



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 August 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 Department of Homeland Security announced on Thursday, August 9, steps that will strengthen aviation security through uniform and consistent passenger prescreening against government watch lists. (See item [10](#))
- United Press International reports the Philadelphia metro area has unveiled a regional, interoperable, alert and information-sharing system expected to enable communication among emergency managers, key government officials, and first responders across the region. (See item [31](#))

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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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. *August 09, Associated Press* — **North Carolina: Utilities expect record demand.** North Carolina's largest electric utilities approached record demand Wednesday, August 8, as triple-digit temperatures across the Southeast strained electricity grids. North Carolina Electric Cooperatives, a network that services 2.5 million customers in mostly rural areas of the state, asked customers to turn off unnecessary electronics and to use electricity and air conditioning sparingly. It expected to break a record set in January 2005. Progress Energy also expected a record-breaking day for demand and asked its 1.2 million North Carolina customers to reduce

consumption to help ease the strain, said company spokesperson Tanya Evans. The company also turned to several large industrial customers to curtail their use during peak hours. Raleigh-based Progress serves a total of 3.1 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Duke Energy did not ask customers for conservation, but suggested that people monitor their usage. Duke provides service to 1.8 million retail customers in North Carolina and is the largest electricity supplier in North Carolina and South Carolina. The National Weather Service put more than two-thirds of North Carolina under a heat warning or heat advisory Wednesday, and forecasters expected temperatures to break 100 degrees both Wednesday and Thursday.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070809/nc_heat_wave.html?v=1

- 2. August 09, USA TODAY — Rescue crews drill closer to miners.** Rescue teams drilling toward six trapped miners made significant progress on Thursday, August 9, and could reach the men with lifelines as early as Thursday evening, the co-owner of the mine said. A 2 and 1/2-inch hole was within 350 feet of the men, according to Murray Energy founder Robert Murray, and a second, larger hole was likely to reach the cavity on Friday. He said the smaller hole could reach the men within six hours and would allow rescuers to determine whether they were still alive. Nothing has been heard from the men since a mine shaft collapsed early Monday, August 6. Murray said at midday that the revised, more precise figures on the operation showed that the men were around 1,870 feet underground. He said the smaller drill was just over 300 feet from the cavity. The second hole, about four times larger, was about 1,500 feet away. It would be used to provide water and food to the men. Murray said crews were penetrating about 100 feet per shift through the rubble blocking the way to the miners.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-08-miners_N.htm

- 3. August 09, Henry Daily Herald (GA) — Heat increase drives electricity demand.** Georgia Power Co. spokesperson Lynn Wallace said the company cranked out 17, 547 megawatts (MW) of power for customers on Monday, August 6 — their highest one-day total ever. Wallace said it's possible a new record will be set by the end of the week. She said the company has plenty of capacity to avoid power "brownouts" — even if demand continues to rise. Unrelenting heat is driving record electricity demand all throughout the state. A statewide network of high-voltage power lines and substations that transmits power to 39 electric cooperatives was up to the test again this year when a new peak electricity record of 8,840 MW was set on Tuesday, according to officials at Georgia Transmission Corp. (GTC). "Population growth, rising per-capita energy and high temperatures all contribute to record-setting electric demand," said Mike Smith, GTC's CEO. "So far our system has been up to the challenge, and we have not had to call for significant load-shedding or emergency conservation efforts in any part of the state," he said.

Source: http://www.henryherald.com/statenews/cnhinsall_story_2210002_56.html

- 4. August 09, World Nuclear News — Toshiba to support new reactors at South Texas Project.** Toshiba has agreed to support NRG Energy and South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) in building two new nuclear power units. STP units 3 and 4 (about 90 miles southwest of Houston) will be 1358 MWe GE-Hitachi Advanced Boiling Water Reactors (ABWRs). While Toshiba owns the majority of nuclear power supplier Westinghouse, it has much experience with ABWRs and has performed as a main contractor on such construction. Japan's Tokyo Electric Power Company, the most experienced operator of ABWRs, signed in

March to be a technical consultant to assist with the project.

Source: http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/newNuclear/Toshiba_agrees_to_support_new_reactors_at_South_Texas_Project_090807.shtml

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *August 07, Journal News (NY)* — **Officers, resident sickened in chlorine gas leak.** Two Croton-on-Hudson, NY, police officers and a woman who were sickened by vapors when chlorine gas was released from a water treatment plant Tuesday morning, July 7, were released from the hospital that afternoon, police said. Route 129, which had been shut in both directions for four hours while firefighters, police and hazardous materials experts contained the leak and took readings, was reopened at 11 a.m. EDT. The leak, initially said to be contained at 9 a.m. EDT, was released as part of a standard emergency procedure through a ventilation system in the pump house. The emergency happened shortly after 7 a.m. EDT Tuesday when two employees of the village water department were dispensing the chlorine into the water system and could not turn off the valve on the gas tank. The valve on the tank malfunctioned, officials said.

Source: <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070807/NEWS02/708070402/1018/NEWS02>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *August 08, Sophos* — **Man loses \$1.5 million in Nigerian e-mail scam.** Sophos has reminded computer users of the danger of Internet scams following the arrest of six men alleged to have defrauded their victim out of \$1.5 million through e-mail. According to media reports, Dutch police have arrested six men in connection with extorting money from a 49-year-old Australian man after offering, via e-mail, a business contract worth \$90 million. Five of the men arrested are said to come from West Africa, with two of them originating from Nigeria, home of many similar scams in the past. These e-mail con-tricks, known as a 419 scam, are named after the relevant section of the Nigerian penal code where many of the scams originated and are unsolicited e-mails where the author offers a large amount of money. Once a victim has been drawn in, requests are made from the scammer for private information which may lead to requests for money, stolen identities, and financial theft.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/08/scam-arrests.html>

7. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Woman charged with stealing identities of 500 Alabamians.** Attorney General Troy King said a woman who works for the company that processes Alabama

Medicaid claims has been charged with stealing the identities of nearly 500 Alabamians. Kwantrice Thornton was charged with stealing the information from Electronic Data Systems Incorporated. King said the theft was part of a Medicaid and tax fraud scheme that included selling 50 of the identities to other people. Thornton was charged with trafficking in stolen identities and violating the Alabama Computer Crimes Act, The Birmingham News reported. Source: <http://www.waaytv.com/global/story.asp?s=6906101&ClientType=Printable>

8. *August 08, Register (UK)* — **Scammers target pet lovers.** E-mail con-men are targeting animal lovers in new variants of advance fee fraud scams. Bogus offers that began circulating earlier this week typically pose as hunts for a new home for a puppy called Timi. The purported owners don't want any money themselves, or so they claim, but there's the small matter of export costs, inoculations and other "incidental expenses." Net security firm MessageLabs, which began intercepting mails promoting the scam over the last day or so, said it has the potential to bypass anti-spam filters simply because they don't resemble typical junk mail messages. "The return address is real, and there is no mention of the typical 419-type content," according to MessageLabs. Scam e-mails preying on the vulnerable, in contrast to those targeting high-rollers with more money than sense, are relatively new. But MessageLabs expects to see more variants along the same lines as 419 scammers expand their repertoire of 419-lite scams beyond the fictitious lottery wins.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/08/08/shaggy_dog_scam/

9. *August 07, Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury designates Al-Salah Society key support node for Hamas.** The Department of the Treasury Tuesday, August 7, designated the Al-Salah Society, one of the largest and best-funded Hamas charitable organizations in the Palestinian territories. Al-Salah Society's director, Ahmad Al-Kurd, was also designated Tuesday. "Hamas has used the Al-Salah Society, as it has many other charitable fronts, to finance its terrorist agenda," said Adam Szubin, Director of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. "Today's action alerts the world to the true nature of Al-Salah and cuts it off from the U.S. financial system." The Al-Salah Society supported Hamas-affiliated combatants during the first Intifada and recruited and indoctrinated youth to support Hamas's activities. It also financed commercial stores, kindergartens, and the purchase of land for Hamas.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp531.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *August 09, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS announces pre-departure screening of international passengers and first step toward secure flight.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Thursday, August 9, steps that will strengthen aviation security through uniform and consistent passenger prescreening against government watch lists. DHS is publishing two regulations which will initiate these changes: (1) Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) Pre-departure Final Rule, which enables DHS to collect manifest information for international flights departing from or arriving in the United States prior to boarding; and (2) Secure Flight Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), which lays out DHS plans to assume watch list matching responsibilities from air carriers for domestic flights and align domestic and international passenger prescreening. Both programs carry out

9/11 Commission recommendations. With the publication of the NPRM, DHS is also taking significant steps toward the implementation of the Secure Flight program, which would conduct uniform prescreening of passenger information against federal government watch lists for domestic and international flights. Currently, air carriers are responsible for checking passengers against government watch lists. By establishing a more consistent and uniform prescreening process, DHS will strengthen a key layer of security, enhance its ability to stop terrorists before they get to the passenger screening checkpoint, and reduce potential misidentification issues.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Secure Flight Program:

<http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/SecureFlightNPRM20070809.pdf>

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1186668114504.shtm

- 11. *August 09, Baltimore Sun* — New attention to five old CSX bridges.** Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon and city and state lawmakers demanded on Wednesday, August 8, that railroad conglomerate CSX fix its crumbling bridges in Baltimore before it's too late. Voicing support for a Locust Point grandmother who has been trying for nearly a decade to get a bridge near her home repaired, Dixon called the condition of the Fort Avenue bridge a "top priority," while state lawmakers appealed to the governor and Maryland's transportation secretary to throw their weight into the effort. Baltimore Transportation Director Alfred H. Foxx estimates it would cost \$5.5 million to replace the Fort Avenue bridge, which scored a disappointing 36 out of 100 on its most recent inspection. CSX owns the Locust Point bridge that leads to Fort McHenry, as well as four other "structurally deficient" bridges in Baltimore. For more than a decade, the company and the city have argued over whose job it is to maintain the ailing spans. In Maryland and around the country last week, people began looking more closely at the safety of bridges after an eight-lane span in Minneapolis collapsed into the Mississippi River during rush hour.

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-te.ci.bridge09aug09.0.6405603.story

- 12. *August 09, Associated Press* — NYC storm leaves mess, and questions.** All it took was about three inches of rain in three hours to bring the nation's largest mass transit system to its knees. Subway tracks were swamped, buses were overwhelmed, and commuter trains were held up for hours because of flooding Wednesday, August 8. The weather also created problems for the region's airports, where delays of up to an hour were reported, and thousands of people throughout the region lost electricity for part of the day. Much of the mess had been mopped up by early Thursday, but the region faced the possibility of more storms within a day. Wednesday's storm hit just before dawn. By rush hour, pumping stations were overwhelmed, and the subway system was virtually paralyzed. Bedlam resulted from too much rain, too fast; some suburban commuters spent half the day just getting to work. The washout marked the third time in seven months that the subways were disrupted by rain. Metropolitan Transportation Authority engineers were asked to report back to Governor Eliot Spitzer within 30 days with suggestions about how to deal with the flooding.

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

- 13. *August 08, Department of Transportation* — Transportation Secretary Peters cautions states to consider extra weight caused by construction projects on bridges.** Department of

Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters on Wednesday, August 8, cautioned states to carefully consider the additional weight placed on bridges during construction or repair projects. Though it has not yet indicated any definitive cause of the Minneapolis I-35W collapse, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has indicated that the stress on the gusset plates may have been a factor, and that one possible stress may be the weight of construction equipment and materials on the bridge. The Secretary has pledged to quickly share with states any information learned from the NTSB investigation. Peters added that she has directed the Federal Highway Administration to continue to work closely with the NTSB investigators to identify any broader design issues that need to be addressed relating to gusset plates on the I-35W bridge. The Secretary directed the Federal Highway Administration to issue guidance to all state transportation agencies and bridge owners strongly advising they ensure that the weight of construction equipment and stockpiled raw materials in place for current or future construction work not exceed the load limit for the bridge.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot7907.htm>

- 14. August 08, WUSA9 (DC) — Three Red Line Metro stations closed due to suspicious package.** Three stations on Washington, DC's Red Line Metro were closed Wednesday, August 8, because of a suspicious package at the Dupont Circle station. The transit agency says the Dupont Circle station closed at 2:57 p.m. EDT due to a suspicious package found on a train heading to Glenmont. A rider saw the package and alerted officials via the intercom system on the train. Metro Transit Police also closed down the Woodley Park and Cleveland Park stations for "logistical reasons," says Metro. Special equipment was brought into the Dupont station so officials could detonate the suspicious package. Only papers and cardboard were found in the box. The stations were opened shortly after 5 p.m.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=61574

- 15. August 06, Associated Press — Attendant allegedly drunk on plane.** A flight attendant was removed from a plane and arrested at Blue Grass Airport because she was allegedly drunk. The airport confirmed Monday, August 6, that its public safety officers arrested Sarah Mills, 26, of Atlanta, on charges of terroristic threatening, alcohol intoxication, and violating a law against being a crew member of an airplane while drunk. That charge was subject to a review by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). FAA spokesperson Laura Brown said the agency was investigating and had no comment. Delta officials canceled the Sunday flight to Atlanta because there weren't enough crewmembers.

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

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

16. *August 08, Associated Press* — **United Kingdom eases livestock movement ban.** Great Britain said Wednesday, August 8, it was easing a nationwide ban on moving livestock that was imposed after an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in southern England, adding there was a low risk of the disease spreading outside the immediate area. Chief veterinarian Debby Reynolds said farmers outside the six-mile surveillance zone set up around the farms where the outbreaks occurred would be able to send their animals to slaughterhouses as of midnight Wednesday. Reynolds said that as a precaution she had ordered the slaughter of livestock on a third farm near one of those affected by the disease. She said tests were being conducted to determine whether any more animals were infected. Some 214 livestock have already been killed since the disease was identified on a farm southwest of London last week. Meanwhile, officials were working to determine whether the foot-and-mouth outbreak came from a high-security government lab near the farms or from a private pharmaceutical company on the same site — and whether its spread was accidental or deliberate. The country's health and safety agency said in a report late Tuesday that there was a "strong probability" the outbreak originated at the Pirbright site and was spread by human movement.
Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,,-6835377,00.html>

17. *August 08, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **American Angus Association partners with USDA to register premises as part of the National Animal Identification System.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wednesday, August 8, announced a partnership with the American Angus Association that will facilitate the registration of up to 15,400 new premises as part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The premises registration component of NAIS ensures the availability of a nationwide communications network to assist livestock owners and animal health officials in the event of an animal disease event. More than 408,500 premises nationwide have been registered to date. Under the terms of the agreement, the American Angus Association will utilize its resources to reach every association member and provide education about NAIS through the Angus Journal, Angus Beef Bulletin, Angus e-mail list, seminars, national events, affiliates and other associations. The American Angus Association has 26,000 active members, 8,000 junior members and 95,000 affiliate members. The association registered more than 347,000 head of cattle in 2006 as part of its registry program.
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=2007/08/0212.xml&PC.7.2.5JM.parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&PC.7.2.5JM.navid=NEWS_RELEASE#7.2.5JM

18. *August 08, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Agriculture Secretary's advisory committee to hold public meeting on foreign animal and poultry diseases.** The Secretary of Agriculture's advisory committee on foreign animal and poultry diseases meets August 21 to discuss the U.S. animal health emergency management system and the U.S. response to foreign animal diseases worldwide. The committee, which is comprised of animal health experts from universities, industry and state departments of agriculture, advises the Secretary of Agriculture on actions necessary to prevent the introduction of foreign livestock and poultry diseases into the U.S. In addition, the committee advises the Secretary on contingency planning and on maintaining a state of preparedness to deal with these diseases, if introduced.
Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/08/secadvy.s.html>

19. *August 08, Reuters* — **Florida losses could hit one billion dollars from drought.** Drought has caused \$100 million in crop damage and economic losses to Florida and the figure could rise tenfold over the next two years, a spokesperson for the Florida Department of Agriculture said on Wednesday, August 8. "That figure could rise, depending on the water levels of Lake Okeechobee, up to one billion dollars," department spokesperson Terry McElroy said. Lake Okeechobee in south central Florida stores irrigation water for some 700,000 acres of agricultural land. Summer rains have eased water-use restrictions in many urban areas but farmers around the lake are still under restrictions and face "a dire situation" that could continue into next year and beyond, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson said in a statement.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN88427170200_70808

20. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Poison suspected in loss of lobsters in Meteghan, Nova Scotia.** The killing of 40,000 pounds of lobster in what police are investigating as a deliberate poisoning shocked fisherman Paulin Robichaud. The lobster pound owner said Tuesday, August 7, that he staggered out of his small business after finding the dead lobsters in a holding tank on July 27. Outside, he said he saw that a liquid had been spilled on the ground and that several holes had been drilled in the building. It was a poison that Environment Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have yet to identify. The losses are roughly the equivalent of a tractor-trailer packed from one end to the other with the shellfish, with a value of about \$280,000. The town in southwestern Nova Scotia hasn't seen such an event before, said Mounted Police Sergeant Michel LaCroix, the Meteghan detachment commander. LaCroix said necropsies will be done on some of the dead lobsters to determine when they died and confirm that the poison caused their deaths, which could take weeks.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/08/08/poison_suspected_in_loss_of_lobsters/

21. *August 07, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA proposes changes to import requirements for horses from countries affected with contagious equine metritis.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) proposes to amend its regulations so that noncompetitive entertainment horses from countries affected with contagious equine metritis (CEM) can be temporarily imported into the U.S. under certain conditions. The regulations currently provide for the temporary importation of horses from countries affected with CEM to compete in specified events. The proposed changes would allow horses to be temporarily imported, in some cases for more than 90 days, solely for public exhibition and entertainment purposes while continuing to protect against the introduction of CEM in the United States. A risk assessment conducted by APHIS concluded that with the application of restrictions described in the proposed rule, the risk posed by allowing the extended importation of noncompetitive entertainment horses from CEM-affected countries is extremely low. APHIS is proposing two primary safeguards to prevent the transmission of CEM while the horses are in the United States. First, an APHIS specialist would monitor the horses whenever they are not in transit and second, APHIS would require stringent measures to ensure that the horses are kept apart from other horses, except when performing, being exhibited or exercising.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/08/cemimprt.shtml>

Food Sector

22. *August 08, Associated Press* — **FDA investigates import seafood claims.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Wednesday, August 8, it is checking whether shipments of Chinese seafood on an agency watch list were properly cleared for public consumption without being tested for banned drugs or chemicals. Agency officials said that while they believe the shipments were screened correctly, they wanted more details. That review comes in response to findings The Associated Press published that at least one million pounds of frozen shrimp, catfish or eel raised in Chinese ponds were on an agency watch list but were not diverted to a lab. The 28 shipments the AP identified arrived under an FDA "import alert," which is supposed to trigger the tough screening requirement.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/healthcare/ci_6574893

23. *August 08, News-Journal (TX)* — **Longview company recalls sandwiches.** Cloud Food Services of Longview, TX, has voluntarily issued a recall of 4,219 units of Cloud's tuna salad sandwiches and egg salad sandwiches that might be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Listeria* is an organism that can cause serious or fatal infections in children, the elderly or people with weakened immune systems. It also can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women. All sandwiches were sold in convenience stores in East Texas, west Louisiana and southwest Arkansas.

Source: http://www.news-journal.com/news/content/news/stories/080820_07_webrecall.html

24. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Nebraska poultry barred by Japan, Russia, Turkey and the Philippines.** Japan, Russia, Turkey and the Philippines have temporarily banned the import of poultry from the U.S. state of Nebraska after a turkey flock in one county tested positive for a mild strain of bird flu. Deputy state veterinarian Del Wilmot said Wednesday, August 8, that the flock shows no sign of illness and was being prepared for slaughter and entry into the food supply. Wilmot said those countries have barred all poultry and related products, such as eggs, coming from Nebraska.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/08/08/business/NA-FIN-US-Poultry-Banned.php>

Water Sector

25. *August 08, Los Angeles Times* — **Sting shuts down high desert water deliveries.** Despite the 95-degree heat this week, Elsie Wenger has shut off her evaporative cooler, stopped flushing her toilets and forgone showers. Wenger, 86, and others who live in remote high desert patches started saving water in a panic Friday, August 3, after state health officials and the California Highway Patrol impounded several water trucks that supplied these far-flung homesteads with the precious resource. Authorities said the trucks were delivering non-potable water. "There's nothing wrong with the water. We got it tested years ago and it's good, clean water," Wenger said, her voice shaking. "All of us who live out of town depend on these water trucks. I don't

know what to do." As news of the sting spread, water deliveries across eight desert communities were halted. Residents have been conserving water ever since in Johnson Valley, Morongo Valley, Landers, Pioneertown, Wonder Valley, Lucerne Valley, Yucca Valley and Fairview Valley. Locals were puzzled by the sudden crackdown — most local water-haulers have been operating for years without licenses.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-me-parched8aug08.1.3920880.story?coll=la-headlines-health>

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Public Health Sector

26. August 08, Reuters — West Nile cases up compared with last year. The number of cases of mosquito-borne West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in the U.S. are up sharply over roughly the same time last year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of July 31, 2007, a total of 22 states have reported 185 cases of human WNV illness to the CDC, including 60 WNV-associated brain infections and five deaths. For comparison, by July 18, 2006, 10 states had reported 15 cases of human WNV. So far this year, the hardest-hit states are California with 42 cases of WNV infection, South Dakota with 38, North Dakota with 14, Mississippi with 13, and Nebraska with 12.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSCOL86103720070808>

27. August 08, Reuters — Sudan vaccinates 4.9 million after neighbors report polio. Sudan has vaccinated 4.9 million children in the north after reports of polio cases in neighboring Chad triggered fear of transmission across the border, a United Nations official said on Wednesday, August 8. The UN children's agency (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) funded and trained some 40,000 personnel to vaccinate children under the age of five, Edward Cawardine, a senior UNICEF official said. There have not been any reported cases of polio in Sudan since 2005 but UNICEF and WHO carry out regular mass vaccination campaigns in the country, Cawardine added.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKTON87645520070808>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

28. August 09, Associated Press — Government lowers 2007 hurricane forecast. Government forecasters minimally reduced their prediction for the Atlantic hurricane season Thursday, August 9, but said that up to nine hurricanes and up to 16 tropical storms are expected to form, still a busier-than-average season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA) maintained its estimate that three to five of the hurricanes will be major storms of Category 3 strength or stronger. The original report forecast up to 17 tropical storms, with up to 10 becoming hurricanes. Despite the slight reductions and a harmless season so far, NOAA said atmospheric and oceanic conditions mean that the season likely will be more active than normal. On average, there are 10 named Atlantic storms and six hurricanes, three of them major.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070809/ap_on_re_us/hurricane_fo_recast

29. August 08, Federal Emergency Management Agency — President declares major disaster for Maine. The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Wednesday, August 8, that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Maine to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding during the period of July 11–12, 2007. FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms and inland and coastal flooding in Oxford County.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=38552>

30. August 08, Government Technology — Tallahassee honored for public safety systems integration. The City of Tallahassee, FL, has been recognized by the Public Technology Institute as an innovation lab for its Public Safety Systems Integration Project. The project involved replacing the police and fire computer aided dispatch system (CAD) and records management system, and integrating both new applications with enhanced 9–1–1, automatic vehicle location technologies (AVL), advanced technical mapping, querying tools, imaging technologies, electronic field reporting, crime and fire analysis tools, and the City's 800 MHz data system. Additional phases have been included since the project's inception in 2001 to keep current with technology trends, such as wireless data transmission via cellular technologies. Dispatchers can now transmit call information data along with voice communications to police officers and firefighters, meaning public safety personnel have access to accurate and timely intelligence and analysis through the real-time sharing of information. Police officers and firefighters can monitor the status of all CAD call activity on their mobile computers in their vehicles. Geographic mapping functionality, working with AVL, is used to dispatch the closest vehicle (when appropriate), assist in determining most efficient travel routes, and visually show crime analysis trends for resource management and strategic planning.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/129652>

31. August 08, United Press International — Philadelphia receives emergency information system. The Philadelphia metro area has unveiled a regional, interoperable, alert and information-sharing system. The system is expected to enable routine and all-hazards communication among emergency managers, key government officials and 25,000 first responders across the region. Authorized senders can issue alerts, or the system can automatically pull, filter and deliver information from other like systems around the region, country and third-party systems. The alerts include weather, traffic, crime, Amber alerts and others. "The greater Philadelphia region is a strategic area between Washington, DC, and New York," Frank Punzo, deputy commissioner of communications for the city of Philadelphia, said

in a statement. "We have nuclear facilities, major refineries, waterways, ports, roadways and other critical infrastructure. It is absolutely essential that organizations at the federal/state/county and municipal levels are coordinated with regard to first response."

Source: http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Industry/Briefing/2007/08/08/philly_receives_emergency_info_system/7702/

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. August 08, eWeek — Mandiant's free tool hunts for malware. Mandiant has released Mandiant Red Curtain, a free malware analysis tool aimed at helping security professionals evaluate files from potentially compromised computer systems. MRC examines executable files to determine how suspicious they are and calculates an overall threat score to establish whether a set of files should be examined further. The tool is aimed at helping security professionals responding to an incident.

Mandiant Red Curtain: <http://www.mandiant.com/mrc>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2168413,00.asp>

33. August 08, InfoWorld — SpyProxy takes Web apps security fight to virtual sandbox. Faced with volumes of browser vulnerabilities and Web-based exploits designed to take advantage of the flaws, security researchers presented a new process for protecting users with execution-based malware detection at the ongoing Usenix Security Symposium in Boston on Wednesday, August 8. In a demonstration led by Alexander Moshchuk, a University of Washington (UW) graduate student who is part of a research team that has developed a tool that uses the technique for filtering out malicious programs, the expert pitched the use of "virtual sandboxing" as an effective means for testing Web applications for suspicious behavior before they reach end-users' browsers. Injected as a virtual machine that sits between an end-users' browser and a Website, UW's SpyProxy promises to download and test any application that the browser is directed toward in order to weed-out potential attacks. In a matter of seconds, the security program can effectively run and analyze any type of Web page or application to determine whether it contains the hallmarks of many threats, the researcher said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/08/08/spyproxy-execution_1.html

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

34.

August 08, KXLY (WA) — **Suspicious package detonated near Newman Lake.** Spokane, WA, Bomb Squad personnel exploded a homemade device along the side of the road near Newman Lake Wednesday morning, August 8. A Department of Ecology team picking up trash in the area of Trent and Idaho notified a Sheriff's Traffic Corporal nearby of a suspicious package shortly before 9 a.m. PDT. The corporal called in the potential threat and two members of the Spokane Explosive Device Unit responded to the scene. After clearing the area, they sprayed the package with a water canon, causing it to explode. EDU Deputy Brett Pierson said that the device was roughly the size of a soda can and appeared to be filled with smokeless black powder.

Source: http://www.kxly.com/news/?sect_rank=1§ion_id=559&story_id=13460

35. *August 08, Reuters* — Arizona mosque targeted in acid bomb attack. Police in Arizona said two unidentified men tossed a bottle filled with acid at a Phoenix area mosque early on Monday, August 6, splashing a caustic chemical near a Muslim cleric involved in a high-profile discrimination suit. A Glendale Police Department spokesperson said two men driving in a red car threw a soda bottle filled with acid and a reactant at the Albanian American Islamic Center of Arizona, in Glendale, west of Phoenix, early morning on Monday. The bottle, which contained pool cleaner and strips of tin foil, burst some 20–25 feet away from Imam Didmar Faja and another mosque official, although neither man was injured, sergeant Jim Toomey said. "We are treating it as a hate crime. We are taking it very seriously," he added. Faja is one of six Muslim clerics known as the "Flying Imams" who are bringing a suit against US Airways alleging discrimination after they were removed from a Minneapolis to Phoenix flight last November.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN08338719200_70808

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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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 Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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