



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 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/)

- Reuters reports that Boeing shut down production at a military helicopter plant outside Philadelphia on Friday after a third incident involving foreign objects prompted the Pentagon to issue a corrective action against the company. (See item [11](#))
- According to the Army Times, the U.S. Defense Department confirmed Friday that a virus has infected some of its computer networks. (See item [28](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

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

1. *November 23, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Police still believe bomb threats linked to drugs; plant officials not so sure.** West Virginia State Police continue to investigate a possible connection between drug use and the nine bomb threats at American Electric Power’s John Amos plant in Putnam County. “There is talk about any time a drug test is announced, there is a bomb threat,” said a spokesman for the West Virginia State Police. “They’ve had union and nonunion workers. Maybe these were a way to evade drug tests by some of the workers.” The plant’s community-relations manager said he is unaware of any disputes or conflicts within the plant that may be the source of the threats. Drug tests are routine for union employees, said the director of the Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation. “When you have a job this big, a number of people come in from out of the area to fulfill a huge manpower need. I think that’s

where the problem came from,” he said. On November 6, State Police conducted a drug sweep through the John Amos parking lot, said the spokesman for the West Virginia State Police. No arrests were made, but there were several citations issued, he said. The sweep was a direct result of the State Police’s theory that the bomb threats are related to drugs, he said.

Source: <http://sundaygazettemail.com/News/200811221354?page=1&build=cache>

2. *November 21, Reuters* – (Texas) **Control room work may delay Texas refinery return.** Repairs to a control room heavily damaged in Thursday’s explosion at Delek U.S. Holding’s 58,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) Tyler, Texas, refinery may delay the plant’s return to production, sources familiar with refinery operations said on Friday. One worker died in a hospital from burns sustained in the Thursday blast and fire at the refinery’s saturated gas plant, Delek said on Friday. The company said an initial assessment showed that most of the refinery’s processing units were not damaged by the fire. Delek said the refinery would not be producing until the cause of the explosion was known. Parts of the refinery will be shut in the coming days for damage assessment and to help the investigation, the company said. According to the sources, the control room for the saturated gas plant also serves the refinery’s crude oil distillation unit, which does the initial refining of oil coming into the refinery. “It’s pretty much burnt up on the inside,” one of the sources said about the control room. The blast was likely the ignition of highly explosive naphtha gas, source said. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration began interviewing workers at the plant on Friday but were unable to get to the site of the explosion because of small fires still burning near the sat gas plant.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2150338520081121?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 24, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (New York) **CWM Chemical pays \$175,000 penalty.** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Director announced the conclusion of an enforcement action against CWM Chemical Services, LLC — a commercial hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility operating in Porter, Niagara County. Under the terms of the “consent order” signed by the state and the company, CWM must pay a \$175,000 penalty to settle dozens of violations that have occurred over the last several years. Violations cited at the facility included improperly labeled drums and leaking drums within facility buildings, deteriorating condition of drums within facility buildings, process tank overflows, waste ignitions in the stabilization tank, failure to comply with waste transporter conditions, and other instances of improper storage documented by DEC. CWM has taken the necessary corrective actions and revised procedures to address the violations.

Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/69314/>

4. *November 23, WEHT 25 Evansville* – (Illinois) **Explosion at chemical plant levels**

building. An explosion that occurred earlier this afternoon at Baker Petrolite company in Crossville, Illinois, leveled the building and damaged two nearby houses, according to the Crossville Police Department. The explosion happened in a storage unit of the building. No one has been injured or killed. Hazmat crews evacuated Crossville's south end to ensure that there were no gas leaks or threats of carbon monoxide poisoning. It is the second major oil-related explosion to rip through Crossville in the past month. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation. Crossville is bring in the state fire marshal to help with that process.

Source: http://www.news25.us/dsp_story.cfm?storyid=9889&RequestTimeout=500

See also: <http://tristatehomepage.com/content/fulltext/?cid=40791>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 24, Gannett News Service* – (New York) **Nuke plant sirens pass federal tests.** With a third consecutive successful test conducted, Indian Point's new sirens have all but satisfied regulators they can perform as the nuclear plant's primary warning system, federal officials said. It is an accomplishment that is nearly two years behind schedule and has had more than its share of doubters. "The third test was a big step toward putting the system into place," an Indian Point spokesman said. "That's a very positive indication that the sirens will perform as designed. I doubt there's an issue that can come up now that can't be solved." Thursday's four-minute, full-volume test found only one of 172 of the new sirens failing to operate properly. That 99.4 percent success rate was the third time the new system has surpassed the 97 percent minimum for acceptance by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Source: <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20081124/NEWS01/811240310>
6. *November 24, Reuters* – (Georgia) **Southern shuts Ga. Hatch 1 reactor.** Southern Co. shut Unit 1 at the Hatch nuclear power station in Georgia from full power on November 22 due to a feed pump trip, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The company said a condensate booster pump tripped due to low suction pressure, causing both reactor feed pumps to trip.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2450685920081124>
7. *November 22, San Louis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **Fault found near plant.** A new earthquake fault that could run as close as 1,800 feet offshore of Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant has been discovered by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E). The new fault appears to run from offshore of Point Buchon to within a mile of Diablo Canyon, extending to just off Point San Luis, near Avila Beach. The fault could generate a 6.5-magnitude quake. Diablo Canyon is built to withstand a 7.5-magnitude quake, so the new fault does not pose a threat to the operational safety of the plant, said the head of PG&E's earthquake risk management program. An assemblyman, who has a doctorate in geophysics, said he agrees that the plant is safe, but adds that much more research needs to be done. In response to the discovery of the new fault, the state Energy

Commission is recommending that PG&E and the operators of the state's other nuclear power plant at San Onofre in San Diego County do seismic mapping and other advanced techniques regardless of whether it is warranted by a cost-benefit analysis. The agency will evaluate whether these studies should be required before PG&E can apply to renew Diablo Canyon's licenses in 2025.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/story/536450.html>

8. *November 22, Times Herald-Record* – (New York) **State ends standing patrols at Indian Point power plant.** The New York governor's office began pulling National Guard troops out of the Indian Point nuclear power plant last week. State officials insist the change has less to do with budget cuts and more to do with transitioning into a more flexible force. A spokesman for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs said sporadic patrols will "make it more difficult for a potential attacker" to know where troops are working.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081122/NEWS/81122003>

9. *November 21, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Engineers find more cracks in VY steam dryer.** During a recheck of the results of Vermont Yankee's steam dryer inspection, engineers found that the number of additional hairline cracks in the dryer was actually 18, and not 16, as previously reported. "These two additional ones were also likely created in the early years of plant operations and are not a result of metal fatigue that had been seen in some other boiling water reactors that had been through a power uprate," stated a spokesman for Yankee in an e-mail to the media. The steam dryer inspection was conducted during a recent refueling outage at the nuclear power plant in Vernon. The inspection was the second of three required by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission following the approval of a 20 percent power uprate.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/ci_11039644

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *November 24, Defense News* – (National) **Making cybersecurity more attractive.** Hackers traced to China have broken into computer systems at the Pentagon, a White House e-mail system, computers in the U.S. Congress, and systems operated by U.S. defense companies. "The United States is facing a severe national security challenge from a pervasive, deep penetration of government and private industry information networks by foreign intelligence and organized criminal entities," the Internet Security Alliance said in a Nov. 18 report. Hackers target the U.S. defense industrial base daily, the report's authors say. Assaults are carried out by "highly sophisticated, professional state-sponsored groups" and "criminal operations using custom-designed tools." The group is calling for a "social contract" between industry and government under which the government would offer industry incentives to dramatically improve protection for computer systems. Companies are reluctant to spend money on cybersecurity because they often do not see an immediate return on investment, said the president of the alliance. Incentives that would encourage such investments might include requiring

security measures as a condition of receiving Small Business Administration loans, and government procurement contracts. The government might also offer civil liability protections to companies that meet security benchmarks and “stimulate the stunted cyber insurance market,” which would then push companies to improve cybersecurity.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3833840&c=FEA&s=TEC>

11. *November 21, Reuters* – (National) **Boeing halts rotorcraft output after debris found.**

Boeing shut down production at a military helicopter plant outside Philadelphia on Friday after a third incident involving foreign objects prompted the Pentagon to issue a corrective action against the company. A Boeing spokesman said the company received the notice from the Pentagon’s Defense Contracts Management Agency on Friday, which means the government will not accept any aircraft manufactured at the plant until certain requirements are met. Boeing produces its CH-47 Chinook helicopters and MH-47G Special Operations Chinook the at the plant, as well as the fuselages for the V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft that it builds with Textron Inc’s Bell Helicopter unit. He said Boeing had halted production at the plant until the company was able to determine how the foreign object debris had gotten into the V-22 fuselage. He said the latest incident was discovered by Boeing during a quality inspection last week.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2149982520081121>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *November 24, BBC News* – (National) **U.S. rescues ailing Citigroup bank.**

The U.S. Treasury is set to invest \$20 billion in Citibank in return for preferred shares. The Treasury and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp will also guarantee up to \$306 billion of risky loans and securities on Citigroup’s books. “Equity markets have responded positively to the Citigroup news,” said an individual at ECU Group. The new plan follows a \$25 billion injection of public funds in the bank last month.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7745168.stm>

13. *November 24, Associated Press* – (International) **Hands-off hackers: Crooks opt for surgical strikes.**

A new report by antivirus software vendor Symantec Corp. details a startling trend that highlights the inventive ways criminals are figuring out ways to make money online. Instead of stealing customer data, a small subset of hackers have concerned themselves with accessing the compromised companies’ payment-processing systems, and nothing else, according to the “Symantec Report on the Underground Economy,” slated for release Monday. Those systems allow the criminals to check whether credit card numbers being hawked on underground chat rooms are valid, the same way the store verifies whether to accept a card payment or not. It is a service the crooks sell to other fraudsters who do not trust that the stolen card numbers they are buying from someone else will actually work.

Source: http://tech.yahoo.com/news/ap/20081124/ap_on_hi_te/hands_off_hackers

14. *November 22, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services* – (North Carolina) **Personal information of 70 people stolen from tax office.** New Bern, North Carolina, police say a computer stolen from B.J. Accessories and Tax Preparation last week contains identity information of about 70 people. Police are still investigating the theft, and had no suspects as of Friday night. The owner of the tax-preparation business has been told to notify clients about a possible breach of their personal information.
Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2008/11/22/3807787.htm>

15. *November 21, Forbes* – (Missouri) **Six indicted for alleged mortgage fraud.** Six area individuals were indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury in Springfield for their alleged roles in a mortgage fraud scheme involving 29 homes in Greene and Christian Counties, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Four of the six people indicted were former mortgage brokers operating in the Springfield area. One was the owner of Master Marketing Consultants and former branch manager for Gateway Mortgage. Another was the former branch manager for Choice Mortgage. An FBI supervisory special agent said the investigation into local mortgage fraud schemes is continuing and that additional indictments are possible.
Source: http://www.forbes.com/technology/2008/11/21/data-breaches-cybertheft-identity08-tech-cx_ag_1121breaches.html

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Transportation Sector

16. *November 24, WCBS 2 New York* – (New York) **LIRR train derailment leads to morning mess.** The LIRR train derailment just west of the Jamaica Station in Queens on Sunday led to service delays and cancellations Monday morning. Ten city-bound trains and two heading out to Long Island were canceled because of track work, and officials advised riders to expect delays. The problems began just after noon Sunday when a train bound for Huntington jumped its tracks as it approached the platform. Part of the train reached the platform so passengers from the derailed cars were able to walk through the train to exit, but it caused significant damage to the rails and switches in Jamaica. Crews scrambled to make repairs at the railroad's largest hub. No injuries were reported in the derailment, which shut down service in both directions for an hour and a half, and caused the platforms to be packed with angry and impatient riders. Federal Railroad Administration officials are still investigating the cause of the derailment — the second accident at the Jamaica Station in one week and the third this year.
Source: <http://wcbstv.com/topstories/lirr.accident.derail.2.872086.html>

17. *November 23, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Single-engine plane crash kills 3 in Wis.** Authorities in Wisconsin say a small airplane has crashed in the backyard of a house in Marshfield, killing the three people on board the aircraft. No one on the ground was injured. Officials said the plane had caught fire after the crash late Saturday and burned the back wall of the house. The Marshfield Fire Department Deputy Chief told WSAW-TV that it was not immediately clear whether the pilot was trying to land at the Marshfield airport or if the plane had just taken off. Federation aviation investigators were expected to examine the crash scene. Marshfield is located about 40 miles

southwest of Wausau, Wisconsin.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hWq3v95Gf8BEwWQssSO9OI3gj1dwD94KQUK80>

18. *November 23, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Infectious disease scare delays passengers at LAX.** A United Airlines flight was temporarily held at Los Angeles International Airport after a passenger fell ill and had to be diagnosed for a possible infectious disease. An investigator from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) boarded the jumbo jet to check a 28-year-old male passenger who had been isolated during a flight from Asia. 343 passengers and crew were held aboard the United Airlines jet for nearly an hour until it was determined the person had some sort of food poisoning or other stomach problem. By the time the rescue team had arrived, a CDC representative was already on the plane's upper deck, where the ill person had been isolated by the airline's crew. Passengers of the United Airlines flight 890 inbound from Bangkok and Tokyo were held at the gate while the CDC representative tried to determine whether the sick person on board was highly contagious. It is typical for fire paramedics to meet arriving flights and prepare to transport sick patients at the request of airline or airport officials, but it is unclear what led authorities in this case to reach out to the CDC.

Source: http://www.ktla.com/landing_news/?Jet-Held-at-LAX-for-Suspected-Infectious=1&blockID=143102&feedID=171

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *November 21, KTVU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **SF bomb squad deems 'suspicious package' safe.** The San Francisco bomb squad investigated a suspicious package that was delivered to Star of the Sea Elementary School Friday afternoon, but it was deemed safe after about three hours, a police sergeant said. The bomb squad was called to the scene around 1:15 p.m. Students were not evacuated but limited to a certain area of the campus, away from the package, until they were let out of class. Around 4:30 p.m., the package with a "suspicious battery substance and other chemicals" inside was deemed safe but police are still investigating where it came from and what the intent was.

Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/18036420/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *November 22, Associated Press* – (National) **New mad-cow rule poses health dangers of its own.** A federal regulation aimed at preventing mad cow disease from getting into the food supply could create health risks of its own: many thousands of cattle carcasses rotting on farms, spreading germs, attracting vermin and polluting the water. At issue is a Food and Drug Administration rule, set to take effect in April, that will prohibit the

use of the brains and spinal cords of older cattle as ingredients in livestock feed and pet food. Some of the rendering plants that grind up carcasses for use in feed have already announced they will stop accepting dead cattle from farms because it would be too costly to remove the banned organs. Other renderers are likely to raise the prices they charge farmers. As a result, many farmers may simply bury dead cattle on their property or let them rot in the open, industry officials and regulators say. The fear is that the new rule could lead farmers to put hundreds of thousands more dead animals into the ground, especially on dairy farms, which tend to have many more older cows than cattle ranches do, and are often closer to populated areas, too. According to the FDA's own environmental assessment of the new rule, abandoning dead cattle or improperly burying or composting them can cause foul odors; pollute soil, groundwater and streams; and attract insects and scavengers. Moreover, the infectious agent that carries mad cow disease may survive burial or composting, the agency said. Because younger cattle are believed to pose almost no risk of mad cow, only the brains and spinal cords of cattle 2 1/2 years and older will be prohibited from animal feed. The FDA rule is expected to affect the dairy industry more than the beef industry because most beef cattle are slaughtered before they turn 2 1/2.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j9deuV3EySwx6m5AfOudk7eFpBhwD94JI7800>

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Water Sector

21. *November 24, Havelock News* – (North Carolina) **Officials still working at site of sewer spill.** A representative of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality said Monday that Havelock officials are taking appropriate measures to clean up a 60,000-gallon sewage spill that occurred Saturday. According to a public utilities supervisor, the spill was discovered at 5:15 p.m. Saturday when city workers saw wastewater bubbling out of a manhole west of a restaurant located U.S. 70 in front of the Westbrooke Shopping Center. City workers established a bypass pump at the spill site and piped the wastewater back to a nearby lift station. “They had the spill stopped in about 15 minutes,” said the public utilities supervisor. However, about 10,000 gallons of sewage went through several ditches and emptied into a swampy area that eventually leads to the Neuse River. “We’re still trying to determine the cause of the spill,” he said. The spill happened near where the city had contracted to have a manhole resupported and broken 8-inch sewer pipes replaced near a lift station in the Westbrooke Shopping Center parking lot. The city contracted with W.O. White of Pamlico County to make the repairs on the lines feeding into the lift station. He said that the shopping center, the Westbrooke subdivision, the Tucker Creek subdivision, and MacDonald Downs all feed into the lift station.

Source: http://www.havenews.com/news/spill_4833_article.html/city_havelock.html

22. *November 23, Appeal-Democrat* – (California) **Water penalties for YC, Live Oak.** The Central Valley Water Quality Management Board has announced administrative civil liability penalties against two cities for water-quality violations going back eight years.

Yuba City received a \$99,000 fine, while the state docked Live Oak \$66,000. The fines stem from violations of state standards for suspended solids clouding wastewater from the towns' sewage treatment centers. Regulators also cited Live Oak's effluent for excessive oxygen depletion, which potentially can threaten fish. Water quality officials recorded 39 water quality infractions in Yuba City, including 14 it termed "serious," since 2000. In Live Oak, regulators pointed to 27 violations going back to 2003, five of them serious. Yuba City's director of utilities said Thursday he would contest some of the reported infractions. The Live Oak City Manager said he will seek to have that town's fine applied to the cost of replacing or overhauling its sewage system, although the water quality board said in its ruling it would demand the city produce a plan to do so first. Live Oak has forecast it will need as much as \$25 million to overhaul its sewage treatment to consistently meet state water-quality rules. That expense has led to proposals for centralizing several treatment systems in Yuba City to cover most of the county, including Live Oak, in hopes of cutting costs. City officials have not yet decided whether to seek such a merger.

Source: http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/live_71446_article.html/oak_sewage.html

23. *November 22, Kansas City infoZine* – (Kansas) **Second round of testing finds Cameron meets all drinking water standards.** A second round of drinking water testing in Cameron found all samples are in compliance with state and federal drinking water requirements, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced. Samples of untreated water were taken at Grindstone Reservoir, which is one of the supplies for the city's drinking water, and at a small lake at the local golf course. Each sample was split between the department and EPA, with each agency conducting independent analysis. The agencies began testing at the request of the community, where many residents voiced concerns over occurrence of brain tumors. A tumor inquiry conducted by the Department of Health and Senior Services found Cameron area brain tumor trends over time mirrored those of the state of Missouri. A repository covering the cancer inquiry and environmental testing in Cameron has been established at the Cameron Public Library, making the information widely accessible.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/32041/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *November 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Govt pays for deadly, unapproved drugs.** Dozens of deaths have been linked to medications that have never been reviewed by the government for safety and effectiveness but are still covered under Medicaid, an Associated Press analysis of federal data has found. The AP analysis found that Medicaid paid nearly \$198 million from 2004 to 2007 for more than 100 unapproved drugs, mostly for common conditions such as colds and pain. Data for 2008 were not available but unapproved drugs still are being sold. The AP checked the medications against FDA databases, using agency guidelines to determine if they were unapproved. The FDA says there may be thousands of such drugs on the market. The medications

date back decades, before the Food and Drug Administration tightened its review of drugs in the early 1960s. The FDA says it is trying to squeeze them from the market, but conflicting federal laws allow the Medicaid health program for low-income people to pay for them.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gSODvMRZvml_PI3v9U01o6x1VXNgD94L6E980

25. *November 24, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **New drug yields lab breakthrough against viruses.** An experimental drug tested on lab animals has shown remarkable success in tackling two viruses, including a close cousin to a feared bioterror pathogen, a study in *Nature Medicine*, published by the London-based Nature group, said. The drug, bavituximab, takes a novel tack in confronting viruses, which are notorious for mutations that evade or resist conventional pharmaceutical molecules. Instead of confronting the intruder head-on, bavituximab waits until the virus has infected the cell. In the study, bavituximab was tested among guinea pigs infected with Pichinde virus – a close relative of the Lassa fever virus, considered a potential bioterror weapon by the Pentagon. Animals that had not been inoculated with bavituximab were all killed; those who had received the injection had a 50-percent survival rate. By giving the bavituximab group an additional injection with a standard anti-virus drug called ribavirin, the survival rate rose to 63 percent.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ggkE-dNpsr_otQW5EqP03bOI3Afw

26. *November 21, Omaha World Herald* – (Nebraska) **ER reopens after chemical release.** The emergency room at the Nebraska Medical Center operated out of temporary quarters Friday morning while staffers cleaned up after an early morning chemical leak. Just before 3:30 a.m., about a dozen patients and 21 staff members were evacuated from the emergency room to another part of the hospital when a chemical, Formalin 10 percent, leaked from a nearby tank. No one was injured.

Source: http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=1000&u_sid=10493806

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *November 24, USA Today* – (National) **New machines scan IDs at border crossings.** Agents along the Canada and Mexico borders are using a controversial new machine that can “read” the personal information contained in some government-issued ID cards — such as passports and driver’s licenses — as travelers approach a checkpoint. The Homeland Security Department says the new practice will tighten security and speed the flow of traffic. Privacy advocates say the technology could make Americans less secure because terrorists or other criminals may be able to steal the personal information off the ID cards remotely. A representative of the Electronic Frontier Foundation said the cards “are quite vulnerable” to being cloned or having their codes broken. Machines are in place at five crossings as part of the government’s requirement that anyone who crosses the border must show a passport or other government

documents proving citizenship and identity.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/2008-11-23-passport-chips_N.htm

28. *November 23, Army Times* – (National) **DOD confirms computer virus in networks.** The U.S. Defense Department confirmed Friday that a virus has infected some of its computer networks but declined to identify the infection, say whether it was a direct attack on the networks, or confirm published directives that ban the use of portable storage media such as thumb drives. “We are aware of a global virus for which there are some public alerts,” said a Pentagon spokesman. “And we’ve seen some of this on our networks. We’re taking steps to identify and mitigate the virus.” The spokesman would not characterize the infection further except to call it a “global issue” that also is affecting worldwide networks outside the Defense Department. He also declined to confirm a ban on the use of thumb drives, although the ban was spelled out in at least two recent Air Force directives, one of which says the order comes from the Defense Department command that oversees the military computer domains shared by all the services. He also would not comment on whether officials think the infection may have been transmitted to the military’s networks by way of a thumb drive or other flash media.

Source:

http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/11/military_thumbdrives_computerworm_112108w/

29. *November 23, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Man jailed for alleged death threats.** A man who was recently released from prison may be headed back after allegedly making death threats against two judges and his former attorney. The defendant faces three felony counts of making death threats and remains in the Oklahoma County jail since his October 17 arrest. A man who picked up the defendant at a bus station tipped investigators to his alleged intentions. He told the Oklahoma County sheriff’s department that the defendant wanted revenge and had targeted people such as a special judge and a former district judge and his wife.

Source: <http://www.kfsm.com/Global/story.asp?S=9402220>

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *November 23, Lafayette Journal and Courier* – (Nebraska) **Ambulance technology would save precious time.** Technology that helps many drivers reach their destinations may soon help Tippecanoe County ambulances respond to emergencies faster. County officials are hoping to purchase an automatic vehicle location system, which would connect global positioning systems on the trucks to ambulance dispatchers through a computer program. The system transmits location through a system similar to a cellular phone and is currently used in emergency vehicles, delivery and freight trucks, and service vehicles. The vehicle locator technology would help dispatch ambulances based on their precise location at the time of the call, rather than the locations of the vehicle hubs.

Source: <http://www.jconline.com/article/20081123/NEWS02/811230352>

31. *November 23, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Envelope placed on police car shuts downtown street.** The 700 block of Jackson Street in Toledo, Ohio, was closed for more than two hours Saturday afternoon while authorities investigated a suspicious envelope found on a police car parked outside the downtown Safety Building. Police said once the envelope was opened, they learned it did not contain a threat or any hazardous material — rather, just a black, 3.5-inch computer disk. The envelope was addressed to “Toledo Police Department,” but it did not have a return address, according to police. The Northwest Ohio Bomb Squad and the Toledo Fire Department were called to the scene. A police official said the envelope and disk would be turned over to the department’s detective bureau, which would review the material.

Source:

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081123/NEWS02/811230369>

32. *November 21, WFIE 14 Evansville* – (Illinois; Indiana; Kentucky) **Preparing for the “Big One.”** A new scientific study outlines the devastation that would follow a massive Tri-State earthquake. FEMA released the results of the report, based on a 7.7 magnitude quake predicted to hit the Indiana area. This 900-page study is the first of its kind to be conducted on such a large scale. The Department of Homeland Security and FEMA have put together the report for Tri-State first responders and emergency officials so they can start formulating response plans to the Big One. The study shows several thousand buildings, mostly single-family homes, would be destroyed across Southern Illinois, Southern Indiana, and Western Kentucky. Thousands more buildings would face moderate to severe damage. The report indicates the most crippling damage would be to the Tri-State’s infrastructure, knocking out communications, water and electricity to tens of thousands of people several days after the quake and leaving some without services for several weeks. FEMA’s report shows 17 hospitals in Western Kentucky and one in Indiana would not be functional the day after the quake, but most highway bridges would be left relatively un-damaged and still useable. First responders in Western Kentucky will meet on December 12 to review the new data and work on their response plans.

Source: <http://www.14wfie.com/Global/story.asp?S=9396720>

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Information Technology

33. *November 24, Register* – (International) **Domain hijack fears over Gmail exploit.** A Gmail exploit which might be abused to allow domain hijacking has reared its ugly head once more. The reported vulnerability revolves around the potential ability for hackers to create a malicious filter without needing to obtain the login credentials for a Gmail account. A flaw of this type hit a web designer back in December 2007. Security watchers thought that Google had a handle on the problem, but now it seems that this confidence might have been misplaced. The exploit kicks off by tricking surfers into visiting a maliciously constructed website. This site uses cross-site request forgery trickery to set up a filter on a targeted Gmail account which forwards email to a hacker’s

account while deleting it from a victim's inbox. The exploit involves stealing a cookie and creating a fake iFrame with a URL containing the variables that instruct Gmail to create a filter.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/11/24/gmail_exploit/

34. *November 22, CNET News* – (National) **2 engineers sentenced for espionage.** Two Silicon Valley engineers from China have been sentenced to prison for stealing chip designs and attempting to smuggle them back into their native country, the Associated Press reported. The two men pleaded guilty two years ago. They were sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court in San Jose, California. According to the AP, they are the first ones convicted of the most serious violations under the Economic Espionage Act of 1996. One of the accused is a U.S. citizen, the AP said, and the other is a permanent resident of the United States. Prosecutors did not allege that China's government actually knew of the crime. Prosecutors said documents showed the two accused were trying to sell the idea of the start-up as a way to boost China's chip-making abilities.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1001_3-10106100-92.html?tag=mncol

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *November 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Rain brings mudslide threat in SoCal burn areas.** Homeowners from Chino Hills to Sylmar and Santa Barbara are erecting sandbag barricades to help channel storm runoff and debris flows away from homes near Southern California areas ravaged by wildfires. Rain is expected to begin falling in the region Monday night, raising fears mud and ash could wash down into hillside and canyon areas hit by wildfires earlier this month. The heaviest rain is expected Tuesday and Wednesday, then again later in the week. The National Weather Service says up to two inches of rain is expected in Southern California mountain areas. Burn areas are susceptible to slides because fires have loosened topsoil and burned away vegetation that holds hillsides in place. To protect against mudslides, Orange County Fire Authority officials suggest calling local fire stations for sandbags and municipal public works departments for sand. Los Angeles Fire Department stations normally stock 25 sandbags per resident, but sand is not included, said a spokesman. Los Angeles County fire

stations are offering bags and sand.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11062150

See also: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-weather24-2008nov24,0,4437102.story>

36. *November 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Sword-wielding man shot dead at Hollywood Scientology building.** Investigators are trying to determine why a former Scientologist went to the church’s Celebrity Centre in Hollywood and tried to attack security guards with two samurai swords, prompting one of them to shoot him to death. An investigator told the Los Angeles Times that the man had been involved with the church in the past but was not a current member. The security tape showed the man driving into the Celebrity Centre’s Bronson Avenue parking lot around noon in a red Toyota Solara convertible, getting out of the car, and approaching three security guards waving a sword in each hand. The deputy chief of the Los Angeles Police Department said the man was “close enough to hurt them” when the guard shot him once. The 48-year-old man, from Florence, Oregon, was pronounced dead at County-USC Medical Center.

Source: http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/us_world/NATL-Sword-Wielding-Man-Shot-Dead-at-Hollywood-Scientology-Building-.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *November 21, California Fire News* – (California) **Transient who started ‘Day Fire’ that burned 162,000 acres sentenced to nearly four years in prison.** A transient who started the 2006 Day Fire that burned more than 162,000 acres — most of which was in the Los Padres National Forest — and cost authorities more than \$100 million in fire suppression costs was sentenced today to 45 months in federal prison. The man was found guilty of two felonies — two counts of willfully setting on fire debris in the Los Padres National Forest. He was also found guilty of three misdemeanors — allowing a fire to escape from his control, causing the Ellis Fire; violating National Forest restrictions by building a fire, which caused the Day Fire; and smoking in the Los Padres National Forest. “The Day Fire resulted in horrendous impacts, both economical and social,” said the district ranger for the Los Padres National Forest. “The impacts are ongoing. We’re still dealing with hazardous trees, and erosion, not to mention the risk to firefighters and citizens lives, millions of dollars in lost time redirecting traffic with Interstate 5 closed and air quality.”

Source: <http://calfire.blogspot.com/2008/11/lpf-news-transient-who-started-day-fire.html>

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Dams Sector

38. *November 24, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Quake-exposed Sierra dam reopened by Army engineers.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reopened Martis Creek Dam —

deemed the sixth-riskiest of its 610 dams nationwide — to the public November 10 after ceasing drilling operations. But, because of recently discovered earthquake faults and a previously determined seepage problem, studies will continue that could lead to further repairs, replacement or even removal, said a Corps spokesman. A November 7 seismic analysis determined there are earthquake faults trending toward the dam, which is in the scenic Martis Valley between Truckee and north Lake Tahoe. The two faults, possibly connected, were discovered in two trenches the Corps dug this fall on adjacent Waddle Ranch property. Because the dam sits on loose glacial soil, “there is also a serious underseepage problem,” the Corps spokesman said. “The concern is that, if the dam was breached with a lot of water behind it, maximum flooding could occur,” he said. “It hasn’t happened in known history, but it could.” The spillage could inundate not only the Martis Valley but also downstream communities along the Truckee River such as Reno. The Corps began studying and doing remedial work on the dam in midsummer. Of several dams in the Truckee-Tahoe area, Martis Creek is the only one owned and managed by the Corps. “Four or five alternatives of mediation, such as closing or fixing, will eventually be considered, looking at public safety, cost and environmental impact,” the Corps representative said.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/1422555.html>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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