



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 3 September 2009

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- The Spokane Spokesman-Review reports that downtown Priest River, Idaho was evacuated for several hours Tuesday after a leak was discovered in a tank containing chlorine gas at the town’s water treatment plant. (See item [26](#))
- According to the Associated Press, military officials said it could take a week to clear a site near Berthold, North Dakota where a semitrailer carrying missile parts from the Minot Air Force Base overturned Monday afternoon. The semitrailer also carried two 14-gallon tanks of liquid rocket fuel, but it was not in danger of exploding or leaking. (See item [34](#))

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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. *September 1, Gillette News Record* – (Wyoming) **It was a bag on coal train near Belle Ayr, not a bomb.** Fears of a bomb on a Union Pacific Railroad train docked near Wyoming’s Belle Ayr mine were quickly defused Tuesday morning, after multiple agencies responded to the scene. Deputies, firefighters and the bomb squad were dispatched at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday to the Bishop Road a half mile from Belle Ayr coal

mine after they received a report of a suspected bomb on the train. The train had completed a loading operation at the mine, and was parked one mile from the mine's facilities. The two-person train crew evacuated the train, and the Campbell County Fire Department was on standby at about 9 a.m. as they waited for bomb technicians, the sheriff said. At 9:30 a.m., the fire team moved in, bringing along a Regional Response Team mobile trailer and a fire engine. A spokesman for Alpha Coal West confirmed that there was no bomb and no threat to workers.

Source: <http://www.gilletteNewsRecord.com/articles/2009/09/01/news/today/news02.txt>

2. *September 1, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Latent hurricane damage studied in Eugene pipeline.** Investigators are assessing whether latent damage from recent hurricanes contributed to the Eugene Island pipeline leak in July, a federal pipeline agency spokesman said Tuesday. A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said the issue is an ongoing concern after recent active seasons featuring several strong storms. "We do know that a lot of pipelines were affected in the Gulf from past hurricanes, especially when Katrina and Rita came. There were a lot of after-effects," said the spokesman, whose agency is leading the inquiry. The U.S. Minerals Management Service, part of the investigation team, acknowledges the possibility of undetected damage after offshore oil fields were raked by storms, notably Ivan in 2004, Katrina and Rita in 2005 and Gustav and Ike in 2008. Pipeline operator Shell Pipeline, which has said it expects to have the line repaired and back in operation by late September, declined comment on potential causes. A leak in the pipeline, which stretches southwestward offshore of Houma, Louisiana, was discovered 33 miles off the coast July 25, and Shell shut down the key Gulf Coast crude supply link. An estimated 1,500 barrels of oil spilled but was cleaned up before reaching shore. The line was carrying 100,000 barrels per day at the time of the leak.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/usDollarRpt/idUSN0155934620090901>
3. *September 1, Reuters* – (California) **Los Angeles utility says fire threat to grid reduced.** The Los Angeles electric utility said on Tuesday that the threat to high-voltage power lines has diminished from an expanding wildfire burning north of the city. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) said changing weather conditions and creation of a fire break between the Station fire and a transmission corridor near Acton have reduced the fire's threat. On Monday, LADWP said two 500-kilovolt power lines that transport power into the city were in the potential path of the fire burning in the Angeles National Forest. The fire has knocked some transmission and distribution lines out of service for periods of time, leading to a small number of power outages in Southern California, according to utilities and the state grid operator who continue to closely monitor the blaze.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE57U5Q320090901>
4. *August 31, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **Workers hurt in gas explosion file suit.** Four workers injured in an explosion at a natural gas well last summer in Klickitat County, Washington are suing Delta Petroleum and its subcontractors, alleging they failed to properly hire, train, and supervise employees responsible for the

operation. The workers suffered “serious, severe and permanent injuries” after a key supervisor ignored a series of warnings that gas was escaping from the well head, according to the lawsuit, filed in June in U.S. District Court in Yakima. The lawsuit claims the supervisor repeatedly failed to order that the well be sealed off after the blow outs, also called “kicks.” In the third blow out, water, pressurized gas, air and drilling fluids flew 90 feet above the drill hole, the lawsuit claims. In addition, the lawsuit alleges that gas sensors were installed only after the explosions and before the state Department of Labor and Industries investigated the accident.

Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2009/08/31/workers-hurt-in-gas-explosion-file-suit>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *September 1, KTAL 6 Texarkana* – (Louisiana) **Crash/ chemical spill slows traffic on I-220.** An entrance ramp onto I-220 W/B in Shreveport, Louisiana, was closed as a result of a one-vehicle crash Tuesday morning. It was expected to remain closed until late that afternoon. I-220 remained open as officials work to remove the crashed vehicle. However, drivers are encouraged to avoid the area unless absolutely necessary because of congestion. Firefighters were called to a rollover crash at westbound I-220 near the North Market exit. A Fire Department spokesperson said the driver of a Haliburton Truck hauling Sodium Hydroxide flipped the truck down an embankment. The driver is being treated at Willis Knighton Bossier for non life-threatening injuries. The Sodium Hydroxide has been contained to one area and sand is being hauled in to soak it up. Cleanup was expected to take a few hours.

Source: <http://arklatexhomepage.com/content/fulltext/?cid=72822>

6. *September 1, Macomb Journal* – (Illinois) **Anhydrous leak briefly evacuates portion of Macomb.** Several homes and businesses on Macomb’s west side were evacuated for about one hour Tuesday after an anhydrous ammonia leak. Macomb firefighters were called to 1202 W. Piper St. just before 4 p.m. Fire officials said employees at McDonough FS were filling a smaller anhydrous tank with a larger tank on the property when the leak occurred. Fire crews sprayed water on the tank to help control the leaking cloud of vapor. Two firefighters were then able to shut off the valve to the leaking tank. One person inhaled some of the anhydrous and was given oxygen in an ambulance before being released. Firefighters were at the scene for about 75 minutes.

Source: <http://www.macombjournal.com/news/x1886198578/Anhydrous-leak-briefly-evacuates-portion-of-Macomb>

For more stories, see items [25](#) and [26](#)

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

7. *September 2, Reuters* – (Arkansas) **Entergy Arkansas 2 nuclear reactor shut-NRC.** Entergy Corp’s (ETR.N) 995-megawatt Unit 2 at the Arkansas Nuclear One power station in Arkansas was shut as of early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its daily reactor status report. On Tuesday, the unit was operating at full power. The reason for the shutdown was not immediately known.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0251104620090902>
  
8. *September 2, Bay City Tribune* – (Texas) **Bomb threat deemed a hoax.** Security officials at South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company deemed a phoned-in bomb threat non-credible after following pre-set procedure to diffuse the situation around 5:50 p.m. on Saturday, August 31. According to the Matagorda County Sheriff’s Office report, the head of security at STP contacted the sheriff’s office shortly before 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 31, to report that they had received a bomb threat. He told deputies that they received a call “on a secondary phone number at the plant from a male subject with a European accent and was talking in a calm voice.” According to the sheriff’s office report, the caller stated twice “the bomb is ticking” and radio transmissions in English could be heard in the background. When the caller was asked where the bomb was, he said the bomb was in their support center in Germany. The head of security told the deputy that he believed the threat to be a hoax. Chain of command was contacted at both the nuclear plant and the Sheriff’s office. Sheriff’s office patrol units were dispatched to the area surrounding the plant to search for suspicious vehicles on surrounding roads. When the deputy arrived at STP, security force officers were conducting a search of the Nuclear Support Center building and nothing was located, according to the report. About 40 employees were inside the building while security conducted a search. The head of STP security told deputies he would contact the FBI to see if a phone number could be traced back to the caller.  
Source: <http://baycitytribune.com/story.lasso?ewcd=34ef0baf1128eb8a>
  
9. *September 2, Reuters* – (South Carolina) **Duke Oconee 1 reactor in South Carolina shut—NRC.** Duke Energy Corp’s (DUK.N) 846-megawatt Unit 1 at the Oconee nuclear power station in South Carolina was shut as of early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its daily reactor status report. On Tuesday, the unit was operating at 93 percent of capacity. The reason for the shutdown was not immediately known.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0251105020090902>
  
10. *September 2, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont Yankee supervisor fails alcohol test.** A supervisor on duty at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon tested positive for alcohol Monday and has had his access to the facility revoked, according to a spokesman for Entergy Nuclear, the plant’s operator. The incident was made public in a posting on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Web site Tuesday morning. An Entergy spokesman, said the employee was a supervisor in the

maintenance department for the facility. The 100-person department handles maintenance of the plant's electrical and instrument-control equipment and other duties. "He was not a licensed operator," the spokesman said. A licensed operator is someone who works in the plant's control room. The alcohol finding was determined when the supervisor underwent a random "fitness for duty" test Monday morning, the NRC posting said. Entergy conducted the test, and then reported it to the NRC. The spokesman said the employee has had his access to the plant revoked for two weeks and will be required to seek help through the company's employee assistance program. The spokesman said the employee's blood-alcohol level was above 0.04 percent, a threshold he said that is set by the NRC. By comparison a person must have a 0.08 percent level to be charged with driving under the influence in Vermont.

Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20090902/NEWS02/909020308>

11. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. distributes new round of anti-radiation pills.** The state Department of Health will provide free anti-radiation pills to people who live or work within 10 miles of Pennsylvania's nuclear power plants. The potassium iodide pills can partially protect the thyroid gland from radiation exposure if there is a nuclear accident. The pills, also known as KI tablets, will be distributed Tuesday through Thursday at sites across Pennsylvania. The pills come with instructions on when to take them. The state has five nuclear plants: Beaver Valley Power Station, Limerick Generating Station, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, and Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station. Pills distributed previously by the state expired on August 31 and should be thrown out.

Source:

[http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/pennsylvania/20090901\\_ap\\_padistributesnewroundofantiradiationpills.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/pennsylvania/20090901_ap_padistributesnewroundofantiradiationpills.html)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

12. *September 1, Brockton Enterprise News* – (Massachusetts) **Mandatory training is slated for Raynham firefighters at lithium battery plant.** A lithium battery plant will train Raynham, Massachusetts firefighters starting September 1 after an explosion at the plant injured five people last month, the fire chief said. "It's mandatory that everybody goes to this [training]," the Raynham Fire Chief said of the approximately 35 firefighters serving the town. He said he called the training sessions — held over three days — for firefighters to review the 82,000-square-foot facility in the Raynham Woods business park, which opened last year. The Raynham facility produces specialty lithium cell batteries used in industries like construction, aerospace, and the military. About 230 employees work at the Raynham manufacturing plant, located at the corner of Route 44 and Paramount Drive in the Raynham Woods Industrial Park. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating an explosion on August 13 that injured five Electrochem employees and caused the evacuation of 130 employees. The fire chief said the explosion was at least the fifth incident since the

facility opened in August 2008 that required a full-scale emergency response. It was the first one that resulted in injuries, he said. During the training sessions, firefighters will learn more about chemicals used at the plant, and become more familiar with the manufacturing rooms within the facility.

Source: <http://www.enterpriseneews.com/business/x1957558207/Raynham-battery-plant-to-train-firefighters-after-explosion-last-month>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

13. *September 2, Army Times* – (International) **Unattended Ground Sensor being designed, tested.** Soldier feedback is shaping the design of the Army's new Unattended Ground Sensor (UGS), a device under development that soldiers strategically position to monitor activity in a given area. The sensor originated from Future Combat Systems, but is now part of the Brigade Combat Team Modernization effort. The Army plans to have two types: Urban-UGS, tailored for indoor use or smaller areas, and Tactical-UGS, designed for wider expanses of land. The Army Evaluation Task Force at Fort Bliss, Texas, has been testing the device, and soldier input has resulted in several key changes. The product is still in the design and development stage — exact specs have yet to be released and a cost is not yet available — and soldiers could be seeing it in the field in 2011. The unattended devices come equipped with cameras, infrared sensors, microphones, and seismic sensors. Soldiers place the devices by hand and then monitor from afar. Once tripped, the device sends back data to where the soldiers are positioned. Picture quality is high enough to ID someone. Sensor information can differentiate among tanks, wheeled vehicles, infantry and helicopters, the Army reports. Initial designs of the T-UGS were too bulky, soldiers said.

Source: [http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/09/army\\_groundsensor\\_090109w/](http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/09/army_groundsensor_090109w/)

14. *September 2, Wired* – (New Mexico) **Boeing's new death beam zaps vehicle.** Boeing announced on September 1 that the Advanced Tactical Laser (ATL) — a C-130H cargo aircraft tricked out with a chemical laser — had successfully engaged a “tactically representative target,” i.e., a vehicle parked on the ground. It is a step toward a new capability: A directed-energy gunship that can destroy or disable ground targets with little or no collateral damage. Current ground-attack aircraft like the AC-130 gunship do the job with area-effect weapons like 20mm Gatling guns and 105mm howitzers. The recent ATL test took place over White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. During the test, the aircraft's beam control system locked on to the target — a stationary vehicle — and guided the laser beam to the target. If everything went as described, it certainly marks a milestone in laser history. But as was pointed out last year, a practical model is still years away: The ATL relies on vats of toxic chemicals to power its laser, so the military eventually wants to switch over to electric lasers to make a more deployable version of the flying ray gun.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2009/09/boeings-new-death-beam-zaps-vehicle/>

15. *September 1, Online Defense and Acquisition Journal* – (National) **GE takes F-136 test engine offline.** General Electric (GE) has had to take its second F-136 engine off line and inspect it after a piece of testing equipment broke free and was gobbled up by the giant engine less than a week ago. GE is partnering with Rolls Royce on the second engine for the Joint Strike Fighter. “It’s still up on the test stand but it’s not running,” said a spokesman for GE Aviation. The test equipment rattled loose and the company is bore scoping the engine to inspect the turbines and other equipment to see how much damage was done and assess the way ahead. In addition, the first engine GE put on the test stand revealed just the kind of design problem that testing is meant to uncover — a problem with a bearing. “When we got to the first engine, we ran a few hours and we found there were shavings in the lube system. We made a modification on the clearance bearing of the engine and it ran fine after that,” the spokesman said. All this occurs at a very delicate time for the F136 program as Congress readies to craft the defense appropriations and authorization bills. The company has done more than 800 hours of pre-SDD testing on close cousins of the two test engines, though it was only able to do 32 hours of testing on the first engine.

Source: <http://www.dodbuzz.com/2009/09/01/ge-takes-f-136-test-engine-offline/?wh=wh>

For another story, see item [12](#)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

16. *September 2, Agence France Presse* – (International) **Bomb hits Athens stock exchange.** A powerful van bomb caused major damage on September 2 to the Athens stock exchange and injured a woman in one of two attacks suspected to have been carried out by far-left militants. The dawn bomb destroyed six cars, tore through windows on the side of the stock exchange building and caused widespread damage inside, but the Athex bourse opened for business after a hurried cleanup operation. A second bomb hidden in a cooking pot exploded near a government building in the city of Salonika causing some damage but no injuries. Phone warnings were made before both of the latest attacks in a series that has targeted financial institutions and government buildings. A bourse spokesman said the blast caused widespread destruction inside roughly half the building. “Desks, workstations, cubicles and even ceiling panels were completely destroyed from the ground floor to the fifth on the side of the building facing the explosion,” he told AFP. Despite the fact that police had sealed off the area after the phoned warning, one woman outside the building was slightly injured. The device was detonated in a stolen van at about 5:30 a.m. just outside the stock exchange building on an avenue in the west of the Greek capital. The explosion also damaged two nearby car dealerships. The smaller bomb in the northern city of Salonika went off in a disused phone relay station behind a government building. Given the force of the Athens blast, Greek media said suspicion immediately fell on the Revolutionary Struggle group, but officially, police would not be drawn on the question. This year Revolutionary Struggle claimed responsibility for a powerful

car bomb placed outside the Athens headquarters of U.S. banking group Citibank that was defused by police. A month later, it exploded a bomb outside a Citibank branch in the Athens suburb of Psychiko that caused significant damage.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h8WeEXyixvxiU\\_yeM5-qX1G1d3IQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h8WeEXyixvxiU_yeM5-qX1G1d3IQ)

17. *September 2, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oldest Swiss bank tells clients to sell U.S. assets or leave.** Wegelin&Co., Switzerland’s oldest bank, is telling wealthy clients to sell their U.S. assets, or switch banks, because of concerns new rules will saddle investors with tax obligations in the world’s biggest economy. U.S. proposals to extend reporting requirements for banks whose clients buy American stocks and bonds coupled with estate tax liabilities that may be inherited by the heirs of people who have such holdings prompted the advice from the St. Gallen, Switzerland-based bank, said the managing partner. “We came to the conclusion that it’s a threat to our clients,” the managing partner, who is also president of the Swiss Private Bankers Association, said in an interview yesterday in Zurich. “It’s also a threat to us as a bank because as a custodian we are an executor to the estate. We find this aspect discomfoting, so we recommend selling all American securities whatsoever.” The managing partner said he plans to raise the subject today at a meeting of the Private Bankers Association, which counts Pictet & Cie., Lombard Odier & Cie. and Mirabaud & Cie. among its members. Swiss banks, which manage \$2 trillion, or 27 percent, of the world’s privately held offshore wealth, are struggling to protect bank secrecy after the government agreed to hand over the names of 4,450 UBS AG clients to U.S. tax authorities. The managing partner said he will not ask every member of the association to follow Wegelin’s lead. Wegelin, founded in 1741, manages more than 20 billion Swiss francs (\$18.7 billion) in client assets. “Every member is free to decide and act on their own,” he said.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aJstU9MVcYSg>

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *September 2, Wenatchee World* – (Washington) **Damaged bridge will be closed for days.** Beebe Bridge in Wenatchee, Washington, may be closed for up to two weeks as the state repairs damage from a fatal accident Monday. “We’re very concerned with the stability” of the bridge where [a] semi-tractor trailer crashed through its railing,” said a regional maintenance official for the state Department of Transportation. The roadway across the bridge has sagged about 4 inches near the accident site, he said. The accident tore off a vertical hanger, one of the supports that hold up the bridge, and heavily damaged two beams, which hold the weight of the bridge structure, he said. The hanger must be replaced, but the beams might be repairable. One of the beams was missing several inches of metal, and the other was missing a number of rivets. The damage was discovered after the trailer was removed from the bridge Monday afternoon. If all goes well, the road could reopen to traffic in four to seven days, but the worst-case scenario would have the bridge not opening for two weeks, and then only with traffic restrictions

in place.

Source: <http://wenatcheeworld.com/article/20090901/NEWS04/709029996/-1/NEWS03?Damaged-bridge-will-be-closed-for-days>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [2](#), [5](#), and [37](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

19. *September 2, KOLO 8 Reno* – (Nevada) **Suspicious package found in Carson City.** An investigation in Carson City seems to be connected to a practical joke. A bomb squad was sent Tuesday to Great Basin Glass, which got a letter in its mailbox with no postage. The letter included threats to the President and references to anthrax and a letter bomb. It turned out to be a musical greeting card, the type that can be personalized. The health department is analyzing it, but investigators say it apparently is a birthday card for an employee.  
Source: <http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/56625977.html>
  
20. *September 1, KTTC 10 Rochester* – (New York) **Mailbox bomb scare in Rochester.** Police are looking into a disturbing discovery in Northwest Rochester. A man who lives on Manor Ridge Drive thought he heard gun shots Sunday night. The next day, he learned that what he actually heard was the sound of a homemade bomb going off in his mailbox. Police say there was no structural damage to the box, but the remnants of the explosive device were found inside.  
Source: <http://www.kttc.com/Global/story.asp?S=11027383>
  
21. *August 31, WPMT 43 York* – (Pennsylvania) **Workers return to work following exposure to hazardous material.** All three workers sent to the hospital from last week's hazmat emergency are back at work, according to the post office manager in York Township, York County. On Friday, a flammable, hazardous material was found at the post office along South George Street. Those three employees were sent to the hospital after inhaling the fumes. All of the employees will undergo another lung screening this week as a precaution. According to a postal inspector, the liquid was on its way to a dental supply company and should have never been mailed.  
Source: <http://www.fox43.com/news/wpmt-news-postofficehazard-08-31-09,0,4681880.story>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

22. *September 2, Cattle Network* – (National) **Michigan firm recalls Ready-To-Eat Meal Kits for possible Listeria contamination.** Big Boy Food Group, a Warren, Michigan establishment is recalling approximately 39,514 pounds of “Dinolunch” and “Lunch Buddies” ready-to-eat meal kits that may be contaminated with Listeria

monocytogenes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. The products were produced on August 25, 2009 and distributed to wholesale and retail establishments in Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. The problem was discovered through FSIS's microbiological sampling program. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product.

Source: [http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Michigan-Firm-Recalls-Ready-To-Eat-Meal-Kits--For-Possible-Listeria-Contamination/2009-09-02/Article.aspx?oid=832407&fid=CN-LATEST\\_NEWS](http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Michigan-Firm-Recalls-Ready-To-Eat-Meal-Kits--For-Possible-Listeria-Contamination/2009-09-02/Article.aspx?oid=832407&fid=CN-LATEST_NEWS)

23. *September 2, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **22 Iowa counties receive disaster declaration.** The governor of Iowa said the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has declared 22 Iowa counties disaster areas because of severe storms that damaged crops between May 15 and July 31. The governor said Monday's declarations were made after assessments on crop and agriculture losses were done throughout the state. Declarations are still pending for several more Iowa counties that may be added later. The declaration expands the eligibility for individuals in the affected and contiguous counties for additional USDA assistance. The counties declared disaster areas Monday were: Allamakee, Benton, Bremer, Butler, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Fayette, Howard, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Mahaska, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne and Winneshiek.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090902/NEWS/909020362/1001/NEWS>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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## Water Sector

24. *September 2, Lassen County Times* – (California) **Utility district monitors gas spill.** A consultant for the Lassen Municipal Utility District (LMUD) in California will install three wells to “to establish groundwater monitoring prior to excavating hydrocarbon impacted soils at the site,” according to a report released at the district's board of directors meeting on Tuesday, August 25. The publicly owned utility district purchased the property, the former site of a gas station. The property sits adjacent to LMUD's existing Chestnut Street Service Center. According to the workplan, 20 years before LMUD purchased the site, the property was used as “a gasoline service station that stored gasoline in an above ground tank. Previous investigations at the site have shown that both the underlying soil and groundwater are impacted by hydrocarbons that have leaked from the former gasoline distribution piping.” The engineering firm plans to monitor the groundwater “on a quarterly basis to determine the effectiveness of remediating the site by excavating impacted soils. This monitoring will also establish a history of groundwater elevation and flow direction throughout the year, which will determine future requirements, if any, necessary to protect groundwater.” The water board became involved after LMUD workers digging a hole for a power pole in

September 2007 detected the odor of hydrocarbons.

Source:

[http://www.lassennews.com/News\\_Story.edi?sid=5755&mode=thread&order=0](http://www.lassennews.com/News_Story.edi?sid=5755&mode=thread&order=0)

25. *September 1, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Toxic chemical spill at West Palm Beach wastewater treatment plant.** Fifty to 100 gallons of a toxic chemical spilled from a tank at the West Palm Beaches' (Florida) wastewater treatment plant Tuesday, officials said. No one was reported hurt. Emergency workers from West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue were called to N. Haverhill Road about 10:15 a.m. to clean up spilled methanol, a flammable chemical that can sicken or kill people who inhale it. But a city spokesman said the hazard was for flame or explosion, not toxic exposure. The spill occurred when a contractor overfilled a tank containing the methanol, he said. Firefighters notified state officials of the incident, the county fire-rescue captain said. Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/sfl-toxic-spill-wpb-bn090109,0,6288157.story>
  
26. *September 1, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Idaho) **Chlorine leak sealed, Priest River evacuation ended.** Downtown Priest River, Idaho, was evacuated for several hours Tuesday after a leak was discovered in a tank containing chlorine gas at the town's water treatment plant. The leak was discovered about 4 p.m., after a chlorine alarm went off at the Priest River water filtration plant near the corner of Treat and Montgomery streets, said the police chief. Crews discovered the alarm was due to a leaky tank, and as a precaution residents and businesses within a half-mile of the plant were evacuated. Hazardous materials crews from Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene were called in to seal the tank, he said. By 9 p.m. evacuees were allowed to return, and the tank was being loaded onto a truck back to a supply company in Washington. Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/sep/01/downtown-priest-river-evacuated/>
  
27. *August 31, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Gloucester residents told to continue boiling water.** Officials met behind closed doors on August 31 to figure out a plan to restore clean water to Gloucester, Massachusetts residents, leaving intact a citywide order to boil water before using it. After the almost two-hour session, officials announced that they are disinfecting Gloucester's three water tanks again. The city cleaned the tanks after the initial detections of coliform bacteria earlier this month, but this cleaning will be more thorough, involving a scrub-down of the insides of the tanks. In the meantime, the city will draw from its reserve tanks, which can provide water for up to five days. Water from those tanks still needs to be boiled. The recleaning, which started this morning, will take about a day. The city's public schools will open as scheduled on Tuesday, with bottled water available throughout the school system. On August 21, coliform was detected at 12 locations in the city and is still being detected at 10 to 12 locations. City officials want that number to drop to zero, with at least two consecutive days of zero readings. The deputy fire chief said that the coliform could be anywhere in the system, including within some of the city's hundred-year-old pipes. The city's health department has been monitoring hospitals and pharmacies, but has not seen any spike in coliform-related illnesses.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/2009/08/gloucester\\_resi.html](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/08/gloucester_resi.html)

28. *September 1, KOAT 7 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Program launched to keep drugs out of Rio Grande.** New Mexico’s largest water utility has announced a plan aimed at keeping pharmaceuticals out of the state’s longest water way, the Rio Grande. Along the river, visitors often see trash in the water and on the banks, but it is what is hiding inside that can be the real threat. Communities have reported finding traces of pharmaceuticals and personal care products. In New Mexico, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority (ABCWA) plans to research the problem and find ways to fight it. ABCWA’s announcement follows a recent discovery of caffeine in the river, where Albuquerque draws its drinking water. While it was only a trace amount, the water authority said it wanted to step up testing of both raw and treated water to determine the amount of pharmaceuticals in the water. It is also launching a new program called “Agua RX” to raise public awareness on the proper way to dispose of old and expired medications.

Source: <http://www.koat.com/news/20663434/detail.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

29. *September 2, WTOP 103.5 FM Washington* – (National) **Sept. 11 drills will test pandemic preparedness.** Is the nation ready for a pandemic flu outbreak? Emergency drills will take place across the nation on September 11. “We’ll actually be working with [the Health and Human Services] Secretary on a drill and it will be testing the capacity for dealing with a pandemic flu outbreak,” said the president of the Safe America Foundation. Students at Howard University will practice getting a hold of their loved ones and colleagues via text messaging. A Prince George’s County church also will do that. The goal, said the president at Urban Preparedness, is to “make sure that within a short period of time, we can all communicate with each other.” New York will be the site for an evacuation and hurricane drill.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1753389>

30. *September 1, KCRA 3 Modesto* – (California) **Governor issues dire H1N1 flu warning.** California’s issued a serious warning Tuesday about the H1N1 flu virus, predicting that one in four Californians — or about 9 million people — may get the bug this fall and winter. “It could take thousands of lives,” he said during a visit to a state lab in Richmond that analyzes H1N1 cases. “I don’t want to alarm people, but this is not a typical flu.” The governor anticipates the largest vaccination effort in California since shots to combat polio were administered in the 1950s. The state set up [www.calpanflu.org](http://www.calpanflu.org) to allow doctors, clinics and others to register to receive a supply of the vaccine.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/health/20672860/detail.html>

31. *September 1, WREG 3 Memphis* – (Tennessee) **St. Jude Research Hospital evacuated due to gas leak.** Memphis Fire crews received a call shortly after 3 Monday morning about the smell of gas inside a building at St. Jude. Crews say they evacuated the Chili's Care Center building, removing staff, nine patients and their families. They say no one was seriously hurt. The patients were moved to another building. The Chili's Care Center was cleared and staff was allowed back inside. They say the evacuations were only a precaution.  
Source: <http://www.wreg.com/wreg-st-jude-evacuated,0,6413110.story>
32. *August 31, WAGT 26 Augusta* – (Georgia) **Hospital patients records taken.** Patients who had lab work done during the past three-and-a-half years at East Central Regional Hospital may want to double check their credit information. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is investigating since a former technician at the hospital took home a number of records from the Augusta and Gracewood locations. Hospital officials do not think any Social Security numbers were compromised.  
Source: <http://www.nbcaugusta.com/news/local/56429087.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

33. *September 2, Mid Columbia Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Study: Hanford construction workers were at risk of certain cancers.** Former Hanford construction workers have an increased risk of death from a blood cancer linked to radiation and another cancer linked to asbestos, according to a new study. The study published in the September issue of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine drew on data collected in the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program for Hanford and three other Department of Energy sites. “While several studies have investigated mortality risks among (Department of Energy) production workers, little data exist concerning mortality among construction and trade workers ...,” the study said. It looked at 8,976 workers who had participated in the building trades screening program at the four sites and had an initial screening interview from 1998 through 2004. Those interviews were compared to the National Death Index, which had information only through 2004 when the study began. About 31 percent of the people in the study — 2,779 workers — had done construction work at Hanford, and 94 of the 266 Hanford workers who had died had died of cancer. That is 14 more cancer deaths than would be expected in the general U.S. population, said an official from Stoneturn Consultants in Seattle, one of the authors of the study. He also is the principal investigator for the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program. “The most significant finding at Hanford was a very high rate of mesothelioma,” the official said. That’s 11 times more than expected in the general population. Mesothelioma is a cancer of the lungs and lining of the stomach strongly tied to asbestos exposure, he said. Those cancer deaths were in addition to deaths from asbestosis, a noncancerous lung disease caused by inhaling asbestos fibers. The deaths from asbestosis were 30 times that of the general population, which is unlikely to have the disease, he said.  
Source: [http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/701186.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/701186.html)

34. *September 1, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Semitrailer carrying missile parts overturns in ND.** Military officials said Tuesday it could take a week to clear a site in north central North Dakota where a semitrailer carrying missile parts from the Minot Air Force Base overturned. An Air Force spokeswoman said the semitrailer overturned Monday afternoon on a gravel road. It carried rocket engine parts for intercontinental ballistic missiles but no nuclear material, she said. The shipment also contained two 14-gallon tanks of liquid rocket fuel, but it was not in danger of exploding or leaking, the spokeswoman said. Liquid rocket fuel, if released into the atmosphere, “has about the same potential as anhydrous ammonia,” the spokeswoman said. Anhydrous ammonia, which is used by farmers to help fertilize crops, can be lethal if exposure is great enough. “We are confident there are no leaks and there is no danger to the public,” Arellano said. “We know the worst-case scenario is not going to happen.” The Air Force said the payload transporter from base’s 91st Missile Wing overturned about 10 miles northwest of Berthold in Mountrail County. The spokeswoman said the driver of the truck and its passenger were not injured. The cause of the crash is under investigation, she said.

Source: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/apArticle/id/D9AEO2V80/>

35. *August 31, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Jury convicts three men of conspiracy to use fake diplomatic identification.** The Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri announced that three men with connections to the sovereign citizen movement were convicted by a federal jury today of participating in a conspiracy to use fraudulent diplomatic credentials. The suspects hail from Kansas, Missouri and Nevada and range in age from 50 to 62 years of age. The co-defendants are involved in various sovereign citizen groups that reject governmental authority and claim that most branches of the federal government are illegitimate entities. Evidence presented during the trial indicated that the suspects participated in a conspiracy to use, as well as to buy and sell, fraudulent diplomatic identification cards beginning sometime prior to July 11, 2006, until Oct. 18, 2007. The three-by-four-inch laminated cards, which identified the bearer as an “Ambassador,” contained a photograph of the bearer of the card, the seal of the U.S. Department of State and the words “Diplomatic Identification.” One suspect also created license plates for those with diplomatic credentials; the license plates bore the seal of the Department of State.

Source: <http://kansascity.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel09/kc083109.htm>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

36. *September 2, Chambersburg Public Opinion* – (Pennsylvania) **Chambersburg Fire Department pursues grant to help clean firehouse air.** Concerned with health hazards to firefighters and members of the community, Chambersburg Fire Department officials are seeking a federal grant to install an exhaust ventilation system in the headquarters station. Chambersburg’s emergency services chief made his annual report to Borough Council last week. He said a vehicle exhaust extrication system would help remove all remnants of diesel fuel from the engine bay. He cited numerous cancer

studies say those fumes often linger in the engine bay and can cause cancer in the people constantly exposed to them. Contractors would install a fan in the ceiling of the engine bay, as well as a hose system that would attach to each engine's exhaust. When the engine pulls away, the hose will slip off unharmed, but will have caught the initial fumes as it started up. Any remaining fumes will be sucked out of the bay via the fan. The project, which officials hope to complete within the next year, could cost upwards of \$130,000.

Source: [http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci\\_13250264](http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_13250264)

37. *September 1, Canton Reporter* – (Ohio) **New fire trucks ready to roll at Akron-Canton Airport.** Akron-Canton Airport commissioned two new fire trucks Tuesday as part of its 10-year, \$110 million capital improvement plan. The aircraft fire and safety rescue trucks are two identical Panthers, made by Wyoming, Minnesota-based Rosenbauer America. Christened Rescue 10 and 11, the huge trucks cost \$695,000 a piece and will replace trucks that are 15 and 16 years old and no longer meet Federal Aviation requirements. The airport's president and CEO said employees "are committed to the safety of the airfield. With the help of the Green Fire Department, the Akron-Canton fire team is ready to respond to any emergency."

Source: <http://www.cantonrep.com/business/x1991353877/New-fire-trucks-ready-to-roll-at-Akron-Canton-Airport>

38. *September 1, CBS News* – (National) **Medical copter crashes elicit new rules.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on Tuesday urged the government to impose stricter controls on emergency helicopter operators, including requiring the use of autopilots, night-vision systems and flight data recorders in an industry that suffered a record number of fatalities last year. CBS News reports that the NTSB says there is too much pressure on medical helicopter operators to move quickly in bad conditions. Last year was the deadliest year yet for emergency medical helicopters with 12 accidents and 29 fatalities. Six were killed in a collision in Flagstaff, Arizona involving two medical choppers. In light of the accidents, the NTSB is issuing 19 safety recommendations, including more bad weather training in simulators for pilots and mandatory night vision imaging systems in every cockpit. They even suggest paying higher Medicare reimbursement rates to chopper pilots who meet higher safety standards. Each year 400 thousand patients and organs are transported safely by helicopter. The FAA says it will consider the NTSB's recommendations as it makes new rules for medical choppers, which are due out early next year.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/09/02/earlyshow/main5281523.shtml>

For another story, see item [12](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

39. *September 1, Dark Reading* – (International) **Flaw in Sears website left database open to attack.** A newly discovered vulnerability on Sears.com could have allowed

attackers to raid the retail giant's gift card database. The owner of Merge Design and a researcher this week revealed a major security hole on Sears.com that could allow an attacker to easily steal valid gift cards, a heist he estimates could be worth millions of dollars. He says he alerted Sears about the flaw, and that Sears has since "plugged" the hole by removing the feature that let customers verify and check their gift-card balances. The vulnerability was a business logic flaw in a Web application that handles gift card account inquiries; the owner was able to stage a brute-force attack that could grab all valid, active Sears and Kmart gift cards from the company's database. The owner says the site wasn't auditing verification requests, which allowed him to verify gift card and PIN combinations using a homegrown PHP script that automatically submitted the requests. "I wrote a PHP script to hammer their verification server. It happily replied with thousands of verification responses per minute," he says. The Sears application relied on client-side cookies to halt brute-force verification attempts, which the owner says was not effective. "They should know where the verification requests come from, log them all, and be able to disable the verifications when they have a malicious attack," he says. "It doesn't appear to me that they had any server-side control over how many verifications were done." The discovery came on the heels of reports of multiple cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities on Sears' Web pages that were abused by an attacker to deface the Website. "I thought this was notable with Sears being a Fortune 50 company," the owner says. "I have not tested many other large retailers, but I would hope most of them take better care than this. For smaller sites that write their own gift-card verification code, I'd expect just as many are vulnerable."

Source: [http://www.darkreading.com/database\\_security/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=219500830](http://www.darkreading.com/database_security/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=219500830)

40. *September 1, SCMagazine* – (International) **Microsoft mandates Messenger upgrade for security flaws.** Users of Microsoft's Windows Live Messenger instant messaging software soon will be required to upgrade to the latest version to close vulnerabilities that could enable an attacker to execute remote code. On September 1, Microsoft pushed out the newest version, Windows Live Messenger 14.0.8089. The upgrade addressed vulnerabilities in Microsoft's Active Template Library (ATL), used in the development of the IM program, the company said in a blog post on August 27. Microsoft is not aware of any attacks currently targeting the ATL vulnerability in Live Messenger, a Microsoft spokesperson told SCMagazineUS.com on September 1. Beginning in the middle of this month, users of Messenger versions 8.1, 8.5 and 14.0 must upgrade, with a deadline of the end of October. Users will be prompted to install the new version when they sign into one of the vulnerable versions of Live Messenger, Microsoft said. If users do not upgrade, they may not be able to connect to the IM service. "It will take several weeks for the upgrade process to be completed, as the upgrade will be rolled out to customers over the course of several weeks," Microsoft said. Users of Live Messenger version 14.0 will not see any visible changes with the upgrade. But for users of Windows Live Messenger versions 8.1 or 8.5, the update also includes additional non-security features, Microsoft said. The vulnerabilities in ATL affect not only Live Messenger but numerous programs developed with ATL. In late July, Microsoft issued two out-of-band security patches to address the ATL bugs in

<http://www.scmagazineus.com/microsoft-mandates-messenger-upgrade-for-security-flaws/article/147932/>

41. *September 1, Network World* – (International) **Spam’s hidden victims: mobile users.** Spam costs organizations \$712 per employee/per year, according to Nucleus Research. However, these staggering numbers don’t even take into consideration one of spam’s latest victims: enterprise mobile users. Spam targeted at smart phones is on the rise and becoming a growing security and productivity concern. Protecting the inboxes of Blackberries, iPhones and other mobile devices requires new thinking. Spam, viruses and phish getting through to a desktop inbox is troublesome enough, but on a mobile device these threats present a unique set of security concerns and consequences, some of which are only just beginning to surface. Here are the problems and measures IT managers can take to combat them. Spam in a mobile environment presents users with a significant productivity problem. Mobile users’ time on-the-go is precious. While a user can argue it’s acceptable for desktop users to spend time weeding out the spam the corporate e-mail security solution allows through (typically five to twenty percent of all email), or tracking down false positives, the argument can’t fly for mobile users. Viewing, sorting and deleting messages takes significantly more time and effort on a small mobile device than on a traditional desktop. Screen space, storage and user time is too valuable in a mobile environment to dedicate any amount to spam. Compounding matters, the traditional tools used to deal with false positives (e.g., access to quarantine) will often not be available or will not be easy enough to use on mobile devices, leading to calls to IT which waste the time of several people. So, while some number of false positives may have been deemed acceptable for desktop users, the same number can cripple the average mobile user and present a significant distraction to the organization. Source:  
[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9137387/Spam\\_8217\\_s\\_Hidden\\_Victims\\_Mobile\\_Users?taxonomyId=15](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9137387/Spam_8217_s_Hidden_Victims_Mobile_Users?taxonomyId=15)

42. *September 1, Softpedia* – (International) **New Koobface variant drops scareware and click fraud malware.** A new Koobface variant has been detected spreading in the wild and has been analyzed by security researchers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). The analysis revealed that illegal money schemes used by its creators include scareware distribution and click fraud via rogue affiliate advertising programs. Koobface is a social networking worm that spreads on websites such as Facebook, MySpace, Bebo, hi5, Tagged, Netlog or Twitter by posting malicious messages from hijacked accounts. Computers infected with this malware join together to form a botnet, which is currently estimated to be one of the largest in the world, comprising over 2.9 million compromised computers in the U.S. alone. This new Koobface variant does not differ much from its past versions, at least as far as the social engineering component is concerned, suggesting that it is still a successful technique and that users are not educated enough. Spam messages posted on social networking sites from compromised accounts have links to pages allegedly containing videos. These fake pages ask unwary visitors to install a Flash Player update in order to view

the video, which is actually the worm's installer. In order to make money using Koobface, its creators employ it as an installation platform for other malware, such as rogue security applications. These programs, also known as scareware or rogueware display bogus security alerts that inform the computer owner that his machine is infected, and in order to clean it, they have to acquire a license for the fake antivirus. One interesting aspect is that all these redirects occur through a list of predefined IP addresses and host names, including fire[expletive]eye.com and [expletive]briankrebs.com. These two domain names are direct references to a Washington Post journalist, who maintains the Security Fix blog, and the security research company FireEye. A message hidden inside a July variant of the worm ironically read "We express our high gratitude to a security consultant for the help in bug fixing, researches and documentation for our software." This individual is an independent security consultant who plays an active role in tracking and shutting down botnets and other illegal operations.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-Koobface-Variant-Drops-Scareware-and-Click-Fraud-Malware-120657.shtml>

43. *September 1, The Register* – (International) **Spyware ad-on targets Firefox fans.** Miscreants have created an item of spyware targeted at Firefox users. The malware poses as an Adobe Flash Player update but in reality its designed to log a user's browsing history, in particular their Google search queries within Firefox. This information is uploaded to a hacker-controlled server. EBOD-A also has the capability to inject ads into the user's Google search results pages, Trend Micro warns, which adds that the malware appears to be spreading via forum posts. The spyware creates a Firefox add-on called "Adobe Flash Player 0.2", which has nothing to do with either Adobe or Mozilla. More on the threat can be found in a write-up by Trend, which includes screenshots. Malware targeting Firefox users is rare but not unprecedented. Strains of malware that latch onto Internet Explorer, Microsoft's Swiss-cheese browser, are much more commonplace. Common IE-related malware trickery involves exploiting unpatched security vulns to download malware onto vulnerable machines via drive-by download attacks.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/09/01/firefox\\_spyware\\_add\\_on/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/09/01/firefox_spyware_add_on/)

44. *September 1, The Register* – (International) **Malware thrown on California bush fires.** California bush fires that have destroyed 50 homes and ten commercial buildings, and claimed the lives of two firefighters, have become the latest lure for malware scams. Surfers searching for information about fires in the Auburn area using terms such as "auburn fire map" are presented with a list that includes pointers to sites harbouring malware. Sophos confirmed that it found fake anti-virus software (detected as FakeAV-ZJ Trojan) on the sites. The infected websites are also spreading Mac malware, specifically Jahlav-C. "Users would be wise to rely on well-known news outlets for updates on the latest breaking stories, as tasteless hackers are never slow to leap on an opportunity like this," a senior technology consultant at Sophos said. The incident is the latest example of profit-motivated VXers taking advantage of tragedies and natural disasters to distribute malware. Malware attacks also accompanied the recent death of a famous pop singer, Hurricane Katrina and the outbreak of swine flu,

to cite just a few examples among many. More recently, trendy topics on Twitter have acted as the input for black-hat search engine manipulation. Cybercriminals use a battery of automatically registered Twitter accounts to submit updates containing hashtags related to hot conversation topics. These messages also contain pre-defined Tinyurl links, leading to sites offering malware in the guise of codecs supposedly needed to view online video clips.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/09/01/cal\\_fire\\_malware/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/09/01/cal_fire_malware/)

### 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/>.

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## Communications Sector

45. *September 2, FOX News* – (International) **Gmail outage caused by server overload, Google says.** Google’s Gmail suffered a worldwide crash for nearly two hours on September 1 after it took some servers offline for maintenance, a widespread outage the California-based company called a “Big Deal” in a blog explaining the service failure. “We know how many people rely on Gmail for personal and professional communications, and we take it very seriously when there’s a problem with the service,” wrote the vice president of engineering for Gmail, in a blog post on September 1. Google said the outage occurred when it took some of its mail servers offline for routine maintenance. Recent structural changes were already placing a heavy load on its routing servers, which direct Web queries to the right Gmail servers for response, and the extra burden caused an overload. The outage was traced “within seconds,” the vice president wrote, but the 100 minutes of downtime was an enormous inconvenience for Gmail’s approximate 150 million users, who were shut out of the service beginning at about 1 p.m. EDT. Google apologized for the problems, saying “we’re committed to keeping events like today’s notable for their rarity.” The popular mail service was hit with similar problems in February, March, April and May. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,545571,00.html?test=latestnews>

46. *September 2, Bloomberg* – (California) **Los Angeles broadcast, mobile-phone towers threatened by fire.** The fire burning in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles threatens broadcast and mobile-phone towers that serve the region and may knock out service to some customers. American Tower Corp., the second-largest U.S. operator of mobile-phone towers, said the fire is menacing seven of its sites and could shut down local television to homes that rely on antennas. “The fires are closely approaching these sites and there’s a threat that the power grids could go out,” the director of investor relations for the Boston-based company, said on September 1 in an interview. “If that happens we have back up generators, but only for a period of time.” The Station fire,

which threatens more than 12,000 homes, moved toward Mount Wilson, 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of downtown. The mountain is home to dozens of mobile-phone, TV and radio transmission towers. Loss of the towers would endanger broadcasts for the estimated 12 percent of Los Angeles-area TV households that rely on over-the-air reception, said a vice president with the California Broadcasters Association.

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

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

47. *September 2, Tacoma News Tribune* – (Washington) **Flood preparations begin along Green River.** With the start of the flooding season two months away, the King County, Washington Council has authorized the county executive to declare a state of emergency in advance of any flooding. A weakened Howard Hanson Dam that might not hold back as much of the Green River this fall and winter as usual has forced county officials to think ahead about shelter, cleanup and relocating county services in an emergency. The authority allows the county executive to waive procurement and contracting rules to find places to move jail inmates, the animal shelter, and courts in the Green River Valley. If a major storm brings as much rain as fell in January, areas of Auburn, Kent, and Tukwila as well as unincorporated areas in the Green River Valley could be flooded for the first time in nearly 50 years. Valley cities and the county have been fine-tuning flood protection and emergency evacuation plans. County officials have estimated that floodwater could be as high as 1 to 10 feet at some critical county facilities. Key concerns are the Regional Justice Center and jail in Kent and the new county elections center in Tukwila. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found last January that the dirt abutment next to Howard Hanson Dam was seeping water. That is forcing the Corps to restrict how much water the dam can hold back during a flood. A temporary fix can not be tested until next spring. Long-term repairs might take up to five years to design and construct.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/864501.html>

48. *September 1, WDAY 6 Fargo* – (Minnesota) **Crews get to work on projects to protect Oakport from flooding.** Crews are hard at work on flood projects in the Oakport

Township, where just within the last week they started digging up the area where they hope to build 6 to 7 miles of levee and five water retention ponds. The ponds can hold at least 6 inches of water that otherwise would flood the area. Crews hope to get 2 to 3 miles of levee done by this winter. It is an aggressive goal, but they're moving fast, working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. A committee from the Minnesota House of Representatives will visit the site Wednesday. Town leaders plan to thank them for helping secure state bonding money to cover the 10 percent local share of 800-thousand dollars in flood costs.

Source: [http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/24399/group/Your City/](http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/24399/group/Your%20City/)

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