



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 January 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to MSNBC, at least 17,000 bridges in the U.S. went more than two years between safety inspections. In an analysis of recently released federal records, researchers learned that included in that number were 2,728 bridges, which had already been labeled as deficient or obsolete. (See item [13](#))
- Medical News Today reports that researchers at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, in collaboration with Austin-based Stellar Micro Devices, Inc., have developed prototypes of a rapid, non-disruptive, and inexpensive method that could be used to decontaminate bioterrorism hazards in the future. Using flat panel modules that produce X-rays and ultraviolet-C light simultaneously, the researchers can kill anthrax spores in two to three hours without any lingering effects. The system also has the ability to kill anthrax spores hidden in places like computer keyboards without causing damage. (See item [18](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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. *January 30, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **High winds knock out power to thousands.** High winds overnight downed trees across North Georgia and left thousands of utility customers without power. A wind advisory remained in effect through 10 a.m. Wednesday, for winds of 20 to 25 mph, the National Weather Service said. Between

midnight and 1 a.m. Wednesday, a wind gust of 50 mph was recorded at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport, and a 62 mph gust was reported in Alpharetta, the Weather Service said. A Georgia Power spokesman said about 5,700 of the utility's customers statewide were without power at 6 a.m., down from a peak of about 12,000 at 3 a.m. Crews were still working at 6 a.m. to restore power to about 4,000 metro Atlanta customers, mainly in the Tucker, north Fulton County, and Ashford-Dunwoody Road areas, he said. That number had been cut in half by 8:30 a.m., and Wilson said the remaining customers should have electricity restored by late-morning. Windy conditions are again predicted Thursday night, along with a nearly 100 percent chance of rain and lows in the mid-30s. Source:

http://www.ajc.com/services/content/metro/stories/2008/01/30/weather_0131.html?cxtxpe=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcac=13

2. *January 29, Associated Press* – (California) **Another oil spill at Greka facility in Santa Barbara County.** Santa Barbara County firefighters are working on another crude oil and contaminated water spill from a leaking pipe at a Greka Energy oil facility. Tuesday's spill lasted several hours, ran down a small hillside, crossed a road, and flowed into a creek bed. The Environmental Protection Agency estimated the spill at 8,400 gallons of oil and produced water. Greka estimated the spill at 50 gallons. A fire captain said the facility where Tuesday's spill occurred is one of four Greka Energy facilities under a county "stop work" order.

Source: http://www.fox6.com/news/state/story.aspx?content_id=a704c051-d228-47df-a5c8-4c336e95fef0&rss=801

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *January 29, Occupational Hazards* – (California) **Toxic chemical exposure costs California \$2.6 billion.** A new report released by researchers at the University of California, "Green Chemistry: Cornerstone to a Sustainable California," reveals more than 200,000 California workers were diagnosed with deadly, chronic diseases, such as cancer or emphysema, in 2004. These diseases were attributed to chemical exposures in the workplace. Another 4,400 workers died as a result of those afflictions. The new findings, based upon well-established methodology for analyzing economic impact, indicated that those diseases resulted in \$1.4 billion in both direct medical costs and indirect costs that include lost wages and benefits. An additional \$1.2 billion in direct and indirect costs is attributed to 240,000 cases of preventable childhood diseases in California related to environmental exposure to chemical substances, the report says. The report presents data from the state's Department of Toxic Substances Control showing that 61 of the state's 85 largest hazardous waste sites are leaking toxic material directly into groundwater. In addition, an estimated 1 million California women of reproductive age have blood mercury levels that exceed what the federal EPA considers safe for fetal development. Biomonitoring studies detected more than 100 synthetic chemicals and pollutants in breast milk, umbilical cord blood, and other bodily fluids and tissues, the report says.

Source:

http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/78086/Toxic_Chemical_Exposure_Costs_California_26_Billion.aspx

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *January 30, Scripps Treasure Coast* – (Florida) **FPL shuts down nuclear reactor on Hutchinson Island.** One of the two nuclear reactors at the St. Lucie Plant was taken offline at 5:31 a.m. Tuesday “to investigate and repair a problem with one of the unit’s four reactor coolant pumps,” Florida Power & Light Co. officials said in a statement. There were no radiological or other health hazards, and power officials deemed the situation minor. An FPL spokeswoman said it was unclear Tuesday how long repairs would take to fix the problem, but the plant’s other reactor operating at full power ensured there were no outages. “We’re going to ensure the repairs are made safely before we bring the unit back online,” said FPL’s director of nuclear communications. Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2008/jan/30/30fpl-shuts-down-nuclear-reactor/?partner=yahoo>
5. *January 30, BBC News* – (International) **Canada isotope plant “was unsafe.”** Canada ordered a nuclear reactor to be re-opened even though the risk was far greater than international standards permit, a committee has heard. The former president of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) told a House of Commons committee Tuesday that she refused to re-open the Chalk River plant after it was shut for routine maintenance in November last year, because some safety back-up systems were not working. She said the chance of a failure was one in 1,000, while the permitted international standard is one in a million. The Canadian prime minister said in December that there was no risk of a meltdown, and his Conservative government pushed emergency legislation through parliament to get it working again. The isotopes produced at the plant are used for medical imaging and diagnostic scans for fractures, cancer, and heart conditions. Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7216993.stm>
6. *January 29, Associated Press* – (New York) **N.Y. nuclear plant closer to re-licensing.** There are no environmental reasons to prevent extending the James A. FitzPatrick nuclear plant’s operating license for another 20 years, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Tuesday. The NRC previously determined there were no safety issues barring re-licensing the 881-megawatt boiling water reactor in upstate New York, which began commercial operation in 1975. The current license will expire in October 2014. Louisiana-based Entergy Corp., the plant’s owner, submitted an application in August 2006 to extend its operations until 2034. FitzPatrick’s application will now be reviewed by the NRC’s Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, a panel of independent experts, said an NRC spokesman. That review is tentatively scheduled for March, and a final decision is expected in May, he said. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080129/ny_fitzpatrick_relicensing.html?.v=2

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *January 29, USA Today* – (National) **Air Force trains warriors to defend cyberspace from terror.** The Air Force is revamping its training to prepare its 320,000 airmen to protect its frontlines in cyberspace, said an Air Force general. The battlefield includes the Internet, cell phone calls, and signals that trigger roadside bombs. Every enlisted man and officer will be taught about cyberwarfare in basic training, the Air Force Academy, or officer candidate school, he said. About 100 students per year will receive more advanced instruction at the Undergraduate Network Warfare Training course at Hurlburt Field in Florida. Graduates of the six-month program will be able to operate a computer like “a weapon system” and will be known as cyberwarriors or cyberoperators, he said. The first class graduated last month. A defense analyst questioned whether the Air Force program would overlap with responsibilities of the National Security Agency (NSA). Jamming enemy air defense radar and protecting computers from hackers have been part of traditional electronic warfare for the Air Force. “This thing sounds like they’ve set up their own operation separate from the NSA,” he said.

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=3339747>

8. *January 28, Jane’s* – (National) **USAF seeks to harden satellite defenses.** Almost one year after China launched an anti-satellite weapon into space, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) says it has identified significant vulnerabilities in USAF space infrastructure and is aggressively seeking to increase defenses against future kinetic attacks and jamming. The Director of Space and Nuclear Operations for the USAF said U.S. Strategic Command has developed a concept of operations that focuses heavily on improving situational awareness in space, protecting satellites from jamming and developing quick and cheap replacements for space assets rendered inoperable for various reasons, including kinetic or jamming attacks. He echoed other USAF officials who have cited an urgent need to improve space situational awareness.

Source: http://www.janes.com/news/defence/air/jdw/jdw080128_1_n.shtml

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *January 30, BusinessWeek* – (National) **FBI widens net around subprime industry.** Investigators with the Federal Bureau of Investigation have opened probes into alleged accounting fraud, insider trading, and concerns over loan securitization at 14 companies. The criminal investigation, first reported in the Wall Street Journal, marks a new stage in ongoing probes of the industry. Subprime companies are already under scrutiny by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), as well as several state attorneys general. While the issues are similar to those being looked at by civil investigators at the SEC – the two agencies are working together – the prospect of criminal charges raises the stakes. An investigator close to the probe says investigators are looking closely at the participants in the securitization process, from the brokers and banks that generated the loans to the firms that packaged them together and securitized them, to the banks that have them stuffed in their portfolios. Another issue is the valuations the banks that

currently hold many of the mortgage-backed securities are using to record them on their books. Investigators are examining closely whether they are being properly valued, including whether the assumptions being used in the banks' valuation models are giving realistic estimates of their current worth. Investigators would not disclose the companies that are being probed.

Source:

http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/jan2008/db20080129_728982.htm?chan=top+news_top+news+index_businessweek+exclusives

10. *January 29, WRC 4 Washington, DC* – (District of Columbia) **Personal information of 38,000 at Georgetown compromised by theft.** The personal information of about 38,000 students, faculty, and staff at Georgetown University may have been compromised after an external computer hard drive was stolen from a campus office, university officials said Tuesday. The hard drive contained information, including names and Social Security numbers, of current and former students, faculty, and staff from 1998 through 2006. It was reported stolen from a locked office in the Office of Student Affairs on January 3. Officials said it was taken sometime between December 21 and January 3. The hard drive was used to process students' financial transactions across all campuses. Georgetown said it has no evidence the data has been misused.

Source: <http://www.nbc4.com/news/15165712/detail.html>

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Transportation Sector

11. *January 30, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Train derails on Northern Ohio Bridge.** A train derailed on a bridge early Wednesday as it traveled in high winds through northern Ohio, west of Toledo, sending up to four cars plunging into the water below. There were no immediate reports of injuries, but officials were concerned that at least one of the cars in the water was carrying hazardous materials. Authorities believed the train cars were blown off the bridge at about 4:15 a.m. by high winds, said the Ottawa County sheriff. Gusts of up to 50 miles per hour were recorded across the region overnight.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h5fi2_0Cal3EmLAcTZNoqye_J2QQD8UG86R80

12. *January 30, WSOC 9 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Airplane, baggage carrier collide at Charlotte-Douglas.** An airplane and baggage tug collided overnight Tuesday at North Carolina's Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. The collision damaged the front of a Learjet. An airport spokesperson said the jet was carrying cargo and no one was hurt. The plane landed just after midnight and was taxiing to unload when a US Airways tug and baggage cart crossed its path. Airport officials said the accident did not slow passenger traffic at the airport. Federal inspectors will continue investigating the accident.

Source: <http://www.wsoc.tv/news/15172375/detail.html>

13. *January 30, MSNBC* – (National) **Late inspections of bridges put travelers at risk.** After 13 people died in August when a freeway bridge fell into the Mississippi River in

Minneapolis, governors across the nation rushed to calm fears. Using almost identical language, states assured the public that bridges are safe, because federal regulations require inspection of “every bridge at least once every two years.” In fact, at least 17,000 bridges in the U.S. went more than two years between safety inspections, according to federal records analyzed by msnbc.com. These newly released records from the National Bridge Inventory include inspections through 2006. Although Congress in 1971 ordered rigorous standards for inspecting bridges every 24 months, the records reveal a system in which responsibility is passed down from federal to state to local governments, without penalty for those that fail to protect the public. The bridges reported missing a two-year inspection include 1,411 on interstate highways. An estimated 107 million cars and trucks per day cross rivers, streams, highways, and railroad tracks on bridges that missed their two-year inspection. The records show that 2,728 bridges that had already been labeled as deficient or obsolete went more than two years since their inspection. Some reassurance is found in the records. The great majority of the nation’s 592,000 vehicular bridges – 97 percent of the total – were inspected within the past two years, according to the new records.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20998261/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *January 30, Rocky Mount Telegram* – (North Carolina) **White powder found in letter.** A letter containing a suspicious white powder, delivered to a Rocky Mount, North Carolina, elementary school on Tuesday prompted a multi-agency investigation. Rocky Mount police responded to Baskerville Elementary School shortly after the letter was opened by the school’s principal, police said. The Rocky Mount Fire Department, Edgecombe County Health Department, and North Carolina Public Health Department also responded to the school. Police said the Federal Bureau of Investigation was contacted regarding the incident. Testing continued Tuesday to determine if the powder is biological or toxic. Police said the investigation is ongoing.

Source:

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/01/30/letter.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *January 29, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington; Oregon) **Dessert recalled after tests find bacterium.** A Washington company is voluntarily recalling its coconut-flavor frozen dessert after state inspectors found one contaminated with a bacterium that can be especially dangerous to pregnant women. No illnesses have been reported from the nondairy dessert, sold by Ca Rem #1. The dessert, similar to a Popsicle, is sold at 40 food markets and restaurants in Western Washington and western Oregon. A Department of Agriculture inspector randomly selected the contaminated dessert January 14 at Asian Planet Food Market in Kent, Washington, as part of routine food testing, a spokesman said. Test results returned eight days later showed it was

contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, a harmful bacterium. The Department of Agriculture determined the product's distribution area and initiated the recall Friday.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/349315_recall30.html

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Water Sector

16. *January 30, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **State sues 1 firm; 4 others pay fine.**

Connecticut's attorney general announced Tuesday that his office is suing one company and that four others have agreed to pay about \$600,000 after all five were found to be in violation of laws governing discharge of pollutants into the state's waterways.

Tuesday's announcement came months after an investigation of the state Department of Environmental Protection's lax enforcement of the state's major dischargers of toxic waste into Connecticut's waters. 17 of the 35 companies regulated by the federal Clean Water Act were operating with expired permits and continued to discharge at higher levels than new permits would have allowed. In September, Connecticut Fund for the Environment notified the five companies that it intended to sue for what it says were ongoing and serious chemical releases beyond permit limits. The toxins include heavy metals, cyanide, ammonia, nitrogen, and plastics. Since then, the DEP and attorney general's office began working with the Connecticut Fund to bring enforcement actions against the companies, said the fund's senior staff lawyer. The lawsuit against Atlantic Wire Co. of Branford was filed last week in Superior Court in Hartford and is seeking \$25,000 in penalties for each of the 21 illegal discharges of toxic waste into the Branford River since December 2005. The most recent illegal discharges were January 21, of about 7,500 gallons of caustic waste water, and in September, of acidic waste water that killed hundreds of blue crabs.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-rivers0130.artjan30,0,4554256.story>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

17. *January 30, Reuters* – (International) **India sprays markets, roads to halt bird flu outbreak.**

Workers sprayed roads and markets in Calcutta with disinfectants and culled thousands of birds as authorities in eastern India battled to stop an outbreak of bird flu in poultry reaching the crowded city. Bird flu has spread to 13 of West Bengal's 19 districts and authorities said they were culling sick chickens in a private farm about an hour's drive from Calcutta, one of India's biggest cities. Over 2 million birds have already been culled, but authorities now say they will slaughter thousands of more birds. They will also ban raising backyard poultry in infected districts for at least three months.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSSP21541420080130?feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

18. *January 30, Medical News Today* – (National) **New decontamination system kills anthrax rapidly without lingering effects.** Researchers at the Georgia Tech Research

Institute, in collaboration with Austin-based Stellar Micro Devices, Inc., have developed prototypes of a rapid, non-disruptive, and inexpensive method that could be used to decontaminate bioterrorism hazards in the future. Using flat panel modules that produce X-rays and ultraviolet-C light simultaneously, the researchers can kill anthrax spores in two to three hours without any lingering effects. The system also has the ability to kill anthrax spores hidden in places like computer keyboards without causing damage. The current decontamination standard – chlorine dioxide gas – kills microorganisms by disrupting transport of nutrients across the cell wall, but cannot reach hidden spores. Hard surfaces must be cleaned independently with harsh liquid chlorine dioxide. In addition, people cannot re-enter a room fumigated with chlorine dioxide until the gas is neutralized with sodium bisulfite vapor and vented from the building.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/95616.php>

19. *January 29, Associated Press* – (International) **Saudis kill poultry after bird flu found.** Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it had killed some 158,000 chickens in Kharaj province, south of the capital, after the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain was found at an infected farm. About 475 workers were tested, but no human infections were found. The ministry also said more than 4.5 million fowl have been killed in provinces around the capital, but it did not specify when the killing took place. Bird flu resurfaced in November in Kharaj province. To stem the flu's spread, some countries temporarily banned imports of birds, poultry, and poultry products from Saudi Arabia earlier this month.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jKIggNNXBvdVWGismUCIkHXw8-NwD8UFQKS02>

20. *January 28, HealthDay* – (National) **Diabetes rates continue to soar.** The number of Americans being diagnosed with and also living with type 2 diabetes is soaring, presenting a major health and economic crisis for the United States, a new study by the Duke University Medical Center reports. "What's alarming is we have 47 million uninsured people, but these people [in the study, enrolled under Medicare] are all insured. So in this kind of insured program, we have so many people who are not adhering to the recommended care," the lead researcher said. The prevalence of type 2 diabetes is increasing not only in an aging population, but in younger persons as well. The condition brings with it high risks of complications such as blindness, kidney disease, eye disease, and amputations. An abstract of the study is available at

<http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/168/2/192>.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/28/AR2008012801933.html>

Government Facilities Sector

21. *January 30, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Agawam man charged with toxin threat on courthouse.** An Agawam, Massachusetts, man who was being held on a federal firearms charge allegedly mailed letters to the prosecutor and a newspaper threatening to attack a federal building in Springfield with a weapon of mass destruction, according to a nine-count indictment unsealed this week. Federal authorities investigated the threats

that the man made while in custody in July 2004 and found a quantity of the toxin ricin, which had been processed for use as a biological weapon, the indictment said. The indictment, which was unsealed Monday in federal court in Springfield, did not specify the amounts of the toxins, their location, or how dangerous they were, nor did it identify a motive. The man is being held at the Victorville Federal Correctional Complex, northeast of Los Angeles, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/01/30/agawam_man_charged_with_tox_in_threat_on_courthouse/

22. *January 29, KHBS 40 Fort Smith* – (Arkansas) **Wildfire destroys up to 60 buildings at Fort Chaffee.** In Tuesday's wildfire at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, up to 60 World War II-era barracks were destroyed. Although no longer an Army base, it was used as a National Guard training base. The fire started at about 10:30 a.m., but wind gusts above 40 mph quickly sent the fire out of control. Investigators said they are not sure what started the blaze. Fire officials said the wildfire was confined to Fort Chaffee; emergency officials are urging people to stay away from the area because the barracks were contaminated with asbestos. Authorities said there was no danger to the surrounding area, only to those who were in the smoke from the fire.

Source: <http://www.4029tv.com/news/15165806/detail.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *January 30, Branson Daily News* – (Missouri) **State gets high marks on emergency preparedness assessment.** The Missouri governor recently announced that a review from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed that Missouri is well prepared to provide drugs and medical supplies from a federal stockpile in the event of a public health emergency. "This score is very gratifying with all the work we have done over the last three years to improve emergency preparedness in Missouri," he said. "Missouri's high marks reflect that Missouri continues to improve its ability to respond to public health emergencies such as a terrorist attack, pandemic influenza outbreak, or earthquake on the New Madrid Fault Line, which could quickly exhaust state and local medical supplies." Missouri scored 96 out of 100 for its overall readiness to quickly distribute the necessary medicines and medical supplies received from the Strategic National Stockpile. The supplies would then be dispersed to local public health agencies, hospitals, and other treatment sites for dispensing to Missourians. Some improvements noted from last year's score of 85 percent include increased recruitment and training of Strategic National Stockpile team members, advance preparation of public information messages, cooperative planning with bordering states, and increased emphasis on exercise training and evaluation.

Source: <http://www.bransondailynews.com/story.php?storyID=6231>

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Information Technology

24. *January 30, Computerworld* – (National) **New attack proves critical Windows bug ‘highly exploitable.’** Security researchers yesterday said they had discredited Microsoft’s claim that the year’s first critical Windows vulnerability would be “difficult and unlikely” to be exploited by attackers. On Tuesday, Immunity Inc. updated a working exploit for the TCP/IP flaw spelled out January 8 in Microsoft’s MS08-001 security bulletin, and posted a Flash demonstration of the attack on its Web site. The exploit, which was released to customers of its CANVAS penetration testing software but is not available to the public, was a revised version of code first issued two weeks ago. “This demonstrates conclusively that the MS08-001 IGMPv3 vulnerability is highly exploitable,” Immunity’s chief technology officer, in a message to his security mailing list. The assertion challenged Microsoft’s earlier assessment that “there are a number of factors that make exploitation of this issue difficult and unlikely in real-world conditions.” Immunity did acknowledge that its newest exploit was not 100 percent reliable, however. Other security companies reacted to the revamped attack code and Flash proof by issuing new alerts. Symantec Corp., for instance, sent a new warning to customers of its DeepSight threat network. “The exploit demonstrates remote code execution,” noted Symantec. “The exploit works against Windows XP SP2 English Default [and shows] two Windows XP SP2 computers on a local subnet with firewall enabled being compromised.” It urged users who have not already deployed the patches Microsoft issued January 8 to do immediately. Previously, Immunity had called out the IGMP (Internet Group Management Protocol) vulnerability as a potential blockbuster for 2008. In a detailed analysis of the flaw and its exploitation, Symantec agreed that the reward to hackers would be large even if replicating Immunity’s work might be tough.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9060118&source=rss_topic17

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

25. *January 30, Associated Press* – (International) **Damaged cable cuts Internet in Mideast.** Internet outages disrupted business and personal usage across a wide part of the Middle East on Wednesday after an undersea cable in the Mediterranean was damaged, government officials and Internet service providers said. In Cairo, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology said the cut in the international communications cable had led to a partial disruption of Internet services

and other telecommunications across much of Egypt. Emergency teams were quickly trying to find alternative routes, including satellite connections, to end the disruptions, a minister said. But service was still slow or nonexistent by late afternoon Wednesday. A telecommunications expert at the Egyptian communications ministry said the government was “engaged in efforts to try and overcome the consequences of the problem” but cautioned that “solving this could take days.” Internet service also was disrupted in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, which markets itself as a top Mideast business and luxury tourist hub. Both Internet service providers said international telephone service was also affected. One of the ISPs, DU, was completely down in the morning; browsing remained very slow even after DU restored Internet service by the afternoon. It was not clear what caused the damage to the cable. An official who works in the customer care department of DU blamed a fault on a submarine cable located between Alexandria, Egypt, and Palermo, Italy. A staffer at a Saudi ISP said that they were told that a cable rupture was the cause of the problem, which began early Wednesday.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080130/mideast_internet_outages.html?.v=5

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report.

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

26. *January 30, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Bid to replace Tomb monument stalls.** A controversial plan to replace the Tomb of the Unknowns monument was put on hold this week when legislation requiring a report to Congress on the issue was signed into law, a Senate staff member said yesterday. An amendment was attached to this year’s defense authorization bill, which was signed Monday by the President. The amendment blocks replacement, but not repair, of the monument, pending a review of its condition and the feasibility of replacing it. The superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, where the tomb is located, said yesterday that he would move forward with plans to repair the weathered monument, but he added that replacing it was “still a very viable option.” Cemetery officials long have wanted to replace the marble monument that sits above the tomb’s underground vaults. The 48-ton monument, carved from Colorado marble, was set in place in 1931 and has been deteriorating since. The stone, now weathered and chipped, has two horizontal cracks, both of which have grown in width and length over the years, cemetery officials say. One crack is 28.4 feet long; the other is 16.2 feet long. Cemetery officials have said that the monument is too tattered for so sacred a spot and that another repair would not return the tomb to a condition befitting its importance. It has been repaired twice. Preservationists, led by the Washington-based National Trust for Historic Preservation, have said that the monument can easily be repaired, and they have expressed dismay at suggestions that it be replaced.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/29/AR2008012903386.html>

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Dams Sector

27. *January 30, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Army to take over Woonsocket dam, levees.** President Bush signed into law yesterday legislation that requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take possession of the city-owned dam and flood control levees in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, that the Army deemed as deficient last year. Woonsocket still intends to undertake some \$1.5 million in scheduled repairs to the levees before it transfers them to the Army. But city Director of Administration says the legislation means the Army will pick up annual operating costs of about \$250,000, plus another \$6 million to \$7 million in repairs in future years, that otherwise Woonsocket would have had to cover.

Source: http://www.projo.com/news/environment/woonsocketlevees_01-30-08_N28Q7OQ_v14.3633dcf.html

28. *January 30, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Federal dike work deadline extended.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has given a one-year deadline extension to East Hartford for making repairs to its dike system, a Corps official said Tuesday. The mayor of East Hartford said she was thrilled the Corps granted the extension. “This is good news for us. What this means is that residents won’t have to buy flood insurance.” The town had been facing a January 31 deadline for making about \$7 million in repairs to its system and asked the Corps in November for an 18-month extension. The request came after voters approved issuing \$7 million in bonds to pay for the project. The mayor said she was not sure the work could be done within a year, but every attempt would be made to meet the new deadline of January 31, 2009. The Corps told the town last year that if the repairs were not made by the deadline this month, the dikes could be decertified. As a result, more than 1,000 residents and businesses would have to purchase flood insurance. The town also would be ineligible for federal assistance if the dikes were to fail during a flood.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-ehddikes0130.artjan30,0,515204.story>

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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 NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389

Distribution Information: Send mail to NICCRReports@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.

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