



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 July 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- A man is in custody on charges of felony arson after allegedly driving a car bomb into a Lockport, Illinois bank July 16, according to CNN. The car exploded, but the suspect walked away and no other injuries were reported as the bank was closed and unoccupied. (See item [20](#))
- CNN reports that waters were receding July 18 as rescue crews conducted searches in the aftermath of flash flooding in eastern Kentucky that killed at least two people. The Pike County judge-executive confirmed the two fatalities, and estimated that 200 homes in the area were damaged or destroyed. (See item [32](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 19, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Storms knock out power to some 9,000 Md customers.** About 6,500 customers in Maryland are without power after thunderstorms toppled trees and branches, bringing down electrical wires. A Pepco spokesman said utility lines at locations in Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville were affected. As of 10:45

a.m. July 19, Pepco was reporting 950 customers without power in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Baltimore Gas & Electric was reporting 5,560 customers without power, mostly in Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Harford, Howard and Prince George's counties, as well as Baltimore City.

Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsmd/Nearly.9.000.2.1811953.html>

2. *July 19, msnbc.com, Reuters and Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **U.S. warns BP amid fears over seep near well.** The federal point man for the BP oil spill said July 18 a seep had been detected a distance from the busted oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and demanded that BP step up monitoring of the ocean floor. He did not say what was coming from the seep. The federal government July 19 allowed BP to keep the cap shut tight on its busted well for another day after the company promised to watch closely for any signs of new leaks breaking through the sea floor, settling for the moment, a rift between BP and the government. The federal point man for the spill said that government scientists had gotten the answers they wanted about how BP is monitoring the seabed around the mile-deep well site, which has stopped gushing oil into the water since the experimental cap was closed July 15.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38305004/ns/disaster_in_the_gulf?GT1=43001

3. *July 19, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **High temps in the forecast prompt Xcel to ask customers to cut energy consumption.** With a near 100-degree day forecast, Xcel Energy is asking Denverites to reduce energy consumption. The request was issued following two power outages. The first affected just under 25,000 Xcel customers beginning at 2:51 a.m. July 19. Power was restored to most households around 4:59 a.m., according to an Xcel spokesman. A second outage hit the same area later, affecting about 12,300 customers between 9:58 a.m. to 10:46 a.m. Because of the outages, Xcel has asked that customers in an area bordered by Havana Street on the east, Santa Fe Drive on the west, Interstate 70 on the north and Alameda Avenue on the south conserve energy throughout the day — primarily from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. The spokesman said the conservation request was issued because Xcel is not sure what caused the early morning outage. He said that the June 7 explosion and fire at the Harrison substation plus the high temperatures are placing a strain on the power system.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_15550813

4. *July 18, Raynham Call* – (Massachusetts) **Bomb scare shuts down Broadway gas station in Raynham.** The Massachusetts state bomb squad and local emergency crews rushed to a Raynham gas station early July 17 after receiving a call that a suspicious package making a “siren-like noise” was found next to one of the pumps. Raynham police and firefighters arrived at Gulf Gas at 5:30 a.m. to find a 10-square-inch cardboard package that appeared to have electronic parts attached to it. An ambulance was also dispatched to the scene as a precaution. Officers secured the area and called in the state police bomb squad. A remote-controlled robot moved the package to a secure location for detonation. There were electronics and batteries but no explosives in the package, police said. The state fire marshal's office is continuing the investigation.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/mansfield/topstories/x1005406082/Bomb-scare-shuts-down-Broadway-gas-station-in-Raynham>

5. *July 16, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **Explosion, fire destroy Lame Deer business.** An explosion and fire July 15 destroyed Cady's Gas, a closed gas station, and damaged a neighboring business in Lame Deer, Montana. The fire burned for hours, sending up plumes of smoke that were visible from 17 miles north of Lame Deer. The owner of a flower and coffee shop next door to the gas station said she kept smelling gasoline and went with her husband to investigate shortly after 2 p.m. As they walked out the door, the gas station exploded. Smoke damaged her store and parts of the flat, tin roof melted. Two large shade trees located between the two businesses also caught fire. The owner of the flower and coffee shop used garden hoses to save her business and to keep the building wet. Firefighters from Lame Deer, Colstrip, Ashland and Busby responded with Lame Deer firefighters remaining on the scene until midnight. Earlier in the day, her father-in-law walked around the gas station property to check out the smell and noticed that someone had broken into two garages. Arson is suspected, she said.

Source: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_fd0f5012-90f6-11df-818c-001cc4c002e0.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *July 18, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Turnpike traffic diverted because of acid spill.** Traffic is being diverted on the Will Rogers Turnpike in Oklahoma because of a semi-tractor trailer accident involving hydrochloric acid. The crash was at about 4 p.m. July 18 at mile marker 285. Westbound traffic is being diverted at the Vinita exit and is able to get back on at Big Cabin, said a spokesman for the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. Eastbound traffic has been reopened, he said. It is not known how long that section of turnpike will be closed.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=298&articleid=20100718_298_0_BGCBNT716288

7. *July 17, Lawrence Journal-World* – (Kansas) **MagnaGro still operating, despite code violations.** Significant fire code violations have been found at the site of a deadly April industrial accident, and questions are mounting about why city regulators have not shut down the Kansas plant. Lawrence officials confirmed that the production facility of MagnaGro International is in violation of nearly a dozen fire codes, including storing about eight times the amount of allowed flammable liquids, operating without adequate ventilation, and storing hazardous materials with no fire sprinklers. But it is still uncertain what actions the city will take. City leaders confirmed that the fertilizer-production facility has been out of compliance since 2007 with a code that requires city water and sewer service. City officials allowed the company to continue operating with the hope that it would take steps to come into compliance. That did not happen. In

April, two MagnaGro employees were killed when they were overcome by a material being mixed at the site. The lack of city water and sewer service has not been cited as a factor in the accident, but the fatalities raised questions about why the business was allowed to operate out of compliance for so long. MagnaGro officials now have been given until July 21 to fix the water and sewer issues, or else the city will declare the structure unfit for human occupancy.

Source: http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2010/jul/17/magnagro-still-operating-despite-code-violations/?city_local

8. *July 16, Homeland Security Newswire* – (National) **DHS initiates first enforcement action of chemical plant safety regulations.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated its first enforcement actions against U.S. chemical facilities under federal anti-terrorism law. The Department sent letters to 18 chemical facilities warning that their failure to comply with safety regulations may result in heavy fines or worse. The administrative orders sent to the facilities represent the final step before the Department begins prosecution. Under the law, DHS can assess fines of up to \$25,000 per day for failure to comply. In addition, the law gives the Department authority to shut down a chemical facility if its owners fail to respond to DHS requirements for security improvements. A Securityinfowatch reporter wrote that the Department also confirmed that all 18 of the non-compliant sites are in the top tier of facilities considered by federal officials to be most at risk for an attack by terrorists intent on causing massive off-site casualties. A DHS spokesman said the 18 facilities that have failed to produce security plans have been given several reminders, beginning in late 2009, about their obligations.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dhs-initiates-first-enforcement-action-chemical-plant-safety-regulations>

For another story, see item [33](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *July 18, McClatchy-Tribune information Services* – (Iowa) **Many unaware of what to do if plant explodes.** Emergency management workers in Iowa said July 17 they are trying to figure out why an outdoor warning siren sounded on its own July 16. The malfunctioning siren, located at Wright Elementary School, 1524 Hollywood Blvd. NE in Cedar Rapids, did not sound a horn, but a verbal warning about an emergency at the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Palo — Iowa’s only nuclear power plant. Plant officials said everything was and is operating normally. But for many, the false alarm raised the question, “What should you do if it were real?” A worker, 82, of Cedar Rapids said he did not know what he would do, “Close the windows and doors and hope nothing leaks in, I guess,” the resident said. Another resident said she had a better idea. “What I would do is get my phone book,” she said. Indeed, the phone books contain phone numbers and evacuation locations at the front. Different neighborhoods are assigned to specific evacuation sites, in Marshalltown, Iowa City, Independence

and Eldridge. Those who do not have a phone book can find the disaster plan by clicking on “emergency action plan” at the Linn County Emergency Management Agency’s Web site, [http:// linncounty-ema.org/](http://linncounty-ema.org/). Warning sirens are there to alert people to everything from tornadoes to nuclear disasters.

Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2010/07/18/4906023.htm>

10. *July 17, Citizens Voice* – (Pennsylvania) **PPL: River water forced reactor shutdown.** The operators of the Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania shut down one of the facility’s two reactors July 16 after river water leaked into the basement of a building housing the reactor’s turbine, according to a press release. PPL Corp., which operates the plant near Berwick, made the decision during the late afternoon when water from the Susquehanna River leaked through a hatch near the Unit 1 reactor, said the plant’s manager. “The river water entered the basement from a hatch that provides access to the part of the unit’s condenser,” the manager said in the release. “The condenser uses river water to cool the steam leaving the turbine.” The release does not discuss damage and how long repairs will take, only that the “operators will restore the system and return the unit to service.” Both units at the facility have been stopped this year for scheduled refueling and maintenance upgrades.

Source: <http://citizensvoice.com/news/ppl-river-water-forced-reactor-shutdown-1.893116>

11. *July 16, Platts* – (National) **House appropriations panel rejects Yucca Mt. amendment.** An appropriations subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives rejected an amendment July 15 that would have kept the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Yucca Mountain repository program alive in Fiscal Year 2011 with a \$100 million infusion of funds. The amendment, offered by a Republican from New Jersey, would have taken \$100 million from DOE’s energy efficiency and renewable energy program and given it to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue its consideration of the repository’s license application. Under the amendment, DOE would have been obligated to continue the Yucca Mountain licensing process “concurrently with any regulatory or judicial appeals until such time as the [Energy Secretary] is granted authority to withdraw the license application.” The President plans to terminate the program, and the DOE office that manages, it when Fiscal Year 2010 ends September 30. He did not request any funding for either for next fiscal year. The New Jersey Representative told his colleagues that his amendment is aimed at ensuring NRC has the resources necessary to continue the licensing process

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews.aspx?xmlpath=RSSFeed/HeadlineNews/Nuclear/8913575.xml>

12. *July 16, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Tritium not likely to reach river, says chemist.** During a stakeholders conference call July 15, Vermont Yankee’s chemistry supervisor said it was unlikely tritium from a leak at the nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont will be found at detectable levels in the Connecticut River. “I don’t believe we will ever see detectable levels of tritium in the river,” said the chemistry supervisor for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Sample sites near the river have shown

no significant increase of tritium levels, he said. The levels in the wells near the river have either peaked or are peaking, he added. The chemistry supervisor said wells from just west of the river, closer to the plant, have shown comparable levels to the wells closest to the river. Because water is being extracted from the ground near the source of the leak, detectable levels of tritium are not expected to reach the river.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_15528532

13. *July 16, WCVB 5 Boston* – (National) **Markey: Better nuke plant inspections needed.** Amid reports of another possible leak in a buried pipe at a nuclear power plant, this time at the Pilgrim Nuclear Station in Plymouth, Massachusetts, a Democratic U.S. Representative from Massachusetts is once again airing his concerns regarding the country’s pipe-inspection process. “[It] is yet another disturbing reminder of the dangers lurking in the miles and miles of buried pipes within nuclear reactors that have never been inspected and will likely never be inspected,” wrote the Representative, a Democrat who heads the energy and environment subcommittee, in a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). “This is simply unacceptable and cannot possibly be sufficient to ensure the safety of both the public and the planet,” he added. According to a report by the Boston Globe, elevated levels of tritium were detected by a groundwater monitoring well located between the plant in Plymouth and the Atlantic Ocean.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/24283831/detail.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *July 19, U.S. Air Force* – (California) **AFRL test marks return to ‘in-house’ rocket fuel development.** For the first time in a long time, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) researchers at Edwards Air Force Base in California, conducted an in-house 15-pound Ballistic Test and Evaluation System, or BATES, test. In a BATES test, a small scale apparatus is used to test rocket propellant and designs in a standardized rocket motor casing. An AFRL program manager said this was the first time in a long while that AFRL people designed their own in-house rocket motor to conduct a test. Rocket motor development had been contracted previously. Because of costs and funding cuts, civilian solid rocket companies are doing very little, if any, development of new and improved solid rocket fuels, the lieutenant said. Air Force scientists are looking for rocket propellants that can provide better thrust, burn longer and perform more efficiently. What makes this latest test unique is that all components of the test were developed at the laboratory by AFRL employees.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123213934>

15. *July 19, DoD Buzz* – (International) **JSF heat woes being fixed.** Changes are being made to the integrated power package (IPP) on the Marine’s F-35 that should limit heat damage to carrier decks and other surfaces by reshaping the nozzle so that the enormous thrust comes out in an oval shape instead of the more highly focused circle now used. The oval “will resolve that problem for almost all surfaces,” the Marines’ deputy commandant for aviation told DoD Buzz. An operational assessment of the JSF said that heat may force “severe F-35 operating restrictions and or costly facility upgrades, repairs or both.” The OT-IID report said “thermal management” will “increase the number of sorties required to prepare an operational unit for deployment during summer months” at most American bases.
Source: <http://www.dodbuzz.com/2010/07/19/jsf-heat-woes-being-fixed-trautman/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *July 19, Connecticut Post* – (National) **Outage snarls processing of food stamps.** System outages on July 15 and 16 may have crimped the shopping plans of some recipients of food stamps on the East Coast. The outages affected people in as many as 10 states that are served by J.P. Morgan, including Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, said a communications director for the Connecticut Department of Social Services. The outage is being blamed on a connectivity issue between J.P. Morgan, and one of its processors. There is a manual voucher process available to all retailers who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that is being used until the system is back online. The back-up process requires a form to be completed by the retailer, a phone call to be made for an authorization number, and a signature from the client confirming the sale. Retailers would then clear the voucher within 15 days to receive payment. With this process, clients can have full access to their SNAP benefits.
Source: <http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Outage-snarls-processing-of-food-stamps-580454.php>
17. *July 19, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Consumers warned about Amazon.com scam.** The millions of consumers who use Amazon.com to purchase everything from books to cookware have to be careful about a new phishing scheme. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) said it has received reports of e-mails, appearing to come from Amazon.com customer service, with the subject line “Thank you for your order.” The message has the Amazon.com logo and looks legitimate in other ways, at least on the surface. The e-mail lists an order number, total price, and a link to view the order. Someone receiving the message who had not ordered anything might click the link to see what he has mistakenly been charged for. Someone who had actually ordered something from Amazon might click the link because the price and item description is wrong. Anyone who clicks on the link would be sent to a fake site where an attempt would be made to steal her personal information.
Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/07/bbb_amazoncom_scam.html

18. *July 19, Bank Info Security* – (National) **BP aftermath: Fear of fraud.** Financial institutions in states along the Gulf of Mexico are taking action to prepare for the long-term financial impact of the BP oil spill — including fraud attempts against customers. One Alabama bank recently reported a phishing scheme that enticed customers to click fraudulent links, using BP relief and recovery funds as a guise. All Alabama Bankers Association (ABA) banks have been warned of this scheme, according to the ABA's CEO. Banks also have been urged to keep close watch out for a new wave of counterfeit checks, though no reports have yet been made. In Florida, the state's banking institutions are prepared to identify and fight the fraud attempts that typically prey upon disaster victims, said the senior vice president of service operations for Florida's Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union. This latest disaster began April 20, when the Deepwater Horizon drill rig exploded, killing 11 people, rupturing a pipeline and initiating the unprecedented oil leak into the gulf coast waters. Last week, both the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the National Credit Union Administration released a joint statement encouraging institutions to consider steps to help borrowers affected by the spill. The agencies also formally categorized the spill as a disaster — one that would allow federal examiners to take unusual circumstances into consideration where supervisory response and safety are concerned.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2764

19. *July 17, Bank Info Security* – (National) **6 banks closed on July 16.** Federal and state banking regulators closed six banks July 16, raising the total number of failed banks and credit unions to 106 so far in 2010. Assets of three of the failed banks were purchased by a single institution in Miami, Florida. The latest closings are: Woodlands Bank, Bluffton, South Carolina, was closed by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was appointed receiver. The estimated cost to the FDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$115 million. Metro Bank of Dade County, Miami, Florida; Turnberry Bank, Aventura, Florida; and First National Bank of the South, Spartanburg, South Carolina, were closed by federal and state banking agencies. The FDIC was appointed receiver for all three banks, and arranged for NAFH National Bank, Miami, Florida, to buy the deposits of the failed institutions. The estimated cost to the DIF for Metro Bank of Dade County will be \$67.6 million; for Turnberry Bank, \$34.4 million; and for First National Bank of the South, \$74.9 million. Mainstreet Savings Bank, FSB, Hastings, Michigan, was closed by OTS, and the FDIC was appointed receiver. The Commercial Bank, Alma, Michigan, will buy the deposits of the failed bank. The estimated cost to the DIF will be \$11.4 million. Olde Cypress Community Bank, Clewiston, Florida, was closed by the OTS, and the FDIC was appointed receiver. The estimated cost to the DIF will be \$31.5 million.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2762

20. *July 17, CNN* – (Illinois) **Police: Man drove car bomb into a bank.** A man is in custody on charges of felony arson after allegedly driving a car bomb into a Lockport, Illinois bank July 16. The 48-year-old suspect, of Blue Island, Illinois, was arrested after witnesses at the scene identified him, the Lockport Police Department said. He drove his car into the front entrance of a PNC bank, police said. The car exploded as

the suspect walked away, police said, adding that he used the same material found in fireworks. No injuries were reported because the bank was closed and unoccupied, authorities said. The suspect is being held on charges of felony arson and felony criminal damage to property with an incendiary device. His motive is unknown, according to police.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/07/17/illinois.carbomb/>

21. *July 16, Computerworld* – (Colorado) **Colorado warns of major corporate ID theft scam.** Colorado's secretary of state and other officials are warning the state's 800,000 or so registered businesses to watch out for scammers who have been forging business identities to make fraudulent purchases from several big-box retailers in recent months. So far, at least 35 businesses in the state have had their corporate identities misused to open fraudulent credit accounts at retailers such as Home Depot, Lowe's, Office Depot, Apple, and Dell. According to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the scammers have made at least \$750,000 in fraudulent purchases from Home Depot alone after opening up lines of credit. Five people in California have been arrested in connection with the scam, said the CBI agent in charge of the fraud unit. It is unclear how many other businesses may have been affected. But the problem appears to be growing, with several more groups likely involved in similar scams, including one in Texas. The thefts were possible because of what appears to have been a wide open business registration system at the Colorado secretary of state's office. Colorado, like other states, requires companies to register. The details, which include the name of the registered agent, the full local address and other information, are a public record. In Colorado's case, however, not only does the state allow anyone to view the record — it also allows just about anyone to alter or update it. The state site requires no username or password for access to a company's registration information, which means that anyone with access to the site can make changes. The identity thieves used this hole to alter the contact and other registration information for several companies. According to the agent in charge, many of the companies targeted appear to have been smaller and medium-sized firms and, in some cases, defunct companies. Once the registration information was changed, the scammers then used the forged identity to make online applications for lines of credit with the retailers.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9179251/Colorado_warns_of_major_corporate_ID_theft_scam

22. *July 16, Chattanooga Times Free Press* – (Tennessee) **Bomb threats force evacuations at Home Depot, Bank of America.** Telephoned bomb threats July 16 forced the evacuation of two businesses near Northgate Mall in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a Chattanooga Police Department spokeswoman said. Both the Home Depot at 1944 Northpoint Blvd. and the Bank of America branch at 1945 Northpoint Blvd. were searched and no explosive devices found. Workers and customers returned to the buildings after about 45 minutes. Police are working to locate the caller or callers.

Source: <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jul/16/chattanooga-bomb-threats-force-evacuations-home-de/>

Transportation Sector

23. *July 19, Central Florida News 13* – (Florida) **Boats destroyed in dock fire at Port Canaveral.** Investigators said they are trying to figure out what caused a boat to catch fire July 18 at the Port Canaveral Yacht Club in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Five boats were damaged, two of which were totally destroyed by the flames. Investigators said the fire did not appear to be suspicious. They added fires have happened in the past at the port, and there are plenty of sources that could have started this one. The fire started on one of the vessels, and then spread to others. Smoke could be seen for miles coming from the dock July 18 as two of the boats were totally engulfed in flames. Firefighters said the port was safely evacuated, and no one was injured.
Source: <http://www.cfnews13.com/article/news/2010/july/124159/Boats-destroyed-in-dock-fire-at-Port-Canaveral>
24. *July 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Airlines scramble to screen all cargo.** Airlines are buying giant X-ray machines and other machinery to meet an August 1 deadline to begin screening all cargo that goes on passenger planes. Federal officials said the new rules will close a large security gap. Just four years ago, only half of all cargo was inspected. But the system to guard against terrorists getting a bomb on a plane is far from airtight. To reduce the load on airlines, about half of all domestic cargo is being screened at more than 800 facilities run by companies certified by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The TSA relies on those operators to ensure that cargo isn't opened before reaching the airport. The general manager of the TSA's cargo division said security of cargo aboard passenger planes — long identified as a threat — has steadily improved. Since the beginning of 2009, the TSA has approved 77 new pieces of equipment to screen cargo for explosives, chemicals and other threats. Last month, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said the TSA was making progress toward the requirement to screen all cargo on passenger planes. But the GAO said the TSA could lack resources to properly monitor the 800 independent, inspection centers, and had no technology for inspecting large shipments consisting of many packages.
Source: http://www.stltoday.com/news/national/article_e4b282bd-d1db-5c92-8752-5b9c3a46beb5.html
25. *July 18, AvStop.com* – (National) **FAA proposes civil penalties against five companies.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is proposing to assess civil penalties ranging from \$50,000 to \$70,000 against five companies for alleged violation of the Federal Aviation Regulations or Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations. The FAA proposes to fine Spirit Airlines \$50,000 for returning an aircraft to service, and then operating that aircraft on revenue passenger flights when it was not in compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations. The FAA alleged that Spirit failed to replace a faulty elevator aileron computer (ELAC) after the aircraft experienced an uncommanded pitch down of the nose August 21, 2009. The FAA proposes to fine Friendship Airways \$63,525 for operating two Cessna 402 aircraft on

77 commuter flights in violation of its air carrier certificate and operations specifications. The FAA proposes to fine Fleet Aviation \$50,000 for operating two of its aircraft on 251 flights between June 15, 2009 and March 19, 2010 when crews had not completed the emergency drills required by its training program. The FAA proposes to fine Englund Marine Supply Company \$54,000 for offering a package containing flammable gasses and liquids to UPS for transportation by air from Astoria to Rio Vista, California, March 26, 2010. The package was discovered leaking at Portland before it was loaded on an aircraft. Finally, the FAA proposes to fine Coty, Inc. \$70,000 for offering a package containing perfume, a flammable liquid, to FedEx for transportation by air from Upland, Calif., to Covington, Washington, March 9, 2010. FedEx employees at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport discovered the shipment leaking.

Source:

http://avstop.com/news_july_2010/faa_proposes_civil_penalties_against_five_companies.htm

26. *July 18, Bluefield Daily Telegraph* – (Virginia) **Train derails in Keystone.** Eleven empty automobile rack cars in a Norfolk Southern mixed freight train derailed July 17, crushing a few vehicles in the Burke section of Keystone, West Virginia, and prompting periodic delays for motorists as contract crews unloaded heavy equipment to set the cars back on the tracks. No injuries were reported. A Norfolk Southern spokesman said that the 63rd through 73 cars from the locomotive on an eastbound mixed freight train derailed on the Main 2 track. Recovery crews arrived on the scene of the derailment before noon and started the work of putting the derailed cars back on the tracks.

Source: <http://bdtonline.com/local/x2114030723/Train-derails-in-Keystone>

27. *July 17, Tarrytown-Sleepy Hollow Patch* – (New York) **Partial bridge collapse at Tarrytown Metro North station.** A set of stairs used by thousands of commuters at the Tarrytown Metro North Station in Tarrytown, New York each day have partially collapsed. No injuries were reported in the incident which occurred shortly before 10 a.m. July 17. Tarrytown police on the scene said that a small group of travelers trying to catch a train narrowly avoided a 15 to 20 foot fall – the group had just stepped off the stairs when they gave way underneath them. Metropolitan Transportation Authority police said that they were made aware of the situation by the lucky passengers, and that the stairs will remain closed until engineers can assess the situation.

Source: <http://tarrytown.patch.com/articles/partial-bridge-collapse-at-tarrytown-metro-north-station>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

28. *July 19, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Hazmat team responds to Springfield USPS facility.** Authorities are still trying to figure out what prompted a hazardous materials response at a Springfield, Massachusetts postal facility. A fire department spokesman said six postal workers had to be decontaminated July 18 after an unknown substance spilled out of a parcel at the U.S. Postal Service’s Bulk Mail Distribution Center. The workers had to take a decontamination shower, and had their clothes bagged. The workers did not require hospitalization and preliminary testing determined that the substance was not dangerous. It will take additional lab tests to determine the exact nature of the substance. The area where the spill occurred was closed off, but work continued in the rest of the facility.

Source:

http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100719hazmat_team_responds_to_springfield_usps_facility/srvc=home&position=recent

29. *July 19, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Asst. U.S. Attorney’s mailbox set on fire.** Authorities are investigating after a firework sparked a blaze in the mailbox of an assistant U.S. attorney in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. A spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said there is no indication the South Florida attorney was targeted and the fire appears to be malicious mischief. The FBI is also investigating because of the lawyer’s high-profile position. No one was injured when the mailbox caught fire July 18.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/07/19/1737017/asst-us-attorneys-mailbox-set.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

30. *July 19, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Three injured in Adams County store explosion.** Three people including a 4-year-old boy suffered major burns in an explosion at Sandoval’s Meat Market and Store in Menallen Township, Pennsylvania. The explosion occurred around 8:45 a.m. July 18 at the store located at 1101 Carlisle Road. State police at Gettysburg said it was caused from the misuse of a handheld propane torch being used by one of the victims. The person with the torch was working on a well pump in a compartment under the meat preparation area when the explosion occurred, police said. A 59-year-old man of Biglerville, was airlifted to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center where he was listed in critical but stable condition Sunday night, according to a hospital spokeswoman. A 41-year-old man of Biglerville, was flown to Lehigh Valley Regional Burn Center and the hospital had no record of him being a patient Sunday night, according to a spokesman. A 4-year-old Biglerville boy suffered burns and was also flown to Lehigh Valley, police said. Columbia Gas responded to the scene with state police and local fire and EMS. Police said the explosion is still under investigation.

Source: http://www.ydr.com/local/ci_15549972

31. *July 18, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Independence fire believed started by corncob dust.** An apparent dust explosion at a corn-cob processing plant in Independence, Iowa kept volunteer firefighters from five agencies busy for hours. The fire started July 16 in a dust-control system in one of the buildings at Best Cob. The assistant chief of the Independence Fire Department said one worker was in the area at the time but escaped injury. The worker pushed an emergency shutoff to lessen the damage, but flames were coming through the roof as fire crews arrived. With outdoor temperatures in the 80s, officials called for backup from the Jesup, Rowley, and Winthrop departments. Crews for Independence Mental Health Institute’s fire brigade and Independence Ambulance also assisted. Best Cob uses corncobs to make pet bedding, oil absorbent and other products.
Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100718/NEWS/100717019/-1/GETPUBLISHED03wp-content/Independence-fire-believed-started-by-corn-cob-dust>

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Water Sector

32. *July 19, CNN* – (Kentucky) **At least 2 dead in Kentucky flooding.** Waters were receding July 18 as rescue crews conducted searches in the aftermath of flash flooding in eastern Kentucky that killed at least two people, a top county official said. The Pike County judge-executive confirmed the two fatalities, and estimated that 200 homes in the area were damaged or destroyed. Earlier in the day, another Pike County official, said that there were three fatalities. The county will send nine assessment teams July 19 to gauge damage so a report could be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance. Several major roads and bridges in the area were damaged. Crews in Pike County worked throughout the night in boats to rescue people from homes after flash flooding in the area. About 5,000 people were affected, and there were a number of high-water rescues and several evacuations. As the water began to recede, the county faced another problem: One of the major water intake plants in the county was damaged and unusable. “It looks like about 4,000 customers will be without water for about a week, so we’re setting up distribution centers for folk to make sure they have drinking water,” an official said.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/07/18/kentucky.flooding/?hpt=Sbin>
33. *July 18, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Chlorine gas leak prompts late-night panic.** A dangerous chlorine gas leak prompted evacuations, but some Lincoln County, Kentucky, families say the communication breakdown that followed may have caused more harm than the leak. The chlorine leak began at the Stanford water purification plant around 1 a.m. Officials said emergency management and haz-mat teams urged everyone within a 4-mile radius to evacuate, but some said they did not get the message. Emergency responders insist that was never a possibility, but many residents’ fear was real when mixed signals led to confusion over whether their homes were affected. Police said chlorine levels were minimal, and they are convinced no one was ever in life-threatening danger. Police had begun knocking on doors within a 4-mile radius of the plant urging evacuations, but many neighbors just outside that radius said

calls to 911 led them to believe they too were in danger. Now they say they are grateful no one was hurt in the process, but the incident shows a need for better communication in the future. Haz-mat crews contained the leak within about three hours. Stanford police said water plant officials are investigating what exactly caused the leak and how to prevent it from happening again.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/home/headlines/98720644.html>

34. *July 17, Frederick News-Post* – (Maryland) **Minor quake shakes up Frederick-area residents.** According to the U.S. Geological Survey, a 3.6-magnitude temblor struck at 5:04 a.m. July 16, with an epicenter 10 miles northwest of Rockville, Maryland near Germantown about 3.1 miles deep. On the U.S. Geological Survey’s Web site, people as far away as Pennsylvania and West Virginia reported feeling the quake. It was the strongest to hit within 30 miles of D.C. since the agency began keeping records. Local police departments, Frederick Memorial Hospital officials and other emergency responders reported no known damage or injuries related to the earthquake. The Frederick mayor issued a statement reporting the city had crews check all visible infrastructure including tanks, pumping stations, a dam, water and sewer plants and traffic signals and found no damage from the earthquake.

Source:

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?storyID=107445>

35. *July 17, WBTV 3 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Boil water advisory issued for Town of Stanley.** Due to numerous water main breaks, residents in Stanley, North Carolina were being asked July 17 to boil water before any type of human use. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Environmental Health advised all consumers to boil water before using it for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, making ice and washing hands. Health officials said boiling the water for at least one minute should kill any disease-causing organisms that could be in the water. Stanley began experiencing increased pressure due to Mount Holly servicing the water tower July 12. During the servicing, water was fed to Stanley consumers through a by-pass pump that cannot be regulated. Since then, more than 50 service line breaks and six main breaks occurred. Several water samples from the distribution system were slated to be tested.

Source: <http://www.wbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12826041>

36. *July 17, Woodburn Independent* – (Oregon) **Woodburn’s water worse than originally thought.** A technical analysis of the Woodburn, Oregon water-treatment system has revealed levels of biological activity in the drinking water pipes that are “considerably higher” than previously thought. “It’s a very serious situation,” the public works director told the city council July 12. “What we are finding is that our testing, our methodology, really didn’t identify a lot of this other bacterial and biological activity that is occurring. If you were to take a glass jar of our water today and put it outside in the sun, it would be green in one day,” he said. Beyond the potential for bacterial bloom, the tests found the city’s method of removing contaminants hasn’t been working, despite crews flushing 17 million gallons of water through the system each year. The velocities generated in the process merely put cleaner water into the system

that would be contaminated again shortly, he said. The process is expensive, wastes huge amounts of water and consumes staff time and energy. He also revealed during his presentation that the midge fly has resurfaced in the city's water. At the moment, there is a bloom that has not been detected by the public. Midge flies have popped up in the city's water before. They appear as translucent worms or tiny brown specks. They do not pose any health risk if ingested or otherwise. The technical analysis was presented to the council as part of an update on the city's \$1 million effort to begin primary and secondary water disinfection methods, which have not historically been part of the treatment system.

Source:

<http://www.woodburnindependent.com/news/2010/July/17/Local.News/woodburns.water.worse.than.originally.thought/news.aspx>

37. *July 16, Water Technology Online* – (National) **Waterborne diseases cost U.S. healthcare system more than \$500 million annually.** Research presented July 14 at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases indicated that hospitalizations for three, common water-borne diseases cost the U.S. health-care system as much as \$539 million annually, according to a press release. Using data from a large insurance claims database between 2004 and 2007, a researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and his colleagues estimated the hospitalization cost of three, common waterborne diseases in the United States: Legionnaires' disease, cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis. For each case of disease, they calculated the cost paid by the insurer, the out-of-pocket cost to the patient and the total amount paid. The release stated. "These cost data highlight that water-related diseases pose not only a physical burden to the thousands of people sickened by them each year, but also a substantial burden in health-care costs, including direct government payments through Medicare and Medicaid," he said.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=74515

38. *July 16, WFMY 2 Greensboro* – (North Carolina) **1.45 million gallon sewage spill reports in Greensboro.** The City of Greensboro, North Carolina, has reported a spill of untreated wastewater that happened July 14. Approximately 1.45 million gallons of untreated wastewater spilled from a 72" outfall that flows directly into the T.Z. Osborne wastewater treatment plant. The spill lasted for about six and a half hours because of a power and generator outage. There was also heavy rain. The untreated wastewater entered South Buffalo Creek in Cape Fear River Basin. No environmental impacts were observed or are expected as heavy rains caused very high flows in the creek before and after the discharge.

Source: <http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=145274&catid=57>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

39. *July 19, St. Cloud Times* – (Minnesota) **Local pharmacies face new hazardous materials disposal rules.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) informed pharmacies that beginning October 1 “all health care facilities will be subject to full enforcement of hazardous-waste regulations, including the possibility of financial penalties for noncompliance.” The MPCA letter gave health-care providers a Web site to visit to understand the new regulations being placed upon them as well as to go through the required training needed to handle hazardous wastes. The rules on proper disposal of hazardous waste were written in the early 1980s by the Environmental Protection Agency and were originally geared toward larger industries, hospitals and other “large-quantity generators.” It was not until the early ‘90s that the focus also fell on the smaller-quantity generators such as pharmacies, dental offices, veterinarian offices and long-term care facilities. All of these generate a certain amount of hazardous waste. “Before the letter, we would put our hazardous waste in an unmarked plastic bag and put it in the trash bin,” a pharmacist said. “Now MPCA requires us to have a special container and to have a waste recycler come to pick up the materials.” Source: <http://www.sctimes.com/article/20100719/NEWS01/107190006/1009/Local-pharmacies-face-new-hazardous-materials-disposal-rules>
40. *July 19, ProPublica* – (National) **States fail to report disciplined caregivers to federal database.** Hundreds of state agencies nationwide have never told the federal government about health professionals they disciplined, undermining a central database meant to weed out dangerous caregivers. The federal database is supposed to contain disciplinary actions taken against doctors, nurses, therapists and other health practitioners around the country so that hospitals and select others can run background checks before they hire new employees. Federal officials discovered the missing reports after a ProPublica investigation in February found widespread gaps in the data, including hundreds of nurses and pharmacists who had been sanctioned for serious wrongdoing. Since then, regulators nationwide — prodded by federal health officials — have submitted 72,000 new records to the database, nearly double the total submitted for all of 2009. The failure to report means front-line health workers who have a record of on-the-job misconduct, incompetence or criminal acts are not flagged to hospitals or other potential employers, who pay a fee to run checks on job applicants. Source: <http://www.propublica.org/article/states-fail-to-report-disciplined-caregivers-to-federal-database>
41. *July 18, Associated Press* – (Puerto Rico) **Dengue epidemic threatens Caribbean, kills dozens.** Mosquito-borne dengue fever is reaching epidemic stages across the Caribbean, with dozens of deaths reported and health authorities concerned it could get much worse as the rainy season advances. The increase in cases is being blamed on warm weather and an unusually early rainy season, which has produced an explosion of mosquitoes. Health officials said the flood of cases is straining the region’s hospitals. Hospitals in Trinidad are running out of beds, and Puerto Rico is facing what officials say could be its worst dengue outbreak in more than a decade. At least five people have died in the U.S. Caribbean territory, and another 6,300 suspected cases have been reported as of mid-July. There are four types of dengue, and all cause fever, headaches and extreme joint and muscle pain. Most victims recover within a week, and while they

become immune to the specific type of dengue they caught, they are still vulnerable to other types. Health officials fear the virus could also gain a foothold in the United States. While test results for a suspected dengue case in the Miami area came back negative this week, a recent study found five percent of Key West residents show evidence they have been exposed to the virus.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jMbeYpmSDHNz0b1R9BLHDyNIiwrgD9H13GBO0>

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Government Facilities Sector

42. *July 19, Military Times* – (National) **Audit: Bases improperly recorded nukes items.** Nine Air Force bases improperly cataloged or failed to record nearly 1,000 nuclear-related items, though none of the accounting errors compromised the safety or security of any weapons, according to service officials. An internal audit, conducted a year ago and released in May, examined 25 bases that take part in the nuclear mission. The Air Force Directory of Logistics requested the survey to validate an inventory of more than 18,000 nuclear weapons-related items — everything from warheads to missile bolts — valued at \$1.7 billion. At the nine bases, auditors found 932 items on site but not listed on “accountable records,” according to the report, obtained by Air Force Times through a Freedom of Information Act request. Almost half of the assets were at two of the installations: Hill Air Force Base, Utah; and Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. Hill has a history of bookkeeping failures. Airmen mistakenly shipped four nuclear nosecones to Taiwan in 2006; two years later, an investigation found items improperly stored and inventoried. The problems at Hill coupled with a cross-country flight of a B-52 accidentally loaded with six nuclear warheads led the Defense Secretary to fire the service’s top civilian and uniformed leaders. Of the 25 bases, eight did not give auditors full access to the buildings that house nuclear-related items. At Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for example, airmen brought nuclear assets out of the buildings for counting, which prevented auditors from identifying items on the inventory list inside the building, according to the report. Air Force leaders know about the audit, have followed up with the commanders in charge and will monitor all the bases, according to an Air Force statement.

Source: http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/07/airforce_nuke_audit_071910w/

43. *July 19, SC Magazine* – (Iowa) **Personal details of 93,000 staff and students at university could be exposed after database compromise.** The personal details of 93,000 people have been exposed, following the compromise of a database a college in Storm Lake, Iowa. The social security numbers, addresses and driver’s licence information of students and staff at Buena Vista University dating back to 1987 could be vulnerable, according to whotv.com. It further claimed that the unauthorized access was confirmed last month and the university began notifying those potentially affected.

Despite the breach, university officials said that there has not been any indication that the information has been misused. The incident is being investigated by a computer forensics team, while attorneys are also reviewing the matter. The Buena Vista president has apologized for the incident, and said that the university is trying to mitigate potential harm.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/personal-details-of-93000-staff-and-students-at-us-university-could-be-exposed-after-database-compromise/article/174841/>

44. *July 19, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Hydrochloric acid leaks from Ill. high school pool.** Firefighters worked to clean a hydrochloric acid leak at a high school in suburban Chicago. Officials said firefighters from a dozen suburbs were called to Elk Grove High School in Elk Grove Village July 18. Authorities said there was a large vapor cloud in the pool area and firefighters had to wear hazardous materials suits. Fire officials said they stopped the leak, neutralized the pool and were ventilating the area. Authorities said they do not immediately know what caused the leak.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-highschool-acidle,0,4792381.story>
45. *July 16, Augusta Chronicle* – (South Carolina; New Mexico) **Plutonium disposal strategy debated.** The U.S. Energy Department (DOE) is re-evaluating its options for how to get rid of 13 metric tons of plutonium that was not included in the 34 metric tons designated for processing through the MOX plant under construction at Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina. The additional plutonium — enough for about 1,625 nuclear bombs — will be evaluated through a series of modifications to the existing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the government’s plutonium disposition program. “What we’re looking at is the disposition path for plutonium that does not currently have a disposition path,” said a DOE spokesman. In a notice to be published in next week’s Federal Register by the DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration, disposal options for the additional plutonium could include sending some — but not all — of it to the mixed oxide plant, where it would be blended with uranium to manufacture fuel for commercial nuclear reactors. Of the 13 metric tons, however, only seven tons are in a form suitable for the MOX plant. The remaining material could be packaged and shipped to the department’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico; or processed at Savannah River Site’s Defense Waste Processing Facility, where radioactive waste is blended with glass (a process called vitrification) and stored in steel canisters.
Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2010-07-16/doe-studies-plutonium-disposal?v=1279326215>
46. *July 15, Fort Leavenworth Lamp* – (National) **Old browsers create problems for some AKO users.** Security changes for Army Knowledge Online (AKO) recently prevented a small percentage of users with older browsers from accessing the web-based portal. AKO, the original Army “cloud” computing environment, serves more than 2.3 million unclassified users and more than 123,000 classified users including active duty, National Guard, Army Reserve, Department of the Army civilians, contractors, family members and retirees. The Department of Defense discovered in an

annual audit that AKO was not carrying the most secure algorithms available. After implementing the 6140-2 Compliance Algorithm June 23, about 100 users per day began contacting AKO because they could not access the portal, said the AKO product director. The AKO team then posted a news release on the Army.mil Web site detailing the way those impacted by the change — mostly users with older browsers such as Internet Explorer 5.5 and 6.0 — can make their browsers compliant. According to the release, users of Internet Explorer 6 and higher should go to: Tools, Internet Options, Advanced Tab and scroll down to the security section to ensure the “Use TLS 1.0” option is selected before clicking OK. Mozilla Firefox users should go to Tools, Options, Advanced, Encryption and also select the “Use TLS 1.0” box. If this option is not available, users should ensure they have the latest updates for their browsers. The release encouraged those who need additional help to call the Army Enterprise Service Desk at (866) 335-2769.

Source: <http://www.ftleavenworthlamp.com/newsnow/x1005402318/Old-browsers-create-problems-for-some-AKO-users>

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Emergency Services Sector

47. *July 19, WAVY 10 Portsmouth* – (North Carolina) **Currituck Co. 911 service restored.** Power has been restored to the Currituck County Emergency 911 system in North Carolina, after thunderstorms caused sporadic outages July 17. A Currituck County spokesman said thunderstorms that passed through the area Saturday evening created a power outage at the emergency communications center. He said the building’s backup power generator did not go online, leaving the building without electricity. In the event that future outages occur, residents can reach emergency dispatchers by dialing two alternative numbers: (252) 232-2216 or (252) 232-2424.
Source: http://www.wavy.com/dpp/news/local_news/currituck-co.-emergency-9-1-1-outages

48. *July 19, KNTV 11* – (California) **Sniper targets Oakland cops.** Oakland, California police have their hands full. In addition to a shootout on the freeway and a police-involved shooting at a BART station, officers are now on the hunt for an apparent sniper trying to take out officers. The latest incident happened July 18 at about 11:30 p.m. Patrol officers were on a traffic stop near 8th and Adeline Streets in West Oakland when they heard shots. They were detaining people in a car on suspicion of drug-related offenses. The officers had to get out of the line of fire and get the detainees out of the line of fire. They called for back up. Police searched the high-rise apartment building from where they believe the shots were fired but they did not find the gun or the shooter. To make matters worse, police checked the building’s security room where cameras might be — and the room had been vandalized. Police said it is unclear whether that was done in advance by the shooter or if it was a coincidence, but they were not able to get any surveillance tape right way which might help in the investigation. The officers and detainees were not hit.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38308005/ns/local_news-san_francisco_bay_area_ca/

49. *July 19, KNTV 11* – (California) **Dropping the Ax on Vallejo Fire Stations.** Starting July 19, firefighters could take longer to get to the scene in Vallejo, California because of budget cuts. Two fire stations will close July 19 — Station 25 on Mini Drive and Station 26 on Fulton Avenue. Station 21 on Marin Street will only have a ladder truck. The department is also cutting the number of firefighters on duty from 18 down to 15. The city of Vallejo filed for bankruptcy in 2008.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38308696/ns/local_news-san_francisco_bay_area_ca/

50. *July 17, Wilmington Star-News* – (North Carolina) **N.C. responders fuss about radios.** Brunswick County Emergency Services in North Carolina is tuning up its radio system after several fire departments have complained about signal problems. Firefighters and sheriff's deputies have said they cannot use their radios at times, particularly when inside buildings. The emergency services director said the main issues are procedural, and public safety officials will be trained on how best to use the system so they will be able to communicate better. The problems are not inherent deficiencies in the county's five-year-old radio system, he said. "If you've got an old car that's starting to have problems, you don't throw it out and buy a new one. You take it to the shop," the director said. "We're at the point where our car has 40,000, 50,000 miles." The county implemented a \$3 million radio system in 2005 that uses 12 towers. The old system had just one tower, in Bolivia, the director said. In the new system, the signal is greatly improved when out in the open. But when inside a building while fighting a fire, it's difficult to get a radio signal. "You constantly search," said a firefighter with the Bolivia Volunteer Fire Department. "You will not get on the radio inside a building." The director said that is to be expected, and that no radio system can effectively provide a signal across a large county and work well inside buildings. The solution — one that has been recommended by federal agencies — is to switch back to the old system, which enables direct radio-to-radio contact with no towers involved, he said. That is not something fire departments have been accustomed to, the director said, so the primary solution will be to educate firefighters on how to effectively use the two systems together.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/technology-and-communications/nc-radio-complaints-prompts-tune>

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Information Technology Sector

51. *July 19, Computerworld* – (International) **Windows 'shortcut' attack code goes public.** A security researcher July 18 published a working exploit of a critical Windows vulnerability, making it more likely that attacks will spread. According to a security advisory issued July 16 by Microsoft, hackers can use a malicious shortcut file, identified by the ".lnk" extension, to automatically run their malware simply by getting

a user to view the contents of a folder containing the shortcut. Malware can also automatically execute on some systems when a USB drive is plugged into the PC. All versions of Windows, including the just-released beta of Windows 7 Service Pack 1 (SP1), as well as the recently retired Windows XP SP2 and Windows 2000, contain the bug. On July 18, a researcher known as “Ivanlef0u” published proof-of-concept code to several locations on the Internet. Later that day, a Belgian researcher — who in late March revealed a serious design flaw in Adobe’s PDF document format — confirmed that Ivanlef0u’s code could be tweaked to create an effective attack. The Belgian researcher also announced that he’d tested Ivanlef0u’s exploit against a tool he had written a year ago, and said that the utility successfully blocked attacks launched from USB flash drives and CDs.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9179339/Windows_shortcut_attack_code_goes_public

52. *July 19, The Register* – (International) **MS confirms Windows shortcut zero-day flaw.** Microsoft has confirmed the presence of a zero-day vulnerability in Windows, following reports of sophisticated malware-based hacking attacks on industrial control systems that take advantage of the security flaw. Security shortcomings in the Windows shortcut (.lnk files) are being exploited by the Stuxnet rootlet, an information stealing threat that targets industrial and power plant control systems. The malware - which has been detected in the wild - executes automatically if an infected USB stick is accessed in Windows Explorer. The attack features root-kit components designed to hide the presence of the information-stealing payload on compromised systems. The digital certificate, assigned to legitimate firm Realtek Semiconductor, used to sign the root-kit components in the malware was revoked by VeriSign last week following discovery of the attack. All versions of Windows — including Win XP SP2, widely used despite the discontinuation of further security updates earlier this month — are vulnerable. Disabling Windows AutoPlay and AutoRun — the normal defense against malware on USB sticks — has no effect.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/07/19/win_shortcut_vuln/

53. *July 16, DarkReading* – (International) **Single Trojan accounted for more than 10 percent of malware infections in first half 2010.** When something works, hackers keep doing it. And as a vehicle for delivering malware, Microsoft’s Autorun.INF utility is still working just fine, according to researchers at BitDefender. In a study issued last week, BitDefender reported that the top two malware offenders during the first six months of 2010 — Trojan.AutorunINF.Gen and Win32.Worm.Downadup.Gen — both exploit Autorun.INF. Trojan.AutorunINF.Gen alone accounted for 11 percent of all the malware infections detected by BitDefender in the first half, according to the report. “The autorun technique is massively used by worm writers as an alternate method of spreading their creations via mapped network drives or removable media,” BitDefender said. Initially designed to simplify the installation of applications located on removable media, the Windows Autorun feature has been used large scale as a means of automatically executing malware as soon as an infected USB drive or an external storage device has been plugged in, the report stated. Unlike legitimate autorun.inf

files, those used by miscellaneous malware are usually obfuscated, the researchers said. MBR worms made a comeback in early 2010, with upgraded viral mechanisms, BitDefender stated. Late January saw the emergence of Win32.Worm.Zimuse.A, a deadly combination of virus, rootkit, and worm. Regionally, China and Russia are the world's top malware distributors, the report said.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/perimeter/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=225900079

54. *July 16, ZD Net* – (International) **Windows token kidnapping returns to haunt Microsoft.** Microsoft's problems with Token Kidnapping on the Windows platform are not going away anytime soon. More than a year after Microsoft issued a patch to cover privilege escalation issues that could lead to complete system takeover, a security researcher plans to use the Black Hat conference spotlight to expose new design mistakes and security issues that can be exploited to elevate privileges on all Windows versions including the brand new Windows 2008 R2 and Windows 7. The founder and CEO of Argeniss, a security consultancy firm based in Argentina, first reported the token kidnapping hiccup to Microsoft in 2008, and after waiting in vain for a patch, he released the details during the Month of Kernel Bugs project. The flaw would eventually be exploited in active attacks, leading to a mad scramble at Redmond to come up with a fix, and to a subsequent disclosure flap that exposed Microsoft as the irresponsible party. This year, the researcher plans a new talk titled "Token Kidnapping's Revenge" where he will discuss how attackers can even bypass certain Windows services protections.

Source: <http://www.zdnet.com/blog/security/windows-token-kidnapping-returns-to-haunt-microsoft/6849>

55. *July 12, San Jose Mercury News* – (International) **Watch out for phone scam that offers tech support, leaves spam.** A tricky phone solicitor posing as Microsoft tech support can turn one's computer into a spam-sending zombie machine, and the victim might be charged for it. The scam is one of many fishy attempts to obtain personal information or hack computers, according to a spokeswoman for the consumer affairs unit at a San Jose, California-area district attorney's office. A Santa Cruz man said he recently got the scammer's call. The caller, possibly East Indian, said he was from Microsoft and that the man's computer operating system had errors in it that he could help correct. The Santa Cruz man said he hung up because he had not called Microsoft for assistance and was not having trouble with his computer. The scam has surfaced across North America, in the United Kingdom and in Australia. The caller pretends to be tech support from a computer company, but the instructions he walks people through actually install new software that gives him remote access to the computer, so he can use it to send spam or access people's personal information.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15497948?nclick_check=1

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

56. *July 19, Engineering News* – (International) **Faulty Seacom cable to be fixed by end of week.** Fiber-optic cable system operator Seacom expects its faulty undersea cable to be repaired at the end of this week, as the repair schedule remained on track. However, the company cautioned that a number of external factors including location, water depth, ocean currents and weather made the cable outage “very difficult” to repair. The SEACOM cable provides high capacity bandwidth to Southern Africa, East Africa, Europe, and South Asia. On July 5, Seacom reported that its service was down because a submarine repeater failure was experienced, resulting in service downtime between Mumbai, India and Mombasa, Kenya. The repeater is a large, complex unit, essentially a large box of optical electronics. Repeaters are required to regenerate the light signal at certain intervals along the cable to ensure the quality of the signal. There are 159 repeaters deployed along the Seacom cable. “These are enormously robust pieces of equipment designed for the harshest conditions,” said the Seacom South Africa general manager. “A failure is very unusual,” he noted. “It could be due to external forces such as rocks, landslides, which have caused the failure of this particular repeater.”

Source: <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/faulty-seacom-cable-to-be-fixed-by-end-of-week-2010-07-19>

57. *July 17, Staunton News-Leader* – (Virginia) **Verizon cell service disrupted Friday.** A cell phone outage caused Verizon Wireless customers to have problems placing or receiving calls early July 16. A company spokeswoman said Verizon identified and fixed the disruption in the early afternoon after the problems were reported. “It was a minor issue that was addressed immediately and service is back to normal,” she said. Earlier that day, customers who called the affected phones got messages saying the service is disconnected. Customers who tried to call out received a message saying they need a credit card number to place a call.

Source: <http://www.newsleader.com/article/20100717/NEWS01/7170325>

58. *July 16, Wall Street Journal* – (New York) **Cablevision customers hit by email glitch.** Cablevision Systems Corp. said its Internet-service subscribers had their e-mail service restored July 16 after an outage that lasted 24 hours or more for some customers. “The e-mail disruption has been resolved,” the Bethpage, New York, company said. “The issue was caused by a digital mail storage device malfunction.” Cablevision said the e-mail disruption affected a “minority” of its customers, who in

some cases weren't able to send or receive e-mails. "We apologize to our customers and thank them for their patience," Cablevision said. As of March 31, there were more than 2.6 million customers for Cablevision's Optimum Online high-speed Internet service. Cablevision said the problem was "extremely rare" and didn't affect Internet access for its subscribers.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704913304575371052656725956.html>

59. *July 15, Beirut Daily Star* – (International) **MP warns telecoms exposed to infiltration.** The current state of the telecommunications sector in Lebanon exposes it to security infiltration, the head of the Media and Telecommunications Parliamentary committee said July 14. He explained that damage was sustained by the telecommunications sector when a former employee in the field provided Israeli intelligence with sensitive information enabling it to monitor the entire telecommunications network. The technician in state-run Alfa telecommunications firm was arrested in June by Lebanese authorities on charges of providing the Israelis with crucial data. During the investigation, the detainee confessed that he had been collaborating with Israeli authorities since 1996. "There are responsibilities that should be shouldered by [telecom] firms, and a vital role for the state to play in protecting this sector by practical measures," the head of the Media and Telecommunications Parliamentary committee said. The technician was charged July 13 with spying for Israel. Another Israeli spy was sentenced to death at the same day.

Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4309089>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

60. *July 19, WKZO Kalamazoo* – (Texas) **Gas fumes build up suspected in Eagle Lake boat explosion.** Investigators suspect a build up of gas fumes was the reason for a boat explosion on Eagle Lake in Kalamazoo's Texas Township July 17 that sent five people, including three children, to the hospital. The impact of the explosion rocked homes along the lake and brought help almost immediately. The pilot hit the boat's ignition, the boat exploded, and the five on board all went into the water. One child remains hospitalized with burns, the other victims were treated and released.

Source: <http://www.wkzo.com/news/articles/2010/jul/19/gas-fumes-build-suspected-eagle-lake-boat-explosio/>

61. *July 19, Jackson Sun* – (Tennessee) **One dies after meth lab explodes at Northside Motel.** One person has died after a meth lab exploded July 18 at Northside Motel just north of the Jackson, Tennessee, city limits. The explosion happened sometime midday, but authorities were not made aware of it until early July 19. The explosion appears to have been contained to one room, which is at the end of the building. The meth-making materials were not deemed hazardous to the area. Sheriff's investigators, the Jackson-Madison County Metro Narcotics Unit, and firefighters responded to the scene.

Sheriff's office investigators are not yet releasing the name of the man who died but said he was involved in manufacturing meth in a room at the motel. The man died at a McNairy County hospital after being driven there by friends. The motel manager said none of the other motel rooms needed to be evacuated.

Source:

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100719/NEWS01/100719002/1002/One+dies+after+meth+lab+explodes+at+Northside+Motel>

62. *July 19, NBC 4 New York* – (New Jersey) **Officials try to soothe nerves following NJ garage collapse.** Officials planned a news conference for July 19 at the site of a three-story parking garage that partly collapsed in northern New Jersey, as residents fear a repeat in similarly built structures. Engineers and construction officials have been examining the Hackensack structure to try to determine what happened to cause the July 17 collapse. The three-story garage pancaked when a glass canopy attached to a nearby high-rise condominium fell on it. State officials also plan to inspect neighboring garages that were built around the same time period. The July 17 collapse happened while crews were removing rubble, glass and other debris from the Hackensack site. The Hackensack fire chief noted that everyone in each of the condo tower's 238 apartment units had been accounted for, and that search dogs found no signs of life in the debris. Officials said the search for potential victims isn't officially over, but crews are scaling back their efforts as a secondary collapse remains a concern.

Source: <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local-beat/Officials-Dont-Fear-Anyone-Trapped-in-NJ-Parking-Garage-Collapse-98661744.html>

63. *July 16, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Small fire triggers partial evacuation of Chesterfield Towne Center.** A small fire in the former Dillard's store being renovated at Chesterfield Towne Center in Chesterfield, Virginia, prompted a partial evacuation of the mall July 16. No one was hurt and the incident was deemed under control within 25 minutes and before the evacuation was complete. Chesterfield fire crews were called at 3:26 p.m. where workers are renovating the space for a new tenant. Two acetylene tanks being used to power welding equipment caught fire as workers were welding some duct work. "A spark of some sort" triggered the blaze, said a Chesterfield fire lieutenant. Workers knocked down the blaze with fire extinguishers. Firefighters then removed the acetylene tanks.

Source: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2010/jul/16/MALLGAT16-ar-316923/>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

64. *July 18, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **2 shot to death at Lake Sammamish State Park.** Two men were shot to death and four others wounded by gunfire late July 17 at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah, Washington, according to a King County sheriff's spokesman. Several suspects were arrested at the park and

were being questioned by police later that night. Although a King County spokesperson said it appeared the shootings were gang-related, a state patrol spokesman said it was too early in the investigation to say what led to the gunfire. The incident happened about 9 p.m. at the park along Northwest Sammamish Road. The state patrol's spokesman said the initial call came from a park ranger who heard shots fired. "During his request, there were shots fired in the background of his radio traffic," he said. "There was a call for all police agencies to help immediately." The park was placed into lockdown after the shootings, and no one inside was allowed to leave before being questioned by investigators. It was not known how many visitors were at the park at the time of the shootings. Detectives found at least one gun at the scene of the shooting, and several other guns in a car parked nearby. Investigators believe other guns were stashed in the park after the shooting and said deputies needed to find the weapons before the park could reopen.

Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/423577_sammamish17.html

65. *July 18, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Wildfire burns more than 800 acres in Garfield County.** A remote fire in Garfield County, Colorado, has burned more than 800 acres, but the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) said there are no threats to homes or other structures. The USFS said residents will likely continue to see and smell smoke over the next several days. Smoke is expected to disperse during daytime, particularly in the late afternoon when winds pick up. During these times, residents are encouraged to air out their homes to reduce indoor air pollution. The USFS said the fire is in an area where there are declining aged trees. About 90 people are managing the fire, which is expected to burn out on its own, and enhance wildlife habitat, officials said.
Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=144267&catid=188>

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Dams Sector

66. *July 19, Reuters* – (International) **Three Gorges dam faces test.** China's massive Three Gorges dam is facing a major test of the flood control function that was one of the key justifications for its construction, as torrential rains swell the rivers that feed it, state media said July 19. Much of China has been suffering flooding and landslides after weeks of torrential downpours. At least 146 people have died since the start of July, as a result of the rains, and another 40 are missing. The peak flow of water hitting the giant reservoir on the Yangtze River, China's longest, will be higher than in 1998 when devastating floods killed over 4,000 people and forced some 18 million to relocate, the official China Daily said. Engineers have raised the rate at which water is being sluiced out of the reservoir, to make room for new waves of floodwaters expected this week.
Source: http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_555410.html

67. *July 18, Brownsville Herald* – (Texas; International) **Safety may be jeopardized as Rio Grande dams need repair.** The Rio Grande Valley in Texas remains possibly at risk after officials have not followed longstanding recommendations to shore up river dams along the U.S.-Mexico border. Records show that technical advisors to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) have recommended repairs at four dams along the Rio Grande from Donna to Del Rio, finding them to be from “marginally safe” to “potentially unsafe” — the second-worst safety action class officials give while evaluating dams. In one instance, a problem with sinkholes first noticed 20 years ago at Amistad Dam, near Mission, still continues. Concerns about regulating water flow at Retamal Dam, south of Donna, have persisted since 2005 and an issue with a sandbar was documented 13 years ago. Neither problem has been fixed. U.S. congressmen representing South Texas from Del Rio to Brownsville said they are closely monitoring developments. An IBWC spokeswoman stressed that inspectors believe the dams remain functional during flood conditions. The federally owned dams do not fall under Texas’ responsibility because they are not state-owned and are not private dams.
Source: <http://www.themonitor.com/articles/repair-40937-brownsville-rio.html>
68. *July 17, KGBT 4 Harlingen* – (Texas) **Willacy Co. levee leak contained.** The water gushes out at a threatening pace from under the levee keeping the floodwaters away from the homes in Santa Monica just east of Sebastian in Texas. It has been seeping through the soil for several hours since late July 16, but drainage crews for the county said there is no reason for panic. A spokesman with the Willacy Co. Drainage District said, “At this point everything is under control and we are just trying to protect the people and the crops that are out here that are still salvageable.” Since early July 17, crews worked non-stop to fix the leak. Five water pumps were brought in to get the water back into the floodway. The spokeman said they were the water leaking out and pumping it right back into the levee system. The water reached the yards on several homes before the leak was brought under control by crews. The emergency coordinator for Willacy County said, “Were not ordering any evacuations at this time.” Although no evacuation orders had been placed, county leaders wanted residents living next to levees to be prepared just in case. In the meantime engineers form Willacy County and the International Boundary and Water Commission will bring in sandbags to plug in the leak.
Source: <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=484092>
69. *July 16, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Large wildfire burning near Canyon Ferry Reservoir.** A large wildfire is burning near Canyon Ferry Reservoir east of Helena, Montana, and several homes in the area have been evacuated. The York Fire, which was reported at about 6 p.m. July 16, started on the Ward Ranch below the dam on the north side of the reservoir. A Helena National Forest spokeswoman said about 360 acres had burned by 7:30 p.m., and residents were being evacuated from homes along Jimtown and Ward roads toward Canyon Ferry. About 25 people have been evacuated from the Riverside Campground. The sheriff saod about 150 firefighters will work through the night to contain the fire. Four helicopters, as well as engines from the U.S. Forest Service, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and

from several volunteer fire departments, also are being used. The spokeswoman said the blaze is not threatening the dam.

Source:

<http://www.greatfallsribune.com/article/20100716/NEWS01/100716013/Large+wildfire+burning+near+Canyon+Ferry+Reservoir>

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