



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 July 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Great Falls Tribune reports that lightning knocked out two wind turbines and sent a 127 foot tower blade crashing to the ground at the Judith Gap Wind Farm in Montana last month, an Invenergy spokeswoman said on July 22. (See item [2](#))
- According to the Wall Street Journal, U.S. aviation regulators, prompted by the 2008 crash landing of a British Airways Plc jetliner near London, proposed on July 23 mandatory safety fixes intended to prevent ice accumulation inside the fuel systems of certain Boeing 777 aircraft. (See item [11](#))

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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 24, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Fuel truck burns after colliding with train in Denver suburb; only minor injuries reported.** Police say a fuel tanker truck collided with a railroad locomotive and erupted in flames in suburban Denver, but only minor injuries were reported. Authorities in Commerce City say the truck was crossing railroad

tracks at about 11:30 p.m. July 23 when it was struck by a single locomotive. Three people on the locomotive were treated at the scene for minor injuries. Police say the truck driver was not hurt. An officer told KMGH-TV in Denver there is no indication that any “railroad mechanisms” had failed.

Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--train-truckcollision,0,1719187.story>

2. *July 23, Great Falls Tribune* – (Montana) **Lightning takes down 127-foot wind blade.** Lightning knocked out two wind turbines and sent a massive tower blade crashing to the ground at the Judith Gap Wind Farm last month, the company said July 22. Repairs began earlier this month and will continue into September, said an Invenergy spokeswoman. No workers were on the site at the time of the accident, which occurred at 6:20 p.m., she said. “There are lightning strikes on a regular basis,” she said. “This one just happened to be pretty severe.” The 90 towers at the 135-megawatt wind farm, located on 8,300 acres of private and public land 125 miles southeast of Great Falls, are 262 feet tall. The blades are 127 feet long. Lightning struck Turbine No. 88’s three blades and one disengaged and fell to the ground, she said. The blade struck and dented the steel tower during the drop, she said. All three of the tower’s blades and its rotor will need to be replaced, she said. Each wind tower can produce a maximum of 1.5 megawatts for a total potential output of 135 megawatts. Since the storm, both towers have been idle, she said.

Source: <http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/article/20090723/NEWS01/907230301>

3. *July 23, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Utah) **Colorado Interstate Gas agrees to resolve Clean Air Act violations in Utah.** Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG), the operator of the Natural Buttes Compressor Station located on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation near Vernal, Utah, has agreed to pay more than \$1 million and install environmental controls at its facility as part of a consent decree that resolves violations of the Clean Air Act, the Justice Department and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today. Under the terms of the decree, CIG will pay a civil penalty and back fees totaling \$1,020,000 and will fund for one year the operation of two ambient air monitoring stations on the Uintah and Ouray Reservations. According to a complaint filed along with the consent decree, CIG installed engines at its Natural Buttes Compressor Station but failed to obtain a permit and control and test emissions sources at its facility on the reservation. The violations of the Clean Air Act were discovered through EPA inspections and EPA-required emission testing at the facility. “This is the fourth Clean Air Act case this year alone, brought by the Department against companies operating natural gas production facilities on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation,” said the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Source: <http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2009/July/09-enrd-716.html>

4. *July 23, Maritime Global Net* – (International) **Yemeni forces foil tanker hijack.** According to the Yemeni news agency SABA, the country’s armed forces have foiled an attempted pirate attack, the fiercest ever, on a Yemeni-flag oil tanker when 14 pirate boats approached the tanker in the Red Sea, attempting to hijack it. The tanker, Yemen Oil 7, was sailing from Aden to Hodeidah port when pirates attacked it on July 21 at

noon. Yemeni marines surrounded the pirates and clashed with them forcing them to flee out of Yemeni regional waters, the report says. The tanker is reported to have continued its voyage safely, while the marines patrolled the area to prevent further attacks.

Source: <http://www.mgn.com/news/dailystorydetails.cfm?storyid=10109>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *July 23, Control Engineering* – (Texas) **Protecting industrial networks against evolved cyber threats.** According to the head of Air Liquide's U.S. Operations Control Center (OCC) in Houston, Texas, hackers over the past year have increased their focus on finding vulnerabilities in technologies at gas, energy, and manufacturing plants, with the intent of causing disruption to operations. Basic technologies like firewalls are no longer enough to stop threats as new variants and attack vectors are created, he says. OCC evaluated a list of network intrusion prevention solutions and selected Top Layer Security's IPS 5500 solution. The bypass mode on the Top Layer IPS 5500 enabled OCC to plug the device into its network and immediately identify many active attacks originating from countless sources. A number of these threats were initiated by compromised computers that had not been patched with the latest Microsoft security updates, which alerted OCC to revise its patching process along the way.

Source: <http://www.controleng.com/article/316214-Protecting-Industrial-Networks-against-Evolved-Cyber-Threats.php>

6. *July 23, Associated Press and Raleigh News and Observer* – (North Carolina) **Federal judge approves Apex plant fire settlement valued at nearly \$8 million.** A federal judge has approved a preliminary settlement of nearly \$8 million for homeowners and businesses that evacuated after an explosion at a hazardous waste facility in North Carolina. The News & Observer of Raleigh reported on July 23 that residents and businesses have the choice of accepting payments or objecting to the settlement stemming from the explosion in Apex in 2006. A hearing on the fairness of the settlement is scheduled October 6. As many as 17,000 residents were either forced or encouraged to leave their homes after the EQ Industrial Services warehouse exploded. EQ Industrial Services and two other companies have agreed to pay each household that evacuated \$750. Businesses that were forced to close during the two-day evacuation could get up to \$2,500.

Source: <http://www.myfox8.com/news/sns-ap-nc--plantfire,0,97590.story>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *July 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Saving funds for shutdown of nuclear plants proves tricky.** The companies that own almost half the nation's nuclear reactors are not setting aside enough money to dismantle them, and many may sit idle for decades and pose safety and security risks as a result, an Associated Press investigation has found.

The shortfalls are caused not by fluctuating appetites for nuclear power but by the stock market and other investments, which have suffered huge losses over the past year and devastated the plants' savings, and by the soaring costs of decommissioning. At 19 nuclear plants, owners have won approval to idle reactors for as long as 60 years, presumably enough time to allow investments to recover and eventually pay for dismantling the plants and removing radioactive material. But mothballing nuclear reactors or shutting them down inadequately presents the most severe of risks. Radioactive waste could leak from abandoned plants into ground water or be released into the air, and spent nuclear fuel rods could be stolen by terrorists. During the past two years, estimates of dismantling costs have soared by more than \$4.6 billion because rising energy and labor costs, while the investment funds that are supposed to pay for shutting plants down have lost \$4.4 billion in the battered stock market. The operators of 54 nuclear plants, or more than half of those in the U.S., have already received 20-year license extensions. Sixteen more are being reviewed, and the commission expects to receive 21 more applications in the next several years. To date, the NRC has not turned down any license extensions. While companies ask for extensions for other reasons, some companies have explicitly told shareholders they will use license extensions to meet their decommissioning obligations.

Source: <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2009/07/24/funds-shut-nuclear-plants-fall-short/>

8. *July 23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Maryland) **NRC approves power uprate for Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved a request by Constellation Energy to increase the generating capacity of the Calvert Cliffs Unit 1 and 2 nuclear reactors by 1.4 percent each. The NRC staff determined that Constellation could safely increase the reactor's output primarily through more accurate means of measuring feedwater flow. NRC staff also reviewed Constellation's evaluations showing the plant's design can handle the increased power level. The power uprate for Calvert Cliffs, located about 40 miles south of Annapolis, Maryland, will increase Unit 1's generating capacity from approximately 895 to 905 megawatts electric and Unit 2's generating capacity from approximately 885 to 895 megawatts electric. Constellation intends to implement the uprate by the end of this year for Unit No. 2 and during the summer of 2010 for Unit No. 1.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-128.html>

For another story, see item [32](#)

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *July 24, Reliable Plant* – (New York) **New York manufacturer faces \$109,400 in OSHA penalties.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Multina USA Inc. of Plattsburgh, New York for seven alleged repeat and serious violations of safety and health standards, and for failing to correct a previously cited violation at its Idaho Avenue manufacturing plant. The maker of composite train seats faces a total of \$109,400 in proposed fines. OSHA opened a

follow-up inspection at the plant in January 2009 to verify correction of conditions cited during a 2008 OSHA inspection. OSHA found the recurrence of several types of hazards, including the improper storage, transfer and handling of flammable liquids, and the company's failure to provide workers with chemical resistant protective gloves and hazard communications training. As a result, OSHA has issued the company five repeat citations with \$75,000 in proposed fines. OSHA also has issued Multina USA Inc. one failure to abate notice with a \$30,000 fine for not informing workers of their right to access their medical records, a violation the company did not correct after the previous OSHA inspection.

Source:

<http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=19032&pagetitle=New+York+manufacturer+faces+%24109%2c400+in+OSHA+penalties>

10. *July 24, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Acid spill at Cedar Rapids plant creates orange cloud.** An electroplating plant in Cedar Rapids resumed operations on July 23 after hazardous materials crews responded to a nitric acid spill that caused an orange cloud to form. The cloud was reported at 9:15 p.m. on July 22 at the Electro-Coatings of Iowa Inc. plant. The plant was closed at the time. There were no injuries or evacuations, but a road was closed as a precaution. The plant general manager said the acid, which strips nickel from steel parts, had generated some moisture. "The moisture caused it to be a little bit reactive with the parts that were in the solution for stripping," she said. The acid overflowed from a 220-gallon container, creating the cloud as fumes spewed out of a chimney.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090724/NEWS/907240366/1001/NEWS>

11. *July 23, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FAA seeks mandatory engine fixes on certain Boeing 777 jets.** U.S. aviation regulators, prompted by the 2008 crash landing of a British Airways Plc jetliner near London, proposed mandatory safety fixes on July 23 intended to prevent ice accumulation inside the fuel systems of certain Boeing 777 aircraft. Such problems can lead to dangerous reductions in engine thrust. Following the lead of European air-safety regulators who took similar action earlier this month, the Federal Aviation Administration proposed a directive requiring installation of redesigned oil-cooler systems on certain Boeing 777s by January 2011. Affecting roughly 50 of the widebody aircraft registered in the U.S. and equipped with engines manufactured by Rolls-Royce Plc, the changes are designed to prevent ice from plugging up fuel-system piping. The changes affect parts that cool engine oil and also heat fuel before it enters the engines. AMR Corp.'s American Airlines is a major operator of Roll-Royce equipped Boeing 777s. Twice since January 2008, Boeing 777 jetliners equipped with Rolls-Royce engines and operated by other airlines have experienced so-called thrust rollbacks. In January 2008, a British Airways jet slammed into the ground at London's Heathrow International Airport after both engines reduced thrust substantially without any command from the pilots. The plane crashed short of a runway and was badly damaged. All 152 aboard survived. The move comes four months after the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board issued urgent recommendations to redesign the oil-cooler system on Rolls-Royce's widely used Trent 800 engine model.

Earlier this year, Boeing and regulators on both sides of the Atlantic issued warnings and interim operational changes to prevent internal ice accumulation from blocking fuel flow to such engines. Rolls-Royce officials have declined to comment on the issue.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124839381970977579.html>

12. *July 22, Aviation Week* – (National) **787 delay masks strong Boeing earnings.** Boeing delayed a scheduled first flight of the 787 last month after a static test failure in the aircraft's wing-body join area that had not been anticipated in computer modeling, embarrassing company executives, who had maintained that the program was back on track after five previous delays. Faced with question after question about the delay in an earnings call with analysts and journalists on July 22, the Chairman and CEO sought to downplay rumors that the fix would be costly and time consuming and could involve a redesign of the 787's wing. "We have learned nothing that says anything other than this is a local issue with a local fix," he said. "and we do not see a systemic issue with the entire wing." But four weeks after the latest delay was disclosed, he could provide no details about how long the problem will set back the 787 flight test and delivery schedule. "The team is making solid progress toward resolving this issue and we'll be in a position [later] this quarter to talk about those impacts," he said. "This is not an issue of information flow," he said. "It's an issue of the thousands upon thousands of tests we do...One of them turned up wrong that we didn't anticipate."

Source:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/BOEFIN072209.xml&headline=787%20Delay%20Masks%20Strong%20Boeing%20Earnings&channel=comm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *July 24, FOX News* – (National) **New military drone passes vertical takeoff test.** Aurora Flight Sciences recently tested a half-scale model of its new Excalibur unmanned aerial vehicle, or "drone." Unlike the military's Predator and Reaper drones currently in use along the Afghan-Pakistani border, the Excalibur will not need a runway. That is because it is a vertical-takeoff-and-landing (VTOL) aircraft. Like a Harrier jet, it rises straight up off the ground before using forward thrust like a regular jet. Three horizontally mounted propellers help a tilting turbojet push the craft up, and are then stowed away as the jet drops into flight position. The model tested on June 24 is only 13 feet long with a 10-foot wingspan, but Aurora hopes the successful flight test will help it secure additional Pentagon funding for a full-scale version with roughly twice the dimensions.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,534682,00.html?test=latestnews>

14. *July 23, Congressional Quarterly* – (National) **Report: F-35 work falls behind two more years.** An internal Pentagon oversight board has reported that the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program is two years behind schedule, according to multiple congressional aides familiar with the findings. Talk of the program's problems comes amid intense debate over the future of another fighter plane, the F-22. Defenders of the F-22 argue that continued production is vital to national security. The White House and

some lawmakers who favor halting the production of any new F-22 warplanes say the F-35 will fill the gap and meet the nation's combat aircraft needs. Senators and aides now lament that the Pentagon oversight panel's more pessimistic view on the F-35 program was not publicly released during the F-22 debate. They are calling for more open disclosure of the problems with the development of the F-35. The Pentagon's Joint Estimate Team (JET), which was established to independently evaluate the F-35 program, is at odds with the Joint Program Office, which runs the F-35 program, the aides said. The oversight panel's calculations determined that the fighter will not be able to move out of the development phase and into full production until 2016, rather than 2014, as the program office has said. That is assuming there are no further problems with the program, which has already faced cost overruns and schedule delays. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) said the delay could cost as much as \$7.4 billion. The discrepancy between the Joint Estimate Team and the Joint Program Office was noted in a March report by the GAO, but it received little attention at the time.

Source: <http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?parm1=1&docID=news-000003175295>

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *July 24, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **Developer accused of \$10 mil. fraud.** A federal grand jury has indicted a Libertyville real estate developer on charges that he scammed banks and investors out of \$10 million. The 65-year-old, of Libertyville, owned and operated Forrest Properties Inc., which did real estate development business in the north suburbs, including at shopping centers. The defendant sold investments through limited partnerships and promissory notes including at Lincolnshire Town Center, South Village Green, Glen Gateway Partners and Round Lake Properties. He is accused of fraudulently selling investments in the form of limited partnership interests and short-term, high interest rate promissory notes, which he said were backed, but were not, according to charges. He is also accused of fraudulently obtaining funds and using them in part to make "Ponzi-type payments," as well as to repay delinquent loans, according to charges.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/24-7/1682737,CST-NWS-LAIDLEY24.article>

16. *July 24, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Four firms accused of securities fraud.** Four businesses in the oil and gas industry with operations in Colorado are accused of violating anti-fraud, registration and licensing provisions of the Colorado Securities Act, according to a complaint announced on July 23 by the Colorado Securities Commission. The companies — HEI Resources Inc., Gulf Coast Western, Bedrock Energy Development Inc. and Heartland Energy Development Corp. — allegedly defrauded investors nationwide with unregistered securities sold through unlicensed sales representatives. They also failed to disclose actual financial track records, according to the complaint, and made other unsubstantiated statements to investors. How much investors lost is still under review. The companies are accused of operating "boiler rooms" in Colorado, where salesmen made hundreds of daily cold-calls to press the investments, the Colorado securities commissioner said. Also named in the complaint,

the securities commissioner said, are the companies' lawyer and eight individuals associated with them.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_12903011

17. *July 24, Bloomberg* – (Illinois) **Lubert-Adler may bid for Corus Bank as fate rests with FDIC.** Lubert-Adler Partners LP, the Philadelphia-based private-equity firm, may participate in a bid for all or part of Corus Bankshares Inc., the Chicago lender crippled by loans to build condominiums, people familiar with the matter said. Lubert-Adler is among at least four investors weighing bids for Corus, said the people, who asked not to be named because the talks are private. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has indicated that the bank, which said this week it understated its first-quarter loss by \$16 million, may be seized as soon as August 6, the people said. "The appeal of these distressed bank deals is buying at a discount with a potential government guarantee on some losses," said a partner at New York-based law firm Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, who advises buyout firms on investments in financial institutions. New York developer Related Cos., Thomas Barrack's Colony Capital LLC and J.C. Flowers & Co. are also mulling bids for Corus. The 51-year-old bank's fate rests with the FDIC because the lender and its financial adviser, Bank of America Corp., have not been able to find a buyer willing to complete a deal without government assistance.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aelbAbfwk_CM

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Transportation Sector

18. *July 24, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Police: four dead as helicopter slams onto I-70.** A commercial helicopter crashed onto Interstate 70 just west of Frederick County late July 23, killing all four people on board, said the Washington County emergency services director. The accident at about 10:30 p.m. forced authorities to shut down the highway several miles east of Hagerstown, on the eastern edge of Washington County, overnight. The Associated Press reported that three of the people were employees of the helicopter company, Frederick-based Advanced Helicopter Concepts. The fourth was a passenger. The emergency services director told AP that visibility in the area was somewhat limited by fog at the time of the crash, but it was not clear if weather played a role. Storms had passed through the area earlier in the night. A witness saw the craft flying low when a bright arc of electricity flashed in the air, apparently caused by the helicopter striking a power line, AP quoted the director as saying. It was not clear if the craft was already on its way down when it hit the lines. The helicopter ripped down trees and live power lines as it hurtled toward the pavement, scattering debris across the highway, officials said. No vehicles were on the interstate when the aircraft crashed, according to the Associated Press.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/24/AR2009072400033.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

19. *July 24, Maryland Coast Dispatch* – (Maryland) **Plane crash on route 113.** State and federal aviation officials were in Worcester County this week investigating a plane crash that resulted in the aircraft sitting in the median of Route 113 just north of Pocomoke

Around 12:20 p.m. July 19. Upon arrival, troopers discovered a Hawk ultra-light airplane crashed in the median of the highway. The pilot walked away from the crash uninjured. The preliminary investigation indicated the aircraft experienced fuel complications. On July 20, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) officials came to the MSP Berlin barrack to conduct a post-crash investigation. Meanwhile, Route 113 remained open although some lanes were restricted after the crash to allow for the aircraft recovery.

Source: <http://www.mdcoastdispatch.com/article.php?cid=23&id=6643>

20. *July 24, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Light rail running in tunnel after signal glitch.** Sound Transit's new Link trains were kept out of the downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel from midmorning on July 23 into the late night because of a problem in the tunnel's signaling system. Train service in the tunnel resumed before 11 p.m. After the power supply to signals inside the tunnel went out, attempts to restart the system were unsuccessful for most of the day, said a transit spokesman. Beginning at 10:01 a.m., the trains were turned back at Stadium Station, near Safeco and Qwest fields. They still ran the 12 miles between the stadiums and the Tukwila station.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2009528306_lightrailclosure24m.html

21. *July 21, CBC News* – (International) **Montreal airport security slammed.** There are gaping holes in security at Montreal's Trudeau airport, the chair of the senate's standing committee on national security said July 21. A senator, touring some of Quebec's busiest entry points, including the airport and the Port of Montreal, said they suffer from a staff shortage. "At the airport, the workers who work around the plane aren't searched. They can take anything that they like out on the tarmac, put it into any of the aircraft that are there. Likewise, they can take things off of planes and remove them without them going through customs," said the senator. He referred to earlier investigations that found many employees at the Port of Montreal had criminal records. Canada is a wealthy country, and it has the means and the responsibility to clean up the problem, he said.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2009/07/21/montreal-port-airport-security.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [4](#), and [11](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *July 23, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Kettering post office reopens after bomb threat.** Officials closed a 300-yard perimeter around the United States Post Office branch on East Stroop Road after receiving a morning bomb threat but later declared the area safe and reopened traffic on Thursday, July 23. The Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center alerted Kettering police that it had received a 911 call at about 9:15 a.m. claiming there was a bomb in a mailbox inside the post office, said a Kettering police department spokesman. Police evacuated the branch and closed the nearby area.

Officials from the Dayton Bomb Squad and a bomb-sniffing dog from Dayton International Airport responded to the post office, searched the interior and exterior, and declared the area safe by 11 a.m., the spokesman said. “There was no evidence of an explosive substance,” the spokesman added.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/crime/kettering-post-office-reopens-after-bomb-threat-217837.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *July 24, San Mateo Daily Journal* – (California) **Fire devours salami plant.** Not one sausage remains after a four-alarm fire that destroyed the iconic Columbus Salame plant in South San Francisco the morning of July 23, fire officials said. It took 65 firefighters about seven hours to contain the blaze after the first alarm rang at about 2 a.m. There were approximately 20 workers in the building at 465 Cabot Road who were immediately evacuated when the fire started but no injuries were reported. The 40,000-square-foot facility is used to slice and package meat for Columbus Salame, a Hayward-based company that sells meat products nationwide. Fire teams from South San Francisco, Daly City, Foster City and Central County surrounded the fire but it was too involved by the time the first engine arrived on scene to prevent the building’s roof from collapsing, a South San Francisco Fire Marshal said. The facility, on the east side of Highway 101 in South San Francisco, is in an industrial area and fire crews kept a close eye on surrounding buildings to prevent the fire from spreading. Heavy smoke did cause the evacuation of some nearby businesses.

Source: http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=113833

24. *July 23, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Idaho sugar plant fined following death of worker.** The Amalgamated Sugar Co. has been fined \$18,900 following an investigation by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) prompted by an accident that killed a worker in May. The assistant area director for OSHA said the investigation did not fully answer how or why the 45-year-old Caldwell, Idaho resident got caught in machinery but he says three safety violations, which the company has since corrected, were discovered that and led to the fine. In a statement on July 23, the company’s CEO again expressed condolences for victim, who worked for Amalgamated Sugar for 21 years. OSHA records show there have been six fatal accidents at Amalgamated Sugar facilities in Idaho since 1985.

Source: <http://www.kivitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=10778904>

25. *July 23, CNN* – (National) **California company recalls romaine lettuce.** A California company has issued a nationwide recall on its romaine lettuce after the lettuce tested positive for salmonella in Wisconsin, according to a statement from the company. No illnesses have been linked to the lettuce, the statement said. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture conducted a random test on romaine lettuce from Tanimura & Antle Fresh Foods, Inc., the company said in a statement, and found the bacteria. The company has also recalled its romaine lettuce distributed in Puerto Rico and Canada. The company said it had notified its customers on July 22 about the recall and told them

to “discard any existing product.” The voluntary recall affects single, whole heads of lettuce with a shelf life of 14 to 16 days after harvest dates from June 25 to July 2, the company said.

Source: <http://cnnwire.blogs.cnn.com/2009/07/23/california-company-recalls-romaine-lettuce/>

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Water Sector

26. *July 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Gov’t considers 7 states for mercury site.** The federal government is trying to find a location to store the nation’s excess mercury deposits, with seven states being considered. But the government is quickly finding out that very few people want the stuff. The United States still exports surplus elemental mercury, the purest form, often to developing countries with less restrictive environmental regulations. Last year, when the current U.S. President was a senator, he sponsored a bill to bar mercury exports beginning in 2013, and the former President signed it. The bill also requires the Department of Energy to identify a safe, long-term storage site for up to 17,000 tons of mercury, which is so dense that it would fill less than half of an Olympic-size swimming pool. That includes stockpiles held by the federal government, as well as commercial supplies. Officials are considering sites in seven states: Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Texas, Missouri and South Carolina. In Colorado, the Energy Department is considering a site near Grand Junction where uranium tailings are stored. Residents fear mercury could contaminate tributaries that flow into the Colorado River, a water source for millions of people in the West. Other states expressed similar disinterest. The governor of Colorado came out against the plan Thursday, saying he will convey his opposition about the proposal to the Department of Energy. “The risks to ground and surface water are too great...The risks of transporting elemental mercury over long distances and on routes that run adjacent to or cross major water sources, such as the Colorado River, are too great,” he said.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ibf7FttZJzgID6yI5TL1sKYYQo7QD99KM3402>

27. *July 24, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Water OK after dam accident.** Although it was initially feared that an industrial accident at the Edward Hyatt Power Plant at the base of the Oroville Dam could have released turbine oil into local water sources, water agencies were assured on July 23 that no contamination occurred. The Thermalito Water and Sewer District (TWSD) and Cal Water both suspended use of the water sources provided by the State Water Project and the Oroville Dam on July 22, when a steel bulkhead collapsed in a tunnel at the underground power plant. The incident injured five Department of Water Resources (DWR) employees, and a DWR spokesman said on July 22 that a precautionary civil maintenance crew was investigating a potential oil spill that may have occurred as a result of the incident. Late that afternoon, he said no spill had been located, though officials at local water agencies still decided to halt their use of the potentially hazardous water source. On the afternoon of July 23, Cal Water and the TWSD received a notice from the California Department

of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management advising that the water was safe for customers.

Source: http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_12905470

28. *July 24, Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Low pressure found in hydrants.** Susquehanna Township firefighters had enough water to fight a July 6 fire that destroyed an Edgemont home, but as a precaution against low hydrant pressure, they are ordering a tanker truck to fires in the neighborhood. The township fire marshal told about two dozen Edgemont residents that hydrant pressure is low in the streets above Edgemont Park that are served by the Harrisburg Water Authority. The authority has hired the engineering firm HRG to study the feasibility of installing a new water main and pumping station to increase hydrant pressure in Edgemont, he said. Pressure is adequate below Edgemont Park, including Locust Lane and Edgemont Road, where United Water provides service. The commissioner and township manager said residents and township officials must lean on the Harrisburg Water Authority for timely action. “I don’t think they’re going to correct it without some agitation because it’s a costly fix,” the commissioner said.

Source:

<http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1248406808297280.xml&coll=1>

29. *July 23, Waterville Morning Sentinel* – (Maine) **River spill a mystery.** Authorities have not been able to determine the source of oil that spilled into the Kennebec River on July 22. A state Department of Environmental Protection supervisor said on July 23 that he was unable to trace the leakage. “Right now we’re at a loss to explain it,” he said from his Augusta office. “We’ve been up and down the shoreline. We have no source that’s been identified.” Firefighters from both towns responded early on the afternoon of July 22 to a report of oil slicks on the river, near the Two Cent Bridge. Firefighters, with assistance from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), were able to collect some of the oil with booms, and vacuum it up. Much of the oil flowed over the Lockwood Dam just downstream, and dissipated. DEP officials at the scene on July 22 said that the environmental impact of the oil leak was minimal although they were unable to estimate the amount of oil spilled. “Certainly we don’t like to see any oil on the river, but that amount gets dissipated,” he said. Most of the oil collected on the Winslow end of the river. “By late afternoon, there was very little evidence left — little more was coming from upstream,” he said. “It could have come from either side of the river.” He said that the DEP effort is concluded “unless there’s any further evidence of oil.” The deputy fire chief in Winslow said firefighters had removed all booms from the river by the morning of July 23.

Source: <http://morningsentinel.maintoday.com/news/local/6644377.html>

30. *July 23, WTVQ 36 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Dirty water concerns Bourbon Co. residents.** Some Bourbon County, Kentucky residents say there something in the water and they are worried it is unsafe. One resident says although the water runs clear most of the day, at night the water turns a brown muddy color. ABC 36 spoke with someone from the city who says other residents have complained of similar problems recently. A

spokesperson from the water plant says they are trying to solve the problem by flushing out the water lines and hydrants. They say water samples have been taken and tested and so far nothing harmful has been found in the water. They believe it is just mud.

Source: <http://wtvq.com/news/5628-dirty-water-concerns-bourbon-co-residents.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

31. *July 24, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colorado surgery technician accused of infecting at least 19 with hepatitis C.** A grand jury indicted a surgery technician infected with hepatitis C on several charges Thursday, alleging she stole syringes with painkillers and replaced them with needles she had used. Prosecutors allege that at least 19 people contracted the disease as a result. The allegations by prosecutors, also made Thursday, are the first direct link of hepatitis C cases to the 26-year-old tech, who has tested positive for the ailment. Thursday's indictment charges the woman with 21 counts of tampering with a consumer product and 21 counts of obtaining a controlled substance by deceit and subterfuge. Officials say up to 6,000 patients at Denver's Rose Medical Center and Audubon Surgery Center in Colorado Springs may have been exposed to the disease. The woman also worked at hospitals in Mount Kisco, New York, and Houston. Health officials in those states have launched investigations. All 19 hepatitis C cases have been found at Rose Medical Center. The woman worked at Rose from October 20 until April 13, when she was placed on administrative leave for failing a drug test. She came under suspicion at Rose about two weeks earlier when a syringe in her top scrub pocket poked a co-worker.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,534707,00.html>
32. *July 23, New York Times* – (National) **Radioactive drug for tests is in short supply.** A global shortage of a radioactive drug crucial to tests for cardiac disease, cancer and kidney function in children is emerging because two aging nuclear reactors that provide most of the world's supply are shut for repairs. The 51-year-old reactor in Ontario, Canada, that produces most of this drug, a radioisotope, has been shut since May 14 because of safety problems, and it will stay shut through the end of the year, at least. Some experts fear it will never reopen. The isotope, technetium-99m, is used in more than 40,000 medical procedures a day in the United States. Loss of the Ontario reactor created a shortage over the last few weeks. But last Saturday a Dutch reactor that is the other major supplier also closed for a month. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory, in Tennessee, produces medical isotopes but does not have equipment to produce technetium-99m. There are substitute techniques and materials for some procedures that use the isotope, but they are generally less effective, more dangerous or more expensive. With the loss of diagnostic capability, "some people will be operated on that don't need to be, and vice versa," the president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine said.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/24/science/24isotope.html>
33. *July 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Feds claim Redding hospital broke patient laws.** Federal health regulators allege that Mercy Medical Center in Redding, California, violated laws against dumping patients at other hospitals. The Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services made the allegations in reports delivered to the Redding hospital on Wednesday. Regulators say CMS inspectors found examples of patients who did not receive proper medical screening or were inappropriately transferred to other hospitals. The Redding hospital has been given 10 days to fix its emergency room problems. If the problems are not corrected, Medicare payments will be suspended, which could potentially force the hospital out of business.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12899434

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Government Facilities Sector

34. *July 23, Honolulu Star-Bulletin* – (Hawaii) **Key weather buoys off line.** Three of Hawaii's seven weather buoys have been damaged since November, including two that are critical during the hurricane season, said the meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service's Honolulu Forecast Office. Two were south and southeast of the islands — the direction from which Hurricane Iniki swept up to hit Kauai in 1992. The third was located to the north, but its mooring line was cut and it has drifted thousands of miles to the west, still transmitting data. Several Pacific tsunami buoys also were set adrift with mooring lines broken by storms or commercial ships and no longer send data. Damage often occurs when a fishing crew ties up to a buoy and pulls it away — slowly drawing the fish collected beneath it, then suddenly lets the buoy snap back and drops a net — a technique called “slingshotting,” he said. Fishing nets and lines also can become entangled with the buoy mooring, he said. A cruise is planned August 11 to replace the three weather buoys, he said. In the meantime, “we’re not completely vulnerable, but we have less protection from hurricanes from the south,” he said. The Coast Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are investigating damage to some important buoys that ring the Hawaiian Islands, and they are asking for the public's help. Information is still available from the four operating buoys, as well as ships and satellites, and, if necessary, hurricane-hunting aircraft, he said. Officials emphasize the importance of the buoys for public safety and ocean recreation. The weather service and Coast Guard are asking boaters and fishermen to help protect the buoys by staying at least 20 yards away from them — 500 yards for vessels trailing fishing gear. Tying up on them or tampering with them is a federal offense subject to a \$10,000 fine and 10 years in prison.

Source: http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20090723_key_weather_buoys_off_line.html

35. *July 23, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Thefts from Urbandale City buildings bring tighter security.** Security protocols are being beefed up following a string of thefts of more than \$3,500 in cash, checks, and electronics from Urbandale City Hall, the Urbandale Swimming Pool, the Urbandale Senior Center, and Urbandale Public Works. One of the changes in security measures has involved switching cleaning services for city buildings. The City Council last month terminated a contract with one company and on July 14 unanimously approved a contract with Reliable Maintenance Company. No charges will be filed against the former company or its employees. The Urbandale Police chief said he would “be leery of drawing conclusions between the theft and the termination of the contract.” Under the new contract with Reliable Maintenance, the

Urbandale Police Department will conduct an independent background check of the company's employees. All employees of the previous company passed background checks, according to the company's Web site. The police chief, though, said he was unsure as to how "in-depth" those criminal background checks were. Reliable Maintenance employees also will be asked to participate in voluntary finger printing and will be issued photo ID cards, which had not been done before. "It was something we were going to do anyway, and on a homeland security basis we need to tighten up our security at city buildings," the police chief said. "We didn't have a consistent ID system across the board for city employees and we worked this in as a step the city was already taking." He said the new IDs will be color-coded for security purposes and will contain a bar code embedded with personal information.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090723/NEWS/907230328/1001/NEWS&community=Urbandale>

36. *July 23, WVEC 13 Norfolk* – (Virginia) **Landstown HS suspect to be tried as adult.** The alleged mastermind of an apparent plot to bomb Landstown High School in Virginia Beach will be tried as an adult, a judge ruled July 22. The suspect is now 18 and was 17 at the time he was arrested. He is accused of making explosives in his home which officers say he then planned to take to the school on the anniversary of the Columbine massacre. The Juvenile Court Judge allowed the publication of the man's identity, saying it is already widely known after being published in the paper. The judge closed the certification hearing at the request of defense attorneys.

Source:

http://www.wvec.com/news/topstories/stories/wvec_local_072209_landstown_bomb_theat_trail.65736727.html

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *July 23, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Indictment in theft of police rifle.** A woman has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of possessing an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle that was in a stolen community-college police car, court records show. The woman was arrested after Contra Costa County sheriff's dispatchers received calls at 3 a.m. June 20 about people removing items from a police car in front of a home on the 2900 block of Chevy Way, an unincorporated area near San Pablo, said a sheriff's spokesman. Deputies obtained a search warrant and found the weapon and recovered other police equipment, authorities said. The car had been stolen from police headquarters at Contra Costa College.

Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/23/BAOA18TVF2.DTL&tsp=1)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/23/BAOA18TVF2.DTL&tsp=1](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/23/BAOA18TVF2.DTL&tsp=1)

38. *July 22, Washington Post* – (National) **Crowded prisons endanger workers, union says.** The catalogue of violence against federal prison employees, provided by the American Federation of Government Employees, is long, serious and apparently unending. The assaults are sometimes fatal. Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities have

become increasingly dangerous places to work, primarily because of serious correctional officer understaffing and prison inmate overcrowding problems, a union official told a congressional panel Tuesday. The inmate-to-staff ratio is more than one-third greater than it was in 1997, federal figures show. "System wide, the BOP was operating at 37 percent over its total rated capacity" as of July 2, the bureau's director told the House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, terrorism and homeland security. But high-security facilities, where the most violent offenders are kept, are 50 percent over capacity. Medium-security pens are almost as crowded. In about 20 percent of those facilities, cells are triple-bunked, "and in many institutions, inmates are being housed in space that was not designed for inmate housing," he added. As overcrowding increases, so do assaults. Inmate-on-staff violence rose 6 percent and inmate-on-inmate violence jumped 16 percent in fiscal 2006, compared with the previous year, the union official said, citing BOP statistics.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/21/AR2009072103336.html?hpid=sec-nation>

39. *July 22, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Fire response times fall short.** Both Sacramento Fire and Sacramento Metro Fire Departments failed in 2008 to meet a widely accepted national standard for fire response times. The standard, known as National Fire Protection Association 1710, was passed in 2001. It states that fire crews should arrive at the scene of a fire or medical emergency within five minutes, 90 percent of the time. The standard is voluntary, meaning fire departments do not have to adopt it. The Sacramento Fire Department has not adopted the standard, but does use it as a guideline, according to the fire chief. The chief said the most troubling response times were in Natomas. The north area of the city grew rapidly, and fire stations could not keep up. The city is planning to build a station in west Natomas, at the corner of El Centro and Arena Boulevards, but that will not be completed for several years.
- Source: <http://www.kcra.com/news/20145294/detail.html>

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Information Technology

40. *July 23, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft admits it can't stop Office file format hacks.** Microsoft's plan to "sandbox" Office documents in the next version of its application suite is an admission that the company cannot keep hackers from exploiting file format bugs, a security analyst said on July 23. "What's been happening is that Office has lots of vulnerabilities," said Gartner's primary security analyst. "For the past 18 months, hackers have been fuzzing Office file formats," he said, referring to the practice of "fuzzing," a tactic that relies on automated tools that drop random data into applications to see if, and where, breakdowns occur. Fuzzing has been a hacker's best friend: Microsoft has repeatedly had to patch file format vulnerabilities in Office applications, most recently in July when it fixed a flaw in Publisher 2007 and in June, when it patched seven vulnerabilities in Excel and two more in Word. "What's happening is that the bad guys are using fuzzing tools to find vulnerabilities in Office, and now Microsoft is saying, 'Okay, we can't find, let alone fix, every vulnerability. So here's a way to put a sandbox around the vulnerability.'" The sandbox technique

mentioned is a new addition to Office 2010, the upcoming upgrade to Microsoft's bestselling Windows application suite. According to a senior security program manager with the Office team, Office 2010 will sport something called "Protected View" that isolates Word, Excel and PowerPoint files in a read-only environment. The sandbox, said the program manager in a post to a company blog this week, will have "minimal access to the system, and no access to your other files and information. Even if the file is malicious, it can't get out of the sandbox and do harm to your computer or data."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9135852/Microsoft_admits_it_cant_stop_Office_file_format_hacks

41. *July 22, ScienceDaily* – (International) **This article will self-destruct: Tool to make online personal data vanish.** Computers have made it virtually impossible to leave the past behind. College Facebook posts or pictures can resurface during a job interview. A lost cell phone can expose personal photos or text messages. A legal investigation can subpoena the entire contents of a home or work computer. The University of Washington has developed a way to make such information expire. After a set time period, electronic communications such as e-mail, Facebook posts and chat messages would automatically self-destruct, becoming irretrievable from all Web sites, inboxes, outboxes, backup sites and home computers. Not even the sender could retrieve them. The team of UW computer scientists developed a prototype system called Vanish that can place a time limit on text uploaded to any Web service through a Web browser. After a set time text written using Vanish will, in essence, self-destruct. A paper about the project went public on July 22 and will be presented at the Usenix Security Symposium Aug. 10-14 in Montreal. The Vanish prototype washes away data using the natural turnover, called "churn," on large file-sharing systems known as peer-to-peer networks. For each message that it sends, Vanish creates a secret key, which it never reveals to the user, and then encrypts the message with that key. It then divides the key into dozens of pieces and sprinkles those pieces on random computers that belong to worldwide file-sharing networks, the same ones often used to share music or movie files. The file-sharing system constantly changes as computers join or leave the network, meaning that over time parts of the key become permanently inaccessible. Once enough key parts are lost, the original message can no longer be deciphered. In the current Vanish prototype, the network's computers purge their memories every eight hours. (An option on Vanish lets users keep their data for any multiple of eight hours.) Unlike existing commercial encryption services, a message sent using Vanish is kept private by an inherent property of the decentralized file-sharing networks it uses.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/07/090721113309.htm>

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

See item [45](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *July 24, Associated Press* – (International) **Police: 3rd bomb in Jakarta attack malfunctioned.** The suicide attackers who struck the Indonesian capital on July 17 planted a third bomb intended to send panicked crowds to hotel lobbies where the other bombs would explode, but the device's timer malfunctioned, police said on July 24. The tactic, similar to that used by Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists in the Bali bombings, indicates that the attacks were intended to kill many more than the seven who died in the twin bombings at the two American-owned luxury hotels. The unexploded device — a laptop computer filled with explosives and bolts — was found on the 18th floor of the J.W. Marriott hotel where the bombers had been staying and should have gone off first, said a member of the national police: "It is clear that the bomb found inside the hotel was equipped with a timer that shows the time of the (failed) explosion. It was supposed to explode before the other two."

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090724/ap_on_re_as/as_indonesia_explosions

43. *July 24, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Suspect in custody after standoff.** The Weld County sheriff's office arrested a man who barricaded himself inside a building on July 23 after stabbing a person at an RV storage business near Keenesburg. Two buildings at that location were then set on fire, causing propane tanks inside to explode. Authorities searched the area for a suspect. After hearing gunshots in the area, they backed off, set up a perimeter and called the SWAT team in to negotiate. The 63-year-old assailant was arrested after deputies went into the building he had barricaded himself in and found two couches soaked in gasoline, four molotov cocktails with fuses and a gas can with a knife in it. The assailant also had a "zipgun" in one hand, a claw hammer in the other hand and a knife. Charges are pending. Meanwhile, the 54-year-old stabbing victim is said to be in critical condition at North Colorado Medical Center in Greeley.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=120032&catid=339>

44. *July 22, Orange County Register* – (California) **Man arrested in vandalism, 'anthrax' hoax.** Police have arrested a man in connection with vandalism and white powder found in an empty apartment in Newport Beach, California. The 29-year-old was arrested in the 5000 block of Rodeo Road in Los Angeles on July 21, police said. He was booked into the Newport Beach Police Department Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail on charges of criminal threats. The man had previously been evicted from the unit, police said. While examining the unit for vandalism, Newport Beach officers found threatening messages painted on the walls and the jars with a white powdery substance inside. Officers evacuated neighbors around 2:45 p.m. Residents of the apartment in the 1800 block of Sherington Place had recently been evicted, apartment management said. The white substance was determined by the Newport Beach Fire Department, a hazmat team, and

the Orange County sheriff's bomb squad to be an inactive chemical white powder and not a threat.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/white-apartment-beach-2502657-substance-newport>

45. *July 22, Rocky Mountain Telegram* – (Colorado) **Police probe false bomb threats.** Authorities responded to two false bomb threats within ten minutes of each other on July 22 in separate sections of the city, Rocky Mountain. A bomb threat against Old Navy in Cobb Corners was received at 12:40 p.m., and a threat against City Trends on Main Street was received at 12:51 p.m., Rocky Mount police said. “Both the police department and the fire department responded — but nothing was discovered, and no one was harmed,” the officer said. “Nothing suspicious was indicated at the time.” The area around Cobbs Corners was cordoned off as police searched the store. “We had units standing by at both spots until police cleared the locations,” the Rocky Mount Fire Battalion chief said. “Within about 45 minutes of each one, the police units advised us they had checked them and hadn’t found anything.” Both threats were made by telephone, and authorities are not certain if the two cases are related, he added. The Suddenlink Communications office on West Mount Drive was evacuated for about an hour July 15 after a bomb threat was made against it, but nothing suspicious was found on the premises.
- Source: <http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/police-probe-false-bomb-threats-733217.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

46. *July 24, Reno Gazette Journal* – (Nevada) **Fire restrictions in Western Nevada start today.** Drought conditions, increasing daytime temperatures and several large human-caused fires have prompted Nevada's Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Office, the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and the Nevada Division of Forestry's Sierra Forest Fire Protection District to announce the implementation of fire restrictions on July 24 and lasting until further notice. Vegetation in western Nevada and eastern California has dried out significantly since receiving only about 50 percent of normal snowfall last winter. A large crop of grass and brush is evident at lower elevations and trees and other forest vegetation at higher elevations are quickly drying out. The public is encouraged to safely enjoy the public lands, bearing in mind that the recent Trailer 1 and Red Rock fires were human-caused. Motorists are advised to be careful when driving off-road, because hot exhaust systems can ignite dry grasses.
- Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20090724/MVN01/907240334/1305/BIZ01>
47. *July 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Agents seize \$1.2 billion worth of pot in Calif.** Federal and state agents have arrested 83 people accused of growing more than \$1.2 billion worth of marijuana in a crackdown on illegal pot gardens in California's Sierra Nevada range. Local officials said several Mexican marijuana-growing cartels helped set up the grow sites scattered throughout rocky mountainsides of eastern Fresno

County, and they warned that more arrests were likely as the sweep continues. More than 318,000 marijuana plants were destroyed in the operation, which also netted nearly \$41,000 in cash, 25 weapons and two vehicles, the Fresno County Sheriff said July 23. She added, "We found it planted on hillsides and gullies, and some of the plants had grown to be eight feet tall." "Operation Save Our Sierra" began several months ago, and has involved more than 300 personnel from 17 local, state and federal agencies. Over the next few weeks, a crew of 40 volunteers will go back to the gardens tucked on remote U.S. Forest Service land and private property to chop down plants, pull out miles of drip lines and pick up trash and toxic chemicals. "They had pesticides, fertilizers and rat poison in there," the Fresno County Sheriff said. "And at the bottom of the hillside where our agents found the largest grow, there was a creekbed. The first rain we got, all that would have washed down the creek."

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32113759/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts/

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Dams Sector

48. *July 23, Reuters* – (International) **China: 4 die as landslide destroys dam project.**

Four construction workers died and more than 50 were missing on July 23 after a landslide destroyed a dam project in Sichuan Province, in the latest of a series of disasters caused by heavy rains in southwest China. The downpours set off a landslide at the Changheba hydropower plant in Kangding, temporarily blocking a river, the Xinhua news agency said, citing the ministry of civil affairs. The rapid rivers of Sichuan are packed with hydropower dams.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/24/world/asia/24briefs-chinadam.html?_r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss

49. *July 23, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Scientists study mud behind dam holding back the Rogue River.** A team of soil specialists have begun the long-awaited sampling to determine whether heavy metals, pesticides, or other contaminants are locked in the estimated 400,000 cubic yards of sediment submerged by water backed up by the 38-foot, 105-year-old Gold Ray Dam. If the sediment is deemed clean enough to be dissipated naturally, Jackson County could move forward with an environmental study that could result in the dam's removal next year. But the presence of contaminants or too much of the wrong silt could mean that some or all of the sediment would have to be dug out of the Rogue before the dam is removed. It also could mean that keeping the dam in place makes the most sense for Jackson County, which owns the dam decommissioned as a hydropower plant 37 years ago. If the tests show the sediment is benign, the county has the option of pursuing a so-called "blow-and-go" strategy similar to the one currently used in the removal of Savage Rapids Dam 19 miles downstream, where no troublesome levels of contaminants were found in upstream silt.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/07/scientists_study_mud_behind_da.html

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

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