



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 November 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- The Muskegon Chronicle reports that a large amount of liquid nitrogen leaked from a storage tank outside a Burdick & Jackson plant Monday in Muskegon, Michigan, forcing police and fire officials to evacuate two buildings and rope off several blocks. (See item [3](#))
- According to the Associated Press, federal regulators issued \$718,000 in fines and other penalties in the past year to Pacific Northwest companies that use anhydrous ammonia for refrigeration but do not have adequate safety plans in case of a leak. The penalties largely stem from an audit the Federal Government conducts every five years of the safety plans of food processors, packers, and other industries that rely on refrigeration. (See item [18](#))

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. *November 4, Reuters* – (Texas) **Marathon says Tex refinery crude unit shut after fire.** Marathon Oil Corp. has shut a 52,000 barrel per day crude unit at its 76,000 bpd refinery in Texas City, Texas, after a small pump fire during the evening of November 3, a company spokesman said November 4. “The No. 5 crude unit is currently shut while damages are assessed,” a company spokesman said. The fire occurred on a pump associated with the crude unit on the evening of November 3 and was extinguished. The spokesman said there is currently no timetable for restarting the downed crude unit.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0431680320081104>

2. *November 4, Bloomberg* – (New Jersey) **Valero cat cracker is shut at New Jersey refinery.** Valero Energy Corp. said a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracker is shut for repairs at its Paulsboro, New Jersey, refinery. The unit, which can process 55,000 barrels a day, was shut after a leak of slurry oil October 30, a company spokesman said in an e-mail Tuesday. The unit will “probably” remain down for a “couple of days,” he said.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=aJHRpV7pW_2c&refer=energy

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 4, Muskegon Chronicle* – (Michigan) **Lab, bingo hall evacuated for nitrogen leak.** A large amount of liquid nitrogen leaked from a storage tank outside an eastside plant Monday, forcing police and fire officials to evacuate two buildings and rope off several blocks. The spill happened about 6:35 p.m. Monday at the Honeywell Burdick & Jackson Laboratories Inc., leaving a white cloudlike formation hovering in the area for hours. No injuries were reported, and officials were not sure what caused the storage tank to leak. Laboratory employees and an estimated 175 bingo players at the adjacent Select Auditorium were evacuated. Police cruisers were used to secure a four-block perimeter to keep people from coming into contact with the substance. The company’s hazardous containment team headed to the scene shortly after the spill was reported, officials said. The Muskegon County HAZMAT was not needed. Burdick & Jackson is a solvent manufacturer owned by Honeywell International.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/chronicle/news/index.ssf/2008/11/lab_bingo_hall_evacuated_for_n.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *November 4, Leaf Chronicle* – (Tennessee) **‘Southern Exposure’ drill sniffs out radiation.** A tractor-trailer was pulled over by Tennessee Highway Patrol troopers on the morning of November 3 at the Tennessee Welcome Center on Interstate 24. Minutes later, a Chevrolet Suburban cruised around the tractor-trailer as troopers questioned the driver and checked his documentation. The scene was a mock exercise, where the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) worked to equip law enforcement agencies with knowledge in detecting radiation in commercial vehicles. They detected radiation packed inside the trailer and were put to the test on how to protect the public. The Suburban, a \$250,000 vehicle equipped with sensors to detect and identify the source of radiation, e-mailed results to several agencies. Effective communication between agencies was one of the focuses of the exercise, said a public

information officer for TEMA. The public information officer said the drill was part of a larger multistate exercise called “Southern Exposure,” which included nine southeastern states being trained and evaluated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. Several law enforcement agencies responded to the drill, including the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Source: <http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20081104/NEWS01/811040338>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *November 3, Defense Industry Daily* – (National) **Up to \$32.9M to maintain MX-20 turrets on USN P-3s.** The Canadian government agency Canadian Commercial Corp. received a firm-fixed-price, indefinite-delivery/ indefinite-quantity long-term contract for repair of the Advanced Imaging Multi-spectral Sensor used on the United States’ P-3 Aircraft. That 2005 contract bought about 60 of L-3 Wescam’s MX-20 surveillance and targeting turret, known as AN/ASX-4 in the U.S. Navy. These turrets have been installed on the United States’ P-3C-AIP aircraft, which have been modified to add land attack and surveillance capabilities. During Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003, these aircraft proved so useful that the U.S. Marines took to embedding USMC Colonels on P3C-AIPs, in order to prevent them from being “hijacked” for other missions. The rest of the USA’s P-3 fleet uses Wescam’s smaller and less capable MX-15 turrets, most of which were purchased under a 2005 contract.

Source: <http://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/Up-to-329M-to-Maintain-MX-20-Turrets-on-USN-P-3s-05139/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *November 4, Reuters* – (National) **Treasury weighs purchasing stakes in more firms.** The U.S. Treasury Department is considering using more of its \$700 billion rescue fund to buy stakes in a broad range of financial companies, not just banks and insurers, after tentative signs of the program’s success, the Wall Street Journal said, citing people familiar with the matter. In focus are companies that provide financing to the broad economy, including bond insurers and specialty finance firms such as General Electric Co’s GE Capital unit, CIT Group Inc and others. The Treasury may also scrap part of its early plan of purchasing assets through an auction process and instead purchase some distressed assets directly, the paper said. Treasury’s planning could be complicated by Tuesday’s U.S. presidential election, the paper said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE4A310K20081104>

7. *November 3, Bank Systems and Technology* – (International) **Big moves by Visa, Citi MMV in mobile banking space.** In the last week of October, both Visa (San Francisco) and New York-based Citi’s Mobile Money Ventures (MMV) announced the rollout of initiatives designed to enhance the banking functionalities of people’s mobile

phones. Visa has rolled out a pilot in Canada in cooperation with the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and Rogers Wireless in which users will be able to wave and pay for goods at the point of sale using their mobile phones. According to the head of product with Visa Canada, this is the first pilot of its kind in that country. “While no two pilots are alike, this Canadian pilot shares similarities with two successful pilots Visa conducted with Wells Fargo in the United States and with Maybank in Malaysia.” Each phone will contain a secure chip and antenna to wirelessly transmit Visa card information from the mobile phone to the merchant terminal. From there, the transaction is processed in the same way as a regular credit card payment. In Asia, customers of Citibank Hong Kong will be able to perform mobile banking and stock trading using the new platform from Mobile Money Ventures, the JV between Citi and SK Telecom (Seoul).

Source: <http://www.banktech.com/payments-and-cards/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=212000219>

8. *November 3, Reuters* – (National) **FDIC extends bank’s opt-out for guarantee plan.** U.S. banking regulators on Monday extended the deadline for banks to opt out of its broadly expanded guarantee program for transaction deposits and new debt to December 5 from November 12. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp said it changed the deadline to give banks more time to decide whether they want to continue participating and start paying fees in exchange for the additional insurance. The new FDIC guarantee for deposits, which was effective immediately, applies to non-interest-bearing transaction deposit accounts and expires at the end of 2009. The FDIC’s guarantee for debt applies to senior unsecured debt issued between October 14, 2008 and June 30, 2009. The guarantee on that debt will last for three years.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0336364220081104>

9. *October 31, Reuters* – (National) **JPMorgan halts foreclosures, modifies mortgages.** JPMorgan Chase & Co, the nation’s largest bank and one of its biggest mortgage lenders, temporarily halted foreclosures Friday and offered to renegotiate a swathe of mortgages. JPMorgan has avoided the large write-downs and credit losses posted by rival banks because it has limited exposure to the riskier classes of mortgages, such as subprime loans. The expansion of the mortgage modification plan will target many of these mortgages, as well as prime mortgages held by JPMorgan that are also starting to show signs of deterioration. Earlier this month, Bank of America agreed with 11 state attorneys general to offer relief to nearly 400,000 Countrywide customers with troubled mortgages, resulting in an expected \$8.4 billion of interest rate and principal reductions. JPMorgan expects to renegotiate \$70 billion of mortgages over two years, in addition to \$40 billion held by 250,000 borrowers since early last year.

Source:

<http://www.banktech.com/risk-management/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=212000051>

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Transportation Sector

10. *November 4, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Metra engineer accused of letting teen**

operate train quits. A Metra engineer accused of allowing a teenage railroad buff to operate commuter trains resigned Monday. The engineer submitted his letter of resignation one day before a Metra investigative hearing was to begin, and will no longer be able to serve as an engineer or in any other capacity at Metra, according to a spokesman. Metra officials learned about the alleged infractions last month after finding out that the 18-year-old joyrider had posted photographs of his activities on his MySpace page. Two other engineers face investigative hearings this week for allegedly permitting the west suburban teen to enter locomotive cabs. It is unlikely the teenager will face any charges, since he was 17 when the incidents allegedly occurred. The engineer's resignation means Metra will take no further action against the 12-year veteran, but the Federal Railroad Administration will continue to review the matter for possible violation of federal rules, a spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-metra-engineer-04-nov04,0,4434794.story>

11. *November 3, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Park blasting decision in Federal Register notice.** Government rejection of a BNSF Railway proposal to allow avalanche control in Glacier National Park by blasting snow with explosives appeared in the Federal Register on Monday. A document about the National Park Service decision was released in July and the agency's regional director signed a record of decision in September. BSNF wanted to dislodge snow by blasting it before it could slide onto railroad tracks during avalanches. At times, avalanches have blocked rail traffic on tracks along Glacier's southern boundary. The record of decision includes provisions for snow stability testing by BNSF and prohibits explosives except under certain kinds of emergency circumstances.

Source:

http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=9287169&nav=menu227_7

12. *November 3, Coast Guard News* – (Michigan) **Barge with 3.7 million gallons of gasoline runs aground in Detroit River.** The U.S. Coast Guard and local salvage companies are working to safely remove a barge that ran aground November 2 on the Detroit River. The 115-meter barge contains approximately 3.7 million gallons of gasoline. The 41-meter tug William J. Moore and the barge were leaving Sarnia, Ontario, bound for Montreal when the barge ran aground approximately 100 yards northwest of the Detroit River Light. No pollution or gasoline sheens have been reported. The tugs Superior and Wyoming are currently assisting with salvage operations. Additional tugs are en route to provide assistance. Sector Detroit and Transport Canada will work together to investigate the incident.

Source: <http://coastguardnews.com/barge-runs-with-37-million-gallons-of-gasoline-runs-aground-in-detroit-river/2008/11/03/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *November 3, Brownsville Herald* – (Texas) **Mysterious substance caused stir at federal courthouse.** A white powdery substance mailed to the Judge Filemon Vela

Federal Courthouse caused a scare Monday afternoon, according to emergency response officials. At around 2 p.m., a secretary at the court opened a package containing a white powder, said the fire department chief. The fire department dispatched their Hazardous Materials Unit who donned “haz-mat” suits as they began studying the substance. The team used a Mobile Chemical ID device to determine that the substance was not toxic. “It was something that if they have prolonged contact could hurt,” the fire chief said. The package was turned over to the FBI pending further investigations.

Source:

http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/substance_91421_article.html/fire_perez.html

14. *November 3, KFYP 5 Bismarck* – (North Dakota) **Bomb scare at federal courthouse.** Early Monday, the streets and local businesses around the courthouse in Minot were evacuated. A package was delivered to the courthouse that was believed to be a bomb. At 10:27 a.m., a call came in at the Minot Police Department alerting authorities. The phone call led the police, the FBI, and the Bomb Squad to the federal courthouse. A suspicious package was mailed to the courthouse that caused concern. The police blocked off the streets around the courthouse and asked nearby businesses to close. The Bomb Squad detonated the package and determined there was no bomb inside. The FBI is taking over the investigation.

Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=23820

15. *October 3, Ocala Star-Banner* – (Florida) **Mail containing powder sent to government office.** Envelopes containing a white powder believed to be flour were delivered to numerous government buildings throughout Marion County on Monday, as well as a newspaper office in Gainesville. Authorities believe the envelopes were sent by the same person – or people – who sent one to the Star-Banner in September. Authorities do not believe any of the envelopes containing the powder were hazardous. In Marion County, the letters were received at the headquarters of the Marion County Commission and Marion County Public Schools, as well as the Marion County elections office and the Social Security Administration. Envelopes were also received at three schools, two churches, and a library on Monday. A Marion County Fire Rescue spokeswoman said it appears that all of the envelopes were sent by the same mailer and all had an Ocala return address that investigators believe is fictitious. Early Monday morning, the Gainesville Sun received an envelope containing what later was determined to be flour and cornstarch, according to a representative from the newspaper. The envelope had a handwritten return address from Ocala. The sender appeared to have used the name Osama bin Laden, which was misspelled and spelled backwards on the envelope. Police and other law enforcement officials said that, in spite of the apparent benign nature of the powder, they are continuing to investigate.

Source: <http://www.ocala.com/article/20081103/NEWS/811030271/0/News01>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *November 4, Packer* – (Florida) **Groups aims to create sustainability standards.** A coalition of fresh produce buyers, grower-shippers, trade associations, and consumer groups plan to announce in November a new project to define and measure sustainability. The president of Markon Cooperative Inc. in Salinas, California, said the industry should learn from the lessons that foodborne illness outbreaks have provided in the past two years, the most important being specific guidelines. Another lesson learned from the industry's struggle with food safety, he said, is the importance of change coming from within the industry.
Source: <http://www.thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-92858-889.asp&styp=styp=topstory&fb>
17. *November 3, Associated Press* – (National) **Nestle recalls Farinha Lacetea cereal in United States.** Food company Nestle said it is pulling Farinha Lacetea cereal from U.S. store shelves due to potential traces of pesticide. The pesticide, which is approved for Brazilian use, is currently not approved for use on U.S. wheat. The pesticide is permitted on other U.S. grain crops. There have been no reports of illness or customer complaints. Nestle said late Monday that the recall covers all sizes, varieties and production codes of the cereal. It does not affect any other Nestle product. Farinha Lacetea is made in Brazil by Nestle Brazil.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/11/04/ap5643759.html>
18. *November 3, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Feds increase fines in PNW over ammonia plans.** Federal regulators issued \$718,000 in fines and other penalties in the past year to Pacific Northwest companies that use the noxious chemical anhydrous ammonia for refrigeration but do not have adequate safety plans in case of a leak. The penalties largely stem from an audit the Federal Government conducts every five years of the safety plans of food processors, packers, and other industries that rely on refrigeration. The penalties in Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington made up one-fifth of all such penalties imposed nationally during the 2008 fiscal year, which ended September 30. Many of the companies cited are small to moderate in size, which might explain in part why they are less aware of the regulations, said the manager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) risk management program for Region 10, which regulates use of the substance in the four-state region. Risk management plans are required for facilities that use more than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia. An EPA representative said the agency is trying to reach out to companies, particularly in Eastern Washington, to make them fully aware of the regulations. Companies also may self-disclose if they find they are not in compliance, and EPA will reduce or eliminate the penalty.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap_wa_ammonia_fines.html

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Water Sector

19. *November 3, News Journal* – (Delaware) **Middletown to treat more NCCo water.** The town council agreed Monday night to a sixfold increase in the wastewater it treats for New Castle County (NCCo), effectively tabling the county's plan to build more

sewer infrastructure south of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. The agreement with Middletown effectively postpones the county's plan to construct a wastewater-treatment facility on 900 acres north of town, said the acting general manager of the county's Special Services department. The town already treats 250,000 gallons of New Castle County wastewater a day at its facility. That amount will increase to at least 1.5 million gallons a day under the agreement council approved Monday night.

Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20081103/NEWS/81103078>

20. *November 3, Jacksonville Daily News* – (North Carolina) **Untreated solid waste leads to spill.** Onslow Water and Sewer Authority (ONWASA) is trying to figure out what to do with months worth of untreated solid waste that led a spill reported on Friday. Springdale Acres wastewater treatment plant, located in the Southwest area of Jacksonville, has been failing for months, said the operations manager at ONWASA. He said crews have been working since Friday to clean up the spill, which they do not know the extent of yet. "As we understand it, the problem has been occurring for about four or five months," he said. "The problem is there is a lot of build up of solids in the plant – that reduces the time for treatment a lot." The plant has had numerous violations of its permits over the years for exceeding its flow capacity and discharging unacceptable levels of pollutants into the New River, according to DWQ documentation.

Source:

http://www.enctoday.com/news/plant_60484_jdn_article.html/onwasa_spill.html

21. *November 3, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Thousands of people are without drinking water.** Thousands of people are without safe drinking water after petroleum spilled into the water supply for Whitesburg and several other Letcher County communities. With nearly 4,000 people affected, local officials declared a state of emergency for the city of Whitesburg and ordered people not to use the water. They say Whitesburg water customers first started calling in on Saturday, complaining the water smelled like gasoline. County officials traced the leak to a nearby bulk plant. Now they are waiting on test results from the state, to see when the water will be safe. Depending on test results, local officials say the situation can last up to one week.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/33786899.html>

22. *November 3, Capital Times* – (Wisconsin) **Feingold wants federal probe into Badger Ammo contamination.** A U.S. Senator from Wisconsin has asked federal officials to conduct an investigation into possible exposure of contaminated drinking water to workers and people living near the Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo. The Senator has sent a letter from the Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger — which raises issues related to water safety at the now inactive plant — to the director of the National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Records provided by the citizens' group indicate that workers and those living near the plant could have been exposed to contamination beginning in 1943 because the potable water system at the plant, which manufactured ammunition for the military, was directly connected to industrial process water piping. That would allow for the potential of cross-contamination of the drinking water supply used by munitions

workers until 1993, when separate water systems were put into use. Studies by the Olin Corp., which operated the plant, and the Army have found there were not sufficient protections to guard against backflow problems and backsiphonage. The drinking water system was found to have had hundreds of direct connections between the process water piping and production tanks. The Army study also found that recovered water from manufacturing could have discharged into the drinking water systems and drinking water lines in areas where safeguards were not in place. Because the water system at the plant was also connected to nearby housing projects, workers' families also might have been subjected to risk, the citizens' group said.

Source: <http://www.madison.com/tct/news/312679>

23. *November 2, Press & Sun-Bulletin* – (New York) **Disposal issue: radioactive materials.** Compounds used in medicine are making their way into the Broome County, New York, landfill and into the Susquehanna River. Some are radioactive, and have set off radiation detectors at the landfill. While fish downstream of the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant have not been tested, Binghamton University researchers found traces of hormones and drugs in the plant's effluent prior to a new secondary treatment system that went online last year. The area has not been tested for drugs since. Improved methods of treating wastewater may be needed in the long term to address the problem, according to a report from the state Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Pharmaceuticals Work Group. "At this point, we don't plan to go to that extreme," said a DEC spokeswoman. Instead, the DEC is encouraging people to stop flushing medication down the toilet or pouring it down the drain. The sewage treatment facility is considering putting hospitals on an industrial pretreatment program to help keep medical waste from reaching the plant. The plant superintendent said local hospitals are not violating any laws, but she wants to open up a line of communication with them about U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Source:

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20081102/NEWS01/811020347/1001/news>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *November 3, Xinhua* – (International) **Bird flu likely kills one more in Indonesia.** A chicken butcher in Indonesia has allegedly died of bird flu on Monday after being hospitalized for two days, the Jakarta Post reported. The director of Hasan Sadikin Hospital said that the deceased had suffered from breathing failure. If blood samples test positive for the H5N1 virus, the deceased will be the 113th victim of bird flu in the country.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-11/04/content_10301920.htm

25. *November 3, KUTV 2 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **New wetland could spread West Nile virus in Utah.** Residents of Myton, Utah, fear that a federal plan will exacerbate West Nile infection rates there. The Central Utah Project mitigation commission plans to take people's ranches and farms — voluntarily if possible, by court order if necessary —

and make a 4,000-acre wetland all along the wide, flat Duchesne River valley. The wetland will bring hundreds of acres of shallow standing water — prime breeding ground for West Nile Virus mosquitoes. While the director of the Central Utah Reclamation, Mitigation, and Conservation Commission says good management and mosquito spraying will make the wetland safe, the director of Duchesne County Mosquito Abatement says making more places for mosquitoes to breed will likely result in more mosquitoes and more West Nile, even if the federal government does a lot more mosquito spraying as promised.

Source: http://www.kutv.com/content/news/topnews/story.aspx?content_id=f8f6621a-5477-4334-b87b-7851b37ee720

26. *November 3, Newsday* – (New Jersey) **Possible Legionnaires’ disease cluster in Newark.** New Jersey health officials are investigating a possible cluster of Legionnaires’ disease cases in Newark and Irvington. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services spokeswoman said there have been 15 cases of Legionnaires during the month of October — 12 in Newark and three in Irvington. Six of the 12 Newark cases and two of the three cases in Irvington are believed to be linked, as they occurred among residents living within a mile-and-a-half radius near the Newark-Irvington border.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--legionnairesdise1103nov03,0,7546022.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *November 4, Welt Online* – (International) **Embassies threatened ahead of executions.** According to Indonesian police, the United States and Australian embassies in the country’s capital received bomb threats on Tuesday. Police were investigating the threats to blow up the embassies, apparently sent via text message, if the Bali bombers are executed. Security has been increased across Indonesia in the last few days ahead of the expected executions of three Islamic militants sentenced to death for their role in attacks on two nightclubs in Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people. “A bomb threat against the U.S. and Australian embassies was sent via a mobile phone text message,” a National Police spokesman said, adding an investigation was underway. The state Antara news agency quoted a Central Jakarta police spokesman as saying the text message threatened to blow up the two embassies if the three militants were executed. A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Jakarta said that the embassy remained open.

Source: <http://www.welt.de/english-news/article2671321/Embassies-threatened-ahead-of-executions.html>

28. *November 4, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Yankee protest clears PSB offices.** Protesters dumped material that had been soaked in urine — or a similar smelling substance — in the offices of the Vermont Public Service Board on Monday in Montpelier, Vermont, prompting an evacuation of parts of the building, according to police and fire officials. About 15 to 20 protesters entered the office on the fourth floor

of the Chittenden Bank building on State Street to express displeasure with Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, officials said. The group made demands of a secretary, handing her something to sign, said a Montpelier Police sergeant. When she would not sign, they dumped material on the floor that smelled of urine, he said. The material seemed to be some type of foam packing material, said the Montpelier Fire chief. The fourth floor and most of the third floor were evacuated, said the fire chief, but the fire department quickly determined that the material was not hazardous. The Montpelier Police chief said the activity amounted to unlawful mischief or disorderly conduct, but the police sergeant said no one has been charged with a crime and police will not continue their investigation. Protesters handed out reading material that said the group was named Green Mountain Earth First! and was rallying against the “unsafe conditions at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power reactor and to petition the Public Service Board to revoke Entergy’s Certificate of Public Good.”

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081104/NEWS02/811040368/1003/NEWS02>

29. *November 3, Computerworld* – (National) **State Department, VA disclose two new data breaches.** Two federal agencies that have already drawn attention this year for data security breaches are back in the spotlight again. One of them is the U.S. Department of State, which last week disclosed that it had notified close to 400 individuals that the data they had submitted with their passport applications had been stolen in a database intrusion. And last Saturday, the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs (VA) said that one of its medical centers in Oregon had accidentally posted personal data on its public Web site. The breach at the State Department occurred in March at around the same time the agency disclosed that some of its contractors had illegally snooped on passport records belonging to presidential candidates and other high-profile citizens, according to a spokeswoman. Meanwhile, one of the VA medical centers in Portland, Oregon, accidentally posted personal details of about 1,600 veterans on a public Web site. Not all of the records contained Social Security numbers. In some cases, only patient names or partial names were exposed.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=IT+in+Government&articleId=9118959&taxonomyId=69&pageNumber=2>

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *November 4, Frederick News Post* – (Maryland) **Flu clinic becomes emergency drill.** A Monday flu clinic in Frederick, Maryland, took the form of an emergency preparedness drill. More than 360 health department employees and a handful of other county agencies participated to help ensure the county is ready for a medical emergency. Jurisdictions are required to hold preparedness drills every year to retain their funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said the health department’s public health preparedness and response director. The drill also tested the department’s emergency communication systems, including landlines, cell phones,

TalkAbouts and 800-megahertz radios. Amateur radios were used this year for the first time; the radios proved to be the most reliable form of communication in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Staff members from Frederick-based Integrated Response Solutions were at all four sites to evaluate the department's preparedness. Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1510393>

31. *November 3, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **Hostage drill tests emergency response.** Bridgeport Police conducted an emergency drill Saturday that simulated a hostage situation at the University of Bridgeport. The drill was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the city of Bridgeport's Office of Emergency Management in Homeland Security. In the scenario, the university was hosting a conference at the Bernhard Center. During the event, members of a radical group staged a takeover, resulting in 25 to 50 students being taken hostage. Throughout the course of the exercise, those called to the scene included university staff, police, fire, hostage negotiators, and SWAT teams. Saturday's drill included members of fire and police departments from roughly 14 cities and towns, as well as representatives of the American Red Cross, American Medical Response and other agencies. Source: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/3218.asp?item=3965>

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Information Technology

32. *November 3, Computerworld* – (International) **New worm exploits critical Windows bug.** A worm that exploits the bug Microsoft Corp. patched in an emergency update 11 days ago is actively attacking systems, several security companies and researchers said November 3. The worm, which Symantec Corp. called Wecor1 but was dubbed MS08-067.g by Kaspersky Lab and Microsoft itself, likely originated in China, said the director of Symantec's security response team. It appears to target Chinese-language versions of Windows 2000, he noted. The director confirmed that the worm, which is different from the information-stealing Trojan horse that prompted Microsoft to issue the out-of-cycle patch on Oct. 23, is circulating in the wild. According to the director, if the worm manages to infect a Windows PC, it also tries to attack all the machines on the same subnet. "If it can get behind the [firewall], then it can infect other systems," the director said. The director of security operations at nCircle Network Security Inc. urged users who had not installed the MS08-067 update to do so immediately. "The worm may not have many legs, but you should get ahead of the game and deploy now," he said. Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9118885>

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

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *November 4, Louisiana Town Talk* – (Louisiana) **2 boys arrested after bomb goes off in Leesville Wal-Mart.** Two people were injured when a homemade bomb went off inside the Leesville, Louisiana, Wal-Mart on Saturday, Leesville Police reported. Two 16 year old boys were arrested in connection to the incident. Police said the device went off around 8:30 p.m. and was initially reported to them as gunshots coming from the sporting goods area of the store. It was later discovered that it was a “small bomb” that had been detonated by the teens in the men’s clothing section of the store. A customer and an employee suffered minor injuries during the explosion. One of the unnamed juveniles was charged with criminal trespass and has been released to his parents. The other teen faces charges of manufacture and possession of a bomb, theft of goods, simple arson, two counts of counts of negligent injury, disturbing the peace, and aggravated assault. Police said the store was cleared, and the boys were arrested after officials reviewed security tape from the store.

Source: <http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20081104/NEWS01/811040320>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

34. *November 4, Macon Telegraph* – (Georgia) **Trees removed to strengthen Macon’s levee.** Contractors have been removing trees from a wooded section of Macon’s levee in an effort to help the city maintain its federal flood insurance coverage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been threatening to decertify Macon’s levee for several years because the integrity of the earthen embankment is undermined by the mature trees growing on it. If trees tip over in heavy winds and rain, their root systems can pull out large chunks of the bank, creating spaces for water to cross inside. The city is responsible for maintaining the levee, and the Corps is responsible for building and inspecting it. But the city is not paying for the current work. Instead, the Macon Water Authority stepped in because its Lower Poplar sewage treatment plant would suffer most from losing flood protection, said the Macon mayor. The Corps indicated that Macon had the only major levee in Georgia that might not hold back a “100-year”

flood. Such a deluge has a 1 percent chance of happening each year.
Source: <http://www.macon.com/198/story/513963.html>

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