



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 4 April 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- CNN reports Southwest Airlines tried to keep serious problems with its maintenance program hidden and pressured the Federal Aviation Administration to keep out an inspector who noticed the problems, according to two FAA inspectors who blew the whistle on the airline. (See item [12](#))
- According to Bloomberg, a study found that a bird flu virus that killed dogs in South Korea can spread from one dog to another, showing that the disease is capable of crossing species and causing widespread sickness in mammals. (See item [26](#))

### **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. *April 3, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Sea Girt must address oil spill site.** The borough is under fire by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to take action to remediate contaminated soil at the Public Works yard, and will face fines for violating regulations, said the council president at a meeting March 26. The borough will face a penalty of up to \$9,000 for violating DEP regulations in failing to remediate the contaminated soil caused by an oil spill at the yard. The borough and the DEP are working together to create an agreement that requires the borough to complete remediation of the site, said a DEP press officer. In order to avoid further penalties, the borough must conduct a study and perform testing on the soil to determine the size of

the contaminated area, if the contamination has spread to different areas, and the extent of the contamination.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080403/COMMUNITY/804030463>

2. *April 2, Exelon Corp.* – (Pennsylvania) **PECO conducting aerial line inspections to ensure continued reliability.** Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO) is conducting helicopter inspections of its transmission lines as an important part of the utility's regular program to ensure safe and reliable electric service to homes and businesses throughout the area. The company has contracted Haverfield Airship to perform infrared and visual inspection of more than 1,000 miles of transmission lines in PECO's six county service territory. The infrared equipment detects portions of the lines that may need to be repaired or replaced, while visual inspections of other aerial equipment like conductors and transmission towers identify potential damage due to weather, such as high winds or lightening strikes. There are no outages or customer impacts associated with the inspections. During the next few weeks, a helicopter will fly approximately 12 to 20 feet above transmission lines and structures to perform the inspections.

Source: <http://www.poweronline.com/content/news/article.asp?docid={0346CE41-B7C4-431D-B766-023746CC4B63}&VNETCOOKIE=NO>

3. *April 2, USA Today* – (National) **Power-hungry areas shop around for electricity.** Electricity has become such a precious commodity that states are fighting over which gets it. In the latest dust-up, New Jersey regulators and consumer advocates are battling a plan by a state utility, Public Service Enterprise Group, to send power from a local plant to the New York City market. Federal regulators on Tuesday helped clear the way for the project, which critics say will increase electric rates and threaten the reliability of the power grid in New Jersey and the rest of the Mid-Atlantic. Similar battles are playing out across the country as electricity demand surges and it becomes tougher to build power plants that spew global-warming gases, especially near population centers. The tugs of war are also a product of the power industry's deregulation in many states. Arizona regulators last year rejected a request by Southern California Edison to build a 230-mile transmission line from Arizona to California; the agency said the project would increase prices for Arizona consumers. Central New York state residents say a planned line to New York City would shrink their region's power surplus and increase electric prices about three percent. "You're going to see more squabbles," says a senior director at Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Source:

[http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1322525/powerhungry\\_areas\\_shop\\_around\\_for\\_electricity/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1322525/powerhungry_areas_shop_around_for_electricity/)

4. *April 1, PLC Digital* – (New York) **National Grid sells New York power plant.** National Grid Plc. said Tuesday it has sold its 2,480-megawatt Ravenswood Generating Facility to TransCanada Corp., the North American natural gas pipeline company, for \$2.9 billion. The deal will give TransCanada control of the largest power plant in New York City and make the company a major U.S. electricity player. National Grid is divesting the plant, as part of its takeover of New York utility company KeySpan Corp.,

the fifth American acquisition that National Grid has made since its entry into the U.S. energy market in 2001. It is now the third-largest electricity and gas supplier in America, by customer numbers.

Source: [http://www.plcdigital.co.uk/National-Grid-sells-New-York-power-plant\\_5465.aspx](http://www.plcdigital.co.uk/National-Grid-sells-New-York-power-plant_5465.aspx)

See also:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080402.RTRANSCANADA02/TPStory/>

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

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *April 3, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (National) **Inquiry into chemical industry's role widens.** A congressional committee is broadening the scope of its investigation to include how much influence the chemical industry has exerted on the federal government in considering the safety of certain consumer products. In a letter to the group, the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, questioned the American Chemistry Council's role in dismissing a key scientist from an Environmental Protection Agency panel charged with reviewing the safety of a chemical found in flame retardants. "Americans rely on sound science to ensure the safety of everyday products," the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce said in a news release. "If that science has been compromised by industry, then the health and safety of the public is in danger." The trade group has two weeks to respond to the committee.  
Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=735017>

6. *April 2, Press-Register* – (Alabama) **Evacuation ordered as crews remove hazardous materials.** A 55-gallon drum of zinc swelled with the formation of hydrogen gas Wednesday morning at Ashland Chemical Inc., in Mobile, Alabama, forcing evacuations at more than a dozen businesses and residences as emergency crews worked to control the chemicals. Six members of the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department's hazardous material unit removed the drum from inside the company's brick building, then drilled a small hole into the drum's top to release a controlled amount of the hydrogen gas. The flammable gas was formed through an unintended chemical reaction, officials said. Officials were worried that if the drum continued to swell, it would leak and possibly interact with other chemicals stored in Ashland Chemical's warehouse and cause an explosion. A Mobile police spokesman said police evacuated about 25 people from businesses and residences within a one-block radius of Ashland Chemical.  
Source:  
<http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/1207214157259670.xml&coll=3>

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

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

7. *April 3, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Yankee workers can't find leak.** Work was continuing Wednesday at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant to determine where cooling water from the Connecticut River was leaking into the reactor's coolant system. The state nuclear engineer with the Department of Public Service said Entergy Nuclear had isolated the source of the leak to one section of the condenser, which cools the steam as it leaves the turbine, so it can return to the reactor as water. He said that Entergy Nuclear told him Wednesday that it had tested 75 percent of the 5,500 tubes in the section of the condenser where the problem was believed to be coming from, but that the company had not found the source of the leak or leaks yet. The plant is operating at about 43 percent power so that repairs can be made to the condenser.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080403/NEWS02/804030388/1003/NEWS02>

8. *April 3, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Citizens group prevails in FOIA fight with nuclear agency.** A federal judge has ruled in favor of an activist group in its battle to obtain documents on nuclear waste sites, monitoring, and ten-year plans for future activities at Sandia National Laboratories. Citizen Action sued in August 2006 under the Freedom of Information Act to compel the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Department of Energy to release the records. Citizen Action's lawsuit said the records are considered public. Citizen Action – formed over concern about possible contamination from Sandia's Cold War-era mixed waste landfill – sought the lab's ten-year comprehensive site plans and records related to irradiated reactor fuels and other irradiated materials at the landfill.

Source: <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=19871>

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *April 3, Minot Daily News* – (National) **Bomb wing recertified in handling nuclear weapons.** The 5th Bomb Wing at Minot Air Force Base has been recertified in handling nuclear weapons, according to Minot AFB officials. An incident in August when nuclear weapons were mistakenly loaded at Minot AFB onto a B-52 bomber and flown to Barksdale AFB in Louisiana resulted in the Minot bomb wing being decertified in a portion of its wartime mission. The B-52 and crew were from Barksdale AFB. But the 5th Bomb Wing's mission never stopped, although because of the decertification, some airmen from Barksdale were at the Minot base doing the actual maintenance of the weapons. The commander of Air Combat Command with headquarters at Langley AFB, Virginia, restored the wing's certification this week after a review of an inspection team's recommendation that the Minot bomb wing be recertified in operations and training. The inspection team's recommendation came at the conclusion of the initial nuclear surety inspection conducted March 24-29 at the base. The inspection was conducted by the Air Combat Command Inspector General and overseen by the Air Force Inspection Agency. "The inspectors gave us a thorough evaluation and validated our ability to maintain a critical strategic capability," said the commander of the 5th Bomb Wing. The 5th Bomb Wing next will go through a defense nuclear surety

inspection in May. That inspection is conducted by Inspector General teams from Air Combat Command, Air Force Space Command, Air Force, and the Department of Defense, as well as members of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Source: <http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/513644.html?nav=5010>

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *April 3, Washington Post* – (National) **Data breaches hit 8.3 million records in first quarter.** At least 8.3 million personal and financial records of consumers were potentially compromised by data breaches at businesses, universities and government agencies in the first quarter of 2008, according to statistics released yesterday. The Identity Theft Resource Center in San Diego said it tracked public reports of 167 data breaches in the first three months of this year. The center recorded 448 incidents in 2007. Roughly 4.2 million of the breached records were the result of digital intrusions at the Hannaford supermarket chain, disclosed last month. Overall, businesses were responsible for about 36 percent of the breaches, followed by schools and universities (25 percent), government and military (18 percent), medical/health care (14 percent), and banking and financial institutions (7 percent). Only about 13 percent of the breaches were the result of hacker break-ins. Most of the data breaches in the first quarter appear to have resulted from lost or stolen laptops, hard drives or thumb drives. Insider access and the inadvertent posting of sensitive data to a Web site or through e-mail were also frequently cited reasons for breaches, according to the report.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/02/AR2008040203511.html>

11. *April 2, Computerworld* – (Vermont) **Vermont ski area reports Hannaford-like theft of payment card data.** In a security breach that sounds similar to the one disclosed by Hannaford Bros. Co. last month, the Okemo Mountain Resort ski area in Vermont announced this week that data from more than 46,000 credit and debit card transactions may have been compromised during a system intrusion over a 16-day period in February. Okemo said in a security advisory released on Monday that the breach may have affected customers who used their payment cards at the resort in Ludlow, Vermont, between February 7 and February 22, the time frame when the intrusion took place. The intruder or intruders may also have accessed data from card transactions processed between January and March 2006, according to the advisory. A spokeswoman for Okemo said today that at least some of the data appears to have been stolen as the recent payment card transactions were being authorized. But the resort does not have sufficient information on hand in its systems to directly contact all of the individuals who might have been affected, the Okemo spokeswoman said. Resort officials have been told that customers will be contacted directly by the banks that issued their credit and debit cards.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9074339&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9074339&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

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

## **Transportation Sector**

12. **April 3, CNN** – (National) **FAA inspectors: Southwest tried to hide safety problems.** Southwest Airlines tried to keep serious problems with its maintenance program hidden and pressured the Federal Aviation Administration to keep out an inspector who noticed the problems, according to two FAA inspectors who blew the whistle on the airline. The two men told CNN Wednesday they brought information about Southwest's lack of compliance with mandatory inspection protocols to their supervisors, but the FAA did nothing. They, along with representatives from the FAA, are also scheduled to testify at Thursday's House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which conducted an investigation after the two inspectors brought forward their concerns. The new reporting system is to be in place by April 30, said an FAA acting administrator.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/04/02/southwest.faa.inspection/index.html>
13. **April 3, USA Today** – (National) **FAA looks at suspect mechanics.** The Federal Aviation Administration is struggling to resolve 75 of an initial 2,000 cases in which students are suspected of obtaining fraudulent aviation mechanic certificates that helped them secure potentially sensitive jobs throughout the aviation industry. All but a "handful" have been located, a FAA spokeswoman says. The suspect certificates raised questions within the Department of Transportation and the Office of Special Counsel about the continuing risk to aviation safety, according to documents a federal whistleblower provided to USA TODAY. In the late 1990s, the 2,000 suspect mechanics were identified as part of a federal prosecution into St. George Aviation, the Florida training school that issued the certificates. Two officials at the school were convicted of conspiracy charges.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-04-02-mechanics\\_N.htm?csp=15](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-04-02-mechanics_N.htm?csp=15)
14. **April 2, CNN** – (National) **Pilots: Cockpit dangers being ignored.** Since 2004, at least 10 windshields have had problems on Boeing 757s, mostly the result of wiring problems with windshield heaters that cause smoke to fill the cockpit and sometimes make those windshields crack, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. Four incidents have occurred on American Airlines planes, the NTSB says. Members of the Allied Pilots Association, which represents American Airlines pilots, say the company and the FAA have known for four years of this problem and done nothing. "In 2004, there were two 757 incidents," said a pilot and APA safety committee member. "The NTSB investigated and made safety recommendations to the FAA." But he said those recommendations were not acted upon, and he charged that safety lapses are occurring because the FAA is too close to the airlines. The FAA, only now, has issued a proposed airworthiness directive for inspection and corrections to windshield heaters, not just on 757s but also on Boeing 767s and 777s. "We will work with the manufacturer to provide a solution for operators, if the existing solution is not adequate," the FAA said in a statement to CNN.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/04/02/cockpit.windows/index.html>
15. **April 2, Los Angeles Times** – (California) **'Anthrax' graffiti prompts probe at Port of Long Beach.** Hazardous-materials teams investigating a cargo container that arrived at



the Port of Long Beach Wednesday morning marked with black graffiti saying “Anthrax a gift from Osama” found no initial signs of contaminants. The local teams turned over test samples to FBI investigators, who will need at least 72 hours to process the results, said the Long Beach Fire Battalion chief. The driver told investigators that he had checked the container earlier this morning before driving it from Wilmington and that it was empty, the same source said.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-container3apr03,1,4159952.story>

16. *April 2, Mid-Hudson News Network* – (New York) **Man arrested at Stewart when screeners suspect he had a bomb.** There were some harrowing moments at Stewart Airport, New York, Tuesday night when a man passed through security screening with what appeared to be a bomb in his carry-on bag. He was scheduled to fly from Stewart to Columbia on Skybus Airlines. The investigation conducted by New York State Police in conjunction with the FBI, JTT, TSA and Port Authority management at Stewart revealed that the man had stolen an inflatable life vest from the interior of a plane during a previous flight into Stewart last week. He had the vest in his luggage while going through security Tuesday night. Screeners saw the vest and considered it to be a suspicious package because of its interior construction which contained metal cartridges, wiring and batteries that closely resemble bomb components. The package was removed and examined by the State Police Bomb Disposal Unit. The passenger terminal was evacuated and resumed normal operation about an hour later.

Source: [http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/April08/02/SWF\\_Braun-02Apr08.htm](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/April08/02/SWF_Braun-02Apr08.htm)

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to Report

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

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

17. *April 3, USAgNet* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota to buy out cattle herds infected by TB.** A Minnesota Senate committee has approved a plan to buy out cattle herds Wednesday in part of the state hit by bovine tuberculosis. State officials are trying to contain the disease, which has already infected 13 herds in northwestern Minnesota. According to CattleNetwork.com, the Senate Finance Committee approved legislation that establishes a \$3.5 million cattle-buyout program in a designated 56-herd zone. The bill’s author says the buyout is voluntary. “If the producer does not choose to take the buyout, the board of animal health will do a risk assessment of their far,” he said. “And they will determine appropriate measures to ensure that there’s no interaction between deer and cattle. That will then lead more than likely to significant fencing requirements on those farms.” He added that Minnesota’s bovine TB outbreak is relatively small compared to some other states. With aggressive action, he says the disease could be eliminated in the targeted area within five years.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=808&yr=2008>

18. *April 3, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Cattle herd infected with rabies.** West Virginia's Agriculture Commissioner says he has ordered the destruction of a Hampshire County cattle herd to prevent animals infected with rabies from entering the beef market. The farm has been quarantined since March 26, when two animals tested positive for the disease. He issued Wednesday's order to kill 84 heifers after cattle at the farm began showing symptoms of rabies and more tests came back positive for the disease. Six people who worked with cattle at the farm are being treated for the disease as a precaution, although none showed symptoms. The state will reimburse the cattle's owner.  
Source: <http://www.whsv.com/westvirginiaap/headlines/17240464.html>
19. *April 3, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **Popular cattle and horse feed in short supply.** Hay in Montana is selling for a high price that does not seem to be coming down. While the prices have not hit shoppers yet, farm and ranch insiders shelling out more for hay say the price will have to be passed on before long. Last year, Montana dairy farmers were paying \$100 a ton for the premium hay cows need to make milk. Roughly \$25 of that was for transportation, so the true price for hay bought at the stack was only \$75. This year, premium hay is selling at the stack for \$143 a ton. The reason for the price is scarcity. Hay is hard to come by nationally, which is driving up the price even in Montana, where farmers planted 100,000 more acres of quality alfalfa hay in 2007 than they planted in 2006. Hay-hungry operations from other states have been shopping in Montana for hay, said a U.S. Department of Agriculture official who tracks state hay prices.  
Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/04/03/news/state/18-hay.txt>
20. *April 2, Bloomberg* – (National) **Wheat rises as abnormal weather erodes outlook for U.S. crop.** Wheat jumped more than four percent, snapping a five-session slump, as a lingering dry spell in the Great Plains and excessive rain in the eastern Midwest diminish yield prospects for U.S. winter crops emerging from dormancy. Rains expected in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas in the next five days will miss the driest counties, private forecaster Meteorlogix LLC said in a report. Above-average rainfall from Arkansas to Ohio may have damaged some crops. Wheat dropped 16 percent in the five sessions before today. U.S. winter wheat will be harvested in June, and farmers will start planting spring wheat in the next two months. Parts of western Kansas, the Oklahoma Panhandle, and West Texas got as little as five percent of normal precipitation in March, according to the National Weather Service. As much as four times the usual amount of rainfall was recorded last month in parts of the eastern Midwest, flooding fields, government data show. The Department of Agriculture announced U.S. exporters sold 120,000 metric tons of wheat to Egypt for delivery in the year that begins June 1. Wheat was the fourth-biggest U.S. crop in 2007, valued at \$13.7 billion, behind corn, soybeans, and hay, government data show.  
Source: [http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601081&sid=aWQ\\_f5sNSBBo&refer=australia](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601081&sid=aWQ_f5sNSBBo&refer=australia)



## Water Sector

21. *April 2, KGPE 47 Fresno* – (California) **Merced neighborhood files suit over polluted drinking water.** After years of what they believe are strange, unexplained illnesses, homeowners in the Beachwood neighborhood of Merced, California, filed a lawsuit alleging their water, soil, and even the air they breathe, is polluted with harmful chemicals. The lawyers got involved two years ago after a flood overwhelmed a nearby sewage system. To deal with the overflow, court documents say the water district illegally released treated sewage into the community's creek; and it was not the first time. The company has been trying to clean up this land for nearly 20 years and admits it is not finished yet. That is why some homeowners want to know why they are just hearing about it now. Merck says it is not hiding the project. This plant; designed to treat the groundwater, sits right next to the neighborhood. Merck insists homeowners are safe, and the company that treats the community's drinking water, as well as the State Water Board, stands by it. Lawyers for Beachwood have hired an engineer to monitor the drinking water. They will also bring in a toxicologist to catalog the community's health problems and compare them to other neighborhoods.  
Source: [http://www.cbs47.tv/content/special\\_features/story.aspx?content\\_id=b748d832-7941-4db0-855c-1e622ca2baf5](http://www.cbs47.tv/content/special_features/story.aspx?content_id=b748d832-7941-4db0-855c-1e622ca2baf5)
22. *April 2, Oshkosh Northwestern* – (Wisconsin) **Local drinking water contains pharmaceuticals, but is safe to drink.** An Oshkosh, Wisconsin, utility superintendent urges Oshkosh residents not to panic over a recent Associated Press report documenting a “vast array” of pharmaceuticals – ranging from antibiotics, to mood stabilizers to sex hormones – in many U.S. drinking water supplies. Pharmaceuticals get in the water when people flush them down the toilet or when someone's body does not fully absorb a medication and pass through a body and into the sewer system. And since wastewater systems do not remove drugs, they move on into water sources like Lake Winnebago. Oshkosh was not part of the study and the city does not regularly test local water for any pharmaceuticals. That means how much is in Lake Winnebago is not known. The only contaminants the city tests for are those required by the state Department of Natural Resources – such as arsenic, nitrate, and mercury – and levels for those chemicals consistently fall below regulatory limits, the superintendent said. He also said that, while local water supplies likely contain trace levels of pharmaceuticals, they are not believed to be in the water at levels that should make people afraid. In addition, Oshkosh's water filtration plant uses ozone as part of the filtration process, which preliminary studies have shown helps eliminate medication levels in water.  
Source:  
<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080402/OSH0101/804020485/1128/OSHnews>
23. *April 2, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **EPA takes over Greka Energy site cleanup.** Citing repeated delays and violations of environmental law, federal regulators Tuesday sent their own work crews to finish removing oil and contaminated water released into a Santa Maria creek by Greka Energy Corp. About 200 barrels of crude oil and toxic water leaked out of a corroded pipe at Greka's Bell lease site January 29, migrating to a

tributary of Sisquoc Creek, officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said. Greka and its contractors failed to clean the site in a timely manner, prompting the federal government to step in, said an emergency response coordinator for the EPA. “We still have oil in the creek, and the creek is still flowing. There is a lot of wildlife in that area and a lot of cattle,” he said. “We want to make sure it gets cleaned up properly so there is no long-term contamination.” In a statement, Greka officials said they were in the process of hiring a contractor to perform the cleanup when the EPA rejected the plan and took control of the site. When representatives of the EPA and Greka inspected the affected creek bed two weeks ago, there appeared to be no problem, Greka officials said. Tuesday’s action is the latest slap at the Santa Maria-based oil company by federal, state, and local authorities. Santa Barbara County authorities have issued stop-work orders at several of Greka’s 77 facilities and, during a three-hour hearing in January, grilled company officials about repeated oil spills at its operations. The state Fish and Game Department and the EPA are investigating alleged violations of environmental and safety laws. At the January hearing, county officials said the Fire Department has responded at least 400 times to oil spills and gas leaks at Greka since the energy company opened for business in 1999. Those spills have sent more than 450,000 gallons of thick crude and polluted waters into creeks and soil, officials said. EPA regulators are supervising cleanups of spills or leaks at three Greka sites since January 1.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-greka2apr02,1,1476238.story>

24. *April 2, North County Times* – (California) **Beachfront bacteria zapper being built.**

Work has begun on a small, seaside water treatment plant that city officials say will use ultraviolet light to kill various bacteria, such as fecal coliform bacteria, in Loma Alta Creek before it hits the ocean. In 2006, the California Water Resources Control Board awarded Oceanside a \$5 million grant to build the treatment plant at Buccaneer Beach, where Loma Alta Creek meets the Pacific. In order to get the grant, the city said in its application that high bacteria levels were responsible for 16 days of beach closures in 2005 and for the 31 days that the beach spent on warning status. The treatment plant is designed to solve that problem, officials have said. It is expected to process 300 to 700 gallons of creek water per minute. A similar system is in operation at Moonlight Beach in Encinitas.

Source:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/04/02/news/coastal/oceanside/0205106d79f7d2048825741e005b21e9.txt>

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

25. *April 3, Reuters* – (International) **China approves bird flu vaccine for humans.**

Beijing has given the go-ahead to a Chinese drugmaker to begin large-scale production of a human bird flu vaccine, after a second clinical trial showed the vaccine was safe and effective, the company said on Thursday. The vaccine uses an inactivated whole H5N1 virus from Vietnam, said an official for Sinovac Biotech, which jointly developed the vaccine with China’s Centers for Disease Control. China’s State Food and Drug

Administration said on Wednesday it had authorized production of the vaccine. The company is conducting tests to see if the vaccine may offer cross protection against other strains of the virus found in Indonesia, Turkey, and Anhui province in China, Sinovac's publicity supervisor said. "This vaccine is reserved for emergencies in the country and we have to get instructions on how much to produce," he added.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/africaCrisis/idUSHKG93134>

26. *April 2, Bloomberg* – (International) **Bird flu crosses species barrier to spread among dogs.** A bird flu virus that killed dogs in South Korea can spread from one dog to another, showing that the disease is capable of crossing species and causing widespread sickness in mammals, a study found. A cocker spaniel and a miniature schnauzer were among dozens of dogs in South Korea sickened by an H3N2 strain from birds, researchers said in a study published in the May issue of *Emerging Infectious Diseases* journal. Viruses taken from the sick canines were used in an experiment later to see if pathogens were capable of spreading from dog to dog. The findings add to scientific understanding of how flu viruses evolve in animals and the risks they pose to humans. A separate bird flu strain called H5N1 has killed 236 people worldwide by spreading primarily from birds to humans. If a deadly H5N1 strain evolved like the strain in today's study to spread from one human to another, it could kill millions. The study, led researchers from the Green Cross Veterinary Products Co. and Daewoong Pharmaceutical Co., followed cases of severe respiratory disease last year in dogs at three veterinary clinics in Kyunggi province. Tests on specimens collected from three of the dogs showed they were infected with H3N2 viruses closely resembling those found in chickens and doves in South Korea in 2003. The pathogens may have been transmitted from birds to dogs fed raw, minced meat from infected ducks and chickens, the authors said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=a7x5bUzXzgw4&refer=home>

27. *April 2, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. House passes big hike in global AIDS funds.** The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bill to more than triple spending to fight AIDS in Africa and other parts of the world. The measure, a bipartisan compromise backed by the White House and passed by a vote of 308 to 116, calls for \$50 billion in funding for AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs over the next five years. It marks a significant increase from the \$15 billion authorized over the first five years of the initiative. The president had initially proposed doubling the program to \$30 billion. The Democratic-led House boosted it to \$50 billion. A similar bill is heading toward passage in the Senate. The initiative aims to prevent infection by the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS, treat people already infected, and care for children left as orphans by AIDS.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSN02380528.CH.2400>

28. *April 2, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **New strain of deadly disease discovered.** A new strain of a deadly water-borne disease has been discovered in the Peruvian Amazon, researchers said Tuesday. This emerging bacteria may be responsible

for up to 40 percent of the region's cases of leptospirosis, a deadly disease transmitted from animals to humans which can cause jaundice, renal failure, lung hemorrhage, and other symptoms. Leptospirosis affects tens of millions of people every year, but is most prevalent in tropical regions. It is difficult to diagnose due to a wide range of symptoms, and fatality rates can range as high as 20 to 25 percent in some regions. Researchers found that 41 percent of 881 patients tested had antibodies that reacted only to this new strain of the bacteria, showing a much higher incidence of leptospirosis than previously suspected. The findings were published in the journal *Neglected Tropical Diseases* of the Public Library of Science.

Source:

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=588&art\\_id=nw20080402184924833C683683](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=588&art_id=nw20080402184924833C683683)

---

## **Government Facilities Sector**

29. *April 3, Kane County Chronicle* – (Illinois) **Security tightened after threat.** In Illinois, Rotolo Middle School students will have their backpacks searched starting today after graffiti was found in a bathroom stall threatening violence against the school Friday. In light of the threat, backpacks, purses, and bags will be searched today, Thursday, and Friday. Students will be selected at random for hand-held metal-detector searches. In addition, all after-school student activities at Rotolo are canceled today and Thursday. The school will be locked and secured immediately after dismissal, and students will not be allowed back in. In light of the threat, others schools in the district are increasing their safety plans as well.

Source:

<http://www.kcchronicle.com/articles/2008/04/03/news/local/doc47f3485aa07da910294945.txt>

30. *April 3, Paradise Post* – (California) **School evacuated due to bomb threat.** A bomb threat written on a boys bathroom stall at Paradise High School, coupled with the discovery of an abandoned backpack, led officials to evacuate the campus early yesterday morning. The message read “there’s a bomb at this school.” The custodial staff reported the threat around 7 a.m. Paradise, California, police officers were on the scene shortly thereafter, followed by the Butte County Interagency Bomb Squad about an hour later. The school was immediately evacuated of all students who were on campus before classes began. The bomb squad X-rayed the backpack, and a handbag, both of which had been left on the lawn in front of the cafeteria. A Paradise police sergeant said the X-ray revealed a suspicious-looking device in the handbag, in the center of a spiral notebook. The device turned out to be the metal tube portion of a pen, but it looked similar to a blasting cap, and it was suspicious enough to warrant the use of the bomb detection robot, he said. The scene was declared safe, and the backpack was collected as evidence. The police sergeant said they have found explosive devices in commercial businesses before, but this is the first bomb threat in Paradise that has had such an extensive response. When the campus officially was cleared for safety, school reopened around noon.

Source: [http://www.paradisepost.com/ci\\_8788300](http://www.paradisepost.com/ci_8788300)

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

## **Emergency Services Sector**

31. *April 3, Kingsville Journal* – (Texas) **Emergency responders undergo HAZ-MAT training.** A training technician and a training specialist were in Kingsville, Idaho, from March 24 to 28 to provide the latest in Haz-Mat training for 21 men and women representing fire fighters, law enforcement, Emergency Management, and Medical Reserve. The 40-hour class is free to all public works workers, elected officials, fire fighters, and law enforcement. All will receive a technician rating for taking and passing the class. The participants learned the incident command system that is used in emergency situations by all emergency responders, defensive skills, offensive skills, how to use instruments, and on Friday would go through an intense scenario of everything learned during the week.

Source:

[http://www.aliceechonews.com/articles/2008/04/02/kingsville\\_journal/local\\_news/news00.txt](http://www.aliceechonews.com/articles/2008/04/02/kingsville_journal/local_news/news00.txt)

32. *April 2, Mountain Home News* – (Idaho) **Disaster drill: emergency responders test their skills with a meth lab scenario.** Local law enforcement and emergency response teams responded to a mobile methamphetamine lab Friday. The meth lab was part of a training scenario, as were the half dozen local emergency response agencies, which took part in the most recent disaster drill for Elmore County, Idaho. “We learned how important it is to identify resources, to pre-plan, and communication is huge,” said a chief deputy sheriff and the county’s disaster coordinator. The exercise lasted three hours and forced law enforcement officials to deal with the ramifications of a mobile meth lab while hospital officials dealt with evacuating patients from the hospital.

Source: <http://www.mountainhomenews.com/story/1322284.html>

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

## **Information Technology**

33. *April 3, Computerworld* – (National) **Apple patches 11 QuickTime bugs in year’s third update.** Apple Inc. patched QuickTime late Wednesday to fix 11 flaws in the Mac and Windows versions of the media player. All but two of the bugs could be used by hackers to hijack users’ machines. QuickTime 7.4.5 – the third security update Apple has released for the program so far in 2008 – plugs vulnerabilities in how the player handles Java and PICT image files, parses some data objects, and uses Animation codec content, among others. Nine bugs patched Wednesday were characterized by Apple as allowing “arbitrary code execution,” a phrase the company uses to describe the most serious threats. Unlike other vendors such as Microsoft Corp. or Oracle Corp., Apple does not rank the bugs it fixes with a scoring or labeling system. Many of the vulnerabilities can be exploited if attackers are able to trick users into visiting malicious Web sites or open rigged files. Of those in the second category, Apple warned that some

of the bugs could be triggered by malicious movie or PICT files. One flaw and possible attack vector was explained by Apple this way: “A memory corruption issue exists in QuickTime’s handling of movie media tracks. Viewing a maliciously crafted movie file may lead to an unexpected application termination or arbitrary code execution,” the company said. Three of the vulnerabilities affect the Windows version of QuickTime only; the remaining eight exist in both the Mac and Windows editions, Apple said in the notes it released along with the patched program.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=spam\\_malware\\_and\\_vulnerabilities&articleId=9074559&taxonomyId=85](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=spam_malware_and_vulnerabilities&articleId=9074559&taxonomyId=85)

34. *April 2, ITPro Internet News* – (National) **Storm botnet still spamming through 2008.**

Although more than a year old, the flexibility of the Storm botnet means it is continuing to be a serious problem for end-users. The Storm botnet is alive and well, thriving across millions of computers and continuing to cause problems with spam and malware. According to a MessageLabs report, the Storm botnet was responsible for 20 per cent of all spam in the first quarter of 2008. The security vendor also intercepted more than four million emails from the Storm botnet since January, which either contained links to malware or were aimed at launching phishing attacks. The report findings indicated that the Storm botnet was being broken up, which allowed controllers to take separate parts and choose whether it wanted to send out malware or spam depending on the criminal’s business model.

Source: <http://www.itpro.co.uk/internet/news/183852/storm-botnet-still-spamming-through-2008.html>

35. *April 1, IDG News Service* – (National) **Laptop, complete with Vista attack code, listed on eBay.** The winner of a recent hacking contest is offering the computer he broke into for sale on eBay, possibly with the Microsoft Vista attack code he used intact. In a Monday listing, the man is selling the Fujitsu U810 laptop he won last Friday during the CanSecWest PWN 2 OWN contest. His listing claims that exploit code could probably still be extracted from the machine. Although he makes no guarantees, he wrote, “My successfull [sic] exploitation of Vista SP1 remotely, is most likely still present. This laptop is a good case study for any forensics group/company/individual that wants to prove how cool they are, and a live example, not canned of what a typical incident response sitchiation [sic] would look like.” The man was one of two hackers to claim laptops and cash prizes for penetrating systems during last week’s contest. Organizers offered Vista, Mac OS, and Linux-based laptops for the taking, along with prizes that varied from \$5,000 to \$20,000, depending on the difficulty of the exploit. By Friday, however, only the Linux laptop remained unbreached.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime\\_and\\_hacking&articleId=9073859&taxonomyId=82&intsrc=kc\\_to\\_p](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime_and_hacking&articleId=9073859&taxonomyId=82&intsrc=kc_to_p)



## 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: <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/>.

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

### **Communications Sector**

Nothing to Report

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

### **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report

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

### **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to Report

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

### **Dams Sector**

36. *April 3, Observer-Dispatch* – (New York) **DEC orders Ilion dam repairs.** The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Wednesday ordered Ilion, New York, to address “significant deficiencies” in its Reservoir No. 2 dam, officials said. A letter sent June 5, 2007, informed the village the dam had been rated “unsound,” meaning its safety could not be assured. The dam has a “Class C” hazard classification. If such a dam fails, “it could cause loss of life, seriously damage homes ... (and) cause severe economic loss,” according to a news release. An enforcement order announced by the DEC regional director requires the village to pay a \$10,000 penalty and meet certain deadlines toward making the dam compliant with state safety standards between now and October 31, 2010. The schedule laid out by the DEC requires the village to appoint a professional engineer to oversee work on the dam, to submit “an Inspection and Maintenance Plan” to the state by the end of June, and to submit “an Emergency Action Plan” by the end of October.

Source: <http://www.uticaod.com/archive/x1012438976>

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

## **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 <a href="mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov">NICCRports@dhs.gov</a> or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Removal from Distribution List:	Send mail to <a href="mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov">NICCRports@dhs.gov</a> 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](mailto: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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://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.