



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 July 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- The Barstow Desert Dispatch reports that the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway yard in Barstow, California was evacuated for more than four hours after a bomb threat was found at the yard the night of July 12, but no bombs were found in the area. (See item [20](#))
- According to the Associated Press, security was upgraded in Yemen's capital this week after intelligence reports warned of attacks planned against the U.S. embassies in Algeria and Yemen, a senior security official said Tuesday. (See item [30](#))

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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. *July 14, Reuters* – (National) **Grid storage a secure solution.** While much has been talked about using batteries or other forms of storage to balance intermittent renewable wind and solar power on the grid, the former director of the CIA believes that distributed storage also helps to secure the grid from terrorists. The former director, who directed the CIA under President Clinton and is a partner at Vantage Point Venture

Partners, says the national power grid was developed “without a thought about security” and as constructed today is “Al Qaeda’s dream.” Speaking at the Storage Week conference, he unabashedly proclaimed that moving the grid from centralized to distributed resources was necessary to make the task of those who wish to disrupt the U.S. economy more difficult. He warned of the dangers of the world’s reliance on eight of the nine largest exporting oil countries run by autocracies and dictatorships, and said that he encourages the use of plug-in hybrids. Grid risks include placing high voltage transformers and their backups within easy sniper range along highways “protected only by chicken wire,” he said. A utility executive later in the day refuted his assertion, saying that backup transformers are not located adjacent to primary units.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/mnEnergy/idUS408416919820090714>

2. *July 14, Reuters* – (Oklahoma; Louisiana) **Valero says Ardmore, St. Charles still not back.** Valero Energy Corp said on July 14 a crude unit, a gasoline-making FCC and a hydrotreater at its Ardmore, Oklahoma refinery have still not returned to production following a recent unit fire. Meanwhile, the crude distillation unit at Valero’s 185,000 barrel per day St. Charles, Louisiana refinery also remained down after an early June fire, a spokesman for the top U.S. refinery told Reuters in an email. “I don’t have any new updates on Ardmore or St. Charles,” he added in his email.
3. *July 13, New York Times* – (California) **Quake fears stall energy extraction project.** Two federal agencies are stopping a California project from fracturing bedrock miles underground and extracting its geothermal energy until a scientific review determines whether the project could produce dangerous earthquakes, spokeswomen for the Energy and Interior Departments said on Monday. The project by AltaRock Energy had won a grant of \$6.25 million from the Energy Department, and officials at the Interior Department had indicated that it was likely to issue permits allowing the company to fracture bedrock on federal land in one of the most seismically active areas of the world, Northern California. But when contacted last month by the New York Times for an article on the project, several federal officials said that AltaRock had not disclosed that a similar project in Basel, Switzerland was shut down when it generated earthquakes that shook the city in 2006 and 2007. AltaRock officials denied the accusation, saying they had been forthcoming about the results of the Basel project. In statements issued Monday in response to questions by the Times, the spokeswomen for the federal agencies said the new study would focus specifically on the lessons that the experience in Basel held for the AltaRock project, in a seismically active area known as the Geysers.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/14/business/energy-environment/14drill.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *July 14, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Federal jury awards \$1.25 million in chemical leak.** A federal jury has ordered DuPont to pay more than \$1.25 million to six people who were injured when fuming sulfuric acid spilled from an eastern Kentucky

plant five years ago. The jury found DuPont liable for skin burns, eye irritation and respiratory and eye problems sustained by neighbors of the company's plant in Wurtland, Kentucky. The leak happened October 11, 2004, and stemmed from a cracked pipe at the plant. It resulted in sulfur trioxide, a chemical that formed white clouds composed of tiny droplets of sulfuric acid, being released into the air. DuPont argued that it gave warnings to neighbors about the leak and was not responsible for any injuries.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ikh3BmxQN4byJNtDxo-zLa8RfAD99EFKE01>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *July 14, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **NRC: Farley nuclear plant near Dothan violated emergency plan by not distributing alert radios.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has found that emergency plan violations occurred at the Farley Nuclear Plant near Dothan, Alabama. The commission said Tuesday that Southern Nuclear Operating Co. violated its regulations for tone alert radios that are given to residents near the two-unit plant to alert them in case of a radiological emergency. In early 2008, Farley plant employees identified that more than 100 tone alert radios had not been distributed to addresses within the plant's 10-mile emergency planning zone. A subsequent review identified additional addresses that had also not received the radios. Southern Nuclear distributed radios to those addresses and revised the plant's procedures. The violation was rated as low to moderate in safety significance. Such findings usually result in additional inspections and oversight.
Source: <http://www.whnt.com/news/sns-ap-al--farleyplant-violation,0,4170495.story>
6. *July 14, LancasterOnline.Com* – (Pennsylvania) **Peach Bottom plant cited by NRC.** A control-room operator at the Peach Bottom nuclear plant spent 10 minutes reading a novel, the U.S. NRC alleges. The violation of federal regulations came to light while the NRC was at the plant for an inspection prompted by a 2007 incident in which security guards at the plant were filmed sleeping in an off-duty room where they were allowed to rest but not sleep. The latest incident occurred in July 2007, according to a notice of violation sent to Peach Bottom owner Exelon Generation on Thursday. The control-room operator was seen by another Peach Bottom staffer reading the novel on a computer, according to the NRC. Non-job-related materials are not permitted in the control room, and the use of computers is restricted to company-related work. The NRC said it was considering the incident of "minimal safety significance" because the operator was not the primary plant operator at the time and was able to respond to plant conditions while reading the novel. Exelon Nuclear can contest the notice of violation but must outline to the NRC how the alleged infraction was corrected.
Source: <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/239816>
7. *July 14, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **\$67.5 million deficit in W.Pa nuclear plant fund.** A western Pennsylvania nuclear facility predicts a \$67.5 million deficit in a

federally required fund for site cleanup. All nuclear facilities are required to have a decommissioning fund. A recent study by the Associated Press found companies that own nearly half of the nation's nuclear reactors have not set aside enough money for dismantlement, posing possible safety and security risks. FirstEnergy Corp. projects the deficit at one of two reactors it operates in Shippingport, a town about 35 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. It says the other reactor is fully funded. FirstEnergy says the money had been invested in markets hit by the recession. The company says it will make up the deficit before the reactor's license expires in 2016.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/pennsylvania/20090714_ap_675milliondeficitinwpanuclearplantfund.html

8. *July 13, Chillicothe Gazette* – (Ohio) **Tornado confirmed in Ross, still waiting for Pike.** The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado was responsible for damage Saturday in Huntington Township, Ohio, but incidents in Pike and Scioto counties remained unconfirmed Sunday. The National Weather Service confirmed the Ross County tornado hit about 3:55 p.m. Saturday, first touching down in the area near Ohio 772 and Valley Road before continuing to intermittently touch down for about 3.5 miles. The twister's width was determined to have been about a quarter mile, but its estimated speed has not been released. During the storm, the atomic plant also sustained some minor damage to the timber around one of the cooling towers, the Pike County emergency management director said.

Source: <http://www.chillicothe Gazette.com/article/20090713/NEWS01/907130304/1002>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *July 14, Cars.com* – (National) **Recall alert: 14,416 Volkswagen Touaregs.** Volkswagen has issued a recall for 14,416 Touareg vehicles from the 2007-09 model years, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The recall is due to the fastening struts on the roof edge spoiler, which can crack and cause the spoiler to fall off even though the spoiler may not feel at all loose. If the spoiler comes off while the vehicle is in motion, it could seriously injure a person outside the vehicle or collide with another car and possibly cause an accident. Dealers will install reinforcing wedges to the roof edge spoiler for free.
Source: <http://blogs.cars.com/kickingtires/2009/07/recall-alert-14416-volkswagen-touaregs.html>
10. *July 14, U.S. News and World Report* – (National) **Urgent recall alert: BMW 1, 3-Series.** BMW is recalling every 2008 1-Series and 3-Series car to correct a defect that could cause an airbag failure. In a defect notice filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, BMW explains, "The problem involves the wiring for the front side airbags and front safety belt tensioners. Specifically, incorrect crimp connectors may have been used on the side airbag and belt tensioner wiring. As a result, sufficient contact between the crimp connectors and the corresponding plug may not occur which could lead to an increase in the electrical resistance of that connector. If that happened, it

could be possible for the side air bag and/or the safety belt tensioner not to deploy” in an accident, increasing the risk of injuries. Cars that experience the defect should display an airbag warning sign in the instrument cluster, but owners are advised to heed the recall notice even if they do not see the airbag warning. BMW dealers will correct the defect free of charge.

Source: <http://usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/cars-trucks/daily-news/090714-Urgent-Recall-Alert-BMW-1-3-Series/>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *July 14, Aviation Week* – (National) **Solid-state laser ready for on-board tests.** A U.S. Navy plan to test a high-power laser against the small-boat threat to its warships provides the first real opportunity to transition electric lasers from the laboratory to the field, says Northrop Grumman, which has won a \$98-million contract for the Maritime Laser Demonstration (MLD). Within 12-18 months, a prototype laser weapon system is to be installed on a ship and tested against a remotely controlled small boat in a representative at-sea environment. The system will use technology from the Defense Department’s Joint High Power Solid-State Laser (JHPSSL) program, under which Northrop Grumman in March achieved an output of 105 kw. by optically combining the beams from a chain of laser modules. Since the 2000 attack on the USS Cole in the Yemeni harbor of Aden, the Navy has been looking for an answer to the small-boat threat. The potential threat ranges from tens of jet skis carrying individuals armed with rocket-propelled grenades to handfuls of fast-attack craft carrying short-range cruise missiles. The challenge includes discriminating, identifying and prioritizing the most threatening targets in a littoral environment crowded with waterborne traffic. Although the weapon will operate at a wavelength, 1.06 microns, where there is an atmospheric “window” that maximizes propagation and minimizes absorption of the beam, no one has ever fired a high-power solid-state laser in a maritime environment, where aerosols could scatter the beam. MLD is the first opportunity to apply solid-state laser technology, although the U.S. Army plans to test a truck-mounted high-energy laser demonstrator against rocket, artillery and mortar threats around 2015.

Source:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/LASER071409.xml&headline=Solid-State%20Laser%20Ready%20For%20On-Board%20Tests&channel=defense>

12. *July 13, Aviation Week* – (National) **Sikorsky X2 files with engaged propeller.** Sikorsky’s X2 Technology demonstrator recently completed two test flights with a fully engaged propeller for the first time. The helicopter reached speeds of 52 knots in one test and 42 knots with the propeller providing forward thrust in the second flight. The demonstrator is designed to fly at 250 knots, about twice the speed of current helicopters. The demonstrator has accumulated more than three hours of flight time at the Sikorsky facility in Horseheads, New York. The aircraft will be relocated to Sikorsky’s Development Flight Center in West Palm Beach, Florida this month for continued flight-testing that will lead up to the 250-knot design goal. The X2 Technology demonstrator incorporates a range of new technologies, as well as a

counter-rotating coaxial rotor, to achieve record speeds yet retain low-speed handling, efficient hovering and autorotation safety. In addition to the rotor, the demonstrator is equipped with fly-by-wire controls, hub drag reduction, active vibration controls and an integrated auxiliary propulsion system. Sikorsky said it is “maturing the technology” for use in a range of missions such as rapid air medical response, reconnaissance and special operations.

Source:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/X2071309.xml&headline=Sikorsky%20X2%20Files%20With%20Engaged%20Propeller&channel=busav>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *July 15, Bloomberg* – (International) **HSBC, Herald sued over \$578 million ‘fake’ profit from Madoff.** HSBC Holdings Plc and a Cayman Islands-based hedge fund were sued by the trustee liquidating the business of the mastermind behind the largest ponzi scheme in history over claims they withdrew \$578 million in “fake” profit from the con man’s firm before it collapsed. The lawsuit, filed on July 14 by the trustee in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan, claims London-based HSBC withdrew most of the money on behalf of its client, Herald Fund Spc, less than 90 days before the ponzi artist’s firm began liquidating. The trustee says such transfers are recoverable under U.S. bankruptcy law. The so-called clawback lawsuit against HSBC and Herald is one of at least eight filed against the biggest investors in York-based Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. The earlier complaints seek a total of \$13.7 billion in damages to be used to repay victims of the ponzi artist’s fraud. The lawsuit names Herald Fund’s beneficiary bank, London-based HSBC Bank Plc, and its asset custodian, HSBC Securities Services (Luxembourg) SA. In April, Herald Fund filed a lawsuit in a Luxembourg court against the same HSBC unit, seeking 1.6 billion euros (\$2.15 billion) in assets the bank allegedly reported in its last value calculation.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aOnusniOTHcs>

14. *July 15, Bloomberg* – (National) **Bair, Bernanke want tougher curbs on biggest banks.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. chairman, with support from Federal Reserve officials, is pushing for tougher measures to curb the size and risk-taking of the nation’s largest financial firms. The FDIC will propose slapping fees on the biggest bank holding companies to the extent that they carry on activities, such as proprietary trading, outside of traditional lending. The idea goes beyond the U.S. Presidential Administration’s regulation-overhaul plan, which would have the Fed adjust capital and liquidity standards for the biggest firms, without any pre-set fees. “What we have suggested is financial disincentives for size and complexity,” the chairman said in a July 9 interview. The Federal Chairman told lawmakers last month that restricting size is a “legitimate” option. Size limits would overturn decades of regulatory tradition that promoted the view that large, diversified institutions were more immune to risks when specific industries or regions slumped.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aB4OVrCHNQmE>

15. *July 14, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Nebraska officials warn of another lending scam.** Nebraska officials are warning of another scam targeting people trying to borrow money. The department says it has gotten complaints about the company. And the department says it also got a warning from a licensed mortgage company from Phoenix called Hamilton Lending, which has a branch in Lincoln. The department says most of the scammers ask for fees upfront, then do not provide the loan money. In June, the department warned consumers about a company calling itself Hillsboro Financial Group that listed a false Omaha address.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/07/14/ap6653061.html>

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Transportation Sector

16. *July 15, Associated Press* – (International) **168 killed in Iran plane crash.** A Russian-made Iranian passenger plane carrying 168 people crashed shortly after takeoff July 14, smashing into a field northwest of the capital and shattering into flaming pieces. All on board were killed in Iran's worst air disaster in six years, officials said. Before crashing, the Tupolev jet's tail was on fire as it circled in the air, one witness told the Associated Press. The impact blasted a deep trench in the dirt field. Firefighters put out the flaming wreckage, which officials said was strewn over a 200 yard area. It was the latest in a string of deadly crashes in recent years that have highlighted Iran's difficulties in maintaining its aging fleet of planes.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090715/ap_on_re_mi_ea/ml_iran_plane

17. *July 15, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Inquiry faults T on safety measures.** Federal safety officials denounced the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) "lack of a safety culture" yesterday, concluding that a fatal Green Line crash in Newton last year could have been avoided if the agency had invested in safety technology routinely used by other transit systems, and the T's three other subway lines. MBTA drivers on the problem-plagued transit line, the country's oldest, have long called for such an automated system, which could prevent trolleys from coming too close to one another and stop them if necessary. After a 14-month investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) also concluded the driver who died in the crash probably suffered from fatigue and may have fallen asleep momentarily. The seven recommendations included a call for U.S. transit agencies to establish a better system for medical screening of sleep problems in operators, each of whom is responsible for the lives of thousands of commuters each day. Other officials at the MBTA defended the system's safety record and pointed to a number of measures the agency has taken since last year's crash, including a more frequent and formal system to observe drivers' speeds and safety compliance on the tracks. Though the T in Massachusetts has taken preliminary steps toward building an automated train control system for the Green Line in recent months, the agency has been slow to embrace the technology and remains uncommitted about retrofitting the trains, despite another major Green Line accident this May that raised similar questions about the line's lack of fail-safe technology.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/15/inquiry_faults_t_on_safety_measures/

18. *July 14, Agence France-Presse* – (District of Columbia) **Automatic control system eyed in U.S. metro crash.** The U.S. transportation safety board has urged Washington Metro officials to upgrade remote train controls as investigators eyed the current system as the possible cause of last month's deadly subway train crash. In an urgent safety recommendation issued July 13, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) urged the operators of the Washington Metro to develop software and circuitry that would continuously evaluate where trains are on the tracks and alert operations personnel when problems are detected. An ongoing probe into the June 23 collision between two Metro trains in the U.S. capital has found that the automatic control system failed not only to detect a stopped train but also to alert the driver of another Metro that the stationary train was ahead on the track, the NTSB said. The current train control system used by the Washington Metro was designed by the U.S. company General Railway Signal, a spokesman for Metro told AFP. Earlier probe results have shown that a circuit — an element that sends speed commands to trains and tell them when to stop or proceed — on the track where the accident occurred “lost detection” of the stopped train. The circuit had been malfunctioning intermittently, both before and after it was upgraded just days before the accident, the NTSB said on July 13.
Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jDwAq2DXR8PwgVTD9LhYwnRE1MOA>
19. *July 14, Aviation Herald* – (Florida) **Southwest B733 near Orlando on Jul 14th 2009, APU fire indication.** The crew of a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737-300, flight WN-3238 from St. Louis, Missouri to Orlando, Florida with 129 passengers, declared emergency reporting an auxiliary power unit (APU) fire indication while on approach to Orlando. Despite attempts to extinguish the fire the crew had to land on Orlando's runway 17L with an active fire indication for the APU. The airplane stopped on the runway, fire crews boarded the airplane, and the passengers disembarked onto the runway and were bussed to the terminal. Fire services found no trace of fire or heat.
Source: <http://avherald.com/h?article=41caab23&opt=4865>
20. *July 13, Barstow Desert Dispatch* – (California) **Bomb threat temporarily closes BNSF yard.** The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) yard in Barstow was evacuated for more than four hours after a bomb threat was found at the yard the night of July 12, but no bombs were found in the area. A city spokesman said BNSF employees reported a bomb threat to the Barstow Police Department after two written threats were found in employee bathroom stalls at 11:50 p.m. July 12. The threat said bombs were strategically placed in two BNSF buildings to “kill them all” according to the spokesman. The spokesman said the buildings were evacuated and a 300-yard perimeter was set up around the buildings. Bomb dogs from the Marine Corps Logistic Base were called in by the police and were unable to locate any explosive devices. The yard was reopened at 4:21 a.m. according to the spokesman. A BNSF spokeswoman said around 90 BNSF employees were evacuated and the yard was shut down after the

bomb threat. The main rail line through Barstow was also closed for an hour, she said.
Source: <http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/threat-6480-barstow-yard.html>

21. *July 13, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **Huge sinkhole near I-4 costs \$9 million to fix.** A giant construction factory is set up along the side of I-4 to fill in a massive sinkhole. The first phase is finishing this week, but there is nearly one-year worth of work still to do. Eyewitness News learned it is the largest sinkhole-filling operation of its kind in the state and the hole is even bigger than the transportation department first thought. The sinkhole is costing more than \$9 million to fix. Crews were dumping a cement-like mixture into the sinkhole and were finishing the first set of underground support columns July 13. The project is near Maitland Boulevard along I-4. Eyewitness News learned that the sinkhole is as deep as a 35-story skyscraper is tall and as far across as an entire football field. To stabilize a space that big, the mix of concrete, ash, sand, and cement is injected into the ground at some 300 points by mobile drills. Workers are essentially creating an underground network of support columns and, with that framework in place, tons of fresh dirt will be trucked in and eventually packed down atop the columns into level, solid ground.
Source: <http://www.wftv.com/news/20041542/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *July 14, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Ticking package prompts bomb squad call in Washington.** A ticking package that prompted employees at a Westport, Washington, post office to call police has been determined to be a hoax. Westport police tell KBKW News that the package was found to contain some sort of a clock with wires and some fireworks. The package was found outside the building Monday night. U.S. postal inspectors are investigating the incident, saying that hoax devices can cause panic. A note was found with the box, but authorities did not disclose what it said.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_ticking_package.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *July 15, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Military flare caused Cudahy meatpacking plant fire.** Police in southeastern Wisconsin say a fire that gutted part of a meatpacking plant on July 5 started when a military flare landed on the roof. Cudahy police said on July 14 there is no indication it was the military that fired the flare. The massive blaze lasted more than two days and caused an estimated \$50 million or more in damages. There is a \$16,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. The reward is being funded by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Wisconsin Arson Insurance Counsel; and Southern Milwaukee County Crime Stoppers. Some production has resumed in the plant, while other production has been shifted elsewhere.
Source: <http://www.madison.com/tct/news/stories/458396>

For more stories, see items [43](#) and [44](#)

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Water Sector

24. *July 15, Leesburg Daily Commercial* – (Florida) **Thief steals Minneola master keys.** A city truck valued at \$25,000, three city tool bags worth \$500 each, and a set of keys containing keys belonging to every city building in Minneola, Florida were stolen from the city's Water Treatment Plant sometime over the weekend. A corporal with the Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) said the exact day and time have yet to be determined. On July 10, however, city officials, led by the city manager spent most of the day securing the city's offices. The corporal said the unknown suspect(s) gained access to the facility by cutting a hole in a fence on the premises that leads to the Florida Turnpike. The hole, cut between the County Road 561A bridge and Florida Turnpike mile marker 280.4, was spotted by LCSO detectives at the scene after the incident was reported early July 10. He said no damage was reported to the plant. The charges on the report include trespassing, burglary, grand theft larceny and third-degree vehicle grand theft. The mayor said that this incident marks the second break-in to the water treatment plant that has resulted in a stolen vehicle.

Source: <http://www.dailycommercial.com/localnews/story/071509breakin>

25. *July 14, Water Technology Online* – (Virginia) **Coliform prompts 18-month boil-water order.** The Rye Valley Water Authority has declared an 18-month boil-water order for 550 households due to high levels of coliform bacteria in its water system, according to a July 13 Bristol Herald Courier [article](#). What has some residents in this southwest Virginia community concerned is that the water authority first detected coliform bacteria in its raw water a year ago, but is just now informing them. The Southwest Virginia spokesman for the Virginia Department of Health said the health department followed protocol. A field director for the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water said the health department performed significant testing because the system had no history of bacterial problems, and there had been no reported illnesses. At a recent public meeting, several residents reported that they had been frequently getting sick with diarrhea over the past several months. The authority, which draws its water from an underground spring, now has 18 months to install a treatment system to address the problem, the article said.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72232

26. *July 14, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Chicago water: in public reports, city silent over sex hormones and painkillers found in treated drinking water.** Annual water quality reports mailed to Chicagoans this month did not say a word about sex hormones, painkillers, or anti-cholesterol drugs, even though city officials found traces of pharmaceuticals and other unregulated substances in treated Lake Michigan water during the past year. Like other cities, Chicago must notify the public if its drinking water contains certain regulated contaminants, including lead, pesticides, and harmful bacteria. But pharmaceutical chemicals, which have been detected in drinking water

across the country, are not on that list. So the mayor is technically correct in stating that the “pure, fresh drinking water” pumped to 7 million people in Chicago and the suburbs “meets or exceeds all regulatory standards.” Drinking water standards have not been updated for years, in part because little is known about how pharmaceutical concoctions might affect public health. But researchers and regulators are concerned about the potential effects of long-term exposure to these substances, which are designed to have an impact at low doses.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/chi-water-testing-14-jul14,0,4303601.story>

27. *July 14, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Hundreds of leaks found at 2 Seattle reservoirs.** Leaks have been found on the roofs of two underground reservoirs, and repairs have been ordered, Seattle Public Utilities said. Seattle has spent the past 15 years covering its reservoirs. Four have already been covered, and two more are scheduled to be placed underground by 2012. But on the roofs of the underground reservoirs in West Seattle and Beacon Hill, public utility workers recently discovered serious leaks. A hundred holes seeped the water through at the West Seattle reservoir. The situation is even worse at Beacon Hill’s reservoir, where about 400 breaches were detected. “The actual cause of those leaks is still under investigation,” said a spokesperson from Seattle Public Utilities. The city hired private companies to bury and cap the reservoirs, and city workers say the fault lies with those companies. “The city did not make any mistakes in terms of its management of the project and its construction inspection. Our work with the contractor and with the design consultant will basically determine responsibility for paying for these fixes,” said the spokesperson. The utility has not signed off on the projects, and said it plans to hold contractors to the requirements of their contracts. The city says what is sure is that the water is still safe. Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/50808942.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *July 15, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Nurses fault hospital over swine flu masks.** Nurses at Sutter Solano Medical Center in Vallejo, California, filed a complaint with the state Tuesday alleging that they were not given proper face masks to protect them from patients with the swine flu. About 10 nurses in the hospital’s intensive care unit have contracted the flu, according to the complaint filed with the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health. The complaint alleges that the hospital has not given employees a specific type of filtering face mask designed to prevent spread of the flu. The hospital spokesman said state officials were at the hospital Tuesday to look into the charges. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/14/BA4U18OGSL.DTL>
29. *July 14, New York Times* – (National) **Medical school says former Army surgeon hid ties to Medtronic.** A former military doctor and Medtronic consultant at the center of a research scandal did not tell his medical school employer for a year about his Medtronic

ties even as he was conducting company-sponsored research, according to that institution, Washington University in St. Louis. The new disclosures, which the medical school made in response to a Senate investigation, may intensify the controversy surrounding the physician, an orthopedic surgeon who formerly worked at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The Army has accused the doctor of falsifying a medical journal study about the use of a Medtronic bone-growth product on American soldiers with severe leg injuries, reporting more favorable results than other Walter Reed doctors found. The medical school documents also shed new light on Medtronic's financial support of the doctor's research on those soldiers, who were treated with the company's bone-growth product called Infuse.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/15/business/15device.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *July 14, Associated Press* – (International) **Yemeni official: Intelligence warn of attacks.** Security was upgraded in Yemen's capital this week after intelligence reports warned of attacks planned against the U.S. embassies in Algeria and Yemen, a senior security official said Tuesday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, did not reveal the origin of the intelligence. In the wake of the report, the chief of the intelligence issued directives Monday to increase security around diplomatic missions in the capital and elsewhere in the country. A copy of the directive was shown to the Associated Press. Yemen's Interior Ministry also issued a statement Monday in which it said it was increasing security around foreign diplomatic missions and commercial interests as a "preventive measure" against potential "terrorist attacks." The move came as a Yemeni court sentenced six al-Qaida militants to death after convicting them of a string of attacks a year earlier, including a deadly assault on the U.S. embassy in September which left 19 people dead.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090714/ap_on_re_mi_ea/ml_yemen_attack_warning
31. *July 14, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **North Dakota missile crew members discharged for falling asleep.** The Air Force discharged three North Dakota ballistic missile crew members who fell asleep while holding classified launch code devices, the military announced Tuesday. Officials said the codes were outdated and remained secure at all times. The crew members were discharged last Thursday under orders from the Air Force Secretary, said a spokeswoman. They had been barred from working around nuclear weapons and classified material since the July 12, 2008 incident, she said. The crew members were coming off a shift at a missile alert facility about 70 miles from Minot Air Force Base when they fell asleep in a secure crew rest area, the spokeswoman said. The crew had with them code components — classified devices that allow them to communicate with missiles. Launch codes are part of the components, which were described as large, metal boxes. One of the three crew members notified senior officers that they had fallen asleep, the spokeswoman said. The lapse prompted an investigation by the 91st Missile Wing, codes experts at the 20th Air Force, U.S.

Strategic Command and the National Security Agency.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,532649,00.html?test=latestnews>

32. *July 14, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **TPS selected for federal grant to improve emergency preparedness.** Tulsa Public Schools is among 108 school districts across the U.S. selected for a federal grant to improve emergency preparedness. The U.S. Department of Education just awarded \$26 million in grants through the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools program. The grants may be used to coordinate with local responders, such as fire and police departments, conduct drills and exercises, buy emergency supplies and equipment, and train employees and students on emergency response procedures.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=298&articleid=20090714_2980_TulsaP68983

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *July 15, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Pittsburgh police begin training for G-20 protests.** Pittsburgh police officers, who will confront crowds of protesters that likely will descend on Pittsburgh during September's G-20 summit of world leaders, have begun special training for the event. Police officials asked that the Post-Gazette not reveal the location of the training or the specific tactics being taught because of fears that protesters will use the information to disrupt the summit, which has spawned large demonstrations in other cities. During the next several weeks, groups of 50 to 60 Pittsburgh police officers will gather at the training site every three days. Most of the Police Bureau's nearly 900 officers will participate. Instructors from the Center for Domestic Preparedness, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, are teaching the course, which is called Managing Civil Actions in Threat Incidents, or MCATI.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09196/983948-53.stm>

34. *July 14, Government Computer News* – (National) **New FEMA more decentralized.** In the event of a major disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency does not have the manpower or technical resources to restore critical infrastructure on its own, said FEMA's chief of information technology operations. To deal with those limitations, the agency is becoming more decentralized, with a headquarters focused more on support than on command and control. FEMA's limitations were graphically demonstrated in its response to Hurricane Katrina. Since then, "there has been an emphasis on pushing control out to the regions and the locals," the FEMA official said Tuesday at a Business Continuity Forum hosted by AT&T in Washington. FEMA has only six mobile emergency response support units to meet key tactical communication needs, housing and other short-term demands for key emergency response personnel at disaster sites.

Source: <http://gcn.com/articles/2009/07/14/new-fema-more-decentralized.aspx>

35. *July 14, KNDO/KNDU 16/26 Yakima/Richland* – (Washington) **Bomb squad detonates suspicious devices.** A bomb squad unit with the Yakima Training Center detonated two suspicious devices that were dropped off at the Kittitas Sheriff's Office. They destroyed the devices shortly after 3 p.m. on Tuesday. It is not known whether they were explosives. Police and sheriffs blocked roadways and redirected traffic during the afternoon.

Source: http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=10725639&nav=menu484_6_5

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Information Technology

36. *July 15, Reuters* – (International) **French workers threaten to blow up Nortel factory.** Workers at the French arm of telecommunications manufacturer Nortel have threatened to blow up their factory unless they secure decent layoff terms, but gas cylinders placed around the plant were empty, a newspaper said. French daily Le Parisien said on July 15 the workers had placed gas cylinders in front of the plant in the Yvelines area near Paris, where 480 jobs are set to be axed following bankruptcy proceedings. In the second threat by French workers to blow up a factory in a week, the paper said the workers had threatened to stage an explosion as early as July 15 if their demands were not met, but said the gas cylinders were empty. No immediate comment was available from Toronto-based Nortel, once the largest North American telecommunications equipment manufacturer but which filed for bankruptcy protection in Canada and the United States in January. The workers were also bitter about the way the authorities handling the case in France were proceeding, the paper said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSLF8443920090715>

37. *July 14, IDG News Service* – (International) **Probe into cyberattacks stretches around the globe.** British authorities have launched an investigation into the recent cyberattacks that crippled Web sites in the U.S. and South Korea, as the trail to find the perpetrators stretches around the world. On July 13, the Vietnamese security vendor Bach Khoa Internetwork Security (Bkis) said it had identified a master command-and-control server used to coordinate the denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, which took down major U.S. and South Korean government Web sites. A command-and-control server is used to distribute instructions to zombie PCs, which form a botnet that can be used to bombard Web sites with traffic, rendering the sites useless. The server was on an IP (Internet Protocol) address used by Global Digital Broadcast, an IP TV technology company based in Brighton, England, according to Bkis. That master server distributed instructions to eight other command-and-control servers used in the attacks. Bkis, which managed to gain control of two of the eight servers, said that 166,908 hacked computers in 74 countries were used in the attacks and were programmed to get new instructions every three minutes. But the master server is not in the U.K.; it is in Miami, according to one of the owners of Digital Global Broadcast, who spoke to IDG News Service on July 13. The server belongs to Digital Latin America (DLA), which is one of Digital Global Broadcast's partners. Digital Global Broadcast was notified of a problem by its hosting provider, C4L, the owner said. His company has also been contacted by the U.K.'s Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA). A SOCA official said she could not confirm

or deny an investigation.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9135532/Probe_into_cyberattacks_stretches_around_the_globe?taxonomyId=17

38. *July 14, The Register* – (International) **BlackBerry update bursting with spyware.** An update pushed out to BlackBerry users on the Etisalat network in the United Arab Emirates appears to contain remotely-triggered spyware that allows the interception of messages and emails, as well as crippling battery life. Sent out as a WAP Push message, the update installs a Java file that one curious customer decided to take a closer look at, only to discover an application intended to intercept both email and text messages, sending a copy to an Etisalat server without the user being aware of anything beyond a slightly excessive battery drain. It was, it seems, the battery issue that alerted users to something being wrong. Closer examination seems to indicate that all instances of the application were expected to register with a central server, which could not cope with the traffic — thus forcing all the instances to repeatedly attempt to connect while draining the battery. A more phased reporting system might have escaped detection completely. The update is labelled: “Etisalat network upgrade for BlackBerry service. Please download to ensure continuous service quality.” The signed JAR file, when opened, reveals an application housed in a directory named “/com/ss8/interceptor/app”, which conforms to the Java standard for application trees to be named the reverse of the author’s URL. No one from Etisalat, RIM, or SS8 is saying anything about the issue, despite the fact that the application appears remarkably difficult to remove.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/07/14/blackberry_snooping/

39. *July 13, BBC News* – (International) **Snooping through the power socket.** Security researchers found that poor shielding on some keyboard cables means useful data can be leaked about each character typed. By analyzing the information leaking onto power circuits, the researchers could see what a target was typing. The attack has been demonstrated to work at a distance of up to 15m, but refinement may mean it could work over much longer distances. “Our goal is to show that information leaks in the most unexpected ways and can be retrieved,” wrote two individuals of security firm Inverse Path, in a paper describing their work. The research focused on the cables used to connect PS/2 keyboards to desktop PCs. Usefully, said the pair, the six wires inside a PS/2 cable are typically “close to each other and poorly shielded.” This means that information travelling along the data wire, when a key is pressed, leaks onto the earth (ground in the U.S.) wire in the same cable. The earth wire, via the PC’s power unit, ultimately connects to the plug in the power socket, and from there information leaks out onto the circuit supplying electricity to a room. Even better, said the researchers, data travels along PS/2 cables one bit at a time and uses a clock speed far lower than any other PC component. Both these qualities make it easy to pick out voltage changes caused by key presses. A digital oscilloscope was used to gather data about voltage changes on a power line and filters were used to remove those caused by anything other than the keyboard.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8147534.stm>

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

40. *July 15, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Fraud investigation leads FBI to raid cable provider.** A small Dixie County coastal community was the site of an FBI raid on July 13 in which a couple apparently is suspected of satellite TV piracy. Residents reported seeing several agents and a large enclosed trailer on the property known as Griner's Island on July 13. County records show that the approximately 10-acre property is owned by two individuals who operate American Cable TV Inc., which is the cable television provider for the unincorporated community of Suwannee. A source close to the investigation told The Sun that the search warrant focuses on allegations of satellite piracy, specifically that the couple may have intercepted satellite transmissions and rebroadcast them over their cable system. The system was off the air on July 13, according to several customers who had been receiving the cable service.
Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090715/ARTICLES/907151012/1002?Title=Fraud-investigation-leads-FBI-to-raid-cable-provider>
41. *July 15, Eagle-Tribune* – (Michigan) **Hydrogen sulfide leak forces evacuation of Andover office building.** An industrial-size battery used to power the backup electrical system at an Andover, Michigan office building overheated around 1 p.m. causing a potentially harmful amount of hydrogen sulfide to leak into a first-floor utility room the afternoon of July 14. The Andover fire deputy chief said it was an "extremely high concentration" of the gas, but that only one person complained of shortness of breath. He said that person chose not to be transported by medical personnel. The leak forced hundreds of Verizon employees to wait for hours in the parking lots surrounding the building as firefighters worked to clear the gas from inside. The deputy chief said about 400 Verizon employees work in the building. Just a few breaths of air containing high levels of hydrogen sulfide can be lethal, according to the Web site of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The employees were allowed to re-enter the building about 4 p.m., the deputy chief added.
Source: http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_195235535.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *July 15, KOTV 6 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Device at Tulsa Jewish center was just an alarm clock.** The Tulsa police bomb squad was called to the Charles Schustermann

Jewish Community Center on July 14 shortly after 5 o'clock. The center had reportedly received a bomb threat during the day. A Tulsa police sergeant told News On 6 that an employee found a device in a trash can inside the building. The trash can was then removed from the building and taken to the parking lot. Police have determined the device was an alarm clock that was thrown away. It will be impossible for the police to ever determine if the device was placed there intentionally or if it was a hoax. The community center was evacuated, but employees have since returned to work. Children attending a summer camp on the Zarrow Campus were evacuated as a precaution. Police tell News On 6 that the alarm clock was not in an area near where the children were gathered.

Source: <http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=10726391>

43. *July 14, FOX News* – (National) **Online pranksters wreak havoc at hotels, restaurants nationwide.** Often imitated and deviously duplicated, a group called PrankNET appears to be at the center of a growing trend that has harried hoteliers and restaurateurs for months and is now being investigated by the Federal Bureau Investigation. The head of PrankNET, who goes by the online name “dex” and has been behaving badly since 2000, leads an online chat system where he and fellow pranksters collaborate. Members of PrankNET chat online, stream their calls live on an Internet radio show and post their greatest hits to a YouTube page, a popular breeding ground for more pranks. During their calls they often drop the name of a security corporation or say they are phoning from a hotel’s front desk to lend themselves an air of credibility — and to get their victims to do surprising things. In February, Dex’s work made headlines when he called a KFC in Manchester, New Hampshire, and convinced workers there to douse the restaurant with fire suppression chemicals, evacuate the building and strip outside in freezing temperatures. Dex accomplished all of this by pretending to be their boss from a corporate office. The sheer difficulty of tracing prank calls placed online, and the social-networking programs used by pranksters, has increased their visibility and daring.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,532241,00.html>

44. *July 14, International Supermarket News* – (California) **Former Wal-Mart employee gets six years for bomb hoaxes.** A former Wal-Mart employee was sentenced to six years for making hoax bomb threats to one of the chain’s outlets in California where she worked. On being asked about her motives, the 32 year-old woman simply responded that she did not want to go to work on those days. The hoax caller was originally charged with making eight calls. Some of the calls were made from inside the store, in the office where she worked. On each occasion the store had to be evacuated. The woman was ordered to pay \$32,676 in restitution charges to Wal-Mart, and \$2,800 to a nearby restaurant for trouble caused.

Source: <http://www.internationalsupermarketnews.com/index.php/the-news/1488-former-wal-mart-employee-gets-six-years-for-bomb-hoaxes>

For another story, see item [45](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

45. *July 14, KNDO/KNDU 16/26 Yakima/Richland* – (Washington) **Forest fire still burning in Ahtanum State Park.** A wildfire in the Ahtanum State Forest in Washington State continued to burn through the night of July 12. About 185 firefighters battled the blaze in shifts, along with several helicopters. It did not threaten any structures, but crews evacuated nearby campgrounds as a precaution. Firefighters said it burned about 300 acres as of mid-day July 12. By 5:40 p.m., the fire was 50 percent contained. A member of the Washington Incident Management Team 1 said crews from the Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service and West Valley Fire Department are on the scene. The responders said they believed that lightning started the fire around 8:00 a.m. on July 11, but are still investigating to rule out human involvement. Crews expect to be there all week.
Source: <http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=10713843>
46. *July 12, Guardian* – (California) **California poised to shut gates on great outdoors as parks struggle with budgets.** The recession — writ on an epic scale in California's proposal to close 220 state parks — is forcing the American public to confront the closure of the great outdoors. California's governor, is trying to make up a \$26 billion budget shortfall, and has suggested that California can no longer afford to run its parks. Conservationists are meanwhile arguing that California cannot afford not to. And this week the federal government appeared to partly agree, with the National Parks Service threatening to seize some of the sites if the governor goes ahead with the closures. The proposed shutdown of the parks would affect 80 percent of California's nature reserves, historic sites and recreation areas, and restrict access to 30 percent of the state's coastline. Affected areas would stretch from the mountains of the Sierra Nevadas to the beaches and wetlands of Big Sur, and to the deserts of San Diego, where some of the last peninsular bighorn sheep roam. Conservationists believe parks can withstand a year or so of closure without lasting harm. But fewer ranger stations will mean increased risk of vandalism, and less maintenance will lead to environmental degradation. California could be digging itself into a yet deeper financial hole by its actions, some say. Many of the parks are a source of revenue for state and local communities. "Each visitor to a state park is worth \$57 per visit. The parks have generated millions throughout California," said the program manager at the National Parks Conservation Association.
Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/12/california-parks-budget-deficit>

For another story, see item [3](#)

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Dams Sector

47. *July 15, Iowa City Press-Citizen* – (Iowa) **Flood project moves ahead.** The Coralville City Council approved an agreement at its meeting on July 14 to move forward with a major flood mitigation project. Engineering firm Shoemaker & Haaland of Coralville will design plans for the CRANDIC railroad mitigation project. The firm will be paid no

more than \$877,795 for the work. The project will cost about \$10 million and has been identified by city officials as the most important flood mitigation project. The city administrator said the project will result in improved flood protection from the Iowa River. The improvements will include adding berms and elevating the railroad track. “Our hope would be that by the end of the summer of 2010 we’ll have everything complete,” he said. During the flooding last summer, water broke through the ballast rock under the railroad tracks, which makes up the embankment. The water then damaged businesses along that section of Highway 6. With the embankment breached, pump stations shut down. Eventually, water went over the top of the tracks. The flooding affected about 200 businesses and 400 homes in Coralville. Also at its Tuesday night work session, the council agreed to go forward with applying for a total of \$27 million in federal CDBG and state I-Jobs funding for other flood mitigation projects. The projects include a combination of pump stations, berms, and floodwalls on the Iowa River and Clear Creek.

Source: <http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20090715/NEWS01/907150324/1079/news01>

48. *July 14, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Dam repairs in Mendham Township and Chester Township expected to start this year.** Repair work at two small dams in the Morris County park system in Mendham and Chester townships could get under way this year, as the county concludes its efforts to obtain required state environmental permits, officials said July 14. Work is expected to begin later this year on repairs to the dams at Ledell’s Pond in the Mendham Township section of Lewis Morris County Park and at the Kay Pond in Chester Township, near the Cooper Mill. Both are in about the same state of disrepair but the potential damage and/or loss of life if the Ledell’s Pond dam broke during a severe storm is significantly higher than possible consequences from a dam break at Kay Pond, which is in a less-populated area, a state official explained.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/local/index.ssf/2009/07/dam_repairs_in_mendham_townshi.html

For another story, see item [27](#)

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