



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 November 2009

### Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

### Top Stories

- The BBC reports that two suspected computer hackers have been arrested in Manchester in a major inquiry into a global internet scam designed to steal personal details. The program, known as the Zeus or Zbot trojan, is believed to have infected thousands of computers around the world. (See item [13](#))
- According to the Associated Press, rogue employees at a major mobile phone company illegally sold millions of customer records to rival firms, Britain's information watchdog reported on November 17. (See item [39](#))

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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. *November 17, CNN* – (Puerto Rico) **Puerto Rico fire linked to faulty gas tank monitoring system.** A faulty monitoring system on a gasoline tank at a Puerto Rico storage facility most likely led to a massive fire in October that damaged homes and businesses more than a mile away, federal investigators said November 16. A storage tank at the Caribbean Petroleum Corp. facility in Bayamon, near San Juan, was being

filled with gasoline from a ship docked in San Juan harbor when the tank apparently overflowed, U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) investigators said at a news conference. “Gasoline spilled from the tank without detection; as the material spilled, it vaporized and spread across the facility,” the agency said in a release. “CSB investigators estimate that the vapor cloud spread to a 2,000-foot diameter until it reached an ignition source in the northwest section of the facility.” The liquid level in the tank could not be determined because the facility’s computerized monitoring system was not fully operational, the CSB investigators said. The FBI has determined that the explosion was an industrial accident, said an agent of the San Juan office. “It was not a terrorist act or an act of sabotage,” he said. He said the FBI had determined that graffiti found on two San Juan tunnels that referred to a fire were not painted by anyone with connection to the blaze.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/11/17/puerto.rico.fire.investigation/>

2. *November 17, WMUR 9 Manchester* – (New Hampshire) **Propane Leak Prompts Evacuations In Exeter.** Fire crews in Exeter, New Hampshire, evacuated several mobile homes the evening of November 17 after a propane tank began leaking. Firefighters evacuated residents just after 6 p.m. at the Pinecrest Mobile Home Park after an outside propane tank began leaking at 23 Second St. Fire officials said the tank held about 100 gallons of propane gas. Crews were able to contain and clean the spill before allowing residents to return to their homes. The residents remained evacuated for about an hour. There were no injuries reported.

Source: <http://www.wmur.com/news/21645967/detail.html>

3. *November 17, Queens Courier* – (New York) **Report faults Con Ed with gas blast tragedy.** Nearly seven months after a fatal gas explosion shook a quiet Floral Park community to its core, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) has faulted Con Edison with failing to stave off the tragedy. In a report issued Thursday, November 12, the PSC identified errors made by Con Ed’s first responder and questioned whether the utility company’s internal systems – such as its handling of gas odor reports and its dispatching process; its ability to contact emergency responders and provide them with adequate equipment; and its leak investigation procedures – are sufficient to prevent future calamities from occurring. Had the unidentified Con Ed mechanic not made several errors, the report said, a 40-year-old would not have perished in the April 24 explosion that demolished her family’s home, damaged several others and resulted in numerous injuries. The principal criticism of Con Ed’s first responder, the PSC report said, was that after smelling a strong gas odor on 260th Street and obtaining positive readings, “he then spent approximately 26 minutes concentrating on establishing the outside gas leakage migration pattern rather than following other provisions of the procedures more critical to protecting life and property.” In fact, a recent PSC notice related to its findings cited a management audit of Con Ed in which auditor Liberty Consulting Group said the utility giant “needs to change from a reactive to a proactive organization.” The commission included several recommendations in its report, noting that Con Ed had already implemented a number of the enhancements to its emergency response procedures.

Source:

[http://www.queenscourier.com/articles/2009/11/17/news/top\\_stories/doc4b0312f5ac46c337824181.txt](http://www.queenscourier.com/articles/2009/11/17/news/top_stories/doc4b0312f5ac46c337824181.txt)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *November 18, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Crews working to clean up Maine chemical spill.** Crews from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and a contractor are working to clean up the chemicals that spilled after a truck accident along Interstate 95 in Medway. Officials say 12 plastic totes that can each carry 330 gallons of chemicals leaked after the Sunday crash. The Bangor Daily News says 10 of the totes were empty after the crash. So far a total of 1,200 gallons of hazardous liquids have been recovered from the site. The truck was carrying paper making chemicals destined for a mill in Bucksport. Officials are awaiting test results to determine the levels of contamination which determine how to handle and dispose of the soil. The driver of the truck is facing felony charges of operating under the influence.  
Source: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/News/StateNewEngland/440353-227/crews-working-to-clean-up-maine-chemical.html>
5. *November 18, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Evacuation over after chemical leak in Iowa.** Authorities say an evacuation in the northern Iowa town of Greene is over after an anhydrous ammonia leak. Six homes were evacuated Tuesday evening because of the chemical leak at a farmer co-op just north of the Floyd/Butler County line. The Butler County sheriff's office reported early Wednesday that the evacuation had ended. No injuries were reported. The Waterloo Hazmat Team was called in as fire crews from Greene, Allison, and Marble Rock hauled in water by tanker truck. The Floyd County Emergency Management Coordinator says with an anhydrous leak, emergency workers have to dump water on the chemicals and contain it where it flows to prevent contamination.  
Source: [http://www.wcfcourier.com/news/local/article\\_82a72a38-d437-11de-be90-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.wcfcourier.com/news/local/article_82a72a38-d437-11de-be90-001cc4c03286.html)

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

6. *November 18, Seacoast Online* – (New Hampshire) **Seabrook nuclear power plant testing sirens Wednesday.** New Hampshire's Seabrook Station nuclear power plant is conducting an emergency siren test. The 121 sirens in New Hampshire and Massachusetts are scheduled to sound at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The test will last three to five minutes. The sirens are part of a warning system in the event of an emergency at the nuclear reactor. In a real emergency, the sirens would signal for people to listen to radio or television news for emergency information.  
Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20091118-NEWS-911189990>

7. *November 17, Wilmington Star News* – (North Carolina) **Brunswick Nuclear Plant to test emergency sirens.** The Brunswick Nuclear Plant in Southport will conduct its annual full-volume test of its public notification sirens. Starting at 10 a.m., the sirens located within 10 miles of the power plant in Brunswick County and from Federal Point south to Fort Fisher in New Hanover County will sound at the same time for 3-minute intervals, Progress Energy said. The test is part of the emergency planning program for the Southport power plant.

Source:

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20091117/ARTICLES/911179950?Title=Brunswick-Nuclear-Plant-to-test-emergency-sirens>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

8. *November 17, USA Today* – (National) **TSA planning to inspect shops that repair jets.** Thousands of airplane maintenance shops in the U.S. and abroad would get increased scrutiny to make sure they are not easy prey for terrorists looking to sabotage U.S. jets during routine repairs, a government proposal says. Some experts and lawmakers have warned for years about potential terrorist saboteurs infiltrating airplane repair shops, and have urged security oversight. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) says the greatest danger is posed by repair shops that are on or next to airports because a terrorist could take control of an airplane. A TSA regulation proposed Monday would for the first time enable the agency to inspect airplane repair shops. If the TSA found a problematic repair shop, the agency would tell the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to suspend the shop's operating license. The TSA assistant administrator said the new requirement "guards against the potential threat of an aircraft being destroyed or used as a weapon." The agency is soliciting public comments on the proposal and could finalize it later this year. Airplanes ranging from small recreational planes to wide-body jets are repaired at more than 4,200 shops across the U.S. as well as at 700 shops abroad, in countries such as France, Germany, Singapore, Egypt, and Jordan. The shops include small operations that fix seat cushions and massive complexes that overhaul engines. Some industry officials say lawmakers have overstated the potential threat posed by repair shops, noting that shops must be inspected and licensed by the FAA to work on U.S.-based planes.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-11-16-repairs\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-11-16-repairs_N.htm)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *November 17, Reuters* – (National) **Court lifts ban on Boeing work on KC-135 tankers.** A U.S. appeals court on Tuesday lifted a lower court's injunction against a \$1.2 billion Air Force maintenance contract with Boeing Co. that was protested by Alabama Aircraft Industries. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned a federal claims court ruling in favor of Alabama Aircraft after rejecting the

main basis for that decision. It said the Air Force's price analysis underlying the award was not "arbitrary and capricious," as the lower court had ruled, and was not within the lower court's scope of review. As a result, it said, the Air Force could now proceed with its contract with Boeing for maintenance and support of its aging fleet of KC-135 refueling tankers. Boeing welcomed the decision and said it looked forward to beginning maintenance work on KC-135 aircraft under the contract it first won in September 2007. "The appeals court ruling affirms that the Air Force correctly chose Boeing for this vital sustainment work to keep the KC-135 fleet flying and battle-ready for our nation's warfighters," said a Boeing spokesman. The Air Force said the decision meant it could proceed with the Boeing contract.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE5AH0CW20091118>

10. *November 17, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Updated sea-based missile defense system tested.** The United States has completed a round of successful exercises involving an updated ship-based missile defense system, the U.S. Missile Defense Agency announced on November 16. The Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense 4.0.1 system underwent one trial on July 30, when a warship outfitted with the technology supported the simulated interception of a mock short-range ballistic missile with two other Aegis-equipped Navy vessels. On October 16, the specially outfitted warship - the USS Lake Erie - in separate exercises spotted and followed the flight paths of two short-range separating missile targets and sent the information to the wider Ballistic Missile Defense System. On November 5, the Lake Erie took a simulated shot at another separating ballistic missile target. In fiscal 2011, the ship is expected to conduct a test launch of the new Standard Missile 3 Block 1B missile interceptor.  
Source: [http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20091117\\_8989.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20091117_8989.php)

11. *November 17, Aviation Week* – (National) **More testing for new USAF surveillance radar.** Testing of the U.S. Air Force's new \$1.2-billion developmental ground surveillance radar, which has previously suffered technical setbacks, is continuing and officials are confident that they have surpassed some of the more complex technical challenges with new modes for the system. Despite repeated requests from commanders overseeing the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq for more ground surveillance sensors, questions remain about when the Multi-Platform Radar Technology Insertion Program (MP-RTIP) sensor will be integrated on the Global Hawk Block 40 vehicle, which has been rolled out but still must go through testing. That milestone was slated for May, and one official close to the program says integration could take place in the middle of next year. This official notes that there is discussion among senior Pentagon officials about accelerating delivery of Block 40 to the field, but testing is a hurdle.  
Source: [http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/MP-RTIP111709.xml&headline=More Testing For New USAF Surveillance Radar&channel=defense](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/MP-RTIP111709.xml&headline=More+Testing+For+New+USAF+Surveillance+Radar&channel=defense)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *November 18, WPBF 25 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **Police arrest suspect in bank robbery bomb scare.** A bank robber who said he had a bomb prompted authorities to shut down a section of Forest Hill Boulevard on November 17, and police later arrested a suspect. Detectives with the Palm Springs and Greenacres police departments spent the afternoon at the Island Shores Apartments off Jog Road and Forest Hill Boulevard. They had been in the area searching for a bank robber. Palm Springs police and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office bomb squad were called to a bank robbery at a Wachovia branch at 4300 Forest Hill Blvd. shortly after 11:15 a.m. Police said a man entered the bank and handed the teller a note that read: "I have a bomb, don't panic, just empty the drawer, I used to work here, so no dye packs, thank you, cooperate and no one gets hurt." Police said the man then left a bag on the teller counter before he left. Traffic on Forest Hill Boulevard was shut down between Kirk Road and Military Trail while authorities investigated, and the bank and surrounding businesses were evacuated. It was the third bomb scare in Palm Beach County in the span of a few hours. Students at Greenacres Elementary School and Palm Beach Community College's Lake Worth campus were also kept out of their classrooms earlier November 17 while authorities investigated bomb threats at those schools. Authorities later cleared both scenes.

Source: <http://www.wpbf.com/news/21639387/detail.html>

13. *November 18, BBC* – (International) **Two held in global PC fraud probe.** Two suspected computer hackers have been arrested in Manchester in a major inquiry into a global internet scam designed to steal personal details. The trojan program is believed to have infected thousands of computers around the world, said the Metropolitan Police, which is leading the inquiry. A man and woman, both aged 20, have been questioned and bailed until March 2010 pending further inquiries. Police revealed the arrests were the first in Europe as part of the inquiry. The investigation focused on the Zeus or Zbot trojan - "a sophisticated malicious computer program," said police. The malicious software records online bank account details, passwords and credit card numbers to steal cash with the information accessed. It also copies passwords for social networking sites before causing each computer to forward the data to servers under the control of the hackers. It has emerged in several guises, including a false Facebook page that encouraged users to download a software update. The pair being questioned were arrested on 3 November under the 1990 Computer Misuse Act and the 2006 Fraud Act.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/manchester/8366504.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/manchester/8366504.stm)

14. *November 17, The Register* – (Connecticut) **Romanian cops to \$150k ATM skimming spree.** A Romanian national has admitted he defrauded Bank of America of about \$150,000 in a scheme that secretly recorded customer information as it was entered into automatic teller machines. A 23-year-old pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Connecticut to one count each of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. The man's involvement in the three-month scheme cost the bank about \$150,000, according to federal prosecutors. According to prosecutors, the individual attached skimming devices to Bank of America ATMs that automatically captured the data stored on the magnetic strips of customers' bank cards. He also installed pinhole-sized video cameras

that recorded the passwords entered during transactions. The guilty individual and unnamed accomplices then used the captured information to create cloned debit cards that allowed them to make withdrawals against the victims' accounts. The skimming scheme was carried out against multiple Bank of America branches in Connecticut's Fairfield county.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/17/bank\\_of\\_america\\_skimming\\_plea/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/17/bank_of_america_skimming_plea/)

15. *November 17, Seattle Post Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Suspicious object' in Coupeville bank sparks bomb scare.** What was likely an absent-minded mistake turned into a full-scale bomb investigation in Coupeville on November 16. A customer left a black PVC container inside the bank. Authorities treated the potential threat as real until the object was deemed safe by the Navy. A Whidbey Island Bank employee called 911 after discovering a one-foot-long, black PVC container inside the bank. The Navy's explosive ordnance disposal unit, DET-NW, used a radio jammer to scramble radio frequencies in the area, which would prevent anyone from remotely detonating the device if it were an explosive. The unit also employed the help of a small robot to test the device, and an individual in protective clothing to X-ray the object before it was entirely cleared as a hazard. The ordeal resulted in a nearly two-hour closure of Main Street between Third and Sixth streets in Coupeville.

Source: [http://www.seattlepi.com/sound/412376\\_sound70235817.html](http://www.seattlepi.com/sound/412376_sound70235817.html)

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## **Transportation Sector**

16. *November 18, Associated Press* – (International) **Maersk Alabama attacked by pirates again.** Somali pirates attacked the Maersk Alabama on Wednesday for the second time in seven months, though private guards on board the U.S.-flagged ship repelled the attack with gunfire and a high-decibel noise device. A U.S. surveillance plane was monitoring the ship as it continued to its destination on the Kenyan coast, while a pirate said that the captain of a ship hijacked Monday with 28 North Korean crew members on board had died of wounds. Four suspected pirates in a skiff attacked the ship on Tuesday around 6:30 a.m. local time, firing on the ship with automatic weapons from about 300 yards (meters) away, a statement from the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain said. An on-board security team repelled the attack by using evasive maneuvers, small-arms fire and a Long Range Acoustic Device, which can beam earsplitting alarm tones, the fleet said.

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/11/18/maersk-alabama-attacked-b\\_n\\_361809.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/11/18/maersk-alabama-attacked-b_n_361809.html)

17. *November 18, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Bridge damage leads to closure of NW IN Highway.** Drivers are having to navigate around a four-mile section of a northwestern Indiana expressway that the state highway agency has closed for at least six weeks because of bridge damage. The closed expressway carries Indiana 912, known locally as Cline Avenue, from U.S. 41 in Hammond over the Indiana Harbor Canal near the ArcelorMittal steel mill in East Chicago. The road was ordered closed

on Friday so that a detailed evaluation can be made of the bridge structure. An Indiana Department of Transportation spokeswoman says inspectors found significant damage where the more than 70-foot-tall concrete and steel piers meet the bridge deck.

Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=11527345>

18. *November 18, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Boat hits NC bridge, 1 person injured.** At least one person was injured after a boat hit a high-rise bridge on the North Carolina coast. The Daily News of Jacksonville reported the boat with three people on board hit a piling on the bridge between Atlantic Beach and Morehead City about 5 p.m. Tuesday. The Atlantic Beach Fire Department said one person on the 20-foot boat was flown to a hospital for treatment. The names of the people on the boat were not available.  
Source: <http://www.wtkr.com/news/sns-ap-nc--boat-bridge,0,3345690.story>
19. *November 17, San Francisco Examiner* – (California) **Cause of Muni derailment under investigation.** The site of a Muni light-rail derailment that marred travel Tuesday is close to where a similar incident occurred in 2006, though officials from the transit agency are still investigating why the L-Taraval train came off the tracks this time. Investigators were working Tuesday night to figure out how and why the second car of a two-car train ended up partially off the tracks at 7:35 a.m. Tuesday about a mile west of the Castro station but shy of the Forest Hill Station. No passengers were reported to have been injured when the train came off the tracks. The passengers were all put onto the first car of the train, which was detached and shuttled the riders to Forest Hill. The derailling vehicle severed the communications cable in the tunnel for the train control system and forced the rear light-rail vehicle about a foot off the ground. Service was restored by 7:15 p.m., a Muni spokesman said. The delay was caused by the struggle to put the 40-ton vehicle back onto the tracks, said the Muni chief, who had spent a majority of the day in the tunnel with workers assessing the problem. The chief said the tight space in the tunnel — mere inches between the train and the tunnel wall — left little margin for error while using jacks to hoist the vehicle back onto the track, which was finished at about 5 p.m.  
Source: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Cause-of-Muni-derailment-under-investigation.html>
20. *November 17, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Georgia) **Cell phone mishap grounds plane for 2 hours.** A Houston-bound AirTran plane was grounded in Atlanta for more than two hours after a language barrier created a misunderstanding between the flight crew and a group of passengers. Flight 297 crew members had boarded 73 passengers and were on track to depart at 4:40 p.m. from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and arrive at Houston's Hobby International Airport by 5:56 p.m. But as the plane was about to take off, a member of a 13-passenger group aboard the plane decided to stand in the cabin and snap a photo on his phone, an airlines spokesman said. Crew members tried to get the passenger to sit down and fasten his seat belt, but they were unsuccessful because of language issues, the spokesman said. The captain of the flight returned to the gate, where the passenger and a friend were taken off the plane, the spokesman said. But since the group was traveling together, the rest decided to follow

the duo back into the terminal. The Transportation Security Administration investigated the incident and decided the issue was not security related, he said. The passengers were able to board the flight again after the Federal Aviation Administration rules were explained to them.

Source:

[http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/091117\\_cellphone\\_airtran\\_mishap](http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/091117_cellphone_airtran_mishap)

21. *November 17, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Study: Most Ore. bridges go out in major quake.** The outlook is not good for Oregon bridges in a major earthquake. A joint study released Monday by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Portland State University concludes that U.S. Highway 101 on the coast would be impassable, all connections from the coast to the Willamette Valley would be broken, and only small parts of Interstate 5 would be passable. The assessment is based on a major Cascadia subduction zone earthquake off the Oregon Coast, which geologists estimate has a 10 to 14 percent chance of happening in the next 50 years. The last large earthquake to hit Oregon was in the 1700s. The study cited the viaduct near Hawthorne Park in Medford as the bridge it is most concerned about in the Rogue Valley. It was built in the 1960s, before modern seismic specifications were used. The viaduct was retrofitted in the early 2000s with cables to help secure the structure. According to the study, modern seismic design specifications were not available until the early 1990s. Most bridges along Oregon highways were built between 1960 and 1970. An ODOT spokesman says it would cost \$3 billion to bring all those bridges up to modern seismic standards, and the value of the study is to identify which bridges should be upgraded first to keep crucial highways open in event of a big quake.

Source: <http://kdrv.com/news/local/149480>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

22. *November 18, USAgNet* – (National) **State receives grant to help protect food supply from terrorism.** Wisconsin is one of four states to receive federal grant money to help find new ways to protect the nation's food system from agro-terrorism. The funds are being awarded to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Division, which is heading up a new program called TIGER—which stands for Terrorist Incident GIS-Enhanced Response. Coordinators say TIGER is a high-tech tool that will help investigate terrorists if they were to strike Wisconsin's vital food industry. The Food and Drug Administration is giving the state a \$62,500 Innovative Food Defense grant for the project. GIS, or geographic information system, would be the centerpiece of TIGER. The department's own GIS and food safety staff will develop a computer

program using licensing and inspection information to develop computer maps that track where contaminated food may have been distributed. The intent is to make the information accessible not only to the department's inspectors, but also to the affected businesses and other health agencies involved. The system could eventually be made available to other states, and elements of it could also be used in more common food safety emergencies, such as natural disasters or food-borne illness outbreaks. Other Innovative Food Defense grants went to California, New York, and North Carolina. Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.php?Id=1384&yr=2009>

23. *November 17, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (Nebraska) **Nebraska firm recalls fresh ground beef products due to possible E. coli O157:H7 Contamination.** Fairbury Steaks, Inc. of Fairbury, Nebraska, is recalling approximately 90 pounds of fresh ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced November 17. The packages were placed in boxes and bear the establishment number "EST. 5726" inside the USDA mark of inspection on a label. The products were produced on November 16, 2009, and were distributed to a restaurant in Ruskin, Nebraska. FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers (including restaurants) of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. The problem was discovered through FSIS microbiological sampling. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. Source: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_063\\_2009\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_063_2009_Release/index.asp)
24. *November 16, Fort Morgan Times* – (Colorado) **Cargill fined for water violations.** Cargill Meat Solutions Corp. was sentenced Friday for violating clean water standards in discharges from its wastewater treatment operation at its Fort Morgan meat packing plant, a U.S. Attorney and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Special Agent in Charge announced. Cargill was sentenced to a fine of \$200,000 and a \$250 special assessment to a victims of crime fund for the two misdemeanor charges. Separate from the court's sentence, Cargill also entered into an administrative agreement with the EPA under which it has undertaken or will undertake a range of corrections, including staff training, mechanical upgrades to its wastewater treatment operation and reassignment of personnel responsible for the violations. According to the stipulated facts contained in the plea agreement, Cargill's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit limited its discharge of total suspended solids (TSS) to a maximum of 2,874 pounds per day. The permit's limit for discharge of fecal coliform was 400 colonies per 100 milliliters. On August 27, 2003, Cargill sampled its discharge and measured fecal coliforms at 522 colonies per 100 milliliters, a violation of its permit. On July 16, 2004, Cargill sampled its discharge and measured total suspended solids at 4,332 pounds for the day, a violation of its permit. Under the agreement, any further violations will subject Cargill to possible sanctions, including debarment from federal contracts. The plant processes about 5,000 head of cattle and generates about 1.5 million gallons of wastewater each working day. Source: [http://www.fortmorgantimes.com/ci\\_13797039](http://www.fortmorgantimes.com/ci_13797039)

25. *November 16, Oregonian* – (Oregon; Washington) **Harmful algae could cost coastal communities.** A study released Monday shows that a yearlong closure of razor clamming because of toxic algae would cost Washington state \$22 million in lost revenue from lodging, gear sales, restaurant receipts and other costs. The study, by the University of Washington and NOAA, is one of the first to evaluate the economic effects of harmful algae blooms. The razor clamming season, which runs from October to about May, is now open in both Washington state and Oregon. But sometimes state officials have to close digging when the shellfish carry high levels of toxins. This year the season opened two weeks late because the clams had high levels of paralytic shellfish toxin. That toxin and domoic acid are produced by harmful algae blooms, mainly *Pseudo-nitzschia australis*. The shellfish become contaminated after consuming the algae. Although the toxins do not harm the shellfish, they can cause a range of problems in humans, from nausea and vomiting to seizures and even death. Popular with families, razor clamming seems to be on the upswing, especially in tough economic times.

Source:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/11/harmful\\_algae\\_could\\_cost\\_coast.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/11/harmful_algae_could_cost_coast.html)

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## **Water Sector**

26. *November 17, Water Technology Online* – (Florida) **Judge: EPA must write runoff rules for Florida.** A federal judge has approved a consent decree that allows the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set water pollution standards for the state of Florida, according to a November 16 Associated Press (AP) report. A US District Judge approved a settlement between the EPA and environmental groups, rejecting challenges from state and local government agencies as well as agriculture and business interests. The environmental groups had filed a lawsuit in 2008, asking the federal government to intervene under the Clean Water Act. The groups argued the state was not enforcing clean water laws and was allowing nutrients in farm and urban runoff into surface waters. The groups said the EPA had a duty to enforce Clean Water Act rules. Nutrient contamination of surface waters has been blamed for algae blooms in Florida's inland and coastal waters. Toxic algae blooms also have been the reason some drinking water treatment plants have had to shut down, an environmental lawyer told AP. The agreement, which may serve as a model for other states, will not be final until the judge issues a written order, the AP reported.

Source: [http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N\\_ID=72964](http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72964)

27. *November 17, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **L.A. water main breaks may be tied to reservoir, DWP says.** The rash of water main breaks that have flooded streets, homes and business and snarled traffic across Los Angeles over the last few months could have been triggered by minor increases in pressure because of an unusually full reservoir and fluctuations after a trunk line ruptured in Studio City in September. In a report prepared for the City Council and made public on Tuesday, Department of Water

and Power (DEP) officials wrote that they still do not know conclusively what caused the rash of breaks. They are also still waiting for input from scientists at USC and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory who are analyzing seismic activity and other issues to see if they are factors. But after analyzing dozens of incidents, officials determined that many of the breaks occurred in corroded, deteriorated cast-iron pipe. This type of pipe causes greater damage to streets when it ruptures, leading to more “major blowouts,” the report said. Corroded pipe is also more susceptible to breaking when subjected to minor increases in pressure. A cluster of leaks in July and August, for example, coincided with an increase in reservoir elevation — and a corresponding increase in static pressure of about 4 pounds per square inch — at the Lower Franklin Reservoir. The report said the pressure was still “within the normal operating range” but that it could have been enough to stress already aging pipes.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/11/la-water-main-breaks-may-be-tired-to-reservoir-dwp-says.html>

For another story, see item [25](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

28. *November 18, Longmont Times-Call* – (Colorado) **Man with gun arrested at Exemplar hospital.** A man accused of taking a gun to Exemplar Good Samaritan Hospital on Tuesday morning was being held without bond at the Boulder County Jail on Tuesday evening, jail officials said. The man and an unidentified woman entered the hospital at about 11:20 a.m., police said. While she was being treated, the woman slipped a note to a nurse, advising the nurse of the gun. The hospital was locked down and the emergency room entrance was closed off, per hospital policy. A hospital spokeswoman said the gun was not loaded. The hospital posts its no-firearms policy at each of its entrances.

Source: [http://www.timescall.com/news\\_story.asp?ID=19342](http://www.timescall.com/news_story.asp?ID=19342)

29. *November 18, Reuters* – (National) **Medtronic gets FDA warning letter after inspection.** Medtronic Inc. said on Wednesday that it had received a warning letter from U.S. health regulators calling for corrective actions at a Mounds View, Minnesota, plant where the company makes products that help manage heart rhythms. The letter from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) comes in the wake of problems Medtronic has had with its leads that are used with implantable cardioverter defibrillators, known as ICDs. The FDA issued the warning letter after it completed its inspection of the facility in August. The company will respond to the letter within 15 days, as required. Medtronic said the FDA noted in its letter that the company’s promised corrective actions appeared to be adequate to resolve the issues raised in the letter. The company added that it has already begun to implement changes and put procedures in place related to each of the observations cited during the inspection, and additional actions that may be required will be in place as quickly as possible.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthcareSector/idUSN1810193420091118>

30. *November 17, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Vaccine shortage result of old production tech, slow growing virus.** Had the H1N1 influenza pandemic instead been the feared H5N1 pandemic, the on-going shortages of H1N1 vaccine would mean the world would have experienced even greater shortages. Current shortages have left untold thousands without access to the vaccination. Many hospitals and clinics have run out, forcing them to turn people away. Though news organizations, pundits, and critics have implied that blame for the shortage rests with federal and state public health authorities, the critics have largely misplaced their venting. Governments and the handful of vaccine manufacturers for the entire world have been doing the best they can using 1950s vaccine production technology at break-neck production speed. Compounding this problem was the unpredictable slow growth of the H1N1 virus in eggs, in which viruses are grown for producing vaccines in current manufacturing processes. This could not have been foreseen. The director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), has explained that the principle problem has been the slow growth of H1N1 in eggs in combination with the extremely short time there was available to produce a vaccine between the time the pandemic was declared and the onset of flu season. Manufacturers have had a hard time getting the H1N1 virus to grow in eggs quickly enough. Switzerland-based Novartis, for example, initially was able to grow only 23 percent of the virus it normally is able to grow for a typical seasonal flu vaccine.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/11112/149/>

31. *November 17, Alaska Dispatch* – (Alaska) **State to close H1N1 emergency ops center.** The Alaska State Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is deactivating its emergency operations center (EOC), the interagency team that led the state's fight against the H1N1 virus. The decision was announced Monday morning to EOC staff members, who will return to their regular positions. The official stand down of the EOC will be completed by November 30. The move is a sign that H1N1 is under control in the state. While the EOC will be reactivated if the situation worsens or the virus mutates, the stand down means that the virus is not, for now, considered a drastic threat. This swine flu EOC was established on September 30 so agencies working on H1N1 could more easily meet and plan amongst themselves. The EOC consisted mainly of DHSS employees, along with staff from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Liaisons from the Department of Defense, the Municipality of Anchorage, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium also took part in planning.

Source: <http://www.alaskadispatch.com/news/1-news/2953-state-to-close-h1n1-emergency-ops-center>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

32. *November 17, Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Coast Guard plane lands hard at Eagle airport near Vail.** The nose gear of a United States Coast Guard aircraft collapsed upon landing at Eagle County Regional Airport, Tuesday at around 11:30 a.m. The

reason for the malfunction is not yet know. The crew of five was conducting training operations at the time of the incident, according to the communications director for Eagle County. No one was injured in the incident. The runway the aircraft landed was closed for clean-up and investigation; the other airport runway remained open.

Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/commented/ci\\_13808226?source=commented](http://www.denverpost.com/commented/ci_13808226?source=commented)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

33. *November 17, WFSB 3 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **State tests news emergency alert system.** Nearly 800 electronic emergency notifications were sent out to residents along the shoreline in a test of the brand new statewide alert system that will be used in the event of an emergency. Old Saybrook's emergency management center sent out its first emergency messages to 772 selected people. Those residents were signed up for an H1N1 vaccine. A member of the Department of Public Safety said, "Alerts can go out to the public and alerts them to certain instances. Or, you can go out and ask them for feedback and polling messages like we're doing today in Old Saybrook." The program works by selecting a designated area. Those residents in the area that have a registered E-mail or phone number will receive the alerts. What is unique about this system is that residents can actually respond to the alerts. Emergency notifiers can get the feedback from responders almost instantly.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/news/21645890/detail.html>

34. *November 17, Post-Searchlight* – (Georgia) **Emergency was only a drill.** Four fire trucks, several ambulances and police patrol cars and a Hazardous Materials Response truck responded to the Memorial Hospital employee parking lot on Gordon Avenue at about 9:45 a.m. Tuesday. As part of a community disaster drill conducted by Memorial Hospital, Bainbridge and Decatur County emergency responders were reacting to an E-911 dispatch stating a cropduster plane had crashed in the parking lot located across Gordon Avenue from Memorial Manor, behind the hospital. While noting it was just a drill, the E-911 dispatcher relayed the scenario that the crash had injured multiple people and involved the spillage of an unknown, possibly toxic chemical. The exercise was designed to see how hospital employees and emergency responders would react in a real emergency, to put their skills into practice in a simulated emergency.

Source: <http://www.thepostsearchlight.com/news/2009/nov/17/emergency-was-only-drill/>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

35. *November 18, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **FBI suspects terrorists are exploring cyber attacks.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking at people with suspected links to al Qaeda who have shown an interest in mounting an attack on computer systems that control critical U.S. infrastructure, a senior official told

Congress on November 17. While there is no evidence that terrorist groups have developed sophisticated cyber-attack capabilities, a lack of security protections in U.S. computer software increases the likelihood that terrorists could execute attacks in the future, the official warned. If terrorists were to amass such capabilities, they would be wielded with “destructive and deadly intent,” the deputy assistant director of the FBI’s Cyber Division, told the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 17. “The FBI is aware of and investigating individuals who are affiliated with or sympathetic to al Qaeda who have recognized and discussed the vulnerabilities of the U.S. infrastructure to cyber-attack,” he told the committee, without providing details. Such infrastructure could include power grids and transportation systems. The control systems of U.S. infrastructure as well as money transfers are now connected directly or indirectly to the Internet. Hackers have been able to penetrate computer systems running components of the U.S. electric grid as well as divert bank transfers. In an interview Tuesday, a former Homeland Security secretary said al Qaeda already has some cyber-attack capability. “I don’t think they’re the most capable in the world, but they have some capability,” he said. The former Homeland Security secretary said he expects al Qaeda to develop more cyber-attack skills that would allow them to attack infrastructure that is less well protected, perhaps in the transportation and energy sectors. “It’s only a matter of time,” he said. “They’re getting the capability to do some damage.”

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125850773065753011.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_MIDDLE\\_NexttoWhatsNewsSecond](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125850773065753011.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLE_NexttoWhatsNewsSecond)

36. *November 17, ComputerWorld* – (International) **Firefox 3.6 locks out rogue add-ons.** Mozilla will add a new lockdown feature to Firefox 3.6 that will prevent developers from sneaking add-ons into the program, the company said. The new feature, which Mozilla dubbed “component directory lockdown,” will bar access to Firefox’s “components” directory, where most of the browser’s own code is stored. The company has billed the move as a way to boost the stability of its browser. “We’re doing this for stability and user control [reasons],” said the manager of the Firefox front-end development team, in an e-mail on November 17. “Dropping raw components in this way was never an officially supported way of doing things, which means it lacks things like a way to specify compatibility. When a new version of Firefox comes out that these components aren’t compatible with, the result can be a real pain for our shared users.” “Now that those components will be packaged like regular add-ons, they will specify the versions they are compatible with, and Firefox can disable any that it knows are likely to cause problems,” the manager added. His mention of “regular add-ons” referred to the new policy that will be enforced by Firefox 3.6, a minor upgrade to last summer’s 3.5 that is to ship before the end of the year. Because third-party developers will no longer be able to drop their code into the components directory, they must instead recreate their add-ons as XPI-based files, the standard Firefox extension format. Mozilla has posted information on its developer site to aid programmers who need to migrate add-ons to the XPI format.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141044/Firefox\\_3.6\\_locks\\_out\\_rogue\\_add\\_ons](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141044/Firefox_3.6_locks_out_rogue_add_ons)

37. *November 17, IDG News Services* – (National) **Obama administration unsure about new cybersecurity laws.** Current laws addressing cyber crime are not adequate to address growing attacks on the government and businesses, a representative of the U.S. President's administration said November 17. But when a U.S. senator questioned what additional laws the U.S. President's administration needed, the associate deputy attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice, said he was not sure yet. "Are all of you, or any of you, satisfied with the existing legal structure under which you are operating?" a Rhode Island Democratic senator asked a panel of four government officials working on cybersecurity. "Senator, that's a complicated question," the associate deputy attorney general answered during a hearing before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "I think the answer to it is no." Senators heard conflicting views on what kind of new laws are needed. The U.S. Congress should not pass laws, as some lawmakers have suggested, mandating cybersecurity efforts at private businesses, said the president of the Internet Security Alliance, a cybersecurity advocacy group. Market-based incentives should be able to improve cybersecurity, while government mandates could harm the Internet, he said. But the vice chairman of the government advisory group the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, said some mandates may be necessary for private companies associated with national security.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141029/Obama\\_administration\\_unsure\\_about\\_new\\_cybersecurity\\_laws](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141029/Obama_administration_unsure_about_new_cybersecurity_laws)

38. *November 17, DarkReading* – (International) **Only half of CEOs strongly support data security efforts.** More than half of IT and security professionals worldwide believe their company's laptops and other mobile devices pose security risks to their organizations, and only half of them have CEOs who are strong advocates and supporters of data security efforts, according to new report issued today. The new Ponemon Institute report, "State of the Endpoint: IT Security & IT Operations Practitioners in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand & Germany," which was commissioned by Lumension Security, also found that IT security is more worried about endpoint security (60 percent) than IT operations (53 percent), as well as other signs of inadequate communication and collaboration between the two groups. And security and IT pros in the U.S. tend to be more pessimistic about security than their counterparts in other parts of the world. Only 40 percent of U.S. IT and security pros said their CEOs were strong supporters of data security efforts, and while 77 percent of German firms and 57 percent of U.K. firms said their networks are more secure now than a year ago, only 44 percent of U.S. firms thought so. Only 42 percent of Australian firms said their networks were more secure this year than last. Around 53 percent of all firms expect their security spending to remain flat, according to the report. U.S. firms were also less inclined to consider compliance helpful to security of their endpoints — 44 percent of U.S. companies said regulations improved their endpoint security, versus 54 percent in Germany, and 50 percent in the U.K.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/client/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=221800348&cid=ref-true>

### 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

39. *November 17, Associated Press* – (International) **Millions of mobile phone customers' records stolen, sold to rivals.** Rogue employees at a major mobile phone company illegally sold millions of customer records to rival firms, Britain's information watchdog said Tuesday. The information commissioner said the case was a serious breach of data privacy, and he called for harsher punishments for offenders. "The existing paltry fines ... are simply not enough to deter people from engaging in this lucrative criminal activity. The threat of jail, not fines, will prove a stronger deterrent," he said. The mobile phone company – which he said could not be identified because an investigation was ongoing – alerted the commissioner's office after it found out about the suspected trade. Personal data, including customers' contract expiry dates, were sold to several rivals, which then used the material to cold-call customers to offer them an alternative deal, the office said. "The number of records involved runs into the millions, and it appears that substantial amounts of money changed hands," the government body said in a document submitted to the Ministry of Justice. He said his office was considering the evidence and preparing to prosecute those responsible. The Data Protection Act prohibits the selling on of data without prior permission from the customer. Offenders could be fined thousands of pounds (dollars).  
Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/11/17/millions-of-mobile-phone-n\\_360860.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/11/17/millions-of-mobile-phone-n_360860.html)

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *November 17, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Grenade scare over harmless object.** Fire investigators and the Metro Arson Strike Team responded to Goodwill Industries Tuesday afternoon in downtown San Diego to a report of a possible grenade in a donation box. The report came at 2:46 p.m. that a worker going through a box found what looked like a grenade, said a spokesman for the San Diego Police Department. It was determined by 3:29 p.m. that the object was painted green to look like a grenade, but it was not an explosive. Goodwill is located on 16th Street at E Street, less than two blocks from the downtown San Diego police headquarters.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2009/nov/17/grenade-scare-over-harmless-object/>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

41. *November 18, Pioneer Valley Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Dam inspection slated at pond.** The water level of Peppers Mill Pond, located off Route 9 near the Quabbin Reservoir, Massachusetts, is being drawn down so further dam inspections can be made, the chairman of the Conservation Commission, said Monday. Workers from the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, which owns the land where the pond is located, were removing debris left by beavers when they discovered a horizontal crack in the smaller of the two dams on the pond, which is popular for fishing, he said. At his request, the Board of Selectmen on November 3 gave the interim town manager permission to sign an emergency certificate to allow work to proceed without following the usual process outlined in the state Wetlands Protection Act. This will allow officials from the state to lower the water four feet so the dam can be inspected and shored up temporarily. The water level then will be raised two feet for the winter in hopes of preventing further damage when the pond freezes over. In the spring, permanent repairs are expected, but the normal process of getting formal approval and conducting a public hearing will be followed. If the dam failed, water would likely pass through a culvert under Route 9 that already has been cleared of debris. The state is paying for the cost of studying and repairing the dam.

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/springfield/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-25/1258532222184260.xml&coll=1>

42. *November 17, WYFF 4 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Many S.C. dams may hold hidden dangers.** There are more than 50,000 dams in South Carolina. Many of these dams are not subject to state inspection. “Most of these are privately-owned dams,” said a spokesman of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). “The responsibility [to inspect them] is on the property owner.” DHEC is the agency responsible for ensuring the safety of dams in South Carolina. Dams classified as “high hazard” are inspected by the agency on a yearly basis, while “significant hazard” dams are inspected every three years. But since most dams in South Carolina (86 percent) are privately-owned, many receive no inspection at all. In 2005, the environmental group Upstate Forever commissioned a study on dams in the Saluda-Reedy Watershed. The group’s founder was amazed by what the study found. “We found over 3,000 dams in this one watershed, and we found that only about 160 of those dams are subject to the state inspection program.” The report by Pinnacle

Consulting Group found most dams in the watershed “don’t receive proper maintenance.” Of the 2,700 “earthen” dams, it found 2,500 of those dams are unregulated, and “present substantial concerns to downstream waters and properties.” “Some of the dams are very small and probably pose no risk, some of the dams are more significant in size and probably pose some risk,” he added.  
Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/21644230/detail.html>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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