



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 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 the Wall Street Journal, the National Transportation Safety Board’s call for retrofitting planes with fuel-tank designs, like those that exploded in TWA Flight 800, has been bogged down for more than a decade inside the Federal Aviation Administration. (See item [17](#))
- KVAL 13 Eugene reports that Oregon authorities are tightening security in Eugene in preparation for the Olympic trials. Authorities are setting up metal detectors and using bomb-sniffing dogs to check vehicles and garbage receptacles, and 60 armed officers will be stationed inside the venue. (See item [41](#))

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 27, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil rises above \$142 for first time as investors spurn stocks.** Crude oil rose above \$142 a barrel for the first time as falling stock markets spurred investment in commodities. Crude oil for August delivery rose \$1.20, or 0.9 percent, to \$140.84 a barrel at 11:43 a.m. on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Futures advanced as much as \$2.62 a barrel to a record \$142.26 earlier Friday. On Thursday, the contract jumped \$5.09, or 3.8 percent, to \$139.64 a barrel, a record settlement price, as Libya threatened to cut output. “I don’t know when this rally will end because there are too many folks in the finance community betting on prices to

rise,” said the director of oil practice at Energy Security Analysis Inc. in Massachusetts. “Gains have nothing to do with the physical market.”

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=a_uht.SJQn_k&refer=energy

2. *June 26, Reuters* – (International) **BP blames high oil prices on tight production.** Today’s high energy prices stem from a failure to invest in production capacity and not from a lack of resources, and there are enough oil reserves to meet world demand for years, a BP Plc executive said on Thursday. Investment in production facilities and infrastructure lagged during the era of low prices, hampering current efforts to bring supplies to market, the executive said. “So today’s high energy prices do not result from any absolute lack of resources but from a tightness in production capacity, the ability to respond smoothly to demand,” he said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2643270620080626>
3. *June 26, Reuters* – (National) **Grid agency issues advisories after Feb. blackout.** The North American electric grid watchdog issued three advisories on Thursday to urge utilities to take steps to avoid a repeat of events that ballooned into a four-hour blackout in Florida in February. While electricity was restored to many Florida customers in an hour, the February 26 event ranked a four out of five in severity, according to the North American Electric Reliability Corp (NERC). “This event has brought to light a few key issues about the behavior of the system that the entire industry can use to improve the bulk power system’s response to future disturbances,” said NERC’s director of events analysis. Human error was cited as the primary cause of the blackout by Florida utility Florida Power & Light just a few days after the event. NERC said one advisory was aimed at the root cause of the Florida outage – the worker’s decision to disable key safety systems. The grid agency urged the industry to review practices and procedures to ensure that proper authorizations are obtained before such measures are taken. NERC’s other advisories related to the ability of power plants to “ride-through” changes in voltage or frequency without disconnecting from the grid, the agency said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2637694920080626?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=10216>
4. *June 26, Agence France-Presse* – (Texas) **Oilfield thefts soar in Texas as prices boom.** The wide open oilfields of west Texas are ripe pickings for thieves these days. Some drive up to one of the thousands of pump jacks that dot the countryside and siphon crude out of the storage tanks. Some pull up to a drill site after the crews have gone for the night and haul away tools, pipes, and equipment. Others take kickbacks or file false invoices. It has gotten so bad that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is launching a joint task force to tackle oilfield theft next month. “There’s oilfield theft running rampant,” said the Midland County sheriff. “Maybe we’re getting 20 percent of the crime reported. It might be closer to 10,” said the manager of investigations for David H. Arrington Oil and Gas. So far nobody has tried to steal from an actual pipeline. But there have been cases of operators who bypassed the quality controls and pumped used

motor oil or even water into the pipeline to mask the losses, which causes big problems for the refineries at the end of the line, the sheriff said. The FBI joint task force will focus on shutting down the fencing operations which deal in critical parts and clamping down on the white collar crime, said a special agent. “We think a lot of this theft is organizationally driven – it’s groups of 10, 12 people,” he said. There were more than 500 reported cases of oilfield theft in Texas from 2005 to 2007, and the losses came close to \$78 million, he said. The loss to the oil companies often goes beyond the value of the stolen goods. Parts are in short supply, and if a key piece of equipment is stolen, drilling or production can grind to a halt for days or even weeks until a replacement can be found.

Source: http://business.maktoob.com/NewsDetails-20070423172430-Oilfield_thefts_soar_in_Texas_as_prices_boom.htm

5. *June 26, Sioux City Journal* – (Nebraska) **Power plant explosion burns two.** Two city employees were burned Wednesday morning when a power-generation engine at the West Point, Nebraska, power plant exploded. The city administrator said the two employees were on a catwalk performing maintenance when the incident occurred. “Basically they were going through a breaking process with the engine, which had just been rebuilt, so they were bringing it online and making the maintenance adjustments on it, when kind of a flash explosion occurred,” he said. The power plant sustained no physical damage, according to the administrator. The extent of the engine’s damage is unknown at this time. He said the exact cause of the explosion has not been determined.

Source:

<http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2008/06/26/news/local/686b6bdd949fed108625747300780c24.txt>

6. *June 26, Anderson Independent Mail* – (South Carolina) **Fire near fuel storage facility in Seneca is contained.** A fire broke out in the woods near a BP fuel storage facility in Seneca Wednesday afternoon, and firefighters were able to contain it within the hour. According to the chief of the City of Seneca Fire Department, firefighters were dispatched to the fire at 4:18 p.m. An acre of dry woods was burning approximately 15 feet from 100,000 gallons of gasoline and other fuels stored in the tanks. Units from Friendship, Corinth Shiloh, Crossroads, and Keowee fire departments were also on the scene to aid in containing the flames. The chief said that seven acres of land behind the fuel plant were burned and that three tractors plowed a fire break around the perimeter of the fire to contain it. Authorities stayed on the scene past 5 a.m. Thursday to ensure no lingering fires remained. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the Seneca Fire Marshal’s office.

Source: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2008/jun/26/fire-near-fuel-storage-facility-seneca-contained/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *June 27, Wichita Eagle* – (Kansas) **Probe uncovers source of Barton Solvents blast.** While checking the rubble of the Barton Solvents storage-tank facility in ValleyCenter,

Kansas, last July, federal investigators found an important piece of charred equipment – a crucial clue to solving what caused the huge fire. It was the same kind of measuring-float equipment used in the 15,000-gallon above-ground storage tank where the initial explosion occurred. Now, federal investigators have concluded that metal linking to the float allowed a spark to form, setting off an explosion in the tank. It has far-reaching implications because it is the same type of mechanism used in hundreds of thousands of chemical storage tanks across the nation. It works like this: To measure the level of the liquid in the tank, a metal tape measure extends down and connects to a float resting atop the liquid. When there is slack in the tape, a gap can occur between two pieces of metal that link to the float. Testing showed that static electricity could spark across the gap. The investigators concluded that is most likely what ignited flammable vapors in the tank while it was being filled with VM&P naphtha, a widely used solvent, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board announced Thursday in Wichita. Source: <http://www.kansas.com/news/local/story/446963.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *June 27, Reuters* – (North Carolina) **Duke’s N.C. McGuire 1 reactor shut – NRC.** Duke Energy Corp’s McGuire 1 nuclear power unit was tripped off-line late Thursday but is not expected to be shut for long, a Duke spokeswoman said. The company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that the loss of a reactor coolant pump caused the unit to automatically trip off-line. The event was considered a nonemergency and the unit was in hot standby mode, according to an NRC report. Duke said on Friday engineers and maintenance workers were conducting tests and once those are completed, the unit should be able to return to service. On Thursday morning, the unit was operating at 100 percent of capacity. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2730389120080627?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>
9. *June 27, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Defective pump prompts Yankee to reduce power.** The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant had to reduce power Wednesday because one of three booster pumps that circulate water to the cooling towers was not operating fully, an Entergy Nuclear spokesman said Thursday. He said a valve in the pump started malfunctioning shortly after midnight on Wednesday and power production was reduced to 93 percent as a result. Because of the week’s rains, which lowered the temperature of the Connecticut River, as well as increasing flows, the plant was able to bypass the cooling towers while workers tried to fix the pump. As of Thursday afternoon, the pump was still not fully functioning, but the plant was back at 100 percent. The plant reduced power to keep in line with the temperature limits of its discharge permit into the Connecticut River. The spokesman said Entergy workers were doing some testing on the pump valve, and were not satisfied with its performance. “They’re still working on it today,” he said.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080627/NEWS02/806270393/1003/NEWS02>

10. *June 26, United Press International* – (Ohio) **Ohio nuclear processing plant to close.**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says it has given Restoration Services Inc. a contract for assistance in decommissioning an Ohio nuclear facility. The contract requires the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, company to provide technical services for the remediation, decontamination, and decommissioning of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant at DOE's site in Piketon, Ohio. The contract is valued at approximately \$67 million over five years – a three-year base period with the option to extend it for another two years, officials said.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2008/06/26/Ohio_nuclear_processing_plant_to_close/UPI-18641214505554/

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *June 27, BBC News* – (National) **U.S. weapons 'withdrawn' from base.**

The U.S. military has withdrawn its last nuclear weapons from Britain. The Federation of American Scientists said in a report 110 nuclear bombs were removed from RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. The U.S. military said it was policy not to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at Lakenheath. The report's author, an expert on the U.S. nuclear arsenal, said the move had happened in the past few years. He said the withdrawal of the bombs is part of a general strategic shift since the end of the Cold War.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/suffolk/7477718.stm

12. *June 26, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Army speeds high-tech arms to infantry.**

The U.S. Army said on Thursday it is speeding up delivery of advanced rockets, robots, and ultra-light drones to infantry units in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a reshaped \$160 billion modernization program. The move brings forward by three years, from fiscal 2014 to 2011, the high-technology spin-out to light infantry and represents, "a very important shift in our priorities," said the Army's deputy chief of staff for programs. The Army said the shift would not change the overall cost of the Future Combat Systems program (FCS). The move turns the \$160 billion project's initial focus to the operational needs and survivability of infantry, or foot soldiers, rather than armored brigades with heavy vehicles. Until now, heavy brigades were to have been the first to be equipped with some of the FCS's 14 new component technologies.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2643973820080627?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

13. *June 26, United Press International* – (National) **Ageing USAF fleet.**

The U.S. Air Force will enter the second decade of the new millennium with 500 Eisenhower-era Boeing

KC-135 tankers averaging 50 years of age, 300 Lockheed Martin C-130 transports exceeding 40 years of age, and Vietnam-vintage Boeing McDonnell-Douglas F-15 Eagle fighters that are literally falling out of the sky. According to one estimate, a third of the entire fleet is either unavailable or operating on restricted basis on any given day due to maintenance problems such as metal fatigue, corrosion, and missing parts. Such problems multiply with age as the stresses of operational use accumulate and suppliers cease making parts for planes that have gone out of production. As the cost of maintenance mounts, it begins to drain money from modernization accounts that might have been used to buy new planes, accelerating the decline of the fleet. In addition, when a large portion of the fleet is too old to operate efficiently, planners tend to rely heavily on newer planes to accomplish missions, which makes them age faster. For example, the C-17 transport and KC-10 tanker are both being overworked in Iraq.

Source:
http://www.upi.com/Security_Industry/2008/06/26/Thompson_Files_Aging_USAF_fleet/UPI-98681214498374/

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *June 27, Computerworld* – (National) **Web firewalls trumping other options as PCI deadline nears.** Companies scrambling to comply with a Web application security requirement due to take effect next week appear to be heavily favoring the use of Web firewall technologies over the other options that are available under the mandate, according to analysts. The mandate from the major credit card companies is the latest adjustment to the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). Essentially, it requires all entities accepting payment card transactions to implement new security controls for protecting their Web applications. The controls have been a recommended best practice for nearly two years now, but starting June 30, they will become a mandatory requirement under PCI – especially for so-called Level 1 companies that handle more than 6 million payment card transactions a year. Under the requirement (PCI Section 6.6), merchants can choose to implement a specialized firewall to protect their Web applications, or to perform an automated or manual application code review and fix any flaws found. Companies also have the option of performing either a manual or an automated vulnerability assessment scan of their Web application environment, fixing any problems that are discovered during that process. The 6.6 requirement is designed to address growing concerns about vulnerable Web applications being exploited by malicious attackers to compromise payment data. The controls are supposed to protect Web applications from common threats like SQL Injection attacks, buffer overflows and cross-site scripting vulnerabilities. As with almost every other major PCI deadline so far, though, few companies are expected to be fully compliant with the PCI 6.6 requirement come June 30. But analysts say the companies that are compliant or heading in that direction appear to be favoring the Web firewall option.

Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9104118&source=rss_news10

15. *June 26, Dark Reading* – (National) **Hacking the call center.** The contact center mostly has been forgotten as a potential point of breach – even though customer service representatives take credit card numbers and outsourced help desk workers have access to your databases. That all soon could change. The Payment Card Initiative (PCI), for instance, also applies to call centers that handle credit card data, so PCI is driving a new generation of security tools that encrypt voice call recordings of phone transactions. RSA’s encryption technology, for instance, is now used to encrypt audio recordings handled by call center software vendor Verint Witness Actionable Solutions’ call recording applications. Even so, not all call centers are tuned into PCI, especially the smaller organizations. “We still find a real lack of awareness in the contact center community about PCI,” says the director of solutions marketing for Verint, who says it is mostly the company’s largest call center customers that have been asking about PCI. Verint’s software records calls in the centers. “Because that data is in an unstructured format – a Wave file, for example – companies are just starting to realize that it becomes an area of potential liability for them,” she says. Other products are emerging that come with a “blackout button” feature that prevents the credit-card number from being recorded on the call and thus not stored at the call center, for example. But credit card information is not the only exposure risk at these sites. Outsourcing-based call centers for IT and help desk support pose even more security problems. “This is a bigger and often more overlooked area, where PCI is not an issue. Credit card numbers aren’t involved, but a major issue is they have access to or a copy of your customer database,” says the vice president and research fellow at Gartner. “And many call centers that are outsourced use shared services. The same IT infrastructure that supports you is supporting” other organizations.

Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=157627

16. *June 26, Finextra.com* – (International) **Toronto police bust ATM skimming gang.** Police in Toronto have busted a sophisticated ATM skimming ring that used a network of ‘debit card laboratories’ to defraud bank customers of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The swoop on the Toronto crime ring followed a six-week surveillance operation and resulted in the arrest of eight local people. The gang used portable card skimmers to capture customer data at the cash machine for later download and transfer to counterfeit cards. The police raid on “two sophisticated labs” netted \$120,000 cash and led to the arrest of eight suspects. Computers, skimmers, card-readers, moulding machines, embossers, tippers, counterfeit cards, cameras, overlays and valances, tools, and two-way communications devices were also seized. Theft and counterfeit payment cards have been a growing problem for the Canadian banking industry, which is making a gradual transition to chip-based technology. Police say over \$100 million was lost to this type of activity in 2007, which involved 159,000 card holders.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=18650>

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Transportation Sector

17. *June 26, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Safety pushes stall at embattled FAA.** In

July 1996, a fuel-tank explosion ripped apart TWA Flight 800, killing all 230 people aboard and sparking an urgent call from air-safety experts to find a fail-safe way to avoid a repeat tragedy. Experts quickly and broadly agreed that like TWA 800's main fuel tank, those on thousands of other planes were at risk of exploding during normal operations if hot vapors became exposed to sparks or electrical short-circuits. Within months, federal investigators at the National Transportation Safety Board called for a sweeping retrofit of planes with "fundamentally flawed" fuel-tank designs. Independent safety experts called such changes essential. But the issue has bogged down for more than a decade inside the Federal Aviation Administration. Manufacturers argued the proposed fix was unnecessary, while carriers called it marginal and too expensive. They repeatedly persuaded the FAA to delay, revise, or scale back its plans. While the industry has reduced the danger of fuel-tank accidents, whatever "foolproof" plan the agency ultimately imposes will come too late to affect many jetliners now in service. The fuel-tank issue is just one of the major initiatives to stall at the FAA, which finds itself in the spotlight following a series of safety lapses that came to light this spring. Even when change is clearly needed, critics say, the agency can be reluctant to challenge the industry's strongly held positions.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121444325397905631.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

18. *June 26, ABC News* – (National) **Air traffic control system on the verge of collapse?** The Federal Aviation Administration is offering higher incentive bonuses to attract veteran controllers to move to facilities in Westbury, New York; Aspen, Colorado; Nantucket, Massachusetts; and Anchorage and Fairbanks in Alaska, among other locales. Although the FAA said this week that it is offering higher incentives due to the high cost of living in these areas, others said the hefty bonuses, of differing amounts, are due to critical staffing shortages in the nation's air traffic control towers. The FAA is scurrying to retain seasoned employees and hire and train new controllers as those who started working after the air traffic controllers strike in the early 1980s approach retirement. The FAA expects to replace nearly its entire workforce over the course of the next decade. But the National Air Traffic Controllers Association insists that the turnover means too many inexperienced employees will be directing traffic, perhaps dangerously, across the skies. The union said the FAA job openings illustrate just how dire the situation is to appeal to those with more experience. Controllers also are locked in a fierce contract dispute with the FAA, and they see these new incentives as yet another example of an air traffic control system on the verge of collapse. According to the FAA, the agency has offered incentives for transfers to a total of 25 air traffic control facilities around the country since January. It has increased those bonuses or added facilities to its list on four occasions since the winter to appeal to potential hires.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/story?id=5252773&page=1>

19. *June 26, United Press International* – (Illinois) **Possible air control errors investigated.** Federal Aviation Administration officials have confirmed an investigation into a possible cover up of control errors at a Chicago-area radar facility is under way. The inquiry focuses on whether supervisors at the FAA radar facility in Elgin, Illinois, underreported air-safety violations by controllers, the U.S. Department of

Transportation's inspector general's office said. Investigators want to know whether the controller errors were instead blamed on pilots or simply ignored, the Chicago Tribune reported. The controller errors under investigation involved failures to maintain the required spacing between airplanes taking off or landing at O'Hare International Airport, Midway Airport, and smaller area facilities.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/06/26/Possible_air_control_errors_investigated/PI-66731214504124/

20. *June 26, BBC* – (International) **Airports 'vulnerable' to attack.** A terrorism expert has warned that airports in the United Kingdom are still vulnerable, one year on from the attack on Glasgow Airport. He said that while many of the changes put in place at Glasgow had been copied at other airports around the world, some "weak points" in airport security in the UK still remain. He warned that as the first anniversary of the attack approached, it was "entirely possible" that there could be another.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7476112.stm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *June 27, Columbus Dispatch* – (Ohio) **E. coli cases still popping up throughout central Ohio.** Central Ohio residents continue to be sickened in the E. coli outbreak, with the date of the start of symptoms now going as late as June 20. As of Thursday, 18 cases had been reported in Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, and Union counties. Seven of the illnesses were in Columbus, and eight people have been hospitalized in the string of virulent infections now connected to ground beef. In central Ohio, 15 cases have been genetically linked and matched with cases elsewhere in Ohio and in Michigan, and with tainted beef from Kroger stores in both states. Reports of E. coli infections started earlier this month and this week prompted Kroger to recall an unspecified amount of meat sold at its stores between May 21 and June 8.

Source:

http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2008/06/27/sickmeat_ART_ART_06-27-08_B3_M6AJJHU.html?sid=101

22. *June 26, Alliance for Agricultural Growth and Competitiveness* – (National) **Groups urge USDA to act promptly to permit early releases from CRP.** With tight crop supplies and increasing demand for grains and oilseeds, the Alliance for Agricultural Growth and Competitiveness urged the secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to act quickly to grant penalty-free early releases from the Conservation Reserve Program for non-environmentally sensitive crop land. The request follows reports of

crop loss and decreased yields due to flooding in the Midwest. The devastating floods have eroded the outlook for grain and oilseed stocks and prices in this crop year and beyond. Failing to permit penalty-free early release will place even greater economic pressure on major sectors of U.S. agriculture that are heavily and traditionally dependent upon competitive supplies of grains and oilseeds, especially livestock, poultry, and dairy producers. The case for penalty-free early release is made even stronger given the ever-greater demand for grains and oilseeds from world export markets and renewable fuel production. Those were among the core messages conveyed in a letter delivered to the secretary on June 25 and signed by over 130 organizations.

Source:

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20080626006162&newsLang=en

23. *June 26, Pork* – (National) **USDA to assess flood impact.** The National Agricultural Statistics Service will release its 2008 Crop Acreage report on Monday, June 30. However, the report's data was collected prior to the flooding that swept across several Midwest states, where the majority of the nation's corn is grown. U.S. Department of Agriculture officials plan to re-interview farmers this week — ahead of the acreage report — to assess the effect of heavy rains and flooding in the Midwest. USDA will contact farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin to determine their plans for how much acreage they will harvest for grain. A more detailed report will also be conducted in July after producers have had an opportunity to assess damage and reevaluate harvesting plans. Estimates of the Midwest floods suggest this could be the region's biggest disaster in decades, surpassing the \$21 billion lost in the 1993 flood. Indiana's agriculture director said the floods were the greatest economic catastrophe in the state's history. In Iowa, 83 counties have been declared disaster areas. The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation says flood waters have claimed about 20 percent of Iowa's grain acres. The American Farm Bureau Federation says crops have incurred more than \$8 billion in estimated weather-related damage thus far in 2008.

Source: http://www.porkmag.com/directories.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=6251

24. *June 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Honey bee crisis could lead to higher food prices.** Food prices could rise even more unless the mysterious decline in honey bees is solved, farmers and businessmen told lawmakers Thursday. "No bees, no crops," a North Carolina grower told a House Agriculture subcommittee, adding that he has had to cut his cucumber acreage in half because of the lack of bees available to rent. About three-quarters of flowering plants rely on birds, bees, and other pollinators to help them reproduce. Bee pollination is responsible for \$15 billion annually in crop value. In 2006, beekeepers began reporting losing 30 percent to 90 percent of their hives. This phenomenon has become known as Colony Collapse Disorder. The cause behind the disorder remains unknown. Possible explanations include pesticides; a new parasite or pathogen; and the combination of immune-suppressing stresses such as poor nutrition, limited or contaminated water supplies, and the need to move bees long distances for pollination.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gV9ZkvaSg-PdW-F03XQvXCINgWqgD91I2K500>

25. *June 26, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (National) **Tainted tomato cases top 750.** The number of Americans sickened by salmonella-contaminated tomatoes has soared to 756, making it the largest outbreak connected to the crop since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention started keeping records in the 1960s. The actual number of illnesses is likely much higher. For every laboratory-confirmed case, the CDC estimates that another 30 illnesses go unreported. The CDC classifies the outbreak as continuing, with the most recent cases occurring June 13, a week after federal authorities warned against eating certain types of tomatoes.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/news/content/metro/stories/2008/06/26/tomatoes_CDC.html

26. *June 26, United Press International* – (Texas) **Frontier Meats-brand cattle heads recalled.** The U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service announced the recall of approximately 2,850 pounds of fresh cattle heads due to possible contamination. The FSIS said the Beltex Corp., doing business as Frontier Meats of Fort Worth, Texas, initiated the recall because the cattle heads might contain specified risk materials, or SRMs. The FSIS, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said SRMs are tissues that are known to contain the infective agent in cattle infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, which is also known as mad cow disease. SRMs are prohibited from being used as human food. The company said it is recalling all products packed between May 31 and June 24, which were distributed to retail establishments and lunch carts in the Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas, area.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2008/06/26/Frontier_Meats-brand_cattle_heads_recalled/UPI-11431214500704/

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Water Sector

27. *June 26, Modesto Bee* – (California) **State cites district for contamination.** The Western Hills Water District that serves the Diablo Grande resort development has been cited by the California Department of Public Health (DPH) for failure to clean up problems with the water supply in the development. The water delivered to about 350 homes in the development exceeds state limits for trihalomethanes, compounds believed to raise cancer risks. DPH has been concerned about the problem for four years. Changes to the system brought the water district into compliance for about nine months last year, but the trihalomethane levels have risen to unacceptable levels again during the past nine months, according to the Department of Health. Trihalomethanes occur in drinking water systems as a result of the process of disinfecting the water. DPH wants Western Hills Water District to install a filtration system to remove the chemicals that form trihalomethanes after the disinfection process. In an unrelated matter, a custom home builder at the troubled resort has been cited by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for storm water management problems. The complaint alleges that the subdivision developer did not adequately control sediment and erosion at the site in January and February, causing sediment-laden storm water to flow onto adjacent wetlands.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/340786.html>

28. *June 26, Belmont & Mount Holly BannerNews* – (North Carolina) **Chemicals could have killed 2,000 fish.** A leak in a Clariant stormwater drain could possibly be responsible for killing fish last month. The local Clariant operation is a manufacturer of synthetic organic dye. On May 30, about 2,000 fish were found dead in the Catawba River and Lake Wylie, according to officials with Mecklenburg County Stormwater Services. Their investigation is continuing. Clariant’s internal investigation found that the presence of the soap-making ingredient was caused when a pump and an electronic level detector malfunctioned, resulting in an overflow into the drain. The malfunctioning equipment was immediately repaired and tested, and all other drains, pumps, and level detectors in the building where the incident occurred were also thoroughly inspected and tested.

Source: <http://www.mybannernews.com/articles/2008/06/211.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *June 26, University of California, Santa Cruz* – (National) **Higher temperatures helped new strain of West Nile virus spread, study finds.** Higher temperatures helped a new strain of West Nile virus invade and spread across North America, according to a study published in the June 27 issue of the journal Public Library of Science (PLOS) Pathogens. “The study shows that the warmer the temperature, the greater the advantage of the new strain. It also indicates that increases in temperatures due to global climate change would have major effects on transmission of the virus,” said the first author of the paper and a senior research scientist for the Consortium for Conservation Medicine.

Source: http://www.ucsc.edu/news_events/press_releases/text.asp?pid=2308

30. *June 26, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Meeting set on Depakote label.** Advisory panels to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will meet July 10 to discuss whether new warnings need to be issued for a popular class of epilepsy drugs that includes Abbott Laboratories’ Depakote. Possible risks of suicidal behavior or thoughts have emerged in some studies of drugs to treat epilepsy in recent months, so the FDA has asked panels of outside experts to convene in what could lead to new warnings on the drugs’ labels. The FDA would not comment on the meeting or potential labeling changes. The meeting, in Beltsville, Maryland, will include experts in “peripheral and central nervous system” disorders as well as psychopharmacology, pediatric care, safety, and risk management.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-thu-notebook-health-fda-epiljun26,0,4640800.story>

31. *June 26, Outsourcing-Pharma.com* – (International) **US and Vietnam form drug safety pact.** The U.S. and Vietnam have agreed on a strategy to increase the safety and efficacy of food, drugs and medical devices traded between the pair. On Tuesday the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) pledging to protect the health of their citizens through bilateral cooperation and exchange. Detailing the

agreement to the media, the FDA said that the MoU covers three key areas – information sharing, workshops and training, and best practices in clinical trials. Specifically, the U.S. and Vietnam governments have pledged to dutifully exchange information on their respective regulatory systems, divulging details such as laws and regulations; guidance documents; and potential or emerging issues of product safety. In addition the two countries will exchange training opportunities on key topics, such as safety surveillance of products after marketing, as well as make efforts to find opportunities for joint training. They also intend to cooperate on training and inspections of clinical trials.

Source: <http://www.outsourcing-pharma.com/news/ng.asp?n=86145-da-vietnam>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *June 25, Observer-Dispatch* – (New York) **State Office Building evacuated following explosion.** An explosion early Tuesday night at the State Office Building in downtown Utica, New York, forced the evacuation of the building and closed Devereux Street while firefighters investigated the cause. The deputy fire chief said there was an electrical surge that caused a transformer in the building to fail. The explosion was contained to a concrete vault within the building’s basement. Officials were looking for a possible connection between the explosion and another alarm that occurred in the basement of a nearby coffee shop. A National Grid team was called and conducted an investigation.

Source: <http://www.uticaod.com/news/x222996217/State-Office-Building-evacuated-following-explosion>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *June 26, WTAE 4 Pittsburg* – (Pennsylvania) **Pittsburgh Fire/EMS study recommends merging, closing stations.** Merged fire stations, firefighter job cuts, and major equipment upgrades are all part of a new study on how to overhaul the Pittsburgh Fire Bureau. Pittsburgh’s financial oversight board and its consultant, TriData Corp., said their fire and emergency medical services study is about improving public safety, although it does recommend merging and closing some fire stations. The study does not recommend any significant reductions until improvements are made in fire prevention and efforts to deal with vacant structures. The mayor and the president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 1 said the fire union could accept those proposals, but not other locations suggested for possible closing after other improvements are made. “The multiple-alarm fires that have been occurring in Allentown and Beltzhoover – 30 percent of the fires occurring in the last three years occurred in that geographical area, and (station) number 2 was recommended to be eliminated,” the union president said, adding that he does not see how the suggested moves will help firefighters meet national guidelines for response times. “If we’re not meeting it 90 percent of the time with 38 units, how are we expected to meet tomorrow

with only 33?” he said.

Source: <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/16720283/detail.html>

34. *June 26, KFYR 5 Bismarck* – (North Dakota) **Air Guard taking part in hazmat drill.** Members of the North Dakota Air National Guard hosted a training course in Fargo that included a simulated terrorist attack on Thursday. Airmen from the 119th Wing used a mobile emergency operations center and perform chemical detection tests. Emergency management representatives from Illinois, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington, D.C., were in Fargo for the training. Officials said Fargo is one of a limited number of sites for the special training.
Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=19839
35. *June 26, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Seattle preparing for mock anthrax catastrophe.** The Department of Homeland Security has chosen the Seattle metropolitan area to stage a major exercise involving the imaginary release of anthrax spores. At a meeting Thursday of federal, state, and local officials, the still-evolving scenario was described as “big, bad and catastrophic.” It is planned that way to test what needs to happen to get Seattle back on its feet after such a devastating attack. The intent of the exercise – scheduled for sometime in 2010 – is to develop a comprehensive model that can be used around the nation to help cities recover from incidents of biological contamination. It is expected that the model would also be useful for recovery efforts in the event of a radiological incident. Inhaled anthrax bacteria can kill if not promptly treated with antibiotics.
Source: <http://blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/seattle911/archives/142138.asp>

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Information Technology

36. *June 27, Financial* – (National) **Press Release: Leading IT vendors establish forum to drive global security response excellence and innovation.** On June 26, five leading information technology vendors announced the creation of the Industry Consortium for Advancement of Security on the Internet (ICASI), a nonprofit organization that will enhance global IT security by proactively driving excellence and innovation in security response. Founded by Cisco, International Business Machines, Intel Corporation, Juniper Networks, and Microsoft Corp., ICASI provides a unique forum for global companies committed to proactively addressing complex, multi-product security threats and to better protecting enterprises, governments, and citizens, as well as the critical IT infrastructures that support them. According to Intel, the increasing sophistication of attacks and the integration of applications, now common in IT environments, pose real challenges for IT vendors. Online attacks occur more frequently and in more rapid succession, while often spanning international boundaries. To date there has not been a trusted vendor environment that allows companies to identify, assess, and mitigate multi-product, global security challenges together on the customers’ behalf. ICASI aims to fill this void. ICASI does not seek to respond to every product security issue that emerges, but rather the consortium is designed to respond to and ideally reduce the potential customer impact of global, multi-vendor cyber threats.

Source:

http://finchannel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15867&Itemid=10

37. *June 26, ZDNet Blogs* – (International) **ICANN and IANA’s domains hijacked by Turkish hacking group.** The official domains of ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and IANA, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority were hijacked earlier today, by the NetDevilz Turkish hacking group which also hijacked Photobucket’s domain on June 18. ICANN is responsible for the global coordination of the Internet’s system of unique identifiers. These include domain names, as well as the addresses used in a variety of Internet protocols. IANA is responsible for the global coordination of the DNS Root, IP addressing, and other Internet protocol resources. NetDevilz left the following message on all of the domains: “You think that you control the domains but you don’t! Everybody knows wrong. We control the domains including ICANN! Don’t you believe us? haha :) (Lovable Turkish hackers group).” The following domains were hijacked, and some of them still return the defaced page – icann.net; icann.com; iana-servers.com; internetassignednumbersauthority.com; iana.com. The hackers are once again redirecting the visitors to Atspace.com, 82.197.131.106 in particular, the ISP that they used in the Photobucket’s DNS hijacking. The NetDevilz hacking group seems to be taking advantage of a very effective approach when hijacking domain names, and while they declined to respond to an email sent by Zone-H on how they did it, cross-site scripting or cross-site request forgery vulnerability speculations are already starting to take place.

Source: <http://blogs.zdnet.com/security/?p=1356>

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

38. *June 27, ars technica* – (National) **NYPD, cities slam FCC Block D public safety network dream.** The emergency managers of key city agencies are weighing in on that troublesome chunk of the 700MHz spectrum reserved for public safety – the D Block – telling the Federal Communications Commission that they can not wait for a lost cause. “The NYPD’s opinion, reinforced by conversations with commercial wireless carriers, is that there is simply no business case for a commercial wireless network operator to build a nationwide network that will meet public safety coverage and survivability standards,” the deputy chief and commanding officer of the New York City Police Department wrote to the FCC. The FCC received the statement on June 19. When the 700 MHz auction ended in mid March, no bidder offered the FCC’s minimal asking price for the

block. An FCC audit of the D Block failure concluded that the plan had been loaded with too many expectations and uncertain variables. Now the FCC is running a new proceeding on how to redo the D Block auction, but NYPD says the plan just will not work. “Although public safety and commercial networks may share technology, they do not share the same mission,” the agency wrote. “Conflicts of interest arise that cannot be ignored. Public safety agencies require a robust network that will remain operational during virtually any circumstance; however, commercial network operators are motivated by commercial priorities to build networks that meet commercial requirements.” NYPD notes that the FCC’s first D Block scenario did not require the auction winner to build out a public safety band network in areas where it did not deploy its commercial system, thus making it “extremely unlikely that they would deploy their network in unprofitable rural or remote areas.” NYPD proposes that the FCC just assign portions of the D Block to local or regional public safety agencies. The department has already contracted with Northrop Grumman to build a broadband public safety data network on 2.5GHz leased spectrum, and expects to have the operation running by the end of the year.

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080627-nypd-cities-slam-fcc-block-d-public-safety-network-dream.html>

39. *June 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Wireless hospital systems can disrupt med devices.** Wireless systems used by many hospitals to keep track of medical equipment can cause potentially deadly breakdowns in lifesaving devices, such as breathing and dialysis machines, researchers reported Tuesday in a study that warned hospitals to conduct safety tests. Electromagnetic glitches occurred in almost 30 percent of the tests when microchip devices similar to those in many types of wireless medical equipment were placed within about one foot of the lifesaving machines. Nearly 20 percent of the cases involved hazardous malfunctions that would probably harm patients. Some of the microchip-based “smart” systems are touted as improving patient safety, but a Dutch study of equipment – without the patients – suggests the systems could actually cause harm. A U.S. patient-safety expert said the study “is of urgent significance” and said hospitals should respond immediately to the “disturbing” results. The wireless systems send out radio waves that can interfere with equipment such as respirators, external pacemakers, and kidney dialysis machines, according to the study. Researchers discovered the problem in 123 tests they performed in an intensive-care unit at an Amsterdam hospital. Patients were not using the equipment at the time.

Source: http://www.mobile-tech-today.com/story.xhtml?story_id=60469

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *June 27, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Flood-swept downtown Cedar Rapids is compared to war zone.** The swollen Cedar River initially displaced dozens of Cedar Rapids businesses this month. As workers returned, many found mud, debris, and months of work ahead of them. Flooding affected about 6,000 workers at major employers as plants have been idled or operations disrupted, the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce said. Many small businesses also have been affected. Nearly

7,200 pieces of property were damaged, including about 1,130 commercial and industrial properties. Statewide, flood damage will tally into the billions of dollars, state and local leaders said. Quaker Oats hopes to begin minimal production at its Cedar Rapids factory in the next two to three weeks. It is unclear how much flooding damage and the shutdown will cost the company.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080627/BUSINESS/806270355/1029>

41. *June 26, KVAL 13 Eugene* – (Oregon) **Law enforcement taking steps to prevent terrorist acts at Olympic Trials.** Oregon authorities are tightening security in Eugene in preparation for the Olympic trials. Hayward Field is transforming into a hot spot for an estimated 20,000 people, everyday, during the trials. “Just by virtue of the fact that we’re having an event of this significance in the nation raises its stake in the terrorist world,” said Eugene’s Police Department captain. Authorities are setting up metal detectors and using bomb-sniffing dogs to check vehicles and garbage receptacles. 60 armed officers will be stationed inside the venue. The captain said even though a lot of resources are dedicated to the Olympic Trials, agencies from as far as Salem will be in town to help with other city emergency calls.

Source: <http://www.kval.com/news/local/21865079.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

42. *June 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Los Padres forest fire closer to town, historic buildings.** Flames from a wildfire burning through the Los Padres National Forest inched toward the town of Big Sur, where firefighters rushed Thursday to protect historic structures and hundreds of homes in this scenic tourist destination. The blaze in the Los Padres National Forest was only three percent contained Thursday and had burned nearly 42 square miles near the coast about a mile south of Big Sur, officials said. The National Weather Service predicted more dry lightning toward the end of the week, although forecasters did not expect as severe an electrical storm as last weekend, when nearly 8,000 lightning strikes sparked about 800 fires across northern California. The state’s largest fire, the Indians fire, located about 20 miles east of the Big Sur fire in a more remote area of the Los Padres forest, also continued to vex firefighters, having scorched more than 92 square miles and destroyed two homes. The blaze, sparked by an escaped campfire on June 8, was about 71 percent contained.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9716385

43. *June 27, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Mountain forest fire nears homes.** Firefighters from several states are working today to prevent a mountain wildfire from reaching an area of houses in western North Carolina. The fire, in the Nantahala National Forest, already has burned more than 200 acres. Forest officials say it was started by lightning last Sunday. Crews have been working all week at the scene and say they have the blaze about 40 percent contained.

Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/688518.html

44. *June 26, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Crews responding to wildland fire in Dixie National Forest.** For the second time in as many weeks, fire crews were descending on a wildland fire reported Thursday to be burning in the Dixie National Forest in Utah. A spokesman with the National Forest Service said there is a hydrogenerating plant in the area, but that the plant was not threatened Thursday. The cause of the fire is unknown. Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_9711345

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Dams Sector

45. *June 27, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Some work on Wolf Creek Dam halted.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has temporarily stopped key emergency repairs at the leaky Wolf Creek Dam while authorities investigate an area that has been rapidly settling. The area of concern is near where the 4,000-foot-long earthen portion meets a concrete dam and hydropower plant. The dam has been settling at a faster rate than previously recorded – nearly an inch in the last year. While the chief of the Corps’ engineering-construction Nashville division acknowledged officials’ concerns, he said there was no reason for the public to be alarmed. The dam was built decades ago atop cavern- and fissure-riddled limestone. The Corps considers it among its five most risky. It is spending more than \$300 million over seven years to repair leaks. Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080627/NEWS01/80627005>
46. *June 27, CNN* – (Missouri) **Muskrats blamed for levee breach on Mississippi.** Muskrat holes weakened a Mississippi River levee on Friday, allowing floodwaters to pour into Lincoln County, Missouri, officials said. Though overnight rains were reported in the area, officials speaking at a Friday morning press conference said muskrats looking for food or making dens had dug into the earthen levee, weakening it enough that nature took care of the rest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had been fighting “down slides” that had occurred in two separate 100-foot-sections of the levee in the past several days. Down slides occur when portions of the earthen levee shift because of water seepage. The Corps said that the Mississippi, having exceeded the original levee, was being held back by sandbags placed by volunteers and the National Guard. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/06/27/floods/index.html>

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