



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 November 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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- The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on November 4 alerted the public to instances of questionable solicitations directed at consumers. These solicitations promise consumers access to personal loans through a nonexistent Federal Reserve lending program. (See item [10](#))
- According to SC Magazine, Adobe on November 4 delivered a new version of Adobe Reader and Acrobat 8 to correct a number of critical vulnerabilities that could allow an attacker to take remote control of an infected computer. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 5, New York Times* – (California) **California renewable-energy initiatives defeated.** Two California initiatives that would have substantially expanded the state’s clean-energy profile — but which opponents argued were ill conceived — foundered at the polls on Tuesday. Proposition 7 which would have required that California’s electric utilities get half of their power from renewable sources by 2025 (the current requirement is 20 percent by the end of 2010), was easily defeated with 65 percent of voters casting ballots against the measure. Critics of the measure — which included an unusual alliance of environmentalists and public utilities, which are not covered by current requirements but would be folded into the new mandates — argued that, as

drafted, the initiative would have driven up electricity rates, stalled the state's already steady shift to clean power, and strangled small alternative-energy companies.

Source: <http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/11/05/california-renewable-energy-initiatives-tank/>

2. *November 3, KMVT 11 Twin Falls* – (Idaho) **New ordinance to keep people away from power utilities along Snake River.** Twin Falls County, Idaho, passed an ordinance to keep people away from power facilities along the Snake River. Idaho Power has been working with Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls County on a trespassing ordinance. The updated rule prohibits anyone from crossing marked buoys below and above power facilities. Now the ordinance allows law enforcement to arrest violators and it carries penalties. The rule applies to any Idaho Power facility along the Snake River.
Source: <http://www.kmyt.com/news/local/33791839.html>
3. *November 3, WKYX 570 Paducah* – (Kentucky) **Annual emergency response drill at TransMontaigne in Paducah today.** Several emergency agencies including the Paducah Fire and Police Departments, McCracken County Sheriff's Department, and Emergency Management participated Monday in a drill at the TransMontaigne fuel and chemical storage facility. The drill involved a series of hazardous incidents at the facility. Officials said the drill addressed ways to improve communication between agencies.
Source: <http://www.wkyx.com/local-news-details.asp?NewsID=8536>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 5, Environmental Protection* – (National) **Chemical distributors group sponsors TRANSCAER.** The National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) is sponsoring the TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness & Emergency Response) program, which is a voluntary, national outreach effort to help communities prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident. Program members consist of volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distributor, and emergency response industries, as well as the government. "NACD distributor members, as well as our Chemical Handler and Chemical Supplier Affiliates, demonstrate implementation of environmental, health, security, and safety (EHS&S) policies and procedures under RDP's (Responsible Distribution ProcessSM) Code of Management Practice," said NACD's president. In keeping with RDP's goal for continuous improvement, significant enhancements were incorporated into this third cycle, on-site RDP Verification process. RDP Verification is and has been management systems-based and now also addresses operationally based EHS&S issues applicable to the site being verified. Verifications of NACD member companies are ongoing.
Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/69031/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 5, Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission under fire over fire.** A U.S. Representative sent a letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Friday, posing a long list of questions about the October 29 fire in an outbuilding at the property of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The plant operator says the fire was contained to one room. The U.S. Representative has longstanding concerns about the NRC's oversight of its fire safety rules. He believes that the agency is not doing enough to ensure that nuclear plant operators meet or exceed the agency's fire safety standards. A spokeswoman for the nuclear agency said the two NRC inspectors assigned to the plant are investigating the fire's cause and reviewing plant owner Entergy Corp.'s steps to ensure such a fire does not happen again. She said the agency received the U.S. Representative's letter and will respond as quickly as possible to the congressman. A spokesman for Entergy said the fire was quickly extinguished by a sprinkler system in the outbuilding, and was in no danger of spreading to the reactor building. The cause of the fire is unclear, although the Entergy spokesman said there is some speculation it may have been caused by a faulty battery in a laptop on a cart.
Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/business/x1500589642/Nuclear-Regulatory-Commission-under-fire-over-fire>

6. *November 3, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Evaluation of Besse to tell more of tritium leak.** An annual assessment that begins this week at FirstEnergy Corp.'s Davis-Besse nuclear plant should provide more answers about the radioactive tritium leak the company discovered at the plant last month. Circumstances surrounding the October 22 leak have become the focus of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) upcoming report. The NRC saw no evidence of tritium flowing off the site or infiltrating the groundwater, said an agency spokesman. Six of Davis-Besse's 11 wells are below the government's threshold for radioactive tritium, according to results the company released Friday. Results on the other five wells are expected this week. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established 20,000 picocuries of tritium per liter as the threshold for safe drinking water. The six wells had levels ranging from 155 to 1,612 picocuries per liter. The leak was traced to a drainage pipe that ran 8 feet underground, from the north side of Davis-Besse's turbine building to the site's settling basin. The pipe was rusty and might have been weeping trace amounts of tritium. Workers disturbed it as they were digging up soil to inspect nearby fire-suppression equipment, according to a FirstEnergy spokesman.
Source:
<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081103/NEWS16/811030327>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *November 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Unarmed missile tested from Vandenberg.** An unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile reached its

target in a test early Wednesday that sent a streak through the night sky that could be seen from the Central Coast and Southern California, the Air Force said. The ICBM was launched from an underground silo at Vandenberg Air Force Base at one a.m. PST. Its unarmed re-entry vehicle traveled 4,190 miles to a target over the Pacific Ocean near the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. “The fact that we can randomly select an on-alert operational ICBM from any missile wing and launch it without making any modifications to the components to hit a bulls-eye target is a testament to the system’s reliability,” said the 576th Flight Test Squadron commander and mission director. “I have complete confidence in our ICBM weapon system to perform as advertised.” The missile, configured with a National Nuclear Security Administration Test Assembly, was launched under the direction of the 576th Flight Test Squadron, whose members installed tracking and command destruct systems on it to collect data and meet safety requirements. The Air Force says the launch was an operational test to check the weapon system’s reliability and accuracy.

Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/11/ap_missiletest_110508/

8. *November 3, Associated Press* – (National) **Lockheed Martin gets \$147 million Air Force deal.** Lockheed Martin Corporation received a \$147 million contract from the Air Force for additional Sniper advanced targeting pods, the company said. The pods are a long-range precision targeting system that can be remotely operated. The systems’ targeting capability improves soldiers’ ability to detect and analyze ground targets, Lockheed said.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/11/03/ap5639529.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Government selling \$55 billion in bonds next week to help pay for financial rescue programs.** The government will sell \$55 billion in bonds next week as part of a massive borrowing to pay for its financial rescue programs. The Treasury Department said Wednesday it is bringing back its three-year notes, selling them monthly to help cover the increased borrowing needs, and will auction \$25 billion of them on November 10. The government also will offer \$20 billion in 10-year notes November 12, and \$10 billion in 29 3/4-year bonds on November 13. The government plans to borrow a record \$550 billion in the last three months of 2008 to help pay for the various financial rescue packages put into effect in response to the global crisis. Officials project that the government will need to borrow an additional \$368 billion in the first quarter of 2009. The Treasury also said it will offer 10-year notes in December and January of 2009. The balance of financing requirements will be met by offering weekly Treasury bills, monthly 52-week bills, monthly two-year, three-year and five-year notes, and 10-year and 20-year securities, the department said.

Source:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/F/FEDERAL_BORROWING?SITE=NYSDM&SECTION=BUSINESS&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-11-05-09-39-44

10. *November 4, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System* – (National) **Federal Reserve Board alerts public to instances of questionable solicitations directed at consumers.** The Federal Reserve Board on November 4 alerted the public to instances of questionable solicitations directed at consumers. These solicitations promise consumers access to personal loans through a nonexistent Federal Reserve lending program. Under this fraudulent scheme, targeted individuals are told that they can work through a broker to access a Federal Reserve program that extends sizable secured loans to consumers. Consumers are encouraged to deposit large sums of money into a bank account, under the guise of a security deposit, in order to receive the purported loan. The Federal Reserve is advising consumers that it has no involvement in these solicitations and does not directly sponsor consumer lending programs. The matter has been referred to the appropriate authorities for action. Consumers are strongly urged to verify the legitimacy of potential service providers before entering into a business transaction. Individuals seeking personal finance options are encouraged to do business only with reputable lenders and to shop around for the most favorable loan terms.

Source: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/press/other/20081104a.htm>

11. *November 4, Bank Systems & Technology* – (North Carolina) **Privier's new ATM service requires no card, account.** Charlotte, North Carolina-based Privier has developed a new ATM service called ATMSend that will allow the unbanked to transfer cash using envelope-free ATMs. According to the company, users would perform transactions without the need of a card or bank account. The recipients can then withdraw the funds, also without needing a card or bank account to do so. According to Privier, ATMSend is designed to help level the playing field for banks that wish to reach out to the unbanked market. It is offering the service to banks in the U.S. and abroad. To use ATMSend to send cash, users must register their mobile phone and personal information such as name, address, date of birth and social security number, which is verified against the OFAC list. As an additional safeguard measure, Privier uses idology's ExpectID IQ for knowledge-based authentication.

Source: <http://www.banktech.com/channels/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=212000423>

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Transportation Sector

Nothing to report

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Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *November 5, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Authorities: Bank envelope contained wheat flour.** Authorities say a suspicious white substance found in an envelope at a U.S. Bank processing center in Fargo was wheat flour. Employees at the center in Fargo were not allowed to enter or leave the building for more than an hour on November 4 while authorities checked the envelope. Authorities say an employee had

opened an envelope and white powder spilled out. Fargo fire, police, and hazardous materials officials responded. A police lieutenant says the case has been turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A Fargo fire marshal says there is a return address on the envelope, but it has not been released to the public. He says authorities are trying to contact someone at that address.

Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/293940.asp>

13. *November 4, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Sen. Evelyn Lynn receives mail containing white powder for a second time.** For the second time in less than two months, a state senator has received mail containing a white powder. Authorities were called to her office at about 9:20 a.m., a Daytona Beach police sergeant said. The senator received mail at a Post Office box in Ormond Beach November 3 and brought it to her office November 4. As she was opening the envelope, it did not feel like it contained anything, but when she held it up to the light she saw a powdery substance inside, he said. She did not open the envelope. A hazardous materials team has determined the substance is not a threat, but authorities have not said what it is. It will be sent to a lab for testing, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken over the investigation. Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/orl-lynn-white-powder-110408,0,3106883.story>
14. *November 4, Fayette Daily News* – (Georgia) **Strange package arrives at GOP headquarters.** A worker found a 9x12 manila envelope that had arrived in the mail November 4 addressed to a Fayette County Republican chairman. “What scared us was the return address on the envelope,” said the John McCain Election Chairman for Fayette County. “The return address read: Michael Arch Angel of Divine Intervention Way, Holy Cow, J.C. We didn’t fool around, we called the police.” Fayetteville police and firefighters arrived around 11 a.m. November 4 to begin their investigation. Source: http://www.fayettedailynews.com/article.php?id_news=2468

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *November 5, Xinhua* – (International) **Bird flu outbreak occurs in Laos.** The Xayaboury Provincial Avian Influenza Control Committee has declared a red zone which covers areas within one kilometer radius of the outbreak. This area includes the seven villages, said the Xayaboury district governor on Monday. All birds in these villages will be slaughtered to prevent the virus from spreading; and the movement, consumption, and sale of birds throughout the district has been banned until further notice. This ban also includes products made with the blood of poultry. A yellow zone will be established to include villages that are outside the red zone, but within five kilometers of the outbreak. Checkpoints have also been established throughout the district to prevent the movement of poultry. These checkpoints will remain in place until 45 days after the last case of the virus is identified. Source: <http://mathaba.net/news/?x=610748>
16. *November 5, Food Production Daily* – (International) **License deal enables global**

access to new E. coli tool. A tool to rapidly detect and measure E. coli 0157:H7 in meat can be distributed to processors worldwide following the signing of a new license agreement, claims a Canadian food safety test manufacturer. Vacci-Test Corporation said a deal with California-based MagnaBioSciences (MBS) gives it the world wide rights to the patented MBS magnetic technology for the detection of pathogens in food. According to the developer, the E.coli tool will be available from the fourth quarter in 2008, and will be quickly followed by tests for the detection of the pathogens Salmonella and Listeria. The test eliminates the need for slaughterhouses and meat-processors to hold finished products in cold storage until testing can be completed by off-site third parties.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/Quality-Safety/Licence-deal-enables-global-access-to-new-E.-coli-tool/?c=DtqJR18k3PmDXe7tBbAobA%3D%3D>

17. *November 5, Agricultural Research Service* – (National) **Gene-silencing technique to be deployed against soybean fungus.** A molecular biologist at the ARS Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit at Fort Detrick, Maryland, will use gene silencing to discover plant genes that play a role in orchestrating defense responses to *P. pachyrhizi* in resistant soybeans. The fungus causes substantial losses to soybeans worldwide, and its September 2004 detection in the continental United States has accelerated efforts to protect the \$18 billion U.S. soybean crop. In these studies, the gene-silenced plants will be inoculated with spores of *P. pachyrhizi*, and monitored for a breakdown in resistance. The ultimate goal of the research is to streamline the development of new soybean cultivars that can withstand *P. pachyrhizi*, which causes a foliar disease that severely weakens the plant and diminishes its seed yields and quality. Iowa State University scientists are also collaborating on this project.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

18. *November 5, WYMT 57 Hazard* – (Kentucky) **USDA declares Kentucky's 120 counties eligible for disaster assistance.** The Governor in Frankfort, Kentucky, today received word from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that farmers in all 120 counties in Kentucky are now eligible for emergency loans due to drought and high winds that occurred in Kentucky in 2008. On September 19, the Governor sent a request to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture requesting that USDA disaster assistance be made available to farmers across the Commonwealth due to crop losses resulting from widespread drought conditions that began in early 2008 and continue today. He further amended his request to include disaster assistance related to wind damage that occurred on Sunday, September 14, 2008. Hurricane force winds flattened crops and damaged orchards across the commonwealth. The devastating wind damage compounded the effect of the two consecutive years of drought conditions Kentucky farmers have experienced. The USDA reviewed the Damage Assessment Reports and other related information for all 120 counties and determined that all counties sustained sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial disaster designation.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/wymtnews/headlines/33896884.html>

19. *November 4, Packer* – (International) **Del Campo joins HarvestMark traceback program.** YottaMark has added its first Mexican-grown product to the lineup of fresh

produce using its HarvestMark unit traceability system. During the Produce Marketing Association's Fresh Summit 2008, October 24-27, California-based YottaMark officials announced that Del Campo Supreme Inc., Nogales, Arizona, will use traceable security codes that link to harvest, packing, and supply chain information. Del Campo plans to use its HarvestMark program for traceback as well as trace-forward of its bags, clamshells, and cases of tomatoes and bell peppers. The grower-shipper of hydroponic, hothouse, and field tomatoes and peppers was implementing the program in late October and planned to provide traceable produce to its buyers this season. The Driscoll's traceability initiative was scheduled to roll into production starting in November with its strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries. Blueberries are scheduled to roll out during the second phase in 2010.

Source: http://www.thepacker.com/icms/_dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-142053-146.asp&stype=topnews&fb

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Water Sector

20. *November 5, Business Gazette* – (Maryland) **Officials: Fiber optics will warn of weak water mains.** Fiber-optic cables running through large water pipes should prevent future breaks similar to one June 15 that led to thousands of county residents losing water pressure and the imposing of water restrictions, officials told a County Council committee November 3. Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) representatives recommended to the council that the fiber-optic system be expanded to include more pipes in the county, which would allow the utility to detect structural deficiencies in pipes larger than 54 inches in diameter. Although the fiber-optic system, which uses computers to monitor when wires inside pipes break, would not have applied to the Derwood pipe, the system would be beneficial for monitoring large pipes close to residential areas, WSSC officials said.

Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/11052008/montnew182818_32473.shtml

21. *November 5, Missourian* – (Missouri) **Proposition 1, city water bond, approved.** Voters in Columbia approved Proposition One on November 4, authorizing the city to issue \$38.9 million in bonds to finance future water projects. Proceeds from sale of the bonds will be used to finance renovations and additions to the city's water system over the next six years. In the face of increasing citywide demand for water and with mains as old as 50 years in some places, Columbia Water and Light proposed the large-scale bond issue as the most economically feasible solution to maintenance and distribution issues. The bonds will be financed by increases in utility rates, with annual increases of 1.5 percent in the first two years and five percent in the remaining four. Rates would increase a total of 23 percent by the end of the project. The renovations are intended to increase distribution of water to address expectations of higher demand and to meet fire flow requirements in some residential areas and schools.

Source: <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2008/11/05/proposition-1-water-bond/>

22. *November 5, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Spill at Fort Worth water-**

treatment plant kills fish. About 2,500 gallons of ferric sulfate was dumped at the South Holly water treatment plant November 4, turning the water red, and killing fish in the Trinity River, a Water Department spokeswoman said. Workers at the plant west of downtown were cleaning a tank and “thought the discharge was going into the sanitary sewer main when in fact it was entering a storm drain,” she said. Workers disposed of the dead fish and reported the spill to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Ferric sulfate is used to treat water; it killed the fish by making the river water more acidic, she said.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/229/story/1018916.html>

23. *November 4, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. decides to borrow for water, sewer.** Pennsylvanians have voted to allow the state to borrow \$400 million to repair and upgrade water and sewer systems. The grants and loans would help sewage plants along the Susquehanna River meet federal standards for discharge into the Chesapeake Bay. The money would also be used to curb storm water runoff, reduce pollution, and address the environmental effects of farm chemicals. Companion legislation that passed the General Assembly earlier this year diverted slot-machine gambling proceeds to repay \$800 million in borrowing. It will fund work on water and sewer systems, improve flood control, and increase safety at high-hazard dams.

Source: http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci_10897928

24. *November 4, Loudon-Times Mirror* – (Virginia) **County will inspect new sewage systems, ban others.** The installation of nonconventional on-site sewage disposal systems in Loudoun County has been banned for the next five years. The Board of Supervisors voted November 3 to suspend use of the high-tech systems, and to require all those already in use to be inspected annually. A conventional system is defined as a treatment system that relies on septic tanks to collect sewage, which then flows — assisted only by gravity — to a below-ground drainfield. The newer nonconventional systems rely on computers, pumps, spray, or drip irrigation of treated effluent (the water that is left after solid waste has been removed) and peat or other materials to remove impurities. Supervisors who supported the ban pointed to failures in the newer systems. The five-year ban, combined with mandatory annual inspections, will give the county time to evaluate the environmental risks or benefits of the new systems.

Source: <http://www.loudountimes.com/news/2008/nov/04/county-will-inspect-new-sewage-systems-ban-others/>

25. *November 4, American Water Works Association* – (National) **States, EPA ink data-sharing agreement.** State regulators could start electronically sharing large volumes of water system compliance monitoring data with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) annually, under an agreement signed in October. Currently, states are required to report drinking water compliance data every six years for U.S. EPA’s mandated review of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators signed an agreement with U.S. EPA to voluntarily provide water sample analytical results and related drinking water data from the agencies’ compliance monitoring and enforcement activities for water systems. The director of infrastructure for U.S. EPA’s Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water

said other federal agencies have signed Trading Partner Agreements (TPA) to obtain voluntary and regulatory data from state agencies. Because 51 drinking water primacy agencies, including 46 states, had already volunteered to provide the data, U.S. EPA decided it was time to set up a TPA for drinking water data. U.S. EPA will use the data to update the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Web site on contaminant occurrence at water systems. Regarding data security, the TPA did note that no confidential business information will be transferred from the state to U.S. EPA.

Source:

<http://www.awwa.org/publications/breakingnewsdetail.cfm?itemnumber=42213>

26. *November 4, Water Technology Online* – (Nebraska) **NE university launches online water resource.** The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) has launched a Web site dedicated to water. Site topics include safe drinking water; municipal storm sewers; private wells and septic systems; irrigation and crop production; livestock manure management; ponds, lakes and streams; and water research topics. The site hosts the Water-Related Research Database, which is “intended as a tool for legislators, government officials and constituents alike to keep track of the water-related research” university faculty members are conducting, according to the Web site.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=70890

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *November 4, Medical News Today* – (International) **Vaccinations against bird flu should happen now, say experts.** People should be vaccinated now against bird flu rather than waiting for a global pandemic to erupt, an international panel of experts — including a leading British influenza specialist — says in a new report. The idea is to give people a vaccination now against bird flu to build up the immune system, while there is still plenty of time to organize the program, and then give them a booster shot when the pandemic is imminent. The primed people could be protected in a week as opposed to six weeks. In a report in the latest edition of the journal *Lancet Infectious Diseases*, the researchers point out that a conventional vaccination policy against bird flu requires two doses of H5N1 vaccine before people are protected “which may be logistically difficult to organize.” They say there may be no warning before a pandemic suddenly appears, as the early danger signs may be missed.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/128049.php>

28. *November 4, USA Today* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. hospital gets ‘dirty bomb’ sensors.** The largest private hospital in the nation’s capital began installing sophisticated new radiation detectors on Tuesday in an effort to better prepare for a terrorist attack with a radiological “dirty bomb.” The sensors, which will be placed out of public view at the 926-bed Washington Hospital Center, will immediately let doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff know if someone contaminated with dangerous radiation enters the emergency room or other areas of the hospital. The goal is to prevent victims of an attack from compounding the disaster by contaminating the hospitals and emergency workers who are there to treat them. The sensors, which can

differentiate between dangerous radiation and the radiation used in cancer treatments, will be tested for several months to see how well they work. They are designed not to trigger an alarm if patients — such as those treated for cancer — walk past.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-11-04-hospitalsensors_N.htm

29. *November 4, Wall Street Journal* – (California) **California fertility center gets warning letter from FDA.** A California fertility center received a warning from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for failing to adequately test donors for sexually transmitted diseases. The letter, dated October 9 and released Tuesday by the FDA, says the Center for Fertility and Gynecology in Tarzana, California, tested some donors in laboratories using non-FDA approved screening tests. The FDA said the California clinic did not test several donors for chlamydia, a disease that can cause infertility, and gonorrhea, which can be life threatening if it spreads to the blood or joints.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122581427155697263.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *November 3, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **DHS agencies' info-sec programs lacking, IG found.** Several U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agencies are not performing as well as they should when it comes to information security, concluded the DHS Inspector General (IG), whose office evaluated the department's information security program for fiscal year 2008. The IG found agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, Management Directorate, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, are not following through on some DHS protection programs. Issues include: Systems not being accredited through key documents, and key information are missing; Plans of Action and Milestones (POA&Ms) not being created for all known security weaknesses; POA&M weaknesses not being mitigated fast enough; and baseline security configurations not being implemented for all systems. Some DHS officials note that the agencies lagging a bit are huge entities that span the globe. The chief information security officer and chief privacy officer at DHS concurred with the IG's findings, but assured the department is taking many steps to address the problems. The Privacy Office, for example, is working to complete the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Handbook by the end of 2008 to inform department employees, senior officials, and contractors of their obligations to protect information and what to do if it is lost or compromised. Also to be produced is a "consequences" document as it relates to PII.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/5903/152/>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report

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Information Technology

31. *November 4, MX Logic* – (International) **Working group launches phishing scam guidance.** The Anti-Phishing Working Group has issued new guidance for domain registrars which aims to help them identify websites used to launch phishing scams. Its new white paper has been drawn up in collaboration with a number of key players in the fight against phishing and gives guidance on a number of methods to identify website registration requests, which may be used to commit identity theft and fraud. According to Secure Computing, the guide comes as a response to the ever-growing sophistication of phishing scams seen in the wild. The best practice recommendations provide information on how to identify dubious registrations and how to capture and preserve evidence to charge criminals. It is split into three main areas: phishing site takedown, evidence preservation, and fraud screening.
Source: <http://www.mxlogic.com/securitynews/identity-theft/working-group-launches-phishing-scam-guidance761.cfm>

32. *November 4, SC Magazine* – (International) **Adobe patches for critical vulnerabilities in Adobe Reader.** Adobe on November 4 delivered a new version of Adobe Reader and Acrobat 8 to correct a number of critical vulnerabilities that could allow an attacker to take remote control of an infected computer. The update — which addresses nine flaws in version 8.1.2 and earlier — includes a fix for a stack buffer overflow issue that was reported by four security companies: TippingPoint, Secunia, Core Security Technologies, and iSIGHT Partners. That bug could be exploited by hackers to gain access to a vulnerable system by tricking a victim into clicking on a specially crafted PDF file that contains malicious JavaScript, according to Core. The director of security operations at network security firm nCircle said in an email that a public proof-of-concept is available for the vulnerability, which resembles a now-patched Foxit Reader bug that was disclosed earlier this year. An Adobe spokesman said that the company is not aware of any proof-of-concept code. Adobe suggests users upgrade to version 8.1.3. Users of version 9 for Reader and Acrobat, released in June, are not vulnerable to any of the flaws patched on November 4.
Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Adobe-patches-for-critical-vulnerabilities-in-Adobe-Reader/article/120421/>

33. *November 3, Dark Reading* – (International) **Microsoft's new Security Intelligence Report finds Trojan downloaders/droppers are on the rise, while viruses decline.** The Microsoft report, released November 3 and based on malware data gathered from millions of Windows PCs from around the world, found that Trojan downloaders and droppers were the most prevalent threat to these machines in the first half of 2008. This type of malware made up more than 30 percent of all malware cleaned off of Windows machines during that period. Trojans and other backdoor malware — which often sneak past antivirus and antispymware scanners — are typically used to steal credentials (think online banking) or for botnet proliferation. Microsoft found that these threats are

increasing, while viruses dropped from nearly 10 percent in the second half of last year to less than 5 percent from January through June of this year. Spyware also declined during the same period, from nearly 5 percent to about 2 percent. The main culprits in the Trojan infections, according to Microsoft, are the Win21/Zlob and Win32/Renos family of malware, which accounted for more than 96 percent of the infections Microsoft's Malicious Software Removal Tool cleaned in the first half of 2008. The total amount of malware and unwanted software removed from computers worldwide by MSRT increased by more than 43 percent compared with the second half of 2007.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/shared/printableArticle.jhtml?articleID=212000193>

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

34. *November 4, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **FCC votes to turn empty TV channels into wireless Net access.** Wireless Internet access is about to undergo its largest ever expansion after federal regulators approved a controversial plan Tuesday to allow a new generation of mobile devices to use the empty airwaves between television channels for free Web surfing. Dubbed “Wi-Fi on steroids” by its supporters in the high-tech industry, the plan promises to offer free wireless Internet service across America and spur new systems for transmitting video and other data seamlessly between devices in their homes. The plan overcame staunch opposition from the entertainment industry, which is worried about the signals interfering with TV broadcasts and wireless microphones. Though expected to be slower and possibly less secure than commercial services from cable and phone companies, the new Internet connections would ride on the highest-quality airwaves, able to carry signals long distances and easily penetrate trees and walls.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/technology/2008/11/federal-regulat.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *November 5, Pawtucket Times* – (Rhode Island) **Polling place reopens after powder scare.** A polling place re-opened and appeared safe Tuesday afternoon after having been shut down for some time due to concerns over a mysterious substance that had been found in the polling area, according to the local fire chief. The substance which prompted the closing had not been identified as of press time. However, the fire chief said testing of the substance on the premises of the Grove Avenue Elementary School

did not show it to be harmful. It was reported yesterday that the substance found was white and powdery. However, the chief described it as “grayish” in color and “fibrous” in texture. The evacuation and closing of the polling location occurred around 11:30 a.m., when the substance was unexpectedly found by a poll worker. City firefighters and a team of hazardous material technicians responded to the scene, and were assisted by units from North Providence, including a decontamination unit. Police units blocked off a stretch of road near the school and redirected traffic. A tent was set up for decontamination purposes, but the group of poll workers and others who had been in the polling area did not end up needing decontamination showers. Samples of the mysterious substance were brought outside and tested. The test results were inconclusive, but it came back with a pH balance of six, which is a neutral rating in terms of acidity and alkalinity.

Source: <http://www.pawtuckettimes.com/content/view/55097/27/>

36. *November 5, Berkshire Eagle* – (Maine) **Police arrest one student.** A 17- year-old student was arrested Tuesday and charged with making a false bomb threat to Monument Mountain Regional High School. He was released on bail from Southern Berkshire District Court and will be arraigned formally on November 10. His arrest is related to the first of three threats that came over a span of eight days. He is accused of leaving a written message on a boys’ bathroom wall on Monday, October 27, which stated a bomb would go off there, according to Great Barrington’s police chief. Meanwhile, a second student, a 16-year-old juvenile, was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest for allegedly interfering with the police investigation at the school yesterday. The police chief said the second and third threats remain under investigation, and he noted that, while more information has been coming in, investigators are “still looking at all possibilities.”

Source: http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_10903551?source=most_email

37. *November 4, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Suspicious package that evacuated Chico High found to contain a book.** The bomb squad has determined that a suspicious package discovered at the Chico High School library contained a book. The school was placed under a lockdown at 12:36 p.m., followed by the evacuation of all students beginning at 1:50 p.m. The investigation centered around the school’s library where staff had discovered the package. The Butte County Interagency Explosive Ordinance Detail responded to the scene, according to a Chico Police Department press release. At 3:34 p.m., the bomb squad was able to enter the library and X-ray the package. They subsequently determined that it was not an explosive device. According to an E-R photographer on the scene, officials had been concerned because someone in recent days had threatened there would be a bomb on campus.

Source: http://www.chicoer.com/publicsafety/ci_10896845

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. *November 4, National Park Service* – (Arizona) **November fire discovered smoldering on North Rim.** On November 1, smoke was reported approximately 6.5

miles north and west of the developed area on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Upon investigating, firefighters found a small, lightning-caused fire, approximately 1/4 acre in size, burning west of the Basin and north of the W1 road. This fire, the November Fire, is smoldering in ponderosa pine with some fir encroachment in an area that has seen little fire in recent years. Given fall's shorter days and cooler temperatures, and the desire to restore fire to this portion of the North Rim forests, the U.S. National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service fire managers, working together as the North Zone Fire Management Unit (North Zone), have decided to manage the November Fire for resource benefit. No significant cultural resources are immediately apparent in the vicinity of the fire; and northern goshawks, which nest on the North Rim, have fledged for the season. However, if goshawk nests or archeological sites are found in the area, firefighters will take action to secure them. With the November Fire, North Zone fire managers intend to maintain natural processes in a fire-dependent ecosystem and reduce the build up of vegetation that has resulted from the lack of fire in this part of the forest.

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/upload/2008-11-04%20Nov%20Fire.pdf>

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Dams Sector

39. *November 5, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Deer Creek Dam reinforcement wraps up early.** The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation completed a five-year, \$30 million safety upgrade on the 67-year-old earthen dam, reinforcing the structure so it can continue to protect Provo from flooding during a natural — or man-made — disaster. The project ends this month, one year ahead of schedule. Work included strengthening the dam's foundation, reinforcing its spillway, and stiffening the dam so earthquakes cannot tear it apart. It also raised the dam's crest six feet to counteract any slippage during an earthquake. The dam holds back the Provo River to form Deer Creek Reservoir, which provides drinking and irrigation water for Utah and Salt Lake counties. If the dam ever breaches, Provo residents would have at least an hour's warning to evacuate the flood's path and move to higher ground. A civil engineer said the project also gave the Bureau an opportunity to take U.S. 189 off the top of the dam, in keeping with Bureau policy. There is no longer a worry that road salt used by highway crews during winter will corrode the dam's surface, he said. Plus, it makes it harder for a terrorist to get close to the dam — a worry that has developed in the post-September 11th world.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_10902378

40. *November 4, Legal Newsline* – (Massachusetts) **Potential dam catastrophe leads to Mass. lawsuit.** The structural integrity of two dams in Taunton, Massachusetts, that hold back the 250 acre Lake Sabbatia has lead the attorney general to file a lawsuit requesting emergency measures be taken. The second dam named in the suit is a temporary structure built in July 2007 that is 25 feet upstream of the Morey's Bridge Dam. The lawsuit alleges that Jefferson Development and the company's principle have failed to comply with the Office of Dam Safety's issued orders of repair for the dam. The complaint seeks immediate steps to be taken to fix the risks of the two dams. The dam was classified as unsafe by the Office of Dam Safety, which has issued orders

of repair for the last two years that Jefferson Development and the company's principle have failed to fulfill. The second dam, constructed because of problems related to the Morey's Bridge Dam's deterioration, was built by local residents with Jefferson Development's assistance but without a qualified engineer's supervision. The dam was meant to raise the level of the lake until the Morey's Bridge Dam could be completed. The complaint also alleges that Jefferson Development is in violation of a February 2008 Administrative Consent Order that the company entered into with MassDEP to evaluate the temporary dam's structural integrity and provide a plan in the event of a catastrophic dam failure.

Source: <http://www.legalnewsline.com/news/217082-potential-dam-catastrophe-leads-to-mass.-lawsuit>

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