



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 July 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Stockton Record reports that about 250 bank employees were evacuated for three hours on Monday from the second floor of the Chase Bank Plaza in Stockton, California so firefighters could remove a suspicious granular material from the building. Stockton Police are calling the incident a terrorist threat. (See item [12](#))
- According to Environment News Service, the U.S. Army has acknowledged that the nerve gas leak monitors at the Blue Grass chemical weapons storage depot in Richmond, Kentucky were not working from 2003 to 2005. The admission is contained in a U.S. Army Inspector General report dated February 2006 but released Monday. (See item [25](#))

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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 21, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Storms knock out power, uproot trees in Denver.** More than 50,000 homes and businesses lost power in the Denver area after a powerful storm brought high winds, heavy rain, and hail. Thunderstorms and a weak

tornado rolled through Monday night, leaving broken windows, downed power lines, and uprooted trees. The National Weather Service says the storm dropped about an inch of rain in less than 30 minutes in west Denver. Winds reached 60 mph. Forecasters say a tornado briefly touched down in the southwest Denver area after 11 p.m. Monday, but no damage was reported. Minor injuries were reported in the west Denver suburb of Wheat Ridge. Fallen trees and power lines were still blocking streets there on Tuesday morning, when Xcel Energy said 27,000 customers were still without electricity.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hsXctqCeURBr-MFfoeoya2BpGdqgD99IS7L80>

2. *July 20, Reuters* – (California) **Heat wave to test Southern California power grid.**

The largest utility in southern California urged consumers on July 20 to conserve power to help keep air conditioners running without interruption as hot weather sends demand soaring over the next few days. Temperatures in Los Angeles will reach the low 90s Fahrenheit on July 20 and July 21 with the humidity making it feel more like the low 100s F, according to AccuWeather.com. Edison International's Southern California Edison utility said its transmission system was performing well but the continuing multi-day heat wave and lighting caused some isolated equipment failures and scattered outages. As the heat continues, the utility warned it was possible other equipment might fail because of the high ongoing usage. The California Independent System Operator (ISO), which operates much of the state's power grid, forecast demand this week would not top the all-time usage record of more than 50,000 megawatts. The ISO forecast demand would reach about 44,400 MW on July 20 and 45,200 MW on July 21. While saying it expects to have sufficient resources to meet demand this week and throughout the summer, Southern California Edison noted conservation could provide an added reserve should an unexpected power emergency occur.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2012994020090720>

3. *July 20, Reuters* – (Texas) **U.S. gov't begins probe of Citgo Corpus refinery fire.** The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) has assigned investigators to probe the July 19 fire in a hydrofluoric alkylation unit at Citgo Petroleum Corp's Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, a board spokesman said on July 20. Board investigators are scheduled to arrive in Corpus Christi on July 21 to begin looking at the causes of the fire, which broke out the morning of July 19, said the director of public affairs for the Board. A Citgo spokesman said the company had no immediate comment on CSB's decision. "We take any incident in an HF alkylation unit very seriously," the spokesman said. "This incident seriously injured one person. We don't have any evidence of injuries due to hydrofluoric acid, but we do plan to determine how much HF was released." The scope of the investigation into the fire has not been determined, he said. The CSB can look at the July 19 fire alone or do a detailed probe of safety operations at the Corpus Christi refinery, as it did at BP Plc's giant Texas City, Texas refinery following a deadly 2005 explosion. Hydrofluoric acid can have a variety of affects in humans including burns, heart and breathing problems, and damage to bones.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN208799820090720>

4. *July 19, KWES 9 Midland* – (Texas) **Gas plant fire near Kermit under control.** A gas plant fire that started during the evening of July 17 is now under control. The fire was at the Southern Union Gas Plant in the Kermit area located at County Road 301 and FM 874. As of 1:00 the morning of July 18, the fire was contained and fire fighters had it under control. Fire fighters on the scene told NewsWest9 they did not know what started the fire. No injuries were reported. It is unknown how much, if any, damage was done to the plant. NewsWest9 viewers reported seeing the flames from Kermit when the fire started just before 10:00 p.m., but by the time NewsWest9 crews got on the scene the flames had died down considerably.
Source: <http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=10748027>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *July 20, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Fire breaks out at pool chemical company in west Phoenix.** Phoenix firefighters were battling a blaze at a pool chemical company near 59th Avenue and Buckeye Road that involved hazardous material. Buckeye Road was closed both ways from 59th to 57th avenues due to downed power lines, officials said. Firefighters responded to a call at around 7:20 a.m. on July 20 about flames coming out of the roof of the building, said a spokesman for the Phoenix Fire Department. The sprinklers in the building were activated and the fire was put out by the system, fire officials said. Chemical tablets containing either ammonia or chlorine got wet because of the water, causing toxic fumes to be released. No one was in the building and no injuries were reported. Crews were working to remove the tablets from the building and dispose of them. It was still unclear what started the fire.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/07/20/20090720abr-structurefire.html>

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

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *July 21, Reuters* – (Maryland) **Constellation Calvert Cliff 1 reactor at full power.** Constellation Energy Group Inc's (CEG.N) 873-megawatt Unit 1 at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power station in Maryland exited an outage and ramped up to full power by early Tuesday from 10 percent early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut on July 16 to fix a failed containment air coolant motor, which helps maintain pressure and cooling in the containment.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2119403120090721>
7. *July 21, Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* – (New York) **Ginna builds crypt for nuclear waste.** Since it first began producing electricity in late 1969, the Robert E. Ginna nuclear power plant has put spent fuel rods into a large, deep pool of water inside

the plant. By later this year, that pool will be full. So the plant's owner, Constellation Energy Group, is spending \$70 million to build a crypt — a large concrete bunker of a building, with walls thick enough to withstand a passenger jet crashing into it — to hold giant lead-lined barrels filled with that radioactive waste. Such “dry cask” storage has been used at U.S. nuclear power plants since the 1980s, with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission's view being that it is one of two safe methods of storing spent fuel, the other being the pools, said an NRC spokesman. The above-ground cask storage area on Ginna's 426-acre property could be permanent for the thousands of years needed while the radioactive waste decays to harmlessness. Or it could be merely temporary if the federal government ever builds its promised nuclear fuel storage facility planned for Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Source: <http://rocnow.com/article/business/2009907210315>

8. *July 18, Chillicothe Gazette* – (Ohio) **Piketon plant blaze results in no injuries, minor damage.** No injuries and minor damage were reported in a July 16 fire in an inactive cooling tower at the Piketon uranium enrichment plant. According to the Department of Energy, the fire was reported at 4:30 p.m. on the east side of the plant. At 5:15 p.m., the fire was said to have no off-site impact. The fire broke out in some decking of the cooling tower, which was being removed after high winds in Saturday's storms damaged the tower. The cooling tower is one of several at the site scheduled to be decontaminated and decommissioned in the coming months with aid from American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds. The plant's Emergency Operations Center responded and asked for assistance from the Rosemount and West Union fire departments.

Source:

<http://www.chillicothegazette.com/article/20090718/NEWS01/907180307/1002/Piketon-plant-blaze-results-in-no-injuries--minor-damage>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *July 20, Cars.com* – (National) **Recall alert: 2001 Honda Accord and Civic.** Honda has issued a recall for Accord and Civic models from the 2001 model year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The recall is due to the inflator for the driver's airbag, which could produce excessive internal pressure when deployed. This could cause the inflator to rupture, sending metal shards through the airbag cushion and potentially harming the vehicle's occupants. Dealers will replace the airbag inflator for free.

Source: <http://blogs.cars.com/kickingtires/2009/07/recall-alert-2001-honda-accord-and-civic.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *July 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Army stops work on FCS vehicles.** The U.S.

Army has formally canceled part of Boeing Co.'s manned ground systems contract, under which the defense contractor was expected to build combat vehicles better suited for fighting insurgents in places like Afghanistan. The formal decision follows a directive by the Defense Secretary to cancel Chicago-based Boeing's Brigade Combat Team contract as part of the Pentagon's 2010 budget plan. The manned ground systems are part of the Army's \$160 billion modernization effort that is looking to overhaul. The Defense Secretary has said a major reason he decided to cancel the Future Combat Systems vehicles is because they did not adequately protect against the road side bombs that are popular with insurgent fighters. A stop work order was placed on the manned ground systems, as well as on a giant mobile cannon in preparation for the termination. Future Combat Systems, overseen by Boeing and SAIC Inc., combines heavy firepower with high tech gadgetry, like unmanned sensors that would help soldiers fight more effectively. The program has been criticized for using unproven technology, though the Army says some of the equipment is already in use and working well.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/army-stops-work-on-fcs-vehicles.html?col=1186032310810&wh=news>

11. *July 20, KFOX 14 El Paso* – (Texas) **Firefighters respond to nitrogen leak.** Seven El Paso Fire Department units and a hazardous material team were activated to deal with a hazardous leak at Boeing in the northeast part of town. The incident began shortly after 1:00 a.m. when fire officials said a security guard noticed a leak coming from a large nitrogen tank. Fire officials said the leak turned out to be a small one. Nonetheless, environmental health and safety personnel needed to be called in. Fire officials said no employees were exposed to any of the leaking nitrogen.

Source: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/20113995/detail.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *July 21, Stockton Record* – (California) **Hazmat call prompts Chase evacuation.** About 250 bank employees were evacuated for three hours on July 20 from the second floor of the downtown Chase Bank Plaza so Stockton firefighters could remove a suspicious granular material from the building. Stockton police have opened a criminal investigation into the incident, which they are calling a terrorist threat, since the bank reported receiving several envelopes by mail, one containing threats and the others containing the granular material. Several agencies responded to the incident at 400 E. Main St. (previously known as Washington Mutual Plaza) that was first reported to police at 11:09 a.m. on July 20, including the Stockton Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Response Team, the FBI and San Joaquin County Public Health Services. Stockton police also notified the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Department of Justice Joint Terrorism Task Force. Police did not provide specifics on the nature of the threats the bank received nor more details on the granular material or how many envelopes were involved. Firefighters with the hazmat team wearing chemical protective suits entered the building more than an hour after the initial call to police. About 1:30 p.m., three firefighters in T-shirts left the building, two of them carrying plastic bags that contained the suspect material.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090721/A_NEWS/907210319/-1/A_NEWS02

13. *July 21, Charleston Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Beware debit card scam.** Watchdog is passing on a warning from the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs alerting state residents about a debit card scam. Midlands residents are being targeted, but consumer affairs warns that the scam is expected to spread across the state. Consumer affairs says people are receiving calls claiming their debit cards have been blocked and are told to respond to automated instructions to “unblock” or “re-activate” their cards. Reports from consumers indicate the scam is targeting both cell phones and landlines. The scam is designed to obtain sensitive bank account numbers, and consumer officials urge people to avoid answering the phone or hang up immediately if they receive a call from the following number: 520-882-7767. The number belongs to an Arizona heating and cooling company and is fraudulently being used without the company’s permission to perpetrate the scam, officials said.

Source:

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/jul/21/warning_watch_out_new_debit_card_scam89825/

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Transportation Sector

14. *July 21, Aviation Herald* – (International) **United Airlines B763 over Atlantic on Jul 20th 2009, smoke in cabin and cockpit.** A United Airlines Boeing 767-300, performing flight UA-949 from London Heathrow, United Kingdom to Chicago, Illinois with 178 passengers, diverted to Keflavik, Iceland after the crew declared emergency and reported smoke in both cabin and cockpit. The airplane landed safely on runway 02, taxied off the runway and stopped on taxiway K-1.

Source: <http://avherald.com/h?article=41cf5005&opt=4865>

15. *July 21, Stockton Record* – (California) **Freight train derails in Manteca.** A Fresno-bound Union Pacific freight train derailed in Manteca just after 7 p.m. July 20 near Austin Road and Moffat Boulevard, starting a fire on the tracks and blocking vehicle access from Austin to Moffat and Highway 99, according to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The CHP reported there were no injuries and no hazardous materials involved. Fourteen rail cars of the 114-car train were involved in the derailment, but all remained upright. However, there was track damage that will require replacement work. The CHP was unsure how long surrounding roadways, including Graves Road on the north side of Highway 99, would be affected as traffic is diverted away from the area. A Union Pacific spokesman based in Omaha, Nebraska said reports from the scene were still coming in, and it was too soon to determine a cause and when the tracks would be cleared and repaired. The train originated in Roseville.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090721/A_NEWS/907210320/-1/NEWSMAP

16. *July 20, Associated Press* – (California) **Union: SF train operator blacked out before crash.** The president of San Francisco’s transit workers union says a light-rail operator blacked out just before his train crashed into a parked train, injuring dozens of passengers. The union president told the Associated Press on July 20 that a “medical condition” was to blame for the driver’s loss of consciousness. Federal investigators reported July 19 that the driver, who has not been named, had turned off the train’s automatic controls moments before the collision. The union president said drivers under pressure to keep their trains running on time turn off the controls before entering the West Portal station to speed loading and unloading. Four passengers were seriously injured in the July 18 crash, including the driver.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hh7Aq1au0WcMPqQWhayVGsOCwAwwD99IAPPO0>

17. *July 20, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Woman arrested with gun in purse at airport.** Authorities say a 55-year-old woman has been arrested for trying to bring a handgun through a security checkpoint at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport. The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office says the woman from Tampa, Florida was arrested June 20 and charged with a misdemeanor concealed weapons permit violation, which prohibits bringing guns into an airport. Authorities say the woman was accompanying her elderly mother to a gate when they found a handgun in her purse. The woman, who has a concealed weapons permit, told authorities she forgot the gun was in her purse. They say she was cooperative. She was booked, and then released on bail.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/1149653.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *July 19, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Grease fire at crowded bar causes \$2 million in damage.** Portions of a popular Mission Beach, San Diego bar known for its ocean views and live music will have to be rebuilt after a grease fire ripped through the roof of the packed nightspot the night of July 17. No one was injured in the blaze, which caused an estimated \$2 million in damage to Canes Bar & Grill. About 650 customers were inside the bar on Ocean Front Walk, listening to live music or drinking on the rooftop deck, when grease in an exhaust vent caught fire at 11:15 p.m. The owner said a doorman alerted him to the flames, and his staff quickly cleared everyone out as a reggae artist was about to take the stage. “It was confined to the exhaust duct at the time, but by the time everyone was out, it got hotter and spread,” the owner said on July 18. Firefighters knocked down the blaze about 15 minutes later, but had to spend more time

chasing hot spots in the walls and roof. Fire officials have estimated the damage at \$1.5 million to the structure and \$500,000 to its contents, said a spokesman for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. About one-third of the roof was destroyed, and parts of the building, including the offices on the second floor, also suffered major water damage.

Source: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/19/1m19canes215135-grease-fire-crowded-bar-causes-2-m/>

19. *July 19, KCBD 11 Lubbock* – (Texas) **Equipment trouble leads to ammonia leak.**

Hazmat and fire crews were called to a Lubbock, Texas business the afternoon of July 19 due to an ammonia leak. Police blocked off traffic for several blocks around the arctic ice building. Malfunctioning equipment caused the leak just after noon. It took about two hours for the fire department to clear the scene. There were no reports of injuries.

Source: <http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=10752079>

For another story, see item [22](#)

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Water Sector

20. *July 20, Water Technology Online* – (National) **Heavy use threatens Ogallala Aquifer.**

The quality of water from the Ogallala Aquifer, a Great Plains underground water source that is tapped by eight states, is considered generally acceptable for human consumption; however, heavy use is making the aquifer vulnerable to contamination from nitrate and dissolved solids, according to a recent U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) [study](#) reported on by the Lincoln Journal Star on July 19. The eight states of South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas all make withdrawals from the Ogallala Aquifer, also referred to as the High Plains Aquifer. According to the study, the aquifer's water is generally acceptable for human consumption, irrigation, and livestock watering. USGS researchers warn that heavy use of water from the aquifer for irrigation and public supply, as well as leakage of contamination down through inactive irrigation wells, are contributing to long-term gradual increases in concentrations of contaminants such as nitrate and dissolved solids from the water table to deeper parts of the aquifer, the article said. "This increase in contaminant concentrations over time has important implications for the long-term sustainability of the High Plains Aquifer as a source of drinking water," the lead author is quoted as saying in a USGS news release. He warns that once contaminated, "the aquifer is unlikely to be remediated quickly because of slow rates of contaminant degradation and slow groundwater travel times in the aquifer." He noted deep water in some parts of the aquifer is about 10,000 years old.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72265

21. *July 20, Dubuque Telegraph Herald* – (Iowa) **Wastewater woes plague city.** The city of Dubuque might be facing fines for alleged violations with its wastewater-collection system. A senior environmental specialist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said the city is negotiating with the Iowa Attorney General's Office about the

case and whether any action will be taken. “Everything right now is attorney/client privilege,” he said. He confirmed that his office presented multiple violations of the city’s waste-water-collection system to the DNR, which is responsible for approving or denying any requests for action. Once a request is approved, it is sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to see if it has any interest in becoming involved with the case. In this case, the EPA and the Iowa Attorney General’s Office are leading enforcement, he said. The violations stem from bypasses in the collection system that are not able to handle rainfall events, which in turn dumps wastewater above the allotted amount into Catfish Creek, he said. Bypasses must be designed to handle a 10-year rainfall event, according to the Iowa Administrative Code. He said the city is making improvements to the Water Pollution Control Plan. The plant manager said the \$54 million project is in its design stage, with 30 percent completed. The upgrade will address excess rainwater that gets into the plant, which “has caused some violations” in the past, he said. The plan is to convert two tanks that are no longer used for processing and install flow equalization, which will allow excess rainwater to be stored before discharge. That way, if there is too much water discharged, the plant can hold onto it until it is OK to release. The plant also will be switching from incineration of sludge to anaerobic digestion, which will reduce the volume of the sludge and also will produce methane to help run the plant; and the plan is to switch from chlorine gas for disinfection to ultraviolet light, which he said is less dangerous than chlorine. Source: <http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=250541>

22. *July 20, Galesburg Register-Mail* – (Illinois) **Samples from vast fish kill headed to laboratory for testing.** Liver samples from fish found dead in the Rock River last month are en route to a laboratory in Maryland for analysis, with hopes the data will point to the cause of one of the biggest fish kills in state history. More than 72,000 fish were killed in a 50-mile stretch of the Rock River, from Grand Detour in Ogle County to Prophetstown, although dead fish were reported as far south as the Quad Cities. Initial speculation pointed to a train derailment and ethanol spill June 19 in Rockford as the cause, although water testing by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) proved inconclusive. A spokesman for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) said his agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service collected samples of the fish at the start of the June 20 fish kill. Both agencies sent their samples to the laboratory this week; he said he did not know how long it would take to get the results. Source: http://www.galesburg.com/news/news_state/x931240520/Samples-from-vast-fish-kill-headed-to-laboratory-for-testing

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *July 20, Associated Press* – (International) **China quarantines British students, teachers.** Chinese health authorities quarantined 107 visiting students and teachers from Britain at a hotel in Beijing after some of their schoolmates were diagnosed with swine flu, the British Embassy said Monday. Nine British citizens were confirmed with swine flu and had been hospitalized, the embassy said in a statement. Eight of the cases were students from a group that is in China for language and cultural immersion courses.

Monday's tally of people who were quarantined was twice the total the embassy provided on Sunday. No reason was given for the increase. A group of American students in Beijing for a summer volleyball camp have also been quarantined at the same hotel, although a few were released Monday. A U.S. Embassy spokeswoman said the embassy didn't have a total number of Americans quarantined in China, but said they were "aware of several cases at the moment."

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124808675450364887.html>

24. *July 20, USA Today* – (National) **Flu vaccine for fall won't protect against swine virus.** The Food and Drug Administration approved a seasonal flu vaccine on Monday, in plenty of time to protect people against the three standard flu strains expected to spread this fall. The agency warned, though, that the seasonal vaccine will not guard H1N1 influenza, which has caused more than 40,000 cases and 260 deaths in the United States and its territories. Its novelty is what makes it so dangerous. Most people, particularly those younger than 50, haven't been exposed to the new virus or viruses like it, so they are relatively defenseless against infection. On June 11, the World Health Organization issued its highest infectious-disease alert, declaring that a flu pandemic had begun. The pandemic flu virus only compounds the already considerable threat posed by seasonal influenza, which results in about 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths every year.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-07-20-fluvaccine_N.htm

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *July 20, Environment News Service* – (Kentucky) **Kentucky chemical weapons leaks detectors dysfunctional for years.** The U.S. Army has acknowledged that the nerve gas leak monitors at a Kentucky chemical weapons storage depot were not working for nearly two years, 2003-2005. The admission is contained in a U.S. Army Inspector General report dated February 2006 but released Monday. Managers of chemical weapons storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot, located outside of Richmond, 30 miles south of Lexington, had rendered the detectors inoperative and the problem was remedied only after a whistleblower was forced to file a complaint, according to the Inspector General investigation posted Monday by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, or PEER. The Army Inspector General report, dated February 10, 2006, finds that "Minicams sampling configuration change and poor air monitoring equipment maintenance caused incorrect air monitoring data results for agent VX."

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2009/2009-07-20-095.asp>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *July 20, Olean Times Herald* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire destroys ambulances, building in Eldred boro.** The Eldred Borough Ambulance building in Bradford, Pennsylvania went up in flames, and both ambulances along with it, due to an electrical fire early Sunday

morning. A fire broke out at the building, which sits across from the Eldred Borough Volunteer Fire Department Hall when an electrical cord “shorted out” while plugged into the borough’s two ambulances to keep them charged, a borough firefighter said Sunday evening. “It was the ambulance building. We just moved our ambulance crew over” from the main fire hall, said a member of the fire department. “It housed two ambulances, a classroom and the office for the ambulance personnel.” No injuries occurred, but both ambulances were rendered unusable due to smoke and fire damage. Each ambulance will cost \$130,000 to replace. An estimate of the total damage done will not come until an insurance adjuster visits July 20.

Source:

<http://www.oleantimesherald.com/articles/2009/07/20/news/doc4a64bafaa1c28776098331.txt>

27. *July 20, Associated Press* – (California) **LA leaders hail end of police oversight.** City leaders on Monday celebrated the end of eight years of federal oversight of the Los Angeles Police Department, which had been prompted by U.S. Department of Justice allegations of a long pattern of abuses. The agreement had been expected to last five years, but was extended to eight before a U.S. district judge released the department from it Friday evening. The judge also approved a transitional agreement under which the department will report progress to the city’s Police Commission, a civilian board that oversees the police force. The judge also maintained jurisdiction over it.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ho2E0_xKE5iVU00gZDCvfSjbO93QD99II2P00

28. *July 20, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (New Orleans) **Gretna fire station equipment outdated.** A federal investigation into last year’s death of an on-duty Gretna, Louisiana, firefighter has resulted in a recommendation that some of the volunteer department’s equipment be retired. Fire departments should stop using equipment more than 25 years old since significant safety improvements have been made in the past 15 years, according to a report released last month by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, an agency within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The 30-year veteran of the David Crockett Steam Fire Company No. 1 was killed last September at the Lafayette Street station while showing an insurance adjuster damage to the station’s roof from Hurricane Gustav. He was operating a 1965 aerial platform when the boom struck him from behind and pinned his head to the back of one of the station’s trucks. He was pronounced dead at the scene of blunt force trauma to the head. A relative of the victim said a NIOSH representative told the family that if safety devices had been installed, the firefighter would be alive today.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/?/base/news-2/1248067229280670.xml&coll=1>

29. *July 18, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Bethel firehouse rotting over employees’ heads.** The Bethel, Alaska, fire station is so rotted with water damage that firefighters are banned from staying the night under the fragile roof, city officials said Friday. A construction company that is inspecting the 10,000-square-foot fire hall this week declared the building “structurally unsafe to occupy,” the fire chief said. Insulating foam

used during the building's construction in the early 1980s has trapped moisture from leaks, creating widespread rot, the city says. The city manager estimates replacing the fire hall could cost \$5 million to \$7 million. Home to about 5,700 people, Bethel is a hub city for dozens of Yukon-Kuskokwim villages. The fire department responds to about 800 ambulance calls and 130 reported fires a year.

Source: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=68235>

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Information Technology

30. *July 21, Abu Dhabi National* – (International) **Blackberry maker questions Etisalat software upgrade.** Research in Motion (RIM), the Canadian company that produces the BlackBerry mobile e-mail device, has distanced itself from a recent software patch sent to its UAE customers by Etisalat, and called into question statements made by the operator. In a statement mailed to the media, RIM said the Etisalat software, labeled as “spyware” by a prominent mobile security company, is “not a patch and it is not a RIM authorized upgrade.” “RIM did not develop this software application and RIM was not involved in any way in the testing, promotion or distribution of this software application,” it said. “Independent sources have concluded that the Etisalat update is not designed to improve performance of your BlackBerry hand-held, but rather to send received messages back to a central server.” Like Etisalat, RIM has said little on the software patch since reports of its negative effects on handsets and intended function as an e-mail monitoring and tool emerged last week. The company cancelled scheduled interviews with the local media and has not replied to requests for comment. But in the eight-page statement, the company took issue with Etisalat’s response, which described the patch as “required for service enhancements particularly for issues identified related to the handover between 2G to 3G network coverage areas.” According to the RIM document, “in general terms, a third-party patch cannot provide any enhancements to network services as there is no capability for third parties to develop or modify the low-level radio communications protocols that would be involved in making such improvements.” “In this case, Etisalat appears to have distributed a telecommunications surveillance application,” it added, saying that it “does not endorse the development of this type of software for any platform.”

Source:

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090721/BUSINESS/707219986/-1/SPORT>

31. *July 20, TV Guide* – (International) **Naked video of ESPN reporter used to spread virus.** If a user happens to come across a Web site that claims to feature video footage of an ESPN sportscaster naked, do not click on it. Clever hackers are using the demand for the video to spread a computer virus, according to anti-virus and security company Sophos.

Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/tvguide/408278_tvgif20.html

32. *July 20, Spamfighter News* – (International) **F-secure – detection radar fails to identify sophisticated phishing attacks.** According to security company F-Secure,

samples of well-designed targeted attacks evidently suggest that while maintaining a suspicious approach does a lot to keep up security, some particularly risky attacks might just pass users' notice. Targeted attacks, also called spear phishing attacks, generally send a carefully crafted electronic message to specially selected individuals. The e-mails are well written without the usual errors and typos that normally accompany malicious e-mail campaigns. They are much fewer in number but comparatively more harmful than ordinary attacks. For its analysis, F-Secure cited seven samples that used lures for infecting targeted persons in various organizations so that their computers could be accessed. The security vendor says that all attack codes would plant malware on the victims' computers, but these attacks' targets remain unknown. Among the five samples, one message uses German language and another Russian. If anybody viewed the .doc or .pdf files, they perhaps will not find anything missing. These messages have the chances of getting blocked if users' security software is up-to-date. Further, targeted attacks that exploit software flaws could also be prevented if users already have security patches installed, provided the attacks chase un-patched zero-day vulnerabilities. The company says that till May 2009, the file format that was abused to the maximum was the PDF format. However, during 2008, F-Secure detected nearly 1,968 files in targeted attacks among which DOC, i.e. Microsoft Word file, was the most widely used file type representing 34.55 percent. The changes seen in the popularity of file types was chiefly due to more security flaws in Adobe Reader/Acrobat compared to in Microsoft Office software, security analysts stated. They further added that these targeted assaults had been increasing very fast everywhere. Moreover, in similar news, CPP the life support organization indicated that in the United Kingdom, over 77 percent of people got phishing e-mails spoofing banks during June 2008-May 2009.

Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-12754-F-Secure-Detection-Radar-Fails-to-Identify-Sophisticated-Phishing-Attacks.htm>

33. *July 20, IDG News Service* – (International) **Adobe doles out bug-filled PDF Reader to users.** Adobe delivers an out-of-date version of Reader to users who download the popular application from its Web site, a security company warned on July 20. The edition Adobe currently offers includes at least 14 security vulnerabilities that have been patched by the company in the last two months. Danish vulnerability tracking vendor Secunia first noticed that Adobe was offering an outdated Reader when users of its Personal Software Inspector (PSI) utility, which scans Windows PCs for unpatched applications, started complaining when the tool said they were running a vulnerable version, even though they had just downloaded the PDF viewer. “There was some confusion about Adobe Reader,” said the manager of the PSI partner program. “Users had downloaded the latest Reader, but still PSI was telling them that it was vulnerable.” At first, Secunia suspected that PSI was throwing off a “false positive,” but that was not the case. “Adobe.com ships software with known vulnerabilities,” the manager said. The version now hosted on Adobe’s Web site is Reader 9.1, an edition that was released March 10 to plug several holes, including one that had been actively exploited by hackers since at least January 9, 2009. Adobe has issued two security updates since then. The first, released May 12, patched another “zero-day” bug in Reader, while the second, issued June 9, fixed at least 13 critical flaws reported by outside researchers and secretly patched an unspecified number of bugs found by Adobe’s own security team.

Computerworld confirmed that Adobe's Web site offers Reader 9.1 to users who download the application. Adobe did not reply to a request for comment on why it posts an out-of-date edition on its site.

Source: <http://news.idg.no/cw/art.cfm?id=9993F159-1A64-6A71-CE634C98EC3363A7>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

34. *July 15, Meadville Tribune* – (Pennsylvania) **Area gets first-of-its-kind in state communication tower.** It is designed to provide communications for emergency responders whenever and wherever they need it in a seven-county area of northwestern Pennsylvania. The first of its kind in Pennsylvania, a state-of-the-art mobile communications unit complete with 65-foot tower is now available for use in Crawford, Clarion, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties. It may be used in the event of a disaster or power outage or set up to provide communications in a major planned event. The unit has a communications tower, control boxes, video cameras and computer software, all housed on a trailer so it may be moved and set up wherever needed. The unit's radio equipment is climate-controlled and has its own diesel-powered electrical generator that can run for up to 24 hours before refueling. The controller boxes contain radio systems that enable communications between different radio systems used by police, fire and medical personnel. The communications equipment was acquired from Mobilcom of Meadville while the specialized trailer was constructed by Pepro Corp. of Oil City. "This enhances our communication capability," said the director of Crawford County Emergency Management Agency. "With this unit, it brings all our (radio) frequencies together and we're able to talk to one another even though we may be on different frequencies." Through state-of-the-art electronics, the radio system equipment contained in the MCU can be programmed, via a computer, to mirror specific county radio dispatching channels. It also can be programmed to communicate outside the established area. The system can be set-up in about 30 to 45 minutes, according to officials.

Source: http://www.meadvilletribune.com/local/local_story_196010142.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *July 21, Lexington Herald-Leader* – (Kentucky) **Lexington rescue workers destroy fake bomb.** Several downtown streets were blocked and some residents were asked to stay in their houses for several hours the night of July 20 after a fake bomb was found

behind the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington, Kentucky. People going in and out of the center reported a device lying on top of a trash can at the bottom of the steps at the back of the building at about 6 p.m., said a police sergeant. The building and Gratz Park were evacuated, feeder streets leading into the block were closed, and people who live in the area were asked to stay inside. The item, which looked like a bomb, was x-rayed and found not to have a charge, the sergeant said. It was then destroyed using a water cannon.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/211/story/868544.html>

36. *July 20, KSAT 12 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Suspicious device affects traffic.** San Antonio police investigating a device found hanging from a tree at Brackenridge Park the afternoon of July 20 say the item was not explosive and may have been left as part of a scavenger hunt. The item was found hanging from a tree at the park, forcing police to move traffic on Tuleta Drive and North St. Mary's Street away from the park and trail walkers away from the park. Officers fired at a cord holding the device, severing it from the tree. The device did not detonate when it struck the ground, police said. Bomb squad technicians evaluating the device determined it was not explosive and officers were still investigating why the item was placed on the tree. Police said there did not appear to be any malicious intent, but were still investigating. A public relations official at the Witte Museum said their operations were not affected by the threat. Police were still looking for the person who left the device on the tree, police said.

Source: <http://www.ksat.com/news/20120924/detail.html>

For another story, see item [37](#)

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *July 21, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. fire nearly contained after fast growth.** A wildfire sparked by lightning in the Inyo National Forest near Bishop, California was 60 percent contained by July 21 after burning through more than 3,200 acres. The fire — by far the largest of 26 started by lightning in the forest over the weekend — thrived in hundred-degree heat on July 20 after it started the previous afternoon, said a U.S. Forest Service spokesman. The town of Aspendell — a collection of vacation homes with about 150 people when all are occupied — was evacuated, along with nine campgrounds in the Inyo National Forest. The spokesman said the blaze was on a ridge above the homes and no structures were in immediate danger of burning. About 200 firefighters with help from five air tankers, two helicopters, and a spotter plane fought the fire that burned in difficult-to-reach terrain amid heavy vegetation, the spokesman added. The fire was about 10 miles west of Bishop, a central California city of about 3,500, but the spokesman asserted the blaze was burning northward toward less populated areas.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32000650/ns/us_news-life/

38. *July 21, Associated Press* – (California; Oregon) **Klamath National Forest fire consumes more ground.** Rugged terrain is making it difficult for firefighters as they battle a wildfire burning in a national forest near the California-Oregon border. A U.S.

Forest Service spokesman said a fire in the Klamath National Forest has expanded to 3,120 acres, or nearly 5 square miles. The blaze is 10 percent contained, with fire officials expecting firefighters to have the fire contained by July 25. Highway 97 is open again to traffic, but people using the roadway are being led by police escorts. The highway, a main roadway between Weed in Northern California and Klamath Falls in southern Oregon, had been closed earlier July 20. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/weather/wildfires/2009-07-21-klamath-national-forest-fire-N.htm>

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Dams Sector

39. *July 21, USA Today* – (Louisiana) **Several Louisiana hurricane projects lag.** The push to protect New Orleans from the next catastrophic storm is a massive undertaking — and the \$15 billion project is still facing some tough hurdles. At least 13 projects in the massive hurricane protection system being built around the New Orleans area may not be ready by the 2011 deadline, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials say. The undertaking that includes more than 350 miles of earthen levees, flood walls, pumps and storm barriers will be mostly finished to deliver 100-year protection by June 1, 2011, the start of that year's hurricane season. Hurricane Katrina was a 400-year storm. Several projects have fallen behind schedule and will probably not make the deadline. Nine of the 13 projects should be completed during the summer of 2011, says a project overseer. One of them — part of the effort to protect the area around Causeway Bridge in nearby Metairie — will not be finished until 2012.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-07-20-noprojects_N.htm

40. *July 20, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **The test: How can we prevent an underwater San Francisco?** Since 1900, the waters of the San Francisco Bay waters have risen 8 inches, according to a gauge at Fort Point, beneath the Golden Gate Bridge, the longest continually monitored tidal gauge in the United States. According to a study last year by the U.S. Geological Survey, based on current warming trends, it will rise 16 more inches by 2050 and as much as 55 inches by 2100 as ice caps around the world continue to melt. That much rise would put major sections of the Bay's shoreline underwater in future storms when tides are high, according to scientists at USGS and NOAA who have studied the data with computerized maps. Among the places most at risk: the runways at San Francisco and Oakland airports; Alviso, which already sits 7 feet below sea level because of land subsidence; major portions of the Dumbarton Bridge; Foster City, and much of San Francisco's waterfront, including the Embarcadero, Mission Bay near AT&T Park and parts of Treasure Island. Almost any comprehensive solution could cost billions — from restoring huge amounts of wetlands to buffer the flooding to building higher levees and sea walls. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission announced the winners of its Rising Tides contest held to get the public to start thinking about the issue. One winning team, BAYArc, had the idea to stretch a carbon-fiber membrane under the Golden Gate Bridge. It would be anchored to concrete pylons and would rise via an inflatable top in storms, limiting the amount of water and

tidal energy that could come into the Bay. Other winners designed a series of massive ventilated levees that would allow water to flow at times while protecting shorelines at other times. Another winner proposed a series of 30-foot high towers shining laser beams to show the public how high water could rise. Another winning entry calls for restoring massive amounts of wetlands, similar to other entries, to buffer floodwaters. Their entry proposed reconfiguring waterfront areas, including parking lots and warehouses, while building more densely on higher ground, even constructing floating parks.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_12872076

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