



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 July 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to the Columbus Dispatch, authorities are continuing to dig into the cause of a blast that injured eight employees at the Austin Powder Co. explosives plant in Vinton County, Ohio on Tuesday. (See item [4](#))
- The Times Herald-Record reports that a man working for the company that services the Sullivan County, New York sheriff's telephone network and other county lines disabled the system on July 10, putting "the public in danger," according to the sheriff's office. The man has since been fired from FrontRunner Network Systems. (See item [41](#))

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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 29, Salisbury Daily Times* – (Delaware) **DNREC investigating accident at Indian River plant.** Officials are investigating the cause of an accident at the Indian River Generating Station near Millsboro that sent one worker to the hospital and forced two power units to be taken off-line. According to a spokesperson for NRG Energy which

operates the plant, at around 8:15 on Monday morning an inspection port on an ash silo at the plant failed, causing coal ash to fall to the concrete below, causing a cloud of ash to be created. “We immediately took measures to clean it up — including wetting down the ash pile to prevent any further dusting,” she said. Some ash was believed to have left the plant area in a cloud-like form, but was away from nearby homes and businesses. A spokesperson for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) said crews began working to suppress any hazardous output as soon as a problem was discovered. “Remedial spraying was to continue throughout the day against “fugitive dust,” which is normal procedure for the Indian River power plant,” he said. The NRG spokesperson said one worker who inhaled dust from the dropped ash was taken to an area medical center for evaluation. Officials from DNREC, the Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Company, U.S. Coast Guard, and representatives from emergency response units for Millsboro and Sussex County were informed of the accident. To facilitate repairs, two of the plant’s four units were taken off-line for the time being. With the units shut down, additional ash will not be entering the silo. Repairs on the plant are expected to take several days. The DNREC spokesperson said it is investigating the incident, and NRG will have to submit an incident report to the state to determine if any enforcement action is warranted.

Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20090729/DCP01/90729016/-1/DW/DNREC-investigating-accident-at-Indian-River-plant>

2. *July 29, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Pair charged with theft of electrical wire.** Police arrested a Winchester, Massachusetts couple on July 28 on charges they stole \$6,000 in electrical wire from a National Grid substation. Police were called to the scene at 5:39 a.m. when a neighbor reported a suspicious car on Marshall Court and found a man, 36, outside a black Chevrolet loading what was later identified as heavy-gauge electrical wiring, while a woman waited inside the car. A patrolman said officers at the scene found “numerous sections of heavy-gauge electrical wire,” and additional sections were nearby. A National Grid employee responded to the substation and identified the wire. He valued the stolen wire at \$6,000, but because the entire spool of wire was damaged and unusable, the actual loss is \$16,000. Police said the man got into the substation by cutting a portion of the nearby fence. A pair of bolt cutters was found at the scene. Both people were charged with larceny and possession of burglary tools. The man was also charged with breaking and entering in the nighttime to commit a felony and malicious destruction of property. She was charged with using a motor vehicle in a felony and accessory before the fact.

Source: http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_209234051.html

3. *July 28, InformationWeek* – (National) **Black Hat: Smart meter worm attack planned.** An employee of IOActive intends to unleash a worm on a smart meter at the Black Hat security conference on July 30. Smart grid, the emerging power distribution infrastructure upgrade, may not be the bright idea its name suggests. In the rush to modernize the way electricity moves, security appears to be an afterthought. At Black Hat on July 30, the employee, a senior security consultant with IOActive, plans to conduct a worm attack on a smart meter, a part of the smart grid that is being installed at consumers’ homes around the country. The worm, he claims, can copy itself from one

smart meter to the next in a neighborhood, ultimately causing power outages and rendering the smart meter inoperable. “Many of the security vulnerabilities we found are pretty frightening and most smart meters don’t even use encryption or ask for authentication before carrying out sensitive functions like running software updates and severing customers from the power grid,” he said in a statement. The IOActive president and CEO said much the same thing in March when he testified before the Committee of Homeland Security and the Department of Homeland Security. “Based on our research and the ability to easily introduce serious threats, IOActive believes that the relative security immaturity of the smart grid and AMI markets warrants the adoption of proven industry best practices including the requirement of independent third-party security assessments of all smart grid technologies that are being proposed for deployment in the nation’s critical infrastructure,” he said.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=218700250>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *July 29, Columbus Dispatch* – (Ohio) **At least 8 workers injured in blast at explosives plant.** Authorities are continuing to dig into the cause of a blast that injured eight employees — one critically — at a Vinton County explosives plant on July 28. Medical helicopters were summoned to the Austin Powder Co. to fly three injured employees to Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, the sheriff’s office said. Other injured workers were treated at the scene, the Associated Press said. The state fire marshal’s office and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were investigating the blast at the rural plant, which sits along Rt. 677. Investigators were awaiting the all-clear by an ATF explosives specialist before examining the remains of the building that was flattened by the explosion, said the spokesman for the state fire marshal. The company’s transportation manager said the explosion occurred in a building where detonator cordage, a kind of explosive fuse material, is made. The plant, located about 60 miles south of Columbus on a sparsely populated back-country road east of McArthur, manufactures industrial blasting agents.

Source:

http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/07/29/powder.ART_ART_07-29-09_B3_2AEK5FF.html?sid=101

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

5. *July 27, WLAJ 3 Lansing* – (Michigan) **State police investigating weekend breaking and entering at Classic Turning Inc.** Michigan State Police are investigating a larceny that occurred over the weekend at Classic Turning Inc., 3000 E. South St. in Jackson County. Officers were dispatched to the manufacturing plant on July 25 after a reported breaking and entering incident. A production manager said several thousand dollars worth of equipment was stolen, including four computer monitors, a laptop and a television. He said several vending machines were destroyed. A State Police trooper said an investigation is ongoing and suspects have been identified. He did not have a total cost for damages and missing items on July 27 but estimated it is over a couple thousand.
Source: <http://www.wlaj.com/news/-16492--.html>
6. *July 27, KVIA 7 El Paso* – (Texas) **Firefighters put out blaze at Vinton metals factory.** It took firefighters more than three hours to get a fire at a metals yard in Vinton under control. The fire broke out on July 26 in the middle of the plant in the 8200 block of Doniphan. No one was hurt. Eleven trucks were called out, and at least 40 firefighters were on the scene. Fire officials have still not said or determined what caused the blaze.
Source: <http://www.kvia.com/Global/story.asp?S=10796421>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *July 28, Virginian-Pilot* – (National) **Military kills mini-sub effort, repair cost too high.** The U.S. Special Operations Command has canceled its mini-submarine program, a project designed to deliver Navy commandos close to their target and protect them on the way. Northrop Grumman's Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS) hit numerous hurdles since it was conceived in the late 1990s. The latest, in November, was a fire that burned for six hours while the sub's batteries were charging at a Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, shipyard. The command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, said in a news release that it would scrap ASDS altogether rather than pay for repairs that would take almost three years. The fire affected all of the boat's operating systems, the release said, damaging its sonar, motor, controllers, anchor, battery system and hull. The repair price, \$237 million, dwarfed the command's \$57 million budget for the mini-sub program. A 2003 General Accounting Office report said the program, which initially called for six vessels, was six years behind schedule and almost 300 percent over budget. Only one sub was delivered to the military. In 2006, the rest of the vessels were canceled.
Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2009/07/navy-kills-minisub-effort-calls-repair-cost-too-high>
8. *July 28, Online Defense and Acquisition Journal* – (National) **Heinz smacks Pratt over F-135 costs.** The Chief of Naval Operations used the roll-out ceremony of the carrier version of the Joint Strike Fighter to send a stark message about the planes to Lockheed

Martin and its suppliers: “They must — they absolutely must — be delivered on time and on budget.” The reason is simple. The Navy’s F/A-18s are being flown at higher rates than originally planned and they are wearing out. Several senior defense lawmakers have been pressing the Navy to admit to a “fighter gap” and commit to buying more F/A-18s, but the service has essentially pointed to the F-35C and said it is buying that plane and it will be on time. In other JSF news, the program’s top officer, a Marine Brigadier General, took Pratt and Whitney to task for quality control problems with its F-135 engine that have resulted in up to 50 percent of parts being thrown away because they do not meet the high standards required by the JSF program. “I am pushing very hard on Pratt to do better,” he said about cost increases in the engine program. He said he expects the company to improve to the point where 80 percent of parts meet his standards. His criticism comes at a crucial point in the debate over the second engine program, with the Presidential Administration pressing to kill the F-136 and the Senate having voted last week to do just that.

Source: <http://www.dodbuzz.com/2009/07/28/heinz-smacks-pratt-over-f-135-costs/>

See also: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4209834&c=AME&s=AIR>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *July 29, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Billionaire Boys Club execs accused in \$53M Ponzi scheme.** The promises made by the Billionaire Boys Club investment firm were annual returns of 8 percent to 12 percent and no management fees. Money could be withdrawn at any time. But the only people who benefited from the Southfield-based business were the two men running it and their families, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The two men are charged by the SEC with running a Ponzi scheme that defrauded 440 investors of \$53.2 million since 2006. The men had told investors that their profits would result from real estate investments. Instead, the duo used \$11.3 million from recent investors to pay the high returns of earlier investors, said the SEC in a release issued on July 28. Of the \$53.2 million invested with them, the men spent \$7.2 million on themselves and \$14 million for soliciting new clients, said the SEC. That left the firm with \$20.7 million to invest in real estate, but the firm owes \$128 million on the highly leveraged properties, said the SEC. “In short, the fraud defendants have run BBC (Billionaire Boys Club) Equities into the ground,” the SEC said in a complaint. “Their malfeasance has rendered it financially insolvent.”
Source: [http://www.detnews.com/article/20090729/METRO02/907290372/Feds--Two-lived-lavishly-on-investors--\\$53-million](http://www.detnews.com/article/20090729/METRO02/907290372/Feds--Two-lived-lavishly-on-investors--$53-million)
10. *July 29, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Dozens charged in \$40 million mortgage-fraud scheme.** Forty-one people have been charged with taking part in a \$40 million mortgage-fraud scheme, federal authorities said on July 28 in Miami. An acting U.S. attorney said the fraud involved a network of fake purchasers, crooked mortgage brokers and cooperative bank employees who arranged for inflated mortgages. In mortgage-fraud scams typical during the boom, a team of mortgage professionals, often including attorneys, mortgage brokers and appraisers, would pay stand-in buyers to use their identities to get mortgages for the purchase of inflated properties. They would often

never make payments on the loans and the homes would soon enter foreclosure. At a news conference, acting U.S. attorney said the 41 people, all but one are from South Florida, were the most recent in an investigation of mortgage fraud that began in September 2007 with a multiagency task force, including the U.S. Secret Service, the Postal Inspection Service, FBI, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and state and local police agencies. Others involved in the scam included title agents and attorneys, the acting U.S. attorney said.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/broward/story/1161591.html>

11. *July 29, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio Chase bank building evacuated in scare over device used to cut off long-winded speakers.** Thousands of people in Ohio cleared out of JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s largest office complex because of a device normally meant to clear a podium. An evacuation was launched on July 28 at Chase's McCoy Center in Columbus when an employee reported a suspicious item in a conference room. The Columbus Fire Captain says it was a black box with lights, wires and a timer. A Chase spokesman says investigators eventually learned it was a timing device for use in presentations. He says the lights warn a speaker when it is time to wrap up. Fire officials say during the evacuation, several people were overcome by summer heat in the parking lot and were treated by paramedics.

Source: <http://www.fox8.com/news/sns-ap-us-odd--timer-scare,0,496739.story>

12. *July 28, MarketWatch* – (Arizona) **SEC files charges in alleged \$197 million mortgage fraud.** The Securities and Exchange Commission said on July 28 it has charged four individuals and a Phoenix-based company with securities fraud for raising more than \$197 million from investors for an alleged mortgage-lending scheme. The SEC said in a statement that its complaint, filed in federal court in Phoenix, charges Radical Bunny LLC and its four managing members with falsely telling investors that their funds would be used by Mortgages Ltd. for commercial real-estate development, when in fact the money was ultimately used for a small range of risky loans. "Even to friends and family, they repeatedly overstated the safety of the investment and their knowledge of the underlying business to which they lent investor funds," said the director of the SEC's Los Angeles office, in a statement. The SEC alleges that the four used semi-annual meetings at a luxury golf resort in Scottsdale, Arizona, to persuade attendees to invest in Radical Bunny, while ignoring the fact that the investors' money was being shifted into riskier projects.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/sec-sues-over-alleged-197-million-mortgage-fraud-2009-07-28>

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Transportation Sector

13. *July 29, Charter X* – (National) **FAA to reconsider Air Tour Operator maintenance.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a Notice of New Task Assignment for the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) to develop maintenance requirements for aircraft used in commercial air-tour operations as covered in 14 CFR Part 136–Commercial Air Tours and National Parks Air Tour Management.

The FAA has published the notice to solicit membership for a new Commercial Air Tour Maintenance Working Group to support the ARAC on the new task. The initiative is in response to National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommendations. Current FAA regulations require that air carrier air-tour operators under Parts 121 and 135 (with aircraft certified for a passenger seating configuration, excluding any pilot seat, of 10 seats or more) are required to have a maintenance quality assurance system, a maintenance training program and a required inspection program. Similar requirements do not exist for aircraft operated under Parts 91 and 135 (with nine or fewer passenger seats), and that is the target of the working group. The NTSB recommended implementation of a safety system to monitor and analyze the inspection and maintenance procedures and provide model specific helicopter maintenance training to mechanics through a formal training program.

Source: <http://www.charterx.com/resources/article.aspx?id=4626>

14. *July 29, Newsday* – (New York) **Source: Bomb threats closed Long Beach bridge, LIRR station.** Two predawn bomb threats July 29 disrupted traffic to and from Long Beach, forcing the police to shut down the city's major bridge and its Long Island Rail Road station, according to a source familiar with the investigation. Nassau police got two separate calls, one saying there were 15 bombs in the train station, and a later call saying there were bombs on the bridge, the source said. Police divers checked the bridge pillars to make sure there were no explosives and the bridge was reopened by 9 a.m., the source said. The city learned of the threats before dawn, the Long Beach City manager said. The shutdown of the bridge and railroad caused a nightmarish commute. "The Nassau police called me at 5 a.m. to tell me that they were closing the bridge due to a bomb threat, and the Nassau County bomb squad was going do to a sweep of the bridge," he said. The police also closed the Long Island Rail Road bridge for several hours. It reopened at around 8 a.m., he said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/bomb-threat-closes-long-beach-bridge-1.1334193>

15. *July 29, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Rock slide near Seward forces railroad to stop trains.** A rock slide apparently caused by heavy rains on the Kenai Peninsula covered the tracks outside of Seward on July 27, prompting the Alaska Railroad to suspend its train services south to Seward on July 29, the railroad said in a statement. The extent of damage from the slide, which took place near Divide at railroad mile 11, was not immediately known. The obstruction was discovered about 11 a.m. July 28, as a passenger train approaching Seward was forced to stop, she said. The passengers were off-loaded and shuttled the rest of the way on their trip. The track will remain closed while crews prepare to clear it and to assess the potential for further slides, a railroad spokeswoman said. It was not known how long that would take. The Glacier Discovery train between Anchorage, Whittier, Portage and Grandview was not affected. The spokeswoman said she did not think any freight trains had been impacted either.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/kenai/story/879712.html>

16. *July 28, Bazorria County Facts* – (Texas) **First-responders prep for school incident.** In a Special Tactics and Response (S.T.A.R.) team drill of the Clute, Texas, police

department on June 22, a bus in the Brazoswood High School parking lot is full of students from 12 to 17 years old and being “terrorized” by a lone gunman. The man is “father” to one of the students and going through a divorce and a child custody dispute. “This drill has never been done before, and with the problems today with student shootings in the past several years, it has become a major concern of ours,” the drill’s lead operative said. “New legislation is in the works, but not passed yet, that would allow for concealed handguns on school premises. We want to be prepared so as not to be caught off guard.” Involved in the drill were members of the S.T.A.R. squad, Clute’s police, EMS and fire departments.

Source: <http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=97dbd333895f00bd>

17. *July 28, Newport News Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Colonial Parkway remains closed near Jamestown; bridge to be inspected.** Federal Highway Administration engineers will begin inspecting the Powhatan Creek Bridge today to determine how to repair the structure after it was damaged by a suspected hit-and-run boater, Colonial National Historical Park officials said July 28. The National Park Service and Virginia Marine Police continue to investigate the incident and look for the boat that severely damaged one of the 52-year-old bridge’s support pilings, said a spokesman for the Colonial National Historical Park. On July 24 recreational boaters notified the parks service of the damage to the bridge. After park service officials inspected the support piling, they decided to close Colonial Parkway to through traffic between Route 199/Kingspoint Drive and Route 359 near Jamestown Road for safety reasons.
Source: http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-local_parkwaybridge_0728jul29,0,4856787.story
18. *July 28, Aviation Herald* – (International) **Lufthansa B744 near Gander on Jul 27th 2009, smoke in cockpit.** The crew of a Lufthansa Boeing 747-400, performing flight LH-431 from Chicago O’Hare, Illinois to Frankfurt/Main Germany, declared emergency reporting smoke in the cockpit while en route at FL360 80nm north of Gander, New Foundland, Canada. The crew decided to divert to Gander, where the airplane landed safely 20 minutes later.
Source: <http://avherald.com/h?article=41d630e4&opt=4865>
19. *July 28, Franklin Park Herald-Journal* – (Illinois) **TSA to begin commuter train patrols.** Metra riders will soon see security teams from the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) patrolling on commuter trains in the Chicago area, according to a news release. The effort is not in response to a specific threat but rather is part of a “collective and proactive strategy” to provide a safe environment for Metra riders and the Chicago community. The teams work in partnership with local security and law enforcement officials to augment existing security resources, provide deterrent presence and detection capabilities, and introduce an element of unpredictability to disrupt potential terrorist planning activities. The patrols, known as Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) teams, can consist of federal air marshals, transportation security officers, TSA-certified canine teams, surface transportation security inspectors and local/state law enforcement officers. The teams have been trained on rail safety by attending classes Metra holds for police and fire departments

across the region. They will coordinate their efforts with the Metra Police Department and the police departments of Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Sante Fe.

Source: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/franklinpark/news/1690076,franklin-park-metra-073009-s1.article>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *July 28, Johnston Tribune Democrat* – (Pennsylvania) **Biohazard drill deemed a success.** An exercise to test the biohazard detection system at the U.S. Postal Service Processing and Distribution Center in Richland Township, Pennsylvania, went off without a hitch late Tuesday afternoon. Dozens of emergency responders with the Richland Township Fire Department and Cambria County's hazardous-materials team joined local postal officials and postal inspectors from Pittsburgh in conducting the drill at the facility. The drill began with a simulated alert of the system, which is installed on mail-processing equipment at the facility and samples the air, said the postal inspector in charge of the drill. The postal inspector said the Postal Service periodically conducts drills at all processing and distribution centers to protect its employees and give them the experience of working with the emergency responders. The Johnstown Postmaster said there has never been a hazardous materials incident in Johnstown.

Source: http://www.tribune-democrat.com/local/local_story_209234200.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *July 29, Wisconsin Ag Connection* – (Iowa; Wisconsin) **Schultz asked Doyle for assistance in Grant, Lafayette Counties.** The former chairman of the Wisconsin State Senate Agriculture Committee is asking the Wisconsin governor to 'make any and all' state and federal assistance available to people affected by last week's storm damage to that area. The Senator says he toured parts of both counties this week and believes the damage is sufficient enough to warrant a secretarial designation for assistance. The Richland Center Republican says this type of weather could not have hit at a worse time for these farmers and farm-based communities, who are also struggling with very low commodity prices this summer. On July 24, an estimated 20,000 acres of corn sustained hail and wind damage, while about 10,000 acres of soybeans were lost. Officials say it will be days before they know the full impact of the storm, which created two tornadoes, torrential rains and hail. In addition to the crop damage, five buildings were destroyed by straight-line winds, mostly in rural Shullsburg and in the eastern town of New Diggings. Officials from Lafayette County Emergency Management say they will also likely pursue federal disaster assistance. According to the Des Moines Register, Northeast Iowa counties will likely ask the state for a disaster declaration after a hailstorm late July 24 and 25 damaged 330,000 acres of crops in Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette and Winneshiek counties. "The damage to crops is in the millions," the Fayette County Emergency Management Coordinator said. Fayette County took the brunt of the storm. The County extension director said about 85 percent of the crops in the county

were destroyed. He noted that the dairy farms that dot the area were particularly hard-hit.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.php?Id=902&yr=2009>

See also:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090729/BUSINESS/90728034/1029>

22. *July 28, Wall Street Journal* – (Texas) **Texas scorched by worst drought in 50 years.** A combination of record-high heat and record-low rainfall has pushed south and central Texas into the region's deepest drought in a half century, with \$3.6 billion of crop and livestock losses piling up during the past nine months. The heat wave has drastically reduced reservoirs and forced about 230 public water systems to declare mandatory water restrictions. Lower levels in lakes and rivers have been a blow to tourism, too, making summer boating, swimming and fishing activities impossible in some places. "Summed up in one word: devastating," the Texas Agriculture Commissioner said. Nearly 80 of Texas' 254 counties are in "extreme" or "exceptional" drought, the worst possible levels on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's index. Though other states are experiencing drought, no counties in the continental U.S. outside Texas currently register worse than "severe." Texas is the nation's top producer of cattle and cotton and a leading provider of other crops. But many other areas of the U.S. have received normal or above-average rainfall this year, mitigating the potential for more widespread economic fallout as abundant crops elsewhere make up for losses in Texas. "If we don't get rain by early September, it could be trouble," said a past president of the National Cattleman's Beef Association. Assistance from the federal government should start later this fall, when \$3 billion of aid starts flowing from a \$290 billion farm bill passed by Congress in 2008. Another federal program that provides money to ranchers who lost calves due to the drought began earlier this month. But Texas leaders have complained the aid is not coming soon enough, given the severity of the losses.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124872939604384837.html>
23. *July 28, Grand Rapids Press and Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Infected plants destroyed and pose no danger after blueberry viruses discovered in West Michigan.** State officials have identified two blueberry plant diseases in West Michigan that could cause lower yields if both spread, the Michigan Department of Agriculture announced on July 27. Blueberry shock was discovered in a research plot at Michigan State University's (MSU) Trevor Nichols Research Complex near Fennville, and blueberry scorch virus was found at a West Michigan farm. The infected plants have been destroyed, and the state Department of Agriculture and MSU are testing adjacent areas to verify the diseases have not spread. State officials declined to identify the farm. Identifying the two diseases is unsettling in a state leading the nation in blueberry production, with 110 million pounds of berries worth about \$124 million produced last year.
Source: http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2009/07/infected_plants_destroyed_and.html
24. *July 27, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Explosion in Ogden leaves three with burns.** An explosion at Wasatch Chemical in Ogden has left three people with face and head burns.

The business, which subleases space in the American Nutrition's dog-food plant building, received a shipment of petroleum ether earlier Monday. When employees opened it, they noticed one of the canisters was bulging. They attempted to get the canister out of the building, but it exploded before they could, said the Ogden deputy fire chief. The explosion blew out the doors of the building and left three people burned, two seriously. Two were taken to McKay-Dee Hospital and one to Ogden Regional Medical Center. Another employee extinguished the fire caused by the explosion before crews arrived on the scene, but firefighters were checking the building to assess damage and make sure there was no other fire threat.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_12923944?source=rss

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Water Sector

25. *July 28, Water Technology Online* – (Michigan) **Utility boss suspended for allegedly stealing water.** Lincoln Park's top water supervisor as well as eight Lincoln Park Department of Public Services workers have been suspended with pay for their alleged roles in a scheme to steal water from the city, the News Herald reported July 25. The city manager said that an internal investigation has revealed a large, yet unknown, amount of stolen water. He said based on evidence, the theft could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. An employee, who works as the city's supervisor for water/sewer issues in the Department of Public Services, was suspended in mid-July in connection with the water-stealing scheme. The most recent suspensions took place July 22. According to the report, all are accused of tampering with their home water meters to avoid paying for water over several years. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is conducting a separate probe to determine whether criminal charges will be filed, the report said.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72312

26. *July 28, Lincoln Journal Star* – (Nebraska) **Suspected ammonia spill kills fish in Little Blue River.** Two state agencies are looking for the source of a chemical spill in the Little Blue River that killed thousands of fish downstream from Hebron. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality believes the contaminant is ammonia from agricultural fertilizer, said an agency spokesman. Investigators were working on July 28 to estimate the number of dead fish, but they knew enough to characterize the kill as extensive. The contamination plume remained lethal in an eight-mile stretch downstream from Hebron. DEQ has not banned human access to the river or posted health warnings. Once released, ammonia dissipates in the air and the water. DEQ has authority to levy civil fines against polluters, and additional fees could be assessed for the value of the fish. To do so, however, they must trace the contamination to a specific source. Some fish kills, for example, are caused by runoff from multiple sources, making it impossible to blame the contamination on a single polluter. Investigators from DEQ and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission began collecting water samples and documenting dead fish on July 25. They remained on the scene through July 27.

Source: http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/article_69bc38f6-7b9a-11de-92d9-001cc4c002e0.html

27. *July 27, Water World* – (California) **U.S. EPA fines city for failing to update risk management plan.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has fined the City of Benicia, California, \$3,250.00 for failing to update and resubmit a federal risk management plan for its water treatment plant, in violation of the nation's Clean Air Act. "Facilities and communities such as Benicia must provide timely and accurate risk management plan information to the EPA," said the associate director for the Pacific Southwest region's Superfund program. "The plans provide important emergency preparedness and response information and help to ensure that industries are doing their part in preventing chemical accidents." According to the EPA, the Bay Area community of Benicia failed to do the following: analyze and report one worst-case release scenario; establish a Process Hazard Analyses procedure to update and revalidate the PHA every five years; establish and implement written procedures to maintain the on-going integrity of the process equipment, consistent with good engineering practices; certify compliance with the provisions of the prevention program at least every three years; review and update the Risk Management Plan and submit it to EPA for a five-year update.
- Source: http://www.waterworld.com/index/display/article-display/9519145062/s-articles/s-waterworld/s-water-utility_management/s-u_s_-epa_fines_city.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *July 29, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Pool upkeep is down, giving West Nile a chance to spread.** Local experts say the number of neglected swimming pools — a haven for mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile virus — is undoubtedly on the rise. They attribute the increase to the economy. The number of desolate pools in Lake County has doubled in just a few years, said an etymologist, whose company is contracted to perform aerial inspections locally for the Lake County Health Department and for the Southlake Mosquito Abatement District. Buffalo Grove also has seen an estimated twofold jump, said the deputy building commissioner and health officer for the village. Clarke Mosquito Control sometimes has retrieved as many as 100 mosquitoes in the small amount of water used to test one pool. A pool that contaminated could increase the number of mosquitoes in a neighborhood tenfold, experts said.
- Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-swimming-pool-mosquitoes-29-jul29,0,6295254.story>
29. *July 27, IT Business Edge* – (Washington) **Fire prompts call for more redundancy in hospital network.** The recent fire and electrical outage at Seattle's Fisher Plaza data center took down a number of Web sites, but it also severed connections for the hospital records and communications services for hospitals and clinics associated with Swedish Medical Center, one of the largest hospital systems in the area. TechFlash reports the facilities lost connection to electronic medical records, Internet, e-mail services and in some cases, phone and pager service for 4.5 hours on July 3. Though its 30 primary care clinics were closed for the July 4 holiday, the outage affected three hospitals, an emergency center, and a visiting-nurse program. Calling the episode "a wake-up call,"

the hospital is working to add more redundancy to its emergency plans.

Source: <http://www.itbusinessedge.com/cm/community/news/bam/blog/fire-prompts-call-for-more-redundancy-in-hospital-network/?cs=34465>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *July 29, Bloomberg* – (District of Columbia) **Five Senate pages may have swine flu, Senate official says.** Five Senate pages may have caught the H1N1 virus, and are being quarantined, the Senate Sergeant at Arms told lawmakers in a memo Tuesday night. The Capitol's Office of Attending Physician is not testing the pages for the virus because the test is "uncomfortable" and the treatment would not be altered by the findings, the Senate Sergeant at Arms said in his memo, obtained by Bloomberg. A spokesman for the Senate Majority Leader confirmed the memo's authenticity. "The pages are resting comfortably apart from their peers and will not be allowed to return to work until cleared by the physician's office," the Senate Sergeant at Arms said. "While it is not unusual for several pages in a class of 50 to be ill at any given time, we are aware that the flu is of particular concern to our community right now." The Senate Sergeant at Arms said his office does not plan to take further action at this time.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=auqcJIGjVUM>
31. *July 29, United Press International* – (California) **Calif. woman charged in lab vandalism.** A woman fired from the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park, California, was responsible for nearly \$500,000 in vandalism there, the FBI says. An incident in which thousands of frozen specimens were taken from a cold-storage tank and left out to melt had puzzled investigators, who found mocking notes that made it appear a man had been responsible for the acts, the San Francisco Chronicle reported July 22. But on July 27 federal officials charged a 32 year-old woman with willfully injuring and depredating U.S. property in the incident. She was referred to as a disgruntled former employee who felt overworked and fought with her supervisors at the lab, which is operated by Stanford University for the U.S. Department of Energy. The vandalism, which has been valued at almost \$500,000, included the removal of crystal samples from three cryogenic containers and placing them on a lab table. Affixed to the samples were Post-it notes on which was written "Performed by X Black," the date, references to sex acts, and smiley faces, officials said in an affidavit. An FBI Special Agent said in the affidavit that the woman admitted to the vandalism.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/07/29/Calif-woman-charged-in-lab-vandalism/UPI-96871248870340/
32. *July 28, Tacoma News Tribune* – (Oregon) **Depot hit by fire, chemical weapons leak.** Both a brush fire and an unrelated leak of mustard chemical agent vapor inside a storage igloo were reported at the Umatilla Chemical Depot Monday. At no time did the public appear to be in danger. The fire burned along the south end of the depot near Interstate 84 Monday afternoon, which is not close to the area where chemical weapons are stored. It was reported about 1 p.m. and firefighters were mopping up hot spots Monday evening. Firefighters from the Boardman and Hermiston fire departments helped the

depot fire department. Earlier in the day trace amounts of mustard chemical agent vapor were detected for the sixth time this year inside an igloo. The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is making progress in incinerating the mustard, a blister agent developed as a weapon, and its containers. It has incinerated 37 of the ton-containers that hold the mustard agent and has about 2,600 left. Each container holds about 1,400 to 1,800 pounds of mustard agent and 45,415 pounds of it have been destroyed so far. The leak detected was the third leak of a mustard container within a storage igloo this month, following two leaks in May and one in June.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/northwest/story/825817.html>

33. *July 28, Kingsport Times News* – (Tennessee) **City hall workers evacuated in Johnson City, again.** For the second time within a week, the lower level of City Hall in Johnson, Tennessee, was evacuated and several employees were again transported to the hospital after complaining of headaches and nausea, similar to symptoms experienced by employees last Thursday. The Johnson City Fire Department Assistant Chief said crews were called to City Hall just before 10 a.m. Monday regarding the reports of employees feeling ill. Ventilation systems were closed in areas of the building and an assessment was conducted to measure for carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, the fire chief said. It was initially reported at the scene that six City Hall employees had been transported to the hospital. However, a Mountain States Health Alliance spokesman said the hospital received three patients, all of whom were treated and released by Monday afternoon. More than 30 other employees were checked as a precautionary measure, the fire chief said. Because carbon monoxide is an odorless gas, the fire chief said the strange odor reported by employees is still a mystery. However, he said he had received no reports of the odor from fire officials. City Hall doors were opened up Monday and the building was being ventilated by fans and its HVAC system. The fire chief said he expects monitoring to continue over the next several days, with additional monitors to be brought in today. He also said he anticipates employees being able to return to work of the lower level of City Hall today.

Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9015572>

For another story, see item [16](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *July 29, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **New York shut out of \$1 billion fund.** The federal government handed out \$1 billion Tuesday to law-enforcement agencies for extra police officers, and almost immediately got flak from one big city that missed out: New York. The city's police force, the largest in the nation, is not getting a dime of the money set aside in the \$787 billion stimulus plan to help employ extra officers. Guam will get more, as will smaller cities in upstate New York. The New York Police Department has around 35,600 officers, down from more than 40,000 a decade ago. Among other cities that will not get money from this slice of the federal stimulus are Houston, Phoenix and Pittsburgh. Winners include Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Washington, Detroit, Baltimore, Miami and Dallas, which all are getting money to hire

up to 50 additional officers, according to a list of grants released Tuesday. Stimulus funds will cover the local entry-level salary and benefits of the officers for three years if the departments promise to retain the positions at least one more year.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124878789028286739.html>

35. *July 29, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Napolitano to unveil new antiterror plans.** The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security is expected to outline Wednesday the Administration's domestic approach to preventing terrorist attacks — a strategy that will rely in large measure on refining and expanding initiatives launched under the previous President. On Wednesday, the Homeland Security Secretary will outline a strategy to prevent terrorism that incorporates officials at every level of government nationwide, the first major statement on counterterrorism strategy from the new Administration. One element of the new approach will be the expansion of a pilot program started during the previous Administration to train police to report such suspicious behavior as the theft of keys from a facility that keeps radiological waste.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124882460649888397.html>
36. *July 29, WFOR 4 Miami* – (Florida) **Anti-terrorism drills to take place across S. Fla.** Law enforcement officers across South Florida chased down “terrorists” on Wednesday in a large scale anti-terrorism drill. Beginning at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, the Region 7 Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force, comprised of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe County agencies, participated in the training exercise called “Operation Cassandra.” The objective of “Operation Cassandra” is to test the regions resources, response and capabilities during a simulated threat by a fictitious terrorist group directed at multiple locations simultaneously throughout South Florida. Dozens of law enforcement agencies and medical facilities teamed up for the operation.
Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/anti.terror.drill.2.1104601.html>
37. *July 28, WKBW 7 Buffalo* – (New York) **Sprinklers activated again in new jail.** The sprinkler system in a new jail in Niagara Falls, New York, has now been tampered with five times. According to the Niagara Falls police chief, the first time around, it took a little time to react to it, and turn off the system. The cell and the block were hit by the flood. Since then they have had four more incidents. Officials think inmates are passing along information on how to do it. After the second time, they realized they had a problem on their hands. They have a new sprinkler head. It is already being tested in another cell. The sprinklers should be in soon, and will be paid for by Niagara Falls.
Source: <http://www.wkbw.com/news/local/51935602.html>

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Information Technology

38. *July 28, IDG News Service* – (International) **iPhone SMS attack to be unleashed at Black Hat.** Apple has just over a day left to patch a bug in its iPhone software that could let hackers take over the iPhone, just by sending out an SMS (Short Message Service) message. The bug was discovered by a noted iPhone hacker, who first talked about the issue at the SyScan conference in Singapore. At the time, he said he had

discovered a way to crash the iPhone via SMS, and that he thought that the crash could ultimately lead to working attack code. Since then he has been working hard, and he now says he has been able to take over the iPhone with a series of malicious SMS messages. In an interview on July 28, he said he will show how this can be done during a presentation at the Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas on July 30 with another security researcher. “SMS is an incredible attack vector for mobile phones,” said an analyst with Independent Security Evaluators. “All I need is your phone number. I don’t need you to click a link or anything.” The analyst reported the flaw to Apple about six weeks ago, but the iPhone maker has yet to release a patch for the issue. Apple representatives could not be reached for comment, but the company typically keeps quiet about software flaws until it releases a patch.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/169245/iphone_sms_attack_to_be_unleashed_at_black_hat.html

39. *July 28, SC Magazine* – (International) **Browser SSL warnings shown to be ineffective.** New research shows that Secure Socket Layer (SSL) warnings, used in web browsers to indicate a problem with a web page’s certificate or the potential for a man-in-the-middle (MITM) attack, are ineffective. “The big takeaway is that computer security warnings are not an effective way of addressing computer security,” a study researcher and co-author, an associate professor of computer science, engineering and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University, told SCMagazineUS.com on July 28. “People don’t read warnings and don’t understand them when they do read them.” The study, conducted by Carnegie Mellon University researchers during 2008, tested 400 internet users’ behaviors when SSL warnings were displayed on Firefox 2, 3 and Internet Explorer 7. Researchers wrote a paper based on the study called, “Crying Wolf: An Empirical Study of SSL Warning Effectiveness” and will present their findings August 14 at the USENIX Security Symposium in Montreal. The study found that the different web browsers had different approaches to dealing with warnings, and that Firefox (3.0) made it more difficult for users to override the warnings and proceed to the page, the researcher said. But, still the warnings on all three browsers were largely ineffective, and one browser did not manage to communicate the risks any better than another. By not paying attention to SSL warnings, or being unable to understand them, a user is more susceptible to falling for phishing attacks, the researcher said. The worse-case scenario is when an attacker has launched an MITM attack, and the user connects to a bogus site. If a user gets a warning about an invalid certificate, ignores it, then tries to buy something on the site, the user could be handing their credit card information over to attackers.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Browser-SSL-warnings-shown-to-be-ineffective/article/140717/>

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/>.

Communications Sector

40. *July 29, The Register* – (International) **BIND crash bug prompts urgent update call.** A vulnerability in BIND creates a means for miscreants to crash vulnerable Domain Name System servers, posing a threat to overall internet stability as a result. Exploits targeted at BIND (Berkeley Internet Name Domain Server) version 9 are already in circulation, warns the Internet Software Consortium, the group which develops the software. ISC urges sys admins to upgrade immediately, to defend against the “high risk” bug. Sys admins are urged to upgrade BIND servers to versions 9.4.3-P3, 9.5.1-P3 or 9.6.1-P1 of the software, which defend against the flaw. The vulnerability involves BIND servers that act as a master (slave systems are unaffected) and involves problems in dealing with malformed update messages, which can be used to cause a server to crash, as explained in a security alert by ISC. Receipt of a specially-crafted dynamic update message to a zone for which the server is the master may cause BIND 9 servers to exit. Testing indicates that the attack packet has to be formulated against a zone for which that machine is a master. Launching the attack against slave zones does not trigger the assert. BIND is used on a great majority of DNS servers on the Internet. DNS maps between easy-to-remember domain names, understood by humans, and their corresponding numerical IP addresses, needed by computers. Simply put, the system can be compared to a phone book for the internet. Playing with this system creates a means to possibly derail surfing and email delivery, among many other undesirable effects. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/07/29/bind_flaw/
41. *July 29, Times Herald-Record* – (New York) **Worker disables several Sullivan County offices’ phones, authorities say.** A Hyde Park man working for the company that services the Sullivan County sheriff’s telephone network and other county lines knocked out the system July 10, putting “the public in danger,” according to the sheriff’s office. A 55-year-old is accused of logging in remotely that evening and disabling the system. He was an employee for Rochester-based FrontRunner Network Systems, which has the contract to maintain the system. He has since been fired, the Undersheriff said. A trace by Verizon telephone technicians came back to the suspect’s residence in Hyde Park. During the outage, callers to the sheriff’s offices in Monticello would get a continuously ringing signal, while the phone would not ring on the other end. The interruption knocked out phones in the jail and patrol divisions. County Court and the district attorney’s office were also affected. Because it was after hours, the outage did not cause many problems to the court and DA’s offices, but did create an emergency for deputies overnight. “This was a serious incident that put the public in danger,” the sheriff said. The network is located in the courthouse basement in Monticello. Deputies and county officials scrambled to restore partial service that evening. Full service was restored the next day. Source: <http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090729/NEWS/907290336>
42. *July 28, Computerworld* – (International) **Data centers go underground.** With a

renewed focus on data center outsourcing and space in high availability facilities in short supply, investors have snapped up and renovated abandoned mines and military bunkers in the hopes of cashing in. An increase in extreme weather events, heightened concerns about security since the September 11th attacks and the need to provide higher levels of security to comply with regulatory requirements have made these spaces more attractive to some organizations. Before deciding to go underground, IT executives need to identify potential limitations, experts say. Ceiling height can be a challenge to providing sufficient airflow. Another concern is that while computer systems may be protected in a bunker, critical infrastructure needed during a disaster, such as generators, fuel tanks, and air conditioning cooling towers, may be above ground. That could be a problem if the catastrophe is a tornado, warns the chief technology officer at Westec Intelligent Surveillance. Another consideration is that these underground facilities tend to be in rural, out-of-the-way locations. The facilities may be too far away from a company's primary data center, and finding local lodging for staff in a disaster situation may be difficult. The vice president and general manager at HP Critical Facilities says that security is the primary benefit of using an underground facility to host a primary or secondary data center. But for most of his clients, the ability to get people to the backup data center in a hurry, connectivity options, and finding a facility that meets budget are priorities. Underground facilities usually do not beat out above-ground sites in his clients' evaluations, he says. The primary benefit of such sites, says an analyst with Gartner Inc., is that they are designed to be highly resilient — often to military specifications. That is important for some government data centers. "But for most commercial enterprises, it probably will not be such a major requirement," he says. Source: <http://www.thestandard.com/news/2009/07/28/data-centers-go-underground?page=0%2C0>

43. *July 27, Network World* – (International) **Cisco's storage team looks to boost IBM mainframe performance, security.** Cisco is trying to enhance storage performance on the IBM mainframe as well as on third-party SAN products with new features added to its MDS 9000 storage networking product line. The goal is to enhance security and accelerate data traffic over distances as great as 20,000 kilometers, halfway around the world, Cisco says. "By improving data security and accelerating data backup and disaster recovery, these new capabilities...help IT organizations build next generation data centers that take advantage of technologies like data replication and virtualization and respond quickly to changing business needs," Cisco said in an announcement on July 27. Various upgrades to Cisco's MDS NX-OS software will be available to partners at the end of July, and should be available to customers in the fall from resellers such as IBM, EMC, HP and NetApp, says Cisco's storage networking software product line manager. A new feature called XRC Acceleration will improve replication speed, the manager says. XRC (also known as z/OS Global Mirror) is a mainframe application that replicates data across distances and is popular with financial institutions. By buffering data at remote sites, Cisco's XRC Acceleration speeds up that replication process, he says. The feature was developed jointly by IBM and Cisco. "This solution accelerates data traffic traveling very long distances over the wide-area network reducing bandwidth consumption and shrinking update windows, while eliminating the need for costly, separate channel extension products," Cisco says.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9135970/Cisco_8217_s_storage_team_looks_to_boost_IBM_mainframe_performance_security

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *July 29, MSNBC* – (National) **Clean beach water? Not always, survey finds.** No improvement found in bacteria sampling of 6,000 U.S. beaches. An annual report released July 29 concluded that beach water quality is not improving across the country. Nationally, 7 percent of water samples in 2008 violated health standards — indicating the presence of human or animal waste, according to the report by the Natural Resources Defense Council. That is zero improvement over 2007 and 2006. The report, compiled using data from the Environmental Protection Agency looked at more than 6,000 beaches and found several states well above that national average of 7 percent: Louisiana (29 percent of samples violated standards). Ohio (19 percent). Indiana (18 percent). Illinois (15 percent). Delaware, New Hampshire and Virginia had the lowest violation rates, all with 1 percent. Orange County, California beaches rate highest. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32172025/ns/us_news-environment/
45. *July 29, Outgames.com* – (International) **Athlete describes bomb attack at World Outgames.** Danish police arrested a 31-year-old man caught after tossing a third bomb and charged him with a hate crime, according to Danish media. The first bombing occurred around 2 p.m. during a men's track event. After a brief delay and with everyone assuming the first blast was a prank, the race was set to resume. A second bomb was tossed. The suspect was carrying a backpack containing another half-dozen or so bombs, a Seattle native and track event participant stated. The Seattle runner was injured by the second bombing and had to under surgery to have shrapnel removed from some of limbs. The devices that exploded on the track were described as being powerful, about nine inches in length, with blue plastic covering and a fuse that burning after it landed. The World Outgames 2009 in Copenhagen, Germany run July 25- August 2. The games host more than 5,000 participants from more than 90 nations, mostly from Europe, North America and Australia. Source: <http://www.outsports.com/os/index.php/component/content/article/52-outgames2009/255-athlete-describes-bomb-attack-at-world-outgames>
46. *July 29, Amarillo Globe News* – (Texas) **Fire closes water park.** More than 100 people in flip-flops and swimsuits stood wrapped in towels in the parking lot on July 28 at Splash Amarillo Water Park in Amarillo, Texas after a two-alarm fire. The fire erupted about 3:45 p.m. in a building that houses the park's concession stand, lockers and some restrooms. The park was closed for the remainder of the day. The Amarillo fire captain said investigators were trying to determine the cause of the blaze, which appeared to have started on the first floor and spread to the attic. The Park president said he thinks the fire broke out in a mechanical room situated between two restrooms. No one was injured. Source: http://www.amarillo.com/stories/072909/new_news1.shtml

47. *July 28, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Pipe bomb found on beach of popular resort town.** Ocean City police say a civilian found an apparent pipe bomb on the beach of the resort town. It happened July 28 at about 1:50 p.m. on 40th Street and the beach. Police evacuated the area for about an hour. Using robotic equipment, technicians with the Ocean City bomb squad successfully removed the device. Technicians found that it was an improvised explosive device and rendered it safe. The incident is under investigation by the Ocean City Fire Marshal's office.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,535192,00.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

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Dams Sector

48. *July 29, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Flood warning issued along the Kenai River.** A glacial dam releasing on the Kenai River prompted the National Weather Service on July 28 to issue a flood advisory downriver of Skilak Lake. Water releasing from the Skilak glacial dam could result in the river reaching or exceeding minor flood levels in Ridgeway, Soldotna, and Sterling, the weather service said. "This water combined with high water from rainfall over the last week and anticipated rainfall over the next few days has caused water levels on the Kenai River from Skilak Lake to near Kenai to rise significantly," the weather service said in its advisory. "The river is expected to crest below official flood stages sometime on Wednesday (July 29)." The advisory, which is in effect until 5 p.m. July 31, was calling for high-water levels of 13.5 feet at the gauge below Skilak Lake and more than 11 feet at the Kenai Keys and Soldotna on July 29. The service was urging that residents, particularly those in the Kenai Keys and Big Eddy areas, take appropriate action to "protect life and property." The advisory expires at 11 a.m. July 30.
Source: <http://www.adn.com/news/environment/flooding/story/879418.html>
49. *July 28, Santa Rosa Press Democrat* – (California) **Test result triggers safety inspection of Warm Springs Dam.** A team of experts called in by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began inspecting Warm Springs Dam on July 28 after a monitoring well showed an unusual increase in the water level at its base. The water level in one of a series of testing wells penetrating the earthen dam rose 14 feet in a week, the Corps said on July 28. It is located near the base of the dam, about 700 feet from the top. Corps officials stressed that no other monitoring device — there are 194 of them — showed anything unusual and a chemical analysis showed the water came from groundwater, not water from the lake. The investigation is being done as a precaution, said a lieutenant

colonel, an engineer and district commander. “There is no concern, the dam is safe, there is no indication of seepage,” he said. Excessive water in earthen dams has the potential to weaken the structures, but engineers said there is no excessive water in Warm Springs Dam.

Source:

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090728/ARTICLES/907289979/0/NEWS>

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