



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 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/>

- According to Bloomberg, shippers controlling almost a quarter of the global fleet of crude-oil supertankers may avoid Egypt’s Suez Canal after an increase in piracy off east Africa, potentially raising the cost of delivering the commodity. (See item [1](#))
- Pasadena Star-News reports that five branches of the Department of Children and Family Services in California received letters Monday containing a white powdery substance. A statement from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors identified the substance found at the Lancaster office as arsenic. (See item [17](#))

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 20, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil supertankers may avoid Suez on Somalia piracy.** Shippers controlling almost a quarter of the global fleet of crude-oil supertankers may avoid Egypt’s Suez Canal after an increase in piracy off east Africa, potentially raising the cost of delivering the commodity. A.P. Moeller Maersk A/S, Europe’s biggest shipping line, Thursday became the first company to say it will divert oil tankers to sail around South Africa, following the lead of Norwegian chemicals shipping line Odfjell SE. Euronav NV, TMT Co. Ltd., BW Shipping Managers Pte, and Frontline Ltd. say they are reviewing whether to reroute their oil tankers. Avoiding the Suez Canal will delay oil deliveries and reduce the supply of available vessels. There

have been at least 88 attacks against ships in the area since January, and Somalian pirates are holding 250 crew hostage on board 14 merchant vessels.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aHbiuomk7e.Y&refer=energy>

2. *November 20, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Port Everglades: Catastrophe averted in fire.** Firefighters raced to put out a fire that engulfed an office building in the middle of one of the largest liquid propane farms in the country Wednesday evening at Port Everglades, authorities said. A security guard making her rounds near the building heard an explosion shortly after 6 p.m., officials said. Firefighters arrived and extinguished the flames in about 20 minutes. No injuries were reported. The building, owned by Targa Resources Inc., sits on a fenced propane yard surrounded by 58 mammoth tanks containing the liquid fuel. Each tank can hold 30,000 gallons of propane, the chief said. The State Fire Marshal's Office and the Broward Sheriff Fire Marshal's Bureau are investigating the cause of the fire.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/custom/consumer/sfl-fl8bdigest11204sbnov20,0,5942247.story>

3. *November 18, Cleburne Times-Review* – (Texas) **Compressor station blows up.** A natural gas compressor station exploded near Godley, Texas, about midnight Saturday resulting in a fire that could be seen from Cleburne, a Cleburne assistant fire chief said. The facility is owned by Crosstex Pipeline and serves as an entry point for an EOG Resources (one of the largest oil and natural gas companies in the United States) site. The cause of the explosion remains under investigation. Firefighters from Cleburne, Bono, and Godley responded. Johnson County Sheriff's Office deputies secured the area and temporarily evacuated several nearby residences. One employee was on site at the time of the explosion although no injuries were reported. The fire, which burned several hours, completely destroyed the two compressors. Firefighters estimate damages to be more than \$2 million. A 24 inch pipeline had to be shut in and the residual gas allowed to burn before firefighters advanced to extinguish the remaining fire.

Source:

http://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/johnsoncounty/local_story_323145015.html?keyword=topstory

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 20, New Jersey Daily Record* – (National) **Report: NJ chem. plants among most dangerous in U.S.** Five New Jersey chemical plants are among the nation's 101 most "dangerous" facilities because terrorist strikes or innocent accidents could release poisonous gases killing or harming millions of people, says a report issued Wednesday. The Center of American Progress, a think-tank, said those plants could greatly reduce risks by switching to "safer" chemicals used to make industrial products and applications and household products. Current federal chemical security guidelines, which expire in October 2009, are too weak, according to the report, which is aimed at

persuading Congress and the next president to pass tougher legislation mandating companies to switch to safer substances. More than 90 plants also receive dangerous chemicals by rail or truck, which increases risks to people along the delivery routes in case of terrorist attack, according to the report. The American Chemistry Council, an industry group, argued that it favors a national set of chemical-security regulations but does not want the government to dictate what chemicals companies should use.

Source: <http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20081120/UPDATES01/811200356>

See also: <http://www.hSDL.org/hslog/?q=node/4503>

5. *November 20, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **Plant near Tampa port plans curb on chemicals.** After denying there was a problem, General Chemical has agreed to install scrubbers in the stack of its Palmetto Beach plant near the Port of Tampa. The plant's 55-foot stack releases a sulfuric acid mist from the process of making aluminum sulfate, a wastewater treatment chemical. About a year ago, residents began complaining that the emissions smelled foul and burned their eyes and throats. The plant's five-year permit is up for renewal this month, and the environmental agency was considering denying it if General Chemical would not agree to install scrubbers or "demisters." After receiving a warning in September, the company said new equipment was expensive and it could deal with the problem by staggering its emission hours to avoid releases when people were using the nearby park and children were going to and coming from a neighborhood school. But in a meeting last week with Environmental Protection Commission officials, General Chemical officials said they had decided to install a scrubber.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/nov/20/na-plant-plans-curbs-on-chemicals/news-breaking/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *November 20, Reuters* – (Alabama) **Southern sees Ala. Farley 1 reactor back soon.** Southern Co. expects Unit 1 at the Farley nuclear power station in Alabama to return to service later Thursday, a spokeswoman for the plant said. She said the unit automatically tripped on November 19 due to a low voltage indication in the switchyard. She noted that to protect plant equipment the systems are programmed to shut automatically on low voltage indications.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2047435920081120>

7. *November 18, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **NRC OKs nuke plant's safety shield.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) released a report that concludes that there are no significant conditions that would affect safety and the operation of Oyster Creek Generating Station's drywell liner until its next examination in 4 years. An NRC spokesman said Monday that a preliminary notification report issued on the agency's inspection has shown that the crucial drywell liner is operational. "The thing is leaking," said a plant opponent. "The drywell is leaking. They have

ongoing leaks. They have ongoing corrosion. That's what that proves, and they have not gotten to the bottom of it, and they have not corrected it." An Oyster Creek spokesman said "We know that there's no way for the water to be in there while we're operating, none at all, so the only time it could happen" is during a refueling outage. "We'll make any repairs to stop that water from getting in there that we need to make," said the plant spokesman. As part of its license renewal process, AmerGen's ultrasound testing on the thickness of the drywell's steel plates was acceptable by current design requirements, the NRC report said. Based on a review of the technical information, the NRC staff determined AmerGen has provided an adequate basis to conclude the drywell primary containment will remain operable during the period until the next scheduled examination in 2012.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20081118/NEWS02/811180351/1070/NEWS02>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *November 20, BBC News* – (International) **U.S. warned of China 'cyber-spying.'** China has stepped up computer espionage against the U.S. government and American businesses, according to an influential Washington Congressional panel. In its annual report to Congress, the panel warned that China was gaining increasing access to sensitive information from U.S. computer networks. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission was set up by Congress in 2000 to advise, investigate, and report on U.S.-China issues. It alleges that the Chinese are looking for diplomatic and military secrets in government databases, and potentially lucrative industrial secrets held by American corporations. The panel of six Democrats and six Republicans said China would continue to target the United States using cyberspace as it is cheaper and less risky than traditional espionage activities. Another advantage, they say, is that determining who infiltrated computer networks is often difficult to establish. The panel recommended that lawmakers should provide funds for U.S. government agencies that would monitor and protect sensitive information held on computer networks.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7740483.stm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 20, Newsday* – (New York) **Glen Head millionaire accused of stealing \$50M.** A Glen Head millionaire who was a key figure in a Congressional corruption scandal has been accused in a lawsuit by a mortgage company of involvement in a scheme to steal more than \$50 million through a network of companies in the New York City and on Long Island. The 60-year-old, who is serving an 8-year federal prison sentence for laundering bribes paid to a former Representative from California, was sued last week by DLJ Mortgage Capital Inc. of Manhattan in federal court over what the firm claims was a massive scheme lasting several years. During recent sentencing proceedings in San Diego federal court involving the bribery case, a prosecutor told the Judge that there is evidence the defendant and some of his relatives were involved in

mortgage fraud and that there was a pending investigation. The assistant U.S. attorney told the judge the probe was “very much an ongoing investigation” that would last until the end of the year. According to the lawsuit, the scam involved “at least 95 real estate sales and mortgage loan transactions sold to DLJ and other financial institutions.” The defendant’s wife and other relatives, as well as attorneys, title agents, and various companies were also sued. An attorney for DLJ Mortgage Capital said the firm was seeking to attach or freeze assets of the defendant and other defendants.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/crime/ny-nykont195934539nov20,0,7896600.story>

10. *November 20, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services* – (International) **PayPal users frozen out of accounts.** PayPal users are being locked out of their accounts after changing their default currency setting, leaving them with no way to access or withdraw their money. “I’ve been getting this error since two weeks, I can’t login to my account, I can’t pay for my bills, I can’t withdraw money, nothing,” complains one user on the Ebay support forum. The complaints date back to the end of September, but many customers are yet to have their problems resolved by PayPal’s technical support team. Source: http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2814294.html

11. *November 20, Newsday* – (New York) **Feds accuse 16 in LI mortgage fraud schemes.** Federal officials Wednesday arrested 16 people who they said were involved in two multimillion-dollar Long Island mortgage fraud schemes, including one suspected of being tied to a drug distribution ring. The schemes are believed by investigators to have bilked lenders of a total of \$13.9 million through finance companies in both Nassau and Suffolk counties. Brooklyn federal prosecutors said one of those arrested controlled Property Cash Inc. of Greenlawn. According to an indictment unsealed yesterday, Property Cash was nominally in the name of his girlfriend who was also charged. Federal agents also arrested another suspect, who according to court papers controlled Home Cash Inc. of Huntington Station. According to the indictment, the defendants used straw buyers with good credit to fraudulently obtain mortgages to pay for homes in Huntington, Greenlawn, Bay Shore, and Uniondale at inflated prices. The defendants gained control of the properties through use of a “foreclosure rescue scheme” in which they promised homeowners in danger of defaulting on their mortgages that they could sign their properties over to Home Cash or Property Cash, a method that stole the equity, the indictment charged. The various straw buyers, who were paid up to \$10,000 for their participation, had their credit inflated by the defendants, the indictment stated. Once the defendants acquired the properties, they flipped them at prices inflated with the help of licensed appraisers, prosecutors charged. The scheme lost lenders \$8.8 million, prosecutors said. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/crime/ny-nyfrau205934540nov20,0,6861797.story>

12. *November 19, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services* – (Texas) **First National warns of phishing scheme.** Some First National Bank of Bryan, Texas, customers have been receiving e-mails that appear to be from the bank asking account holders to update their information on the bank’s Web site. The e-mail directs users to a fake site that mirrors

First National's online banking site. The mirror site was designed to fool customers into revealing personal account information. The fake Web site has been shut down, but new impostor sites are likely to continue popping up, said the president and chief operating officer of Prosperity Bank, which acquired First National Bank of Bryan this month.

Source: http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2814294.html

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Transportation Sector

13. *November 20, U.S. Department of Transportation* – (Illinois; Virginia; Washington) **Three new federally-funded runways open in Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, and Seattle-Tacoma international airports a week before Thanksgiving.** New runways at three of the nation's busiest airports mean countless travelers will experience fewer delays and better service one week before the start of the Thanksgiving holiday travel season, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation announced today. The Secretary said the new runways opening today at Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airports would allow for an additional 330,000 take-offs and landings each year. She added that the runways, which were built with \$643 million in federal airport improvement program funds, also will help reduce delays at the three airports and in other communities served by the facilities. The runways are the 12th, 13th and 14th facilities opened since December of 2001. Over the past eight years the federal government has invested over \$50 billion in new runway and taxiway projects, new airport facilities, and new air traffic control technology.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot16708.htm>

14. *November 19, USA Today* – (National) **TSA's 'behavior detection' leads to few arrests.** Fewer than one percent of airline passengers singled out at airports for suspicious behavior are arrested, U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) figures show, raising complaints that too many innocent people are stopped. A TSA program launched in early 2006 that looks for terrorists using a controversial surveillance method has led to more than 160,000 people in airports receiving scrutiny, such as a pat-down search or a brief interview. That has resulted in 1,266 arrests, often on charges of carrying drugs or fake IDs, the TSA said. The TSA program trains screeners to become "behavior detection officers" who patrol terminals and checkpoints looking for travelers who act oddly or appear to answer questions suspiciously. Critics say the number of arrests is small and indicates the program is flawed. Some scientists say the TSA effort is just as likely to flag a nervous traveler as a terrorist. "The use of these technologies for the purpose that the TSA is interested in moves into an area where we don't have proven science," said a psychologist at the University of California-Berkeley. Although observers can perceive whether someone appears anxious or is acting deceptively, they cannot tell whether that person is planning an attack or something such as an extramarital affair, he said. A National Academy of Sciences report last month calls for more research and says surveillance should be used only as "preliminary screening" to find people who merit "follow-up investigation."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-11-17-behavior-detection_N.htm

15. *November 19, Reuters* – (National) **Regulators demand safety checks on Boeing 737s.**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued an emergency safety mandate to check fuel pumps on more than 560 Boeing Co 737 airliners flown by U.S. airlines, the agency confirmed on Wednesday. The inspections, required for four versions of the single-aisle 737, are meant to ensure that the fuel pumps turn off correctly. Failure to do that could result in fire or explosions, the FAA said. Aircraft are not expected to be grounded for the checks, an FAA representative said, meaning that flights should not be disrupted.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE4AI7OZ20081119?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *November 19, WFSB 8 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **Hospital escapee charged in anthrax hoax.** A federal grand jury returned an indictment Wednesday on a hospital escapee charged with an anthrax hoax and mailing threats. The indictment alleges that on or about August 8, a man, 45, mailed an envelope to the clerk's office of the U.S. Supreme Court in which he had placed a substance and a letter bearing the words "Anthrax Die!" The indictment also states that on or about September 15, he sent a second envelope to the Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters in Washington, D.C., containing a substance and a letter bearing the words "Anthrax Die!" Each of the letters was analyzed for anthrax and the presence of several other chemical and biological agents. All tests were negative. Police said the man escaped from the Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown on May 31. He was arrested by Bridgeport police in Bridgeport on June 3. Police said they believe the man sent the anthrax hoax letters while detained in the state of Connecticut on criminal charges. He was charged with two counts of mailing threatening communications and two counts of perpetrating an anthrax hoax

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/news/18017297/detail.html#->

17. *November 18, Pasadena Star-News* – (California) **Mailed powder raises alarm at government buildings.** Five branches of the Department of Children and Family Services received letters Monday containing a white powdery substance and what investigators called rambling political rhetoric, authorities said. Authorities said Tuesday no one at any of the offices targeted – in El Monte, West Covina, Lancaster, Baldwin Hills and Chatsworth - exhibited any symptoms of illness as a result of coming into contact with the powder. Police have no suspects. Hazardous materials crews who responded to the El Monte DCFS office about 2:30 p.m. Monday initially believed the powder was rat poison, an El Monte police Lt. said. However, FBI officials are conducting further tests. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to authorize a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever sent the substance to the Lancaster office. A statement from the Board identified the substance found at the Lancaster office as arsenic. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force is working with the postal inspection services on the case.

Source: http://www2.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_11019361

Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *November 20, US AgNet*– (Wisconsin) **Wisconsin firm fined for processing bad butter.** A St. Croix County distributing company has been fined \$4,000 and sentenced to one-year probation for its role in contaminating and adulterating butter, according to the U.S. attorney for western Wisconsin. The New Richmond News reports that Woodville Warehousing and Distributing was given the sentence Tuesday after the company's owner pled guilty on August 28 to the misdemeanor. Court records say the butter was processed and then held for sale at the warehouse, then was later shipped across state lines. Following an anonymous tip, an inspector from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture went to Woodville and found that the company was involved in an unlicensed butter-processing operation. The inspector found that the butter's packaging was exposed to contamination and that dark particles appeared on the butter. Some boxes containing butter had stickers on them indicating the butter was not fit for consumption. The inspector also found that there were no hand-washing stations and that the equipment being used was not approved for food processing. At the time of the inspector's visit approximately 86,000 pounds of butter had already been shipped to Minnesota. The inspector prevented an additional 200,000 pounds from being shipped. Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2722&yr=2008>

19. *November 20, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota sounds alarm about melamine in Asian-made cookies.** State officials are expanding their warning about contaminated cookies being sold in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is warning consumers to avoid eating any Wonderfarm brand cookie-type biscuits due to melamine contamination. Two weeks ago, the Agriculture Department issued a consumer advisory for Wonderfarm cookies after melamine was found in Wonderfarm's "Successful" variety of cookies. Now further state testing has detected melamine in three additional Wonderfarm varieties: "Royal Flavour Biscuits", "Lovely Melody Biscuits" and "Daily Life Biscuits." The products are made by Interfood Shareholding Co. in Vietnam. The Minnesota Department of Health has not reported any illnesses associated with these cookies. Source: <http://www.startribune.com/business/34801019.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc: Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUJ>

20. *November 19, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **House of Raeford cited for workplace hazards.** The new citations at House of Raeford Farms include 49 serious safety violations at the company's chicken processing plant in Teachey, in Eastern North Carolina. The proposed fines total about \$178,000, an enormous penalty by North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. The North Carolina OSHA division conducted three inspections and cited the company for repeated violations related to the use of hazardous ammonia, among other things. The company also said it is challenging the classification or substance of most of the citations. Before the latest round of fines, North Carolina OSHA had cited House of Raeford for more

than 60 other serious violations since 2001. Eight of the problems found at the Teachey plant were deemed “repeat” violations. Two of the recent inspections were prompted by complaints, and the third resulted from a referral by a government official. But further detail about those complaints will not be made public until the cases are closed. House of Raeford is one of the nation’s largest poultry processors, with seven chicken and turkey plants in the Carolinas.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/local/story/362340.html>

21. *November 18, ProvisionerOnline* – (National) **FSIS issue new directive on recalls, investigations.** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) on Monday issued new directives on the recall of meat and poultry products and how to conduct food-borne illness investigations. The agency said that Directive 8080. 1, Revision 5 provides information on the terms, responsibilities and public notification procedures in voluntary recalls of FSIS-inspected products. The FSIS also said that it had issued Directive 8080.3, which instructs personnel from the agency, Office of Public Health Science on the procedures they are to follow when investigating foodborne illnesses potentially associated with FSIS-regulated meat, poultry, or processed egg products. The directive also instructs personnel from the OPE, and Enforcement Review, the Office of Field Operations, and the OIA on the actions they are to take when assisting with an FSIS foodborne illness investigation.

Source: http://www.provisioneronline.com/CDA/Articles/Top_Stories/BNP_GUID_9-5-2006_A_10000000000000470941

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Water Sector

22. *November 20, TWEAN 10 Syracuse* – (New York) **Erwin gets grant to improve water system.** Local and state officials were at Erwin Town Hall to accept a \$6.3 million check to replace the town’s water supply with a more modern municipal water system that is safe and reliable. Two million dollars of the money is a grant, while \$4.3 million of it is a 30 year loan. Erwin Town officials say they have been working to get this funding for years. “It’s going to provide drinking water to households throughout the community that are currently on wells, probably not in the best condition and will allow them to get clean drinking water from the community,” said the Environmental Facilities president.

Source: http://news10now.com/content/all_news/128434/erwin-gets-grant-to-improve-water-system/Default.aspx

23. *November 19, Milpitas Post* – (California) **\$4.3-billion water retrofit is ready to get underway.** A week ago two San Francisco boards gave their final decisions in two areas which now permit the huge seismic rebuilding of virtually the entire San Francisco water system. Targeted completion date is 2014. And the costs of paying for the \$4.3 billion will have to be shared by Milpitas and its fellow water users in 27 other cities and special districts throughout the Bay Area. Two October 30 actions in San Francisco saw that city’s planning commission approve the final environmental impact report for the set of 37 construction projects along the 170 miles of pipelines, dams, power plants

and the like.

Source: http://www.themilpitaspost.com/ci_11024396

24. *November 19, KUWS 91.3 Duluth* – (Minnesota) **Parkland inks deal to send Superior its sewage, not everyone happy.** In an effort to keep sewage runoff out of Lake Superior, the town of Parkland will connect to Superior’s wastewater treatment system. Parkland has a problem: too many septic systems are deteriorating and the clay soil does not allow the natural leaching process. Because of this, raw sewage is finding its way into streams, eventually into Lake Superior. The estimated cost for the plumbing project is between eight and nine million dollars. So far, Parkland has received some federal and state grants to help pay for the project. The first phase of construction is expected to be finished sometime in 2009. The rest of the construction will be determined by funding. To keep Parkland’s wastewater from overloading Superior’s treatment plant, a holding site will be built to contain sewage during bouts of rain. Superior’s main treatment plant processes 5.5 million gallons of sewage per day.

Source: <http://www.businessnorth.com/kuws.asp?RID=2638>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *November 20, Associated Press* – (California) **300 at Seaside High starting TB testing Friday.** Some 300 students and faculty at Seaside High School in Monterey, California, are being tested for tuberculosis because someone at the school has been diagnosed with the infectious disease. The county health chief says it is unlikely anyone contracted TB, but testing of those who may have come in contact with a TB patient is necessary as part of the health department’s investigation.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11030970?nclick_check=1

26. *November 20, Public Technology* – (International) **A third of healthcare professionals leave data security to chance.** A transatlantic survey of more than a thousand healthcare professionals has shown that over a third are unwittingly putting personal information at risk by storing patient records, medical images, contact details, corporate data, and other sensitive information on mobile devices such as laptops, BlackBerrys, and USB sticks, not adequately securing them. The “mobile device usage in the healthcare sector” survey released today was carried out among senior clinicians, general practitioners, policy makers, IT directors, IT and general managers by mobile security experts Credant Technologies, together with E-Health Insider in the UK and Outpatient Surgery Magazine’s subscribers in the United States. A fifth of healthcare practitioners use their own devices for work. The use of portable devices in the healthcare sector has escalated due to their ease of use, speed, increased memory capacity, and affordability. Alongside the great benefits that these devices bring come huge security and managerial problems for IT departments. In the United States, a third of healthcare professionals surveyed were downloading sensitive details onto their own personal devices — a basic breach of security practice if they were not complying with the security policy set up by their employer.

Source:

<http://www.publictechnology.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=18049>

27. *November 19, Dow Jones* – (National) **U.S. economic woes put pressure on hospitals – report.** The U.S. economic downturn is taking a big financial toll on hospitals, making it tougher for them to fund upgrades, buy new equipment, and has reduced the number of patients seeking elective procedures, according to an American Hospital Association report released Wednesday. Hospitals “could be facing uncertain times as their financial health falters and ability to borrow funds for improving facilities and updating technology is squeezed,” the report said. The non-profit group’s report, which is based on survey results from 736 hospitals and a Web-based reporting system, echoes trends financial analysts have recently noted based on their own surveys and industry checks. Source: http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200811191618DOWJONESDJONLINE000866_FORTUNE5.htm

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *November 19, Modesto Bee* – (Nevada) **State jet operations questioned.** Testimony by a former state pilot has painted a disturbing portrait of the operation of Nevada’s state jet, which flies elected officials and state workers on official business. According to the pilot, fired by the Nevada Department of Transportation in August, the jet almost ran out of fuel three times in recent years. The Pilot said the plane nearly ran out of fuel on October 29, 2007, while transporting the governor back to Nevada from Southern California, where he was on a homeland security tour of a military base. On a January 31 flight from Henderson to Carson City with the Transportation Director onboard, the plane nearly ran out of fuel again, the pilot said. The third incident happened in June 2006, when the pilot, his supervisor, and three Reno police officers flew to Texas to pick up a homicide suspect. Source: http://www.modbee.com/state_wire/story/505112.html
29. *November 19, WIRED* – (National) **Under worm assault, military bans disks, USB drives.** The Defense Department is threatened by a rapidly spreading worm crawling across their networks. So they have suspended the use of so-called thumb drives, CDs, flash media cards, and all other removable data storage devices from their nets, to try to keep the worm from multiplying any further. The ban comes from the commander of U.S. Strategic Command, according to an internal Army e-mail. It applies to both the secret SIPR and unclassified NIPR nets. The suspension, which includes everything from external hard drives to “floppy disks,” is supposed to take effect “immediately.” Similar notices went out to the other military services. The military relies heavily on such drives to store information as bandwidth is often scarce in the field and networks are often considered unreliable. Takeaway storage is used constantly as a substitute. The problem, according to a second Army e-mail, was prompted by a “virus called Agent.btz,” a variation of the “SillyFDC” worm, which spreads by copying itself to thumb drives and the like. When that drive or disk is plugged into a second computer,

the worm replicates itself again — this time on the PC. “From there, it automatically downloads code from another location. And that code could be pretty much anything,” said the director of rapid response for the iDefense computer security firm.

Source: <http://blog.wired.com/defense/2008/11/army-bans-usb-d.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *November 20, Gulf Breeze News* – (Florida) **Reverse 911 failure addressed.** The Aqua Water treatment plant in Navarre burned last Wednesday, creating what officials first feared was a hazardous material situation. Usually when an emergency situation happens in Santa Rosa County, the Reverse 911 System automatically calls residents’ landlines within the area of the emergency and alerts them. A failed computer motherboard prevented calls about officials’ air-quality concerns due to chemicals released during the fire from going out. A new motherboard was ordered for the 911 computer and was to be installed early this week.
Source: <http://www.gulfbreezenews.com/news/2008/1120/community/031.html>
31. *November 19, IDG News Service* – (National) **Teenager pleads guilty to botnet, ‘swatting’ charges.** A Boston-area teenager has pleaded guilty to charges of hacking and placing fake emergency phone calls in hopes of summoning police tactical response teams to the homes of his victims. The 16-year-old boy, who was not named by authorities because he is a juvenile, was known by his hacker name, Dshocker. In a plea-bargain agreement, he accepted an 11-month juvenile detention facility sentence and pleaded guilty to hacking and fraud charges stemming from his activities that stretched back to 2005, when he was about 13 years old. The U.S. Department of Justice claims that the boy launched cyber attacks from a botnet of several thousand infected computers he controlled and also used stolen credit cards. He was also charged with “swatting,” a form of telephone hacking that recently has been closely monitored by the FBI. Swatters use legal phone-spoofing cards to make it appear as though they are dialing 911 emergency dispatch lines from the addresses of their victims.
Source:
http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/154221/teenager_pleads_guilty_to_botnet_swatting_charges.html
32. *November 19, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Fire Department to get satellite communications.** The Maui Fire Department has received a grant to help purchase a mobile satellite communications unit that will be mounted on a command vehicle. The local fire chief said the satellite system will allow the department to maintain communications in remote areas and during emergencies when other systems may not be operational. “It will also provide wireless Internet access and the ability to feed video from a scene so fire officials can monitor an incident from an off-site location,” he said.
Source:
<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20081119/NEWS0103/811190369/1005/localnewsfront>

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Information Technology

33. *November 20, Byte and Switch* – (International) **Online backup moves out of the data center.** Traditionally, backup systems focused on making copies of information stored on central servers. With the growing acceptance of mobility (wireless connections, laptops, cell phones), information is no longer always stored centrally, and that change has made the challenge of properly securing information more difficult for IT managers. “Addressing mobility issues will be the online backup industry’s biggest challenge during the next few years,” said the vice president for channels at Asigra Inc. Users represent a large part of that challenge. “If a company gives users the responsibility of backing up data, chances are they won’t do it consistently or correctly,” said the vice president of marketing at Mozy, the online backup service that is part of Decho, a newly created unit of EMC Corp. Management tools to oversee a large number of employees are just evolving. “In many cases, it is difficult for IT departments to consolidate backup information for multiple machines,” said the principal research analyst at Gartner Inc. Currently, there is virtually little to no integration between the desktop backup systems and services used to protect corporate servers. The number of devices that end users rely on is changing, but most of these services primarily support Microsoft Windows machines. Some can restore files generated on a Macintosh or Linux computer, but few of the services work with new devices, such as smartphones.

Source:

http://www.byteandswitch.com/document.asp?doc_id=168351&WT.svl=news2_1

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 20, TechNews World* – (National) **NASA tests new deep-space cyber-net.** NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory has tested a communications network that facilitates data communication over millions of miles. They are calling it the “Interplanetary Internet,” though it’s based on technology that differs from the Web’s standard TCP/IP method. Earthbound Net traffic presumes connections will remain constant, but in space, connection interruptions must be expected. The software protocol was a joint venture between NASA and a vice president at Google. To communicate across millions of miles, the Interplanetary Internet needs to be robust enough to withstand the delays, disruptions and disconnections that are inherent when relaying data through space.

Unlike TCP/IP on Earth, the new DTN protocol used by the system does not assume a continuous end-to-end connection, according to NASA. In its design, if a destination path cannot be found, the data packets are kept rather than discarded. Each network node maintains custody of the data for as long as necessary until it can safely communicate with another node. This means data can be sent without worry that it will be lost if an immediate path to the destination does not exist at that time.

Source: <http://www.technewsworld.com/story/NASA-Tests-New-Deep-Space-Cyber-Net-65219.html?wlc=1227186864>

35. *November 19, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Damaged Nigerian satellite can't be recovered: officials.** A Nigerian satellite launched last year has failed and cannot be recovered, officials said on Wednesday. The satellite — which was launched to provide phone, broadband Internet, and broadcasting services to rural Africa — was switched off last week due to a battery charging problem. “We don't think we can recover it,” a spokeswoman of the satellite's managing firm, Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NigComSat), told AFP. On Tuesday, the head of NigComSat told lawmakers in the administrative capital Abuja that efforts to recover power supply had failed. “The satellite has now been maneuvered to the parking orbit and cannot be recovered for use again,” he said, noting that to leave it in its previous orbit would have risked loss of control and possible damage to other satellites. The \$257 million Chinese-built satellite was launched into space from China in May 2007.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFYssSKeydLeaMu2LSdiLBuFz5IQ>

36. *November 19, Information Week* – (National) **Verizon-Alltel merger nearly done, U.S. Cellular next?** The Federal Communications Commission this week removed the last hurdle in the path of Verizon Wireless' acquisition of Alltel, raising the possibility that U.S. Cellular may become the next acquisition target. The FCC has marked five more small markets for divestiture, with U.S. Cellular being one of the last standing major wireless providers in the country. In adding to its earlier approval of the Verizon-Alltel deal, the FCC told Verizon that it will have 120 days after the deal is closed to divest itself of a total of 105 markets. The divestiture list has gradually grown from the 85 markets Verizon originally suggested to the 105-market final figure, but still far short of the 218 markets that originally had been marked for divestiture consideration. That leaves U.S. Cellular, the sixth largest cell phone service provider, as the last major provider standing. It has 6.2 million subscribers and it uses the same CDMA infrastructure utilized by Verizon and Alltel, making an acquisition relatively easy. When Verizon and Alltel are merged, their combined assets will make the company the largest cell phone provider in the United States.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/telecom/business/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=212100848&subSection=All+Stories>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *November 19, Honolulu Star Bulletin* – (Hawaii) **600 evacuated as Lanai brush fire burns 300 acres.** Firefighters used helicopters this morning to make water drops on hot spots of a brush fire that burned 1,000 acres on Lanai and forced the evacuation of 600 residents and visitors from a luxury resort at Manele Bay and nearby homes. The fire was no longer considered a threat to homes or the Four Seasons Resort Lanai and the strong winds that fanned the flames yesterday were weakening. At one point, the fire advanced so close that several vessels left for Maui, but were later recalled. The road leading from Manele Harbor and the hotel to Lanai City was closed for about four hours as firefighters battled to control the spread of the blaze in extremely windy conditions. The fire was reported at 12:13 p.m. near Palawai Basin, then spread to near the Four Seasons Resort Lanai due to windy conditions, a county spokeswoman said. 13 firefighters from Maui along with three helicopters assisted in battling the blaze.

Source:

http://www.starbulletin.com/news/hawaii/news/20081119_600_evacuated_as_Lanai_brush_fire_burns_300_acres.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. *November 19, Associated Press* – (Utah) **BLM pulls drilling parcel from Moab.** An oil-and-gas lease parcel that may have threatened the town's drinking water will be pulled from a government auction list. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) said it was pulling the parcel following the objections of local governments and homeowners who do not want drilling to occur under their land, where the government owns the subsurface mineral rights. A government official also said she was taking another look at oil-and-gas parcels the BLM is offering alongside or within view of Arches National Park and two other redrock national areas in Utah: Dinosaur National Monument and Canyonlands National Park. The proposed sale of those parcels angered the National Park Service, which has demanded they be pulled from an auction set for Dec. 19. One parcel is just 1.3 miles away and visible from Delicate Arch, the signature landmark of Arches National Park. The official said her agency never intended to allow oil or gas drillers to occupy any of the parcels next to national parks or in Moab. Instead, they would be required to reach the parcels from another pad, using directional drilling.
- Source: <http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20081119/NEWS/811199985/-1/rss03>

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Dams Sector

39. *November 20, Daily Press* – (Maryland; Virginia) **Group to try to block reservoir plan.** The Chesapeake Bay Foundation will be able to challenge the five-year extension of Newport News' 2006 state permit for the controversial King William Reservoir in court, foundation and city officials confirmed Wednesday. The Foundation is one of several environmental groups that have opposed the reservoir for years, citing myriad

environmental effects including the destruction of more than 430 acres of wetlands, according to the foundation. Newport News Waterworks has plowed ahead for more than a decade with spending money to eventually build the 12.2-billion gallon reservoir to cover the future water needs of the Peninsula, city officials argue. On Wednesday, the city awarded a \$1.9 million design contract for the reservoir, dam, spillways and road relocations to a Newport News engineering firm. So far, the city has set aside \$101 million for the reservoir and has spent \$33 million of that money. Estimates of how much the reservoir, which is still scheduled to come on line in 2019, will eventually cost the city range from \$75 million in 1989 to \$250 million in 2006 and \$289 million at the end of 2007.

Source: http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-local_reservoir_1120nov20,0,4653151.story

40. *November 19, Mineral Daily News-Tribune* – (West Virginia) **Dam 14 at top of list for rehab.** Owing to the risk to life and property in the event of a structural failure, federal officials have put Dam 14 at the top of the list for dam-rehabilitation projects in West Virginia. Meeting with city of Keyser officials recently, a civil engineer with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service said the dam on New Creek that serves as a reservoir for Keyser’s water system will be strengthened to withstand a “Noah’s Ark” storm event. No timeline has been established for the upgrade of the dam, located 14 miles upstream from Keyser. Funding for the project – estimated to cost about \$2 million — would come from the federal Farm Bill, which included funds for dam improvement.

Source: <http://www.newstribune.info/news/x466662237/Dam-14-at-top-of-list-for-rehab>

41. *November 19, Tacoma News Tribune* – (Washington) **Rebuilding levees under way.** The Carbon River has torn out about 25 feet of levee bank. The large rocks that held the levee were gone, swept away by the rain-swollen river. In their place was a vertical wall of dirt, about 5 feet tall. The excavator at work Tuesday was part of a Pierce County Surface Water Management crew repairing the 300-foot-long cut in the levee. A second levee gash about a quarter-mile downstream also threatened the Foothills Trail. In addition to the work on the Carbon River levee at 186th Street East, repair work is winding down on the Carbon River levee south of Orting along 177th Street. Emergency work started there last Thursday. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is finishing up flood repairs on the Puyallup River along Neadham Road south of Orting. Work has been under way around the clock since last Wednesday.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/542564.html>

42. *November 19, Colorado Springs Gazette* – (Colorado) **400 floodway trees to be cut.** The city of Colorado Springs will cut down more than 400 trees this winter in the Templeton Gap Floodway to protect property owners and the city should flooding occur in the area. The action by the Stormwater Enterprise comes after the Army Corps of Engineers decided the regulated portion of the floodway extends east of Union Boulevard. Previously, the Corps identified the floodway as extending from Union Boulevard west to Monument Creek. Trees growing in or on the banks of the floodway, or levee, can undermine its ability to contain and channel water because the roots

weaken the soil and provide a path for seepage, the city says. The Stormwater Enterprise had to cut hundreds of trees in the western portion of the floodway in 2006 as a result of beefed-up levee inspections after Hurricane Katrina caused levees to fail in 2005 in New Orleans.

Source: http://www.gazette.com/articles/trees_43806_article.html/floodway_city.html

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