



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 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/>

- According to Reuters, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said it will increase oversight at the Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper nuclear power station due to the misconfiguration of two of the plant's emergency operating procedures. (See item [8](#))
- The Des Moines Register reports that the flooding in Iowa caused a major environmental disaster. There have been reports of raw sewage flowing into rivers, small chemical tanks popping off their foundations, and gasoline and farm chemicals floating downstream. (See item [22](#))

### **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. *June 17, Reuters* – (International) **StatoilHydro eyes full Oseberg restart this week.** Norwegian oil and gas producer StatoilHydro hopes to restart the rest of production at its offshore platform Oseberg A oilfield sometime this week after a fire this weekend, the company said on Tuesday. A fire broke out on Sunday afternoon at its Oseberg A platform, a hub for nearby fields, but was quickly extinguished. The cause of the fire was still not known. Veslefrikk and Brage field in the North Sea has restarted production. Oseberg Field center, Oseberge South, Oseberg East, and Thune are still closed, and have cut production by some 150,000 barrels of oil per day. “The repair work is ongoing, and we think this might take a few days. We hope to restart production

sometime this week,” a spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSOSO00124220080617>

2. *June 17, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (National) **Tech problems block use of wireless in mines.** On the second anniversary of the signing of landmark coal-mine safety legislation, the top federal mine regulator acknowledged Monday that at least one of its requirements will not be met. The acting head of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) said the technology for two-way wireless communications underground – which the law said should be in place for emergencies by next June – does not exist yet. The 2006 law, called the MINER Act, does allow for alternatives, and he said MSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health are working on some. He said his agency has published new rules to make underground mine seals stronger, improve mine rescue teams, boost penalties for safety violations, provide more air to miners, and add lifelines miners can follow out of mines. The agency also is proposing a rule that allows for three different methods of providing refuges for trapped miners.  
Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080617/NEWS01/806170388>
3. *June 17, Associated Press* – (National) **MSHA adds 322 coal mine inspectors.** The federal agency responsible for mine safety has hired 322 inspectors over the past two years to scour the nation’s underground coal operations for unsafe working conditions. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has been beefing up its work force in an effort to increase inspections after a series of mining disasters from West Virginia and Kentucky to Utah. A report last year by the inspector general found that MSHA had failed to carry out inspections at 107 of the 731 underground coal mines operating in 2006, or 15 percent of the total. The MSHA chief said Monday the agency has 750 inspectors with the 322 new hires. But because of resignations and retirements, the new hires represent a net increase of 163 inspectors. He said he also has embarked on a plan to ensure inspectors complete required visits to every coal mine in the nation, aided by \$10 million earmarked for overtime pay this year. A mine safety advocate said that without additional inspectors, MSHA had been unable to meet a federal requirement to visit each mine four times annually.  
Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/263/story/435960.html>
4. *June 17, News Item* – (Pennsylvania) **Man killed in mine accident.** A miner was killed Monday morning in a fatal accident in a Pennsylvania anthracite mine, according to officials. The man was most likely covered by a rock fall from a roof at Harmony Mine, according to a U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration spokesperson. This is the second fatal accident at the mine, owned by UAE Coal Corp. Association, according to a state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) spokesman. Federal and state mining inspectors were on the scene, trying to puzzle out the specifics of the accident and whether the mine was safe to re-open. The state and federal agencies are withholding all other information pending an investigation. The other fatality in Harmony Mine happened in 1994, said the DEP spokesman, when roof coal fell, crushing a mine supervisor.

Source:

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19779124&BRD=2715&PAG=461&dept\\_id=558782&rfi=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19779124&BRD=2715&PAG=461&dept_id=558782&rfi=6)

5. *June 16, Reuters* – (National) **Anadarko ramps up production at Independence Hub.** Anadarko Petroleum Corp. said on Monday production has been successfully ramped up to a gross rate of about 900 million cubic feet of natural gas per day at the Independence Hub in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. The platform, the deepest production platform ever installed in the Gulf and the largest offshore natural gas processing facility, was restarted earlier this month after being shut down in early April because of a leak in the Independence Trail pipeline. The platform has a full production capacity of about one billion cubic feet per day, or 12 percent of U.S. offshore Gulf gas production, but was flowing about 900 million cubic feet daily at the time of the shutdown. Anadarko said it continues to expect its full-year 2008 production outlook to be within the previously announced range of 207 million to 212 million barrels of oil equivalent.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1646881920080616>

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

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *June 17, Politico* – (National) **Chemical industry blamed for stalling.** Politicians, environmentalists, and labor unions are accusing the chemical industry of deliberately trying to run out the clock on legislation designed to protect chemical facilities from terrorist attacks. The current 2006 statute that governs security at the nation's chemical facilities was designed as a temporary measure and is set to expire in October of next year. The chief lobbyist for the American Chemistry Council denied the industry was stalling. The Senate has not yet taken up the chemical security legislation. Congressional Democrats and regulation advocates say the current rules are not nearly strong enough and that government enforcement is weak and incoherent. On the other hand, the chemical industry is particularly concerned about a requirement that chemical facilities replace their most dangerous chemicals with safer alternatives if it is economically and technically feasible to do so.

Source: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11123.html>

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

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

7. *June 17, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Y-12 contractor fined for uranium chip fire.** The government has levied a \$123,750 fine against B&W Technical Services, the contractor at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant, for safety violations related to a uranium chip fire in 2007. More than 100 workers received radiation doses because of inhalation of smoke and airborne material created by the fire, according to the report released Monday. At the time of the fire, B&W said no workers were injured and none was contaminated with radioactive material. "I am concerned by the consequences of this event and the underlying deficiencies revealed by it," the head of the National

Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) said in a letter to the plant's general manager. Investigators cited weaknesses in the Oak Ridge plant's worker training, emergency response, "procedural adequacy," and other areas. The NNSA issued a preliminary notice of violation under the Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988, which governs nuclear safety at federal facilities and proposed a civil fine of \$123,750. The fine was reduced by 25 percent because of corrective actions taken by B&W following the incident.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/jun/17/y-12-contractor-fined-for-uranium-chip-fire/>

8. *June 16, Reuters* – (Nebraska) **NRC raises oversight at Nebraska's Cooper reactor.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Monday it will increase oversight at Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper nuclear power station in Nebraska due to a "white" inspection finding related to deficiencies in the plant's fire protection plan. In a release, the NRC said inspectors found two of the plant's emergency operating procedures, used to safely shut down the plant in the event of a large fire, would not work as written because they contained steps that did not reflect the actual configuration of some plant equipment. "As a consequence of this violation, these problems would have challenged the operators' ability to bring the plant to a cold shutdown condition in the event of certain fires," the NRC Region IV administrator said. "The problem was promptly corrected," he said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1626383620080616?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

9. *June 16, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Florida) **NRC issues Confirmatory Order to FPL following alternative dispute resolution.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a Confirmatory Order to Florida Power & Light (FPL) as part of a settlement agreement with the company involving the conduct of two contract workers at the St. Lucie nuclear plant who over-tightened a valve and documented that they used the correct torque wrench but later admitted using a different wrench. FPL management removed the workers from the site, but an NRC investigation found that the company failed to have site security assess the trustworthiness and reliability of the workers after they admitted to falsifying the work order. FPL has agreed to a number of corrective actions and enhancements to its Corrective Action Program, procedural revisions, training initiatives, and changes at other FPL-owned nuclear plants. As a result of these commitments, the NRC will not issue any violation or take other enforcement actions for these issues. The NRC staff will evaluate the FPL commitments during future inspections.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-035.ii.html>

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *June 17, Washington Post* – (National) **Man who sold missile technology to India receives 35-month sentence.** A 47-year-old businessman was sentenced to 35 months

in federal prison yesterday for illegally exporting more than \$2 million in ballistic missile technology to India. The U.S. district judge also ordered the businessman, who most recently lived in South Carolina, but is a citizen of Singapore, to pay a \$60,000 fine. U.S. authorities have expressed concerns about sending sensitive technology to India because it could aid in the development of the country's nuclear weapons program or get into the hands of rogue nations. The man pleaded guilty in March to trafficking in ballistic missile components and conspiring to violate restrictions on the proliferation of conventional weapons. After being released from prison, the businessman will be deported, officials said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061602429.html>

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *June 17, Buffalo News* – (National, International) **M&T sues German bank.** M&T Bank Corp. sued German banking giant Deutsche Bank AG Monday evening, accusing the global investment banking powerhouse of knowingly selling M&T unsafe mortgage investments. M&T is seeking to recover \$182 million in losses and punitive damages. The fraud lawsuit concerns two investment securities M&T purchased from Deutsche Bank in February 2007. At the time, M&T had hoped to earn higher returns than it could on U.S. Treasury bills and high-grade commercial debt issued by a company like General Electric Co. The action by M&T represents the latest effort by an investor that purchased mortgage-backed securities and related bonds to go after the lender or brokerage that sold the investments in the first place. Several such investor lawsuits have been filed by unions, pension funds, hospitals and municipalities such as Springfield, Massachusetts, alleging they were sold inappropriate investments. Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/145/story/372073.html>

12. *June 16, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Credit unions investigate weekend withdrawals overseas.** More than 100 credit union members in South Bend, Indiana, had money fraudulently taken from their accounts from ATMs over the weekend in places such as Russia, Ukraine, and Nigeria, officials said Monday. The senior vice president for sales and marketing said the withdrawals were not the result of an internal breach. Meanwhile, about 10 Notre Dame Federal Credit Union members reported similar withdrawals since Saturday, said the vice president of marketing and business development. He said there has been “some sort of data breach and fraudulent withdrawals” in Ukraine, Russia and Spain. Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-creditunions-brea,0,4053122.story>

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

## **Transportation Sector**

13. *June 17, Modesto Bee* – (California) **Modesto flight makes emergency landing.** A

United Express flight from Modesto to Los Angeles made an emergency landing in Bakersfield, California, on Monday morning after the cockpit and passenger compartment filled with smoke. All 30 passengers aboard the Embraer 120 propjet were evacuated safely from the plane. A spokeswoman for SkyWest Airlines, which operates the United Express flights from Modesto, said the airline is investigating what caused the smoke.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/331274.html>

14. *June 17, Rocky Mountain News* – (Colorado) **United inspects 737 that malfunctioned.** United Airlines is inspecting a Boeing 737 for the cause of a pressurization problem that forced a Seattle-bound flight to return to Denver International Airport Sunday. Three passengers were checked out at a local hospital as a precaution and released Sunday, a United Airlines spokeswoman said Monday. The United plane turned around about 20 minutes into the flight. The jetliner, with 121 passengers, three flight attendants and two pilots onboard, was climbing through 11,000 feet when the crew discovered the pressurization system was not working properly. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will review United's diagnosis and solution for the problem, the official said. If the problem appeared to be something that could recur, the FAA might notify other 737 operators to check their fleets.

Source: <http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/jun/17/united-inspects-737-that-malfunctioned/>

15. *June 16, KPHO 16 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Wheels on plane catch fire.** All 127 passengers on an arriving Southwest airlines flight are safe after two of the plane's wheels caught fire at about 11 a.m. Monday on the runway at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Arizona. Black smoke could be seen billowing from the right rear wheels as firefighters raced to the scene. Crews from the Phoenix Fire Department quickly extinguished the fire. The flight was arriving at the airport from Austin, Texas. Southwest officials said overheated brakes triggered the blowout. The aircraft was hauled to a Southwest maintenance facility where mechanics began their inspection.

Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/16621414/detail.html>

16. *June 16, Cutting Edge* – (National) **Liquefied natural gas tankers remain giant terror targets.** Security measures currently in place make Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals and ships extremely hard targets for terrorists. However, it would be imprudent to believe that terrorists are either incapable or unwilling to attack such targets. Many ships operate under grossly unregulated "open registry" or "flags of convenience" registries and often originate from ports with poor security systems in place. Due to a lack of any meaningful international regulatory oversight, it would be possible for someone to work under a different identity on board one of these tankers and avoid detection. Under the current system, no completely trustworthy and uniform system is in place for vetting foreign mariners. Background checks are conducted on Americans by the Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). However, these same background checks are not performed on foreign crews. Although this is an issue of security for all cargo ships, it is even more critical for ships carrying potentially dangerous cargo, such as LNG. Two or three terrorists infiltrating an LNG

tanker could cause serious damage by one taking control of the ship and the other(s) detonating an onboard explosion as the tanker enters a busy harbor.

Source: <http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=531>

17. *June 16, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Replacing St. Paul's Lafayette Bridge now scheduled for 2010.** Nearly 90,000 drivers a day got welcome news Monday, when the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) announced a major bridge improvement plan that would move up by a year the replacement of the Lafayette Bridge, which spans the Mississippi River in downtown St. Paul. Construction of a replacement for the bridge is now slated to begin in 2010. The Lafayette is one of 11 major highway and freeway spans to be replaced over the next decade under the draft \$2.5 billion bridge improvement plan. According to MnDOT, construction of the new Lafayette bridge will cost between \$170 million and \$200 million. Among the other bridges to be replaced are ones crossing the Mississippi at Hastings, Winona, and St. Cloud. MnDOT has labeled the Lafayette Bridge a Tier 1 bridge, which means that the commissioner has identified it as a priority project.

Source:

[http://www.startribune.com/local/stpaul/19974624.html?location\\_refer=Faith%20+%20Values](http://www.startribune.com/local/stpaul/19974624.html?location_refer=Faith%20+%20Values)

18. *June 16, KFTY 50 San Francisco* – (California) **San Francisco bomb scare.** A San Francisco police bomb squad responded Monday morning to a suspicious package that prompted some evacuations and a closure of 16th Street, a police lieutenant said. Police responded to a breezeway where they located some sort of package with visible 25 mm shells and wires, said the official. With the help of a bomb squad robot, officers used equipment to detonate at least four devices before rendering the situation safe shortly after noon, according to the official. No one was injured during the incident.

Source: [http://www.kfty.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=dbd41095-afc1-43e4-8ad9-bc8faa549c45](http://www.kfty.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=dbd41095-afc1-43e4-8ad9-bc8faa549c45)

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *June 17, Bioniche Life Sciences Inc.* – (International) **Bioniche presents E. coli O157:H7 vaccine data to International Congress of Medical Microbiology in Serbia.** Bioniche Life Sciences Inc., a Canadian biopharmaceutical company, presented data regarding its E. coli O157:H7 cattle vaccine at the sixth Congress of Medical Microbiology – Mikromed 2008 in Belgrade, Serbia, last weekend. The Bioniche vaccine is the world's first vaccine that may be used as an on-farm intervention to reduce the amount of E. coli O157:H7 shed by cattle. Bioniche and its collaborators

have been moving the vaccine towards commercial availability for eight years and it has been extensively tested at the University Nebraska-Lincoln, with efficacy results now being published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Food recalls due to E. coli O157:H7 contamination continue to be a concern in beef, produce, and prepared food. On-farm interventions to reduce the shedding of E. coli O157:H7 by cattle, such as vaccination, may assist in reducing the potential for food and water contamination and the resulting human illnesses and deaths.

Source: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/bioniche-presents-e-coli-o157h7,435329.shtml>

20. *June 17, Daily Press* – (National) **Five more states, D.C. report salmonella patients.**

One part of Mexico has been cleared of suspicion in the outbreak of salmonella-tainted tomatoes, which U.S. officials said Monday now have sickened 277 people.

Washington, D.C. in addition to five more states have reported patients, up from 23 states last week, although some might have been infected while traveling. At least 43 people were hospitalized.

Source: [http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-news\\_nbrfs\\_06170jun17,0,2307641.story](http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-news_nbrfs_06170jun17,0,2307641.story)

21. *June 16, WisBusiness* – (National) **USDA’s organic factory farming scandal continues to unravel.**

The United States Department of Agriculture announced this week that Promiseland Livestock, LLC, a 22,000-head cattle producer, had “willfully” violated the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, the law regulating the industry. Promiseland and its principal owner were found by the USDA to have failed to keep adequate records, the backbone of organic certification, to confirm that all their cattle were managed organically. Promiseland management also refused on multiple occasions to openly share records with the USDA and prevented agency officials from carrying out an unannounced inspection at Promiseland’s facilities. The Cornucopia Institute, an organic industry watchdog based in Cornucopia, Wisconsin, has filed a series of legal complaints against giant industrial dairies representing their milk as organic. The USDA’s Promiseland investigation is a direct result of Cornucopia’s investigative work targeting Aurora Dairy, the nation’s largest supplier of private-label organic milk and supplier to Wal-Mart, Target, Costco, and other major retailers. Aurora was obtaining dairy herd replacement animals from Promiseland, the nation’s largest supplier of organic dairy replacement animals.

Source: <http://www.wisbusiness.com/index.iml?Article=128833>

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

## **Water Sector**

22. *June 17, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Sewage, chemicals, fuel contaminate waterways.**

The massive flooding in Iowa has caused a major environmental disaster, state inspectors said Monday. Raw sewage is flowing into rivers throughout central and eastern Iowa. Hog and cattle manure also is rushing downstream. Small chemical tanks are popping off their foundations, sending a potentially explosive threat down rivers. There also have been reports of runaway tanks and drums holding propane, gasoline,

and farm chemicals floating downstream, said the supervisor of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) regional environmental-protection offices. The DNR also fears underground storage tanks may pop to the surface of floodwaters like fishing bobbers, and begin leaking fuel. Already, gas stations in Oakville and Columbus Junction are flooded. It could be weeks before dozens, if not hundreds, of severely damaged sewage-treatment plants are operating again. Among the cities that have released at least some raw sewage: Ames, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Huxley, and Perry. Cedar Rapids' plant is shut down and expected to be offline for up to two months, and Coralville officials fear major repairs will be needed at the plant there. Des Moines is sending a small fraction of wastes into the Des Moines River. Late Monday, plants at Keosauqua and Bonaparte in southeast Iowa were threatened by floodwater, and Ottumwa was bypassing some wastes, DNR officials said. Officials in Burlington, also in the southeast corner of the state, shut down the city's sewage-treatment plant, and pulled the pumps out of the flooded plant so they could be restarted quickly when waters recede. All Burlington sewage is going into the Mississippi River now.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080617/NEWS/806170377/-1/NEWS04>

23. *June 17, Bloomberg* – (International) **EU approves limits on chemicals in surface water.** The European Union approved limits on chemical pollution of surface water, expanding an environmental-protection campaign with legislation the EU says will reduce the cost of producing drinking water. The European Parliament voted Tuesday to set concentration limits for 33 substances including pesticides and heavy metals in rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. EU governments, which had already given their approval, will have until 2018 to meet the standards. The EU endorsed laws two years ago to control chemicals in ground water and to force manufacturers and importers to provide more safety information on substances in Europe's \$800 billion chemicals market. The new rules covering surface water were foreseen under European water-protection plans introduced eight years ago. The 27-nation EU's final approval came after the Parliament backed down from demands to add substances including medicines and fragrances to the scope of the legislation.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=aMNUanfnBYoc&refer=germany>

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *June 17, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **AMA calls physician reimbursements flawed.** Insurance companies often fail to properly reimburse doctors, needlessly adding more than \$200 billion a year to the nation's healthcare tab, the American Medical Association said Monday. An analysis of 3 million medical claims over a six-month period beginning in October also found that doctors in the U.S. spend 14 percent of the fees they receive from insurers and Medicare on the process of collecting those fees, the AMA said in a report issued at its annual meeting in Chicago. The analysis sized up

insurers and Medicare on how often they paid on time, how often they denied claims and how often they paid at the contracted rate and other measures. Medicare outperformed commercial insurers in many areas, and some insurers paid physicians' bills better than others. Improving the processing of medical claims could reduce overall costs to patients, physicians, insurers and others, the report said.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-insure17-2008jun17,0,4571342.story>

25. *June 17, Occupational Health and Safety* – (National) **APIC study finds MRSA rates eight times higher than estimated.** The Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) has released its “Pace of Progress” survey data today during its 35th Annual Educational Conference and International Meeting. The survey is the result of a national online poll of infection prevention and control professionals that was conducted to determine whether news about escalating rates of MRSA has led to increased efforts to combat healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). Among its findings, the study revealed that MRSA rates are eight times higher than previously estimated. In 1972, MRSA accounted for only two percent of all *Staphylococcus aureus* HAIs reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Today, MRSA accounts for more than 60 percent of *Staphylococcus aureus* infections. Also, APIC reports, the MRSA death rate has been estimated to be more than 2.5 times higher than infections from *Staphylococcus aureus* that are susceptible to methicillin.

Source: <http://www.ohsonline.com/articles/64422/>

26. *June 17, Xinhua* – (International) **China confirms bird flu outbreak in Guangdong Province.** An outbreak of bird flu in China's southern Guangdong Province is under control, the Ministry of Agriculture said on Tuesday. The testing of dead ducks at Yashan Village in recent days detected the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, the ministry said in a brief statement, without giving any dates for when the outbreak began. A total of 3,873 ducks died and another 17,127 ducks were culled, it said. Emergency measures have been taken and the epidemic has been brought under control, the ministry said.

Source: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-06/17/content\\_8387111.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-06/17/content_8387111.htm)

27. *June 16, United Press International* – (National) **Source of drug tolerant TB is discovered.** Scientists at the University of Pittsburgh say they have found the source of drug-tolerant tuberculosis, as well as the bacteria causing TB relapses. The researchers discovered the primary bacteria behind tuberculosis can grow on surfaces and that drug-tolerant strains flourish in such bacterial communities. The finding suggests a possible reason why human TB requires months of intensive antibiotic treatment and indicates a potential cause of the relapses that can occur. The researchers said they are the first to show *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* can grow in surface-level bacteria clusters known as biofilms that are common in nature, but never before shown for TB bacteria. The research was reported recently in the journal *Molecular Microbiology*.

Source:

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2008/06/16/Source\\_of\\_drug\\_tolerant\\_TB\\_is\\_discovered/UPI-24531213642630/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2008/06/16/Source_of_drug_tolerant_TB_is_discovered/UPI-24531213642630/)

## Government Facilities Sector

28. *June 17, Las Cruces Sun-News* – (New Mexico) **Fire crews slow Dripping Springs blaze on Monday.** In New Mexico, total burned acreage in the Organ Mountains grew slightly Monday, while officials attempted to work out a plan for battling the blaze as it moved across restricted-access land overseen by the U.S. Department of Defense. The majority of the fire had crossed to the eastern slope of the mountains and onto White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss territory, which presented difficulties for fire crews, said a fire information official with the federal Bureau of Land Management. Among challenges were that helicopters initially could not fly into the area because airspace is restricted, and certain areas on the ground could be dangerous to crews because of unexploded ordinance.

Source: [http://www.lcsun-news.com/news/ci\\_9607201](http://www.lcsun-news.com/news/ci_9607201)

29. *June 16, WCTV 6 Tallahassee* – (Florida) **Local courthouse evacuated after multiple bomb threats.** Monday morning three bomb threats were called in to the Thomas County Courthouse. Evacuated workers lined the streets, roads were blocked off by emergency vehicles, and authorities were left wondering who could be responsible for all of it. Authorities say shortly before 9:00 a.m. Monday they got word a bomb threat had been called in to the Thomas County Courthouse. Moments later a second threat was called in forcing authorities to evacuate close to 50 people from the building. Once authorities searched the building and told everyone it was okay to re-enter, a third bomb threat was called in. For close to two hours, Sheriff's investigators, Thomasville Police, Fire, and EMS officials were on scene searching the building and directing traffic away from the courthouse.

Source: <http://www.wctv.tv/home/headlines/19986789.html>

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

## Emergency Services Sector

30. *June 17, Nevada Appeal* – (Nevada) **Hospital tents up and fully functional as part of disaster drill.** As part of Vigilant Guard, a joint emergency preparedness exercise, mobile field hospitals able to treat hundreds of patients were set up in the north parking lot of Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center on Monday. Vigilant Guard is a full-scale emergency preparedness drill designed to test, sharpen and evaluate the skills and coordination of local, state and federal civilian response agencies and National Guard units from Nevada and several Western states, including Hawaii. The public health planner for Carson City Health and Human Services said that in the event of a disaster in which hundreds of people were injured, or if the hospital were destroyed, the state-of-the-art tents would be put into use to care for the injured. A 200-bed tent, belonging to the Nevada State Health Division, had a fully equipped 20-bed intensive-care unit, 180 medical beds, a 20-bed emergency room and trauma center, operating suite, portable digital X-Ray and lab, self-sufficient oxygen generator and staff housing for 150. The three conjoined tents are able to sustain winds of 100 mph. She said the city's 24-bed unit is easily assembled by six people in just over four hours. The larger unit took some

15 hours to fully assemble.

Source:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20080617/NEWS01/55670782/1063/HOMEGAR DEN&parentprofile=-1>

31. *June 17, Summit Daily News* – (Colorado) **Operation Bug Out ‘08’ will simulate mass wildfire evacuation.** To prepare for the threat of wildfires this season, local agencies in Summit County will be testing their emergency evacuation plans this Thursday in the southeast corner of Frisco. Some 13 different agencies will come together to simulate the evacuation of several Frisco neighborhoods, the County Commons, St. Anthony’s Summit Medical Center and the Summit County Animal Control. Starting at 11 a.m. a reverse-911 phone message will be used to alert residents that a training exercise is taking place, but no residents will be asked to leave their homes during the drill.

Source:

<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20080616/NEWS/547465572/0/FRONTPAGE>

32. *June 16, Huntington Herald-Dispatch* – (West Virginia) **Emergency drill planned for Tuesday.** Cabell County emergency officials participated Tuesday in an international, mass evacuation drill. The scenario involves motorists evacuating Washington, D.C., in an emergency, in numbers that would overwhelm West Virginia’s infrastructure and many amenities, such as gasoline stations, restaurants and motels. The drill will transform a vacant piece of land in KineticPark along Interstate 64 into a massive comfort station with tents, water and portable fuel. Emergency officials will be timing themselves to gauge the time it takes to call in requests, transport the items and install them for service at the station. Organizers hope to have Cabell County’s station fully operational within six to eight hours — the estimated drive time from Washington under normal circumstances. The drill is sponsored by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which refers to the exercise as the “2008 Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration.” The mission will be aimed at gauging communication abilities between governments — domestic and international. Some Canadian officials will participate, said Secretary James Spears of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety.

Source: <http://www.herald-dispatch.com/homepage/x1607434804/Emergency-drill-planned-for-Tuesday>

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

## **Information Technology**

33. *June 17, IDG News Service* – (National) **Former ‘spam king’ must pay MySpace \$6 million.** A Colorado man has been ordered to pay \$6 million in damages and legal fees for spamming thousands of MySpace.com users. The man, who was once accused of sending more than 100 million spam messages per day, was sued by MySpace in January 2007 in connection with an August 2006 campaign in which MySpace members were hit with unsolicited messages promoting a Web site called Consumerpromotionscenter.com. The messages were sent from phished MySpace accounts, according to the findings of the court-appointed arbitrator in the case. The messages were sent to a MySpace community that was ill-equipped to deal with any

security problems.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9098698&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9098698&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

34. *June 16, Computerworld* – (International) **Researchers urge ransomware victims to try file-recovery app.** On Monday, Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab, the security company that two weeks ago said it would lead a group effort to crack an encryption key used in a “ransomware” scam offered victims more-practical advice as it published instructions on how to recover data thought lost to the extortionists. Kaspersky added the instructions, which rely on an open-source file-recovery utility, to its writeup of Gpcode.ak, the Trojan horse that it first warned users about on June 8. At the time, Kaspersky said that Gpcode.ak encrypted 143 different file types on compromised Windows PCs and deleted the original unencrypted files before displaying a message telling users that they could ransom the data by purchasing a decrypting tool. A week ago, a Bulgarian security researcher reported that the hackers were demanding \$100 to \$200 for the unlocking program. Monday, Kaspersky said users might be able to recover the Gpcode.ak-deleted files without paying the ransom. “It is possible to restore a deleted file as long as the data on disk has not been significantly modified,” noted a Kaspersky researcher on the company’s blog. He recommended that users download PhotoRec, an open-source file-recovery utility that runs on Windows and other operating systems. Kaspersky Lab’s analysis of Gpcode.ak has been expanded to include step-by-step instructions on how to recover files the Trojan horse deleted but that actually remain on the drive. The company also crafted a second utility, dubbed “StopGpcode,” that finishes the work PhotoRec starts by restoring the filenames and folder organization of recovered files.

Source:

[http://computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime\\_and\\_hacking&articleId=9098338&taxonomyId=82&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime_and_hacking&articleId=9098338&taxonomyId=82&intsrc=kc_top)

### 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

35. *June 17, Express-Times* – (Pennsylvania; New Jersey) **Web woes caused by blaze, RCN says.** A fire in a fiber optic line somewhere between the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia caused a disruption in Internet service Sunday for RCN customers, according to a company executive. An announcement Sunday on the company’s automated phone system said a region-wide system failure was caused by a “fiber cut.”

Some television customers were affected as well, the company said in an updated telephone message about 9:45 p.m. Sunday. The general manager of RCN-Pennsylvania said Monday he would not have specifics available until Tuesday, but the problem involved an electrical situation that required repairs first by an electric utility. RCN provides cable, Internet, and telephone service in the Lehigh Valley and parts of New Jersey.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/business/expresstimes/index.ssf?/base/business-1/121367552671560.xml&coll=2>

36. *June 16, IDG News Service* – (National) **Microsoft, Nortel offer hosted unified communications.** Microsoft and Nortel on Monday introduced a fully hosted unified-communications and collaboration service for carriers, the first entirely hosted carrier-grade offering to come out of an alliance struck between the companies two years ago. At the NXTcomm08 conference in Las Vegas, Microsoft and Nortel unveiled a suite based on Nortel Communications Server 2000, an IP multimedia softswitch, and the Microsoft Solution for Hosted Messaging and Collaboration Version 4.5 (HMC 4.5), a combination of hosted versions of both Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 and Microsoft Exchange Server 2007. Carriers can use the software to offer hosted unified communications for their customers, which opens up the service to a broader customer base. Unified communications is the term for an integrated, IP-based software or hosted package that gives companies telephony, corporate instant-messaging, e-mail, video-conferencing, and other tools for allowing business workers to collaborate from one user interface. In March, Nortel and Microsoft teamed up to offer a hybrid of hosted and on-premises unified-communications software and services for carriers based on a previous version of HMC. However, customers still had to install some of the infrastructure on site, which is cost-prohibitive for some companies. A fully hosted offering extends the service to small and medium-size businesses that cannot afford to deploy complex infrastructure on site, the companies said.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/147138/microsoft\\_nortel\\_offer\\_hosted\\_unified\\_communications.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/147138/microsoft_nortel_offer_hosted_unified_communications.html)

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

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

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

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

37. *June 16, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Wildfire chars over 1,800 acres of BLM, military land in NM.** A 1,843-acre wildfire in the Organ Mountains east of Las Cruces, New Mexico, grew by a few hundred acres as it meandered through unburned fuels and made a run up slopes to the top of the ridge. Firefighters are patrolling the blaze and protecting historic structures in the canyon, including the old Boyd sanitarium and a

hotel. A U.S. Bureau of Land Management fire information officer says most of the activity is in the interior of the fire and on the ridge line.

Source: [http://www.kdbc4.com/Global/story.asp?S=8501030&nav=menu608\\_2\\_1](http://www.kdbc4.com/Global/story.asp?S=8501030&nav=menu608_2_1)

38. *June 16, Washington Post* – (National) **Congress pushes to keep land untamed.**

Congress has embarked on a push to protect as many as a dozen pristine areas this year in places ranging from the glacier-fed streams of the Wild Sky Wilderness to West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. By the end of the year, conservation experts predict, this drive could place as much as 2 million acres of unspoiled land under federal control, a total that rivals the wilderness acreage set aside by Congress over the previous five years. In recent weeks the House has passed six wilderness bills, including Wild Sky, which would protect more than 500,000 acres. The Senate Energy and Resources Committee approved another four wilderness bills and the panel could pass more, an effort that the committee chairman said was aimed at addressing "some pent-up demand for bills that had been in the works for most of the last decade."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/15/AR2008061502137.html?sid=ST2008061600539>

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

## **Dams Sector**

39. *June 17, CNN* – (Iowa; Missouri) **Flood shuts down Mississippi River bridge.** Flood water could spill over about two dozen levees along the Mississippi River in Iowa and Missouri this week unless people top the levees with enough sandbags, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Monday. That assessment raises the prospect of further floods in Iowa and Missouri after floodwaters killed five people, displaced 38,000 others, and damaged \$1 billion worth of crops in Iowa alone. If National Weather Service forecasts are accurate, rain will raise the Mississippi River this week to a point where water will spill over 26 or 27 levees between Davenport, Iowa, and St. Louis, Missouri, about 200 miles away, said a spokesman for the Corps. "Across eastern Iowa, the flooding rivers have washed out railroad lines; Mississippi barge traffic has come to a halt; and closed major roadways," said the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/06/17/midwest.flooding/>

40. *June 17, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **NOAA: New Orleans at risk from Cat. 2 hurricane.** Government forecasters say it might not take more than a strong Category 2 hurricane to breach the levees and flood New Orleans. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says it is not surprised by that either. The new report uses what is said to be the most accurate and complete picture yet of the region's levee heights. It concludes that the area surrounding New Orleans is, in fact, among the nation's most hurricane-vulnerable. The NOAA storm surge estimates do not take into consideration possible engineering failures, like the levee breaches that caused much of the misery in New Orleans during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Source: [http://www.wtte28.com/template/inews\\_wire/wires.national/254fe253-www.wtte.com.shtml](http://www.wtte28.com/template/inews_wire/wires.national/254fe253-www.wtte.com.shtml)

41. *June 16, WHO 13 Des Moines* – (Iowa) **City keeps eye out for sinkholes in levee system.** The river is dropping, the sandbagging has stopped, but officials are still closely watching the levees in Des Moines to make sure they hold through these last few days of flooding. The water level is dropping along the Des Moines River downtown, and the river is actually several feet from the tops of the levees. Now, concern is shifting to the bottom of the levees. The trail on the top of one levee has collapsed into a sinkhole that appeared over the weekend, and at the base of another levee there is another hole. In both places, river water started seeping through. The public works director says the problem appears to be active – or abandoned – sewer systems. When they were operating, they had to run under the old levees to drain into the river, and now, all the pressure is causing the old pipes to break or shift. That is creating a void under the levee. Source: <http://www.whotv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8496484>
42. *June 16, KHQA 7 Keokuk* – (Missouri) **Hannibal continues to watch levee/river.** The city of Hannibal, Missouri, is continuing its efforts to fortify and maintain its levee system. The emergency management director says the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is working to fix some boils on the levee. Officials are now patrolling the levee to keep sightseers from climbing it. Experts say too many people going to the top could damage the levee and compromise its integrity. Source: [http://www.khqa.com/news/news\\_story.aspx?id=147826](http://www.khqa.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=147826)

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

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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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).

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