



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 May 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- A national consumer group said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration should set minimum sanitary and safety standards for pallets used to transport food, after tests revealed the presence of bacteria and virulent pathogens that cause food poisoning, reports Walleepop.com. “We believe it is essential to ensure that pathogens are not introduced at any step along the food transport system, from farm to fork,” the executive director of the National Consumers League (NCL) said in a statement. (See item [16](#))
- According to The Associated Press, a former employee of an Indiana defense contractor has filed a whistleblower lawsuit claiming the company ordered him to approve parts for machine guns used by troops that did not meet quality standards (with the problems resulting in injuries and deaths), and that he was fired for complaining about it. (See item [27](#))

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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 27, The Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Gulf spill bigger than Valdez, estimate shows.** A team of U.S. scientists Thursday significantly raised the estimate of how much oil has been leaking from a damaged well into the Gulf of Mexico. The figures signal that the disaster is at least as big as the Exxon Valdez spill two decades ago, and could perhaps double it in size. Between 12,000 and 19,000 barrels per day are estimated to be spilling into the waters of the Gulf, said a U.S. Geological Survey director, who is the leader of an interagency team created to measure the size and rate of the spill following criticism a previous estimate of 5,000 barrels per day was inaccurate. The announcement comes as a Coast Guard Admiral said Thursday that BP PLC's effort to stop the flow of oil from a broken well in the Gulf has so far "stabilized the wellhead" and stopped the oil and gas from coming up.
Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704269204575270081524288118.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines
2. *May 26, McClatchy Newspapers* – (National) **Trans-Alaska pipeline remains closed after oil spill.** The trans-Alaska pipeline remained shut down Wednesday as responders took a cautious approach to cleaning up thousands of barrels of crude oil that spilled into a containment area at a pump station. Investigators from six state and federal agencies have arrived or are on their way to the pump station to investigate the accident. Although the spill was contained within the pump station site, "some procedures weren't properly implemented, apparently" said the state pipeline director at the Joint Pipeline Office, a group of federal and state agencies that regulate the pipeline. North Slope oil production remains at a reduced level because of the problem at the pump station. Up to several thousand barrels of crude oil spilled Tuesday during a scheduled pipeline shutdown at Pump Station 9, about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks near the town of Delta Junction. A spill of that size - totaling over 100,000 gallons - is one of the largest ever for the 33-year-old pipeline.
Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2010/05/26/1281301/trans-alaska-pipeline-remains.html>
3. *May 26, Sierra Sun* – (California) **Tanker crash, fuel spill on Donner Summit; I-80 closed to eastbound traffic.** A major highway through the Sierra Nevada is closed because of an overturned tanker truck that is spilling gallons of fuel — potentially putting Donner Lake at risk — east of Donner Summit. According to the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) incident Website, the tanker was driving eastbound on 80 when it overturned at about 6 a.m. Wednesday morning. The Web site described the roadway as slick with snow. There were no reports of injuries. CHP said 2,600 gallons of diesel fuel is spilling from the truck and trickling toward Donner Lake.
Source:

<http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20100526/NEWS/100529935/1066&ParentProfile=1051>

4. *May 25, Livingston Patch* – (National) **Turning sawdust into gasoline.** Imagine filling the gas tank with a pile of sawdust, getting behind the wheel and driving across the country. Sounds impossible, right? While this seems far-fetched, it is not completely out of the question, especially if one Livingston, New Jersey company has its way. Exelus, Inc. is on the cutting edge of developing a technology that converts biomass, such as sawdust, into a usable fuel. In mid-May, a New Jersey Congressman announced that Exelus would receive a federal grant. This is the third grant — totalling more than \$2.5 million — awarded to the 13-person company. “The small Livingston-based firm is putting the nation on a course that will reduce foreign oil imports, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and even reduce our dependence on off-shore oil drilling,” the New Jersey Congressman said in a press release. But how exactly is biomass turned into fuel? “All the oil that you use today was essentially biomass many millions of years ago. Nature cooked it over long period of time, we’re trying to speed it up cheaply using catalysts,” the president of Exelus explained. “What takes nature millions of years to accomplish, we can do in about an hour.”

Source: <http://livingston.patch.com/articles/turning-sawdust-into-gasoline>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *May 26, Sumter Item* – (South Carolina) **Train investigated for chemical leak; none found.** A report of a train car possibly leaking sulfuric acid prompted the Sumter (South Carolina) Fire Department’s COBRA team to spring into action Wednesday afternoon near South Sumter and Dingle streets. About an hour and 45 minutes after the initial report was made of a relief valve possibly leaking, firefighters from the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, Radiological and Weapons of Mass Destruction Response team, outfitted in hazardous materials suits, inspected a train car and found no leak.

Source: http://www.theitem.com/news/article_acb0a13e-691e-11df-9788-001cc4c002e0.html

6. *May 26, WETM 18 Elmira* – (New York) **Employees evacuated after Philips lighting factory fire.** Employees were evacuated from a Bath, New York, factory when a chemical blaze ignited Wednesday morning. A water reactive chemical ignited a smoke fire at the Philips Lighting Factory in Bath. Emergency management officials said the smoke was coming out of a 55-gallon waste drum, which was later taken outside and contained. Investigators are not sure what caused the chemical to ignite, but they think it may have been caused by some left over damp materials or humid weather conditions. There were no injuries reported, but employees were expected back at work Thursday.

Source: <http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Philips-Lighting-Factory-Fire/kAPIyE1bWEi4n4eeWCNqOA.csp>

7. *May 26, WSPA 7 Spartanburg* – (South Carolina) **Minor injuries reported after chemical spill in Anderson Co.** EMS and Anderson County (South Carolina) fire officials treated a firefighter for heat exhaustion while hospital officials treated a gas station employee for chemical exposure after a truck driver found an acrylonitrile leak Wednesday morning. The leak, reported at a 110 Frontage Road Pilot truck stop off exit 36 from I-85, shut down the truck stop for hours as officials patched it and cleaned up. The driver discovered the leak when he woke up Wednesday morning after sleeping in his tanker truck carrying the chemical. He put a bucket under the leak, which the Anderson fire chief said was caused by a valve, and called first responders. Anderson County's Hazmat Team responded, along with Anderson Fire, EMS and the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. A gas station maintenance worker came in contact with the chemical. The fire chief said the chemical causes a burning sensation and irritation. The worker was treated at a hospital and is doing fine. A firefighter suffered heat exhaustion and was treated on scene. The leak was small, about 20 gallons, and does not pose a danger. DHEC responded and officials contained the leak just after 1 p.m. The truck was removed from the scene just before 3 p.m. Responders transferred the truck to Cytech at Donaldson Center, where the chemical can be offloaded. Cytech is the original destination for the cargo. Acrylonitrile is a chemical used in the manufacture of plastics. There are no homes or businesses in the area.

Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2010/may/26/15/tanker-leaks-nitrate-ar-234467/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *May 27, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Vermont Yankee shuts down unexpectedly.** The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant unexpectedly shut down Wednesday afternoon while it was powering up following a month-long refueling outage. The automatic shutdown appeared to be due to an incorrect setting on one of three current transformers in the Vermont Electric Co.'s Vernon switchyard located next to the power plant. The current transformers provide information about power supply and demand to the switchyard's relays and switches. Those devices open and close to keep the electricity moving or to interrupt power flow. "It appears one of those tripped," said a spokesman for Velco. "Right now, we are checking were the settings for those devices incorrect." During Yankee's refueling outage, Velco technicians performed a number of upgrades to the switchyard, including the installation of new powerlines between the plant and the switchyard, which are about 100 yards apart. At 6 p.m. Wednesday, the spokesman said he expected the situation to be resolved within a few hours. "We have teams working on it right now," he said. "We are going to get to the root of the problem."

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_15170320

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *May 27, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **House bill mandates ‘black boxes’ for all cars.** On a 31-21 vote, the House Energy and Commerce Committee has approved a bill that, among other things, would require all vehicles sold in the U.S. to be equipped with a “black box” that records crash data by 2015. The Motor Vehicle Safety Act now goes to the full House for debate. The Senate is considering a similar measure. Included in the bill is a requirement for automakers to provide an emergency brake override system that could stop the car if the throttle were stuck in the open position. That provision was added in the wake of Toyota’s well-publicized unintended acceleration problems that forced a large recall earlier this year. The measure also includes a provision increasing the maximum penalty on carmakers that fail to report defects. Toyota has paid a record \$16.2 million fine in connection with its unintended acceleration problems. Some tougher provisions of the bill were removed after objections from the auto industry. However, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said it is generally in favor of most of the bill’s provisions, including the emergency brake override system and the inclusion of a “black box” data recorder. The measure would give new power to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The agency would be authorized to order recalls that “present a substantial likelihood of death or injury to the public.” To increase NHTSA’s budget, the measure would add a \$9 tax per car — ultimately to be paid by the purchaser — with the money going directly to fund the agency’s operations.
Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/05/autos_black_box.html
10. *May 26, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **2010 Nissan, Infiniti trucks, SUVs recalled.** Nissan North America is recalling several 2010 Nissan and Infiniti trucks and SUVs to fix a problem with the front suspension. The company said some lower control link assemblies might not be properly welded. If the weld separates, vehicle handling could be affected, possibly causing a crash. The affected models and model years are: 2010 QX56, 2010 Armada, 2010 Frontier, 2010 Pathfinder, 2010 Titan, and 2010 Xterra. The affected vehicles were manufactured from November 19, 2009 through March 3, 2010. Dealers will repair the vehicles free of charge when the recall begins in June.
Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/nissan_trucks.html
11. *May 26, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Lexus models recalled to fix steering problem.** Toyota is recalling about 3,800 Lexus models to fix a problem with the steering system. The company said the steering wheel could become off-center by as much as 90 degrees after a sharp turn, possibly causing a crash. Models and model years affected by the recall are: Lexus 2009-2010 LS460 and LS460L, 2010 LS600H, and LS600HL. Dealers will replace the steering control unit free of charge.
Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/lexus_steering.html
12. *May 26, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **2010 Ford Ranger pickups recalled.** Ford is recalling about 2,900 2010 Ranger pickups equipped with manual transmissions because of a problem with the parking brake. The company said the brake cable could

become disconnected from the right rear actuator during cold weather, causing excessive pedal travel when the brake is applied. If the brake is not fully applied, the vehicle could roll away. The recalled vehicles were manufactured from June 8, 2009 through February 2, 2010. Dealers will install a revised brake actuator when the recall begins this month.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/ford_ranger.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *May 27, Naval Open Source Intelligence* – (National) **US Air Force tests hypersonic cruise missile.** The U.S. Air Force Wednesday test launched a hypersonic cruise missile, with the vehicle accelerating to Mach 6 before splashing down in the Pacific Ocean, officials said. The Air Force said the test flight of the X-15A Waverider lasted more than 200 seconds, the longest ever hypersonic flight powered by scramjet propulsion. The previous record was 12 seconds in a NASA X-43 vehicle. “We are ecstatic to have accomplished most of our test points on the X-51A’s very first hypersonic mission,” said the program manager with the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.
Source: [http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/05/us-air-force-tests-hypersonic-cruise.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+\(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence\)](http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/05/us-air-force-tests-hypersonic-cruise.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence))
14. *May 27, Naval Open Source Intelligence* – (National) **Boeing conducts test flight of ScanEagle compressed carriage.** The Boeing Company successfully flew its ScanEagle Compressed Carriage (SECC) unmanned airborne system (UAS) at a testing facility in eastern Oregon May 12. The 75-minute flight evaluated the aircraft’s airworthiness and flight characteristics in a simulated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) mission. The SECC — powered by a six-horsepower, heavy-fuel engine — was launched from a ground vehicle, flew an autonomous flight plan at various altitudes and provided streaming video from its electro-optical/infrared sensor package to a nearby ground station.
Source: [http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/05/boeing-conducts-test-flight-of.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+\(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence\)](http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/05/boeing-conducts-test-flight-of.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence))
15. *May 27, Naval Open Source Intelligence* – (National) **New Lynx AMR successfully integrated and flown on a Predator B UAS.** General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., a leading manufacturer of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), tactical reconnaissance radars, and surveillance systems, May 27 announced that it has successfully completed a set of flight tests of its next generation Synthetic Aperture Radar/Ground Moving Target Indicator (SAR/GMTI) radar, the Lynx Advanced Multi-channel Radar (AMR), on the company’s capital Predator B UAS. The flights were completed May 7 at GA-ASI’s Gray Butte Flight Operations Facility in Palmdale, Calif., following software testing and aircraft payload integration. “This first flight of

the Lynx AMR on Predator B marks the first time that radar dismount detection capability has been demonstrated on a Predator-class aircraft,” said the president of Reconnaissance Systems Group, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

Source: [http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/05/new-lynx-amr-successfully-integrated.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+\(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence\)](http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/05/new-lynx-amr-successfully-integrated.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence))

16. *May 26, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Lawsuit: Contractor approved bad gun parts.** A former employee of an Indiana defense contractor has filed a whistleblower lawsuit claiming the company ordered him to approve parts for machine guns used by troops that did not meet quality standards, and that he was fired for complaining about it. In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Evansville in February 2009 and unsealed in March, an employee accused Dugger-based Northside Machine Company of fraud and wrongful termination. He is seeking reinstatement with back pay and unspecified damages. In a court filing Wednesday, the company contends that it never told the man to falsify test results, and that he never complained to management before he was fired. It asked a judge to dismiss his lawsuit. Northside Machine supplies trigger assemblies and other components to defense contractor FN Manufacturing for use in its M240 and M249 machine guns, which are widely used by the military. FN Manufacturing is not accused of wrongdoing. According to a 2006 report by the Center for Naval Analyses, a federally funded research group that studies military matters, 30 percent of troops surveyed reported that the M249 had stopped firing during combat, a higher percentage than with any other weapon included in the report. Problems with the light machine gun and other weapons were reported during the July 2008 battle in Wanat, Afghanistan, in which nine U.S. troops died and 27 were wounded.

Source:

http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/05/ap_military_lawsuit_triggers_052610/

17. *May 26, DoD Buzz* – (National) **Rust and roll for F-22; HASC watches JSF.** In February, the entire F-22 fleet was grounded “due to poorly designed drainage in the cockpit.” The affected parts were ejection seat rods. Congress is worried that similar problems could afflict the Joint Strike Fighter and has requested a report about lessons learned from the F-22’s experience. Regardless of how lowly rust might seem at first glance, it is a huge problem for the military, costing about \$20 billion each year. According to the House Armed Services Committee, roughly \$7 billion of that rust is preventable. The committee wants to substantially increase the budget of a little known Pentagon entity, the Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight, to improve the military’s ability to stop rust from crippling major weapons systems. “The Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight has a proven record of successfully reducing corrosion costs, with a 50-to-1 return on investment on the 169 programs that have been implemented through it,” the HASC said in the summary of its bill. So the committee is increasing the office’s budget to \$10.8 million, up from \$3.6 million. Doing the math, that should result in a return of \$540 million to the taxpayer.

Source: <http://www.dodbuzz.com/2010/05/26/rust-and-roll-for-f-22-hasc-watches-jsf/>

Banking and Finance Sector

18. *May 27, Windsor Beacon* – (Colorado) **Payday loan collection calls just another elaborate scam.** If anyone has received a call recently from a debt collecting agency telling them to either set up a payment plan or face arrest, the Windsor (Colorado) Police Department asks them to pause. “First of all, private businesses can’t issue arrest warrants,” said a Windsor police corporal. This phone call, which was recently received by a Windsor resident, is a new twist on a familiar scam, according to police officials. The scam was made more frightening, the officer said, because the caller had a lot of this resident’s personal information from a payday loan application she’d previously filled out. “The caller was abrupt and rude, and basically they frightened [a resident] into doing what they said,” the officer said. The resident made only one payment before she was convinced to call the Windsor police, who investigated.

Source:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20100527/WINDSORBEACON01/5270306>

19. *May 26, WLWT 5 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **High-tech credit cards vulnerable to thieves.** New no-swipe technology makes using credit cards faster and easier than ever before, but that convenience makes credit cards an easy target for thieves. Companies are now embedding small computer chips into cards in which radio frequencies read the data right off the card. The technology goes by several names including Pay Pass, Express Pay and Tap N Go. But clever thieves can also read that frequency and swipe information. “What you may not know is someone may be looking to glean that off of your card and use it,” said a professor at Webster University and owner of PitViper Industries. Some banks are looking at security options as they add the chip to their banking cards. “The thieves will have a very difficult time compromising the card. That’s some of the technology that is embedded in the card,” a spokesman of Fifth Third Bank Community Relations said. Experts predict that the magnetic strip will be gone from all credit cards, replaced by the chips, within three to five years.

Source: <http://www.wlwt.com/money/23681530/detail.html>

20. *May 26, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Winter Park police think skimming devices used at Bank of America ATMs.** Winter Park, Florida police are investigating the use of skimming devices they think were used to steal credit and debit card information from Bank of America customers. None of the people who lost money had lost or misplaced their cards, but their accounts were accessed in late April, police said. Suspects were seen on surveillance video driving a black or blue Mercury Grand Marquis.

Source: http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2010-05-26/news/os-winter-park-atm-skimming-20100526_1_winter-park-police-bank-of-america-atms-skimming

For another story, see item [46](#)

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Transportation Sector

21. *May 27, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Logan safety system fails after millions spent.** Several years and millions of dollars after completion, a major safety project at Logan International Airport in Boston has failed a crucial test. The new ground radar system was designed to prevent a disaster such as a runway collision. It is supposed to detect traffic on or near the same runway and warn pilots or drivers to get out of the way. But when the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) tested the system Saturday, it did not pass. With a price tag of more than \$6 million, the Runway Status Lights System is designed to warn pilots of potential runway incursions. The Massachusetts Port Authority, or MassPort, which oversees the airport, and the FAA, split the cost of the RWSL, as it is called, and the FAA tested it May 22. The agency in a statement, said: “This test did not produce the results that meet FAA’s precise standards.” The Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Lincoln Labs designed the system, which MassPort said was targeted to be online by June 1. The way the RWLS is designed to operate, red lights embedded in runway pavement illuminate if the ground surveillance radar detects traffic on or approaching the same runway, providing a visual cue to pilots and vehicle operators to stop. Sources said during the operational testing, the safety system failed to warn a pilot taking off that the runway was already in use, the warning lights going on 41 seconds after the pilot took off and was in the air.
Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/mostpopular/23693639/detail.html>
22. *May 27, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Storm damages southwestern Ill. airport.** A cleanup continues in southwestern Illinois where a severe thunderstorm damaged some buildings at an airport and blew over a tractor-trailer. The midday storm packed wind gusts of up to 50 mph. Hail damaged the roof on an administration building at the St. Louis Downtown Airport in Sauget, Illinois and damaged some hangers. Nobody was hurt in Wednesday’s storm.
Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2010/05/27/1271934/storm-damages-southwestern-ill.html>
23. *May 27, Jackson Hole Daily* – (Wyoming) **Agency fines airport for security breach.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) fined Jackson Hole Airport in Wyoming for a security breach that occurred earlier this year, airport officials announced Wednesday. The TSA fined the airport \$7,500 for the incident, which happened during the winter holiday season, the airport director said. He said the incident involved an employee of The Horsely Co., a contractor for the airport’s new state-of-the-art baggage handling system. “One of the contractors went into the secured area without a badge that he should have had,” the director said. “It was back in the new construction area. He wasn’t aware. That phase of construction is over with, so hopefully that’s not a problem.” The director said securing access to the National Airspace System is important because, once a person is past security checkpoints, “nobody checks you twice.”
Source: http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=6029
24. *May 27, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Truck with non-explosive rockets crashes on I-25.** Emergency responders said a truck hauling hundreds of “practice rockets” for the military crashed on Interstate 25 north of Denver, but the munitions remained safe and

intact. A North Metro Fire spokeswoman said an estimated 50 to 60 gallons of diesel fuel leaked onto the highway when the truck hit a guardrail around 5 a.m. Wednesday along the northbound lanes of I-25 near Colorado 7. A Fort Carson spokesman said the truck was carrying 10 pallets of 2.75-inch practice rockets that were not live, with 48 rockets on each pallet. The Gazette reports that a passenger in the truck suffered non-life threatening injuries. Broomfield, Colorado police said the driver was cited with careless driving causing injury.

Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/wireapnewsco/Truck.carrying.non.2.1718170.html>

25. *May 26, Aviation Week* – (National) **Revised ADS-B rule expected.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is expected to release its much-anticipated final rule on ADS-B Thursday; both the FAA's Chief Administrator and the Department of Transportation Secretary were expected to preside over the announcement. The rule is a key element in FAA's plan for NextGen, its proposed next generation satellite-based air traffic control system. That concept involves a new ground equipment network replacing the agency's surveillance radars, as well as new equipment aboard aircraft. All totaled, the new system could cost as much as \$40 billion, with the investment split roughly 50-50 between ground and aircraft equipage. The original proposed rule, published in October 2007, drew lots of objections from the user community, particularly because of its implied WAAS GPS mandate, potential 1090 Mhz frequency congestion and considerable cost burden for light aircraft owners. As a result, FAA convened an Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) composed of many industry stakeholders, including representatives of the airlines and business aircraft as co-chairs, to hash out the rough edges. The revised rule should focus on ADS-B "out" and will affect virtually all aircraft with powered electrical systems that operate in Class A, B or C airspace, plus Class E airspace above 10,000 ft. and within 30 nautical miles of major metroplex airports. It could ultimately impact as many as 150,000 aircraft. The ARC believes that the federal government should offer incentives to early ADS-B adopters in order to achieve a higher level of equipage prior to a 2020 deadline.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=busav&id=news/awx/2010/05/25/awx_05_25_2010_p0-229554.xml&headline=Revised ADS-B Rule Expected](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=busav&id=news/awx/2010/05/25/awx_05_25_2010_p0-229554.xml&headline=Revised%20ADS-B%20Rule%20Expected)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *May 27, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **E. coli outbreak in Minnesota tied to raw milk.** A Minnesota toddler has been hospitalized with a life-threatening illness and three other people have been sickened by E. coli-tainted raw milk, an outbreak that is likely to sharpen a national debate on the growing popularity of the controversial beverage. Three of the four E. coli 0157:H7 cases are linked to unpasteurized milk produced at the Hartmann Dairy Farm in Gibbon, Minnesota, which is also known as M.O.M.s, or Minnesota Organic Milk, state health and agricultural department officials said May 26. They said consumers should discard any dairy products — including cheese and ice cream — made by Hartmann. None of the milk involved so far appears to have been sold in stores, said the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s director of dairy and food inspection. Raw milk hasn’t been pasteurized — that is, treated with heat to kill organisms that can make people sick. Interstate sales of raw milk are banned, but more than 20 states allow sales — usually limited — of the product. In Minnesota, raw milk is restricted to “occasional purchases directly at the farm where the milk is produced,” the dairy and food inspection director said.

Source:

http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/94980484.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUnciaec8O7EyUsl

27. *May 27, Walleepop.com* – (National) **Wooden pallets could be poisoning our food, consumer group’s test show.** A national consumer group said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration should set minimum sanitary and safety standards for pallets used to transport food, after tests revealed the presence of bacteria that cause food poisoning. “We believe it is essential to ensure that pathogens are not introduced at any step along the food transport system, from farm to fork,” the executive director of the National Consumers League (NCL) said in a statement. The recommendations follow recent tests conducted by the NCL on pallets to determine whether they may be carriers of pathogens. The NCL tested pallets for a number of food-borne pathogens, including E. coli and Listeria, and found 10 percent of the wooden pallets tested positive for E. coli (though not the most virulent strain, E. coli O157:H7). In addition to the presence of E. coli, 2.9 percent of the wood pallets tested positive for Listeria. Half of these, when further tested, contained Listeria monocytogenes, one of the most virulent pathogens. This strain is linked to a 20 to 30 percent rate of clinical infection resulting in death, and causes approximately 2,500 illnesses and 500 deaths in the United States every year. Listeriosis is also more likely to cause death than any other food-borne bacterial pathogen. “With approximately two billion pallets currently in circulation in the United States, the presence of dangerous pathogens on even a small percentage of those pallets presents a potential threat to the safety of the food supply,” the NCL executive director wrote to the FDA. Although both types of pallets tested positive for pathogens, wooden pallets contained far more for a number of reasons. Unlike plastic, wooden pallets absorb water, harbor bacteria and are difficult to fully clean, making it easier for them to contaminate food. The NCL’s test also revealed wood pallets are more likely to be stored outside and exposed to weather, rodents, bird droppings and insects. Splinters on wooden pallets can also damage packaging, creating an opening for pathogens. In a just-issued report prepared for the FDA, Eastern Research Group, Inc. highlights the use of “good quality pallets” as a preventive measure. The agency has said it will use

the report to inform the development of new rules to increase the safety of food during transport.

Source: <http://www.walletpop.com/blog/2010/05/27/wooden-pallets-could-be-poisoning-our-food-consumer-groups-tes/>

28. *May 27, Chico Enterprise Record* – (California; National) **Chico salmonella outbreak being probed.** Health officials are trying to learn if there is a link among seven cases of salmonella reported recently in Chico, California. These could just be the sporadic cases that appear now and then, said the Butte County health officer. Or, they might be linked, in which case, officials hope to eliminate the risk of more people becoming affected. It is possible the local cases are related to salmonella found in alfalfa sprouts that are being recalled in 15 states, he said. In Chico, since May 14, there have been seven confirmed cases of salmonella reported to Butte County health officials. These were cases in which people were sick enough to go to the doctor. Cultures were taken that showed the culprit to be salmonella. In a typical year, 32 cases of salmonella are reported in Butte County. Of the seven people who got sick recently, three were hospitalized. The health officer said health officials have been interviewing patients, asking them what they've eaten and where they've eaten, what parties they've attended and similar questions. The average age of those who became ill is 29 years. The health officer said lab tests are being done on the salmonella bacteria itself. The results can identify the bacteria as being the same as those found in other outbreaks around the country. According to the Associated Press, alfalfa sprouts sold by Caldwell Fresh Foods have been recalled from a number of states. These sprouts were sold to Wal-Marts in California and 14 other states and also to Trader Joe's in California, according to the AP.

Source: http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_15171973

29. *May 26, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **University, Massachusetts company to launch training center for foreign producers.** The University of Maryland's M Square research park in College Park soon might become a crucial hub for ensuring global food safety. The university has struck a partnership with Waters Corp. of Milford, Massachusetts, to build and operate the first stateside laboratory for training foreign food producers that export to the U.S. The International Food Safety Training Laboratory, is expected to open in July 2011. About 200 foreign scientists will be taught there each year by members of the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, a collaborative program between the university and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The lab will have a staff of five full-time workers. Waters Corp., which develops scientific strategies for regulatory compliance, is investing \$4 million in technology and curriculum design for the laboratory. "The goal is to improve food safety for customers in the U.S. and, in turn, domestically for the producers' countries," said the program's associate director. He said the training will be based on the training given at the FDA. With imports accounting for 15 percent of the U.S. food supply, the nation needs a better way of ensuring food safety than border inspections, the associate director said. "The demand for expertise — especially the hands-on variety — far outstrips current technical capacity in many countries, driven in part by U.S. importers and retailers seeking safety assurances," he said in a statement. Instead,

this private-public partnership will train foreign food producers to perform their own analyses according to FDA regulations, he said. “The FDA couldn’t make this deal because of governmental restrictions and regulations,” he added.

Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/05262010/busiplo164440_32559.php

30. *May 26, Eat, Drink and Be* – (National) **Scientists find rare strain of E. coli lurking in lettuce.** Test results from an Ohio lab indicate the romaine lettuce that sickened at least 33 people across the country with E. coli O145 may have also contained a hidden contaminant: a rarer strain of E. coli bacteria. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that the unusual bacteria strain was Escherichia coli 0143:H34, an Ohio Department of Agriculture spokeswoman told The Columbus Dispatch. The newly identified strain has not been shown to have sickened anyone who was already reported ill in the outbreak; however it has the potential to cause severe illness. It causes the same illness and symptoms as the more common strain of E. coli: O157. Some strains of E. coli exist naturally in the human body as gut bacteria. Others, such as E. coli O143, produce a toxin called Shiga toxin, responsible for causing diseases. Fruits and vegetables can become contaminated with E. coli from water runoff in fields or through direct contact with animal feces. The lettuce harboring the E. coli was found in a recalled bag of Freshway Foods lettuce, which has been implicated in the multistate E. coli O145 outbreak. The outbreak has sickened at least 33 people, three of whom have developed kidney failure. Food safety advocates say the discovery should prompt legal action to require food manufacturers to test for additional strains of E. coli to protect public health.

Source: http://eatdrinkandbe.org/article/index.0527_fs_ecoli0143

31. *May 26, UPI* – (National) **USDA reports on slaughter facilities.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said it has released a preliminary study revealing existing gaps in the nation’s regional food systems. The report focuses on the availability of slaughter facilities for small meat and poultry producers. Officials said the study by the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service represents a first attempt to identify areas where small livestock and poultry producers are concentrated but may not have access to a nearby slaughter facility. “To support consumer demand for locally produced agricultural products, meat producers need to have access to local or regional slaughter facilities, and the study we are releasing today shows that there is often a shortage of facilities needed to bring food to market,” said the Agriculture Secretary. Officials said the data create a county-by-county view of the concentration of small farms raising cattle, hogs, pigs or chickens, and also noting the location of nearby state slaughter facilities and small and very small federal establishments. The USDA defines “small slaughter establishments” as those with 10 to 499 employees, and “very small slaughter establishments” as having fewer than 10 employees or less than \$2.5 million in annual sales. Small livestock and poultry producers are those who have annual sales of \$250,000 or less.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Business_News/2010/05/26/USDA-reports-on-slaughter-facilities/UPI-16571274899242/

32. *May 26, Food Poison Journal* – (Florida) **Chef at Miami area Chili's worked while ill with typhoid fever.** A cook at a popular Bayside, Florida Chili's Grill and Bar apparently worked for a period of time while ill and contagious with Salmonella typhi, the strain that causes typhoid fever, NBC Miami reported May 24. While no patron illnesses have been reported thus far, hundreds of people may have consumed food prepared by the cook while ill. The symptoms of typhoid fever may include constipation, cough, sore throat, headache, and a rash on the infected individual's chest, as well as the slowing of the heartbeat and enlargement of the liver and spleen (Mayo Clinic, 2007, April 12). The onset of symptoms usually occurs between 5 and 21 days after ingestion of Salmonella typhi bacteria.

Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/05/articles/food-poisoning-watch/chef-at-miami-area-chilis-worked-while-ill-with-typhoid-fever/>

For another story, see item [37](#)

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Water Sector

33. *May 27, Lima News* – (Ohio) **4 injured as chemicals mix at Delphos wastewater plant.** A chemical mishap at the Delphos, Ohio wastewater treatment plant injured four people and forced the evacuation of the facility for several hours Wednesday. Emergency crews took four people with respiratory ailments to a nearby hospital for treatment after chemicals were mistakenly mixed. The Delphos fire chief said the chemical odors were contained inside the building and offered no immediate danger to the general public. "The solutions are isolated in the building," he said. "It is not a hazard to the community at this time." A chemical reaction occurred around 10:15 a.m. during the offloading of liquid chlorine into a storage tank. As of late Wednesday, authorities still had not determined if the liquid chlorine was pumped into the wrong tank or if there was an open valve between the chlorine tank and one of oxalic acid, said the Delphos Safety-Service director. The chlorine and acid formed a gas that caused respiratory issues. Four people — three wastewater plant employees and an employee of the chemical supplier — were taken to St. Rita's Medical Center for treatment. All were treated, then released. "When we first got here, the first thing we did was set up a decontamination area so that if anybody else has a problem before we start sending more people in the building to fix it we've got a way to decontaminate them from that chemical," said the director of the Allen County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The wastewater plant was evacuated, but nearby buildings in the sparsely populated area north of Delphos did not evacuate after the incident.

Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4158093>

34. *May 27, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (New York) **EPA and New York State announce ban on boat sewage disposal to New York Canal System.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced May 27 that the entire New York State

Canal System is now a “no discharge zone,” which means that boats are banned from discharging sewage into the canals. Boaters must instead dispose of their sewage at specially designated pump-out stations. Discharges of sewage from boats can contain harmful levels of pathogens and chemicals such as formaldehyde, phenols, and chlorine, which have a negative impact on water quality, pose a risk to people’s health, and impair marine life. The New York State Canal System declared a “no discharge zone” is 524 miles long and includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Champlain and Oswego canals. These four canals link the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes and the Niagara River. Prior to the new ban, vessels operating in these waters were allowed to discharge treated sewage from approved marine-sanitation devices.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/ABEEA4CE0F230704852577300050B06F>

35. *May 26, Water Technology Online* – (National) **Nitrous oxide, a powerful greenhouse gas, may be twice as high than estimated.** Nitrous oxide, or N₂O, is a greenhouse gas considered by experts to be 300 times more powerful in its atmospheric warming effect than carbon dioxide. By far the greatest recorded sources of N₂O emissions are from agricultural activities and fossil fuel combustion. But sewage breakdown by some wastewater treatment plants also emit nitrous oxide. Until recently, nitrous oxide emissions from plants using microbes to breakdown toxins was estimated to be rather low. But the first large-scale survey of 12 plants across the U.S., led by Columbia scientists, shows that these wastewater treatment plants may contribute a larger share of emissions than previously thought; it also challenges the current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approach for assessing N₂O emissions from such plants. The findings appear in the recent issue of *Environmental Science & Technology*.

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=74171

36. *May 26, WDEF 12 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Contaminated creek causing problems in Bradley County community.** The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (T-DEC) determined Wilkinson Branch is highly polluted. The head of the Chattanooga office explained, “You’re not just concerned about the bacteria, you’re concerned about the viruses and so forth that can move even further down and have a longer lifetime than just the bacteria.” The contaminated water from Wilkinson Branch has been backing up in a yard on Royal Oaks Drive. Neighbors said the home has stayed empty for about a year. So far the owners have had no luck with a sale. T-DEC has determined that the water contains human waste that hasn’t been in a septic system. That means the biggest culprit is the sewage pumping station for the Peachtree Pointe mobile home park, just upstream from Royal Oaks, and the beaver dam blocking it. A Bradley County attorney said, “It’s primarily the state’s jurisdiction first. They tried to resolve this back in 2004 but there are other options here we’re going to explore them.” Peachtree Pointe’s owner lives in California and T-DEC’s notices of violation have gone unanswered. So a next step could be to seize and condemn the sewage system- a pricey option for Bradley County. Officials will meet again Friday to determine the next course of action. T-DEC has authorized the removal of the beaver dam on Wilkinson Branch, too.

Source:

http://www.wdef.com/news/contaminated_creek_causing_problems_in_bradley_county_community/05/2010

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

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

37. *May 27, Institue for Southern Studies* – (National) **‘Dumpsites in disguise’**. Coal ash isn’t just dumped; it’s increasingly being recycled into building materials and other uses. But in states like North Carolina, the failure to adequately regulate one so-called “beneficial use” of the toxic-filled waste is putting communities at risk. A growing share of the nation’s coal ash is being reused and recycled, finding its way into building materials, publicly used land and even farmland growing food crops. And despite the presence of toxins like arsenic, chromium and lead found in coal ash, these reuses go largely unregulated by state and federal officials.

Source: <http://www.southernstudies.org/2010/05/dumpsites-in-disguise.html>

38. *May 26, Bloomberg* – (New York) **Experimental drug boosts cure rate for Hepatitis C**. A new drug under development for Hepatitis C greatly improved the cure rate for patients while cutting the time needed for treatment, according to the drug’s maker, Vertex Pharmaceuticals. As reported by The New York Times, about 75 percent of patients enrolled in the trial who took the drug, telaprevir, along with standard treatment, essentially rid themselves of the virus, which can lead to liver damage and even cancer. In comparison, just 44 percent of patients who took the standard therapy alone had the same results. Telaprevir works by blocking a protease, an enzyme manufactured by the virus, similar to how powerful HIV medications attack that pathogen.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/639508.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

39. *May 27, Morristown Daily Record* – (New Jersey) **JCP&L blames Morristown Library explosion on ‘combustible gas’**. Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) officials announced Wednesday that the underground explosion at the library earlier this month was caused by a combustible gas, and not by their electrical equipment. The announcement comes one week after JCP&L workers were allowed inside the library by Travelers Insurance, which had required workers to be trained in working in areas that contain asbestos. “The preliminary indication is that this was caused by the presence of a combustible gas unrelated to JCP&L’s electrical activities,” a JCP&L spokesman said late Wednesday afternoon. “The exact source continues to be investigated by JCP&L and other parties.” One of those parties is PSE&G, which has a

gas line that goes into the library. A PSE&G spokeswoman said there is no indication that natural gas or any PSE&G facilities contributed to the blast. “Testing has demonstrated that our facilities are not involved,” the spokeswoman said. The library has been closed since the May 3 explosion blew out windows and doors, and caused the basement ceiling to buckle. There is no timetable for when it will reopen.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20100527/COMMUNITIES/305270007/1005/NEWS01/JCP&L-blames-Morristown-Library-explosion-on--combustible-gas->

40. *May 26, Computerworld* – (California) **Five indicted in cybertheft of city’s bank accounts.** Five people were indicted this week on wire fraud and other criminal charges stemming from a 2007 cybertheft in which nearly \$450,000 was stolen from the bank accounts of the city of Carson, California. The federal indictment, handed down in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, charges two suspects with allowing their bank accounts in North Carolina to be used as conduits for accepting stolen money, and for sending it to bank accounts belonging to three other suspects. The treasurer for Carson said the money was siphoned out of the city’s coffers via two unauthorized money transfers in May 2007.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9177409/Five_indicted_in_cybertheft_of_city_s_bank_accounts

41. *May 26, WFMJ 21 Youngstown* – (Ohio) **Bomb squad called to Youngstown City Hall.** Youngstown (Ohio) City Hall was evacuated, just before it was set to close for the day Tuesday, when a suspicious package was delivered to the clerk of court’s Office. The Youngstown Bomb Squad was called in to investigate, and a portion of West Boardman Street was blocked to traffic as a pre-caution until police could examine the package that was sent from Damascus, Syria and delivered by a service not normally used by city hall. The Youngstown clerk of courts, said “we just received a suspicious package and it wasn’t accurately addressed, but it did have the P.O. box and someone hand written it. It was delivered by a DHL person who alarmed my clerk, who brought it to me and indicated that it was suspicious.” The Youngstown Bomb Squad commander said that the Youngstown clerk of courts did everything right. He said she treated it as a suspicious package and the bomb squad felt the same way. He said they used their procedures until they were sure that everything was okay. It took just under an hour for the bomb squad to investigate. They said the package was legitimate.

Source: <http://www.wfmj.com/Global/story.asp?S=12542847>

42. *May 24, United States Department of Justice* – (Maryland) **Former FBI contract linguist sentenced for leaking classified information to blogger.** A U.S. District Judge sentenced a former FBI contract linguist, a 40 year-old from Silver Spring, Maryland, to 20 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for unlawfully providing classified documents to the host of an Internet blog who then published information from those documents on the blog. The sentence was announced by the Assistant Attorney General for National Security; the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland; and the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Baltimore Field

Office. “The willful disclosure of classified information to those not entitled to receive it is a serious crime,” said the Assistant Attorney General for National Security. “Today’s sentence should serve as a warning to anyone in government who would consider compromising our nation’s secrets.”

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/May/10-nsd-608.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

43. *May 27, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Cal Fire says its crews caused wildfire.** A 485-acre wildfire in the Santa Cruz Mountains in California in October was ignited by an ember from a brush-clearing project that the state firefighting agency had conducted more than a week earlier. The Loma Fire swept through dry grass and trees Oct. 25 just off Summit Road, injuring four of the 1,700 firefighters who battled it at a cost of roughly \$4 million. The blaze damaged or destroyed a mobile home, seven outbuildings and five vehicles. A spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the ember that started the blaze blew out of a “hazard reduction burn project” conducted nine days earlier, after rainstorms had soaked the region. He said evidence gathered by the state would be turned over to the Santa Clara County district attorney’s office, which could take further action. The fire started in Santa Clara County, but most of the damage was in Santa Cruz County. The state will investigate exactly how the burning of piles of brush had sparked the larger fire and whether there was negligence.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/05/27/BAPC1DL48T.DTL>

44. *May 27, Montrose Daily Press* – (Colorado) **Wind, falling trees add danger to Beaver Fire.** With warmer, drier weather and increased winds, Beaver Fire crews continued efforts to secure the perimeter of the blaze in Norwood, Colorado, already reduced to 2,525 acres and 40 percent contained May 26. Great potential for falling trees along the San Miguel River kept the river closed through the fire zone, though it remains open from the south to the Beaver Recreation Area and north of the fire. Colorado 145 remains open, but travelers are asked to use caution amid fire operations along the river corridor.

Source:

<http://www.montrosepress.com/articles/2010/05/27/news/doc4bfdceeb580da378681744.txt>

45. *May 26, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Fire consolidation could save costs, grand jury.** Cities in San Mateo County, California that still run their own fire departments should consider consolidating with neighboring jurisdictions or contracting with the state to reduce costs, according to a civil grand jury report released Wednesday. The eight-page report found that spreading fire service over a larger population tends to reduce administrative costs and lower per capita expense. The grand jury concluded that Peninsula agencies with their own fire service should

complete a study by July 2011 exploring potential consolidations with nearby departments or contracting with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire. The grand jury said consolidation can help reduce personnel costs, which it noted have been increasing and straining city budgets, in part due to labor contracts negotiated in better times that are “no longer sustainable in today’s economic environment.” The Woodside Fire Protection District, which covers only 16,000 residents, had the highest per capita personnel cost at \$796, according to the report. The lowest per capita cost was rung up by the Coastside Fire Protection District, which contracts with Cal Fire — \$132.49 for each of the 40,000 residents served. Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_15170968

For more stories, see items [7](#), [55](#), and [62](#)

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Information Technology Sector

46. *May 27, Softpedia* – (International) **Romanian authorities shut down ATM-skimmer manufacturing operation.** The Romanian organized crime police has dismantled a major cybercriminal ring that specialized in manufacturing and selling ATM skimmers. Law enforcement officials descended at more than 40 locations in several cities and detained 20 suspects. Prosecutors from the Romanian Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) are investigating multiple individuals under the suspicion of being members of an organized crime group, unauthorized access to a computer system, possessing card-cloning equipment, access-device fraud, and distributing fake electronic-payment devices. According to DIICOT, the criminal group operated out of Romania’s Dolj county, particularly the city of Craiova, where the ATM skimmers were assembled. However, some of the electronic components used for the devices were manufactured in Bucharest. The devices were either sold to other fraudsters or used by ring members in Italy, Germany, Sweden, or Romania. Teams of Romanian Police special forces raided 38 locations in Craiova, six in Bucharest and three in a neighboring county earlier today, taking a total number of 20 suspects back for questioning. Amongst them are the brother of a local magistrate and the son of a Ministry of Interior official.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Romanian-Authorities-Shut-Down-ATM-Skimmer-Manufacturing-Operation-143204.shtml>

47. *May 27, IDG News Service* – (International) **Europe warns Google, Microsoft, others about search-data retention.** Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo are retaining detailed search engine data for too long and not making it sufficiently anonymous later, in violation of European law, the European Union’s data-protection advisory body has warned. The three companies received letters May 26 from the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party, which oversees data-protection issues in the E.U. Since 2008 the working party has pressured search companies to retain highly detailed search records for no longer than six months. Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft all agreed to modify how long they store the detailed data, which varied up to 18 months. The data

collected by search engines can include a host of details, including the search terms, the date and time of the search, the searcher's IP (Internet Protocol) address and the brand of browser, operating system and language used. Google keeps the full data for nine months and then obscures the last octet of the IP address. The working party wrote to Google stating that that policy does not protect the "identifiability of data subjects." Also, Google retains cookies — data files used to track how a person moves around a Web site — for 18 months, which would also allow for the correlation of search queries, the working party said. In a news release, the working party singled out Google, saying that that company's 95 percent market share in some European countries means it "has a significant role in European citizens' daily lives."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9177424/Europe_warns_Google_Microsoft_others_about_search_data_retention

48. *May 26, The Register* – (International) **Cisco bugs surrender control of building's critical systems.** Cisco Systems has warned of serious vulnerabilities in a device that connects a building's ventilation, lighting, security, and energy supply systems so they can be controlled by IT workers remotely. The networking giant May 26 urged users of the Cisco Network Building Mediator products to patch the vulnerabilities, which among other things allow adversaries to obtain administrative passwords. No authentication is required to read the system configuration files, making it possible for outsiders to take control of a building's most critical control systems. "Successful exploitation of any of these vulnerabilities could result in a malicious user taking complete control over an affected device," a Cisco advisory stated. The notice also warned that the vulnerabilities are present in the legacy products from Richards-Zeta, the Cisco-acquired company that originally designed the system. The bugs were discovered during internal testing. Another flaw makes it possible for low-level employees to gain full control of the device by accessing default administrative accounts. Other bugs allowed malicious insiders to intercept traffic as it travels between an administrator and the building mediator and to escalate limited privileges.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/05/26/cisco_building_control_bugs/

49. *May 26, IDG News Service* – (National) **U.S. need to fight online terrorism recruiting, expert says.** The U.S. government lacks a plan to counter terrorist recruiting efforts online, even though such efforts by jihad groups are growing, one terrorism expert told U.S. lawmakers. The U.S. government does not make an effort to engage with people who may be open to terrorist recruiting efforts and dissuade them from joining, a professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University told lawmakers May 26. The U.K. government has a program that works with local communities to identify possible targets for terrorism recruiting, said the professor, a former scholar in residence at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Instead of on-the-ground programs working with potential targets of terrorism recruiting, U.S. agencies have, in some cases, tried to control terrorism communications on the Internet. "We shouldn't be censoring the Internet," he said. "I think the problem is we default toward these very intrusive approaches." Internet service providers should have protection from lawsuits if they take down terrorism-related Web sites, said a former

counterterrorism official with the CIA and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9177404/U.S._need_to_fight_online_terrorism_recruiting_expert_says

50. *May 26, The New New Internet* – (International) **Self-published authors warned about phishing attack.** BookWhirl.com, a book-marketing site, has issued a warning on recent phishing attacks that have hit self-published authors. According to the BookWhirl management, this scam includes fraudsters sending e-mails that appear to be from an official BookWhirl.com e-mail. These e-mails embody fake names and contact information that only uses the BookWhirl.com's name to extract personal information for monetary gain. Recipients of these fraudulent e-mails have been advised to verify the e-mail address and contact information of all e-mails received, even if the e-mail appears to be from an official or familiar source. BookWhirl management has emphasized that only e-mail addresses with the domain name of "bookwhirl.com" and the contact details stated on their Web site are considered authentic.

Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2010/05/26/self-published-authors-warned-about-phishing-attack/>

51. *May 26, ComputerWorld* – (International) **Amid backlash, Facebook unveils simpler privacy controls.** Amid mounting criticism that Facebook lacks adequate privacy controls, the CEO May 26 worked hard during the unveiling of new, simplified privacy controls to drive home the point that the company cares about protecting the personal information of its users. The CEO acknowledged during a press conference this afternoon that executives at the phenomenally successful social networking firm have made mistakes and have communicated badly with users about their privacy concerns. He also said that Facebook heard the loud user complaints about the site's complicated and frustrating privacy controls, and noted that tools have been built to correct those issues. The criticism that the social networking firm is playing fast and loose with user information mounted significantly in recent weeks after Facebook unveiled a bevy of tools that allow user information to be shared with other Web sites. One of the new settings rolled out May 26 is a single control that limits who can see the content posted by a Facebook user.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9177399/Amid_backlash_Facebook_unveils_simpler_privacy_controls

52. *May 26, DarkReading* – (International) **Researchers find new ways to eavesdrop via mobile devices.** Cell phones and other handheld devices could become a great way to listen in on spoken conversations, researchers at George Mason University said this week. In a paper, two researchers describe several new plays on the concept of "microphone hijacking," which has been used for years. The idea is to put spyware on mobile devices — including laptops, cell phones, and PDAs — that can use their built-in microphones to eavesdrop on nearby conversations. In the past, this eavesdropping has usually been done via the victim's own cell phone or other device. But the two

describe a way to bug nearby devices belonging to nearby users to achieve similar results. Under the researchers' concept, called a "roving bugnet," the eavesdropper would use a piece of malware called a "bugbot" to listen in on in-person interactions via a nearby smartphone or laptop. Such attacks would be more likely to target specific people (such as an executive or a spouse) than as a broad attack, the researchers said.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/privacy/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=225200320&subSection=Privacy

53. *May 26, DarkReading* – (International) **Anti-Clickjacking defenses 'busted' in top Web sites.** Turns out the most common defense against clickjacking and other Web framing attacks is easily broken: Researchers were able to bypass frame-busting methods used by all of the Alexa Top 500 Web sites. The new research from Stanford University and Carnegie Mellon University's Silicon Valley campus found that frame-busting, a popular technique that basically stops a Web site from operating when it's loaded inside a "frame," does not prevent clickjacking. Clickjacking attacks use malicious iFrames inserted into a Web page to hijack a user's Web session. "There are so many different ways to do frame-busting, and that's a problem with it," said one of the lead researchers in the project and assistant research professor at CMU-Silicon Valley. The researcher said he had suspected that frame-busting was weak since it was mainly an "ad-hoc" solution. "But we didn't know the magnitude of the problem," he said. "We had trouble finding any sites that were secure against all the attacks we identified." One of the Stanford researchers, said the toughest frame-busting method of all was Twitter's, which had some back-up checks in case its frame-busting defense was to fail.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=225200337&subSection=Vulnerabilities+and+threats>

54. *May 26, TrendLabs* – (International) **Windows WMI abused for malware operations.** TrendLabs recently handled a client case last March wherein two peculiar malware leveraged a Windows service — Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) — to execute their malicious routines. WMI lets users access and retrieve information about their OSs. It is particularly useful for administrators, especially in enterprise environments, as it manages applications found on systems connected to a network using any one of various coding languages. It can be considered a database that contains information on anything and everything related to a system's OS and its users. As WMI contains a huge chunk of data, cybercriminals find it a very likely target for their malicious creations. They can, for instance, introduce specialized pragma to the service to make affected systems do their malicious bidding.

Source: <http://blog.trendmicro.com/windows-wmi-abused-for-malware-operations/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

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

55. *May 27, Darien Times* – (Connecticut) **Darien Police phones fail for the third time in 2010.** The routine phone system at the Darien, Connecticut Police Department failed for the third time this year on Tuesday. While 911 capability remained intact, the police's main phone system was rendered useless due to a technology glitch, according to the police chief. "Last year, the town's IT department installed a new voice-over-Internet phone system so that all of the town agencies were using the same system," The Darien Times was told Wednesday. "For some unknown reason we have had a couple of failures with the system," the chief said. "They did identify one problem previously and fixed it, and it did not appear that yesterday's failure was of the same variety."

Source: <http://www.acorn-online.com/joomla15/darientimes/news/local/59853-darien-police-phones-fail-for-the-third-time-in-2010.html>

For another story, see item [52](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

56. *May 27, Reuters* – (International) **Death toll from south Russia bomb rises to seven.** The death toll from a bomb blast in the southern Russian city of Stavropol rose to seven May 27, and 16 people are in a critical condition. The bomb, equivalent to 400 grams of TNT, was disguised as a pack of juice. The blast occurred May 26 just before the start of a concert by a dance company linked with Kremlin-backed Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov. Russia said investigators had opened a criminal case under terrorism laws after the blast in the ethnically Russian Stavropol region, which borders the violence-racked, mainly Muslim republics of the North Caucasus. A Stavropol doctor told Rossiya-24 television that the death toll had risen by two overnight to seven, and that 16 people were in an "extremely grave condition" with chest, abdominal, and head wounds.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64P48I20100527>

57. *May 27, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Jordanian man pleads guilty in Dallas plot.** A Jordanian man has pleaded guilty to attempting to detonate what he thought was an active bomb beneath a downtown Dallas, Texas skyscraper. The 19-year-old pleaded

guilty in federal court May 26 to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. A U.S. district judge deferred accepting the plea until the sentencing date, which was not immediately set. If the judge accepts the plea deal, the teenager faces a maximum of 30 years in prison. Prosecutors agreed to drop a charge accusing the teen of bombing a public place. According to court papers, the teen admitted leaving what he thought was a truck bomb in a garage beneath the 60-story Fountain Place building in September. The device was a decoy provided by FBI agents posing as al-Qaida operatives.
Source: http://www.amarillo.com/stories/052710/new_news13.shtml

58. *May 26, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Suspected bomb in bag closes Fry's parking lot in Avondale.** Avondale, Arizona police closed off a Fry's grocery store parking lot and gas station May 24 after two transients found a suspected explosive device inside a bag. The woman and a man, both transients, had found the bag in a dumpster behind an apartment complex near 103rd Avenue and Camelback Road in west Phoenix. They opened the bag for the first time outside the Fry's store and called police after finding several, small gray cylinder items taped together with possible wires attached. Officers determined the materials looked like a bomb and called in the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office bomb squad. Deputies took the device off site and destroyed it. No one was injured.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2010/05/26/20100526phoenix-bomb-scare-avondale.html>

59. *May 26, Orange County Register* – (California) **Grenade found at disposal yard deemed safe.** The Orange County Sheriff's bomb squad was deployed to a disposal yard in Anaheim, California May 26 after employees found a grenade. Members of the bomb squad determined the device – a practice rocket-propelled grenade – was safe. Employees near the area where the grenade was found were moved to a safer area of the business while the bomb squad, firefighters, and officers responded.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/martinez-250628-squad-bomb.html>

60. *May 26, Dublin News* – (Ohio) **Suspicious device destroyed by bomb squad.** Dublin, Ohio police, the Columbus Bomb Squad, and the state arson squad are investigating a suspicious device that was destroyed May 26 at a Dublin residence. Police and Washington Township Fire Department firefighters were called to the scene around 10:38 a.m. by residents of the property where the device was found. The device was examined and eventually rendered safe by the bomb squad. Police said the resident was notified he could return home after the device was rendered safe, but he chose to go to a hotel for the evening. The materials the device was constructed of have been collected for testing. At this time, no charges have been filed, and the incident remains under investigation.

Source:

http://www.columbuslocalnews.com/articles/2010/05/26/dublin_news/news/police_beat/dudevice_5_20100524_0912pm_4.txt

For another story, see item [63](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

61. *May 27, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Timpanogos Cave reopened after fatal fall.** Timpanogos Cave in American Fork, Utah reopened May 26 after an investigation into the death of a maintenance worker last week. It's still unclear why the 58-year-old's motorized trail bike crashed over a cliff May 20. He fell several hundred feet and died of his injuries. His fall was the second fall in two days and the 1½-mile trail was closed to fix anything that could lead to another accident. The day before, an 11-year-old girl survived an approximately 100-foot tumble. The closure also allowed the NPS, Utah County Sheriff's Office and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to investigate the fall. All three agencies are expected to release their reports in about 45 days.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_15173587
62. *May 26, Carlsbad Current-Argus* – (New Mexico) **New Fire: 16,201 acres burnt; 40 percent contained.** The New Fire in the backcountry area of Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico is now 40 percent contained after burning 16,201 acres. That acreage breaks down to 12,976 acres of National Park Service land, 2,681 Bureau of Land Management land and 364 acres of state land. Vegetation in the New Fire area is mostly a mixture of grass and shrubs. The 450-acre Yucca Fire has remained inactive for several days. The fires are being managed by New Mexico Southwest Type II Incident Management Team (Cowie IC). There have been three minor injuries among the 450 total personnel fighting the fire. Estimated costs to date have reached \$1,597,106. Park status remains much the same. The main cave at the caverns is open for visitors. The scenic loop drive, called Walnut Canyon Desert Drive, reopened May 26. All backcountry trails remain closed for public safety due to fire activity.
Source: http://www.currentargus.com/ci_15170008

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Dams Sector

63. *May 26, New Hampshire Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Pittsburg dam's failure 'believed to be imminent'.** An earthen dam in Pittsburg, New Hampshire is in danger of failing and state officials are urging paddlers and fishermen to stay away from it until it can be breached next week. The warning was issued Wednesday by the state's Fish and Game Department and the Department of Environmental Services for the Boundary Pond dam, which is located on East Inlet Road, at mile marker 3. Officials said an inspection of the dam last week on the Connecticut Lake Headwaters land by the Dam Bureau found "recent, serious damage" to the earthen embankment, adjacent to the timber spillway training wall, and noted that "complete failure of the dam is

believed to be imminent.” The dam’s failure “would cause a sudden release of a large amount of water down a steep grade through at least two ponds formed by beaver dams, creating a flood wave that would inundate and wash out the East Inlet Road at the culvert at mile 12.” Outdoor enthusiasts are being urged to seek alternative water bodies for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. Meanwhile, the Dam Bureau is planning a controlled breach of the dam to release the impoundment of water, which is expected to take place sometime next week.

Source:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Pittsburg+dam's+failure+'believed+to+be+imminent'&articleId=fd1856f5-a242-4023-813e-88c51f5ae502>

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