



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 August 2009

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

**Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks**

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

### Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, nine people were killed as a small plane and a sightseeing helicopter collided on Saturday in the skies of Manhattan, New York. (See item [15](#))
- CNN reports that more than 250 inmates were injured in a riot that erupted Saturday night at the California Institution for Men in Chino, California. (See item [30](#))

### Fast Jump Menu

#### PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams Sector](#)

#### SUSTENANCE AND HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water Sector](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

#### SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information and Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

#### FEDERAL AND STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

### 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. *August 7, Reuters* – (Illinois) **CSB sends investigators to probe Exxon Joliet release.** The U.S. Chemical Safety Board said on August 7 that four investigators would go to Exxon Mobil Corp’s Joliet, Illinois, refinery to probe a hydrofluoric acid release that critically injured a worker on August 6. An Exxon spokesman said the company had no comment about the CSB’s decision. “Investigations into the cause of the accident are ongoing,” said an Exxon spokesman. A propane leak at about 12:30 p.m. on August 6 on an alkylation unit at the 238,600 barrel per day (bpd) Joliet

refinery led to the hydrofluoric acid release. Four investigators currently probing a July 19 alkylation unit fire at Citgo Petroleum Corp's Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery, which also released hydrofluoric acid, will examine the Joliet refinery event, said the board spokesman. "There's a general concern that there have been a number of these alkylation unit accidents," he said. "Any time hydrofluoric acid is released, it's a cause for concern."

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0740909720090807>

2. *August 7, Monterey Herald* – (California) **Car, fuel tanker collide on Highway 101; two injured.** A Soledad woman and her child were seriously injured in a head-on collision in Gonzales on August 6 when their car veered into the path of a fuel truck on Highway 101 at Gloria Road in Monterey County. She was driving north on Highway 101 when her car crossed the center divider into the southbound lanes and collided with the fuel truck, which was in the fast lane. Witnesses said the Mitsubishi was being driven erratically before the collision. The fuel tanker, owned by Monterey County Petroleum, received damage to its front end and veered off the right-hand shoulder of the highway after the collision. An engineer of the Gonzales Fire Department said the accident occurred about 8:45 a.m. Three engines from Gonzales, one from Salinas Rural Fire District, and Caltrans crews responded. A CHP spokesman said no drugs or alcohol appear to be involved in the accident.

Source: [http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci\\_13013730?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci_13013730?nclick_check=1)

3. *August 6, Flint Journal* – (Michigan) **Cleanup to begin at site of fire at White Oil Co. in Vienna Township.** Investigators the morning of August 6 planned to be at the site of White Oil Co., where a fire burned for two days and forced the evacuation of about 1,000 residents in Vienna Township, Michigan. The Clio Area fire chief said fire crews were called to the site of the fire on Saginaw Road near Vienna Road late the night of August 5 to put out a small blaze that had flared up in the rubble. Two lanes of Saginaw Road between Tobias and Wilson Road were reopened to allow traffic through. All residents were allowed to return to their homes by noon August 5. The fire began at about 3:30 p.m. on August 4 at one building of White Oil Co. Several drums of chemicals being stored in the building began to explode, with fire balls shooting into the air. One of the chemical drums landed on the roof of another nearby White Oil building and set it on fire. Both buildings were destroyed. The state fire marshal is investigating the cause. Young's Environmental Cleanup also was on scene beginning the contamination cleanup.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2009/08/cleanup\\_to\\_begin\\_at\\_site\\_of\\_fi.ht ml](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2009/08/cleanup_to_begin_at_site_of_fi.ht ml)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *August 9, WLBT 3 Richland* – (Mississippi) **Chemical spill slows traffic for hours.** A chemical spill snarled traffic for hours on August 9 in Rankin County. Around 10 a.m.,

an 18-wheeler pulling two trailers of chemicals was attempting to turn off Interstate Drive onto the northbound lane of Highway 49 in Richland. As the truck pulled onto the highway the load shifted on the back trailer, causing the trailer to roll over, spilling chemicals across the highway. Richland police and fire departments, MDOT and the U.S. Environmental Service responded to the mess. The northbound lanes were shut down as crews worked to clean the spill. The highway was reopened around 3:30 that afternoon. No one was injured.

Source: <http://www.wlbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10874438>

5. *August 7, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Chemical spill closes Interstate 71.** Interstate 71 southbound was closed at Crestwood for about 2.5 hours on August 7 after a truck driver discovered his rig was leaking a flammable chemical product near the intersection with the Gene Snyder Freeway. Crews from the Worthington Fire Department stopped the leak from a 55-gallon drum, and a contractor was called in to clean up the product, said a battalion chief with the fire department. He said there were no injuries. The incident was reported to authorities about 7:45 a.m. Emergency officials termed it a Category 2 hazardous materials spill, in a ranking system that goes from 1 to 4, with 4 being the most serious.  
Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20090807/NEWS01/908070383/1008/Chemical+spill+closes+Interstate+71>
6. *August 6, Montgomery County News* – (Texas) **Train derailment, hazmat situation near Huntsman Chemical.** Around 3:30 p.m. on August 6, two rail cars being pushed into Huntsman Chemical derailed and tipped slightly. Fortunately, the deadly chemical ethylene oxide was successfully contained as there were no leaks. A nearby section of FM 1485 and also Jefferson Chemical Road were shut down as a precaution. Around 5:30 p.m. crews were attempting to upright the cars and get them back on track when they became concerned about a leak and closed the area temporarily, with DPS units in charge. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office was also involved, as was the Conroe Fire Department, as well as the Cut and Shoot Fire Department.  
Source: <http://www.montgomerycountynews.net/index.php?module=article&view=753>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

7. *August 10, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **State: VY radiation dropped last year.** Radiation emitted by Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon was lower in 2008 than in 2007, according to a report from the Vermont Department of Health. That lower rate was attributed to a three-week refueling outage last year, said the chief of radiological health for DOH. "The levels were generally less than those for 2007," he said. In all but three monitors, said the chief radiological officer, levels were lower than in 2007. The purchase of a nearby property on Governor Hunt Road, which moved the site boundary 400 feet out from its previous location, did not contribute to the lower rate. "The new site boundary coincided with a dosimeter we already have there," said

the chief radiological officer.

Source: [http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci\\_13019740](http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_13019740)

8. *August 8, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **SC nuclear fuel plant cited for false records.** A contract foreman at a nuclear fuel plant in South Carolina deliberately falsified records on employee training and air filters, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says. The State newspaper of Columbia reported Saturday that Westinghouse Electric Co. fired the employee and agreed to improve oversight of contractors as part of a settlement with the regulatory agency. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced a settlement Friday with Westinghouse in which the company said it will improve oversight of contractors hired to work the plant. It also agreed to an assessment of how well company employees are trained to investigate wrongdoing. A company spokesman said the foreman had been relieved of his duties, but declined to name the person. “The results was not of a major safety significance because of what was involved,” said a NRC spokesman. “But any time there is an individual or group that provides inaccurate information, that is something we take very seriously.” The agency said the worker created training records that incorrectly showed employees had been trained in specific safety practices, and falsified ventilation system data when no one took the required readings.

Source: <http://www.thesunnews.com/575/story/1014399.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *August 7, Off-Road.com* – (National) **CPSC, Warn Industries announce recall of ATV winch kits.** In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Warn Industries Inc., of Oregon, is voluntarily recalling 50,000 winch kits, which attach to All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and are used as a vehicle recovery tool. An electrical component of the winch kit, the solenoid, poses a fire hazard when used in this application, even when the vehicle is parked and the winch is not in use. The solenoid was manufactured by White-Rodgers. Warn Industries has received five reports of ATV fires started from winch kits installed on these vehicles in the U.S., and four reports of ATV fires in Canada. One consumer reportedly suffered smoke inhalation as a result of one of these fires. The fires resulted in loss or damage to the ATVs and, in some cases, adjacent vehicles or surrounding structures. The A2000 winch kit is normally mounted directly to the ATV. To control the winch direction, the A2000 uses a round switch that mounts to the rack or handlebars of the ATV. The winch is gray and has a “Warn” logo on the body of the winch below the model number, “A2000.” The A2000 winch kit includes a solenoid, which is used to interrupt the power to the winch. “White-Rodgers” is written on the label of the solenoid. The solenoid is found attached to the power wire between the battery and the switch. The bracket used to attach the affected solenoid has one open slot and one hole.

Source: <http://atv.off-road.com/atv/News:+Products/CPSC-Warn-Industries-Announce-Recall-of-ATV-Winch-/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/617550?contextCategoryId=46267>

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *August 7, Aviation Week* – (National) **Stealth bomber upgrades detailed.** A fresh wave of structures, systems and weapons upgrades is being rolled into the Northrop Grumman B-2 as part of efforts to keep the stealth bomber in the front line to 2050 and beyond. The drive to sustain the 20-strong fleet enjoys “good support across the board” says the commander of the 509th Bomb Wing at the B-2’s home at Whiteman AFB, Missouri. A key upgrade recovering from a slow start is the delayed B-2 radar modernization program (RMP). Under the RMP, the mechanically scanned antenna of the Raytheon APQ-181 Ku-band multimode navigation and attack radar is being replaced with an active electronically scanned array (AESA). Northrop Grumman, which manages the RMP, was awarded a \$382-million system development and demonstration (SDD) contract by the Air Force in 2004. Integration and other issues stalled the RMP and forced Northrop Grumman and El Segundo, California-based Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems to set up a “tiger team” to get the effort back on track, says the Northrop Grumman vice president and B-2 program manager. The upgrade, which also included a new power supply and modified receiver/exciter as well as the AESA antennae (two per shipset), was instigated because of an upcoming frequency spectrum conflict with emerging digital TV satellite signals. However, the hold-ups have had a knock-on effect because the RMP was designed in conjunction with other systems upgrades as part of efforts to provide the bomber with an “open architecture” for later modifications. Test results to-date are positive in terms of performance and maintenance. Production RMPs for the remaining 14 B-2s are coming under a \$468-million contract awarded to Northrop Grumman in December 2008. In mid-June the company passed the second of two Air Force program audits. Despite hold-ups, upgrades are expected to be completed by October 2010. As well as RMP, most other avionics upgrades are aimed at sustainability as well as performance improvements.

Source: [http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/B2-080709.xml&headline=Stealth Bomber Upgrades Detailed&channel=defense](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/B2-080709.xml&headline=Stealth+Bomber+Upgrades+Detailed&channel=defense)

11. *August 7, Aerospace Daily and Defense Report* – (National) **CH-53K delay questions linger.** Against a backdrop of unanswered questions on the extent of potential program delays, Sikorsky celebrated the arrival of the first set of 8,500 supplier parts that will comprise the U.S. Marine Corps CH-53K Heavy Lift helicopter. The CH-53K will be the newest, heaviest and first fly-by-wire helicopter in the Corps’ arsenal when it flies in 2011. That date may move, however, depending on the extent of cost overruns acknowledged by the program manager as well as the Marine deputy commandant of aviation in June. They have qualified the problem as “moderate,” without providing additional details. Seven prototype CH-53Ks will be delivered during system design and development. Four will serve as engineering development vehicles and the remaining three will serve as a dedicated ground test vehicle, a static test article and a fatigue test platform. The program of record calls for 156 aircraft.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&iid=news/CH53-080709.xml&headline=CH-53K Delay Questions Linger](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&iid=news/CH53-080709.xml&headline=CH-53K%20Delay%20Questions%20Linger)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *August 10, Boston Business Journal* – (Massachusetts) **Citi, Bank of America say Massachusetts customers hit by potential data-security breaches.** Two of the largest U.S. banks, Bank of America Corp. and Citigroup Inc., recently issued new credit and debit cards to customers after running into data safety concerns. Bank of America and Citigroup each recently issued replacement cards to consumers, telling them in letters that their account numbers may have been compromised. “We have learned that account information from certain Bank of America debit cards may have been compromised at an undisclosed third-party location,” Bank of America said in a recent letter to Massachusetts customers. As an added measure of security, Bank of America issued a replacement debit card. “Your old card will be closed and usable within five days from receipt of this letter,” Bank of America said. Meanwhile, Citigroup told Massachusetts credit card customers “your account number may have been illegally obtained as a result of a merchant database compromise and could be at risk for unauthorized use.”

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2009/08/10/daily2.html>

13. *August 10, Information Management Online* – (National) **Industry panels push for national data repository to help monitoring of “systemic risk.”** The American Statistical Association and the Enterprise Data Management Council are pushing for a new U.S. federal agency to build and oversee a centralized repository to maintain information on financial transactions, trade positions and other data necessary to monitor systemic risk, according to a petition posted by the council. The data would be maintained by a National Institute of Finance (NIF), which would be organized under the U.S. President’s Administration’s proposed “systemic risk regulator.” The goal of the repository is to prevent regulators looking at disparate proprietary data sets which could lead to a flawed analysis. Data managers maintain that keeping accurate trade and counterparty data are critical elements for reducing an array of market and other risk factors surfacing in the recent economic crisis. Promoting the new institute is the Committee to Establish the National Institute of Finance, which the EDM Council described as a “coalition of industry academia and other interested parties.” A petition to create the NIF has been posted here. “The good news is that the NIF is gaining serious traction among legislators and key regulators,” said the EDM Council’s chairman in a letter to members of the risk and data management industries. “The EDM Council is contributing to this initiative to maximize the collective effectiveness in the competition for the ear of Congress as it debates the make-up of the new regulatory environment.”

Source: [http://www.information-management.com/news/data\\_repository\\_financial\\_systematic\\_risk-10015898-1.html](http://www.information-management.com/news/data_repository_financial_systematic_risk-10015898-1.html)

14. *August 8, CNN* – (National) **3 regional banks fail.** Three regional banks failed on August 7, bringing the 2009 tally to 72, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said. Two Florida banks – First State Bank, of Sarasota, and Community National Bank of Sarasota County, in Venice, – and one Oregon bank – Community First Bank, of Prineville – closed on August 7. St. Cloud, Minnesota-based Stearns Bank, N.A., will assume control of the assets of both Florida banks, and Home Federal Bank, of Nampa, Idaho will assume the assets of the Oregon bank, the FDIC said. The failure of First State Bank – which as of May 31 held assets worth \$463 million and total deposits of \$387 million – will cost the Deposit Insurance Fund an estimated \$116 million, according to the FDIC. Community National had total assets of \$97 million and total deposits of approximately \$93 million as of June 30, and its closure will cost \$24 million, the FDIC said. Community First Bank had total assets of \$209 million and total deposits of approximately \$182 million. In addition to assuming all of the deposits of the failed bank, Home Federal Bank agreed to purchase approximately \$197 million of assets, the FDIC said. The FDIC estimates that this closure will cost the Deposit Insurance Fund \$45 million

Source:

[http://money.cnn.com/2009/08/07/news/companies/bank\\_failures/?postversion=2009080718](http://money.cnn.com/2009/08/07/news/companies/bank_failures/?postversion=2009080718)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation Sector**

15. *August 10, Associated Press* – (New York) **Hudson divers seek 2 victims, hope to raise plane.** Divers hope to pull a plane out of the Hudson River on August 10, but their first priority is to recover the bodies of two remaining victims of the air collision that killed nine people, a chief investigator said. A Pennsylvania family and an Italian tourist group were killed on the August 8 crash of the small plane and a sightseeing helicopter in the busy skies of Manhattan. Seven bodies were recovered — one teenage passenger on the plane and all six people aboard the helicopter. Divers resumed their search for the plane’s pilot and an adult passenger on Monday. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) chief said on NBC’s “Today” show that investigators will eventually examine the aircraft’s structural integrity and will try to determine how the initial impact occurred. The chief declined to speculate about the cause of the crash, the worst air disaster in New York City since a commercial jet crash in Queens killed 265 people in November 2001. The investigation is expected to take months. The plane took off from the Teterboro Airport in New Jersey shortly before noon. The chief said it was not required to have a flight plan and did not file one. The plane was flying at about 1,100 feet at the time of the crash, she said. Below that altitude, planes in that part of the Hudson River corridor are to navigate visually. Above that, they need clearance from air traffic controllers.

Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g-N1jdmNROaFicg\\_FftcshGMgU1gD9A01FD03](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g-N1jdmNROaFicg_FftcshGMgU1gD9A01FD03)

16. *August 10, News and Observer* – (North Carolina) **Bird strike blamed in emergency landing.** A bird strike caused a Northwest Airlines flight to shut down one of two engines and make an emergency landing morning on August 9 soon after taking off from Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU), a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said. Minutes after departing from RDU about 8:30 a.m., Flight 1546 heading to Minneapolis experienced a bird strike to its left engine, an FAA spokeswoman said. After the captain heard a loud noise, the engine was shut down, and the plane returned to the airport, a Northwest Airlines spokeswoman said. The twin-engine airbus A320 arrived at RDU at 9:02 a.m., safely landing with 148 passengers and five crew members. Upon landing, RDU fire and rescue crews investigated the plane and found no evidence of a blaze, according to the Northwest Airlines spokeswoman. But she added that it was possible that any engine flames were extinguished in the air. FAA investigators will examine the plane, the FAA spokeswoman said.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1640970.html>

17. *August 7, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **State says airports now disaster ready.** It has been one of the weakest links in Hawaii response to disaster, but now state officials said the airport system is ready. Until recently, the policy of Hawaii airports was there was no point in investing in hurricane preparations because they are so rare. However, after learning from past mistakes, the state now proclaims the airports are ready. After a natural disaster on Oahu, with power out and roads damaged, the tourist population would need evacuation. The state rents five generators for back-up power at Honolulu International Airport. The plan would be to move those visitors to the airport as we get those flights in to get them off the island,” a state tourism liaison said. Five generators are being rented. The long-term plan is for the airport to have its own 10-megawatt power plant. That is at least a year and a half away. The generators would provide 65 percent of the airport usual electrical need. Power priorities include jet ways, fuel pumps, computers and security, but not air conditioning. “We will be able to operate as a fully functional airport,” the director said. The state added new portable medical units, cross-trained safety personnel and emergency food and water. There is also new coordination with hotels, where officials hope tourists will stay until their flights are confirmed. “Definitely won’t be ‘Everybody go to the airport.’ Now, it has to be systematically done,” he said.

Source: <http://www.kitv.com/news/20324196/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [4](#), [5](#), and [6](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *August 10, Associated Press* – (Minnesota; North Dakota) **Interest high for ring dike funding.** Interest in a federal program that covers 75 percent of the cost of building ring dikes to protect farms from flooding has exceeded expectations in the Red River Valley. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is adding money to the program after getting nearly double the applications expected. Counties along the Red River had the most applications, after record spring flooding. NRCS initially had allocated \$2 million to Minnesota and \$1 million to North Dakota for ring dike construction. The agency now has raised each state's allocation to about \$2.4 million. Applications are ranked based on the contents of a farmstead and the environmental damage that might happen if it flooded.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/52880747.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:Yyc:aUUZ>

19. *August 9, Mid Columbia Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Looking for signs of contamination in Hanford-area fish.** To make final plans for the environmental cleanup of the Hanford nuclear reservation, the Department of Energy and its regulators need to know more about the extent of contamination in the Columbia River. This requires checking hundreds of fish, in part to assess their condition, but chiefly to test for any Hanford chemicals or radionuclides that could harm anyone eating those fish. Employees of Environmental Assessment Services of Richland has been given task of catching the fish. Testing will be done on a variety of organs and flesh from the 530 total fish in the study, with the smaller fish combined in groups of five for samples. This study is the most comprehensive conducted related to fish and Hanford, should provide more complete information. In addition to fish, assessment of the river also includes sampling of river water, soil on Hanford islands and sediment from the river. Then the Department of Energy (DOE), the state and the Environmental Protection Agency will decide if more investigation is needed or if enough is known to make final cleanup plans for Hanford land along the Columbia River, said DOE manager of mission completion. DOE is working to have most environmental cleanup along the river completed by 2015.

Source: [http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/675620.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/675620.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Water Sector

20. *August 8, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Idaho water officials reduce curtailment order.** The Idaho Department of Water Resources has cut its curtailment order for groundwater users in southern Idaho by more than half. The new order, announced on August 7, means that about 120 water right holders will have to stop pumping groundwater on more than 4,000 acres. The previous order, issued late last month, barred water right holders on more than 9,000 acres from pumping. The deal came after the ground water users agreed to quit pumping groundwater on some land and to

increase efforts to recharge the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Idaho law distributes water rights on a first-come, first-served basis. The curtailment order came after a trout farm with senior water rights said it was not getting its fair share of water and asked the state to cut off junior water right holders.

Source: [http://www.fox12idaho.com/Global/story.asp?S=10870544&nav=menu439\\_2](http://www.fox12idaho.com/Global/story.asp?S=10870544&nav=menu439_2)

21. *August 7, Salem News* – (Massachusetts; New Hampshire) **Business hit with \$2.75M penalty.** Aggregate Industries-Northeast Region Inc. will fork over \$2.75 million, the largest industry penalty to date, under an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice. The international building-materials company — which regulators said violated federal pollution standards on numerous occasions over an eight-year span — also agreed to step up efforts to evaluate its New England sites and to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Announced August 6, the agreement is the result of a multiyear investigation into the company's compliance with federal anti-pollution laws and marks the largest penalty assessed in the industry for storm-water violations under the federal act, according to a press release. The violations took place at 23 of the company's facilities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, including sites in Peabody and Swampscott, and spanned from June 2001 through earlier this year, according to court documents. As part of the pact, Aggregate, a subsidiary of Delaware-based Aggregate Industries Inc., did not admit to any wrongdoing. The company has spent \$6.8 million from 2003 to 2005 upgrading its water discharge systems. Yesterday's settlement is the latest in a series of federal enforcement actions to address storm-water violations from industrial facilities and construction sites around the country.

Source:

[http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local\\_story\\_219001900.html?keyword=topstory](http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_219001900.html?keyword=topstory)

22. *August 6, New York Times* – (New York) **City says Exxon is liable for tainted well water in Queens.** Lawyers for New York City are trying to convince a jury in a federal trial that Exxon Mobil knew that an additive that it used in gasoline would contaminate groundwater. The trial, which began on Tuesday before one of hundreds of cases that have been presented around the country against oil companies over the additive, M.T.B.E., a chemical compound that replaced lead in gasoline as an octane enhancer. Such enhancers boost engine performance and help prevent knocking. New York City's case against Exxon Mobil arose from the contamination of groundwater wells in Jamaica, Queens, that are designated as part of a backup system for drinking water in emergencies or droughts. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says that even low levels of M.T.B.E. can make water undrinkable because of its taste and odor. While researchers have limited data on its health effects on humans, it is considered a carcinogen in high doses in animals. Like ethanol, M.T.B.E., methyl tert-butyl ether, helps gasoline burn more cleanly and reduces tailpipe emissions. But it is also highly soluble in water, and fuel leaks from storage tanks and other sources have contaminated groundwater that is often a source of drinking water. Twenty-five states, including New York, have restricted or banned M.T.B.E. In opening statements on Tuesday, the lawyer for the city argued that Exxon, which started using M.B.T.E. in the 1980s, ignored evidence from its own scientists of a strong risk of groundwater contamination

should the compound be added to gasoline. He argued that the company could have used ethanol, a more expensive octane enhancer that does not pose the same hazard. But Exxon Mobil's lawyer, told jurors that oil companies initially used more M.T.B.E. than ethanol as a substitute for lead because the supply of ethanol was limited and car manufacturers had serious concerns that it would diminish vehicles' performance. The company denies any liability. 39 of 68 wells in Queens show M.T.B.E. contamination. But the focus of the trial is five contaminated wells that can yield about 10 million gallons a day to supplement water sources in cases of failure in the upstate reservoir system that provides New York City's drinking water. City officials say a \$250 million treatment facility would have to be built to make the water in the wells drinkable. The company says that the wells are contaminated by other industry in the area. It adds that the city does not intend to build the treatment plant and has other projects under way to provide other backup sources of water. The jury must rule on several elements of the case, including whether the city intends to build the treatment plant, the extent of M.T.B.E. contamination and the size of any punitive damages.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/07/science/earth/07exxon.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/07/science/earth/07exxon.html?_r=1)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

23. *August 10, Reuters* – (National) **Quality focus reduces deaths in U.S. hospitals-report.** Hospital systems that focus on quality care lower death rates and have healthier patients, according to an analysis released on Monday. The analysis from Thomson Reuters looked at 252 U.S. health systems and found the best-performing 20 percent had 25 percent fewer deaths, 19 percent fewer complications, and 13 percent fewer patient mishaps than the 20 percent worst performers, even though their patients were sicker. The study, released in *Modern Healthcare*, shows that higher-quality healthcare is possible if hospital systems make it their primary focus, instead of profits, for example, said Thomson Reuters senior vice president for performance improvement, who led the research.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/americasRegulatoryNews/idUSN0941294420090810?sp=true>

24. *August 7, WCBD 2 Charleston* – (Connecticut) **Fake nurse caught working at a Connecticut doctor's office.** A woman who claimed to be Connecticut's nurse of the year has been arrested for not even having a nursing license. Police say the 56-year-old had been working as a nurse in a doctor's office when a patient complained about her. After investigating, authorities realized she was not a nurse, and that she had even staged a dinner for herself where she was honored as the so-called Connecticut nursing association's "Nurse of the Year." If convicted, the woman could face up to five years in prison.

Source:

[http://www2.counton2.com/cbd/news/crime/article/fake\\_nurse\\_caught\\_working\\_at\\_a\\_connecticut\\_doctors\\_office/51343/](http://www2.counton2.com/cbd/news/crime/article/fake_nurse_caught_working_at_a_connecticut_doctors_office/51343/)

## **Government Facilities Sector**

25. *August 10, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Energy Dept. to hold mercury storage meeting.** The U.S. Department of Energy is holding a public meeting in Idaho Falls on Tuesday to discuss the possibility of storing up to 17,000 tons of mercury at the Idaho National Laboratory. Idaho's governor, a vocal opponent of the possibility, is expected to testify at the meeting. The federal agency is looking for storage sites because mercury exports will be banned beginning in 2013. The 890-square-mile federal nuclear research complex in eastern Idaho is 1 of 7 sites under consideration. The meeting will focus on the scope of the environmental impact statement that will be used by the Energy Department when selecting a site.  
Source: [http://www.fox12idaho.com/Global/story.asp?S=10875982&nav=menu439\\_2](http://www.fox12idaho.com/Global/story.asp?S=10875982&nav=menu439_2)
  
26. *August 10, Sun Coast News* – (Florida) **Pipe at Pinellas' Army Reserve Center was not an explosive.** A reservist from the Army Reserve Center in Pinellas Park, Florida, spotted a possible explosive device Monday morning while jogging along Grand Avenue just south of the center, but investigators have since determined it was not a threat, police say. The roughly 8-inch metal pipe had wires and green tape, a Pinellas Park Police Department news release states. "Tampa police utilized a remote control robot to neutralize the device," a police news release states. "The suspicious device was inspected and it appears to be some type of power pack or battery cluster," according to the release. "The article may have come from the Army Reserve Center as it had markings and appearance that it was military issue." The roadway was closed briefly but has since reopened.  
Source: <http://suncoastpinellas.tbo.com/content/2009/aug/10/101023/bomb-squad-called-army-reserve-center-pinellas-par/>
  
27. *August 7, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **Vandals light propane tanks at Lincoln SE High School.** Vandals tied together about 25 propane tanks and lit them, attempting to cause explosive damage Friday at Lincoln Southeast High School. They mostly succeeded, fire investigators said, though not all the portable tanks exploded. The school sustained about \$12,000 in damages. The explosion blew open the school's south doors, shattered glass and started a fire in the building. The sprinkler system activated and put out the fire. Authorities have asked the public for help in catching the vandals. They said the vandals may have suffered burn injuries, including flash burns or singed hair.  
Source: <http://www.ketv.com/cnn-news/20317111/detail.html>
  
28. *August 7, City News Service* – (California) **Suspicious envelope prompts building evacuation.** An envelope containing a substance that turned out to be non-toxic was found Friday in a social services office in Pomona, prompting a call to Homeland Security and evacuation of one floor of the five-story building. The envelope was found in a fourth-floor room, where three or four people "came in close proximity to it," said a county fire official. Those individuals were evaluated and determined not to have

been subjected to a health hazard, the fire official said. The room was isolated, and the fourth floor of the building was evacuated. The 40 people affected, including workers and children, were able to return to the area just before 1 p.m., the fire official said. The county Department of Children and Family Services has offices on the fourth floor of the building, the fire official said. Homeland Security personnel were notified, and hazardous materials teams from the county fire department and the sheriff's department were investigating, the fire official said.

Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local-beat/Suspicious-Envelope-Prompts-Building-Evacuation-52692262.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

29. *August 10, Associated Press* – (New York) **Surprising cancers seen in young 9/11 officers.** Researchers say a small number of young law enforcement officers who participated in the World Trade Center rescue and cleanup operation have developed an immune system cancer. The numbers are tiny, and experts do not know whether there is any link between the illnesses and toxins released during the disaster. But doctors who coordinated the study, published Monday in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, said people who worked at the site should continue to have their health monitored. The researchers looked at 28,252 emergency responders who spent time amid ground zero dust and found eight cases of multiple myeloma. Those findings were no surprise. Multiple myeloma is the second most common hematological cancer in the U.S. after non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Normally, researchers would expect to find about seven cases in a group as large as the one examined in the study. However, four of the people who fell ill were under age 45, and multiple myeloma is thought to be more rare among people of that age. Under normal circumstances, researchers would have expected to find only one case of the disease in that age group.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32349670/ns/health-cancer/>

30. *August 9, CNN* – (California) **250 inmates hurt, 55 hospitalized after California prison riot.** More than 250 inmates were injured in a riot that erupted Saturday night at the California Institution for Men in Chino, a spokesman said Sunday. None of the facility's employees was hurt in the melee, which broke out at about 8:20 p.m. Saturday at the Reception Center West facility, he said. Guards used pepper spray, "less lethal force, and lethal force options" to regain control by 7 a.m. Sunday. The scene of the violence was the medium-security housing facility with seven units, each of which houses about 200 inmates, he said. Fifty-five inmates were taken to area hospitals with serious injuries. Some 80 officers responded to the riot, during which a housing unit was heavily damaged by fire, he said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/08/09/california.prison.riot/index.html>

31. *August 7, Democrat and Chronicle* – (Pennsylvania) **Database to help 911 crews assist disabled.** The Monroe County Emergency 911 Call Center launched a new

initiative Thursday designed to help police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other first responders when working with people who have disabilities. The Special People In Need of 911, or S.P.I.N., program logs people with disabilities into a private, confidential database so first responders will already have their names, addresses, nature of disabilities, any history of aggression and emotional triggers before they arrive on scene. The information, provided to the database with the person's or family's permission, is used on an as-needed basis. The program is not for those with the ability to communicate well or who live in group homes with knowledgeable staff. Monroe County is modeling its program after one in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Source:

[http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20090807/NEWS01/908070335/1002/NEWS/Database to help emergency responders working with people with disabilities](http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20090807/NEWS01/908070335/1002/NEWS/Database%20to%20help%20emergency%20responders%20working%20with%20people%20with%20disabilities)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Information Technology Sector**

32. *August 10, Spamfighter News* – (National) **New study finds computer virus ‘Zeus Bot’ in Internet postcards.** The director of computer forensics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UK) said bogus postcards circulating on the Internet to reach people's inboxes globally contain links that lead to the PC virus Zeus Bot. The director said the e-mails are typically designed and their subject lines suggest that they have been sent from the 1001 Postcards website. He also said the phony postcards direct recipients to follow a link to view its contents, however, the moment the click button is pressed; the Zeus Bot virus unleashes itself on the users' PCs. Thereafter when infection sets in, the malware enables cyber criminals to intercept banking passwords along with account numbers, and e-mail as well as other sensitive account details of users. Furthermore, the director stated that cyber criminals in the current incident were using the Russian language software for Zeus Bot and were utilizing postcards like never before to download and install the virus program on the computers of unwitting users. With the virus getting settled on a PC, the computer is conveniently added to the Zeus Botnet and the malware steals all data that the victim enters into a website. By utilizing an image user interface, the virus monitors the infected systems across the globe while its tools let crooks choose stolen accounts related to banks according to their priority for attack.

Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-12877-New-Study-Finds-Computer-Virus-Zeus-Bot-in-Internet-Postcards.htm>

33. *August 8, The Register* – (National) **U.S. appeals court cans CAN-SPAM suit.** In a decision that could make it harder for internet users to take spammers to court, a federal appeals court has upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit against a company that sent a man more than 13,000 unsolicited emails. A three-judge panel from the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with a lower-court judge that under a federal law that went into effect in 2004, the plaintiff lacked standing to sue online marketing business Virtumundo. The panel ruled that under the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing, or CAN-SPAM, act, lawsuits can only be brought by

select law-enforcement agencies and providers of an IAS, or “internet access service.” The judges went on to dismiss claims the plaintiff brought under a separate Washington-state law forbidding deceptive commercial emails, holding that that CAN-SPAM preempted the law. The state statute allowed private individuals to sue people who send them deceptive marketing emails that were unsolicited. The net effect, legal experts said, is that internet users will have fewer options for taking legal action against spammers. “It is going to be harder for individuals to sue companies that send them spam because trying to shoehorn a claim under statutes prohibiting deception will be looked on by courts with skepticism,” said an attorney at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich&Rosati who helped draft the Washington law. Critics have long complained that CAN-SPAM was full of so many loopholes that it had little effect on the torrent of spam that lands in inboxes everyday. The Ninth Circuit’s decision is only likely to strengthen those claims. It will set a higher bar for individuals who want to invoke it in lawsuits. Specifically, they will have to show they are an IAS and will then have to show they faced significant harm as a result of receiving spam.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/08/08/spam\\_suit\\_torpedoed/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/08/08/spam_suit_torpedoed/)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto:sos@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/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Communications Sector

34. *August 7, Data Center Knowledge* – (New York) **Water main break floods key NYC telecom hub.** A major water main break in New York has flooded streets near 60 Hudson Street, one of the most important communications buildings in Manhattan. The flood resulted in more than three feet of water in part of the basement of 60 Hudson, which houses data centers and telecom hubs for more than 100 communications companies. New York emergency officials are aware of the building’s strategic importance and using sandbags to try and limit water damage at the building. Early reports from Telx, one of the major tenants at 60 Hudson, reports no major operational impact from the flooding. “Telx is and has been in normal operation,” the company said in a statement. “The company’s vault was unaffected because Telx is served from the mezzanine level. Water has subsided in basement, but the company has the on-site facility crew ready to implement emergency procedures if need be.” The incident began at 2:20 a.m., when a 12-inch water main broke near West Broadway and Duane streets, flooding local streets and filling some local basements with as much as four feet of water.

Source: <http://www.datacenterknowledge.com/archives/2009/08/07/water-main-break-at-key-nyc-telecom-hub/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

35. *August 10, KSWT 13 Yuma* – (Arizona) **Cocopah Casino evacuated after bomb threat.** Cocopah Casino evacuated for several hours after a bomb threat was called Saturday night around 8:45. They say a female told 911 there was a bomb at the casino. Cocopah Police and Somerton Police evacuated everyone inside the casino. The Marine Corp. along with police dogs searched the casino and surrounding areas for bombs. After nothing was found, Cocopah officials say the casino was re-opened at 12:30 Sunday morning. Also Saturday night around 7:30 the San Luis Police Department responded to Wal-Mart on a bomb threat call. San Luis Police say that threat also turned out to be false. No word yet on if the two bomb threats are connected.  
Source: [http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10874867&nav=menu613\\_2\\_6](http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10874867&nav=menu613_2_6)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

36. *August 10, Redding Record-Searchlight* – (California) **Firefighting cost for recent north state blazes nearly \$20 million.** Firefighting agencies spent close to \$20 million last week in battling lightning-sparked blazes in the north state. The U.S. Forest Service spent \$7 million and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spent \$12.4 million in fighting fires in the Intermountain area last week, fire officials said. The bulk of the expenses were racked up using air tankers and helicopters to aid firefighters on the ground. Along with dropping fire retardant and water, aircraft are also used to scan the backcountry for lightning-sparked fires that can smolder for weeks, said a Forest Service spokeswoman. She said airplanes will be flying over the Trinity Alps Wilderness throughout the week, checking for fires possibly started by lightning last Thursday. Fire crews Saturday spotted two more small fires likely sparked by last week's lightning in the Trinity Alps Wilderness, bringing the number of fires started by the storm to 16. Most of the fires have been kept to less than an acre, with one burning 1 1/2 acre. Firefighters named the fires the TRMU Complex of fires, the spokeswoman said, after the Trinity River Management Unit on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.  
Source: <http://www.redding.com/news/2009/aug/10/firefighting-cost-for-recent-north-state-blazes/>
37. *August 9, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Wildfire at 2,500 acres and growing in Los Padres National Forest.** A wildfire has burned at least 2,500 acres of the Los Padres National Forest about 26 miles east of Santa Maria and will likely continue to grow because the steep area is difficult for firefighters to reach by ground and weather conditions are unfavorable, officials said. Firefighters have zero containment of the blaze, named the La Brea Fire, which began about 2:50 p.m. Saturday in the San Rafael Wilderness section of the forest, said a U.S. Forest Service spokesman. Firefighters do not know the cause. No structures are currently threatened, he assured. Eight air tankers

and four helicopters were battling the flames, he said. Weather conditions were making the job tough. Humidity levels were predicted to be between 15 and 20 percent, and temperatures were expected to reach 96 degrees over the following days.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/08/fire-has-burned-at-least-2500-areas-in-los-padres-national-forest-.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Dams Sector**

38. *August 10, Times of Trenton* – (New Jersey) **Hightstown OKs pact to improve dam.** Despite reservations about the contractor, borough council approved a contract for much-needed improvements to the Peddie Lake Dam, which are expected to be complete by mid-November. The estimated \$215,000 improvement project includes masonry repair at the bottom of the dam and the addition of an automated floodgate, which the borough hopes will alleviate some water problems in parts of the borough. Currently, the floodgate must be operated manually on an as-needed basis. A Borough engineer has told council that the low bidder on the project got mixed reviews from references, and that if she had a choice, she would not have picked the contractor. However, law requires the borough to contract with the lowest bidder meeting the borough's project specifications.  
Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/times/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-17/1249883113253171.xml&coll=5>
  
39. *August 9, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Water flowing again in area where canal break destroyed home.** A month after a broken canal created a deadly mudslide in Logan, water is on the move again in a Logan hillside. Experts are not sure if it creates a new threat to homes down below, but residents are worried and keeping a watchful eye. As Logan's public works director said, "Well, water never helps. To say it can threaten stability, I can't say yes or no." Logan officials say an emergency response and cleanup effort following a canal collapse and mud slide that left three dead cost the city \$333,842. A month ago, a wall of mud and water buried a mother and her two children. It is still not clear if the canal was undermined by its own leaking water or by water from another source. In recent days, the hillside started bleeding water again. On Thursday the city posted notices warning of "increased flow from the artesian springs." The notice said it "may indicate an increased potential for earth movement or flooding." One resident showed KSL the retaining wall behind the house her family was forced to abandon. "The cracks are noticeably bigger. We've noticed the hillside moving, up on the hill. The cracks in the canal are bigger. We've actually got movement in our yard. If the hillside breaks above the canal, we'd be gone in a second if we lived here," she said. Utah Department of Transportation is bringing in geotechnical consultants to see if they can figure out what is going on and what kind of fix may be necessary.  
Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=7476431>

40. *August 8, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Fixing reservoir cracks could cost more than \$100 million.** When it opened in east Hillsborough County in 2005, utility officials boasted that the \$140 million C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir would be “the benchmark by which other reservoirs in Florida are measured.” A year later, an employee spotted the first cracks. Now, with Tampa Bay Water officials talking about raising water rates to cover the \$100 million-plus cost of repairing the cracks, the utility’s critics feel vindicated. The assistant executive director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District had recommended against state water managers handing the utility millions in tax money to build the reservoir or anything else. Tampa Bay Water’s predecessor had never built anything but pipelines, he said, “and they were blowing up all over the place.” He’s convinced the utility got in over its head: “When you give a lot of money to somebody, you should be sure they know how to build something.” But the utility’s attorney says Tampa Bay Water is not to blame. “If the design is bad and the construction is bad, I’m not sure how that’s our fault,” he said. The cracks are too shallow to pose any threat to the reservoir’s safety, state and utility officials say. But they speculate that the cost to fix the problem could be \$125 million, nearly as much as the reservoir cost to build, and they predict a rate increase will be necessary to pay for it.

Source:

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20090808/NEWS/908085040/1374?Title=Fixing-Reservoir-Cracks-Could-Cost-More-Than-100-Million>

For another story, see item [18](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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