



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 January 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- According to the Associated Press, a teenage passenger was arrested in Nashville for plotting to hijack a plane from Los Angeles to Nashville, the FBI said Friday. The official said the teen had handcuffs, rope, and duct tape in his bag and was believed to be traveling alone. The teen is believed to be suicidal, he said. (See item [11](#))
- KTAR 92.3 Phoenix reports that emergency personnel in Arizona are working overtime to make sure everyone stays safe during the upcoming Superbowl and Golf Tournament, both of which are taking place in the Phoenix area on the weekend of February 2. They have enhanced their biological and chemical terrorism surveillance systems within the State Public Health Laboratory. Authorities said there have been no terror threats against the Super Bowl to date. (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 25, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **3 hurt in Weld County oil explosion.** An oil tank at the Conquest Oil plant exploded and erupted in flames Thursday afternoon, sending three people to the hospital with burns. The explosion erupted at 12:45 p.m. and was extinguished by 4 p.m. The Conquest Oil battery transfer station is located in rural Weld County, about 8 miles south of Greeley. Fire crews from nearby LaSalle,

Platteville, Evans, Milliken, and Kersey had a difficult time fighting the fire because there is not much water in the area. Huge flames licked the sides of about a half-dozen oil tanks as the fire burned for three hours. The cause of the fire is not known, and it is not known what workers were doing when the explosion occurred.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/15129950/detail.html>

2. *January 25, Associated Press* – (International) **Oil prices rise above \$90 a barrel.** Oil futures extended recent gains Friday, pushing crude back above \$90 a barrel after U.S. government leaders agreed to a stimulus plan in an effort to avert a major slowdown in the world's largest economy. Light, sweet crude for March delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose \$1.29 to \$90.70 a barrel in electronic trading by the afternoon in Europe. The contract gained \$2.42 to settle at \$89.41 a barrel on Thursday, the largest rise in over three weeks. Traders have bet that the tax refunds of \$600 to \$1,200 that are part of the U.S. government's economic stimulus package will boost oil demand. "The Fed and Congress are pulling out all the stops to prevent a recession from occurring," said the president of an energy risk management firm. He noted, however, that the current measures could keep oil prices higher, boosting inflation and causing "an even worse recession later."

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080125/ap_on_bi_ge/oil_prices;_ylt=AtVKZIL12GzQSJEIrfJAIBms0NUE

3. *January 24, Reuters* – (Alaska) **U.S. orders Alaska pipeline safety steps, mulls fines.** U.S. regulators have ordered Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. -- the operator of the 800-mile trans-Alaska oil pipeline -- to take extra safety measures to prevent mishaps like those that resulted in a fire and oil spill last year, officials of the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) said on Thursday. Alyeska could face fines of up to \$817,000, PHMSA officials said. An Alyeska spokesman said the consortium is "likely going to request a hearing" rather than accept the findings of the federal regulators and pay the proposed fine. He said Alyeska was already complying with the mandates for improvements in operations, contained in the violations notices and compliance order sent November 27. The PHMSA is evaluating Alyeska's improvements, he said. The major owners of Alyeska are BP, ConocoPhillips, and Exxon Mobil.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2428648820080125>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *January 24, WENY 36 Ithaca* – (New York) **High chemical levels in Ithaca.** At a public meeting Thursday night, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation informed people about the latest environmental investigations in the South Hill area. Emerson Power Transmission's tests in November showed unexpectedly high levels of trichloroethene (TCE) in air outside eight homes. Those houses have mitigation systems, which discharge TCE vapors before they get into your house. "We monitor outdoor air in this particular area every month. And all of our tests, except for

one, have shown non-detect levels. That means we can't even pick up any sign of TCE," said an official with DEC. DEC officials say the sewer line that runs from the former Axiohm Facility downhill or fractures in the bedrock could be transporting the vapors. It could also be a lab issue, so the DEC says Emerson will test again and send the samples to two different labs. The DEC says they are done investigating TCE and will propose a Remedial Action Plan in early April. They hope to start cleaning it up in July.

Source: <http://www.weny.com/News-Local.asp?ARTICLE3864=7369479>

5. *January 24, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Chemical weapons destruction at Anniston ahead of schedule.** With chemical weapons destruction at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal facility in Alabama running ahead of schedule, a company official said safety procedures have not been ignored. Project managers with the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and Westinghouse Anniston updated the local Citizen's Advisory Committee and heads of the surrounding counties' emergency management agencies on the pace of the disposal Wednesday. The Department of Defense will pay \$25 million to the company if operations are completed six months before the chemical weapons treaty completion date of April 29, 2012.

Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20080124/APN/801240779>

6. *January 24, ICx Technologies* – (National) **ICx releases enzyme-based chemical agent detection spray.** ICx Technologies, a developer of advanced technology solutions for homeland and military security, announced Thursday the availability of ICx Agentase Disclosure Spray, an enzyme-based, chemical-agent-detection system in a spray formulation, which changes color when sprayed on surfaces contaminated with nerve agents. Agentase Disclosure Spray pinpoints the exact location of agents on surfaces, allowing decontamination teams to accurately focus their regimens. Post-decontamination, the spray helps ensure that affected areas have been thoroughly cleaned. Agentase Disclosure Spray's active ingredients are stored as powders for extended shelf-life, and are dissolved in water just prior to deployment through the use of a two-chamber sprayer. Color enhancers and thickeners enable usage on dark-colored surfaces or on areas with unusual geometries. The spray also carries components devised to illustrate when surfaces are too basic or too acidic for agent detection. In the field, Agentase Disclosure Spray can detect the presence of CWAs at sub microgram levels within five minutes, eliminating the need for costly and time-consuming sampling, transportation, and laboratory analysis of potentially harmful agents. Time is of particular importance because of the risks of multiple exposures to, and possible re-transmissions of, nerve agents.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/business/story/355200.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *January 25, Seacoast Online* – (New Hampshire) **Nuclear power plant still offline after turbine trip.** Florida Power & Light (FPL) Energy Seabrook Station remained off-line Thursday after a turbine trip automatically shut down the nuclear power plant on

Saturday night. Two circuit breakers opened in the electrical switch yard on the non-nuclear side of the facility, said an FPL spokesman. The plant went off-line shortly after 11 p.m. January 19, he said. FPL Energy has identified the cause as an electrical fault between the main generator step-up transformer and the switch yard supply breakers, according to information released by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC resident inspectors responded to the site shortly after the event and confirmed that safety systems responded as expected, the plant was stable, and no Emergency Action Level conditions were met. FPL Energy placed the plant in cold shutdown as of Tuesday, at 9:25 a.m. to make repairs. No date has been set for the reactor to go back online. The plant shutdown has no effect on available electrical power, according to the FPL spokesman.

Source:

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080125/NEWS/801250348>

8. *January 24, South Florida Business Journal* – (Florida) **FPL reports gas leak.** Florida Power & Light (FPL) Company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that it discovered a small hydrogen gas leak at its St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant on Florida's Hutchinson Island on Wednesday. FPL said the operators discovered the leak from a pipe flange on a gas storage trailer at 10:15 p.m., and contained it about 13 minutes later. FPL reported an "unusual event," the lowest of four emergency action levels in the NRC-required emergency response plan for nuclear power plants. It means there is a minor or potential problem at the plant, but there is no impact to public health and safety. A detailed inspection was made following the event and no gas leaks or deficiencies were found. Repairs to the leaking flange are to be completed on Thursday. Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2008/01/21/daily39.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *January 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Defense industry staying strong.** Defense contractors appear poised to weather any economic downturn that may lie ahead. "We are about as far removed from the credit risk and those sorts of matters as you can imagine," said Lockheed Martin's chief financial officer Wednesday. An analyst at JSA Research noted that defense firms are meeting or exceeding Wall Street earnings predictions and said the sector will likely continue to be strong as long as defense spending remains high. The level of defense spending in coming years is unclear, however. The Senate passed a \$696 billion budget Tuesday that will go to President Bush for his expected signature. Some analysts have warned that a new president and possible troop reductions in the future could end up hurting defense suppliers in the long run. The CEO of Northrop Grumman said he expects defense spending in the 2009 budget to grow. Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/business/story/326718.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *January 24, KFDM 6 Beaumont* – (Texas) **An internet scam is on the rise.** The owners of the BBS Collections in Beaumont, Texas, say they are out tens of thousands of dollars thanks to a Nigerian scam that consumer advocates say is on the rise. An internet customer known as Larry Leach bought \$20,000 worth of merchandise in twelve days and wanted it delivered to Africa. He gave the boutique eleven different credit card numbers which BBS checked and the bank confirmed were valid credit cards. It was only later that BBS and the bank learned the cards had been stolen. By then the merchandise had already been shipped overseas. A Better Business Bureau official said “They are scams, and they are getting smarter, they are always finding ways to entice individuals.” He said that, unfortunately, Nigerian scams like this one are on the rise. Source: http://www.kfdm.com/news/business_24434_article.html/bbs_rise.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

11. *January 25, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Detained teen allegedly intended to hijack plane.** A teenage passenger from California was arrested in Nashville for plotting to hijack a plane from Los Angeles to Nashville, the FBI said Friday. An FBI spokesman said that the 16-year-old boy was removed from Southwest Airlines Flight 284 Tuesday night by authorities at Nashville International Airport and found with “suspicious” items. The official said the teen had handcuffs, rope, and duct tape in his bag and was believed to be traveling alone. The FBI spokesman dismissed earlier broadcast reports that the teen was planning to crash the plane into a “Hannah Montana” concert in Lafayette, Louisiana. He said it has not been determined if the boy was trying to crash the plane. He said authorities searched the teen’s home in California and found a mock cockpit. The teen is believed to be suicidal, he said. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,325426,00.html>
12. *January 25, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. says threat against airlines remains high.** The United States is likely to keep a high threat designation for the airline industry because militants still see air travel as a target, said the U.S. Homeland Security secretary. He said the orange, or high, threat level assigned to the airline sector -- one level higher than the overall alert level for the United States -- was based on a general assessment rather than a specific threat. The official, who warned last week that one of the biggest threats to U.S. security could come from Europe, said European counter-terrorism authorities acknowledge their countries “are both a target and a platform” for militants. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080125/us_nm/davos_usa_security_dc
13. *January 24, Fox News* – (International) **Al Qaeda’s dentist.** A London dentist told the police he was just off to celebrate the Muslim festival of Eid with his family in Pakistan. However, he tried to board a plane at Heathrow Airport with \$18,000 in cash, a night vision scope, two metal batons, terror handbooks, extremist material, military information on CDs, and medical supplies. In an email, the man wrote “Pray that I kill

many, brother. Revenge, revenge, revenge.” On an extremist Web forum, he added, “I am not going for good as far as I know, it is only a 14- to 20-day operation, if it’s in Pak, Afg or Waz.” The Islamic extremist was in fact on his way to fight for the Taliban against American and British troops. In court, he boasted he had been sent to the U.K. by Al Qaeda for terrorist fundraising. He posted a farewell letter anonymously on an Islamist website bragging about raising thousands of pounds from sympathizers in the U.K. for the cause because “bullets cost money.” Scotland Yard released e-mails revealing that “The Dentist” had trained at an Al Qaeda camp in Pakistan in 1996 and was the “emir” of another camp in 1998. During his arrest, cops found a chapter from an autobiographical book he had written called “My Father the Bombmaker,” as well as some “motivational Islamist material” stored on a CD. Arrested in October 2006, he has become the first person to be convicted under tough new U.K. anti-terror laws and was given four-and-a-half years.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,325329,00.html>

14. *January 24, Fox News and Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Ethiopian stowaways found in airplane’s overhead compartment, arrested.** Two stowaways discovered aboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight after it landed in Dulles International Airport, Virginia, are being held on misdemeanor charges, according to immigration officials. The two men were discovered Wednesday morning, hiding in an overhead luggage compartment, by a security guard during an inspection of the jet, after the other passengers had disembarked. Presumably, they had been hiding in the compartment for the duration of the flight from Ethiopia, a source told Fox News. The stowaways, who are seeking asylum, were questioned by officials and placed in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement pending an immigration hearing. It was not clear if the men were part of the Ethiopian Airlines cleaning crew that swept the jet before take off. They likely face deportation if they acted alone, but there could be more serious charges if investigators learn that others were involved or if the men were found to be testing security, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said. The flight originated in Ethiopia, she said, but she did not know if there were any stopovers where the men might have gotten on the plane.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,325406,00.html>

15. *January 24, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **O’Hare radar system is criticized.** A new ground radar system designed to prevent runway collisions at the nation’s busiest airports loses accuracy during snowstorms at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport and can fail to see snowplows, baggage carts, and other vehicles, the president of the local air traffic controllers union warned on Thursday. The president of the O’Hare affiliate of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said the system is putting the public in danger. The Federal Aviation Administration denied the situation is as bad as the NATCA president portrayed it, and said it usually takes a year to fine-tune the software to account for differences in airport layout and weather. The FAA spokesman said ground radar is a “secondary tool” used by controllers trained to use their eyes and conversations with pilots to avoid problems. The system has been in operation at O’Hare — the nation’s second-busiest airport and one of its snowiest — since July.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080124/ap_on_re_us/o_hare_radar_problems;_ylt=AiNYKp3ecUvX6ulx7_XyHGIG2ocA

16. *January 24, Reuters* – (New York) **Newark Bay closed after two ships collide.** A ship carrying orange juice collided with a dredging vessel in Newark Bay on Thursday, closing the bay to all ship traffic, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The 669-foot Orange Sun and the dredging vessel New York collided around 1:50 p.m., the Coast Guard spokesman said. “A small amount of hydraulic oil from the New York leaked into the bay. There are no reports of major pollution,” said a Petty Officer Third Class. No injuries were reported. She did not say when the bay would reopen to ship traffic. New York Harbor oil traders said the incident was unlikely to have much of an impact on oil movements.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080124/us_nm/shipping_newark_closure_dc;_ylt=AuQUrgtnr4ddAT2VfwESAhwWIr0F

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *January 25, Gloucester County Times* – (New Jersey) **Man indicted for E. Greenwich anthrax threat.** A truck driver accused of mailing the East Greenwich Township municipal building a package of white powder labeled “anthrax” has been indicted by a Gloucester County grand jury on charges of threatening violence. Police say that, in an attempt to get revenge against the township, he mailed a box of white powder and a note identifying it as anthrax to the municipal building on August 7.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/gloucester/local/index.ssf?/base/news-8/1201245018130040.xml&coll=8>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *January 25, Reuters* – (National) **FDA downplays long-term impact of animal cloning.** Meat and milk products of offspring from the 600 cloned animals in the United States most likely have not entered the nation’s food supply, an official with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Thursday, as the agency downplayed the long-term impact of cloning. The FDA last week said meat and milk from cloned cattle, swine and goats and their offspring were as safe to eat as products obtained from traditional animals. Before then, farmers and ranchers had followed a voluntary moratorium that prevented the sale of clones and their offspring. It could take four or five years before consumers are able to buy clone-derived food on a wide scale as animals need to be cloned, mature, and give birth. Even as the FDA unveiled its final rule, the Agriculture Department has asked the cloning industry to prolong the ban on selling products from cloned animals during a “transition” period expected to last at least several months.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080125/us_nm/cloning_food_fda_dc;_ylt=AkhxtCxXtRCOcV3QEB6YTB8WIr0F

19. *January 24, Reuters* – (National) **FDA targets 5 regions to establish global presence.** A U.S. Food and Drug Administration commissioner told reporters at a briefing on food safety that it would like to establish offices in Asia – especially in China and India, Europe, Central and South America, and the Middle East to monitor the safety of exported food. FDA officials, as part of their goal to become more proactive in safeguarding imports, have pushed to move the agency’s borders beyond the United States to countries where many imported goods are manufactured. The official said the FDA would have offices with FDA personal that would work with other government regulatory agencies and companies responsible for producing and shipping products. He said the FDA is in the early stages of working with other countries, but so far the response has been positive. The move to bolster import protections comes after several product recalls that have raised consumer fears about items such as tainted toothpaste, seafood, tires, and toys with lead paint. Many of the items came from China.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080124/us_nm/trade_fda_dc;_ylt=AttrNCi2ASBb4nW5ZIW0US5kWIr0F

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *January 25, Associated Press* – (International) **UN calls water top priority.** The U.N. Secretary-General urged the world on Thursday to put the looming crisis over water shortages at the top of the global agenda this year and take action to prevent conflicts over scarce supplies. He reminded business and political leaders at the World Economic Forum that the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan was touched off by drought. He said shortages of water contribute to poverty and social hardship in Somalia, Chad, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Haiti, Colombia, and Kazakhstan. He said a recent report identified 46 countries with 2.7 billion people where climate change and water-related crises create “a high risk of violent conflict” and a further 56 countries, with 1.2 billion people “are at high risk of violent conflict.” The report was by International Alert, an independent peace building organization based in London. The Secretary-General said he will invite world leaders to “a critical high-level meeting” in September to focus on meeting U.N. development goals, including cutting by half the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015, particularly in Africa.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080125/ap_on_sc/world_forum_water_scarcity;_ylt=AkEyHe9nQoaJCKZR8YrwcLGs0NUE

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *January 25, NanoViricides* – (National) **NanoViricides is on course to develop bird**

flu, influenza, and other drugs. NanoViricides, Inc. reported that they are on course with the development of nanoviricides drug candidates against highly pathogenic avian influenzas (HPAI) including H5N1 bird flu, and common influenza. “We are now ready to begin animal studies on H5N1 at a renowned federal agency,” said a company official. Earlier, the company had delayed these studies in search of suitable facilities. The work is expected to begin once the contracts are finalized.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/95047.php>

22. *January 24, ABC News* – (National) **CDC reports contact with pet turtles caused salmonella outbreak.** A salmonella outbreak that sickened and resulted in the hospitalization of children in 33 states has been traced back to the illegal sale of tiny pet turtles, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned today. At least 103 cases have been reported since May 2007, and many of those infected were children under the age of 10, the CDC said. The report cited children who handled the turtles, kissed them, even putting the reptiles in their mouths. While no deaths have been reported so far, the infection has led to at least 24 children being hospitalized in many cases, and symptoms have included bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever, and vomiting. The turtles’ salmonella is so contagious that in August 2007, two girls fell ill after swimming in a pool where two pet turtles had also been permitted to swim. The CDC estimated that between 2001 and 2006 the number of turtles kept as pets in the country increased by 86 percent to almost 2 million turtles. The agency believes the best way to prevent turtle-associated infections is to continue to prohibit the sale and distribution of the small reptiles.

Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/print?id=4183254>

Government Facilities Sector

23. *January 25, Strategy Page* – (Guam) **Smallpox in the Pacific.** The U.S. Air Force recently held a 24 hour “disease containment exercise” at Anderson Air Force Base on the Pacific island of Guam. The premise was that a package containing smallpox was delivered to a building on the base. All the emergency response personnel participated in the exercise, which was observed, and performance and problems noted. There were minor disruptions to base operations, but almost every aspect of base operations was involved. Similar exercises are suitable for other biological attacks.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htchem/articles/20080125.aspx>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

24. *January 25, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **Alternate ambulance service in place after shutdown.** Twenty-three Mississippi counties, including Greene and Pearl River counties, affected by the shut down of Alabama-based Emergystat had alternative ambulance service in place Thursday, according to state health officials. “There was no interruption of service in any of the counties that were affected,” a state health officer

said Thursday. Emergystat, based in Vernon, Alabama, notified Mississippi officials Wednesday that it would halt operations at midnight. The shutdown, which officials said gave them little time to act, also affected service in Amite, Coahoma, Chickasaw, Claiborne, Holmes, Jefferson, Kemper, Marshall, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Panola, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Wilkinson, Winston, and Yazoo counties.

Source:

<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080125/NEWS01/801250324/1002>

25. *January 24, USA Today* – (National) **National Medical Airlift service seeks support.**

A relief service that enlists thousands of pilots to transport patients, doctors, and supplies during the nation's medical emergencies is being compromised by lack of liability protection from the government, according to members of Congress. Mercy Medical Airlift received a nearly \$1 million government grant after the September 11 terrorist attacks to create a special unit to help with national disasters. The head of Mercy says Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has failed to set up a workable system for volunteer pilots to join disaster response. Congress also has not passed legislation that would protect volunteer pilots from costly lawsuits, according to Mercy's founder. Without the protection, some pilots may stop volunteering and some relief groups may be reluctant to use pilots' services during a disaster, he said. Other congressional members say they are worried that the problems Mercy faces may have a chilling effect on other services offering emergency aid.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Homeland-Security/National-Medical-Airlift-Service-Seeks-Support/15\\$6902](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Homeland-Security/National-Medical-Airlift-Service-Seeks-Support/15$6902)

26. *January 24, Healthcare Purchasing News* – (National) **Pandemic readiness: How prepared are facilities really?** Several studies conducted within the last 12 months by a prominent management consulting firm and a leading group purchasing organization allude to potential deficiencies and inefficiencies among healthcare facilities in caring for patients, as well as supporting and equipping its own workers. The Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Health Research Institute (PWCHRI) found that "facility and staff resources are limited, public health and private medical sector plans are inadequately coordinated, communications and tracking systems are incompatible and funding is not sufficient to support development of a sustainable infrastructure for an effective response." PWCHRI followed its assessment by indicating that Congress has appropriated nearly \$8 billion for disaster preparedness since 2002, but a lack of accountability prevents an accurate assessment of the healthcare industry's preparedness or progress. A healthcare workforce shortage leaves clinicians and administrators little spare time for disaster response training. A lack of a common definition of preparedness, standard requirements for response, and a consensus on training and licensing programs further complicates the process, according to the report.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Homeland-Security/Pandemic-Readiness--How-Prepared-are-Facilities-Really/15\\$6907](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Homeland-Security/Pandemic-Readiness--How-Prepared-are-Facilities-Really/15$6907)

Information Technology

27. *January 24, Vnunet* – (International) **Stakeholders gear up for e-Crime Congress 2008.** Over 500 delegates from global businesses, governments, and law enforcement agencies will meet in London in March at the e-Crime Congress 2008 to discuss cyber-threats and electronic crime. Identity theft and fraud continue to threaten security and consumer confidence, but last year saw an increasing number of attacks on the IT infrastructure of companies and governments. A senior architect at security firm MessageLabs told vnunet.com in a recent interview about a shadow economy in the underground world of hackers, which closely mimics traditional economic models. Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2207989/stakeholders-tackle-cyber-crime>
28. *January 24, ZDNet News* – (International) **Symantec warns of router compromise.** Security company Symantec has warned of an attack involving the subversion of routers. The security company said this was the first time it had seen such an attack “in the wild.” In the attack, which targeted users of an undisclosed Mexican bank, the intended victims received a spam e-mail claiming they had received an e-card, directing them to gusanto.com, a Spanish-language e-card site. However, the e-mail also had embedded HTML image tags that contained an HTTP get-request to the router to change its Domain Name System settings, according to Symantec’s U.K. manager of quality assurance. The HTTP get-request redirects traffic flowing over the router to a specific IP address when the user attempts to access six domain names that are banking-related. Symantec requested that ZDNet U.K. not publish the IP address. The attack is made possible by a cross-site scripting vulnerability in routers made by broadband-equipment company 2Wire that was reported in August last year, according to Symantec. Source: http://news.zdnet.com/2100-1009_22-6227502.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/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

29. *January 25, Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Task force to promote broadband access.** A group of local community and business leaders has formed a task force to help roll out broadband Internet access to more of Charleston’s minorities and low-income residents. The 22-person council was announced this week by the Alliance for Digital Equality, a year-old Atlanta-based nonprofit devoted to finding ways to bridge the “digital divide” between minority and majority communities. South Carolina is plugging into broadband much more slowly than the rest of the country. At the end of 2006, 34 percent of South Carolina homes had a high-speed Internet line, compared with 46

percent of all U.S. homes, according to the Federal Communications Commission and the Census Bureau. The Alliance for Digital Equality is organizing similar councils in Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, and Miami. Its goal is to bring together elected officials, consumers and the business leaders to educate minority communities about the importance and benefits of broadband usage.

Source:

http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/jan/25/task_force_promote_broadband_access28590/

30. *January 24, Computerworld* – (National) **FCC auction reaches \$2.8B for 700-MHz wireless licenses.** At the close of the first full day of bidding for 700-MHz wireless spectrum today, the Federal Communications Commission reported nearly \$2.8 billion in provisional winning bids. There were 1,122 new bids filed in the second of two rounds that were held in the afternoon. The total value of all provisional bid winners jumped 15 percent from the morning bidding round, when \$2.4 billion was offered. A total of 1,099 licenses can be bid upon, although only 902 had received bids by the end of the day. All the bids are filed anonymously and bidders are prohibited from publicly discussing their bids in an effort to reduce anticompetitive behavior, the FCC said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=mobile_and_wireless&articleId=9058946&taxonomyId=15

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *January 25, KTAR 92.3 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Super Bowl security involves many.** Super Bowl safety is a major concern in the post 9-11 world, and Valley law enforcement agencies say they are ready for Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Arizona, on February 3. Thousands will flock to the Valley for the Super Bowl at University of Phoenix Stadium, and they will be joined by thousands more for the FBR Open Golf Tournament in Scottsdale that same weekend. Emergency personnel are working overtime to make sure everyone stays safe. “We’ve enhanced our biological and chemical terrorism surveillance systems within this lab. As part of the Super Bowl, I’d like to point out that we are ramping up activities,” said the director of the State Public Health Lab. Authorities said there have been no terror threats against the Super Bowl to date.

Source: <http://news.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=712780>

32. *January 24, Las Cruces Sun-News* – (Texas) **Juárez violence prompts Thomason Hospital lockdown.** Thomason Hospital was placed in “lockdown” Wednesday by El Paso and federal law enforcement authorities guarding a Chihuahua, Mexico, police commander who survived an assassination attempt. El Paso, Texas, police and sheriff’s deputies stood guard outside with assault rifles, doors were locked, and all visitors went through a metal detector in unusually tight security for the public hospital. A commander of the Chihuahua State Investigations Agency is being treated after surviving a mob-style ambush Monday night while driving on a Juárez boulevard. The

lockdown, which will last for an undetermined amount of time, was ordered early Wednesday morning by officials with the El Paso Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Law enforcement would not discuss details of the lockdown for security reasons or whether the commander was cooperating with U.S. authorities.

Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/news/ci_8064701

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *January 25, Idaho Mountain Express* – (National) **Historic mine deemed 'extreme' hazard.** Livingston Mill is a historic ore-processing facility composed of two mills and five large tailings deposits. The 30-acre site is about to become the largest cleanup project in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area's 36-year history. Reclamation is projected at \$1.2 million, and efforts are scheduled to begin this summer. The hazard is not new, and it is debatable whether or not the Forest Service has posted the site adequately. The Forest Service conducted a preliminary assessment of the site in 2002, and reports detailing heavy-metals toxicity go back as far as the 1970s.

Source: <http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005119060>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

34. *January 24, Shaw News Service* – (Illinois) **Dam needs structural repairs, state says.** The Oregon dam in Illinois is showing its age. "There are structural concerns about the integrity of the dam downstream," said a representative of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which owns the dam. "There is a need to do something to stabilize that dam in the long term." In the 1970s, the capstones, which are large flat rocks, were back-filled into the river below the dam. The flow of the river has since undermined much of the stone, possibly exposing the steel sheet pilings, he said.

Source:

<http://www.saukvalley.com/articles/2008/01/24/news/local/358073480193638.txt>

35. *January 23, Lake Sun Leader* – (Missouri) **Homeland Security funds headed to Bagnell Dam.** More than \$180,000 in federal Department of Homeland Security money has been designated to increase security for Bagnell Dam in Missouri. The money will be used to purchase equipment that will allow the Lake Ozark Police Department to monitor the dam 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Lake Ozark's police chief said the money is part of the federal government's prevention initiative to provide improved surveillance and security efforts to guard potential target sites from terrorists' threats. Now, he said, homeland security is looking at prevention. The designation simply means the possibility is there, he said. The grant is intended to provide the resources to establish a security buffer around the potential target. There has not been a threat on Bagnell Dam, but it is considered a possible target, according to national security officials.

Source: <http://lakesunleader.com/articles/2008/01/23/news/04.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389

Distribution Information: Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

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.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.