



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 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 Houston Chronicle reports the energy industry continues to prepare for Hurricane Dean's possible entry into the Gulf of Mexico, evacuating nonessential personnel from platforms, drillships, and rigs, and waiting for further developments in the hurricane's path. (See item [3](#))
- The Los Angeles Daily News reports mistakes by both a pilot and a ground traffic controller led to yet another near-collision on the northern runway at Los Angeles International Airport on Thursday, August 16. (See item [15](#))
- Government Technology reports Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has announced new a emergency contact system able to notify citizens by residential, business, or cell phone, as well as e-mail, text message, or devices for the hearing and speech impaired. (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](#)

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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 18, Salt Lake Tribune* — **Congressional probe promised for deadly Utah mine tragedy.** Congress will investigate and hold hearings on the Utah mine disaster, several key congressional leaders vowed Friday, August 17, after a second tragedy at the Crandall Canyon mine brought rescue operations to a halt. Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr., who called for a

suspension of any rescue effort until the safety of the responders could be assured, signaled support for a congressional investigation, saying that Washington must use this experience as a lesson on how to improve mine safety. The last congressional hearings on a mine disaster emerged in 2006 out of the deaths of 12 miners at the Sago mine in West Virginia and resulted in the passage of the MINER Act. That legislation was called the biggest improvement in mine safety regulations in some 30 years, and forced mine owners to continuously update emergency response plans, required two-way communications and electronic tracking equipment within three years and boosted penalties for flagrant violations. But several members say the bill did not go far enough and are pushing additional measures in the House and Senate to increase safety requirements.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6656139

2. *August 18, Associated Press* — **Flood in Chinese coal mine traps 181 miners.** Floodwaters from heavy rains poured into two coal mines in a town in eastern China, leaving 181 miners trapped and feared dead, government officials and state media said Saturday, August 18. There was no word on whether there was any sign of life in the mines or when rescuers might enter them. Two high-speed pumps reportedly were being rushed in to drain the flooded shafts. A dike on the Wen River in Shandong province broke Friday afternoon, sending water gushing into a mine run by the Huayuan Mining Co. in the city of Xintai and trapping 172 miners, the Xinhua News Agency reported. Work areas were submerged and the miners "had only slim chances of survival," Xinhua said, citing Wang Ziqi, director of Shandong's coal mine safety agency. There was no indication whether rescuers had any sign the miners were alive. Friday night, nine more miners were trapped when floodwaters poured into Xintai's Minggong Coal Mine, Xinhua and China National Radio reported. China's coal mines are the world's deadliest, with thousands of fatalities each year in fires, floods, and other disasters.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-08-17-china-mine-flood_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip
3. *August 18, Houston Chronicle* — **Energy industry prepares as hurricane threatens Gulf.** The energy industry continued over the weekend to prepare for Hurricane Dean's possible entry into the Gulf of Mexico. Shell Oil Co. said on Saturday, August 18, it had evacuated about 460 people from the Gulf and has approximately 300 more scheduled to be evacuated. And in an afternoon update on Saturday, the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service, which oversees oil and gas activity in the Gulf, estimated that Dean had prompted shut-ins of about 10,300 barrels of oil and 16 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, based on reports from companies. Overall daily production in the Gulf is about 1.3 million barrels of oil and 7.7 billion cubic feet of gas, the agency said, or 30 percent of the nation's crude oil and one-fifth of its natural gas. Some companies were evacuating nonessential personnel from platforms, drillships and rigs, while others awaited more information about Dean's path.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/5064738.html>
4. *August 17, Houston Business Journal* — **El Paso to add Peoples Energy to portfolio.** El Paso Corp. has agreed to acquire Peoples Energy Production Co., through subsidiary El Paso Exploration & Production Co., for \$875 million. Houston-based Peoples Energy, the oil and natural gas subsidiary of Chicago utility company Integrys Energy Group, owns an estimated 305 billion cubic feet equivalent of proved reserves with current production of 72 million cubic feet equivalent per day. Houston-based natural gas company El Paso said Peoples Energy has

more than 600 proved and probable locations, and about 80 percent of its areas overlap current El Paso areas of production.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/070817/1508485.html?.v=1>

5. *August 16, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Utilities propose three new transmission lines in Minnesota.** A group of utilities Thursday, August 16, asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to approve a roughly \$1.5 billion plan to build three 345–kV lines stretching 600 miles across Minnesota to neighboring states. The so–called CapX 2020 project is being developed by a group of 11 utilities, including Dairyland Power Cooperative, Great River Energy, Midwest Municipal Transmission Group, Minnesota Power, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Otter Tail Power, Rochester Public Utilities, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Wisconsin Public Power, and Xcel Energy. The project is designed to support system–wide and local grid reliability, while increasing the potential for renewable energy in the region. The utilities estimate that Minnesota will need about 8,000 MW of new generation by 2020 to meet load growth.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Electric Power/News/6429332.xml?sub=Electric Power&p=Electric Power/News>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *August 17, Washington Post* — **Defense contractor was paid \$1 million to ship two washers.** A South Carolina defense contractor pleaded guilty Thursday, August 16, to bilking the Pentagon out of \$20.5 million over nearly 10 years by adding hundreds of thousands of dollars to the cost of shipping spare parts such as metal washers and lamps. The parts were bound for key military installations, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan. In one instance, in 2006, the government paid C&D Distributors \$998,798 in transportation costs for shipping two 19–cent washers. Charlene Corley, 47, co–owner of C&D Distributors, used the money to pay for luxury homes, cars, plastic surgery and jewelry, according to court documents.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/16/AR2007081602230.html?hpid=topnews>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 17, ComputerWorld* — **Infected job search sites lead to info theft for 46,000.** A security researcher at SecureWorks Inc. has uncovered a cache of financial and personal data that was stolen from about 46,000 individuals by a variant of Prg, a Trojan program gaining notoriety for its quick–change behaviors. The stolen data includes bank and credit card account

information and Social Security numbers as well as usernames and passwords for online accounts. Many of the victims were infected and reinfected as they visited several leading online job search sites, including the popular Monster.com. Don Jackson, the SecureWorks researcher who found the collection, said it was the largest single cache of data he discovered from the Prg Trojan, a piece of malware first seen in the wild in June. According to Jackson, the server he examined is still collecting stolen data, with up to 10,000 victims feeding it information at any particular time.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9031139&intsrc=hm_list

8. *August 17, InformationWeek* — **Government breaks up identity theft ring that targeted Forbes 400 richest.** Government authorities arrested and indicted five members of an alleged identity theft ring that was targeting billionaires from Forbes magazine's ranking of the 400 richest Americans. Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau announced on Thursday, August 16, that the defendants — four of whom were arrested Thursday and are in custody in Michigan, Texas, Florida and Kentucky — have been charged with stealing \$1.5 million and attempting to steal another \$10.7 million from their victims' financial accounts. Another defendant, Igor Klopov, was arrested in May and is in custody in New York.
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=HG AHUWY5XFH10QSN DLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=20180089_9

9. *August 17, Websense Security Labs* — **Malicious Website/Malicious Code: Syndicate Bank site compromised.** Websense Security Labs has discovered that the official site for Indian Syndicate Bank (www.syndicatebank.in) was compromised with a malicious script that attempts to exploit multiple vulnerabilities. When customers visit the Website, a malicious JavaScript file (e.js) is executed and creates two additional IFRAMEs in the page. The JavaScript from e.js creates two new IFRAME elements within the page. One IFRAME attempts to load exploit code and the other creates several additional IFRAMEs that contain advertisement-related content. The exploit will try to load a Trojan Downloader (qq.exe) which will contact a remote server to download the following Trojan Downloader and Backdoor: <http://< URL REMOVED >/hxw/hx/200512.exe> and <http://< URL REMOVED >/hxw/hx/dd.exe>.
Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=794>

10. *August 16, eWeek* — **Visa relaxes retail credit card security threats.** In an attempt to boost the number of Level 1 retailers certified compliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard, Visa in December unveiled a series of incentives to convince retailers into cooperating, given the lack of success that the threat of fines was having. This month, Visa has been quietly floating memos that will soften the pain for non-compliant retailers. One such memo came from major card processor Fifth Third Bank, in Cincinnati. "Visa's initial program announcement stated that, effective October 1, 2007, non-compliant merchants will no longer be eligible for Visa" reduced transaction fee programs, the memo said. "Now, according to Visa's clarification on their policies regarding tiered interchange qualification and fines, merchants that have not validated full compliance by September 30, 2007, will no longer qualify for the best available tiered interchange rates."
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2171641,00.asp>

Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *August 18, CNN* — Turkish jet hijack ends peacefully. Two men who hijacked a Turkish passenger jet bound for Istanbul have surrendered to authorities and been escorted from the plane after releasing the passengers and crew they had been holding hostage. The hijacking occurred earlier on Saturday, August 18, when the Atlasjet Airlines flight from Cyprus was forced to make an emergency landing in southeastern Turkish city of Antalya after the hijackers claimed to have a bomb, according to witnesses on the plane. Witnesses said the situation started shortly after the flight had taken off when two men from the back of the plane rushed to the front and tried to break open the cockpit door. Most of those aboard had managed to escape soon after landing, but the two men had been holding four passengers and two crewmembers hostage, local government officials said. The other 132 passengers and four crewmembers escaped to safety from the plane's emergency exits as the hijackers were releasing children and women after landing. TV footage showed passengers running from the plane's side and back doors. The flight was traveling from Ercan airport in Turkish-recognized northern Cyprus when it was hijacked, Reuters said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/08/18/turkey.hijack/index.html>

12. *August 17, Department of Transportation* — South Carolina plans to build I-73 under pilot program for tolling interstates. South Carolina can now move forward with plans to build I-73, thanks to a new program that allows tolling to pay for new interstate highways, Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters announced on Thursday, August 16. Peters said I-73 in South Carolina is the first project to have a slot reserved under the Department's new Interstate System Construction Toll Pilot Program, which also would allow other states to expand I-73. South Carolina plans to build an 80-mile stretch of new interstate highway connecting I-73/I-74 south of Rockingham, NC, to the Myrtle Beach area on the coast, linking the two states to support economic growth and tourism in the region, as well as emergency evacuation.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fhwa1307.htm>

13. *August 17, Reuters* — Midwest Air takes TPG's raised bid. Midwest Air Group Inc., which had been fending off hostile suitor AirTran Holdings Inc., on Friday, August 17, said it accepted a raised bid of about \$450 million from private equity firm TPG Capital and Northwest Airlines Corp. TPG's offer is not subject to financing conditions, Midwest said — a key consideration given recent credit market turmoil that has created bumpy conditions for other private equity deals. Richard Schifter, partner at TPG, said he hopes the firm's industry experience, together with an expanded alliance with Northwest, will lead to a bigger and better Midwest. TPG has a history of investing in airlines, including approaches earlier this year in the European market.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/070817/midwest_airtran_tpg_sale.html?.v=4

14. *August 17, KGBT (TX)* — Guns and ammunition seized at the Roma, Texas, border crossing. On August 15, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working outbound enforcement operations at the Roma International Bridge seized several shoulder weapons, a

handgun, an assortment of ammunition and several ammunition magazines. Roma CBP officers were conducting outbound operations when they came in contact with a 1999 Freightliner tractor trailer rig. While conducting an intensive examination of the trailer contents, officers found hidden within the various commodities, one 30–06 Remington rifle, four 12–gauge shotguns (three Remington and one Benelli), one 30–30 caliber Marlin rifle, one MAK 9mm handgun, 8,024 rounds of live ammunition and 10 ammunition magazines. The driver, a 49–year old Mexican citizen and resident of Reynosa Tamaulipas, Mexico, was not arrested but an investigation continues.

Source: http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=6946325&nav=menu_90_3

15. *August 17, Los Angeles Daily News* — **Runway study sought after another close call at LAX.** Just days after another near–collision on the airfield at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) airport commissioners on Monday, August 20, are expected to approve a \$900,000 contract for yet another safety assessment of the airport's northern runway. Mistakes by a pilot and a ground traffic controller led to the incident Thursday, August 16, on LAX's northern runway, said Ian Gregor, a spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration. A WestJet Boeing 737 arriving from Calgary came within 50 to 200 feet of a Northwest Airbus A320 that was taking off for Memphis just before 1 p.m. PDT, Gregor said. The pilot aboard the WestJet plane had switched radio frequencies to the ground traffic controller before receiving final instructions from the air traffic controller, Gregor said. The ground controller then mistakenly cleared the pilot to cross the runway, then realized the pilot was not cleared and instructed him to stop. At the same time, an automated anti–collision system at the airport sounded. "We are investigating this as both pilot error and controller error," Gregor said. "Even though the two aircraft got too close to each other, the safety system worked because both the pilot and the controller realized something was amiss, and the anti–collision system sounded an alarm." Source: http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_6654296

16. *August 17, Associated Press* — **Security push results in passport surge.** The State Department expects half of all Americans will have passports or an equivalent in four years. Prior to the new security laws passed by Congress, about one in five U.S. citizens had passports. This year, the figure is already approaching one in four, and should be one in two in four years, said Ann Barrett, the director of passport services. The agency has been harshly criticized for massive delays in processing passports as a result of the surge in applications. The fallout from the backlog continued this week, when officials estimated it would cost nearly \$1 billion over the next three years to handle the demand, and said they would no longer guarantee a three–day in–house processing time for pricier, expedited passport service. To handle such expedited requests, the State Department is giving itself more time — 10 days of internal processing as opposed to the previous standard of three days. The government is now producing half a million passports a week. It made 12 million passports last year; this year, it will make 18 million, and over the next four years it expects to make 100 million. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-08-17-passports_N.h tm

17. *August 16, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS announces additional \$260 million in supplemental grants funding.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released on Thursday, August 16, supplemental Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 grant guidance and application kits for three grant programs: the Port Security Grant Program, Transit Security Grant Program, and Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. The supplemental announcement of

\$260 million is in addition to \$567 million awarded from the regular FY 2007 appropriations for these programs, totaling roughly \$827 million this fiscal year. "State and local governments will benefit from this additional influx of federal dollars to enhance security measures at our ports and transits systems," said DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff. "It will also assist emergency managers with even more tools to build on national preparedness goals."

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1187294574562.shtm

18. *August 16, Department of Transportation* — DOT rule allows states flexibility to build roads and bridges faster. States will have more flexibility to build roads and bridges faster under a new rule that will allow design work and environmental reviews to occur concurrently, said Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters. The final rule amends Federal Highway Administration regulations to allow states to use various innovative contracting methods ranging from basic design–build contracts to long–term concession agreements while simultaneously pursuing federal environmental approvals. The rule also increases the opportunity for smaller projects to use design–build contracts by eliminating a required dollar amount for projects.

The rule can be viewed at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/new.html>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fhwa1407.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

19. *August 17, Commercial Appeal (TN)* — Disease hits Tennessee deer populations. A disease that causes whitetail deer to develop high fever, drink water incessantly and bleed gruesomely has been noted all over Tennessee, leading wildlife officials to fear that one of the state's worst outbreaks is imminent. Alan Peterson, a wildlife biologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, has received reports of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) from across the state during the past few weeks, including a possible outbreak at Ames Plantation in Grand Junction. Reports of the disease are coming in earlier this year -- and from a much wider range than usual. Peterson said he has had "lots and lots" of EHD cases reported from more than a dozen counties. He said the possible outbreak at Ames is the first report he's heard from a county "near the Mississippi River."

Source: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2007/aug/17/disease-hit-s-tenn-deer-populations/>

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Food Sector

20.

August 17, Associated Press — **FDA won't close field labs after all.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) canceled plans Friday, August 17, to close more than half its field laboratories. The proposed closures, part of a reorganization of the agency's field operations, previously had been suspended to await recommendations from a presidential panel about how to better guarantee the safety of imported food and other products. The FDA originally said it sought to consolidate its lab network to modernize its food safety efforts.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/08/17/ap4031640.html>

21. August 17, USAgNet — **China suspends some U.S. pork shipments.** Pork shipments from eight U.S. packing plants have been suspended because the meat may have contained ractopamine, a growth hormone used in the U.S. but banned in China. In 2005, China suspended pork shipments from two packing plants and those bans remain in place today.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1924&yr=2007>

22. August 16, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — **Seafood dip recalled.** Ocean King Enterprises Inc. of Philadelphia, PA, is recalling Ready-to-Eat Seafood Dips, because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Products were distributed through the following A&P warehouses: A&P (C&S) Hatfield in Hatfield, MA; A&P (C&S) Baltimore in North East, MD; and A&P (C&S) Woodbridge in Woodbridge, NJ. Products will have reached consumers through retail stores from warehouse distribution. No illnesses have been reported to date. The recall was the result of an independent systemic sampling program conducted by Ocean King Enterprises Inc. which revealed that one finished product contained the bacteria.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/oceanking08_07.html

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Water Sector

23. August 17, KLAS (NV) — **Clock is ticking on Las Vegas' water supply.** The news coming from the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) about the valley's future water supply is worrisome. SNWA data shows drought conditions getting worse, not better forcing the general manager of the water authority to ask the board to spend more than \$45 million to upgrade water pumps at Lake Mead. Those pumps would be attached to the second drinking water intake at the lake and double its capacity to pump drinking water. At the current rate, the water level will drop below the first intake in less than three years drastically cutting the supply of drinking water to Las Vegas. Even if all of the water projects are finished and everything starts working on time, the Southern Nevada Water Authority still predicts a shortage. That means by 2010, the valley will be short 64-million gallons of water a day.

Source: <http://www.lasvegasnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=6943263>

24. August 17, Los Angeles Times — **Water stolen for marijuana growing operation.** Glendale, CA, police confiscated \$10 million worth of marijuana from a outdoor growing operation in the Verdugo Mountains that tapped into a city water tank designated for emergency use during brush fires. The growers watered their crops by illegally hooking a drip-irrigation system into a

10,000-gallon cistern in the mountains, which are prone to summer and fall brush fires. Glendale fire officials said half of the water tank had been drained. The 10,000-gallon cistern is one of several in the Verdugo Mountains that firefighters use, said Steve Howard, deputy chief of operations at the Glendale Fire Department. The partially buried tanks are near fire roads and primarily are used for mop-up operations. Capt. Tom Probst said the lids of the concrete water cisterns are inspected for signs of tampering just before each summer fire season.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-po-t17aug17.1.1262748.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>

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Public Health Sector

25. *August 17, Agence France–Presse* — Scientists seek Marburg clues in bats from Ugandan mine. Researchers have captured bats from a mine in Uganda to see if they are the source of the hemorrhagic Marburg fever which killed one person last month, the World Health Organization said Friday, August 17. Ugandan authorities said on August 9 they had contained the outbreak, three weeks after a 29-year-old miner died on July 14. Another case, believed to be a secondary infection, was discharged from the hospital. The natural reservoirs for Marburg, and its cousin Ebola, are thought to be in the African tropical forest, but the precise animal source remains unknown.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070817/wl_africa_afp/healthugandamarburg_070817184100;_ylt=AjorWN_yljTWMzITMH94rUGJOrgF

26. *August 16, BBC News* — Bird flu vaccine production boost. Influenza vaccines are a central part of worldwide plans to control the spread of bird flu in the event of a pandemic, but vast numbers of doses will be needed. And production capacity of influenza is limited. Researchers found that placing the vaccine in a special oil-in-water emulsion, or "adjuvant", greatly improved the immune response in humans. The researchers also found the vaccine produced immune responses against H5N1 subtypes from Vietnam and Indonesia. The study leader, Professor Geert Leroux–Roels of Ghent University, said reducing the dose needed was just one of the strategies being looked at to make sure as many people could be vaccinated as possible. "You can reduce the dose from 15 micrograms to 3.8 micrograms which would allow you to make four times as many vaccines." He added that there were several ways the adjuvant may help — the oil-and-water mix alters how the influenza protein is released into the body and is also thought to have a direct effect on attracting immune system cells to the injection site.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6949465.stm>

27. *August 16, University of Michigan Medical School* — Nasal anthrax vaccine offers strong protection in animal studies. A vaccine against anthrax that is more effective and easier to administer than the present vaccine has proved highly effective in tests in mice and guinea pigs, report University of Michigan Medical School scientists. The scientists were able to trigger a strong immune response by treating the inside of the animals' noses with a "nanoemulsion" — a suspension of water, soybean oil, alcohol and surfactant emulsified to create droplets of only 200 to 300 nanometers in size. It would take about 265 of the droplets lined up side by side to equal the width of a human hair. The oil particles are small enough to ferry a key anthrax protein inside the nasal membranes, allowing immune-system cells to react to the protein and

initiate a protective immune response. That primes the immune system to promptly fight off infection when it encounters the whole microbe. Besides eliminating the need for needles, the nanoemulsion anthrax vaccine has another advantage, the researchers say: It is easy to store and use in places where refrigeration is not available.

Source: <http://www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspage/2007/nasalanthrax.htm>

28. *August 16, Sacramento Bee* — Health officials worry about Valley fever in new prisons.

Public health officials are recommending that California hold off on new prison construction in the southern San Joaquin Valley because it will expose an untold number of inmates to potentially fatal Valley fever. "If you put more beds down here, you can pretty much bet that some people will be very sick and perhaps die as a result of that decision," Kings County Public Health Officer Michael MacLean said. Valley fever is caused by molds that grow in the region's soil. When stirred up by construction or other means, such as wind or earthquakes, its airborne spores can lodge in the lungs and create symptoms ranging from a mild viral illness to respiratory failure. It can also cause skin lesions and bone problems. Last year, more than 500 Valley fever cases were reported at the 5,000–inmate Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga. Four inmates at the prison died of Valley fever in 2005. Reported instances of Valley fever among inmates in the southern San Joaquin Valley increased more than six fold from 2001 to 2006, to 672 cases last year, including 514 at Pleasant Valley State Prison and 91 at nearby Avenal State Prison.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/353/story/119211.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *August 18, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — President declares state of emergency for Texas. The President declared on Saturday, August 18, an emergency exists in the State of Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Dean beginning on August 17, 2007, and continuing. The President's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate all disaster relief efforts that have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population. The declaration provides appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives, protect property and public health and safety, and lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the counties of Aransas, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Dallas, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Live Oak, Kleberg, Matagorda, McLennan, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Smith, Tarrant, Travis, Victoria, Walker, Wharton, and Willacy.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=38869>

30. *August 17, Federal Computer Week* — State interoperability guidelines revised. Only six days before the deadline for applications, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has published revised guidance for states and local agencies to apply for shares of a national \$1 billion public safety interoperability fund. NTIA released the 49–page revision August 16, with applications from states and territories due August 22. Under the guidance, \$968 million will be distributed to the states, which in turn will be required to match 20 percent of their awards. Each state must submit an interoperability strategy and justifications for specific projects. The fund's goal is to assist public safety agencies in acquiring, deploying and training for interoperable radio systems that can use public safety radio spectrum. Under the revised guidance, states will be eligible to be reimbursed for planning and coordination, as well as for funding for software and equipment, NTIA said. Up to five percent of the funding may be spent on development of statewide strategies for public safety interoperability.
Source: <http://fcw.com/article103541-08-17-07-Web>

31. *August 17, Government Technology* — Baton Rouge announces new emergency contact system. With the busiest period of hurricane season approaching, Mayor Melvin L. "Kip" Holden Friday, August 17, announced a new system of emergency response outreach to notify the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish, LA, by residential, business or cell phone as well as e–mail, text message, or devices for the hearing and speech impaired. "New technology brings new ways to assure that every citizen is notified when an emergency occurs," Mayor Holden said. "No longer is the home telephone the most effective way to reach a highly mobile society, so it's important that we keep up with the changing needs of our community." With the new communication service, parish officials can send an unlimited number of messages without incurring additional fees, and since the system does not require any additional hardware, it can be used across all departments. This maximizes the city's dollars and ensures that, when the parish needs to use the system, it can do so immediately without administrative delay.
Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/131273>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *August 17, IDG News Service* — Three indicted on software piracy charges. Three Florida men were indicted Thursday, August 16, on charges related to selling millions of dollars worth of counterfeit software through several Websites, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said. Maurice A. Robberson, Thomas K. Robberson, and Alton Lee Grooms, all of Lakeland, FL, were each charged with one count of conspiracy to violate copyright and counterfeiting laws, the DOJ said late Thursday. Maurice Robberson was also charged with a substantive count of felony copyright infringement and one count of trafficking in counterfeit goods, while Thomas Robberson was charged with one substantive felony count of copyright infringement and two counts of trafficking in counterfeit goods. The men conspired to sell more than \$5 million in pirated software, according to the indictment from U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg for the Eastern District of Virginia. The men operated BuysUSA.com, CDSalesUSA.com, AmericanSoftWareSales.com, TheDealDepot.net, and BestValueShoppe.com from late 2002 to October 2005, and sold counterfeit software from companies such as Adobe Systems, Autodesk, and Macromedia at discount prices, the DOJ said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/08/17/Three-indicted-on-software-piracy_1.html

33. August 16, InformationWeek — Storm botnet puts up defenses and starts attacking back.

The Storm worm authors have another trick up their sleeves. The massive botnet that the hackers have been amassing over the last several months actually is attacking computers that are trying to weed it out. The botnet is set up to launch a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack against any computer that is scanning a network for vulnerabilities or malware. Ren-Isac, which is supported largely through Indiana University, recently issued a warning to about 200 member educational institutions and then put out a much broader alert, warning colleges and universities that their networks could come under heavy attack. The warning noted that researchers have seen "numerous" Storm-related DDoS attacks recently. As the new school year is about to get underway, Ren-Isac is advising security professionals that the new attack "represents a significant risk" for the educational sector. With students returning to campus in the next few weeks, schools are expected to scan the servers on their network to find vulnerabilities and malware that the students are bringing back with them. When the scanner hits an infected computer that is part of the Storm botnet, the rest of the botnet directs a DDoS attack back against the computer running the scan.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=201800635>

34. August 16, InformationWeek — Opera uses Mozilla fuzzer tool to find 'highly severe' bug.

Opera Software found and patched what it's calling a "highly severe" bug in its flagship browser, using a security tool released by its competitor, Mozilla. During the recent Black Hat security conference, the Mozilla Foundation made the JavaScript fuzzer, an open-source application testing security testing tool, available to anyone who wants to use it. Opera noted in an advisory that the flaw could allow a hacker to execute code on the victim's machine. A virtual function call on an invalid pointer, which may reference data crafted by the attacker, can be used to execute arbitrary code. Opera Software released Opera V9.23 to fix the problem.

Opera Advisory: <http://www.opera.com/support/search/view/865/>

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=201800584>

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