



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure
Report for 26 May 2010

Current Nationwide
Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Federal authorities allege that two cells of Bulgarian organized criminals defrauded Las Vegas and Phoenix area car dealers out of \$1.6 million and stole at least \$700,000 from bank ATMs around the valley, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reports. In all, 11 people were charged in three separate indictments unsealed last week in federal court after a two-year FBI investigation that involved the use of court-approved wiretaps. (See item [16](#))
- According to Before It's News, about 105 million people — or more than one-third of the nation's population — receive their drinking water from one of the 140,000 public water systems across the United States that rely on groundwater pumped from public wells. More than 20 percent of untreated water samples from 932 public wells across the nation contained at least one contaminant at levels of potential health concern, states a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey. (See item [37](#))

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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. *May 25, Allentown Morning Call* – (Pennsylvania) **State shuts down Lehigh Coal.** Pennsylvania regulators shut down one of the region's most historic coal-mining operations Monday over a series of environmental infractions, throwing the livelihoods of about 40 people into question. A spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, said officials have tried working with Lehigh Coal & Navigation for years to avoid forcing people out of work, but the company has continued to flout mining rules. Lehigh Coal & Navigation mines on about 8,000 acres in Carbon and Schuylkill counties. Mining on the vast property has been happening almost continuously since the 1700s, although only relatively small parts of it were being mined recently. The DEP decided Monday to "indefinitely" suspend the company's permit to mine until the company addresses various issues.
Source: <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-mc-carbon-coal-mine-suspended-q.7284313may25,0,2654760.story>
2. *May 24, WFSB 3 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **Thieves steal \$60K in copper, police say.** Hartford, Connecticut police have blown the lid off a serious copper caper in the capitol city. Police said burglars broke into a Connecticut Light & Power facility in Hartford's Parkville neighborhood and made off with \$60,000 in copper. According to police, the thieves made off with solid copper wire, bushings and breaker contacts. Even with a fence, burglars got into the building and caused damage to asbestos insulation and other materials causing more than \$500,000 in damage. Hartford police, after getting tips from local businesses, have arrested three people in connection with the thefts and damage. CL&P has taken steps to make sure a similar incident does not happen again. The company began double-locking doors and placing plywood over first floor windows.
Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/news/23663248/detail.html>
3. *May 24, Bloomberg* – (West Virginia) **Massey urged workers to conceal defects, families say.** Massey Energy Co. encouraged workers to conceal safety violations from U.S. inspectors, the families of the 29 people killed last month in an underground explosion at a company coal mine in Montcoal, West Virginia told lawmakers. Massey and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration were criticized by relatives in prepared testimony for the House Education and Labor Committee hearing held about 20 miles from the site of the worst mine explosion in 40 years. The families said the company threatened workers who raised safety concerns and faulted the agency for lacking regulatory muscle.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-24/massey-urged-workers-to-conceal-defects-families-say-update2-.html>
4. *May 24, Santa Barbara Independent* – (California) **Oil spill at Greka facility.** Greka Energy, the California oil company whose facilities have been responsible for a number of spills in recent years, was responsible for yet another incident May 24. According to a county fire department spokesperson, authorities at 9:16 a.m. responded to a reported oil spill at the Greka Oil Lease at 6151 Dominion Road in Santa Maria. The county fire department arrived to the scene, he said, with two engines, a battalion chief, and a hazardous-materials inspector. Around 250 barrels of produced water (a byproduct of

the drilling process) mixed with crude oil spilled out of a tank that had overflowed. That figure comes from a a Hazardous Materials Spill Report submitted to the California Emergency Management Agency.

Source: <http://www.independent.com/news/2010/may/24/oil-spill-greka-facility/>

5. *May 24, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Utah coal mine reopens after fire quarantined.** Arch Coal Corporation has reopened a Utah coal mine after closing off a section that caught fire. St. Louis-based Arch Coal shut down the Dugout Mine in Wellington for nearly three weeks to deal with rising levels of deadly carbon monoxide from the smoldering fire. The company said it removed water pumps and left the section at the mine to flood. The company believes a chemical reaction likely caused a coal seam to ignite, but it did not produce any open flames. The mine reopened late last week.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9FTD0MG0.htm>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *May 24, InsideNoVA.com* – (Virginia) **Spilled acid forces Yates Ford Road closure.** A gallon of muriatic acid forced the closure of Yates Ford Road at Prince William Parkway in Manassas, Virginia Monday afternoon. Traffic backed up on the parkway for at least half a mile. Hazardous materials crews and firefighters called to the scene just before 3 p.m. found a gallon container of the acid lying near the intersection of the two roads, and then used a red, 5-gallon container to isolate it before more of the acid could spill. “The HAZMAT crews assessed the hazard, and using the equipment they have, took samples and determined the substance to be muriatic acid,” said an assistant chief of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department. The container could have fallen off the back of a truck transporting hazardous materials, but there is no way for investigators to know for sure, he said. It took crews less than an hour to identify the substance, which is commonly used in household cleaners and production of polyurethane and PVC plastics. After identifying the substance, some of the first-responders were allowed to leave the scene, and the crews who worked to isolate the substance were hosed off. Prince William emergency dispatchers received two calls from drivers who first saw the gallon container, reporting that mist could be seen emanating from the container, the chief said. They said their eyes burned when they drove near the container, he added. But both left the scene, and no one received medical treatment as a result of the incident.
Source:
http://www2.insidenova.com/isn/news/local/manassas/article/spilled_acid_forces_yates_ford_road_closure/58060/
7. *May 23, Sandusky Register* – (Ohio) **Bank, owner battle over blame for chemical waste at former Meier’s building.** An old brick building from Sandusky’s past has

become the center of a court battle over responsibility for cleaning up industrial chemicals still sitting in 55-gallon drums. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ohio EPA want chemicals removed from the brick building at 1702 Campbell St. in Sandusky, just north of the railroad tracks. The court case pits Citizens Bank of Norwalk and Citizens Banking Co. against Ultimate Industries, which used the brick building on Campbell to manufacture artificial rocks and rock waterfalls. Ultimate went out of business on June 30, 2004. The Ohio EPA ordered Ultimate to remove remaining hazardous waste from the property July 13, 2007. It is still there, because the owner cannot afford to remove it, the attorney said. A spokeswoman for the Ohio EPA, said her agency has called in the U.S. EPA to carry out a removal action. If the property owner takes no action within about the next 45 days, the U.S. EPA will remove the remaining paint waste and solvents on the property and then seek to recover the costs from the property owner, she said. A survey in 2002 found two LP gas cylinders, four 5-gallon buckets and 49, 55-gallon drums on the premises. Source: <http://www.sanduskyregister.com/articles/2010/05/23/front/2064940.txt>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *May 25, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **NRC denies request for VY shutdown.** In a letter dated May 20, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Petition Review Board (PRB) denied a request by a Democratic congressman from New Hampshire, that it order Entergy to keep its Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant offline until a number of actions have been completed regarding a recent leak of contaminants into the groundwater under the site. The congressman had asked the NRC to prevent Yankee from restarting after its current refueling outage until the removal of tritiated water from the ground is completed. He also asked that Entergy finish removing soil that was contaminated with radioactive cesium, manganese, cobalt, zinc and strontium before the plant is restarted. In addition, the congressman requested that the root cause analysis, the final report on why tritium leaked from the plant, and the NRC's review of documents submitted to it are both completed prior to restart. But, wrote the NRC's executive director of operations, while the PRB ruled it would accept the congressman's petition for review, it was denying his immediate request to prohibit restart of the plant "based upon our determination that the licensee has identified the source of the leak, stopped the leak, and taken actions to prevent recurrence of contamination from this source. We have determined that the licensee has the equipment, facilities, people and procedures in place to continue to safely operate the plant."

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_15155199

9. *May 25, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **VY refueling outage ends.** The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is back up to full power after a refueling outage hit a minor snag Monday. "There was a delay early Sunday morning while reconnecting to the New England power grid when operators noticed that generator readings were different than expected and disconnected from the grid," wrote Yankee's director of

communications, in an e-mail to the media. The Vermont Yankee official said plant engineers and technicians traced the problem to an indication circuit in the control room. One of the major tasks performed during the outage was an inspection of the plant's steam dryer, which removes excess moisture from the steam before it is sent to the plant's turbine, which produces electricity. No new cracks, or "indications," as they are termed in the industry, were found during the inspection, wrote the Vermont Yankee official. "The results continue to demonstrate that the dryer is in excellent shape," wrote the Vermont Yankee official. "Minute flaws that have been identified in the dryer over the years are not structurally significant, are likely to have been created in the early years of plant operations and have not grown since." Inspection results for other plant components "are similar to those found at other boiling water reactors and, consistent with industry best practices, the findings are tracked in the plant's ongoing monitoring program," he wrote. Other work done on the plant during its outage included replacement of a reactor feed pump motor, sleeving the plant's condenser tubes, and completing the planned cooling tower upgrades, including the safety-related section of the west tower, wrote the Vermont Yankee official.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_15155200

10. *May 25, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Fish in Connecticut positive for isotope.** A Connecticut River fish caught four miles upstream from the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor this winter tested positive for low levels of strontium-90, a highly dangerous radioactive isotope recently confirmed in soil outside the plant. But the Vermont Department of Health said Monday that the fish's strontium-90 was not related to this winter's radioactive leak at Vermont Yankee, and state officials attributed the strontium to atmospheric testing in the 1960s and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 20 years ago, which spread radioactive fallout even as far away as Vermont. The department said the fish posed no health or safety problem, and said that most fish in Vermont and New England would have similar levels of radioactivity. The radiological health chief for the health department said the fish was caught February 10, four miles north of Vermont Yankee as part of the testing done in the wake of the tritium leak at the plant, which was first disclosed publicly January 7. Tests have shown the radioactive leaks, originally described as a tritium leak, actually released at least six different radioactive materials – cobalt-60, cesium-137, manganese, zinc, tritium and now strontium-90.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20100525/NEWS04/5250363/1003/NEWS02>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *May 25, Buffalo News* – (Pennsylvania) **Coke plant in Erie, Pa., told to shut; has local tie.** The owner of the embattled Tonawanda Coke plant was ordered Monday by Pennsylvania regulators to shut down a similar plant in Erie, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) charged the company with violating the state's air quality laws. The order gives Erie Coke three days to shut down after the DEP revoked the foundry's air quality permit in a move that state

officials described as a “last resort.” Pennsylvania and federal environmental officials have repeatedly cited concerns about emissions from the Erie Coke plant. The Tonawanda Coke plant also has been reprimanded and fined for a wide range of environmental violations over the past nine months. The northwest regional director for the DEP said that for the past several years, “Inspections have revealed a pattern of defiant behavior and complete disregard for the health of our citizens and the quality of our natural resources. Our inspections indicate that the coke ovens at the facility are cracked and emitting pollutants ... the company has demonstrated a lack of intent or desire to take the corrective actions needed to bring his operations into compliance and protect our environment. Their failure to act made our order unavoidable.”

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/2010/05/25/1060897/coke-plant-in-erie-pa-told-to.html>

12. *May 25, NBC Connecticut* – (National) **Waterbury factory worker killed on the job.** A 51-year-old worker and father of two was killed Monday when he was pulled part way into a machine at a Waterbury, Connecticut factory. The Waterbury Republican-American reports that the man was killed after his arms got caught deep within a three-roller press used for making metal products at Somers Thin Strip. Emergency workers were called to the factory about 4:30 p.m. Firefighters prepared to cut the machine apart to free the man, but mechanics were able to partially disassemble the machine, and the man was released. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the accident. Somers is a 101-year-old company specializing in producing “exceptionally thin strip products,” according to its Web site. Source: <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local-beat/Waterbury-Factory-Worker-Killed-On-the-Job-94814254.html>
13. *May 24, USA Today* – (National) **Toyota halts sales of Lexus LS flagship until parts arrive.** Toyota has stopped selling its flagship Lexus, the plush LS sedan, for about three weeks while it waits for parts to fix the car to reach dealers. A recall notice was issued on the LS Friday. Though the stoppage will not mean much to Toyota in terms of the number of LS cars it sells, the move is an enormous blow to its pride. The stoppage results from the recall Friday of about 3,800 LS models in the U.S., ranging from the LS 460 to the super-luxe LS 600h L, to fix the steering. Worldwide, the recall affects more than 11,000 cars. If a driver makes a sharp turn in the LS, the steering wheel may not return to its original position. “This is normal procedure if a (recall) remedy is not immediately available for a recall,” a Toyota spokesman told Drive On. “Even if a remedy is available, dealers cannot sell a vehicle until the remedy is installed.” The Associated Press said the missing parts are computer chips. This latest recall is unrelated to the record \$16.4-million fine that Toyota paid after the Transportation Department faulted it for a slow response to safety deficiencies. The fine involved Toyota’s troubles involving sticky accelerator pedals. Source: <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/driveon/post/2010/05/toyota-halts-sales-of-lexus-ls-flagship-until-parts-arrive/1>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *May 25, Spacewar.com* – (International) **LockMart delivers first USAF Advanced EHF Satellite.** Lockheed Martin has delivered the first satellite in the Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) program to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., where it will be prepared for a July 30 liftoff aboard an Atlas V launch vehicle. The AEHF system will provide the U.S. military and national leaders with global, protected, high capacity and secure communications. “Shipment of the first AEHF satellite is testimony to a strong government and industry partnership focused on achieving total mission success on this vitally important program,” said the commander of the Protected Satellite Communications Group at the U.S. Air Force’s Space and Missile Systems Center. “AEHF will play an integral role in our national security space architecture, and we look forward to providing this new capability to the warfighter.” The AEHF system is the successor to the five-satellite Milstar constellation and will provide significantly improved global, highly secure, protected, survivable communications for all warfighters serving U.S. national security. The governments of Canada, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom participate in the AEHF program as international partners, and will have access to the communications capability of AEHF. A single AEHF satellite will provide greater total capacity than the entire Milstar constellation currently on-orbit. Individual user data rates can be up to five times higher than Milstar’s highest speed. The faster data rates will permit transmission of tactical military communications, such as high-quality, real-time video and quick access to battlefield maps and targeting data.

Source:

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/LockMart_Delivers_First_USAF_Advanced_EHF_Satellite_999.html

15. *May 25, BusinessWire* – (California) **AeroVironment’s Global Observer unmanned aircraft system completes key ground tests.** AeroVironment, Inc. today announced that the first aircraft developed under the Global Observer Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) program has successfully completed key ground tests in preparation for flight testing. The joint Department of Defense, NASA and AV team successfully performed ground vibration, structural and taxi tests at Edwards Air Force Base in California. AV developed and fabricated Aircraft 1 in its dedicated manufacturing facility located in Southern California and shipped it to Edwards in December 2009. AV is developing the Global Observer unmanned aircraft system to be the first to provide robust, cost-effective and persistent communications and surveillance over any location. Six U.S. government agencies have provided more than \$120 million in funding for the JCTD program. Each aircraft in a Global Observer system is designed to fly at an altitude of between 55,000 and 65,000 feet for 5 to 7 days. In addition to flying above weather and above other conventional airplanes, operation in this altitude range means that sensor payloads on the aircraft will be able to view a circular area on the surface of the earth up to 600 miles in diameter, equivalent to more than 280,000 square miles of coverage. Equipped with payloads that are readily available today, two Global Observer aircraft would alternate coverage over any location on the globe every 5 to 7 days, making this the first solution to provide

customers with practical, seamless coverage, wherever and whenever required.

Source:

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20100525005634&newsLang=en

For another story, see item [23](#)

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *May 25, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (Arizona; Nevada) **Las Vegas Investigation: Crime ring busted, FBI says.** Federal authorities allege that two cells of Bulgarian organized criminals defrauded Las Vegas and Phoenix area car dealers out of \$1.6 million and stole at least \$700,000 from bank ATMs around the valley. In all, 11 people were charged in three separate indictments unsealed last week in federal court after a two-year FBI investigation that involved the use of court-approved wiretaps. The FBI declined to comment May 24 as agents continued to search for some of the defendants. At a hearing May 24, the assistant U.S. attorney said the FBI had obtained information from authorities in Bulgaria that one of the alleged ringleaders was an associate of organized crime figures in that country. The suspect, a U.S. citizen who lives in Las Vegas, was charged in all three indictments, including one that accuses him and his wife of unlawfully obtaining a 9 millimeter pistol during the criminal investigation. Another indictment charges the alleged ringleader and five other men with conspiracy, wire fraud and transportation of stolen property in a scheme to unlawfully acquire vehicles from car dealers and ship them coast to coast and to Eastern Europe. The ring would send in straw buyers claiming to be employed by phony companies at lucrative salaries in an effort to obtain financing for the vehicles, the indictment charges. In another indictment, the suspect and four other men are charged with trafficking in counterfeit access devices and aggravated identity theft in a scheme in spring 2009 to steal bank account numbers and PIN numbers from customers. The ring stole the information with the help of a scanning device or a small camera secretly installed at an ATM, where customers withdraw money, the indictment alleges. After obtaining the bank information, ring members allegedly encoded it onto a blank plastic card with a magnetic strip, allowing them to withdraw the cash from the ATMs. In recent years, authorities in the United States have seen a rise in this kind of “skimming” scheme, particularly from organized crime groups out of Eastern Europe. Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/crime-ring-busted--fbi-says-94807869.html>

17. *May 25, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **‘Tinfoil bandits’ arrested in Rock County.** Rock County, Wisconsin authorities have arrested three people they say disabled a convenience store’s credit card system and then made multiple purchases. Rock County sheriff’s officials said the group came into Carl’s Shell in Newville nine times Monday evening and made repeated credit card purchases for cigarettes, beer, and soda. A clerk called police. A state trooper later pulled over the group’s car. Two men and a woman, all in their 20s, were arrested. Investigators believe the group

climbed on the store's roof and covered the store's satellite dishes with tinfoil, preventing the store's credit card machines from transmitting transaction information, meaning their cards would not be charged.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/94829179.html>

18. *May 25, Winston-Salem Journal Reporter* – (National) **Fidelity Bank issues warning about fake cashier's checks.** The Fidelity Bank, which has 15 branches in the Triad, said May 24 that it has notified the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. that counterfeit cashier's checks bearing its name are in circulation. The counterfeit items display the routing number 053103585, which is assigned to the bank. The items are markedly dissimilar to authentic checks. The words "cashier's check" are shown inside of a box in the top-center area. A security feature statement appears below the border on both sides of the box. A security feature statement also appears across the bottom of the items. The phrase "authorized signature" is shown below the signature line in the lower-right corner. According to the bank, authentic cashier's checks are gray. The words "cashier's check" are in the top-center area with horizontal lines on both sides. A "notice to customers" statement appears inside of a box below the written amount line on the left side of the checks.

Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2010/may/25/fidelity-bank-issues-warning-about-fake-cashiers-c/news-regional/>

19. *May 24, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota) **Bank alerts members to phishing scam.** Sentinel Federal Credit Union is alerting the Rapid City, South Dakota community of a telephone scam that has targeted the area over the past several days. This scam, called phishing, attempts to steal personal information. In the scam, people are receiving fraudulent automated messages stating their Sentinel Federal Credit Union ATM or debit card has been compromised. The automated message then instructs the caller to enter their card number to reactivate the card. Sentinel Federal Credit Union said it will never contact its members this way.

Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_9aa5f490-6783-11df-ab19-001cc4c03286.html

For another story, see item [49](#)

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Transportation Sector

20. *May 25, USA TODAY* – (Massachusetts) **Pushy fliers may show up on TSA's radar.** Airline passengers who get frustrated and kick a wall, throw a suitcase or make a pithy comment to a screener could find themselves in a little-known Homeland Security database. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said it is keeping records of people who make its screeners feel threatened as part of an effort to prevent workplace violence. Privacy advocates fear the database could feed government watch lists and subject innocent people to extra airport screening. "Is this going to be the baby watch list? There's a potential for the misuse of information or the mischaracterization

of harmless events as potential threats,” an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer said. A TSA report said the database can include names, birth dates, Social Security numbers, home addresses and phone numbers of people involved in airport incidents, including aggressors, victims and witnesses. Incidents in the database include threats, bullying or verbal abuse, remarks about death or violence, brandishing a real or fake weapon, intentionally scaring workers or excessive displays of anger such as punching a wall or kicking equipment, the report said. The database was created in late 2007 as the TSA launched a program to prevent the nation’s 50,000 airport screeners from being attacked or threatened, an agency spokeswoman said. At the time, TSA officials voiced concern about passengers disrespecting screeners, and they began issuing new uniforms with police-style badges pinned to shirts.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-05-24-TSA-threatening-fliers-watch-list_N.htm

21. *May 25, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **Plane descends at Asheville Regional Airport to avoid other aircraft.** An Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA) flight traveling from Asheville Regional Airport in North Carolina to Atlanta Sunday descended rapidly after getting too close to a plane flying in the opposite direction, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). ASA flight 5226, a CRJ2 jet, responded to the electronic collision advisory shortly after takeoff at about 10 a.m. as a Bombardier Challenger CL600 business jet was descending toward the Asheville airport. An agency review showed the two aircraft were more than 2.3 miles apart laterally and 900 feet vertically when the ASA flight began to descend from 10,000 feet. FAA guidelines require planes to stay 3 miles apart laterally and 1,000 feet apart vertically, but the planes were not close enough to each other to constitute a near miss, an FAA spokeswoman said. No injuries were reported and neither pilot filed a near midair collision report.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20100525/NEWS/305250015>

22. *May 25, San Francisco Examiner* – (California) **Rumble strips put strain on Bay Bridge.** The vibrations from sections of rough road on the Bay Bridge in San Francisco intended to slow motorists before the deadly S-curve are prompting concerns that the speed deterrents could lead to damage on the aging span. Previous failures on key structural pieces of the heavily commuted bridge, resulting in its shutdown, have been blamed on vibrations from vehicle traffic and wind. But now, concerns have been raised that the rumble strips on the westbound span are causing vibrations that are rattling support beams that have already needed emergency repairs. Following a spate of S-curve accidents — including a fatal incident in which a truck traveling at an alleged 50 mph flipped over the railing — Caltrans last year added new safety features. They include raised strips roughly three-eighths of an inch tall that create vibrations that drivers feel when traveling over them. “We put the rumble strips out there primarily to gain motorists’ attention,” a Caltrans spokesman said. He said the agency, which oversees the bridge, wanted motorists to be alert and slow down before the curve. However, a UC Berkeley engineering professor said vibrations from the rumble strips could damage the bridge, including its eyebars, which are steel support beams. Eyebars are outdated technology not used in new bridges.

Source: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Speed-strips-put-strain-on-Bay-Bridge-94802224.html>

23. *May 25, Albuquerque Express* – (National) **NASA develops new technology to enhance search and rescue operations.** NASA has developed new technology that will more quickly identify the locations of people in distress and reduce the risk of rescuers. The Search and Rescue Mission Office at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., in collaboration with several government agencies, has developed a next-generation search and rescue system, called the Distress Alerting Satellite System (DASS). NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies, are now completing the development and testing of the new system and expect to make it operational in the coming years after a complete constellation of DASS-equipped satellites is launched. When it goes online, DASS will be able to almost instantaneously detect and locate distress signals generated by 406 MHz beacons installed on aircraft and vessels or carried by individuals, greatly enhancing the international community's ability to rescue people in distress, said NASA's Search and Rescue Mission Manager. This improved capability is made possible because the satellite-based instruments used to relay the emergency signals will be installed on the U.S. military's Global Position System (GPS), a constellation of 24 spacecraft operating in mid-Earth orbit.

Source:

<http://story.albuquerqueexpress.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/89d96798a39564bd/id/639250/cs/1/>

24. *May 24, KCTV 5 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Defective motor cause of fire on ATA bus.** A defective motor was the cause of a fire on a Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) bus over the weekend at Kansas City International Airport in Missouri, officials said Monday. ATA officials said the defective engine caused about \$45,000 in damage to the bus during the fire Sunday outside of Terminal C. The driver was the only person on the bus, officials said, and he escaped without injury. Several passengers were asked to stay inside the terminal due to the smoke. Officials said the fire did not affect airport operations. The KCATA has temporarily parked five of its buses. Officials said they believe it is an isolated incident, but they want to double check the vehicles of the same make and model.

Source: <http://www.kctv5.com/news/23662362/detail.html>

25. *May 24, Daily Finance* – (National) **Fat people barred from airplane exit rows.** Can overweight people sit in an airplane's exit row? Not if they're flying on Southwest, Alaska Airlines or AirTran and also need a seat-belt extender. But on American, United, Delta and Continental Airlines, one can have as many seat-belt extenders as he wants and still sit in the exit row. The Federal Aviation Administration set minimal standards for sitting in an exit row back in 1990: One must be at least 15-years-old, be able to follow the airline crew's directions, and be capable of opening the exit door, which equates to pushing around 50 pounds of weight. But the agency left it up to the airlines to develop their own exact exit row seating rules. "The reason behind the policy is safety," a Southwest Airlines spokeswoman said in an e-mailed statement. "It

supports our ability to assist passengers in exiting the aircraft in an expeditious manner in the event of an emergency.” Alaska Airlines, which has the same rule, gave a more detailed explanation. A spokeswoman said that the seat-belt extender creates a potential safety hazard. “With an extender, a seat belt can stretch across the floor and could become a tripping hazard for people exiting through the emergency exits.”

Source: <http://www.dailyfinance.com/story/company-news/fat-people-airplane-exit-rows/19488271/>

26. *May 24, New Jersey Star Ledger* – (New Jersey) **N.J. man is second person charged with passenger sex assault on Newark-bound flights in two years.** A Berkeley Heights, New Jersey man accused Monday of groping a woman as she slept beside him on a flight from Hong Kong is the second person in two years to be charged with sexually assaulting a fellow passenger on an international flight bound for New Jersey, authorities said. A 63-year-old man was arrested Friday by the FBI after he reached under the woman’s blanket during the overnight Continental Airlines flight that landed at Newark Liberty International Airport, authorities said. Wearing a white golf shirt and blue slacks, the man appeared in shackles during a brief hearing today in federal court in Newark. Authorities said the man boarded Continental Airlines Flight 98 on Thursday in Hong Kong and was seated beside the woman in row 36. At some point during the 15-hour flight, the woman fell asleep with a blanket covering her torso. The man reached beneath and, authorities said, began groping the woman under her clothing. Two passengers sitting in the row behind the woman noticed the suspect reaching over and began kicking her seat, authorities said. The woman awoke, realized what was happening and rushed up to tell flight attendants, authorities said.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/05/sex_assault_of_passenger_on_ne.html

27. *May 24, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Rail service between Danbury to shut down for 80 days starting in August.** Starting this August, off-peak rail service will not be available on the Danbury Branch line for approximately 80 days this summer, according to the transportation principal engineer for Connecticut’s Department of Transportation (DOT). This off-peak rail service will be shut down Aug. 2 to make way for the Danbury Centralized Train Control & Signalization Project, which will replace the existing manual block system and allow remote control of train movements and switches from the Metro-North Control Center in Grand Central Terminal in New York. While the service is shut down, DOT plans to provide a bus service for commuters, the engineer said.

Source: http://articles.courant.com/2010-05-24/community/hc-rail-shutdown-20100523-20100524_1_rail-service-bus-service-commuters

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Postal and Shipping Sector

28. *May 25, Republican & Herald* – (Pennsylvania) **Officials probe Friedensburg mailbox explosion.** Bits of envelopes were scattered over the grassy area near the Friedensburg post office parking lot after a mailbox exploded early Sunday morning. At about 3:30 a.m. Sunday, neighbors near the post office at 1305 Long Run Road said they heard an explosion and called state police at the Schuylkill Haven station. “Someone threw something in that blew the bottom and the back out of the box,” the Friedensburg postmaster said Monday. “It was pretty heavy, whatever it was.” The postmaster said the explosive device was not identified and no one was injured in the blast. “We didn’t find any parts of it in the area. What we did find was a lot of pieces of damaged mail,” the postmaster said. The Postal Inspection Service was at the office Monday and, in addition to investigating the explosion, helped sort the mail. “We will return any mail we can to the sender. If we can identify a return address, it will be sent back. If people do not receive parts of something that was placed in the box from noon on Saturday until 3:30 a.m. Sunday, then it was probably able to be delivered,” the postmaster said. “I would suggest contacting the person to whom the mail was sent. If they did not receive it, call the post office for further instructions.”
Source: <http://republicanherald.com/news/officials-probe-friedensburg-mailbox-explosion-1.810408>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

29. *May 25, Virginian Pilot* – (Virginia) **Explosives found in Chesapeake field.** Five Molotov cocktails were found in a strawberry field in Chesapeake, Virginia during the weekend, according to the fire department. On Sunday, firefighters were sent to Lilley Farms at Tyre Neck and Bruce roads after the owners found the devices in the field. Fire marshals who went to the scene made sure the devices wouldn’t cause any harm. No other devices were found when the field was searched. Investigators announced May 24 that they plan to charge three juveniles with manufacturing and possessing an incendiary device.
Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2010/05/explosives-found-chesapeake-field?cid=ltst>
30. *May 25, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Feds streamline food safety reporting process.** Consumers can now report safety problems and concerns about human and pet food on a new Web site launched by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Consumers, manufacturers, researchers, and public health officials can also file reports about animal drugs and adverse events during human gene transfer trials on the new Safety Reporting Portal (SRP). The Web site is designed to streamline the process of reporting safety concerns with food, medicine, and other consumer goods to the government before and after the products hit the market, the FDA said. “The portal will be a key detection tool in improving the country’s nationwide surveillance system and will strengthen our ability to protect the nation’s health,” said the FDA Commissioner. The FDA called the Web site “a first

step” toward a common electronic reporting system that will ultimately offer one-stop shopping and a place where consumers can file a single report with multiple agencies that may have an interest in the event. Until then, the Web site will redirect consumers who want to file reports about other products regulated by FDA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, or the Consumer Product Safety Commission to the appropriate agency or department.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/05/food_safety_reporting.html

31. *May 24, Reuters* – (National) **FDA needs more clout to make food supply safer.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) needs more authority, more cooperation from other agencies and must do more scientific research to make the U.S. food supply safer, the General Accountability Office (GAO) said May 24. The FDA also must do more to help consumers navigate the maze of food supplements on the market and requires more power to regulate them, the GAO said. A series of food safety scares has shaken consumer confidence in the food supply, the GAO said. Just last week California-based Caldwell Fresh Foods recalled alfalfa sprouts after salmonella sickened 20 people. “We found that FDA was hampered in its ability to carry out some food safety responsibilities — oversight of food labels, fresh produce, and dietary supplements — because it lacked certain scientific information,” the GAO’s director of natural resources and environment said in a letter accompanying the report. The GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, said the FDA had tried to meet some of its recommendations but needed to do more. “First, imported food makes up a substantial and growing portion of the U.S. food supply, with 60 percent of fresh fruits and vegetables and 80 percent of seafood coming from across our borders,” it said. The FDA can inspect just 1 percent of this food. “Second, we are increasingly eating foods that are consumed raw and that have often been associated with foodborne illness outbreaks, including leafy greens such as spinach.” The FDA regulates 80 percent of the food supply, except for meat and processed egg products, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64N5UZ20100524>

32. *May 24, CIDRAP News* – (National) **USDA estimates E coli, Salmonella costs at \$3.1 billion.** The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), using its recently released tool for calculating the cost of foodborne illnesses, estimated that Salmonella and Escherichia coli O157:H7 cases cost the nation about \$3.13 billion per year. The USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) estimated that Salmonella infections from all sources cost about \$2.65 billion per year. That is based on an estimate by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of almost 1.4 million Salmonella cases annually from all sources, with 415 deaths. The estimated average cost per case is \$1,896. The ERS put the cost of E coli O157 cases at \$478.4 million, using the CDC’s estimate of 73,480 cases per year from all sources, with 61 deaths. The average cost per case is estimated at \$6,510. The ERS has posted an online “Foodborne Illness Cost Calculator” that allows Web users to come up with their own estimates of the cost of foodborne illnesses for a state or region or for a given outbreak. The tool is currently set up to provide estimates only for Salmonella and E coli O157, but the USDA said it plans to add other pathogens, such as Campylobacter and Listeria. Much higher cost

estimates for the two pathogens were offered in March by the Produce Safety Project, a group at Georgetown University that works for mandatory safety standards for produce. The group estimated the annual cost of Salmonella cases at \$14.6 billion and the cost of E coli O157 cases at \$993 million. The group came up with an overall estimate of almost \$152 billion per year for all foodborne diseases.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/food-disease/news/may2410costest.html>

33. *May 24, Food Poison Journal* – (Oregon) **Los Dos Amigos salmonella outbreak: How many Roseburg residents ill?** Los Dos Amigos, a Mexican restaurant in Roseburg, Oregon, was the site of a large salmonella outbreak in April. Douglas County health officials report that at least 30 people suffered culture-confirmed salmonella food-poisoning illnesses, and that cross-contamination was probably a cause of the outbreak. Los Dos Amigos recently issued a public apology to the victims of the outbreak. What is, or may ultimately be, striking about the Los Dos Amigos salmonella outbreak according to experts, is its potential size. The 30 confirmed salmonella illnesses means that many more people were sickened but, for any of many different reasons, did not have a stool sample test positive for salmonella bacteria. One leading study suggests that, in any food-poisoning outbreak, the number of people who are actually ill is 10, 20, even 30 times the number of “confirmed cases.” The Los Dos Amigos outbreak likely is no exception, and Douglas County’s conclusion that cross-contamination was a factor in the outbreak means that contamination may have truly proliferated at the restaurant.

Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/05/articles/foodborne-illness-outbreaks/los-dos-amigos-salmonella-outbreak-how-many-roseburg-residents-ill/>

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Water Sector

34. *May 25, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **Sewer main breaks on the rise in Bossier City.** Major sewer line cave-ins caused by wet weather this winter and spring have cost Bossier City, Louisiana more than it spent all of last year for such repairs. Bossier City has spent about \$470,000 so far this year on seven major sewer breaks. That is compared to about \$300,000 total the city spent last year. Most sewer main breaks happen in the spring, the wettest time of the year. Utilities staff said they did not expect many more breaks to eat up a budget of roughly \$1.7 million for such emergencies, money the city gets solely from sewer and water bills. The city expects to receive about \$9.7 million in sewer revenue for this year. The Shreveport-Bossier City area has received about 14.58 inches of rain year-to-date, according to the National Weather Service, and that is not including several wet fall months, including last October’s storms that caused flooding in much of the city. Historically, the city has fared much worse when it comes to sewer main breaks, including one major cave-in several years ago that cost the city \$500,000 alone.

Source: <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20100525/NEWS01/5250334/Sewer-main-breaks-on-the-rise-in-Bossier-City>

35. *May 24, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Rhode Island) **Providence R.I. shipyard faces penalties for environmental violations.** A shipyard in Providence, Rhode Island, Promet Marine Services Corp., faces significant penalties for violating federal clean air and clean water laws. EPA has filed a complaint stating that Promet violated federal laws by discharging polluted water into the Providence River and by not getting the required air and water permits for its pressure washing, painting and related operations. Promet, which works on commercial, Coast Guard, military, and other marine vessels, is located in an area that fails to meet federal air quality standards for ozone and yet failed to comply with the Rhode Island “State Implementation Plan” for improving air quality. According to EPA, Promet was required to get a permit before it began to build or modify its facility at 242 Allens Ave. Promet also failed to apply for an operating permit required under the Clean Air Act, and violated federal air quality requirements outlined in the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Ship Building and Repair facilities.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/A40D41AE13ED65B88525772D006911B4>

36. *May 22, Associated Press* – (National) **Small towns struggle to fix aging sewage systems.** Sitting on the sandy shores of Coos Bay, Oregon one of the town’s sewage treatment plants is coming to the end of its life, and its age is showing. It has had four spills and been fined two times in recent years for pumping out unclean water. There are aging facilities like the 36-year-old Plant No. 2 across the state, many desperately needing modernization. An Associated Press examination has found that many of these municipal sewage systems have not kept up with demand, repairs and new technology, and now need millions of dollars to meet tighter federal clean water standards. But paying for improvements is proving to be a struggle — especially for small towns. This is slowing mandated improvements to water quality, and could lead to growing health threats. “The smaller the community, the more difficult it is for them to maintain their wastewater treatment plants,” said the program analyst for Oregon’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The simple reason: fewer people to share the cost. Unlike the 1970s, when many of the plants were built, outright grants are rare, and even qualifying for low-interest loans can take years. Communities across the country are raising rates an average of 8 percent a year, but will have to double them to plug the gap, said the executive director of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/id/37291343>

37. *May 21, Before It’s News* – (National) **Wellwater contamination a health risk for more than one third of U.S. population say USGS scientists.** What’s your poison? That question may be more appropriate when asking for a glass of water than bellying up to the bar with a friend. Maybe you would like a chemical cocktail of contaminants? About 105 million people — or more than one-third of the nation’s population — receive their drinking water from one of the 140,000 public water systems across the United States that rely on groundwater pumped from public wells. More than 20 percent of untreated water samples from 932 public wells across the nation contained at least one contaminant at levels of potential health concern, according to a new study by

the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS focused primarily on source (untreated) water collected from public wells before treatment or blending, rather than the finished (treated) drinking water that water utilities deliver to their customers. Findings showed that naturally occurring contaminants, such as radon and arsenic, accounted for about three-quarters of contaminant concentrations greater than human-health benchmarks in untreated source water. Naturally occurring contaminants are mostly derived from the natural geologic materials that make up the aquifers from which wellwater is withdrawn. Man-made contaminants were also found in untreated water sampled from the public wells, including herbicides, insecticides, solvents, disinfection by-products, nitrate, and gasoline chemicals. Man-made contaminants accounted for about one-quarter of contaminant concentrations greater than human-health benchmarks, but were detected in 64 percent of the samples, predominantly in samples from unconfined aquifers.

Source:

http://beforeitsnews.com/news/47/629/Well_Water_Contamination_A_Health_Risk_for_More_Than_One_Third_of_U.S.Population_Say_USGS_Scientists.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

38. *May 24, USA TODAY* – (National) **U.S. government stockpiles new, safer smallpox vaccine.** The U.S. government has begun bolstering its smallpox vaccine stockpile with a new version designed to close a gap that left millions vulnerable to a bioterror attack. The vaccine, Denmark-based Bavarian Nordic's Imvamune, is made with modified vaccinia ankara, a safer alternative to the cowpox vaccines used for generations. Company officials said the first shipments arrived in the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile last week, within hours of a World Health Organization ceremony marking eradication of the disease, widely regarded as one of the great public health achievements of all time.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-05-25-smallpox25_ST_N.htm?csp=34news

39. *May 24, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA approves swine flu test for permanent use.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it has approved the first diagnostic test for 2009 swine flu under its traditional approval system. The FDA previously cleared several tests on a limited basis for use during the declared public health emergency related to swine flu. The new Simplexa Influenza test from Focus Diagnostics in Cypress, Calif., uses specimens from nasal swabs to detect the H1N1 virus. The director of the FDA's center for devices, said the FDA clearance means the availability of the Simplexa H1N1 test will not be affected when the public health emergency expires. The federal government estimates between 43 and 88 million cases of swine flu occurred between April last year and March 2010.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jIeY57u52O8NNTHIL-3pixdrLQXAD9FT9VL02>

For more stories, see items [30](#) and [32](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

40. *May 25, Hannibal Courier-Post* – (Missouri) **Witnesses say man vowed to ‘shoot everyone’ at Shelby courthouse.** Witnesses said an elderly man told them he would “get his gun” and “shoot everyone” at the Shelby County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Missouri. The 76-year-old suspect of Hunnewell was charged Monday with the felonies of making a terrorist threat and resisting arrest. He also faces two misdemeanor counts of assault on a law enforcement officer and a misdemeanor count of willfully resisting a state trooper. A probable cause statement by a Highway Patrol trooper and accounts by witnesses offer a glimpse of what happened. Courthouse employees told the trooper that the suspect was “cursing, yelling, uncooperative, and refused to leave,” according to the report. “He then stated he would return and shoot everyone.” The incident started when the suspect visited the circuit clerk’s office on the second floor of the courthouse about 2:30 p.m. Thursday. The suspect told witnesses that he was the victim of an unspecified crime three years ago, and that he wanted a federal judge to review his case. Workers tried to assure the suspect that there were no federal judges based in Shelby County.

Source: <http://www.hannibal.net/features/x289834674/Witnesses-say-man-vowed-to-shoot-everyone-at-Shelby-courthouse>

41. *May 25, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Explosive devices locks down Milwaukee high school.** Milwaukee Police said Tuesday that they have arrested 2 students on felony charges after a lockdown at Riverside High School. Police said the arrests stem from the discovery of homemade explosive devices placed around the school, Monday. Police said one of the devices actually exploded, but there were no injuries. Police are not elaborating about the devices, but a Milwaukee schools spokeswoman said the devices were not hazardous and were made from bottles. School staff noticed that the bottles, which had been placed around the school, were foaming. The all-clear was given and students were dismissed as scheduled at 2:40 p.m.

Source: <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12537218>

42. *May 25, CNN and Foxnews.com* – (International) **Dozens killed in Jamaican violence.** The United States shut its embassy in Jamaica, Tuesday, with only essential staff reporting to work, as violence continues to escalate in the island nation’s capital of Kingston. The embassy also suspended all visa operations and nonessential services for Americans, a State Department spokesman said. A travel alert remains in effect for the area. The State Department issued the alert Friday after masked men defending a reputed drug kingpin who the U.S. has been trying to extradite since August, went rampaging through the streets of Kingston. Twenty-seven people have been killed and

31 wounded in an assault on the suspected drug lord's compound, Jamaican police said Tuesday. The problems began over the weekend when the kingpin's supporters barricaded themselves behind a makeshift fortress of junk cars and barbed wire. The Jamaican government declared a state of emergency as the situation intensified.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/05/25/jamaica/index.html>

43. *May 24, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Two injured in explosion at Navy-owned laboratory.** A spokesman for the defense contractor that operates a Navy-owned ballistics laboratory in Rocket Center, West Virginia said two employees were injured in an explosion, Monday. An Alliance Tech systems spokesman said the cause of the explosion at the Alleghany Ballistics Laboratory is under investigation. He said the two injured workers were expected to be released from a Cumberland, Maryland, hospital Monday night. The spokesman said nobody works in the building where the explosion occurred. The injured workers were in a nearby building. Fire and rescue crews from a broad area responded. A Grant County resident said he could see the smoke from his home 30 miles away. Alliance Techsystems produces explosives and rocket propellants for the Department of Defense at the plant, which employs about 1,400 people.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/policebrfs/201005240688>

44. *May 24, Killeen Daily Herald* – (Texas) **School officials evacuate Cove High over bomb threat.** Emergency vehicles arrived at Copperas Cove High School in Texas before noon Monday, after an anonymous caller phoned in a bomb threat that led administrators to evacuate the school. Copperas Cove police searched the school while students, faculty and staff waited outside for about 90 minutes in the midday heat. Police found no sign of a bomb, and students and teachers were allowed to re-enter the building around 1:30 p.m. for the remainder of the school day. A Copperas Cove police spokesman said police are still investigating who called in the threat, which is a serious crime. The call is a state jail felony because it involved a school, he said. Additionally, whoever is responsible will be liable for costs incurred by the district and by emergency officials during the incident.

Source: <http://www.kdhnews.com/news/story.aspx?s=41744>

45. *May 24, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Ind. fed building evacuated after powder found.** The federal building in downtown Evansville, Indiana was evacuated because of a report of white powder found in an envelope. Evansville Fire Department's hazardous materials team is investigating after the Monday afternoon evacuation. The district chief said the substance was taken from the building for testing. The building was evacuated as firefighters collected the powder, isolated the envelope and cleaned the area. The worker who found the powder was told to take a shower as a precaution. The district chief declined to comment on who the envelope was addressed to or whether it included a return address. Firefighters on the scene said many of the workers in the downtown Evansville building went home for the day after the building was evacuated.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-federalbuilding-p,0,7474765.story>

46. *May 24, WMBF News* – (South Carolina) **White powder brings hazmat crews to prison.** White powder in a package delivered to the federal prison in Bennettsville, South Carolina forced officials to call in a hazardous-materials team and isolate inmates and staff. According to a Federal Correctional Institution-Bennettsville spokeswoman, the package was delivered to an isolated area of the prison around 10:30 a.m. Monday. The spokeswoman said the substance has not yet been identified, but in accordance with local procedures, prison officials called Bennettsville fire, police and ambulance, the Marlboro Rescue Department, and a haz-mat team. An investigation is ongoing.
Source: <http://www.wmbfnews.com/Global/story.asp?S=12532796>

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Emergency Services Sector

47. *May 25, Index Journal* – (South Carolina) **Local law enforcement participating in statewide safety initiative.** Numerous local law enforcement and natural resource officers gathered Monday morning at Lake Greenwood in South Carolina with the purpose of imparting a singular message: As summer approaches, South Carolina residents should exercise extreme caution on the state's roads and waterways. A news conference took place at the lake announcing the joint efforts of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and local law enforcement agencies during the 100 Deadly Days of Summer, which begin Memorial Day Weekend and run through Labor Day weekend. Agencies present at the Greenwood conference included S.C. Highway Patrol, Greenwood County Sheriff's Office, Greenwood Police Department, Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, Abbeville Police Department, Newberry County Sheriff's Office, Laurens County Sheriff's Office and the state Office of Highway Safety. In 2009, 281 people died on state roadways during the summer months. Of those deaths, 117 motorists were not wearing seat belts. The primary causes of the collisions were DUI, driving too fast for conditions and motorists running off the road.
Source: http://www.indexjournal.com/articles/2010/05/24/news/i052510_safety.txt
48. *May 24, KSFY Sioux Falls* – (South Dakota) **Cops get up close training with explosives.** Agencies and bomb squads from all over South Dakota were at a Lincoln County training event Monday to get some hands on experience with bombs and other explosive situations. The training was given by an explosives unit that travels the country and gives local law enforcement the experience they need to better communicate during a bomb situation and how to gather post bomb evidence. Many of the explosives were simply mixtures of common household products. That made the training all the more important, but for some the explosions themselves were worth the experience.
Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/news/local/94792749.html>

For another story, see item [23](#)

Information Technology Sector

49. *May 25, The New New Internet* – (International) **Researcher finds new type of phishing attack.** A researcher has found a new method for carrying out phishing attacks “that takes advantage of the way that browsers handle tabbed browsing and enables an attacker to use a script running in one tab to completely change the content in another tab,” according to ThreatPost. The attack, discovered by a researcher for Mozilla, relies on users visiting a controlled infected Web site. When the user visits the infected Web site, it reads what other tabs the user has opened in the browser and changes itself to look like a selected page. The researcher actually demonstrates it on his Web site in which the page alters to appear as the log-in page for Google. The system could also be used in the case of banking Web sites, etc. to steal login and account information.

Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2010/05/25/researcher-finds-new-type-of-phishing-attack/>

50. *May 25, Infoworld* – (International) **Security forecast: High chance of ‘shadow’ clouds.** If people think “cloud networks” and “cloud services” are just buzzwords or another set of technologies destined for extinction, think again: The cloud is here to stay. In the future, companies will subscribe to one or more cloud products — if they have not already. A friend of mine asked if we would prevent unauthorized cloud products, which he called “shadow clouds,” from starting to appear on our networks. His question is not as strange as it might sound. Every new, big technology leap has also brought in a deluge of unmanaged instances — think instant messaging or social network sites. Shadow clouds would, in fact, be a more significant threat to your company’s confidential information than IM or social networking blogs. All computer services and presences need to be managed to ensure compliant security, content, and messaging, but with a shadow cloud, a user is at greater risk because their company’s confidential data is more likely to be hosted on the cloud provider’s systems. Ridiculous or unusual though it may sound, IT security should start preparing now for the emergence of shadow clouds.

Source: <http://www.infoworld.com/d/security-central/security-forecast-high-chance-shadow-clouds-926>

51. *May 25, SC Magazine* – (International) **Warnings made of vulnerability in the 3Com Intelligent Management Centre that could result in lack of consumer control.** Organizations have been warned that they could lose control of their networks due to a vulnerability in the 3Com Intelligent Management Center (IMC). Penetration testing company ProCheckUp claimed that users of IMC are at risk of losing control of the application, which is designed to manage, monitor and control enterprise networks. It reported that it was able to gain control of IMC without providing any passwords or authentication information. It said that this was completed through directory traversal, SQL admin account password retrieval and cross-site scripting attacks. A security consultant at ProCheckUp claimed that this security hole could allow an attacker to

alter switches and routers which are managed by the IMC, and potentially switch off a whole organization's network and Internet facilities. 3Com has been informed and released a patched version that addresses the issues.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/warnings-made-of-vulnerability-in-the-3com-intelligent-management-centre-that-could-result-in-lack-of-consumer-control/article/170879/>

52. *May 25, The Register* – (International) **Looking for code work? Write fake anti-virus scripts.** A scareware purveyor has brazenly advertised for recruits on a mainstream job market Webs ite. A job ad on Freelancer.com offers work for a coder prepared to turn his hand to the creation of fake anti-virus Web site redirection scripts. However, prospective applicants are warned not to expect a big payday — the budget for the whole project is between \$30 and \$250. On the plus side the prospective employer, redlinecl, has 100 percent positive feedback from previous coding lackeys. One said: “Nice buyer, hope can work for him again in the future.” Of course when the job involves tricking the unsuspecting into visiting scareware portals in order to flog software of little or no utility it is probably wise to take these glowing reviews with a pinch of salt. The ad, posted May 24, was spotted by a security researcher of Websense, who notes that the same chap was previously involved in fake PayPal pages, spam campaigns and other forms of malfeasance. The market for scareware is booming. Shysters involved in the business are increasingly adopting the business structures of mainstream security firms - even to the point of running call centers designed to persuade people not to try to apply for refunds, and recruitment programs.

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/05/25/scareware_scammer_recruitment_push/

53. *May 24, DarkReading* – (International) **Apple Safari ‘carpet bomb’ flaw remains unfixed two years later.** Apple fixed the so-called “carpet bomb” vulnerability in its Safari browser for Windows after Microsoft issued a security advisory about it in July 2008, but to date the very same flaw in Safari for OS X is still unpatched. The security researcher who alerted Apple of the flaw in May 2008 said the threat of an attacker exploiting this bug is alive and well today, especially with the growth in popularity of Safari and OS X. He said in 2008 Apple told him it did not consider the issue a security vulnerability but more of a design issue, and that it did not have plans to fix it anytime soon. The researcher said the vulnerability could let a bad guy download malicious binaries and data files into the browser's downloads folder without the user knowing because Safari does not ask the user whether he wants to save the file on his machine, which most other browsers do. So when a user visits a malicious Web site, Safari would allow the site to download files without prompting the user. The main threat the flaw poses is a denial-of-service attack on the victim's machine. The carpet bomb DoS attack would wipe out a session and “whatever you were working on would be gone,” the researcher said.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/client/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=225200002

54. *May 24, Infoworld* – (International) **Four-year-old rootkit tops the charts of PC threats.** Microsoft just released its May Threat Report, and the results should give one pause. With nearly 2 million infected systems cleaned, the nefarious Alureon rootkit came out on top. Since it first appeared in 2006, Alureon (known in various incarnations as TDSS, Zlob, or DNSChanger) has morphed into a mean money-making marvel: a varied collection of Trojans most famous for their ability to invisibly take control of a PC's interactions with the outside world. Alureon frequently runs as a rootkit, snatches information sent and received over the Internet, and may install a backdoor that allows Alureon's masters to update a computer with the software of their choice. As with most malware, people inadvertently install Alureon when they think they are installing something else. Microsoft's April Threat Report explains that a typical Alureon installer asks to be elevated to administrator status.
Source: <http://www.infoworld.com/t/malware/four-year-old-rootkit-tops-the-charts-pc-threats-791>

55. *May 24, CSO* – (International) **Business continuity, not data breaches, among top concerns for tech firms.** Data security and breach prevention ranks low as a risk factor for most big technical companies, according to new research that identifies the most widespread concerns among the 100 largest U.S. public technology companies. The research, released by BDO, a professional services firm, examines the risk factors listed in the fiscal year 2009 10-K SEC filings of the companies; the factors were analyzed and ranked in order by frequency cited. Among security risks, natural disasters, wars, conflicts and terrorist attacks were cited by 55 percent of respondents as a risk concern and was 16th on the list, much higher than breaches of technology security, privacy and theft, which was mentioned by 44 percent of the companies, putting it at 23rd on the list. The leader of the Technology Practice at BDO said he thought business continuity was driving worries about risks like natural disasters and conflicts. Accounting, internal controls and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance is the 18th largest risk factor this year, according to the list.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9177262/Business_continuity_not_data_breaches_among_top_concerns_for_tech_firms

Internet Alert Dashboard

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Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

See items [14](#) and [15](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

56. *May 25, WOAI 4 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Bomb squad blows up ‘suspicious’ device at North Side building.** A team from the San Antonio Police Department Bomb Squad blew up a suspicious package at a North Side building, Monday afternoon. The San Antonio Fire Department and San Antonio Police Department were called to a building in the 300 block of East Nakoma after the package was found inside a ladies restroom. A police department spokesperson said the building was evacuated, officers blocked off an area around the building, and the package was blown up. Officials said the “homemade” device was a hoax and turned out to be 3 PVC pipes in a pink container that did not contain anything dangerous. No injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Bomb-squad-blows-up-suspicious-device-at-North/U3tk5aPRkEyPmc-HmDVcOw.csp>
57. *May 24, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Suspicious package in downtown building ruled harmless.** The discovery of a suspicious-looking package in the mailroom of a downtown San Diego office tower prompted a partial evacuation of the high-rise Monday, while a bomb squad examined the object, which turned out to be harmless. The discovery of the unidentified container on the 22nd story of the building next to the Westin San Diego hotel at Emerald Plaza was reported shortly before 12:30 p.m. Authorities cleared everyone out of that floor, which is occupied by a law firm, and the levels immediately above and below it while the explosives team was en route. The squad used an X-ray machine to scan the package’s contents, which were harmless. Authorities gave the all-clear about 3 p.m., clearing the way for employees to return to their offices.
Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/23660577/detail.html>
58. *May 24, WSBT 2 South Bend* – (Indiana) **South Bend Police investigate suspicious package.** A suspicious device resembling a pipe bomb shut down a portion of Colfax Avenue in downtown South Bend, Indiana May 24. According to a South Bend police spokesman, a passer-by noticed the device about 3:22 p.m. beneath a tree on the east side of the East Race near AM General. Notified of the situation, police closed Colfax between Niles Avenue and Sycamore Street and contacted the Bomb Squad. Upon arrival, the squad deployed a robot to inspect the device, which resembled a pair of conjoined pipe bombs with protruding wires. Eventually, the robot seized the device and carried it to a waiting truck, which then transported it to an undisclosed location for safe detonation. No suspects have been identified.
Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/94767299.html>
59. *May 23, Central Florida News 13* – (Florida) **Mall evacuated, suspicious package found.** A Kissimmee, Florida mall was evacuated after a suspicious package was found May 22. The package turned out to be a suitcase wrapped in duct tape with a Mexico sticker on it. Kissimmee police evacuated the east side of Osceola Square Mall after someone found the suitcase in the parking lot. They later determined the suitcase was

not dangerous. It has not been determined who the suitcase belonged to.

Source:

http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Local/2010/5/22/mall_evacuated_suspicious_package_found.html?refresh=1

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

60. *May 24, Montrose Daily Press* – (Colorado) **Beaver Fire grows to 3,200 acres.** The Beaver wildfire in Colorado spread across 3,200 acres over the weekend, raging near the border of Montrose and San Miguel counties and Norwood. The fire was caused by fallen power lines near Colorado 145 and Goodenough Road. High winds have pushed the fire across Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land. The fire has not threatened any homes or burned any structures, and no one has been evacuated from homes in the area. Officials are hoping the colder weather will help the 180 firefighters on site contain the fire. More high winds continue, however, and the National Weather Service in Grand Junction predicts windy conditions all week. The winds prevented crews from dropping fire retardant by air.

Source:

http://www.montrosepress.com/articles/2010/05/24/breaking_news/doc4bfac1acbe36d213622399.txt

For another story, see item [47](#)

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Dams Sector

61. *May 24, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Post-Ike flood maps could boost insurance costs.** A federal revision of flood maps in 17 Texas coastal counties is expected to expand the flood plain, causing costly insurance increases for some homeowners, officials said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is incorporating Hurricane Ike's storm surge data to create digital flood maps, which will add new territory in flood zones, but will not include levees unless they are certified within two years after the data is ready, a FEMA spokeswoman said. Engineers will get the data this fall and have preliminary maps available in about a year. The maps will become effective after public hearings and appeals that could take up to another 18 months, she said. If the levees are not on flood maps, lenders will require many homes to carry flood insurance for the first time. Hurricane levees completed in the 1980s are unlikely to meet new certification standards without being elevated by as much as 17 feet, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday. Raising the Texas City levees would cost \$250 million to \$350 million, and "we don't even know if the money is obtainable," a Galveston County engineer said. Officials in other counties said they doubted the expensive upgrades could be done by the deadline. A Galveston County judge has said that if the Texas City levee failed certification, insurance costs could rise \$500 per year

to as much as \$5,000 per homeowner. Officials from Texas and other states have been lobbying for a deadline extension and federal money to pay for levee improvements.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9FTCI981.html>

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