



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 November 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- MSNBC reports that a problem with the FAA system that collects airlines' flight plans caused widespread flight cancellations and delays nationwide on November 19. It was the second time in 15 months that a glitch in the flight plan system caused delays. (See item [16](#))
- According to CIO, the vice president of Research In Motion (RIM) explained that the production of more sophisticated smartphones, and the increase in the number of users, could allow the phones to become part of botnets to be used in DDOS attacks. (See item [32](#))

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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 18, Reuters* – (Texas) **U.S. EPA sets new sulfur dioxide emission rules.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Tuesday proposed new air quality regulations for sulfur dioxide emissions, which come mostly from power plants and industrial facilities, especially those that burn coal. The proposed rules would set a

one-hour standard for concentrations of sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere between 50 and 100 parts per billion (ppb). These one-hour standards would replace existing regulations that limit sulfur concentrations to 140 ppb measured over 24 hours and an annual average of 30 ppb. EPA said the proposed rules would “better protect public health by reducing people’s exposure to high short-term concentrations of SO₂.” Fossil fuel-based power plants and other industrial facilities are the main sources sulfur dioxide emissions. Compliance with the new rules will cost industries \$1.8 billion to \$6.8 billion, the EPA said. The existing rules, which have been around since the 1970s, essentially have a loophole that allows high levels of sulfur dioxide over short periods of time, said the Clean Air Watch president. “New studies have shown that people get sicker when they’re exposed to high levels of sulfur dioxide for a very short time period,” the president said.

Source:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idINN173966620091117?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

2. *November 17, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **Arson eyed in fire that almost ignited propane tanks.** Arson investigators believe a Bellevue, Nebraska, fire that almost ignited a family’s propane tanks may have been deliberately set. If the propane tanks had ignited, the explosion could have been devastating, said the Bellevue police chief. The homeowner, who declined to identify herself out of fear for her safety, believes she and her family could have been killed. She said she was inside her home the morning of November 17 when her neighbor ran over, frantically yelling that her back yard was on fire. When she was alerted to the fire, the woman grabbed a garden hose and attacked the flames with her son. If someone had died, the police chief said, the person who set the fire could face charges of first-degree murder and domestic terrorism.

Source: <http://www.ketv.com/news/21644116/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [22](#) and [23](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 19, WKRC 12 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Chemical spill closes I-71 at Norwood, trapping drivers.** A chemical spill shut down northbound Interstate 71, creating a huge backup on the interstate for the evening rush hour November 18. A hazardous materials team was called to the 7 mile marker in Norwood, Ohio just after four o’clock. They had to secure some type of corrosive material which had leaked inside a tractor trailer. Northbound traffic is backed up more than six miles to the Lytle Tunnel. The interstate opened back up after the truck was cleared around seven o’clock.

Source: <http://www.local12.com/news/local/story/Chemical-Spill-Closes-I-71-at-Norwood-Trapping/JymTqXqXEkCSPV1zlYiZng.csp>

4. *November 19, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Part Of S.D. town evacuated after chemical leak.** Residents of the northeastern South Dakota town of Big Stone City who

were evacuated after an anhydrous ammonia leak have returned to their homes. The Grant County Sheriff says the residents returned home about 5 a.m. Thursday, after authorities finished cleaning up wreckage of a traffic accident that led to the leak. The accident happened shortly before 8 p.m. Wednesday on U.S. Highway 12 at Big Stone City near the Minnesota border. The sheriff says the semi was carrying anhydrous ammonia from Canby, Minnesota, to Wilmot and had just crossed the border into South Dakota when it collided with a van that crossed the center line. Anhydrous ammonia is a farm fertilizer that can cause health problems if people breathe it. The sheriff says the leak was small and no residents were harmed. The drivers of the semi and the van were treated for minor injuries. He says between 50 and 75 residents of the town of 600 spent the night with relatives, friends or in hotel rooms after leaving a temporary shelter set up at a local school.

Source: <http://wcco.com/local/anhydrous.ammonia.leak.2.1321895.html>

5. *November 18, Nashville Tennessean* – (Mississippi) **Chemicals found with woman's body in car on Natchez Trace.** A hazardous material crew from the Franklin Fire Department removed a woman's body this morning from a car parked along the Natchez Trace Parkway. In addition to the body, the crew also found chemicals at the scene, according to the Franklin Fire Department Deputy Chief. The car was discovered by a park maintenance crew about 8:30 this morning at the Garrison Creek picnic area. A sign was in the window warning of poisonous gas. The fire chief could not confirm the nature of the chemicals. Law enforcement officers from the National Park Service and the Williamson County Sheriff Department responded, along with the Williamson County Rescue Squad, the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency, and the Special Operations Response Team from Franklin Fire Department. The Natchez Trace Parkway is open, but the Garrison Creek picnic area remains closed as the investigation continues. The fire chief said further information would be coming from Natchez Trace Parkway headquarters in Tupelo, Miss.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20091118/COUNTY09/91118021/12+23+p.m.+Update++Chemicals+found+with+woman+s+body+in+car+on+Natchez+Trace>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *November 19, Reuters* – (Texas) **South Texas 1 reactor exits refuel.** STP Nuclear Operating Co.'s 1,280-megawatt Unit 1 at the South Texas nuclear power station in Texas exited a refueling outage and ramped up to 37 percent power by early Thursday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut by October 1. During the outage, workers replaced the reactor vessel head in addition to other refueling and maintenance activities.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1916161520091119>

7. *November 17, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Homeland Security misses self-imposed schedule to certify new radiation detectors.** The U.S. Homeland Security

Department has missed a self-imposed schedule to prove to Congress that the next generation of radiation detectors will work when deployed at the nation's points of entry. The acting head of the department's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office said in June that Homeland Security would sign off this fall on two congressionally mandated certifications for the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal monitor system. "October is kind of our notional date right now," the official told the House Homeland Security Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology Subcommittee. A department spokeswoman said during the week of November 9-13 that testing and evaluation of the monitors is "still ongoing." "Delays in certification have been related to issues of operational ease and reliability — problems that take time to resolve," the spokeswoman said in an e-mail message. "We created a comprehensive and rigorous program with the end user [U.S Customs and Border Protection] involved in all program decisions." Department officials have said they hope to deploy 1,400 of the new machines at a cost of roughly \$1.2 billion to detect materials that could be used in a radiological or nuclear weapon. The department has already spent roughly \$230 million on the effort, with each sensor expected to cost approximately \$822,000. Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091117_8921.php

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *November 18, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (International) **Fire and burn hazards prompt recall of gas grills sold at Lowe's stores.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Health Canada, in cooperation with L G Sourcing, Inc., of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, on November 18 announced a voluntary recall of about 663,000 Perfect Flame SLG Series Gas Grills in the United States, as well as about 1,700 in Canada. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The burners can deteriorate causing irregular flames and the lids of some models can catch fire, posing fire and burn hazards to the consumer. The firm has received about 40 reports of fires from the burners deteriorating and about 23 reports of the lids catching fire. The firm is aware of one report of an eye injury requiring surgery and 21 incidents of minor burns to the hands, arms or face. No other Perfect Flame model numbers are included in this recall. Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10043.html>
9. *November 18, Detroit Free Press* – (National) **Toyota looking beyond the mats.** Federal regulators and Toyota Motor Corp. are discussing whether the automaker needs to fix gas pedals or floor pans in millions of recalled vehicles instead of blaming floor mats, which the automaker had maintained was the source of unintended acceleration cases. The talks are the result of new evidence from safety tests and allegations in some lawsuits, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which has received more than 400 complaints about acceleration problems that include several fatalities. In September, Toyota asked owners of 3.8 million Camry, Prius, and other models to remove driver's-side floor mats as part of the company's largest-ever U.S. recall. But now, the automaker is

discussing the gas pedal and floor pan repairs, a NHTSA spokeswoman said Tuesday. Still, lawyers are pointing to other potential problems. Toyota continues to deny that electronic technology was a factor in any reported case of unintended acceleration, said a spokesman. He said Toyota wants to fix any engineering or mechanical flaws that testing reveals.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20091118/BUSINESS01/911180370/1322/Toyota-looking-beyond-the-mats>

10. *November 18, Reuters* – (International) **Strikers invade Chile Spence copper mine - Billiton.** BHP Billiton halted all operations at its Spence copper mine in Chile after striking workers invaded the installations, a company official said on November 18, the 37th day of the strike. The head of base metals for the global mining company told Reuters that Billiton had to evacuate employees at the mine after striking workers invaded the site. He did not say whether anyone was injured at the mine, which produced 164,800 tonnes of copper last year.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1813574120091118>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *November 18, The Register* – (National) **Second-hand ATM trade opens up fraud risk.** Second-hand ATM machines containing sensitive transaction data are easily available for purchase on eBay or even Craigslist, according to an investigation by a U.S.-based security consultant. A security consultant to Intelius.com and personal ID theft expert, was able to buy an ATM machine through Craigslist for \$750 from a bar in Boston. The previous owners hadn't taken the trouble to clear out the data stored by the machines, making it possible for Siciliano to easily extract a log of hundreds of credit and debit card account numbers and transaction details. There are no regulations in the U.S. on who can own or operate an ATM, so the security consultant was able to make the purchase without any checks. He even managed to knock \$250 off the asking price of \$1,000. A manual supplied with the machine gave clear instructions on how to access the sensitive data it stored. Although the names and expiration dates of cards were not included in the logged data, there was still enough information to constitute a serious breach involving more than a thousand records. Most ATM machine operators are affiliated with reputable banks. However, there is very little to stop crooks from purchasing machines and setting them up with skimmers and cameras designed to

capture PINs associated with particular cards.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/18/second_hand_atm_fraud_risk/

12. *November 18, IDG News Services* – (International) **FTC: Online check-writing service not authenticating users.** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has filed a civil contempt complaint against an online check-writing service, saying the company continues to allow customers to create and e-mail checks without verification of their identities. Even after a January court order requiring the principle owners of G7 Productivity Systems and the company to implement fraud prevention safeguards at online check-writing service Qchex.com, the defendants continue to operate a “nearly identical” operation at FreeQuickWire.com, the FTC said in a complaint filed with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. The defendants are “engaged in business as usual” [at] FreeQuickWire.com, even though the court in January issued an injunction and said their business model could help customers engage in fraud by stealing funds from unsuspecting people’s bank accounts, the FTC said. The FTC has asked the court to impose fines of \$10,000 a day or send the defendants to prison, for their “utter disregard” of the January order. Qchex.com created and delivered checks without verifying that users had authority to access the accounts referenced on the checks, the FTC said. Fraudsters worldwide drew checks on the accounts of unwitting third parties and used the checks mainly for wire transfer schemes, the agency alleged.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141111/FTC Online check writing service not authenticating users](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141111/FTC_Online_check_writing_service_not_authenticating_users)

13. *November 18, Bloomberg* – (National) **FDIC’s loan guarantees would be extended under Frank’s proposal.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.’s (FDIC) temporary loan guarantee program would be extended under a proposal in Congress aimed at offering regulators tools to stabilize the economy in the event of a future financial crisis. The House Financial Services Committee on November 18 approved an amendment, introduced by the chairman, to a systemic-risk bill giving the FDIC power to guarantee the debt of solvent banks and other financial institutions, modeled on the short-term program set up last year to spur lending. “It’s an extension of a program that worked fairly well,” the chairman, a Massachusetts Democrat, said during debate. The FDIC program “made a profit for the federal government.” The agency set up the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program to back senior unsecured bank debt and boost liquidity in the banking system. Financial companies borrowed more than \$190 billion with FDIC-backing this year through September, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The proposal lets the FDIC institute the program when a proposed systemic-risk council determines “a liquidity event” exists. The voluntary program would be funded by fees paid by the industry.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a9fEfRSjMyus&pos=5>

14. *November 18, Zanesville Times Recorder* – (Ohio) **Bomb threat called into bank.** A bomb threat was called into the Community Bank on Maysville Pike around 12:50 p.m. on November 18. According to a police captain a single call came into the bank, and

the bank immediately followed its emergency procedures. The Muskingum County Sheriff's Office was notified and responded along with the Newton Township Fire Department and EMS, and the South Zanesville Fire Department. The captain said the bank was evacuated and an explosives K-9 unit was brought in to search the inside and outside of the bank. Nothing was found and there were no injuries reported. He said it remains under investigation.

Source:

<http://www.zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/article/20091118/UPDATES01/91118010/1002/news01>

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Transportation Sector

15. *November 19, KWCH 12 Wichita* – (Kansas) **Plane makes emergency landing in Wichita.** A plane made an emergency landing at Wichita's Mid-Continent Airport Wednesday evening. The Allegiant Airlines MD-80 had just made a refueling stop at the airport, but after taking off, an engine caught fire. The pilot used an on-board fire extinguisher to put out the flames. The crew turned the charter flight around and returned to Mid-Continent. The airport fire department was called out to meet the plane. The airport director says personnel in the control tower noticed more flames coming out of the left engine as the plane approached. Firefighters covered the engine in foam to put the fire out. A few passengers evacuated the plane via an emergency slide. The rest used a set of stairs. An Allegiant Air spokeswoman says one person suffered a minor injury getting off the plane. There were 126 passengers and six crew members on the plane. Allegiant sent another jet to take the passengers to their final destination in Nevada. Those that didn't want to board the other plane Wednesday evening were put up in hotels. Additional travel plans will be made for them on Thursday. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will be out Thursday to investigate what happened.
Source: <http://www.kwch.com/Global/story.asp?S=11533566>
16. *November 19, MSNBC* – (National) **FAA computer glitch causes widespread delays.** A problem with the FAA system that collects airlines' flight plans caused widespread flight cancellations and delays nationwide Thursday. It was the second time in 15 months that a glitch in the flight plan system caused delays. An FAA spokeswoman said she doesn't know how many flights are being affected or when the problem will be resolved. Another FAA spokesperson said the problem started between 5:15 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. EST. The outage is affecting mostly flight plans but also traffic management, such as ground stops and ground delays, he said. Regarding flight plans, airplane dispatchers are now sending plans to controllers and controllers in turn are entering them into computers manually, he said. "It's slowing everything down. We don't know yet what the impact on delays will be," the spokesman said. An AirTran Airways spokesman said there's no danger to flights in the air, and flights are still taking off and landing. However, another spokesman said flight plans are having to be loaded manually because of a malfunction with the automated system. "Everything is

safe in the air,” he said. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world’s busiest airport, has been particularly affected. AirTran had canceled 22 flights and dozens more flights were delayed as of 8 a.m. EST. Only minor delays were being reported at metropolitan New York City area airports, according to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34037203/ns/travel-news/>

For another story, see item [3](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *November 19, WSBTV 2 Duluth* – (Georgia) **Bacteria, not just flood, shut down Atlanta Eggo plant.** Kellogg Co. has blamed a nationwide shortage of Eggo frozen waffles on heavy rain that shut down one of its main plants in Atlanta. The Atlanta facility was closed during much of September and October to sanitize the plant after inspectors found *Listeria monocytogenes* in a sample of Eggos, according to the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Kellogg agreed to recall about 4,500 cases of Eggos September 2 after a routine state inspection turned up *Listeria* in a sample of Buttermilk Eggo Waffles. “Kellogg voluntarily ceased production at the plant, began an investigation to determine a possible cause of contamination and began a regimen of cleaning and sanitizing,” the Georgia Department of Agriculture announced at the time. A Kellogg spokeswoman said the plant was closed for both cleaning and as a result of the flooding. Left unanswered were questions about how long the plant was closed for flooding and how long for cleaning bacteria. The Eggo plant remained closed until late October. It’s now back up and running.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/21661515/detail.html>

18. *November 19, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Feds sue for Atalissa wages.** The U.S. Department of Labor is suing Henry’s Turkey Service for allegedly paying its mentally disabled workers 40 cents an hour to work in an eastern Iowa processing plant. The lawsuit filed Wednesday alleges that back wages are owed to 37 Henry’s employees, most of whom lived in a dilapidated Atalissa bunkhouse and worked at the West Liberty Foods plant in Muscatine County. The lawsuit comes nine months after county, state and federal authorities descended on the eastern Iowa town of Atalissa and evacuated the bunkhouse where dozens of mentally disabled workers had lived for 33 years. The men who lived there worked on the turkey-processing line at West Liberty Foods, but were employees of Henry’s Turkey Service. Henry’s retained most of the wages earned by the men, treating it as payment for room and board in the 106-year-old

converted school building that served as the bunkhouse. The building was closed by the state fire marshal on February 7, a few days after The Des Moines Register asked state regulators why the 21 mentally disabled laborers were living in what appeared to be an unlicensed care facility. State health investigators later concluded the men were dependent on others for their daily care and were not capable of living on their own.

Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091118/NEWS/91118010/Feds-sue-turkey-processor-over-workers-pay-in-Atalissa&theme=ATALISSA>

19. *November 18, U.S Food and Drug Administration* – (Maryland) **FDA takes action against dairy farm and owner.** On November 16 a United States District Court Judge for the District of Maryland entered a Consent Decree of Permanent Injunction (Decree) against Old Carolina Farm and its owner, Francis Roderick, of Ijamsville, Maryland. The Decree prohibits the defendants from selling animals for slaughter for human consumption until they have implemented record keeping systems that will identify and track animals that have been treated with drugs. Old Carolina Farm has a history of selling dairy cows and bob veal calves for slaughter for human food that contain illegal residues of new animal drugs. The presence of drug residues above the established tolerance levels for human food poses a serious health hazard to the public. The Food and Drug Administration has inspected Old Carolina Farm several times during the past decade. During the most recent inspections, in October 2007 and May 2009, defendants admitted that they had sold animals for slaughter for use as human food before drug withdrawal times had expired, resulting in illegal drug residues. Defendants admitted that they did not maintain any animal medical treatment or drug inventory records.

Source:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm191232.htm>

For another story, see item [21](#)

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Water Sector

20. *November 18, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (New York) **EPA approves No Discharge Zone designation for South Shore Estuary Reserve.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved a proposal to prohibit vessel waste discharges within the South Shore Estuary Reserve of Long Island, New York. After a public review and comment period, EPA determined that the petition prepared by Peconic Baykeeper and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) meets the criteria outlined by the Clean Vessel Act for establishing a No Discharge Zone. The EPA acting regional administrator said, “the designation will help safeguard public health, protect marine life and support local economies that rely on the clean coastal resources of the South Shore Estuary.” The EPA’s affirmative determination requires that, effective immediately, all boat sewage will now have to be discharged at equipped pump-out facilities. In considering the proposal, EPA took into account the number of available pump-out facilities in the

area. The Clean Vessel Act stipulates the adequate number of pump-outs per vessel population as one pump-out per 300 – 600 vessels. Taking into account all reasonably accessible pump-outs in the vicinity, EPA has found that the areas of the reserve meet or exceed this criterion for the safe and sanitary removal of sewage generated by the boat population in the area.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/528620CF18AEC9B1852576720054141A>

21. *November 18, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Atty: Non-poultry sources could have tainted water.** A scientist testified that runoff from fields spread with poultry manure accounted for a major portion of phosphorus pollution in a sensitive northeastern Oklahoma watershed. But an attorney for 11 Arkansas poultry companies who do business there argued Wednesday that the geochemist overlooked nearly 20 other possible sources of pollution, such as coal-fired power plants, urban runoff and cattle operations. The scientist, who is testifying as an expert witness in the state of Oklahoma's federal pollution case against the poultry companies, developed his findings after analyzing water and soil samples taken from the Illinois River watershed. The closely watched case, which began in September and has lagged on for months, wrapped up its 24th day Wednesday. Oklahoma sued the industry in 2005, saying the companies are to blame for polluting the watershed with tons of chicken manure. The companies say the waste is the responsibility of their contract growers, and that the state is trying to tailor science to fit its lawsuit.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gUNrX8UrklWzbodZX7IaVJEs2doQD9C25HU00>

22. *November 18, Water Technology Online* – (Oregon) **City issues warning after storm knocks out power.** Cottage Grove, Oregon, has issued a drinking-water warning and has advised residents in the city's northeast portion to boil water before drinking or cooking with it. According to a November 18 news report on KMTR.com, the city manager said this week's storm knocked out power to the Row River water treatment plant, causing a temporary malfunction of the district's chlorination system. The city has gone door-to-door to notify those affected. The city is expecting results of recent sampling on November 19. The boil-water order is in effect until the city gives clearance to drink the water.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72966

23. *November 18, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Inspectors blame tank overflow for SF Bay spill.** State inspectors say an oil spill that sent hundreds of gallons of bunker oil into San Francisco Bay was caused by a fuel tank that overflowed during a morning refueling stop. A California Office of Spill Prevention investigation found that Dubai Star crew members did not notice the tank was overflowing on October 30 until the oil had already leaked into the bay. The findings reverse an earlier suggestion that a faulty hose was to blame for the spill, which fouled six miles of Alameda coastline and killed at least 37 birds. Inspectors are now trying to determine what caused the ship's fuel tank to overfill as it took on fuel at a refueling barge, but

say the barge and its workers did not appear to be at fault.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g_t8INlwVq1YXNlc6jggGwua_jAgD9C29MI00

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *November 19, USA TODAY* – (National) **HHS to warn consumers of flu drug price gouging.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will issue consumer warnings about price variations for a scarce liquid form of the flu-fighting drug Tamiflu, a spokesman said Wednesday. An HHS spokesman said consumers who suspect price gouging should call their state's attorney general. The warnings will be posted soon on flu.gov, he said. A USA TODAY phone survey of more than 100 pharmacies in six states found the out-of-pocket price to fill the same liquid Tamiflu prescription ranged from \$43 to \$130. Although Tamiflu capsules are readily available, there's a shortage of Tamiflu liquid made by Swiss drugmaker Roche. Some pharmacies mix a sweet syrup with the proper amount of the drug from capsules.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-11-18-tamiflu_N.htm
25. *November 18, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **Hospitals tighten security on patient data.** More than half of the nation's hospitals and health care providers surveyed intend to buy more cybersecurity tools to safeguard against breaches of electronic medical records as a result of requirements in the economic stimulus law, according to a new survey of 186 health care providers and associates. The stimulus law has provision known as the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which took effect on September 23. It includes a broader definition of what patient health data must be protected against unauthorized release, increased penalties for violations and provides for aggressive enforcement. The law also requires providers to notify the Health and Human Services Department of all data breaches and to call media outlets if more than 500 residents in an area are affected. More than 90 percent of the survey respondents said their organizations have either changed, or plan to change, their policies and procedures to prevent and detect data breaches. More than 75 percent plan to do additional staff training against breaches, and 75 percent are revising their organization's security policies and procedures. Forty-six percent said they would take all those steps.
Source: <http://fcw.com/articles/2009/11/18/hospitals-beefing-up-cybersecurity-to-comply-with-hitech-survey-says.aspx>
26. *November 18, DarkReading* – (National) **Survey: Patient data at risk from healthcare partners.** Companies that do business with healthcare providers, including accounting firms and offshore transcription vendors, are unprepared to meet data breach obligations included in new federal regulation, according to a survey released Tuesday. The survey by Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Analytics, commissioned by security vendor ID Experts, looked at

preparedness for healthcare providers business partners, such as billing, credit bureaus, benefits management, legal services, claims processing, insurance brokers, data processing firms, pharmacy chains, and temporary office personnel providers. The survey gauged the readiness of companies to comply with the security provisions of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, a component of the U.S. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. About a third of business associates were not aware they needed to comply with security and privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). By comparison, 87 percent of health providers are aware.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=221900153&subSection=Vulnerabilities+and+threats>

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *November 19, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Bomb threats at 2 local schools traced to Roanoke pay phone.** Authorities evacuated and searched two Botetourt County schools Wednesday, following a pair of midday bomb threats. The school superintendent said that sometime before noon, threatening telephone calls came in to Eagle Rock Elementary School and James River High School within minutes of each other. The Botetourt County sheriff said a caller warned of a bomb in the elementary school. A nonspecific danger was implied in the call to the high school. The calls originated from a pay phone at the Unimart in the 1200 block of Jamison Avenue in Southeast Roanoke, the sheriff said. Officials from Botetourt and Roanoke counties and the Virginia State Police searched the schools for nearly three hours before determining the calls were a hoax. The sheriff said investigators are now checking security cameras in that area and seeking information from the public about calls that might have been made from that phone between 11 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Botetourt County Sheriff's Office at 473-8230.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/breaking/wb/226785>

28. *November 18, Associated Press* – (International) **Navy: Lax behavior contributed to collision.** U.S. military investigators who examined a collision earlier this year between two Navy vessels in the Persian Gulf say the accident was preventable and that some submarine crew members habitually fell asleep and spent too much time away from their stations. A Connecticut newspaper, The Day of New London, reported the findings after obtaining a heavily redacted report through the Freedom of Information Act. The Navy investigation places the blame on the USS Hartford's "ineffective and negligent command leadership." The USS Hartford, a submarine based in Groton, Connecticut, collided with the USS New Orleans, a Navy amphibious ship, on March 20 in the Strait of Hormuz. It caused a fuel leak and minor injuries to 15 sailors.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/navy-lax-behavior-contributed-to-collision.html?ESRC=topstories.RSS>

Emergency Services Sector

29. *November 19, Associated Press* – (National) **Emergency managers, state officials to convene Kansas homeland security summit in December.** Disaster and terrorism scenarios will be among the topics federal, state and local officials will be reviewing next month at the first biennial Kansas Homeland Security Summit. The event, which runs December 8-10 in Wichita, is touted as a chance for all emergency agencies to gather and review coordination. Among the topics will be Middle Eastern intelligence and terrorist organizations, emerging domestic threats and addressing vulnerabilities. Homeland security leaders focusing on manmade threats also will hear about improvised explosive devices — better known as the roadside bombs — that have killed or maimed hundreds of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Source: <http://www.kfsm.com/news/sns-bc-ks--kansas-securitysummit,0,6426347.story>
30. *November 18, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **Powder in vial at San Bruno police station not cyanide.** A vial of white powder dropped off at police headquarters with the word “cyanide” written on it was found to be harmless after chemical testing, an emergency official said. A San Bruno resident dropped off a box containing a BB gun, some fireworks and the bottle at the police station for destruction Wednesday, but officers called in the hazardous materials team at about noon when they noticed what was written on the vial, said a district coordinator for the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services. Authorities did not evacuate the area, which is near the San Bruno BART station and Tanforan shopping center, because the powder was not leaking from the vial and there was a very small quantity of it. Emergency officials eventually took the vial to a mobile testing laboratory and determined it was not cyanide. He said late Wednesday afternoon he did not know the final results of tests to determine what exactly was in the vial. Officials will send the container to the county’s Household Hazardous Waste Program for disposal, he said. The program disposes of things like pesticides and used motor oil.
Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_13818987
31. *November 18, KAIT 8 Jonesboro* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas prepares for the big quake.** Shake, Rattle and Roll was the name of the earthquake functional exercise conducted in parts of Arkansas on Wednesday. The Craighead County Director of Emergency Management said the event was focused on communications. “We don’t actually have people out there on the street imitating actual disaster. What we’re doing is having a lot of communications traffic to verify that we can communicate with the needed services out there and with the state.” For this exercise a 7.7 magnitude earthquake occurs with the epicenter being near Marked Tree, Arkansas. He said part of the New Madrid Fault line runs right through the area. He said, “New Madrid Fault Line is actually broken into I believe its three legs. One goes over into Tennessee, one comes down through northeast Arkansas in Mississippi County and just right in the edge of Craighead County and goes down to Marked Tree.” The scenario within the exercise was very detailed allowing the Emergency Operation Centers personnel to

prepare the best they can. He said, “They have projections of what kind of damage we’re going to have in northeast Arkansas. So we’re taking those projections and assuming that is real life and we’re taking our weather as it is today.” This exercise was very important in preparing for a catastrophic earthquake, allowing those involved the chance to see what areas need work. “No matter how prepared you are, you always find the little things that go wrong. In an exercise, drills like this you can cure those small problems. So the next time we have a drill, we know we’ll have that taken care of.”

Source: <http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11532591>

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Information Technology Sector

32. *November 18, CIO* – (International) **BlackBerry security exec warns of smartphone DDoS attacks.** The plethora of new smartphone users in the world means the potential for gain by hackers or other nefarious online individuals looking to crack smartphone security measures is drastically increasing. The more smartphone users, the more devices that could potentially be commandeered and used in various attacks. That means smartphone users are going to have to smarten up when it comes to mobile security awareness and be more vigilant in spotting and stopping potential problems before they happen. Research In Motion’s (RIM) vice president of BlackBerry security agrees, and he recently spoke with Reuters on the subject. The vice president told Reuters that he’s concerned compromised or “rogue” smartphones could be used in the future to target and bring down wireless carrier’s cellular networks via distributed-denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks. Traditional DDoS attacks occur when hackers take control of large groups of computers and then order them to all access one Web site or service at the same time, overloading servers and eventually crashing or disabling the site. RIM’s vice president warned that DDoS attacks could also be perpetrated on smartphone users, with wireless data packets being used to overload and disable carriers’ wireless networks. Reuters also spoke with Flexilis, a maker of mobile security software. The company’s Chief Technical Officer suggests that such an attack could start with users carelessly installing infected or tainted mobile applications.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141107/BlackBerry_security_exec_warns_of_smartphone_DDoS_attacks

33. *November 18, DarkReading* – (National) **FBI warns of spear phishing attacks on U.S. law firms and public relations firms.** The FBI assesses with high confidence that hackers are using spear phishing e-mails with malicious payloads to exploit U.S. law firms and public relations firms. During the course of ongoing investigations, the FBI identified noticeable increases in computer exploitation attempts against these entities. The specific intrusion vector used against the firms is a spear phishing or targeted socially engineered e-mail designed to compromise a network by bypassing technological network defenses and exploiting the person at the keyboard. Hackers exploit the ability of end users to launch the malicious payloads from within the network by attaching a file to the message or including a link to the domain housing the

file and enticing users to click the attachment or link. Network defense against these attacks is difficult as the subject lines are spoofed, or crafted, in such a way to uniquely engage recipients with content appropriate to their specific business interests. In addition to appearing to originate from a trusted source based on the relevance of the subject line, the attachment name and message body are also crafted to associate with the same specific business interests. Opening a message will not directly compromise the system or network because the malicious payload lies in the attachment or linked domain. Infection occurs once someone opens the attachment or clicks the link, which launches a self-executing file and, through a variety of malicious processes, attempts to download another file.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=221900096&subSection=Attacks/breaches>

34. *November 17, Wired* – (National) **Senate panel: 80 percent of cyber attacks preventable.** If network administrators simply instituted proper configuration policies and conducted good network monitoring, about 80 percent of commonly known cyber attacks could be prevented, a Senate committee heard on November 17. The remark was made by the National Security Agency’s information assurance director, who added that simply adhering to already known best practices would sufficiently raise the security bar so that attackers would have to take more risks to breach a network, “thereby raising [their] risk of detection.” The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security heard from a number of experts offering commentary on how the government should best tackle securing government and private-sector critical infrastructure networks. The president of the Internet Security Alliance told senators that public apathy and ignorance played as much a role in the current state of cyber security as the unwillingness of corporate entities to take responsibility for securing the public’s data. As for corporate and government entities that collect and store the public data, they “do not understand themselves to be responsible for the defense of the data,” said the president, whose group represents banks, telecoms, defense and technology companies and other industries that rely on the internet. “The marketing department has data, the finance department has data, etc, but they think the security of the data is the responsibility of the IT guys at the end of the hall.” A 2009 Price Waterhouse Cooper study on global information security found that 47 percent of companies are reducing or deferring their information security budgets, despite the growing dangers of cyber incursions.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2009/11/cyber-attacks-preventable>

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

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at 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

35. *November 18, IDG News Service* – (National) **FCC identifies roadblocks to broadband adoption.** Several factors, including the lack of a broadband subsidy program at the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), have contributed to gaps in broadband adoption in the U.S., a new report from an FCC task force said. Several “critical gaps” in the nation’s broadband efforts must be filled before all U.S. residents can get broadband, said the task force, which is working on a national broadband plan for the FCC. The task force report identified several often-mentioned factors for a lack of broadband adoption, including the cost of the service and a lack of deployment in some areas, but it also focused on some less obvious issues. The task force suggested that broadband deployment and adoption programs should be included in the FCC’s Universal Service Fund (USF) program, which subsidizes primarily telephone service for rural areas and low-income U.S. residents. Part of the fund, with an annual budget of about \$7 billion, should be shifted to broadband, the task force said. In addition, the task force recommended that the FCC begin looking for additional wireless spectrum for mobile broadband. Freeing up new spectrum can take several years, and a handful of studies have predicted a spectrum shortage by the mid-2010s due to growth in subscribers and use of bandwidth-heavy applications, said the chief of the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The task force report also suggested that video and a convergence between television sets and computers will drive the demand for broadband.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9141108/FCC_identifies_roadblocks_to_broadband_adoption

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

See item [5](#)

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Dams Sector

36. *November 19, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Katrina negligence ruling could cost feds.** The federal government could be vulnerable to billions of dollars in claims after a judge ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers' failure to properly maintain a navigation channel led to massive flooding in Hurricane Katrina. A U.S. District judge on Wednesday awarded seven plaintiffs \$720,000, but the government could eventually be forced to pay much more. The ruling should give more than 100,000 other individuals, businesses and government entities a better shot at claiming damages. He sided with six residents and one business who argued the Army Corps' shoddy oversight of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet led to the flooding of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward and neighboring St. Bernard Parish. He said, however, the corps could not be held liable for the flooding of eastern New Orleans, where two of the plaintiffs lived. Many in New Orleans have argued that the flooding in the aftermath of Katrina, which struck the region August 29, 2005, was a manmade disaster caused by the Army Corps' failure to maintain the levee system protecting the city. The judge referred to the corps' approach to maintaining the channel as "monumental negligence."

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34028940/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts/

37. *November 19, Herald-Zeitung* – (Texas) **Commissioners to discuss flood control dam.** Comal County Commissioners will consider approving changes today to the flood control dam currently under construction in western Comal County, Texas. A county judge said engineers had encountered problems during construction when they found "rotten gravel" underneath the proposed site of the dam that would potentially affect its stability. To fix it, he said contractors will now have to build a concrete apron to sit underneath the structure, which is being built just west of Krueger Canyon Road and north of Farm-to-Market 482. Commissioners will consider making changes Thursday to the contracts with both the project's contractor and engineering firm to reflect the extra work.

Source: <http://herald-zeitung.com/story.lasso?ewcd=1b83ee457ba29f3c&-session=HeraldZeitung:9506B8531b525160BCyMk2294A73>

38. *November 18, Flesh and Stone* – (International) **Was the 2008 Sichuan earthquake provoked by dam construction.** The construction of a dam near the earthquake's epicenter may have hastened an impending earthquake by up to several hundred years, according to a recently published study by U.S. researchers. The May 12, 2008 Sichuan earthquake in south central China measured 8.0 Ms and 7.9 Mw on the Richter Scale. An American research team from Geological Sciences at University of Colorado in Boulder, has raised the possibility of the dam being involved. The team's conclusions are outlined in a paper recently published in Geophysical Research Letters. This is the first time that a major international revue has published theoretical research on the possibility of the dam being implicated. "This study evaluates the stress changes in response to the impoundment of the Zipingpu Reservoir and assesses their impact on the Wenchuan earthquake. We show that the impoundment could have changed the Coulomb stress by ~ 0.01 to 0.05 MPa at locations and depth consistent with reported hypocenter positions. This level of stress change has been shown to be significant in triggering earthquakes on critically stressed faults." Their research also contains the precise timescale of the filling operations at the Zipingpu dam. They state that the dam

was filled in fall 2005 in a very rapid manner and that, contrary to official declarations at the time, the dam was not emptied thereafter. This evidence is said to indicate that water infiltration into the nearby fault, along with its associated lubricating properties, could have had an impact on the fault's behavior. The University of Colorado team says it will continue to research the characteristics of microseismicity, as well as related research into the frequency of major earthquakes in the area and their causes, in order to help determine more precisely if the dam could have had an effect on the timing of the 2008 earthquake.

Source: <http://www.fleshandstone.net/healthandsciencenews/1687.html>

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