



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 7 January 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- USA Today reported that three American Airlines Boeing 767-200s that fly daily round-trip routes between New York and California will receive anti-missile laser jammers this spring as part of a new government test aimed at thwarting terrorists armed with shoulder-fired projectiles. Anti-missile systems have been tested on cargo planes, but this is the first time such systems will be tested on passenger airlines in commercial service. (See item [13](#))
- According to WZZM 13 Grand Rapids, an explosive device was found in a donation bin at a Goodwill store. The bomb squad and military partners determined the device was a military explosives detonator that was live and armed with about a half pound of explosives. The bomb squad moved the device and detonated it. No one was hurt in the incident. (See item [31](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

**Production Industries:** [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

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

**Federal and State:** [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **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. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **TVA sets winter power demand record.** A wintry blast of cold weather sent electricity demand soaring in the Southeast. TVA reported that it set a record for winter peak power demand at 7 p.m. CST Wednesday when the average temperature across the Tennessee Valley hovered at 23 degrees. Preliminary estimates were 30,537 megawatts – 217 megawatts more than the old mark set January 31, 2007. The president and CEO of TVA said the federal utility expected to

set another record yesterday.

Source: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080104/APN/801040631>

2. *January 4, Union-Tribune* – (California) **Analysts criticize Sunrise project: Other options proposed for SDG&E's power line.** The Sunrise Powerlink project – San Diego Gas & Electric's disputed plan to build a \$1.3 billion transmission line through the county's backcountry – would have 50 significant negative impacts on the environment, government energy analysts said yesterday. A voluminous draft report, produced by the California Public Utilities Commission, in coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, found that Sunrise would have "numerous direct impacts within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park...degradation of views and recreational opportunities and impacts on traditional cultural properties," as well as "severe visual effects in Santa Ysabel Valley." The report found that five alternative proposals would do less damage to the environment than Sunrise, a 150-mile transmission line that would cross through Anza-Borrego, the Cleveland National Forest, and a number of North County communities.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20080104-9999-1b4sunrise.html>

3. *January 3, Platts* – (Tennessee) **Two majors to supply more gas in return for Alaska LNG extension.** To gain Alaska's support for an extension of their federal liquefied natural gas export license, ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil agreed Thursday to take steps to ensure that more Cook Inlet gas will be available for local use. Last spring, Alaska's governor said she would support extending the license for the Kenai LNG plant beyond 2009 only if the producers agreed to divert gas as needed and to boost their exploration-and-production efforts in south-central Alaska, where most of state's population is located. ConocoPhillips agreed to drill at least two wells in the Cook Inlet in 2008 and Marathon will drill a minimum of five. They also will make available to third parties their seismic database of local resources. The companies also agreed to give other local producers greater access to the plant in order to spur more production.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6693635.xml?sub=Natural%20Gas&p=Natural%20Gas/News&?undefined&undefined>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *January 3, WJXT 4 Jacksonville* – (Florida) **Report: T2 Labs blast equal to ton of TNT.** The explosion that killed four workers at a chemical plant on December 19 was equal to a blast that would be created by a ton of TNT and blew debris as far as a mile away, a federal investigator said Thursday. "The blast at T2 (Laboratories Inc.) was one of the most powerful ever examined by the Chemical Safety Board," said the investigator-in-charge from CSB, a federal agency that investigates major chemical accidents at industrial sites. The blast occurred as workers were mixing chemicals in a batch reactor to produce an additive to increase the octane rating of gasoline. There were reports of loud hissing, vapor venting, and then the explosion of the reactor vessel,

which indicates excess temperature and pressure inside the reactor, the investigator said. After the rupture, the flammable contents mixed with air and ignited, releasing large amounts of thermal energy. One of the pieces of debris, the top of the pressure vessel, which had walls three inches thick, and weighs several hundred pounds was found about a quarter-mile away. Other parts were found as far as a mile away. The cause of the explosion has not been determined. Investigators said it remains too dangerous for them to enter the debris field of the failed reactor and hazardous chemicals remain in the area. Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/news/14970999/detail.html>

5. *January 3, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Explosion at biodiesel plant injures three.** Authorities say an explosion Thursday afternoon at a biodiesel plant in northwest Ohio has injured three people. One of those injured has been taken to a Toledo hospital and the other two are being treated at a hospital in Defiance, Ohio. Officials say the injured had been in an office at the plant. Police in Defiance say the explosion happened around 3 p.m. at American AG Fuels. It is not clear what caused the blast. Authorities evacuated a two-block area next to the plant for about two hours until residents were allowed to return. The plant began processing soybean oil to make biodiesel within the last three years.  
Source: <http://www.wdtn.com/Global/story.asp?S=7574216>
6. *January 3, Reuters* – (New York) **Suit says IBM dumped chemicals in New York.** Neighbors of a former IBM plant in New York sued the company on Thursday, saying it released chemicals into the air, ground, and water for nearly 80 years that caused birth defects and cancer. Some 90 residents of the upstate New York towns of Endicott and Union say that from 1924 to 2002, IBM dumped chemicals including trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene near the Endicott plant where the computer giant was born. They seek unspecified damages, according to the suit filed in Broome County Superior Court. The lawsuit is the first of several planned against IBM by nearly 1,000 people who say they have been harmed by the chemicals, lawyers for the plaintiffs said. IBM began at Endicott, where it built everything from typewriters to mainframe computers. It sold the plant in 2002.  
Source:  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080103/bs\\_nm/ibm\\_lawsuit\\_dc;\\_ylt=AuzDLInUIwz4nuQtIIJ3eyus0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080103/bs_nm/ibm_lawsuit_dc;_ylt=AuzDLInUIwz4nuQtIIJ3eyus0NUE)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

7. *January 4, Washington Post* – (National) **Video of sleeping guards shakes nuclear industry.** A security officer was taken aback when he discovered last March that many of his fellow security guards at the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania were taking regular naps in what they called “the ready room.” When the security officer spoke to supervisors at his company, Wackenhut Corp., they told him to be a team player. When he alerted the regional office of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, regulators let the matter drop after the plant’s owner, Exelon, said it found no evidence of guards asleep on the job. So the officer videotaped the sleeping guards. The tape,

eventually given to WCBS showed the armed workers snoozing against walls, slumped on tabletops, or with eyes closed and heads bobbing. The fallout of the broadcast is still being felt. Last month, Exelon, the country's largest provider of nuclear power, fired Wackenhut, which had guarded each of its 10 nuclear plants. The NRC is reviewing its own oversight procedures, having failed to heed the guard's warning. Wackenhut says that the entire nuclear industry needs to rethink security if it hopes to meet the tougher standards the NRC has tried to impose since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. The most immediate impact has been felt at Wackenhut, which protected half of the nation's 62 commercial nuclear power plants. Exelon's decision to terminate Wackenhut's contract reduces the number of commercial sites protected by the company to 21.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/03/AR2008010304442.html>

8. *January 4, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Relicense closer for old nuclear generator.** In New Jersey, the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station cleared its last major hurdle yesterday before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission can vote to extend its license for another 20 years. The nation's oldest nuclear power plant received approval from the state Department of Environmental Protection for the company's coastal land-use plans over the next 20 years. That was the last major approval its operators, AmerGen Energy Co. L.L.C., needed to secure before the NRC can vote on the license extension. The plant, with a boiling-water reactor whose design is considered obsolete, would be 60 years old at the end of the new license. The NRC could vote as early as January 22 to approve the license, although appeals from environmental and community groups could push that date back. It would have to shut down in 2009 if it did not get a license extension from the NRC.

Source:

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/business/20080104\\_Relicense\\_closer\\_for\\_old\\_nuclear\\_generator.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/business/20080104_Relicense_closer_for_old_nuclear_generator.html)

9. *January 3, Platts* – (Washington) **DOE issues preliminary notice of violation to Battelle.** The Department of Energy issued a preliminary notice of violation to Battelle on January 3 for two nuclear safety violations at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington. DOE is proposing a civil penalty totaling \$288,750 for the two incidents. It said the proposed fine reflects the corrective actions Battelle took to address the issues and prevent recurrence. In December 2006, an airborne release of plutonium from a glove box occurred when a vacuum exhaust line split as a result of an improper modification in a vacuum system, DOE said. It added that, six months later, a leaking sealed plutonium source used in experimental work led to some offsite contamination. It attributed the contamination to "ineffective implementation of controls." It said that the events resulted in uptakes of plutonium by workers but that the resulting exposures were well below DOE's occupational exposure limits. The Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988 authorizes DOE to take regulatory actions against contractors for violations of the department's nuclear safety requirements.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7770044.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News?u>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *January 4, Aviation Week* – (National) **Boeing, Northrop submit final tanker proposals to USAF.** Boeing and Northrop Grumman submitted their final KC-X tanker proposals to the U.S. Air Force January 3, marking the next milestone in what has become a war of words over which company is offering the most suitable replacement for the KC-135. The Air Force has been refining its requirements since April 2007, when Boeing and the competing team of Northrop Grumman and Airbus first submitted their original proposals for a tanker replacement. According to Boeing, its final submission for the KC-767 “is tailored to meet or exceed all of the Air Force’s mission requirements.” Northrop is calling its KC-30, based on the Airbus A330, “the most modern tanker ever built.” The KC-767 is designed with what Boeing calls a sixth-generation, fly-by-wire boom that can offload more than 1,000 gallons of fuel per minute. The aircraft will carry three times the cargo and passengers of the KC-135 and provide a digital flight deck based on the commercial 767-400ER. The KC-30 is designed to carry 45,000 pounds more fuel than the KC-135 and will act not only as a refueling aircraft but as transportation for passengers, cargo and medical evacuation patients. The KC-30’s flight controls are entirely fly-by-wire.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/KCX010407.xml&headline=Boeing,%20Northrop%20Submit%20Final%20Tanker%20Proposals%20To%20USAF](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/KCX010407.xml&headline=Boeing,%20Northrop%20Submit%20Final%20Tanker%20Proposals%20To%20USAF)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *January 3, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Notorious stock spammer indicted.** A man described as one of the nation’s most prolific senders of spam e-mail was among 11 people accused of defrauding people by manipulating Chinese stock prices. In a 41-count indictment, the man and the other defendants are accused of sending tens of millions of e-mail messages to computers worldwide, trying to inflate prices for Chinese penny stocks. The defendants then sold the stocks at inflated prices. The defendants used a variety of illegal methods “that evaded spam-blocking devices and tricked recipients into opening, and acting on, advertisements in the spam.” The indictment also alleges that the defendants tried to send spam using “botnets” - networks of computers that have been infected with malicious software coding that in turn would instruct infected computers to relay spam. The government seeks forfeiture of real estate, brokerage accounts, bank accounts, and life insurance policies worth a combined \$2.7 million.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080104/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/spam\\_scam;\\_ylt=AnwiJ4HNGWq.0T6mgwRqH8KDzdAF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080104/ap_on_re_us/spam_scam;_ylt=AnwiJ4HNGWq.0T6mgwRqH8KDzdAF)

12. *January 3, New York Times* – (National) **Fund manager faces legal siege over investments.** The State Street Corporation, which manages \$2 trillion for pension funds and other institutions, ousted a senior executive on Thursday and said it would set aside \$618 million to cover legal claims stemming from investments tied to mortgage securities. State Street made the announcement after it was sued by five clients asserting that they had lost tens of millions of dollars that they were told would be largely invested in risk-free debt like Treasuries. One fund lost 28 percent of its value during the credit crisis in the summer after placing big bets on subprime mortgages, according to the lawsuits. The move by State Street highlights the legal challenges that lie ahead for financial firms that were involved in the origination, packaging and sale of complex mortgage securities. Last month, a town in Australia announced that it would sue a unit of Lehman Brothers for selling it collateralized debt obligations that lost more than 84 percent of their value. In Norway, Terra Securities filed for bankruptcy protection in November after regulators revoked its license for selling risky American securities to a cluster of towns near the Arctic Circle.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/03/business/03cnd-state.html?ref=business>

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## **Transportation Sector**

13. *January 4, USA Today* – (National) **Passenger jets get anti-missile devices.** Tens of thousands of airline passengers will soon be flying on jets outfitted with anti-missile systems as part of a new government test aimed at thwarting terrorists armed with shoulder-fired projectiles. Three American Airlines Boeing 767-200s that fly daily round-trip routes between New York and California will receive the anti-missile laser jammers this spring, according to the Department of Homeland Security, which is spending \$29 million on the tests. Jets will fly with the jammer device mounted on the belly of the plane, between the wheels. The device works with sensors, also mounted on the plane that detect a heat-seeking missile and shoot a laser at it to send the missile veering harmlessly off course. Anti-missile systems have been tested on cargo planes. But this is the first time these systems have been tested on actual passenger airlines in commercial service. Officials emphasize that no missiles will be test-fired at the planes, which will fly between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and the international airports in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-01-04-anti-missile-jets\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-01-04-anti-missile-jets_N.htm)

14. *January 3, Associated Press* – (National) **2007 airline delays remain second worst on record.** The airline industry's on-time performance through the first 11 months of 2007 was the second worst on record, but delays in November fell compared with a year ago and from the previous month. The nation's 20 largest carriers reported an on-time arrival rate of 80 percent in November, up from 76.5 percent in the same month a year ago and from 78.2 percent in October, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics said Thursday. In November, 37.8 percent of late flights were delayed by weather, down from 40.7 percent in the same month last year and from 39.8 percent in October. Despite the improved results in November, in the first 11 months of the year 24 percent of flights arrived late and another two percent were canceled. The industry's on-time performance of just over

74 percent in 2007 was the second worst since comparable data began being collected in 1995, trailing only the 73.5 percent arrival rate in 2000. Customer complaints rose to 808 in November compared with 589 in the same month last year, according to the government data. But the rates of mishandled baggage fell to about 4.9 reports per 1,000 passengers from 6.3 reports a year ago.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-01-03-2007-airline-delays\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-01-03-2007-airline-delays_N.htm)

15. *January 3, Associated Press* – (National) **House Homeland committee told ports understaffed, overloaded.** Understaffed ports and overworked customs agents are leading to long border wait times, witnesses told visiting members of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security on Thursday. The problem will worsen if more agents are not hired and the Department of Homeland Security does not do something quickly to improve agency morale, the National Treasury Employees Union president said. She complained that agents were on duty too long — as long as 16 hours — and not being given enough time for additional training. Customs and Border Protection, the Homeland Security agency assigned to the ports, was criticized in a recent Government Accountability Office report for not doing enough to screen people coming through the ports.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5425807.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

16. *January 4, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **White powder scare ends at Palm Beach County office.** Employees of the Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office were given the all-clear to return to their offices late Friday morning after emergency officials determined that a powdery substance in an envelope was harmless. An investigation into who sent the letter, addressed to the Public Defender's Office and sent through an interoffice courier from the Palm Beach County jail, is continuing.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/sfl-104powder,0,7637303.story>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

17. *January 4, Thomson Financial* – (National) **U.S. FDA set to clear cloned livestock for consumers - report.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to declare that meat and milk from cloned animals and their offspring are safe to consume, the Wall Street Journal reported without naming its source. The FDA had asked producers of cloned livestock not to sell food products from such animals pending its ruling on their safety. It is not clear whether the FDA will lift this voluntary hold, the report said. While many consumer groups still oppose it, the declaration that cloned animal products are safe would be a milestone for a small cadre of biotech companies that want to make a business out of producing copies of prize dairy cows and other farm animals

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2008/01/04/afx4493832.html>

18. *January 3, Associated Press* – (National) **Pa. warns of soup from rural inn.** Soup from Schumacher's Inn in rural Potter County, Pennsylvania, tested positive for botulism and its other canned products should not be consumed because of possible contamination, the state Health Department said Thursday. The state Agriculture Department, which oversees food safety, quarantined the products and ordered the restaurant not to sell or give away the cans. It was unclear how many cans may be involved. The state said it did not want people to open or throw away the cans, so the food could be tested.  
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5425984.html>

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## **Water Sector**

19. *January 4, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **PRC declares public health emergency for Dutchman Hill.** A public health emergency has been declared for customers of the private Dutchman's Hill Water Company in San Juan County, New Mexico. That declaration yesterday by the Public Regulation Commission allows the mobilization of the San Juan County Emergency Services, which can request assistance from the New Mexico National Guard for help. A group of customers has been without water since December 28th and company infrastructure needs repairs. The PRC has told Dutchman's it has 36 hours from noon Thursday to get the system operating or face fines of up to \$1,000 per day until it does.  
Source: <http://www.kvia.com/Global/story.asp?S=7576769&nav=AbC0>
20. *January 3, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **What's in the water in Outlook? Too much nitrate.** State health officials have detected unsafe levels of nitrate in the drinking water at Outlook Elementary School near Sunnyside, Washington. When school resumes on Monday, officials plan to have bottled water available for drinking until they come up with a long-term solution, possibly drilling a deeper new well. The state said the water is safe for hand-washing. State officials said they are satisfied with the district's plans. Private well owners should consider having their water tested for nitrate. "It would be foolish to assume only the schools are affected," said a spokeswoman for state Department of Health, which tested the water at the school.  
Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/page/dis/307018196623699>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

21. *January 4, Reuters* – (International) **China reports bird flu outbreak in far west.** China has reported an outbreak in poultry of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in its far west Xinjiang region, Xinhua news agency said on Friday. The first bird flu outbreak in the country since September came about a month after the virus killed a 24-year-old man in the eastern province of Jiangsu. A total of 4,850 poultry have died of the disease in Turpan city in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region since Dec. 29, prompting authorities there to cull another 29,383 birds, Xinhua said. The National Avian Influenza

Reference Laboratory confirmed the virus as a subtype of the H5N1 strain on Thursday, it said, without specifying which kinds of poultry were infected. With the world's biggest poultry population and hundreds of millions of farmers raising birds in their backyards, China is seen as crucial in the global fight against bird flu. The Agriculture Ministry has warned of a "very high" possibility of bird flu outbreaks in the country over winter and spring, when the virus is at its most contagious.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/asiaCrisis/idUSPEK223672>

22. *January 4, Sun Journal* – (Maine; International) **Hospitals relieved that shortage of isotope has ended.** Maine hospitals have resumed cardiac exams, cancer scans and other tests that were postponed when a Canadian nuclear reactor that provides half the world's supply of the isotopes used in medical testing was shut down in mid-November. The isotopes are used in at least 15 million medical scans a year in the United States, by one estimate. Some hospitals had to postpone, cancel or look for another test for 60 to 85 percent of patients who would have had tests involving the isotope. The National Research Reactor in Ontario was allowed to restart in mid-December.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2008/01/03/hospitals\\_relieved\\_that\\_s\\_hortage\\_of\\_isotope\\_has\\_ended/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2008/01/03/hospitals_relieved_that_s_hortage_of_isotope_has_ended/)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

23. *January 4, Chicago Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Kane County judges on alert after bomb threat.** Security at the Kane County, Illinois, courthouse remained tight Thursday after police said they arrested a man armed with a homemade bomb, who threatened the entire judicial system, including two specific judges. The man had several run-ins with police in recent months, court records revealed. On New Year's Day, a police officer noticed a man sitting in a truck with camouflage clothing, full face paint, an empty gun holster, and a knife tucked in his waistband. The man made several nonsensical homicidal remarks, and the officer called for an ambulance. Afterward, officers searched the truck and found a bottle filled with gas that had what appeared to be a wick sticking out the top and several fireworks taped to it, which was next to larger container that also looked suspicious. Experts determined the bottle was an incendiary device and rendered it useless a short time later. No one was injured. Also inside the truck were Kane County court papers and Watts' written ramblings alleging judicial hypocrisy and targeting specific judges who handled his cases. Police alerted Kane County sheriff's officials, who called the chief judge. The judge said he immediately notified the appropriate authorities, including a state terrorist center and the Illinois Supreme Court, which is protocol.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=106745&src=2>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

24. *January 3, Government Technology* – (Alabama) **Mobile, Alabama, announces Connect-CTY notification system.** The city of Mobile, Alabama, announced the launch of the Connect-CTY service, a new city-to-resident notification system. With this service, city leaders can send personalized voice messages to residents and businesses within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community matters. The Connect-CTY service will be used to supplement current communication plans and augment public safety and first responder services.  
Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/241784?topic=117693>
25. *January 2, KUSA 9Denver* – (Colorado) **Audit: Responders not fully prepared for attacks, money misspent.** Colorado's firefighters and police are not fully prepared to handle terrorist attacks or disasters because Colorado has not adequately prepared them, according to an audit which was expected to be released Thursday by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. The audit is also critical of the way Colorado has spent about 15 percent of its \$159 million homeland security money between 2002 and 2006. The state's governor is taking steps to fix the problems, according to a spokesman, who said the state would comment about the audit after it is released.  
Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=83758>

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## **Information Technology**

26. *January 4, Computer Weekly* – (National) **More than one million Facebook users infected by malicious love widget.** More than one million Facebook users could be affected by a malicious widget. Researchers from security firm Fortinet have uncovered a malicious widget creating problems within the Facebook social networking community. The widget displays in the form of a "Secret Crush" request inviting users to find out who of their friends might be interested in them. But the widget acts as a social worm, prompting users to unwittingly download the infamous Zango adware/spyware application, and to recommend the contact details of five further friends to do the same. Those who have seeded the program within Facebook are cashing in, getting rewarded "per click", said Fortinet. The widget is already being used by three percent of the Facebook community, Fortinet said, which amounts to more than one million users.  
Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2008/01/04/228744/more-than-one-million-facebook-users-infected-by-malicious-love.htm>
27. *January 4, IDG News Service* – (National) **A Wi-Fi virus outbreak? Researchers say it's possible.** If criminals were to target unsecured wireless routers, they could create an attack that could piggyback across thousands of Wi-Fi networks in urban areas like Chicago or New York, according to researchers at Indiana University. The researchers estimate that a Wi-Fi attack could take over 20,000 wireless routers in New York within a two-week period, with most of the infections occurring within the first day. "The issue is that most of these routers are installed out of the box very insecurely," said an

assistant professor at Indiana University who published the paper in November, along with researchers from the Institute for Scientific Interchange in Torino, Italy. The researchers theorize the attack would work by guessing administrative passwords and then instructing the routers to install new worm-like firmware that would in turn cause the infected router to attack other devices in its range. Because there are so many closely connected Wi-Fi networks in most urban areas, the attack could hop from router to router for many miles in some cities. Although the researchers did not develop the attack code that would be used to carry out this type of infection, they believe it would be possible to write code that guessed default passwords by first entering the default administrative passwords that shipped with the routers, and then trying a list of 1 million commonly used passwords, one after the other. They said 36 percent of passwords can be guessed using this technique. Even some routers that use encryption could be cracked, if they use the popular WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) algorithm, which security experts have been able to crack for years. Routers that are encrypted using the more secure WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) standard are considered impossible to infect, he said.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9055298&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9055298&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

28. *January 3, Mercury News* – (California) **California opens office to fight ID theft.**

California's governor opened a new office Wednesday to fight high-tech identity theft -- a move activists said will help, as firms fail to meet California's landmark consumer privacy laws. The governor's administration merged separate departments into the single California Office of Information Security and Privacy Protection, which officials said will be unique among states as it helps guide law enforcement, businesses, advocacy groups, and consumers. The governor, who signed legislation carrying out the merger, has convened two summits so far against identity theft, which experts say is escalating as the Internet opens up new opportunities for criminals. Government and business groups have vowed to work together more closely, while urging consumers to protect themselves against data theft with computer firewalls and other software programs that protect against online intrusions. The new agency combines the former Office of Privacy Protection in the Department of Consumer Affairs, which opened in 2001, with the state Information Security Office, formerly part of the Department of Finance. "This union will strengthen the efforts of both offices," said the secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency.

Source: (log-in required)

[http://www.mercurynews.com/localnewsheadlines/ci\\_7869776?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/localnewsheadlines/ci_7869776?nclick_check=1)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://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/>.

## **Communications Sector**

29. *January 4, Associated Press* – (National) **Congestion causes text message slowdown.** So many people tried to send text messages on New Year's Eve that networks got jam-packed and many of the missives arrived hours later -- or not at all. "Think of any traffic artery during rush hour: You have a large number of people who are trying to access it at the same time," said the assistant vice president of public affairs for CTIA-The Wireless Association, a wireless industry group. "It's really no different with regard to wireless networks." There have been multiple occasions in recent years when getting in touch with loved ones was more vital -- the September 11 attacks, the 2003 blackout, Hurricane Katrina. "What happens where there is an emergency?" asked a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Virginia Tech. "This has been a big problem with the voice cellular system. It will probably become more of a problem with text messaging." The cell phone carriers say they are working to expand their systems' capacity. A Verizon Wireless spokesman said the company invests almost \$6 billion annually in the wireless network. But the number of cell phone subscribers in the U.S. nearly doubled between the end of 2001 and the end of 2006, the professor said. Text messages already use a different transmission system from cell phone calls. There may be a way to differentiate among types of information or to create a separate system for people to use in emergencies. The professor said emergency networks in place are now being expanded to allow emergency service personnel to maintain voice cell phone service in times of need. The next step may be some consumer education, he said, adding that if possible users should stay off their phones during an emergency situation. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/04/AR2008010401163.html>
30. *January 4, IDG News Service* – (California) **Wi-Fi start-up to pick up where Google left off in SF.** Wireless networking start-up Meraki Networks Inc. plans to deliver free wireless Internet access, supported by advertising, across San Francisco by the end of the year, it announced Friday. An earlier attempt by Google Inc. and EarthLink Inc. to offer free citywide Wi-Fi access in San Francisco foundered in August when EarthLink pulled out. The companies had planned a two-tier service, with faster, paid access provided by EarthLink and a more limited, advertising-funded service to be offered by Google. The search engine giant is also an investor in Meraki. Meraki will base the service on an existing project covering parts of the city, called Free the Net, which has signed up 40,000 users over an area of 5 square kilometers since it began last March. To avoid the need for extensive cabling, Meraki will build the backbone of the network using a mesh network of solar-powered wireless repeaters installed on rooftops. The nodes will use some of their wireless capacity to offer Internet access to those nearby, and the rest to haul traffic back, via adjacent nodes, to the network's core. The company is looking for city residents willing to put repeaters on their roofs. Those hosting a repeater will get free access to the service, and so will their neighbors -- although for them, the signal may not be as strong. Although devices are shared, Meraki aims to deliver data rates of around 1Mbit/second to each user. Meraki will pay the cost of rolling out the service, and no public funds will be involved, it said. Investors have offered the company an additional \$20 million in venture capital to fund the move, it

announced Friday.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9055339&source=rss\\_topic15](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9055339&source=rss_topic15)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

31. *January 3, WZZM 13 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Explosive device found at Norton Shores Goodwill store.** Police, fire crews, and the Michigan State Police Bomb Squad were called to the Goodwill store in Norton Shores on Thursday morning when an explosive device was found in a donation bin. Around noon, the bomb squad and military partners determined that the device was a military M905 tail fuse, which is used as a detonation device for a variety of military explosives. The fuse was live and armed with about a half pound of explosives. The bomb squad moved the device and detonated it. No one was hurt in the incident.

Source: [http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=85741](http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=85741)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Dams Sector**

32. *January 5, Fox News* – (Nevada) **Nevada levee breaks; 3,500 being rescued.** Some 3,500 people were being evacuated in 26-degree weather as emergency crews worked to rescue the stranded after a 30-foot section of the levee broke along the Truckee Canal at 4:30 a.m. The break might have been started by burrowing rodents, an official said. There were no known injuries as of Saturday afternoon but officials had issued a flash flood warning. Truckee River water flowing into the canal was diverted upstream and water in the canal was receding. The canal brings water from the Truckee River, starting just east of Reno and running to the farming community of Fallon, about 60 miles away.

Source:

<https://vpn2.safelink.net/story/,DanaInfo=www.foxnews.com+0,2933,320496,00.html>

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