week* — DoD struggles with incompatible data. Despite its efforts, the Department of Defense (DoD) is finding it difficult to share data. The multiagency Cross-Domain Semantic Interoperability Working Group concluded that DoD must address the problem with technologies that aren't yet available. The group released a report stating that DOD's data strategy is inimical to achieving broad interoperability. The technologies necessary to reach that goal haven't sufficiently matured, according to the report. DOD's strategy is to establish communities of interest (COIs) that will develop standard data models. That approach is problematic, the report states, because it will result in a proliferation of COIs and competition among them. "The Army may end up with 100 or more data models, even with strong governance to limit the number," the report states. The group concluded that mapping the various data models could require as many 9,900 interfaces. The report's authors recommended that DoD focus on emerging technologies that directly address such issues to expand its ability to share data with internal and external partners.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article102657-05-08-07-Web>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

45. *May 09, Hattiesburg American (MS)* — Big Bay dam to be rebuilt. A Mississippi state board gave the go-ahead on Tuesday, May 8, to the rebuilding of Big Bay Lake dam, which collapsed three years ago and damaged or destroyed more than 100 homes downstream. The Mississippi

Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) permit board approved an application by Chip Tatum and the Land Partners Limited Partnership to rebuild the dam despite fears of downstream residents of another disaster like the one that occurred March 12, 2004. Gaylan McGregor, MDEQ director of dam safety, said the application for the new dam met all the requirements. McGregor said the new proposal is designed to prevent erosion of the dam, which is believed to be the cause of the 2004 break. The collapse sent 7.2 billion gallons of water downstream into Lamar and Marion counties all the way to the Pearl River. It drained the 945-acre lake. Inspections of the dam will also be conducted by MDEQ staff every three months for the first year after it's rebuilt, McGregor added. At the end of that year, McGregor has recommended the owner have the dam inspected, with his own engineers, every 60 days. MDEQ staff would also inspect the dam annually.

Source: <http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20070509/NEWS01/705090305/1002>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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