



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 June 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Associated Press reports that an emergency shutdown of a reactor at the Indian Point nuclear power plant was caused by radio frequency signals from a worker’s digital camera. The March 23 incident prompted Entergy to change its photography procedures. (See item [11](#))
- According to RCR Wireless News, the American Bird Conservancy and the Forest Conservation Council called for a freeze on all tower registrations and re-registrations until the Federal Communications Commission complies with environmental statutes at issue in a court ruling earlier this year. Conservationists point to studies showing avian mortality could be reduced drastically by requiring new towers to be outfitted with pulsing white or red lights. (See item [33](#))

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. *June 12, Bloomberg* – (International) **Nigeria union says Chevron talks ‘not going well.’** Nigeria’s senior white-collar oil workers’ union is making a final effort to avoid a strike amid what it describes as “trivialized” talks with Chevron Corp.’s local unit, an official said. “The talks are not going very well,” said the deputy secretary general of Petroleum & Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, or Pengassan. “We are

trying to see what we can do to reach both parties today and see how we can get the talks going positively,” he said. He said a strike could come as early as Friday should talks break down. A walkout may halt daily production of about 350,000 barrels of crude and 14 million cubic feet of natural gas from Chevron’s 32 fields in Nigeria.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=aLGnt4uqegG4&refer=energy>

2. *June 12, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Cedar River blasts past records; residents flee.** Downtown Waterloo and residential areas of Cedar Rapids were ordered evacuated Wednesday as record-setting flood levels on the Cedar River continued to punish parts of eastern Iowa. The governor of Iowa declared 53 counties as state disaster areas. The city of Vinton is without power. The facility that generated electricity flooded before noon Wednesday. University of Iowa officials also told the governor that coal-powered plants that supply energy to the university are at risk. Massive sandbagging efforts are under way on campus, they said.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080612/NEWS/806120395/1001>

3. *June 12, Greene County Daily World* – (Indiana) **Duke Energy’s power stays protected at Edwardsport.** After the White River’s water level rose to a dangerous 29.5 feet June 10, the Indiana National Guard arrived on site to assist in sandbagging operations, helping protect the Edwardsport Duke Energy power plant. As water pumps drained the excess out of the lower plant area, the plant operation supervisor said workers could not have saved the plant by themselves. On June 9, power was cut off in the plant to protect citizens and avoid damage to the electrical infrastructure of the eastern portion of Knox County; however White River’s waters could have still damaged the plant. According to an Indiana Army National Guard soldier, the water was getting dangerously high when they arrived. “A lot of the areas around the building were under water when we got here,” he said, pointing to water lines on the building. About 120 soldiers were sent to help the flooding at the plant, and about 30 Department of Correction inmate volunteers from Wabash Valley Correctional Facility were on hand to lend their physical support too.

Source: <http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1436418.html>

4. *June 11, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. grids to hold for summer, power prices to spike.** This summer across the U.S., the lights will stay on but Americans will pay more for it, power industry analysts said. The U.S. electricity reliability watchdog, the North American Electric Reliability Corp (NERC), said power disruptions are not expected nationally. In particular, NERC said that it will closely watch southern California and parts of the Southeast that are prone to drought. One analyst at Calyon Securities adds the Rocky Mountains to that list of regions to watch for reliability issues. “Average U.S. residential electricity prices are expected to increase by about 3.7 percent in 2008,” the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in its short-term energy forecast. During high summer demand, prices are seen spiking the most in the Midwest and the PJM

region that stretches from the upper Midwest to the Mid-Atlantic, said Barclays Capital in a research paper. So far this year, Texas has had the most price volatility. Texas, by far the state with the most wind power, is having problems integrating that renewable power to its grid, which is largely the reason for the high wholesale power prices there. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1132778120080611?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *June 12, Washington Post* – (National; International) **Chemical law has global impact.** Europe rolled out new restrictions on makers of chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems. These changes are forcing U.S. industries to find new ways to produce a wide range of everyday products. The new laws in the European Union (E.U.) require companies to demonstrate that a chemical is safe before it enters commerce. In the United States regulators must prove that a chemical is harmful before it can be restricted or removed from the market. Manufacturers say that complying with the European laws will add billions to their costs, possibly driving up prices of some products. Adamantly opposed by the U.S. chemical industry and the Bush administration, the E.U. laws will be phased in over the next decade. Any manufacturer wishing to produce or sell a chemical on that list must receive authorization. In the United States, laws in place for three decades have made banning or restricting chemicals extremely difficult. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has banned only five chemicals since 1976 and required additional studies for about 200 of the 80,000 chemicals in the U.S. market. Instead, the EPA relies on industry to voluntarily cease production of suspect chemicals.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/11/AR2008061103569.html?hpid=topnews>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *June 12, International Atomic Energy Agency* – (International) **In quake's aftermath, Chinese sift through rubble for radioactivity.** In the two weeks immediately following the 7.9-magnitude earthquake of May 12 in China, a team of radioactive source search and recovery experts fanned out across all disaster-stricken areas. The teams used radiation detection equipment to pinpoint the location of 50 sources and safely recover all of them, according to China's National Nuclear Safety Administration. Most of the sources were used in industry. "Immediately after the earthquake, experts from relevant Chinese authorities were sent to examine the safety status of nuclear facilities and radioactive sources within the quake zone," said a Chinese ambassador. "All nuclear facilities are safe and under control, and all radioactive sources have been recovered."

Source: <http://www.iaea.or.at/NewsCenter/News/2008/chinaquake.html>

7. *June 12, Reuters* – (Kansas) **Tornado hits university’s research reactor in Kansas.** A tornado damaged the building housing a nuclear research reactor at Kansas State University, the university told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in an event report early Thursday. The tornado caused extensive damage to the building, but no damage to the reactor, which had been shut down properly earlier in the day, the university said. Because of the event, the university declared an alert.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1228437320080612>
8. *June 12, Daily Camera* – (Colorado) **Federal inspector to study NIST spill.** The director of the federal lab where toxic material was spilled Monday said there was a small chance of contamination and that a federal inspector has been sent to investigate the incident. The director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology lab in Boulder said initial investigations into the small plutonium spill have revealed that all 22 employees monitored for radiation are fine. Three rooms closed off because of possible contamination will likely soon be reopened following the radioactive accident. On Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced it has sent a health physics inspector to the lab. The inspector will interview workers, inspect records, monitor the response to the incident, and publish a public report. The lab director also said outside investigators might be brought in to ensure an exhaustive inspection. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, external exposure to plutonium poses very little health risk, but internal exposure is an “extremely serious health hazard.” The lab director said he did not know how large of a sample would need to be ingested to do serious damage, “but based on what the allowable levels of exposure are, what may have been released is far, far below.”
Source: <http://www.dailycamera.com/news/2008/jun/12/federal-inspector-to-study-nist-spill/>
9. *June 12, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Carpenters strike at INL after firing by Boise companies.** About 60 union carpenters walked off the job at the Idaho Cleanup Project at the Idaho National Laboratory. Wednesday’s strike came after a carpenter was fired. The engineering companies overseeing the radioactive waste cleanup, CH2M Hill and URS Corporation’s Washington Group International, say the carpenter was terminated because he violated safety rules. But some members of the Carpenter and Millwright Local Union 808 said it was a simple engineering mistake by the carpenter and did not warrant firing. The companies say they expect workers to return after the one-day walkout.
Source: http://www.ktvb.com/news/localnews/stories/ktvbn-jun1208-iNL_firing.25110d07.html
10. *June 11, Reuters* – (International) **Cameco sees long-term uranium deficit, price rise.** Uranium prices should continue to be volatile over the next few years, but should rise in the long term as uranium supply falls well below global demand for the fuel, said Cameco Corp.’s chief financial officer on Wednesday. He said new construction of nuclear reactors, led by China, Russia, and India should result in steep uranium production deficits that will drive prices higher. He said the world’s fleet of about 440 nuclear reactors should grow by 83 by 2017, which should result in a cumulative deficit

of 450 million pounds of uranium to that point. Current reactor demand is seen at 182 million pounds this year, while mined output is expected to be about 125 million pounds. Spot prices hit a record high of \$136 a pound a year ago, but were around \$59 this past week. However, prices were below \$10 a pound as recently as 2002.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1128521220080611?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0>

11. *June 11, Associated Press* – (New York) **New York nuclear plant shutdown triggered by digital camera.** An emergency shutdown of a reactor at the Indian Point nuclear power plant was caused by signals from a worker’s digital camera, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Federal regulators said radio frequencies from a camera too close to a control panel interfered with a boiler pump that provides water to four steam generators, the Journal News reported. Water levels dropped because of the March 23 incident, and Indian Point workers had to shut down the reactor two days before a scheduled refueling shutdown. No radiation was released. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said plant owner Entergy Nuclear investigated the incident, determined it was initiated by someone taking photos, and reported it to the NRC. Entergy, which uses cameras to document its equipment and was taking photos as part of its preparation for the scheduled March 25 outage, has changed its photography procedures because of the incident, an NRC spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--indianpointshutdo0611jun11,0,1540899.story>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *June 11, Associated Press* – (International) **Britain investigates al-Qaida document leak.** Secret government documents on al-Qaida and Iraq were left on a commuter train, prompting a major police investigation into the latest in a series of high-level security breaches, British officials said Wednesday. The documents belonged to a senior intelligence official in the cabinet office and were found by a passenger on a London commuter train Tuesday. The seven pages stamped “UK Top Secret” included the latest government intelligence assessment on al-Qaida and Iraq’s security forces, the BBC said. The documents were also stamped “for UK/US/Canadian and Australian eyes only.”

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25099850/>

13. *June 11, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Army lauds relevance of future weapons for today.** The U.S. Army brought a new hybrid electric tank, an unmanned helicopter, and other weapons that make up the \$160 billion Future Combat Systems (FCS) modernization effort to Washington on Wednesday. FCS is a system of 14 major weapons linked by computer networks. Four initial technologies, including a portable missile system, and unattended ground sensors that collect intelligence, are being tested now and are due to be sent into combat with troops in 2011. The bulk of the FCS weapons systems are to be deployed in 2015. The “Non Line of Sight Cannon,” a large

tank operated by two soldiers, runs on a hybrid electric drive.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1147474620080611?sp=true>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *June 12, Ozarks First* – (Kentucky) **Latest bank scam uses text messages.** In Christian County, Kentucky, several Sheriff's departments' cell phones, along with others, have received a text claiming to be from Empire Bank. The message says the person's account has been closed and gives a number to call to reactivate it. Law enforcement officials say the message should be deleted.

Source: <http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=22771>

15. *June 12, Asbury Park Press* – (National) **Feds capture man in Lakewood wanted in \$4M bank-fraud scheme.** A two-day stakeout by U.S. Marshals resulted in the arrest of a Lakewood, New Jersey, man for an alleged multimillion dollar bank fraud scheme in Austria, police and the U.S. Marshals Service said. The man was arrested Tuesday on charges he participated in a fraud scheme that cost his alleged victims more than \$4 million. He was wanted for commercial fraud, inducing others to commit a breach of fiduciary trust and committing fraudulent bankruptcy. The complaint alleged he had cheated more than 43 European investors and 15 Austrian banks. Prosecutors did not specify what the alleged fraud involved or say whether the supposed fraudulent transactions took place in the U.S. or Europe.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080612/NEWS03/806120582/1007/NEWS03>

16. *June 12, Associated Press* – (National) **BBB: Scammers using nonexistent address to lure people.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) says a company is using a nonexistent Sioux Falls address to lure people to what the agency has labeled an advance fee loan scam. Warburg Lending Bureau has placed classified ads in newspapers across the U.S. and lists 200 North Phillips Avenue, Suite 401, as the address. The Commerce Building sits at 200 North Phillips - but it does not have a fourth floor. The Better Business Bureau says Warburg sends consumers a legitimate-looking contract to sign and return to an address in Canada. Then, they are told they have to prepay the first four installments. Subsequently, people are told on several more occasions that they have to send in even more money before they can get their loan funds.

Source: http://www.kmeg14.com/Global/story.asp?S=8480850&nav=menu609_2_5

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Transportation Sector

17. *June 12, Washington Times* – (National) **TSA faulted for accounting, security lapses.**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), because of weak accounting practices, is unable to provide documentation to back up \$585 million listed in its financial documents, according to an independent audit released this week. The report by KPMG LLP, a private international accounting firm, also found that TSA is not “consistently” conducting background checks on employees and contractors who provide security to information technology at the U.S. Coast Guard’s financial center - which does TSA’s accounting work - and that it gives employees too much access to the computer systems immediately after employment. TSA declined on Wednesday to elaborate specifically on the report. But it did say it is working on fixing the errors. Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/12/tsa-faulted-for-accounting-security-lapses/>

18. *June 11, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Train derailment clean-up continues, \$10k reward offered.** Investigators say someone purposely sabotaged the railroad tracks that caused a freight train derailment in Westminster, Colorado. The railroad company is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for sabotaging the tracks. The cleanup project continued Wednesday morning in Westminster where the freight train derailed and cars and locomotives stacked up against each other. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway officials say it was a tree stump purposely left on tracks that derailed four locomotives and 16 cars of the freight train late Monday night. Westminster police say they believe the stump was actually placed on the tracks about two hours before the derailment Monday night. They say they received a call about the stump on the tracks, and an officer responded and pushed it off of the tracks. But investigators say someone put it back, and then the freight train hit it. The train carrying lumber and building materials jumped the tracks about 10:35 p.m. Monday. The train included four engines and 37 rail cars. Three crew members were aboard when the derailment occurred. One was transported to a hospital with minor injuries.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxcolorado.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6743648&version=6&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *June 12, MarketWatch* – (National) **FDA food-safety plan lacks clear direction: GAO.** Federal investigators are voicing concern to Congress that the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) plan to keep the nation’s food supply safe lacks clear direction. Following a string of tainted-food scares, the FDA released a food-protection plan in November. However, the agency has since added few details about

implementation, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). On Thursday, the House Energy and Commerce's oversight and investigations subcommittee will examine the FDA's food-protection plan. As reports about tainted tomatoes are making headlines, there is concern that American lives are still at risk. It is unclear how much money FDA will need for its food protection plan, but the price tag could be significant, according to GAO. Overall, the FDA's proposal to focus inspections based on risk could be an efficient and effective approach, GAO said. Especially given that FDA's inspections have not kept pace with the growth of firms in recent years.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/fda-food-safety-plan-need-works/story.aspx?guid=%7B4D3072B9-37D3-435F-A339-418038E7D80E%7D&dist=hplatest>

20. *June 12, Associated Press* – (California) **FDA investigates dairy over unpasteurized milk.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently opened an investigation into whether a dairy owner illegally shipped raw milk across state lines. The FDA bans cross-border sales. The popularity of raw milk is fueled by consumers' concerns about the chemicals and hormones used in traditional dairy farming, and a growing interest in unprocessed, organic foods. Devotees of raw milk say the heat used in pasteurization kills healthy natural proteins and enzymes. The FDA insists pasteurization destroys harmful bacteria without significantly changing milk's nutritional value. The process also extends its shelf life. "Raw milk should not be consumed by anyone for any reason," said the head of the FDA's dairy office. "It is an inherently dangerous product."

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121323494542666795.html?mod=2_1566_leftbox

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Water Sector

21. *June 11, Associated Press* – (National) **Feds fine homebuilders for water pollution.** Four of the nation's largest homebuilders have agreed to pay \$4.3 million in fines for failing to control runoff at construction sites in 34 states and the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Justice Department announced Wednesday. The four companies (Centex Corp. of Dallas, KB Home of Los Angeles, Pulte Homes Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and M.D.C. Holdings Inc. of Denver) also agreed to take steps above what is required by law to keep 1.2 billion pounds of sediment out of the nation's waterways. Rain can carry contaminants such as dirt, stucco, paint, and other materials from construction sites into storm drains and nearby waterways. The settlements are part of a nationwide crackdown by the EPA to find storm water violations at construction sites. The Clean Water Act requires builders that disturb land to obtain permits and minimize runoff from rain. The companies named in the settlements allegedly failed to obtain permits before clearing land for subdivisions and to prevent silt and debris-laden runoff from leaving 2,202 construction sites from 2001 to 2005.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25107220/>

22. *June 11, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Judge strikes down key parts of Wash. water law.** A judge has declared key parts of a law governing water usage in Washington State unconstitutional. The Municipal Water Law has been controversial since it passed in 2003, with environmentalists, the state, and utilities disagreeing about the Legislature’s intent. Generally, it was designed to provide more certainty and flexibility for cities, utilities, and developers that draw water from streams and aquifers while also requiring more conservation. In an oral ruling Wednesday, a King County Superior Court judge said the Legislature overstepped its bounds by redefining developers as “municipal water suppliers” and by saying that water rights granted under a process later struck down by the Supreme Court remain valid. He upheld five sections of the law that had also been challenged. The state attorney general’s office said it is reviewing the decision, as did the Washington Water Utilities Council, which intervened on the state’s behalf. Appeals are expected, and lawyers on all sides expect the matter to wind up before the state Supreme Court.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_wa_water_lawsuit.html

23. *June 11, Grand Island Independent* – (Nebraska) **19 towns report sewage discharges into waterways.** Nineteen communities notified the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in the past week that raw sewage would be discharged into waterways. Grand Island on Tuesday began releasing untreated sewage into Eagle Scout Lake, which will then flow east into Merrick County. St. Paul on Monday began pumping raw sewage into a storm drainage ditch. In both Grand Island and St. Paul, rising groundwater due to recent rains has caused problems for the sewer system, necessitating the discharges of raw sewage. Such discharges are prohibited by DEQ, but a spokesman said DEQ typically foregoes enforcement on the discharges if a city can show that certain conditions exist. Additionally, a city that is discharging raw sewage should do routine testing and sampling of the discharges and should post notices to the public about the discharges.

Source: <http://www.theindependent.com/news/x390608160/19-towns-report-sewage-discharges-into-waterways>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *June 11, PC Magazine* – (National) **MIT uses nanotubes to detect deadly gases.** Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers are designing sensors that use carbon nanotubes to detect hazardous gases. Using carbon nanotubes, MIT chemical engineers have designed the most sensitive electronic detector yet for sensing deadly gases such as the nerve agent sarin. This sensor could prove to be critical in the protection against bioterrorism. The sensor has demonstrated high sensitivity in detecting minute traces of molecules mimicking nerve toxins. It could also detect mustard gas, ammonia, and so on. Sarin, which killed 12 people in a 1995 terrorist attack on the Tokyo subway, can kill at very low concentrations after 10 minutes. And Al-Qaeda came close to using deadly gas in the New York City subway system, according to a book. According to

MIT's site, this technology could also be used in cheaper, low-energy pocket-sized gadgets.

Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2319690,00.asp>

25. *June 11, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **WHO practices disease outbreak response in Canada.** World Health Organization experts initiated a two-day exercise on Wednesday testing responses to a simulated neurological disease outbreak in Thailand, Vietnam and Canada. WHO specialists were alerted to the outbreak at 5:00 am (0300 GMT), with simulated newscasts, news reports and country health expert reports beamed to a control room where a team including logistics, communications and laboratory science experts are monitoring the situation. The WHO team decided to alert all 194 member states to the risk of an epidemic outbreak. The two-day exercise beginning Wednesday involved about 100 WHO staff including the WHO's Director-General, as well as staff in the three countries. Consultants are also watching as the simulation unveils, and they are expected to give an evaluation of the procedure at the end of the exercise.

Source: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5iqfZabKKBwi_jsSYdlCyF6kAjYUg

26. *June 10, NewsMedical.net* – (National) **When it comes to catching an infection, planes no riskier than airports.** A study carried out by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau has found there is no greater risk of catching an infection on a plane than in any other crowded and confined space. Increasing numbers of people now travel by air for business and pleasure, but many people are concerned about whether, or to what extent, aircraft cabins represent an increased risk of transmission of infectious diseases. There is also the worry of the global spread of diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), TB and influenza which were reported to have been transmitted on board aircraft. The Bureau says the belief is that the air in planes is full of contaminants because it is continually recycled with limited input of fresh air, however the reality is that outside air enters an aircraft cabin at altitude and is at that point essentially sterile. The pattern of the airflow pattern and frequent air exchanges also minimize the spread of infections and the ventilation system is designed to allow air entering the cabin at a given seat row to be exhausted at the same seat row, thereby restricting the amount of air flowing towards the front and back of the aircraft. The study suggests that the danger of infections spreading on planes is unlikely and the health of passengers is only at risk when circulation and filtration systems are not functioning properly. But the bureau also found the increase in international travel has heightened the risk of infectious diseases spreading globally, and says the aviation industry should play a role in dealing with that risk.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=39095>

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *June 12, Bridgeton News* – (New Jersey) **Courthouse bomb hoax.** In New Jersey, activities resumed at Cumberland County Courthouse at about 1:30 p.m. after the investigation of a bomb threat Wednesday morning turned up no explosive device. This

is the latest in a string of recent threats called in concerning the courthouse within the last few months. No arrests have been made in any of those cases, and nothing has been found in any of these incidents.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/bridgeton/local/index.ssf?/base/news-15/1213243825278100.xml&coll=10>

28. *June 11, Reuters* – (International) **Lawmakers accuse China of hacking computers.** Two U.S. lawmakers active in human rights affairs said on Wednesday they believe their office computers were hacked from China and urged greater security for congressional computers. One, a U.S. representative from Virginia, said his office computers had been compromised in August 2006 and that he was told by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other officials the source of the attack was inside China. The other said his computer had also been attacked from China. The two lawmakers said the computers of other members and at least one committee have also been compromised. The representative from Virginia sponsored a resolution urging officials to take steps to increase awareness of the problem and make sure lawmakers are fully briefed on how to secure electronic equipment. He also called for congressional hearings on the attacks. The House debated the resolution late on Wednesday and referred it to the House Administration Committee for action. A member of the House Homeland Security Committee said House officials have already taken steps to improve computer security and to train staff on how to protect their electronic systems. She said lawmakers needed to be careful about using House computers to visit web sites in China where they can pick up malicious programs that attack their computers.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1138948520080612>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *May 12, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Danvers emergency personnel hone their skills with drill.** A mock casualty drill was held Wednesday in Danvers, Massachusetts, and involved local police and firefighters, Lyons Ambulance, Danvers Electric, and mall security. It revolved around the scenario of a school bus full of children crashing into a transformer. The crash sent high-voltage power lines to the ground and over the bus. The drill was a chance for the five agencies to work together in a unified command center to manage emergency response issues.

Source: http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_164003623.html

30. *June 11, WLOX 13 Gulfport* – (Mississippi) **Disaster drill trains first responders for commercial plane crash.** On Wednesday, firefighters, police, and ambulance workers took part in a disaster drill at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. The scenario was the crash of a major commercial flight. Airport officials say the Federal Aviation Administration requires drills every three years for airports to receive commercial certification and the drill ensures the community is ready to act if the worst happens. Ambulance workers, firefighters, and police practiced the training they received to deal with large scale emergencies. Airport officials say evaluators were on hand at the drill to review the strengths and weaknesses of the response.

Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=8465605&nav=6DJI>

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Information Technology

31. *June 12, Dark Reading* – (International) **Verizon study links external hacks to internal mistakes.** A study published yesterday by Verizon Business offers a new look at one of security's oldest problems and arrives at a new conclusion: While most breaches are executed by external attackers, the attacks are usually facilitated by security failures that were overlooked by internal staff, often for a long period of time. In the study, which was generated by analyzing data from more than 500 forensic investigations conducted between 2004 and 2007, Verizon reports that 73 percent of data breaches resulted from external sources. This includes breaches caused by business partners, a source of vulnerability that increased fivefold during the study. Only 18 percent of breaches were caused by insiders. But that does not mean internal parties do not contribute to the problem, Verizon asserts. In fact, the study also reveals that 62 percent of data breaches can be attributed to a significant error in internal behavior. Sixty-six percent of the breaches involved data that the victim organization did not know was on the system, and 75 percent of breaches are discovered by a third party, rather than someone inside the organization. These seemingly contradictory bits of evidence -- that most breaches are perpetrated by outsiders but facilitated by errors inside -- indicate that most security breaches are crimes of opportunity, in which a door is left open and attackers simply walk in, Verizon suggests. In fact, the study states specifically that 83 percent of attacks resulting in breaches are "not highly difficult" for the attacker. Eighty-five percent are the result of "opportunistic attacks," rather than targeted schemes, and 87 percent of the breaches probably could have been avoided through the proper enforcement of security controls, Verizon says.

Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=156243

32. *June 12, TechWorld.com* – (International) **Major security sites hit by cross-site scripting bugs.** The Web sites of three of the security industry's best-known companies include security flaws that could be used to launch scams against customers, according to a new report. The report, from security watchdog site XSSed, verified 30 cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities across the sites of McAfee, Symantec and VeriSign. The flaws could be used to launch scams or implant malicious code on the systems of visiting users, according to XSSed. Recent research has shown that attackers are increasingly -- even predominantly -- now using legitimate sites to host their malware, a tactic that makes the malware distribution sites more difficult to shut down. XSSed said its results show that even major security firms are not exempt from the problem. In January, XSSed found that 60 Web sites that had received a "Hacker Safe" certification from McAfee Inc.'s ScanAlert service were in fact vulnerable to XSS attacks. McAfee and other major security firms have downplayed the seriousness of XSS flaws, compared with, for instance, vulnerabilities that allow an attacker direct access to customer data stored on a server. In recent months, the real-world exploitation of XSS flaws has boomed, exploiting major Web sites such as MySpace.com, PayPal and a major Italian bank. Last week, ScanSafe Ltd. reported that 68 percent of all malware it

blocked in May was found on legitimate sites that had been hacked, more than quadruple the level of a year earlier.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9097118&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

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: <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/>.

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Communications Sector

33. *June 12, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **Conservationists call for freeze on tower registrations.** Conservationists called for a freeze on all tower registrations and re-registrations until the Federal Communications Commission complies with environmental statutes at issue in a court ruling earlier this year, likely signaling no let-up in a long-running feud over how to protect migratory birds from collisions with tall communications structures. The controversy, dating back to 2002, involves FCC licensing of 6,000 towers in the Gulf Coast. The American Bird Conservancy and the Forest Conservation Council argued the towers were illegally licensed because federal regulators failed to first assess potential implications for migratory birds under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit -- in a 2-1 ruling on February 19 -- said the FCC “failed to apply the proper NEPA standard, to provide a reasoned explanation on consultation under the ESA and to provide meaningful notice of pending tower applications.” In March, the FCC began a new rulemaking in response to the D.C. Circuit’s order. Cellular industry association CTIA, wireless infrastructure association PCIA, the National Association of Tower Erectors and the National Association of Broadcasters petitioned the FCC last month for an expedited rulemaking on issues raised in the court ruling. Conservationists point to studies showing avian mortality could be reduced drastically by requiring new towers to be outfitted with pulsing white or red lights (rather than steady burning red lights); requiring red lights on existing towers to be retrofitted with pulsing lights; restricting the use of guy wires; and other measures. The industry is not keen on costly and time-consuming retrofitting or change-out options, particularly any which conflict with Federal Aviation Administration, state or local regulations.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080612/SUB/204679616/1014/rss01>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *June 11, WFLX 29 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **Bomb threat forces local Walmart to shut down.** A bomb threat at the Walmart Supercenter in West Palm Beach caused its closure and evacuation for approximately three hours Tuesday. Police say a man called 911 and reported a bomb being placed inside the Walmart. Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue immediately responded to the scene, barricading every entrance to the store. After searching for a couple of hours, the bomb squad did not find explosive devices on the premises.

Source: http://www.wflxfox29.com/Global/story.asp?S=8462917&nav=menu98_2

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *June 11, KTRE 9 Lufkin* – (Texas) **Off-highway vehicle use now restricted on national forests.** Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas is now restricted, according to a forest supervisor. "OHV use on the National Forests is limited to designated routes, and the only such designation is the 85-mile multiple-use trail on the Sam Houston National Forest," the forest supervisor said. "Cross-country and off-road use of motorized vehicles of any type is prohibited." The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, after public participation through the National Environmental Protection Act decision-making process, is now implementing the 2005 Travel Management Rule. The forest supervisor added, "A small, but growing number of irresponsible OHV users are threatening the health of all national forests by driving far off-trail and damaging fragile plants, wetlands and ecosystems."

Source: <http://www.ktre.com/Global/story.asp?S=8464874>

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Dams Sector

36. *June 12, Xinhua* – (International) **Reservoir dam collapse kills six in central China.** The collapse of a reservoir dam in central China killed six and left one missing on Thursday, according to a county government source. The tragedy occurred at about noon at Xiangsiyuan Reservoir, a tourist site that is under construction. The dam suddenly collapsed, unleashing a torrent of water that drowned three students and three farmers. Another was still missing. An investigation is underway.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-06/12/content_8355643.htm

37. *June 12, WTMJ 4 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Lake Nagawicka rising, dam could fail.** In Wisconsin, the water is rising on Lake Nagawicka, and the dam might not be enough to keep the lake waters from overflowing its banks. A flash flood watch is in effect for Thursday, and more rain is expected. Waukesha County is under a state of emergency as a result of the flooding from this weekend's storms. For now, the major dams are holding in Delafield and down stream. Delafield feared its dam on Lake Nagawicka was going to break, so it released water into Mill Pond. One of the pond's smaller dams burst

sending water down the Bark River. Delafield officials believe the two major dams are stable and the plan to draw down Lake Nagawicka is working.

Source: <http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/19804809.html>

38. *June 12, WKOW 27 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **Dams stressed but holding up.** Residents in the small community of Lowell, Wisconsin, said the water level of the Beaver Dam River at the town's dam has never been higher. But after community members stacked 10,000 sandbags on the wings of the dam to fortify the structure and prevent water from topping, the Lowell dam is holding up. State officials said dams throughout southern Wisconsin were generally handling the increased flow of water from flood waters without any breaches leading to property damage.
Source: <http://wkow.madison.com/News/index.php?ID=22321>

39. *June 11, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Cleanup under way in Wisconsin, but more rain coming.** Wisconsin's governor continued to tour flooded areas Wednesday as residents and officials braced for more rain Thursday. Department of Natural Resources crews continued to check dams pressured by high water from weekend storms. With rain on the way in southwest Wisconsin, state engineers began letting water out of the Primmer Dam in Vernon County this morning as a precautionary measure. Across the state, authorities said the Mukwonago Dam was no longer in danger of breaking, after raising concern Tuesday when it became clogged with vegetation. The water level dropped 1.5 feet overnight, they said. Water also receded at the Rock River near Johnson Creek, allowing authorities to reopen the westbound lanes of Interstate 94. Detours were set up on Tuesday night after rising water threatened a bridge.
Source: http://www.twincities.com/allheadlines/ci_9551271

40. *June 11, WTHI 10 Terre Haute* – (Indiana) **Levee breaks on White River.** More flood problems occurred in the Wabash Valley along the White River. The river hit record high levels and knocked out a large section of levee between Plainville and Washington in Daviess County. The problems prompted local officials to call for voluntary evacuations. Even though the White River has broken through and topped levees, it is still coming through the area with incredible force, and officials say the force and size of the river makes this flood different. The river is close to topping the water wells for the city of Washington. Officials say that so far the river has not contaminated those wells.
Source: http://www.wthitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8466213&nav=menu593_2

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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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