



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 July 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- CNET News reports that Network Solutions is investigating a breach on its servers that may have led to the theft of credit card data of 573,928 people who made purchases on Web sites hosted by the company. Networks Solutions notified 4,343 of its nearly 10,000 e-commerce merchant customers on July 24 about the breach. (See item [13](#))
- According to the Star-Ledger, eleven letters containing suspicious white powder have been mailed to government and private offices in Bergen and Passaic counties, New Jersey over the past 10 days, the FBI said on Monday. In each case, the powder was in an envelope that was inside another envelope. (See item [20](#))

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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 28, Beaver Dam Daily Citizen* – (Wisconsin) **Didion cleans up after spill.** A gasket failure resulted in a chemical spill at the Didion Ethanol facility, just south of the Cambria village limits, on Sunday morning. The vice-president of operations said that

the material spilled was a dilute solution that was 97 percent water and 3 percent sodium hydroxide. Sodium hydroxide, also known as caustic soda or lye, has many industrial applications. It is used as a cleaning solution at Didion Ethanol to clean fermentation tanks between corn mash processing. Cambrians for Thoughtful Development, an organization that has accused Didion of polluting both the water and the air in and around Cambria, said the sodium chloride solution could be toxic to the environment. No people were reported injured as the result of the spill. There were six employees at the plant when the spill occurred. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Cambria Fire Department and the hazardous materials unit from the Portage Fire Department all responded to the spill.

Source: <http://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/459854>

2. *July 27, Reuters* – (National) **Eugene Island pipeline shut after spill: Shell.** The Eugene Island pipeline has been shut down pending repairs after a leak spilled 1,400 barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana, Shell Pipeline Co said Monday. “At this time, we cannot forecast when restart will occur,” Shell said in a news release. The 20-inch-diameter line, which carries Eugene Island grade crude to shore, lost pressure and released crude Saturday afternoon about 60 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana, in waters about 60 feet deep, Shell said. Cleanup began Monday and the cause was under investigation. Mild weather, calm seas and distance from shore mean the oil likely will not reach land, Shell said.

Source:

http://www.reuters.com/article/reutersComService_3_MOLT/idUSTRE56Q5QJ20090727

3. *July 27, Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Flammable oil, lightning delayed Edwards crash cleanup.** A truck rollover that closed Interstate 70 through Edwards, Colorado, for 11 hours Sunday could have been much worse, the local fire chief said Monday. The tanker was carrying 8,000 gallons of highly flammable petroleum crude oil concentrate when it rolled over into the median of the interstate shortly before noon. The oil was “potentially explosive,” the Eagle River Fire Protection District chief said. Both lanes of eastbound I-70 were closed for about 11 hours. The tank did not rupture, but it did come to rest directly above a storm drain. If the tank did break, it could have drained toward the new Battle Mountain High School, or even forced the closure of the entire interstate and evacuation of Singletree homes. Firefighters were not able to use the truck’s valves to empty the tanker, possibly because the valves were damaged in the accident. Instead, they used special tools to drill two holes in the tanker and transfer the oil to another truck. No one was hurt in the accident. The State Patrol and the Colorado Department of Transportation also helped with the response.

Source:

<http://www.vaildaily.com/article/20090727/NEWS/907279943/1078&ParentProfile=1062>

For another story, see item [38](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *July 28, WTVQ 36 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Chemical spill forces shutdown of road.** Police and emergency responders in Scott County are on the scene of a truck crash involving hazardous materials. The wreck is on US 460, Paris Pike, in Scott County. US 460 is closed between Newtown Pike in Scott County and Russell Cave Road in Bourbon County. Hazardous materials teams are evaluating the chemical spill associated with this crash and any threat posed by the chemicals. Traffic is being diverted. Cleanup could take all day.
Source: <http://www.wtvq.com/news/5686-chemical-spill-forces-shutdown-of-road.html>
5. *July 27, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Three treated after Tulsa ammonia leak.** Two Tulsa workers and one firefighter had to receive medical treatment after exposure to ammonia on the morning of July 27, said a Tulsa Fire spokesman. Firefighters responded at about 9 a.m. to the 4400 block of South 70th East Avenue, where workers struck an ammonia line, causing a break. A Tulsa firefighter in full protective gear as well as two site employees exposed to the ammonia leak received medical treatment but are not injured, he said. An EMSA spokeswoman said medics arrived on the scene at about 9:30 a.m., primarily to ensure the safety and monitor the health of the crews working the incident.
Source:
http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20090727_11_0_TwoTul850377
6. *July 27, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (Illinois) **Dana Container plant facing \$314,000 in OSHA penalties.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed \$314,000 in fines against Dana Container Inc. of Summit, Illinois, for alleged willful, serious, and repeat violations of federal workplace safety standards. As a result of a safety and health inspection, OSHA has cited the company for three willful violations with a proposed penalty of \$210,000. The willful citations address the company's alleged failure to have adequate written programs and permits required for working in confined spaces and not insuring proper working conditions before allowing workers to enter those confined spaces. The company also has been cited for 16 serious violations with proposed penalties of \$86,500. Some of the citations allege the company failed to provide proper training and procedures on uses of personal protective equipment such as respirators; review permit space entry operations and permit required confined space programs; install guardrails on elevated runways; provide proper identification and warnings on hazardous material tanks; and provide an adequate hazard communication program. Dana Container Inc. is a tank washing company that employs about 375 workers nationally. Its facility has been inspected seven times by OSHA, including two inspections after worker fatalities, and the company has received numerous citations from these past inspections.
Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/Article.aspx?articleid=19069>

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *July 28, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Nuclear plants adequately guarded, court rules.** The government can rely on the nation's defenses to prevent terrorist attacks from the air on nuclear power plants and does not have to order operators to take additional measures, a federal appeals court has ruled. In a 2-1 decision, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco rejected claims by critics of the nuclear industry, joined by the states of California and New York, that current measures to guard the plants from attacks by land and water fail to address the dangers of aerial assaults. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reasonably concluded that U.S. military and security forces would thwart most potential air attacks and that design changes and safety plans it has required "would likely prevent any serious harm," the Judge said in the majority opinion Friday. In dissent, another Judge said the commission had ignored studies that concluded an airplane strike on a nuclear plant could cause catastrophic damage. One New York study found that even a light plane could cause a core meltdown if it hit a plant's control building, the dissenting Judge said.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/28/MNQG18UPFL.DTL>
8. *July 28, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL Fla. St. Lucie 2 reactor exits outage.** FPL Group Inc's 839-megawatt Unit 2 at the St. Lucie nuclear power station in Florida exited an outage and ramped up to 35 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut by July 13 to work on a pipe.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN289068120090728>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *July 28, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Acid spill causes scare in Washington County.** Some homes near an Allegheny Ludlum plant in Washington County were evacuated and other residents were advised to stay indoors and close their windows because of an acid spill that formed a yellow gas cloud over the plant on July 27, authorities said. Authorities also were rerouting traffic around the plant. The cloud formed when workers at the Allegheny Ludlum Specialty Plate Mill lowered a steel plate into a vat containing nitric acid, and were unable to pull the plate back out, said a lieutenant of the Canton Township Fire Department. An unknown number of employees and a few homes on nearby Weirich Avenue were evacuated after the spill, which occurred shortly after 5 p.m., he said. Canton Township firefighters were going door-to-door on Green Street to advise about 100 residents about the situation. Those who live within a quarter-mile of the plant were being told to stay inside. Hazmat crews and officials of the state Department of Environmental Protection also were on the scene. There were no reports of injuries or breathing problems because of the cloud, but authorities said they were exercising caution.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09209/986799-58.stm>

10. *July 27, Akron Beacon Journal* – (Ohio) **Chemical fire damages Akron company.** A chemical fire at an Akron electronic equipment and supply company on July 25 caused about \$35,000 in damage to the building and its contents. The Akron Fire Department and hazardous materials team responded to the Panel Shop on Akron-Peninsula Road, shortly before 11 p.m., a fire department spokesman said. The fire, caused by overheated machinery, was confined to an interior work area of the building. Damages are estimated at \$15,000 to the building, valued at \$225,000, and \$20,000 to the contents, valued at \$400,000. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters, the fire department reported.

Source: http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/51794157.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *July 28, San Diego Union Tribune* – (California) **Electrical malfunction sparks fire at business.** An electrical malfunction on a piece of machinery sparked a fire that resulted in about \$150,000 in damage to a Kearny Mesa, California business, said a San Diego Fire-Rescue spokesman. The fire was reported about 11:45 p.m. Sunday at Concisys, which manufactures circuit boards, the spokesman said. Firefighters checking out a report of an alarm forced their way into the business and found that three sprinklers had snuffed the flames, the spokesman said. Most of the damage was caused by the water.

Source: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jul/28/electrical-malfunction-sparks-fire-business/?metro&zIndex=139578>

12. *July 25, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Air Force begins probe of C-5B wheel mishap.** An Air Force investigation into why two wheels fell from a military C-5B Galaxy jet on a training mission over Belchertown on July 23 is just taking shape and could take as long as 30 days, according to a military official. The Air Force is putting together its team of investigators and is just beginning to look at the two wheels, each of which weigh more than 150 pounds and are now in a hangar at Westover Air Reserve Base, the base's safety officer said on July 24. Although the probe could be completed earlier than 30 days, that is the standard length of time allowed by the Air Force for such an investigation, he said. No one was hurt in the mishap, and the plane landed safely at the base following the loss of two of its 28 wheels on July 23 shortly before 1 p.m. The age of the craft was not a factor in the incident, he said. The safety officer said the crew learned the wheels had fallen after it was brought to their attention by an air traffic controller at the base. At no time was the crew in any serious danger. In keeping with maintenance policies, the plane would have been inspected and serviced by five maintenance workers for about an hour and a half before oversight by a flight engineer and released for flight, according to an Air Force spokeswoman.

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/springfield/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-23/1248506679243500.xml&coll=1>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *July 27, CNET News* – (International) **Network Solutions breach exposes nearly 600,000.** Network Solutions is investigating a breach on its servers that may have led to the theft of credit card data of 573,928 people who made purchases on Web sites hosted by the company. Networks Solutions notified 4,343 of its nearly 10,000 e-commerce merchant customers on July 24 about the breach. It affects 573,928 cardholders whose name, address, and credit card number were exposed between March 12 and June 8, said a spokeswoman for Network Solutions. Mysterious code was discovered in early June on servers hosting e-commerce customer sites during routine maintenance, she said. The company called in a third-party forensics team to help with the investigation, and the team was able to crack some of the code on July 13, determining that it could be related to credit card data, she added. Credit card transactions were intentionally diverted by an unknown source from certain Network Solutions servers to servers outside, Network Solutions wrote in an e-mail to merchant customers. “So we notified law enforcement and began the process of notifying our customers,” the spokeswoman said. “At this point, we don’t have a reason to believe that (the data) has been used, but we are working with the credit card companies,” nonetheless. Network Solutions also is paying to have credit-monitoring specialist TransUnion help the merchants notify their customers according to data breach notification laws in effect in certain states. Affected consumers will get 12 months of free credit-monitoring services. It is unknown how the malicious code got onto the system and where it came from, the spokeswoman said.
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-27080_3-10296817-245.html

14. *July 27, MarketWatch* – (National) **SEC to let disclosure requirement on short sales expire.** The Securities and Exchange Commission on July 27 said it would no longer require hedge funds and other institutional investors to provide short-sale position data to the agency regularly, and that the ban on “naked” shorting would be made permanent. “Naked” short selling happens when an investor sells shares short without first having borrowed them. The regulator also said it was taking other steps to increase the public availability of information related to short sales, including an effort that would make public short-sale volume and transaction data. “These actions should provide a wealth of information to the commission, other regulators, investors, analysts, academics and the media,” the SEC said in a statement. The regulator introduced a rule in 2008 to limit “naked” shorting by requiring broker-dealers to promptly purchase or borrow securities to deliver on a short sale. That was set to expire July 31 and the SEC said on July 27 it made the rule permanent. Short sales, or bets against securities, are a common tool used by hedge funds and the proprietary trading desks of investment banks.
Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/sec-2009-07-27>

15. *July 27, Bloomberg* – (International) **Montreal’s Earl Jones, accused in Ponzi scam, is arrested.** A Montreal financial adviser accused by regulators of running a Ponzi scheme that defrauded clients of as much as C\$50 million (\$46 million) was arrested on July 27 by Quebec provincial police. The Autorite Des Marches Financiers, the Montreal-based securities regulator for Quebec, announced on July 10 it would freeze the adviser’s bank accounts after receiving complaints from investors in Montreal and other parts of

Canada and the United States. The adviser's business has "all the hallmarks of a Ponzi scheme," a spokesman for the regulator said in a July 14 interview. The defendant is "in police custody presently," a lawyer at Montreal firm Stein & Stein, who filed a July 10 bankruptcy petition against the defendant's company on behalf of at least one client, wrote in an e-mail. "In addition we have instituted a petition in bankruptcy on July 27 against the defendant personally and have had an interim receiver appointed to his personal assets."

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=aN_RSkhhoE68

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Transportation Sector

16. *July 28, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **I-80 bridge in NJ will be replaced.** Federal stimulus money will fund the replacement of an Interstate 80 bridge in northern New Jersey. Work on the \$8.9 million project in Roxbury is set to begin July 29. Transportation Department officials say the deck of the bridge, which spans Berkshire Valley Road, was deteriorating. Officials say more than 80,000 vehicles use the interstate on a daily basis in the vicinity of the bridge. Route 80 will remain open in both directions during the estimated yearlong project.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/new_jersey/20090728_ap_i80bridgein_njwillbereplaced.html

17. *July 27, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **U.S. Homeland Security office launches pilot effort to counter small-vessel attacks.** The U.S. Homeland Security Department is undertaking a pilot program aimed at countering the threat of a small-vessel attack on the nation's ports, an official told Global Security Newswire (GSN) last week. The agency's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office has launched a "West Coast Maritime Pilot" effort, based in San Diego and Washington State's Puget Sound region. The program is slated to deploy and evaluate radiation and nuclear detection equipment, to include human-portable and mobile, or boat-mounted, systems, according to the detection office director for the San Diego portion of the effort. Program officials will develop a regional maritime concept of operations and provide naval-specific training on nuclear detection equipment, he said. It also will "identify any gaps that may still be remaining in that maritime architecture," he said. National concern about the threats posed by small naval vessels appears to be on the rise. A manager of port security for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey sees a small-vessel attack as the greatest security risk facing the nation's ports today. "For us, we've essentially got a single choke point that all deep draft vessels need to pass," she said during a July 10 panel discussion at the Center for National Policy. "If that choke point is compromised by a small vessel attack...it will essentially shut down the entire port of New York and New Jersey. This pilot is meant to directly support the small vessels security strategy," the San Diego director told GSN in a July 23 telephone interview. He defined a small vessel as any craft that weighs less than 300 tons, ranging from a tuna boat to a small sailboat or a jet ski.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090727_6761.php

18. *July 27, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Train derails in Cecil County, Md.** Crews responded to the scene of three overturned train cars the afternoon of July 27 near U.S. 40 that were carrying home appliances, a state police spokesman said. A sergeant from the Maryland State Police said a team was on its way to lift three derailed cars off of train tracks at Belvidere Road near Perryville, where roads remained blocked this evening. He said the train conductor had put the train in reverse while making a delivery to Perryville Cold Storage in the early afternoon. The train backed up in the wrong direction, causing three of its cars to fall over. A spokesman for the Cecil County Sheriff's Department said there were no injuries or hazardous materials spilled.
Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20090727/NEWS/90727080/Train+derails+in+Cecil+County++Md>
19. *July 27, CNN* – (International) **Piracy upswing expected off Somalia.** Piracy is expected to pick up in the high seas off Somalia after a lull caused by monsoon season, maritime officials warned on July 27. The Combined Maritime Forces urged crews to take up safety measures, including using recognized transit corridors in the Gulf of Aden and reporting to the European Union's security center before transit. "The prior preparation and vigilance of merchant mariners at all times of day and night is more important now than ever," said a rear admiral of the Combined Task Force. International forces made up of more than 30 ships and aircraft from 16 nations will continue patrolling the waters to help fight pirates, according to officials. "While our ability to deter and disrupt attacks has improved over time, we are constantly adapting the way we do our business as the pirates adapt and modify their tactics," he said.
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/africa/07/27/somalia.piracy/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *July 28, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **FBI investigates 11 letters with unknown white powder.** Eleven letters containing suspicious white powder have been sent to government and private offices in North Jersey over the past 10 days, the FBI said Monday. No one has been injured and initial tests showed the powder did not appear to be dangerous, authorities said. However, the mailings prompted temporary shutdowns throughout Bergen and Passaic counties while hazmat units investigated. The FBI, the lead agency in the investigation, released few details. In each case, the powder was in an envelope that was inside another envelope. Since July 17, the agency said, letters were sent to locations in Totowa, Clifton, Wayne, Ringwood, Woodland Park and Fair Lawn. Final testing on the first three letters concluded there was no evidence of biological agents, an FBI spokesman said. The agency would not say where the letters were sent, but the Fair Lawn Police Department confirmed one was received by the Police Chief on Friday morning. That same morning, another letter was delivered to the law office of Vivino & Vivino in Wayne. The office was evacuated for about two hours before

emergency crews declared the substance was not dangerous, police officials said. Partners at the firm were not available for comment Monday. The FBI is working with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and local and county investigators on the case.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-14/1248744331271530.xml&coll=1>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *July 28, E.W. Scripps Co.* – (Florida) **Tampa girl ate tainted candy, cops looking for source.** A 4-year-old girl was hospitalized after eating candy that was tainted with oxycontin, law enforcement officials say. The girl was with her grandparents, driving home from Tampa International Airport (TIA), when she became lethargic. They took her straight to the hospital. Sheriff's deputies say they found several pills of Oxycontin and Oxycodone mixed in with the Skittles, and confirm the bag had been resealed. The TIA police chief says officers pulled about 30 bags of Skittles off store shelves as a precaution. However, it appears the Skittles were not purchased at the airport. The girl's candy was in a blue bag. Airport concessionaires have not stocked blue bags of skittles since April. The TIA police chief told ABC Action News.com it is possible someone gave candy to the girl, or she picked up a bag from a bench. All the bags taken from airport store shelves were opened and a check of the product revealed that the bags did not contain any foreign substances and there were no obvious signs of product tampering, said the TIA spokeswoman in a prepared statement. Sheriff's officials say they have sent the pills from the bag off to a lab for testing. The girl has been released from the hospital and doctors say she will be fine. A spokesman for Wrigley, which makes Skittles, said the sheriff's office has contacted them and they are cooperating fully with their ongoing investigation. "Wrigley goes to extraordinary lengths to ensure maximum product safety standards."

Source: <http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/local/story/Tampa-girl-ate-tainted-candy-cops-looking-for/bEbOlqy8A0WIMuDW9lKAYg.csp>

22. *July 27, Peoria Journal Star* – (Illinois) **Chemical drift a growing concern for rural residents.** State legislatures throughout the country are grappling with chemical drift from farm fields and the conflict between the rights and pressures of farming and the rights and health of rural residents. Maine recently passed legislation that proponents hope will be a model for the rest of the country. The new law calls for the creation of a notification registry for two types of aerial applications to inform neighbors of what, when and how chemicals are being used on agriculture fields. One of the nation's leading attorneys specializing in pesticide drift said the ultimate solution lies with state legislatures, not with the courts. The attorney said chemical drift has become a political issue in part because agriculture and farm chemicals are a significant part of the economy. In Illinois, a state republican representative drafted a resolution developed with input from the Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association. The representative said, "Farmers need to be able to use these products, but we need to ensure the safety of the

general public.”

Source: <http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1522163081/Chemical-drift-a-growing-concern-for-rural-residents>

For another story, see item [30](#)

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Water Sector

23. *July 28, DeKalb Daily Chronicle* – (Illinois) **Fire at wastewater treatment plant quickly put out.** A small fire that broke out in a digester building of the wastewater treatment plant on the afternoon of July 27 was quickly put out with minimal damage. The fire started at the Hollister Avenue facility about 2:50 p.m. when sanitary district staff were changing out gas filters, a routine maintenance procedure to help with the digestion of biosolids, said the DeKalb Sanitary District director. The filters began smoldering from either chemical residue or a byproduct of methane gas, which is produced by anaerobic bacteria during the digestion process. The filters had never before caught fire, he said. They are kept in a zero-oxygen environment unless they are being changed. Staff called the DeKalb Fire Department and quickly put out the flames with fire extinguishers before firefighters arrived. Fire officials stayed on the scene to assess the situation. The fire was contained to two old filters — each about a foot long and with an 8-inch diameter — and no other damage was done.
Source: <http://www.daily-chronicle.com/articles/2009/07/28/69913355/index.xml>
24. *July 28, Spartanburg Herald-Journal* – (South Carolina) **Bankrupt textile mill leaves its poison behind.** A lawsuit alleges Collins & Amp; Aikman, which operated a site in Cowpens, South Carolina from about 1969-80, dug a trench in its dye-room floor and piped its waste products out of the building and into the soil via plumes. After Health-Tex closed the factory in 1990, the building sat empty. Cowpens police investigating a possible theft of copper in 1992 found about twenty 55-gallon drums and smaller containers inside. Some were marked by hand as “contaminated” or “hazardous waste,” the Herald-Journal reported 17 years ago. The Department of Health and Environmental Control placed the site on high priority, arranged for removal of the waste products in the building and conducted soil tests and some cleanup with grant money from the Environmental Protection Agency, spending about \$300,000 between 1992 and November 2003. The site appeared on DHEC’s 2008 groundwater contamination inventory report, with the contaminant listed as a volatile organic compound. The report lists the status as in “assessment and monitoring phases” and notes “Plume is discharging to tributary to Pacolet River.” The DHEC spokesman said last week that the site priority has been lowered from high to medium, but “it’s certainly still on our radar screen.” DHEC, however, expects Collins & Amp; Aikman to finish paying for any more cleanup as it promised to do before declaring Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Michigan in 2005.
Source: <http://www.goupstate.com/article/20090728/ARTICLES/907281040/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Bankrupt-textile-mill-leaves-its-poison-behind>

25. *July 27, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Huge tunnel to be built under San Francisco Bay.** Hoping to protect one of the Bay Area's main water supplies after the next major earthquake, construction crews will soon begin building a massive, 5-mile-long tunnel underneath San Francisco Bay. The project is believed to be the first major tunnel ever built across the bay. Using a giant boring machine, workers will carve a 14-foot high corridor through clay, sand and bedrock from Menlo Park to Newark as deep as 103 feet below the bay floor. They will then run a 9-foot-high steel water pipe through the middle. "All the experts tell us that within the next 30 years, there is a 63 percent chance of having a major earthquake in the Bay Area," said the general manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which is in charge of the project. "By building extra tunnels and strengthening our pipelines, it means we have much greater assurance that we'll have water after the next earthquake." Bids on the tunnel will be advertised July 31. Only 12 companies in the world are certified to perform the job, which is estimated to cost \$347 million. Digging will start next spring on the Menlo Park shoreline just south of the Dumbarton Bridge, and head eastward, with work scheduled to be completed in 2015. An additional 16 miles of pipe connecting to the tunnel on either side of the bay also will be replaced.
Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_12922260
26. *July 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Report contradicts study on Great Lakes water drop.** A new report says that a joint U.S.-Canadian study exploring lower water levels on Lakes Michigan and Huron has significantly underestimated the amount of water the lakes have lost due to erosion on the St. Clair River. A study released in the spring by the International Joint Commission said the water loss was four inches. But the report prepared by the coastal engineering consultants Baird & Associates says the water loss was actually more than nine inches. A spokesman for the Joint Commission says the group disagrees with the report. When it released its study in May, the group said there was no need to place barriers in the St. Clair to stem the outflow. The report's author says he does not want a public spat, but is convinced the Joint Commission's study is based on miscalculated data.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-greatlakes-erosio,0,4647559.story>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *July 28, McKnight's Long Term Care News* – (National) **CDC predicts H1N1 virus to affect 40% of Americans.** The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will meet Wednesday to decide on an approach for inoculating Americans against the H1N1 virus. That comes after the agency projected that the virus could affect up to 40 percent of the U.S. population. The CDC's prediction includes both individuals who contract the swine flu and an estimated number of people who will forgo work to take care of sick friends or family members. The CDC also predicts that anywhere between 90,000 and "several hundred thousand" Americans could die of swine flu or swine flu-related illnesses over the course of the next two

years, according to an Associated Press report. To derive this estimate, the CDC used the Asian Flu pandemic of 1957 as a model. An effective vaccine strategy, however, could curb the effects of the virus' spread, officials say. There are 160 million doses of H1N1 vaccine on order by the U.S. government. These will be ready for distribution in October, pending the success of trials currently underway in Australia and scheduled to begin next week in the United States, HealthDay reported.

Source: <http://www.mcknights.com/CDC-predicts-H1N1-virus-to-affect-40-of-Americans/article/140676/>

28. *July 28, Xinhua* – (California) **Health officials warn of H1N1 virus spread in S California.** Health officials have warned of a spread of the A/H1N1 flu virus in Southern California when students return to the schools in September, a report said on Monday. After hundreds of students having been sent home from summer camps in the region in recent weeks due to flu-like symptoms, health officials said they are worried about what would happen when the school year begins, local television channel KABC reports. California health officials have received reports of flu outbreaks at 16 camps in eight counties, according to the report. Although most reported flu cases have been mild, some health workers fear that a vaccine may not be available in time to stop the spread of the virus.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/28/content_11784853.htm

29. *July 26, Pittsburgh Post Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Internal report detailed 'pervasive' practice of ignoring safety procedures.** Late this spring, Mylan Inc. took the unusual step of halting production at its sprawling generic drug manufacturing plant in Morgantown for an emergency meeting. Days earlier, Mylan learned two production workers had violated government-mandated quality control procedures intended to ensure the safety and effectiveness of prescription drugs. The company launched a probe. Publicly, Mylan officials have refused to discuss or even acknowledge the matter. But according to a confidential internal report obtained by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the company discovered that workers were routinely overriding computer-generated warnings about potential problems with the medications they were producing. The violations of standard operating procedure at the world's third largest generic drug company, uncovered May 11, were "very serious," the report stated, involving "falsifying information" and "altering product." The report said the practice was "pervasive," occurring on all three shifts at the plant, which makes roughly 19 billion doses of medication annually. The drugs are used to treat diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, cancer, epilepsy and other conditions. The report did not say how long the unauthorized practice had been going on at the plant, which employs about 2,000. One worker interviewed by company investigators indicated it had been happening for at least two years.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09207/986516-28.stm>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *July 28, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Falls Church man sentence in terror plot is**

increased to life. A Falls Church man convicted of plotting with al-Qaeda to kill the former U.S. President was resentenced to life in prison Monday after the judge said his release would threaten “the safety of the American citizenry.” The suspect had been given a 30-year prison term after he was convicted in 2005 of joining an al-Qaeda conspiracy to mount a series of September 11-style attacks and assassinations in the United States. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit upheld the conviction last year but sent the case back for resentencing, indicating that the sentence should be more severe. U.S. District Judge obliged on Monday, saying he had reevaluated the case and concluded that the danger of ever releasing the suspect is too great. “I cannot put the safety of the American citizenry at risk,” he said, citing the suspect’s “unwillingness to renounce the beliefs that led to his terrorist activities.” Prosecutors said the suspect had taken credit for originating the plot against the former President, which had not advanced beyond the talking stage. They said the plot included crashing airplanes, killing members of Congress, and bombing nightclubs and public gatherings.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/27/AR2009072701384.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

31. *July 28, Macon Telegraph* – (Georgia) **Bibb County courthouse reopened after bomb threat.** A bomb threat was called in at the Bibb County, Georgia, Courthouse on Tuesday, according to the Macon 911 center. The courthouse was evacuated at about 9:20 a.m. and police began blocking traffic on nearby Second and Mulberry streets. A Macon police sergeant said the threat was called in to the Bibb County Superior Court. The sergeant said emergency crews searched the courthouse floor by floor, but did not find anything out of the ordinary.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/149/story/791300.html>

32. *July 27, WPXI 11 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Bomb squad detonates suspicious package at city county building.** A suspicious package sent the bomb squad to the City County building in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Monday afternoon. The bomb squad blew up the package and said it was nothing dangerous. Pittsburgh police said there was a pressure cuff on the package and x-rays were performed. No buildings were evacuated but the entrance to the City County building was closed as a precaution. “There was no serious threat associated with it. We took measures to render it safe and there were no explosives in or around the area,” said the director of public safety.

Source: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/20193755/detail.html>

For another story, see item [20](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *July 27, Boston Globe* – (National) **GAO warns of communications lapses.** The investigative arm of Congress warned Monday that several vulnerabilities remain in how first responders across the nation communicate, despite attention focused on it after the September 11th attacks. The chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet released the [report](#) he requested from the

Government Accountability Office. The report cites the inability to stay connected during and after disasters, limited capacities of communications systems, and problems communicating across different agencies as serious obstacles to first responders across the country. The GAO recommends that the Department of Homeland Security complete efforts to help implement the National Emergency Communications Plan; the department and the Federal Communications Commission establish a forum to collaborate on emergency communications efforts; the department help other federal agencies develop emergency communications plans; and the department seek innovative ways to improve emergency communications systems.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/07/gao_warns_of_co.ht ml

34. *July 27, McClatchy Tribune News Service* – (Washington) **Man drives van into Washington firehouse.** A man drove a van into the Gibson Valley, Washington, fire station Saturday evening, tearing out a wall of the modular building that held the fire district's trucks and other equipment. The fire chief told troopers that the wreck left the Gibson Valley Fire Department unable to respond to any emergency calls for more than four hours after the 5:30 p.m. crash, according to a Washington State Patrol spokesman. The property damage to the fire station is estimated to be more than \$30,000.
Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=64685§ionId=46>

35. *July 27, Delco Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Hazmat scare empties Chester police HQ.** Hazmat teams were dispatched to Chester, Pennsylvania, police headquarters for an unknown substance leaking from the building's air-conditioning vents, authorities said. The building that also houses Social Security Offices and Chester District Courts was evacuated around 4:30 p.m., according to authorities. It is unknown if anyone has been injured. The Chester Fire Department and the county's hazmat team responded.
Source: <http://www.delcotimes.com/articles/2009/07/27/news/doc4a6e1760071d9904740544.txt>

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Information Technology

36. *July 27, CNN* – (International) **Whatever happened to the Conficker worm?** The hugely talked-about computer worm, Conficker, seemed poised to wreak havoc on the world's machines on April Fool's Day. And then nothing much happened. But while the doom and gloom forecast for the massive botnet, a remotely controlled network that security experts say infected about 5 million computers, never came to pass, Conficker is still making some worm hunters nervous. A program director at SRI International, a nonprofit research group, said Conficker infects millions of machines around the world. And the malware's author or authors could use that infected network to steal information or make money off of the compromised computer users. "Conficker does stand out as one of those bots that is very large and has been able to sustain itself on the Web,"

which is rare, said the program director who also is a member of the international group tracking Conficker. Still, computer users, even those infected with Conficker, have not seen much in the way of terrifying results. After the botnet relaunched April 1, it gained further access to an army of computers that the program's author or authors could control. The only thing the author or authors have done with that power, though, is to try to sell fake computer-security software to a relatively small segment of Conficker-stricken computers, the program director said. The lack of a major attack has led some people in the security community to assume that the worm is basically dead. The chief research officer with F-Secure, an Internet security company, says the people who created Conficker would have launched a major offensive by now if they were going to. The chief research officer, who is scheduled to speak about the Conficker botnet next week at Black Hat, a major computer security conference, said he thinks whoever made Conficker did not mean for the worm to get so large, as the size of the botnet drew widespread attention from the security community and the media. "This gang, they knew their stuff. They used cutting-edge technology that we had never before...I've been working in viruses for 20 years, and there were several things that I'd never seen at all," he said. "That, to me, would tell that perhaps this is a new group or a new gang, someone who tried it for the first time." He added, "The more experienced attackers don't let their viruses or their worms spread this widely. They, on purpose, keep their viruses smaller in size in order to keep them from headlines." Veteran botnet creators tend to hold the size of the malicious networks to about 2,000 to 10,000 computers to keep from being noticed, he said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/07/27/conficker.update/index.html>

37. *July 27, DarkReading* – (International) **Nearly half of companies lack a formal patch management process.** An open initiative for building a metrics model to measure the cost of patch management found that one-fourth of organizations do not test patches when they deploy them, and nearly 70 percent do not measure how well or efficiently they roll out patches, according to survey results released on July 27. Project Quant, a project for building a framework for evaluating the costs of patch management and optimizing the process, also rolled out Version 1 of its metrics model. Project Quant is an open, community-driven, vendor-neutral model that initially began with financial backing from Microsoft. "Based on the survey and the additional research we performed during the project, we realized that despite being one of the most fundamental functions of IT, patch management is still a relatively immature, inconsistent, and expensive practice. The results really reinforced the need for practical models like Quant," said the founder of Securosis and one of the project leaders of the initiative. The survey of around 100 respondents was voluntary; participation was solicited mainly via metrics and patch management organizations, so the organizers say the respondents were most likely organizations that take patch management seriously: "The corollary to this interpretation is that we believe the broader industry is probably LESS mature in their patch management process than reflected here," the report says. Even so, more than 40 percent of them have either no patch management process or an informal one in place. And 68 percent said they do not have a metric for measuring how well they deploy patches, such as the time it takes them to deploy a patch, etc. One-fourth said they do not do any testing before they roll out a patch, and 40 percent rely on user complaints to

validate the success of a patch, according to the survey. And more than 50 percent do not measure adherence to policy, including compliance when it comes to patching.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/database_security/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=218600827

For another story, see item [11](#)

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

38. *July 28, CNET News* – (National) **Cisco looks to ride smart-grid data deluge.** Cisco is betting that utilities are more likely to invest in new data centers than new power plants in the coming years. The tech giant is developing a suite of smart-grid products designed to add networking smarts to the existing grid, including routers for substations and home energy-monitoring systems. But a large chunk of the \$20 billion per year in smart-grid spending that Cisco anticipates is in traditional data centers. Since smart-grid technologies rely on a steady flow of information, Cisco expects that utilities will need to invest in more sophisticated IT systems, said the director of Data Center Solutions and a member of a Cisco smart-grid team. Once utilities put in smart meters, their data processing and storage needs explode. Instead of sending a person to read meters once a month, information for billing or other applications can be sent back once a day, once an hour, or even every few minutes. If utilities are regulated to reduce peak-time usage, their IT needs shoot up even higher. Demand response, where a utility can turn down energy use at participating customer sites, requires utilities to poll information regularly from a potential large number of locations. “The requirements are for huge amounts of data to be involved when you have these more advanced pricing models where the goal is to mitigate power generation,” the director said. “The catcher’s mitt for that data is the data center.” By cutting peak-time usage, utilities can avoid turning on auxiliary ‘peaker plants’ to supply electricity on a given day or, potentially, avoid building new power plants to meet growing demand.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-10296404-54.html

39. *July 27, Urgent Communications* – (National) **TerreStar successfully tests dual-mode smartphone over satellite network.** Satellite communications provider TerreStar Corp. successfully has placed a VoIP-based call from one dual-mode smartphone handset to a second smartphone over its satellite network, the chief technology officer said. TerreStar’s plan is to build, own and operate North America’s first next-generation integrated mobile satellite and terrestrial communications network, which will provide

universal access and tailored applications over conventional commercial wireless devices. Traditionally, satellite devices required large antennas to receive signals, which increased the weight and size of the handsets carried by first-responders working in remote locations. In June, the company launched its next-generation TerreStar 1 satellite so it could test whether a signal could be received by antennas in smaller form factors found in consumer handsets, such as smartphones.

Source: http://urgentcomm.com/networks_and_systems/news/terrestar-tests-dual-mode-smartphone-20090727/

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *July 27, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Homemade bomb scare near child care centers.** What appeared to be two bombs made out of 2-liter cola bottles put hundreds of people on edge July 27. Authorities said two bottles filled with what they believed was some sort of acid were found on Laird Lane in Livingston. It is an area filled with children. There are three childcare centers, a dance studio and a couple of other businesses. Parents rushed to pick up their children as hazmat crews hustled to detonate the so-called bombs. Deputies said a worker at “Leaps and Bounds” [children’s facility] found a homemade bomb in their mailbox. Another one was later found in a nearby ditch. “I’m not saying a kid did this, but this is usually the type of incident that we have when kids are out of school,” said the Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office. “This will get you some serious jail time, high fines and the biggest thing, this could cost somebody their life,” he said. The owner of Kids in Motion says that all of the parents were notified about what happened. And at Leaps and Bounds, they kept the kids busy by having an impromptu pep rally, to make sure they were not scared by what was happening outside.

Source: <http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?S=10799911>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *July 27, Las Vegas Sun* – (Nevada) **Report: Coal-fired power plants would affect Great Basin National Park.** Both air quality and visibility would be affected in the Great Basin National Park if one or both of two coal-fired power plants were operated in White Pine County, a Government Accountability Office [report](#) said. The park, created in 1986 as a representative 77,000 acres of the larger Great Basin, has some of the cleanest air and best visibility in the United States, the GAO report said. GAO investigators, who studied the issue from September 2008 until July, said that even slight increases in air pollution in the vicinity of the park could cause major decreases in visibility. Two companies that initiated a review process to build new coal-fired power plants about 55 miles northwest of Great Basin National Park, near the city of Ely, announced indefinite postponement of their projects earlier this year. White Pine Energy

Associates, LLC, an affiliate of LS Power Development LLC, proposed the White Pine Energy Station, and Sierra Pacific Resources, now NV Energy, proposed the Ely Energy Center. The GAO said that some people interviewed in the review, including residents of White Pine County who said the coal-fired power plants would create jobs, said the park would meet the stricter EPA air quality standards. But the National Park Service, environmental groups and three Indian tribes fear that the coal-fired power plants would pollute the Great Basin National Park's air. The GAO report was completed for congressional review.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/jul/27/gao-coal-fired-power-plants-would-affect-great-bas/>

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Dams Sector

42. *July 28, Tacoma News Tribune* – (Washington) **KID may take week to repair canal leak.** Kennewick Irrigation District officials were hopeful late on July 27 as water levels dropped that a major leak on the main canal in Badger Canyon would not become a massive disaster. Even so, KID water customers in Kennewick and Finley will feel the heat because repairs could take more than a week at a time when temperatures are forecast to reach 100 every day. Irrigation officials learned of the problem about 5:30 a.m. July 27 when a homeowner called about the gushing water washing out his gravel driveway. The early alert gave KID officials time to shut off water flowing into the canal at the Chandler Pump Station near Prosser to reduce the pressure on the leak, said a KID information officer. Residents in seven homes directly below where the canal was leaking were evacuated before 8 a.m. with help from Benton County sheriff's deputies. The interim district manager said by then the leak had created a sinkhole about 10 feet across. Two hours later, the hole had grown to 20 feet by 50 feet. By mid-afternoon, the sinkhole was 3 feet deep and there were several stress cracks in the earth, indicating the unstable area was growing. At first, it was thought all 21,000 customers of KID would be without water until repairs are completed in seven to 10 days, the information officer said. But KID officials said a couple of thousand customers will have some of their irrigation water restored after workers dammed the main canal about seven miles upstream from where the leak was discovered and diverted it into the Badger East and Badger West canals. That will restore flows to irrigation customers along the main canal from Prosser to about the Dallas Road area in Badger Canyon, and to all customers on the Badger East and West canals. But that leaves KID customers in Kennewick and Finley without water for several days. KID officials have arranged with Ray Poland and Sons of Kennewick to begin emergency repairs as early as today and work around the clock. Badger Road was expected to be closed to all through traffic about a half mile south of Interstate 82 until at least 8 a.m. on July 28 because of the water flowing over the roadway, said the Benton County Sheriff's Department. The area where the canal is leaking is about three-quarters of a mile west of where Clodfelter Road crosses over Interstate 82. The information officer said the area of the leak appears to be where a concrete panel broke along a previously repaired crack, allowing water to run underneath the canal.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/northwest/story/825802.html>

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