



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 August 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The U.S. government proposed major changes August 19 to the way it works with companies to fight new disease threats such as flu, including reform at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and setting up centers to make vaccines quickly, according to Reuters. (See item [41](#))
- Associated Press reports that the man who killed himself during a shootout with a suburban Texas police department once worked as a jailer and security guard and even praised the very officers he attacked, according to associates and records. (See item [51](#))

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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. *August 19, WISH 8 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Second underground transformer explodes in downtown Indianapolis.** Firefighters are on the scene August 19 of what is being described as a transformer explosion at 325 Massachusetts Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. This is just two blocks down from the August 18 transformer explosion and fire. There are reports of power outages in the area. It is unclear which

streets are closed at this point.

Source: http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/marion_county/underground-transformer-explodes-in-downtown-indianapolis

2. *August 19, Agence France-Presse* – (Louisiana) **September goal to put ‘stake in the heart’ of BP well.** BP will conduct its “bottom kill” operation to permanently shut the ruptured Gulf of Mexico oil well in early September, the U.S. official overseeing the disaster response said August 19. The broken BP oil well was temporarily capped July 15, but a bottom kill is considered a more definitive solution to seal the ruptured well that has poured millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf, sparking the worst-ever U.S. environmental catastrophe.
Source: [http://rawstory.com/news/afp/September goal to put stake in the_08192010.html](http://rawstory.com/news/afp/September_goal_to_put_stake_in_the_08192010.html)
3. *August 18, Wall Street Journal* – (Indiana) **BP: An Indiana refinery product pipeline shut to find leak.** BP shut a pipeline that sends finished products from its Whiting, Indiana, refinery to two Illinois terminals to find the source of a leak, a company spokesman said August 18. The White Oak pipeline sends finished fuels from the 405,000-barrel-a-day Whiting refinery south through Hammond, Indiana, and over to terminals in Chicago and Manhattan, both in Illinois. Residents in Hammond complained of gasoline odors in sewers near the White Oak pipeline over the weekend, and a three block area remains closed, said the director of government and public affairs for BP’s Whiting refinery.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100818-709488.html>
4. *August 18, WHEC 10 Rochester* – (New York) **Vandals cause oil spill at RG&E’s Russell Station property.** An environmental mess has been left in the area where vandals drained up to 4,800 gallons of oil from a spare transformer at an RG&E electric substation near Russell Station in Greece, New York. They did this so they could steal copper from inside the unit. The president of NYSEG and RG&E said, “We are doing all we can to expedite the containment and cleanup process. “We will be on the job until the cleanup is done.” RG&E was notified of an oil sheen on Slater Creek adjacent to the Russell Station property August 16. The sheen was also visible on Lake Ontario, primarily to the east of Slater Creek. Right now, crews in Slater Creek are putting down foam pads to soak up oil. Based on the investigation of the oil spill thus far, RG&E believes the vast majority of oil is on or in the ground in the vicinity of the substation. The incident was reported to the Greece police department.
Source: <http://www.whec.com/news/stories/s1702755.shtml>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *August 19, Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* – (Ohio) **Salt in ponds blamed for United Initiators fire.** United Initiators Inc. has determined that a build-up of salts in ponds used for a skimming system in Elyria, Ohio, contributed to an August 10 fire that sent a

mushroom cloud of black smoke into the air and kept firefighters busy for hours. In the future, the salts will be pumped out of the skimming ponds used to separate organic peroxides from water used during the manufacturing process at United Initiators, according to the plant's general manager. The salts — which float in the tanks like eggs in egg drop soup — blocked water from cooling down the organic peroxides, which caught on fire while decomposing. Engineers from the company's headquarters in Germany have planned several changes to correct the problem, and the skimming ponds will reopen by the end of August.

Source: <http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2010/08/19/salt-in-ponds-blamed-for-united-initiators-fire/>

6. *August 19, Abilene Reflector-Chronicle* – (Kansas) **Safety precautions work well as spill contained.** A faulty flange on a chemical storage tank is cited as the cause of a hydrochloric leak August 17 at a southeast Abilene, Kansas business. “A flange on the tank failed,” the owner of Abilene Products said. “The product leaked into our secondary containment area.” He said the hydrochloric tanks at Abilene Products at 818 S.E. Fourth St. have triple containment areas, and he called in a hazardous chemical team from Salina to monitor air quality. “They did air quality monitoring for an hour or two,” he said. “They found no reportable amounts in the air.” Abilene’s assistant fire chief said firefighters were called to the scene at 12:53 p.m. and remained in the area for about four hours. Firefighters shut down an area around the business that afternoon while firefighters monitored the area and checked air quality. No homes around the area were evacuated, and the leak posed no public danger.

Source: http://www.abilene-rc.com/view/full_story/9191837/article-Safety-precautions-work-well-as-spill-contained?instance=homesecndleft

For another story, see item [32](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *August 19, Global Security Newswire* – (International) **Military says floods pose no threat to Pakistani nuclear sites.** Pakistan’s nuclear and defense facilities August 19 were said to be under no threat from the massive flooding that recently struck the nation. “There is no danger to our defense and nuclear installations from flooding,” a Pakistani military spokesman said. “All our nuclear and military installations have remained safe and there is no further danger from flooding.” Pakistan maintains two nuclear power reactors at its Chashma facility, and another atomic site has been under construction near the Indus River, which overflowed during the floods. The nuclear-armed Asian state’s atomic facilities in 2005 survived a magnitude 7.6 earthquake responsible for 73,000 deaths. Western powers have expressed fears that Pakistani nuclear assets might fall into the hands of militants. The United States has made preparations to seize control of the country’s nuclear arsenal should Islamabad’s control of the weapons come into question, according to news reports.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100819_6913.php

8. *August 19, Green Bay Press-Gazette* – (Wisconsin) **Preparedness key at nuclear power plants.** Nuclear Regulatory Commission testing, inspections and certification, along with simulations that test crews, are part of wider efforts to ensure the safety of the communities around nuclear power plants in Kewaunee and near Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Emergency preparedness is one of the cornerstones of the plant’s operating license. “We live, and drill, every day like (an emergency) is actually happening,” said an emergency preparedness specialist at Kewaunee. “That’s what we live, eat, sleep and breathe â□| You couldn’t have a business without protecting the health and safety of the public.” The Kewaunee Power Station, owned by Virginia-based Dominion, comprises a single reactor, while Point Beach Nuclear Plant, 5 miles down Wisconsin 42 near Manitowoc, has two reactors. Point Beach is owned by Florida-based Next-Era Energy Resources.
Source: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20100819/GPG03/8190585/1247>

9. *August 18, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (National) **Yucca not buried yet, official says.** Nevada still has much work to do to bury the federal government’s plan for storing nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain, the chief of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects (ANP) said August 17. The matter may wind up in a federal appeals court, depending on whether the Nuclear Regulatory Commission overturns a licensing board’s rejection of the Energy Department’s request to end the project. A decision is expected within weeks. Most of the work ahead is legal work, “and we may have to go back into licensing, which would be a long and expensive process,” said ANP’s executive director. His comments were made at a meeting of the state legislative committee on high-level radioactive waste. He also spoke about reprocessing and recycling used nuclear fuel at the site. The official noted it would violate federal law for Nevada to be an interim site for storing nuclear waste for reprocessing while Yucca Mountain, 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is still designated as a permanent repository site. In addition, there is no water available for constructing a large nuclear reactor at Yucca for reprocessing.
Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/yucca-not-buried-yet--official-says-100964199.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *August 18, Associated Press* – (Indiana; National) **Electrical wire recalled in Ohio stores.** An Indiana company is recalling mislabeled rolls of electrical wire sold at Home Depot and Menards stores in Ohio and other states. Cerro Wire Inc. is recalling about 1,000 rolls of THHN electrical wire because the packaging says 12-gauge when it’s really 14-gauge. The company said if the wrong gauge is used in a project, it could pose a risk of fires. The mislabeled wire was sold from December 2009 to April 2010. No incidents have been reported.
Source: <http://www.fox8.com/news/sns-ap-oh--electricalwirerecall,0,3490928.story>

11. *August 18, Reuters* – (International) **Mazda recalls 215,000 vehicles in U.S. for steering.** Mazda Motor Corp has recalled 215,000 Mazda 3 and Mazda 5 vehicles sold

in the United States because of the risk they could lose power steering without warning. The recall of vehicles from the 2007 through 2009 model years was announced in a filing with the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) August 16. Mazda said the vehicles under recall could experience a “sudden loss” of power steering, increasing the risk of a crash. The notification did not detail any incidents. The defect occurs because rust could break loose from a high-pressure pipe, straining the power steering pump and causing the system to shut down, the Japanese automaker said. Mazda also said it was facing a shortage of parts to repair recalled vehicles at its dealerships. The automaker said it would begin to notify affected owners of the recall in September, and send notices to all owners by February.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67G5MM20100818?type=domesticNews>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *August 18, Anniston Star* – (Alabama) **Explosive acid at depot was handled properly official says.** Hazardous acid found in its explosive, crystalline state at the Anniston Army Depot lab in Anniston, Alabama August 16 was not the result of improper storage, depot officials said August 18. The picric acid – stable when stored in a water solution but dangerous when in its original solid state – had dried out naturally over a long period of time, said the depot’s director of risk management. During a routine inspection of a materials lab, workers found 7 ounces of the dried-out acid stored in a glass bottle sealed with a plastic cap, the official said. Over time, the water is able to evaporate from the solution through the plastic cap’s seal, the official said. Depot officials called in a explosives disposal crew from Georgia August 17 to detonate the hazardous acid, according to a press release from the depot’s public affairs office. According to the official, depot workers keep the acid on site for rare occasions when they have to inspect the quality of metal used in vehicle assembly lines. He said picric acid also has a number of other industrial uses and is commonly found in civilian chemistry labs.

Source: http://www.annistonstar.com/view/full_story/9185126/article-Explosive-acid-at-depot-was-handled-properly--official-says?instance=home_news

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *August 18, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **SEC charges New Jersey with securities fraud.** U.S. regulators said August 18 they charged the state of New Jersey with securities fraud for not disclosing to municipal bond investors it was underfunding its pensions. New Jersey, the first state ever hit with securities fraud charges by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), agreed to settle the case without admitting or denying the findings. The state was not required to pay any civil fines or penalties, but ordered to cease and desist from future violations. New Jersey offered

and sold more than \$26 billion of municipal bonds in 79 deals between August, 2001 and April, 2007, according to the SEC. The offering documents “created the false impression that the Teachers’ Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) were being adequately funded, masking the fact New Jersey was unable to make contributions to TPAF and PERS without raising taxes, cutting other services or otherwise affecting its budget,” the SEC said. “The state of New Jersey didn’t give its municipal investors a fair shake, withholding and misrepresenting pertinent information about its financial situation,” the director of the SEC’s Division of Enforcement said in a statement.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67H58S20100818>

14. *August 18, DarkReading* – (International) **ITRC Study: Loss of credit card information and merchant data breach cited as priority concerns to consumers.** The Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) announced August 18 that 87 percent of consumers who have made a purchase or bank transaction online in the past month are concerned about the safety of the personal identifying and financial information they transmit. The findings are part of the ITRC’s 2010 national survey to monitor trends in “Consumer Concerns about Internet Transactions.” The survey queried 500 respondents who had used the Internet for banking or purchasing during the previous 30 days. The ITRC survey found that consumers are increasingly concerned about the security of their personal and financial information when conducting transactions online. Eighty seven percent of respondents expressed significant concern about having their credit card information stolen or having merchants lose personal and financial information in a data breach. Respondents demonstrated a similar high-level of concern over specific security events, including: 81 percent of respondents cited phishing emails as a significant concern; 80 percent of respondents expressed significant concern over having their passwords stolen; 78 percent of respondents indicated they were significantly concerned over having usernames stolen; 77 percent of respondents were concerned about receiving SPAM emails.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/smb-security/security/client/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=226700480&subSection=End+user/client+security>

15. *August 18, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **‘Black Stocking Robber’ allegedly held up 8 banks while out on bail.** The “Black Stocking Robber,” a serial robber authorities believe held up eight banks in Morris County, New Jersey over the past month, embarked on the stealing spree while he was out on bail. In April, the 28-year-old suspect, of Newark, had been arrested after a 10-day manhunt and charged with robbing a Bank of America in North Arlington. His bail was set at \$350,000. But starting June 25, authorities said, the suspect went on to stick up eight more banks in five counties, snatching thousands of dollars in a matter of weeks. He was arrested August 17, hours after robbing a bank in Whippany, authorities said. A 20-year-old accomplice, of Newark, was also caught. After he was caught August 17, the 28-year-old suspect admitted he was the robber suspected in the robberies, which hit banks in a number of towns, including Bloomfield, Paramus, Boonton, Woodbridge, and

Whitehouse Station. He used a simple technique, authorities said. Wearing a trademark black stocking over his head, he allegedly brandished a handgun and a plastic bag in each bank and demanded cash. He then left with the money, police said.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/black_stocking_robber_was_out.html

16. *August 18, Beverly Hills Courier* – (California) **Beverly Hills beauty salon owner arrested for allegedly running up \$300,000 on celebrity credit cards.** A Beverly Hills, California beauty salon owner was arrested today on federal fraud charges for allegedly taking credit card information from several celebrity clients and running up nearly \$300,000 in fraudulent charges. The 51-year-old suspect, of Beverly Hills, was arrested without incident at her business, Chez Gabriela Studio, by special agents with the U.S. Secret Service, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. She faces two counts of access device fraud — a charge that carries a maximum statutory penalty of 25 years in federal prison, prosecutors said. The affidavit in support of the criminal complaint alleges that the suspect ran up about \$68,000 in unauthorized charges on a credit card belonging to a famous jewelry designer. Most of the charges were made from Chez Gabriela Studio when the numbers from the credit card were both “skimmed” electronically and entered manually, according to the affidavit prepared by a Secret Service agent.

Source:

http://www.bhcourier.com/article/Local_News/Local_News/Beverly_Hills_beauty_sal_on_owner_arrested_for_allegedly_running_up_300000_on_celebrity_credit_cards/70760

17. *August 18, WPTY 24 Memphis* – (National) **‘Bayou Bandit’ wanted by FBI for bank robberies in Mississippi, Arkansas.** The FBI has added a bank robber only known as the “Bayou Bandit” to its wanted list for crimes in several states, including Arkansas and Mississippi. According to FBI officials, the unidentified man is wanted in more than 10 bank robberies in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Mississippi, and some other states. The crimes have been happening since March of 2010. FBI investigators said the “Bayou Bandit” is known to enter banks carrying a bag and a note demanding money. Then, before leaving the bank, the suspect takes back the note and fills his bag with the money. The suspect is described as a white male, 40 to 50 years of age. He is between 5 feet, 10 inches to 6 feet tall.

Source: <http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/news/local/story/Bayou-Bandit-Wanted-by-FBI-for-Bank-Robberies-in/km6Y0ydi5EmggD1fuuGkCw.csp>

18. *August 18, Macon Sun* – (Georgia) **Reports of credit card fraud among Robins employees continue to rise.** More middle Georgia residents have filed reports of credit card compromises affecting employees of Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. A total of 40 residents have filed complaints since August 13, said a spokeswoman for the Warner Robins Police Department. At least 11 residents have filed reports of credit card compromises with the Houston County Sheriff’s office since August 13, according to sheriff’s incident logs. The actual scope of the issue is unknown because base officials will not say how many people at Robins have had their

credit or debit cards compromised. The known complaints include customers of Bank of America, as well as Robins Federal Credit Union on base, and BB&T Bank and MidSouth Federal Credit Union in Warner Robins. Robins employees have had their checking accounts used to make purchases across the country and even in Australia in the past week.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/2010/08/18/1233542/reports-of-credit-card-fraud-among.html>

19. *August 18, The New New Internet* – (International) **Zeus Trojan spreading through zip files.** The Zeus Trojan is back again, looking to spread through zip files. Zeus, which is one of the most commonly found pieces of malware, is believed to be one of the most prevalent on the Internet, infected millions of users. Researchers with F-Secure have found a new spam set working to disseminate the Zeus malware through infected zip files. “Just now we’ve been watching a spam run with malicious ZIP files attached to them,” a researcher writes. “Inside the ZIP is always the same Zeus variant (md5 92671afe999e12669315e220aa9e62c2) but the name varies.” The malware appears to also download other components from two sites hosting malware in Russia. Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2010/08/18/zeus-trojan-spreading-through-zip-files/>

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Transportation Sector

20. *August 19, KPTV 12 Portland* – (Oregon) **Suspicious package disrupts MAX red line.** Police were called to the Portland, Oregon, International Airport MAX stop at about 5 p.m. August 18 on a report of a suspicious item left on a light rail train. Investigators said a package was determined not to be an explosive. The item was safely removed from the red line train and determined not to be a threat. No other details were provided. The train’s operator was conducting a sweep of the train at the end of the line — at the airport — and noticed the suspicious item, authorities said. The train was evacuated, and flights were not affected. Service was disrupted between the Mount Hood Avenue station and the airport. Shuttle buses transported passengers between the stops. The Portland bomb squad, Transportation Security Administration, TriMet, and Port of Portland police investigated the incident. Source: <http://www.kptv.com/news/24680708/detail.html>
21. *August 19, Grand Forks Herald* – (North Dakota) **GFK loses power Wednesday night; flights on time this a.m.** An electrical outage forced the Grand Forks International Airport in North Dakota, to use generators to light runways and power the air-traffic control tower as a passenger flight landed late August 18, an airport official said. The airport’s lead operations specialist said passengers exited the plane on the tarmac rather than leave through the main terminal, which lost power and does not have generators. He said the power went out shortly after 10 p.m. August 18, and, after repairs, the power was restored at about 4:30 a.m. August 19. All flights departed on

time the morning of August 19.

Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/172576/group/homepage/>

22. *August 18, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **‘Novelty item’ shuts down security checkpoint at Tulsa International Airport.** Security officials with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) found an item in a package that looked to security officials like an explosive device about 4:10 p.m. at the Tulsa International Airport in Oklahoma. Officials cleared the area, getting the waiting passengers at least 300 feet from the security checkpoint while officials examined the suspicious device. Airport security officials took the item to a remote location to determine whether it was a threat, and they “believe it to be a novelty item.” The checkpoint was reopened by 4:30 p.m. It is uncertain whether the TSA detained anyone after the incident.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/webextra/content/2010/crimesite/article.aspx?subjectid=450&articleid=20100818_450_0_Asecur845927

23. *August 18, WSFA 12 Montgomery* – (Alabama) **Fire units respond to Montgomery train fire.** Firefighters and haz-mat units responded to a train fire August 18 in Montgomery, Alabama, in the area of Wares Ferry Road and McClemore Road. The train was carrying unidentified hazardous materials. Authorities are not sure what sparked the blaze, but CSX Transportation officials said an investigation is underway. A CSX spokesman said the contents are known by the company’s operations center, but the exact contents have not been released to the public. Volunteer firefighters were able to extinguish the fire, which was contained to the engine compartment. None of the train’s contents were affected by the fire.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=13004147>

24. *August 18, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Tenn. rain washes away home, derailed train.** Drenching rains swept away a home, trapped drivers in their vehicles and derailed a train in Tennessee, and forecasters expected more heavy showers to fall over the Southeast. Much of the damage in Tennessee was in Putnam County, where a home floated off its foundation and a train carrying sand derailed when the tracks were washed away. Roads were washed out and some minor bridges were affected, but no injuries or deaths were reported. The National Weather Service declared a flash flood watch for all of eastern Tennessee for August 20, including the cities of Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Johnson City. Two to four inches of additional rain were possible from early morning until nearly noon. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency spokesman said the National Guard was on standby in case waters started to rise and rescues were needed.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2012661887_apustennesseerain.html

25. *August 18, KSFY 13 Sioux Falls* – (South Dakota) **Body found with dangerous chemicals in car on I-29 near Wilmot.** A portion of I-29 north of Wilmot, South Dakota, was closed for about three and a half hours August 18, when a body was found

in a car, parked along the interstate. The highway was closed at 9:16 a.m. when a car was found with danger signs written on the windows and a person in the driver's seat that was not moving. The Watertown Fire Department was called to the scene. When the car was found next to the interstate, the person inside was already dead and there were potentially dangerous chemicals in the back. The haz-mat team found that the chemicals in the car were creating a hydrogen-sulfuric off-gas, Watertown's assistant fire chief said. The interstate re-opened at 12:42 p.m., before a clean-up crew came out to dispose of the chemicals. The car and the body were turned over to the highway patrol for further investigation. The Roberts County Sheriff's Office is investigating. Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=13008964>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *August 19, Pocono Record* – (Pennsylvania) **FBI investigating anthrax scare at Stroud Twp. home.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation is probing a suspicious package delivered to a home in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania August 18. The Stroud Area Regional Police were dispatched to a home on Witness Tree Circle in the Blue Mountain Lake Estates development at 2 p.m. when an envelope that arrived in the mail and containing a white powdery substance was opened by a woman at the home. Police cordoned off a one-block area. The Stroud Township Volunteer Fire Company set up decontamination equipment. Two ambulances were on scene, along with the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. A special infectious disease room was prepared at the Pocono Medical Center. A Scranton-based Postal Inspector tested the material using a mobile spectrometer with a built-in database of substances. "It has been determined it's not likely a hazardous material," said the deputy director of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. The field tests, he said, were 95 to 96 percent accurate. The material was taken to a lab for further testing.

Source:

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100819/NEWS/8190330/1/NEWS01>

27. *August 19, Lansing State Journal* – (Michigan) **Lansing postal workers practice their bioterrorism attack response.** During a bioterrorism attack drill, postal workers August 18 walked out of Lansing, Michigan's mail processing center and into an inflatable decontamination station wearing protective white coverall suits, yellow boots and green gloves. They were practicing their response in case they ever come in contact with anthrax. The last such exercise at the Lansing post office and processing center was in 2007, a Postal Service spokeswoman said.

Source:

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100819/NEWS01/8190332/Lansing-postal-workers-practice-their-bioterrorism-attack-response>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

28. *August 19, Natural News Network* – (National) **Tainted poultry litter causing widespread arsenic contamination.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service has pinpointed a major source of arsenic contamination in the environment — poultry litter. Commercial poultry producers often supplement chicken feed with roxarsone, an arsenic-based food additive, in order to bulk them up and prevent parasites from forming in their systems. But this toxin ends up contaminating local water supplies and crop fields. Roxarsone helps to prevent commercial chickens from becoming infected with parasites, and it also helps to promote weight gain, but the birds end up excreting it into their litter. This litter is then spread on crop fields where it poisons not only the soil, but also nearby rivers and streams. Natural chicken litter is full of nutrients and is beneficial to crop soil, but when full of arsenic, it is poisonous and toxic to the environment. Defendants of roxarsone insist that the additive is safe because it is derived from organic arsenic, but studies have shown that organic arsenic converts to the harmful, inorganic kind when it reacts with the bacteria in chicken manure.
Source: http://www.naturalnews.com/029517_poultry_arsenic.html
29. *August 19, msnbc.com* – (National) **Salmonella recall expands to eggs sent to 17 states.** The Iowa producer of shell eggs linked to hundreds of illnesses in a massive salmonella outbreak has expanded its recall to include eggs sent to 17 states, federal health officials said August 19. Wright County Egg of Galt, Iowa, now said the potentially tainted eggs were distributed to wholesalers, distribution centers and food service companies in California, Arizona, Missouri, Minnesota, Texas, Georgia, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, Iowa, Illinois, Utah, Nebraska, Arkansas, Wisconsin and Oklahoma. At least 380 million eggs have been implicated in the outbreak, which is confirmed to have sickened people in four states and is suspected in several more. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with state health departments to investigate the illnesses. No deaths have been reported.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38741401/ns/health-food_safety?Gt1=43001
30. *August 18, Salem Capital Press* – (Oregon) **Umpqua Dairy issues milk recall.** Umpqua Dairy is recalling milk, half-and-half, cream, buttermilk and some fruit juice produced at its Roseburg, Oregon, facility after finding salmonella on processing equipment. The voluntary recall is for products purchased on or before August 16. Consumer are urged to dispose of any open milk or juice-drink products or return unopened products for a refund. Ice cream and other dairy products, like sour cream and cottage cheese are not part of the recall. The recall stems from multiple salmonella cases that were reported to the Oregon Public Health Division between October 2009 and August 2010. In all, public health officials identified 23 salmonella cases that originated from contact with Umpqua Dairy products. Two people were hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.
Source: <http://www.capitalpress.com/orewash/ml-umpqua-dairy-recall-081810>

31. *August 18, McClatchy Newspapers* – (National) **Toxic levels of oil found in gulf area crucial to fish.** Scientists have found evidence that oil has become toxic to marine organisms in a section of the Gulf of Mexico that supports the spawning grounds of commercially important fish species. Researchers from the University of South Florida said August 17 that, in preliminary results, there appear to be droplets of oil among the sediments of a vital underwater canyon where clouds of oil from the BP spill were found. “So, indeed, the waters have a level of toxicity that needs to be recognized, and I think these were some of the first indicators that the base of the food web — the bacteria and the phytoplankton — may be affected,” said the chief scientist. More than 200 million gallons of oil leaked into gulf waters from BP’s broken well until it was capped last month. The company used millions of gallons of chemical dispersant to break up the oil as it gushed off the Louisiana coast. In subsurface waters east of the wellhead, phytoplankton — microscopic, plant-like organisms that form the base of the marine food web — was found to be in poor health, the chief scientist said.
Source: <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/aug/18/nation/la-na-oil-spill-fish-20100818>
32. *August 18, Ventura County Star* – (California) **Firefighters stop ammonia leak at Oxnard strawberry packing plant.** A hazardous materials team composed of Oxnard, Ventura and Ventura County, California, firefighters went to a strawberry packing facility in an industrial area of east Oxnard the evening of August 18 after the smell of ammonia was reported in the area. Someone from Haas Automation, located next door to the packing facility reported the odor of ammonia, said a spokeswoman for the Oxnard Fire Department. No one was at the facility when the possible leak was reported about 6:40 p.m., the spokeswoman said, adding firefighters quickly determined that the leak was coming from a small cooling system there. As a precautionary measure, firefighters ordered those at Haas Automation to stay inside. Firefighters also put on protective suits before approaching the cooling system. Firefighters fixed the leak by 7:47 p.m.
Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/aug/18/firefighter-investigating-possible-amonia-leak/>
33. *August 18, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Salmonella taints some pickles and eggs shipped to Illinois.** The Cook County Department of Health announced August 18 that it is investigating an outbreak of salmonella from pickles sold at Assi Supermarket in Niles, Illinois. The department said that there have been six laboratory-confirmed cases including five hospitalizations from the food. The department release said: “A pickle obtained from a family of two of the confirmed cases was sent to the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory for testing and has been identified as positive for Salmonella.”
Source: <http://leisureblogs.chicagotribune.com/thestew/2010/08/salmonella-taints-some-pickles-and-eggs-in-illinois-.html>

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

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Water Sector

34. *August 19, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **5 accused of dumping grease into creek.** Five members of A&F Industrial Services were indicted this month on charges of dumping thousands of gallons of restaurant grease into Huebner Creek and sewer pipelines leading to the Dos Rios Water Recycling Center in San Antonio, Texas. The 12-count indictment also alleges the company falsified records. A federal grand jury returned the indictment August 4, and it was made partly public on August 18 after criminal investigators with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) arrested the woman who was the company's controller. She is charged with conspiracy to violate the Clean Water Act and getting rid of a rubber stamp that helped the company cover up dumps. After a hearing in federal court, she was released on \$50,000 unsecured bail pending arraignment August 30. She faces up to five years in prison if convicted of either charge. Also charged is a person described as A&F's then-general manager, and three company truck drivers, who have not been arrested and whose names were blacked out in the indictment. The EPA reviewed A&F's manifests and found A&F was claiming to have picked up liquid waste from restaurant grease traps in quantities that surpassed its tankers' capabilities. The indictment also said A&F's manifests falsely claimed the company had properly disposed of grit and grease trap waste. Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/101033819.html?showFullArticle=y>
35. *August 19, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Salt contamination threatens Camden water supply.** The village of Camden, Ohio, could lose its water supply within six weeks because of high levels of road salt and associated contaminants in the village's drinking water wells, according to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The agency began an in-ground investigation August 18 after resident complaints about the taste of the water. Water in one of the village's three wells has too much salt and brine for drinking, said an OEPA spokeswoman. A second well in current use is experiencing higher salt levels, which continue to rise. The third well is not being used to avoid potential contamination. The wells serve about 2,500 village residents. Camden's water is considered safe to drink, but the village is providing bottled water to residents who do not like the taste. The agency and village are focused on protecting the wells or finding another source of drinking water, either by drilling new wells or connecting the village to another water system. Cost estimates were not available for those options. Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/salt-contamination-threatens-camden-water-supply-867965.html>
36. *August 18, KHQA 7 Hannibal* – (Missouri) **Wastewater leak in Lewis County.** An undetermined amount of waste-water from a Lewis County, Missouri, pump station leaked August 17 because of a mechanical malfunction. Lewistown city officials contacted the department of natural resources to report that a control system failure caused the leak at the city's South Pine Street lift station into an unnamed tributary to Grassy Creek. The overflow was stopped shortly before 1:30 p.m. Source: <http://www.connecttristates.com/news/story.aspx?id=498796>

37. *August 18, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Idaho) **Cheese manufacturer Sorrento Lactalis to pay U.S. \$315,000 for exceeding discharge levels into Idaho’s Mason Creek.** Cheese manufacturer Sorrento Lactalis Inc. will pay the United States a \$315,000 penalty for excess discharges in violation of its wastewater permit levels, according to an agreement between the company, the Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The company discharged the excess pollutants into Mason Creek from its factory operations in Nampa, Idaho, in violation of the Clean Water Act. Sorrento, which treats wastewater in a facility separate from its cheese-making plant, repeatedly violated its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit over a period of three years from December 2005 to September 2008. The violations include: failure to collect and analyze samples; exceeding its monthly and daily discharge limits for total suspended solids, E.coli, biological oxygen demand, phosphorus, and pH and; failure to notify EPA of its excess discharges in a timely manner. Mason Creek flows into the Boise River. Pollutants can degrade water quality, cause harm to fish and other wildlife, and diminish the recreational value of the waters. Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/54ED63F536ED86EB85257783007D17B2>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

38. *August 19, Computerworld* – (National) **Panel drafts privacy recommendations for health data exchanges.** A “tiger team” that advises the federally chartered Health IT Policy Committee will submit a list of recommendations on August 19 for ensuring the privacy and security of personally identifiable health information in Health Data Exchanges. The recommendations were developed in response to a specific set of privacy-related questions raised by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. They touch upon and clarify topics such as patient consent and the use of third-party service providers in the exchange of personally identifiable health information. One of the bigger recommendations relates to patient consent. The direct exchange of electronic patient data between health providers for treatment purposes does not require any additional patient consent, the panel noted. The same rules that apply to paper or faxed exchanges of health information should apply in the electronic realm as well. Source:
- http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9180895/Panel_drafts_privacy_recommendations_for_health_data_exchanges

39. *August 19, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Medical records improperly dumped.** Holyoke Medical Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts will mail letters this week to 24,000 people whose records officials believe might be among those improperly deposited at a dump in Georgetown. The letters will explain the breach, with as much information as hospital officials have, and direct individuals to additional information on the hospital’s Web site and to a phone number they also can call, the vice president of quality and risk management, said August 18. The disposal at a trash-

transfer station in Georgetown reportedly involved records from hospitals and their pathology groups in Milford, Carney and Milton. The records include individuals' names, addresses, Social Security numbers, insurance information and results of pathology tests. The breach appears to be limited to Holyoke Medical Center patients who got pathology services from Pioneer Valley Pathology Associates, a group of doctors the hospital has a contract with, between January 1, 2007, and February 28 of this year. That involves 16,000 to 24,000 individuals medical records improperly dumped.

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/hampfrank/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-28/128220261559940.xml&coll=1>

40. *August 19, New Haven Register* – (Connecticut) **Stolen Yale laptop held patient data.** The Yale School of Medicine begun August 18 notifying approximately 1,000 people whose clinical health information was contained on a laptop computer stolen last month. There is no indication that any individual information on the computer has been misused. The Yale and New Haven Police departments have been working together and will continue to pursue any leads, officials said. The computer was stolen the night of July 28 and was reported missing the next morning. No Social Security, financial or insurance numbers were contained in the computer's files, Yale said in a statement. The computer was owned by Yale and stolen from the office of a data analyst at the Yale School of Medicine. While access to the stolen laptop was protected by a password, the laptop was not encrypted.
Source:
http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/08/19/news/new_haven/aal_new_haven_stolen_computer081910.txt
41. *August 19, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. tries to fix slow response to outbreaks.** The U.S. government proposed major changes August 19 to the way it works with companies to fight new disease threats such as flu, including reform at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and setting up centers to make vaccines quickly. The report from the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) said the U.S. ability to respond to new outbreaks is far too slow, and it lays out a plan for helping academic researchers and biotechnology companies develop promising new drugs and vaccines. "At a moment when the greatest danger we face may be a virus we have never seen before ... we don't have the flexibility to adapt," the HHS Secretary said at a news briefing. The report suggested providing clearer guidance to industry on what kinds of tests are needed for regulatory approval of new drugs and vaccines — something industry has asked for — and said new teams should be set up at FDA. HHS and the Department of Defense should set up Centers for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing, it said.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67I2BP20100819?type=domesticNews>
42. *August 18, DarkReading* – (National) **Hospitals worried about breaches, survey shows.** As the majority of hospitals prepare for the transition to electronic medical records (EMRs), most consider data breaches and unauthorized access to their clinical

applications their biggest worry, a new survey shows. About 80 percent of IT professionals at hospitals in the survey, conducted by Imprivata, said locking down patient information from breaches and unauthorized access is a top priority, up from 62 percent last year. And 76 percent cited confidential data breaches or abuse of their clinical applications as their biggest security concerns. The chief medical officer at Imprivata, said he thinks hospitals are worried both about existing threats, as well as new threats that EMRs could present. “Surely as we increase the amount of patient data in electronic format, there is more to be exposed if a breach occurs,” he said. The HITECH Act is driving healthcare organizations to provide medical records in electronic format, and that will help ensure more accurate records, he noted.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/authentication/security/government/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=226700498>

43. *August 18, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Scientists to seek method for identifying lab-grown pathogens.** Scientists at Rice University in Houston have received a three-year U.S. Defense Department grant to produce a test able to distinguish laboratory-grown disease agents from those that spread without human intervention, the university announced August 16. The project, funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, would seek to provide authorities a means of testing whether pathogens in a potential epidemic were grown deliberately for use in a terrorist attack. That knowledge would help them prepare their response to a natural or intentional disease situation.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100818_2215.php

44. *August 18, Madison Capital Times* – (Wisconsin) **Twenty-two taken to hospitals, but no serious injuries in chlorine leak at Sun Prairie private pool.** A chlorine gas leak at a Sun Prairie swimming facility in Madison, Wisconsin, sickened nearly two dozen people August 18, but there were no apparent serious injuries, authorities reported. Sun Prairie police said 22 people went to hospitals, including 14 children and eight adults. A Madison Fire Department spokeswoman reported that about 10 EMS ambulances, including three Madison units, responded at about 10 a.m. to Kindred Hearts Senior Living after chlorine gas came out of a supply room and exposed young children in a swimming class. The owner said air in a chemical supply room pushed out the chlorine gas smell, but the exposure to the kids and adults in the swimming pool area was slight. The hazardous materials team from the fire department had been sent out initially, but was called back. Police reported no injuries or sickness at Kindred Hearts Senior Living due to the chlorine gas smell.

Source: http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/crime_and_courts/article_ba77015c-aae9-11df-938d-001cc4c002e0.html

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Government Facilities Sector

45. *August 19, Associated Press* – (California) **18 evacuated at Caltech after chlorine smell.** A strong chlorine smell closed nine buildings at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California and forced the evacuation of 18 people. A Pasadena fire spokeswoman said the odor was reported at about 5:30 a.m. August 19 in steam tunnels that connect some campus buildings. She said employees using equipment to treat water created a mixture that gave off the chlorine odor. Eighteen cleaning personnel and construction workers who were in the tunnels were evacuated and two were treated for minor eye irritation. Hazardous materials teams responded. A Caltech spokesman said nine buildings, including the administration building, will be closed until the situation is resolved.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2010/08/19/2969688/18-evacuated-at-caltech-after.html>
46. *August 19, Michigan Morning Sun* – (Michigan) **CMU's main computer system goes down.** Central Michigan University's main computer system went down August 18, and there is no immediate indication of when the system might be back up and running. The IBM mainframe computer that runs the Mount Pleasant, Michigan university's SAS enterprise software suffered water damage in the flash flood that hit the city the week of August 16. The machine is housed in the basement of Foust Hall, a building on Preston Street near East Campus Drive. Foust Hall is about two blocks west of Mission Street, which suffered extensive flooding when nearly 4 inches of rain fell in less than two hours. Campus officials said last week that as many as 24 campus buildings suffered water damage. A university spokesman said technicians powered down the mainframe, removed damaged components and replaced them, then tried to restore the operations -- but the system wouldn't respond. An IBM expert was on the scene August 18, trying to diagnose and solve the problem.
Source:
<http://www.themorningsun.com/articles/2010/08/19/news/doc4c6c3f351d92a600838038.txt>
47. *August 19, CBS & Associated Press* – (National) **Alaska couple compiled hit list with 20 names, say feds.** A rural Alaska couple compiled a hit list of 20 targets, including members of the military and media, and had moved to the operational phase of their plan, according to documents filed in federal court August 16. The couple, who hail from King Salmon, Alaska, have pleaded guilty to lying about the list and making false statements to the FBI in May. Under a plea agreement, the husband will serve eight years in prison and three years probation while his pregnant wife will serve probation. Sentencing is scheduled August 23 in U.S. District Court in Anchorage. The husband's public defender claims her client was lonely in King Salmon and befriended an undercover Alaska State Trooper while attending mosque during trips to Anchorage. Prosecutors alleged that the husband, also known as "Bilal," converted to Islam about a decade ago, and began studying the teachings of an American-born cleric who has professed hatred for the United States and who supports acts of terrorism.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20014076-504083.html

48. *August 19, Taunton Daily Gazette* – (Massachusetts) **Fire prompts heightened security at Taunton’s City Hall.** In the wake of an attic fire, which temporarily displaced all personnel at the Taunton, Massachusetts, City Hall the week of August 16, officials are indicating that security standards need to be tightened up and improved. “We’ll be instituting something,” said the mayor when asked about the likelihood of increasing security measures. The mayor and other officials acknowledge that department heads for years have had free reign to come into work well before city hall’s official 9 a.m. opening hour, by letting themselves in the back door with their personal building keys. A Taunton Building Department superintendent and a commissioner said they typically start their workday at least as early as 8 a.m. They also said it’s not uncommon for contractors to come in early seeking permits.
Source: <http://www.tauntongazette.com/news/x4598704/Fire-prompts-heightened-security-at-Tauntons-City-Hall>
49. *August 18, Reno Gazette Journal* – (Nevada) **Computers fixed after 3 hour outage today at Nevada DMV offices.** Computers at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles were down statewide for about three hours August 18, causing major delays as crews scrambled to fix the issue. The chief public information officer of the Nevada DMV said the issue has now been resolved and computers are back up and running. The DMV remained open during the outage, but was only able to service permits, the official said.
Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20100818/NEWS/100818038/1321/news>

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Emergency Services Sector

50. *August 19, WBRC 6 Birmingham* – (Alabama) **Birmingham man arrested on terroristic threats charges.** The Birmingham Alabama Police Department (BPD) said they have arrested a man for making terrorist threats to an off-duty police officer. According to BPD, a 28-year-old man approached the officer while he was attending church and accused him of murdering his brother. The officer attempted to tell the suspect that he did not murder his brother, but the suspect continued to make threatening remarks to the officer. Birmingham investigators found the suspect to be referring to a 2001 shooting that involved the officer and the suspect’s brother. The suspect’s brother was a suspect in a robbery at the time and the officer was sent to investigate. According to the report, the victim opened the door and pointed a gun at the officer. The officer discharged his weapon and killed the suspect. An investigation into the shooting found it justifiable.
Source: <http://www.myfoxal.com/Global/story.asp?S=13010255>
51. *August 18, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas gunman worked security, often praised police.** The man who killed himself during a shootout with a suburban Texas police department once worked as a jailer and security guard and even praised the very officers he attacked, according to associates and records. The man died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, the Collin County Medical Examiner’s office said

August 18. The announcement came a day after he towed a trailer loaded with explosives into the parking lot of the McKinney police station and set his pickup truck on fire, presumably to lure officers out of the building and shoot at them. He retreated to a field across a road and fired more than 100 rounds at police headquarters, the McKinney police chief said. The trailer did not ignite. Investigators found an assault rifle, a shotgun, and a handgun on him and later found more weapons in his home. Nobody else was injured in the attack in the suburb, about 30 miles north of Dallas. Police said they do not have a motive. According to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, the suspect worked three months in 2001 at a federal prison operated by The GEO Group Inc. in San Antonio, but did not seek a permanent license when his temporary certification expired after a year.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hjMxwz1U-4OVS-TsdxAMV5uqJChQD9HM64M00>

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Information Technology Sector

52. *August 19, Computerworld* – (International) **40 Windows apps contain critical bug, says researcher.** About 40 different Windows applications contain a critical flaw that can be used by attackers to hijack PCs and infect them with malware, a security researcher said August 18. The bug was patched by Apple in its iTunes software for Windows four months ago, but remains in more than three dozen other Windows programs, said the chief security officer at Rapid7 and creator of the open-source Metasploit penetration-testing toolkit. He did not reveal the names of the vulnerable applications or their makers. Each affected program will have to be patched separately. The security officer first hinted at the widespread bug in a message on Twitter August 18. “The cat is out of the bag, this issue affects about 40 different apps, including the Windows shell,” he tweeted, then linked to an advisory published by Acros, a Slovenian security firm. That advisory detailed a vulnerability in iTunes for Windows that hackers could exploit by persuading users to download and open a malformed media file, or by duping them into visiting a malicious Web site, where they would fall prey to a drive-by attack. Apple patched the iTunes for Windows bug last March when it updated the music player to Version 9.1. According to Apple, the bug does not affect Mac machines.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9180901/40_Windows_apps_contain_critical_bug_says_researcher

53. *August 18, The New New Internet* – (International) **Facebook recommends spam profiles to users.** A feature on Facebook designed to suggest new friends to users is also pushing spam profiles, according to security researchers. Researchers with F-Secure said the “People You May Know” section of Facebook appears to utilize search history in providing options for possible new connections. “I frequently search for

spam related keywords, and today, two spam accounts were recommended to me,” a researcher writes. By searching deeper, the researcher was able to find a series of spam accounts created on the same date.

Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2010/08/18/facebook-recommends-spam-profiles-to-users/>

54. *August 18, DarkReading* – (International) **Researcher cracks ReCAPTCHA.** A researcher earlier this month demonstrated how he solved Google’s reCAPTCHA program even after recent improvements made to the anti-bot and anti-spam tool by the search engine giant. An independent researcher also released the algorithms he wrote to crack reCAPTCHA. He had published a white paper on the hack prior to presenting his research at Defcon in Las Vegas, and said that Google made several fixes to reCAPTCHA that defeated several of his algorithms before he was scheduled to give his presentation. He then quickly came up with a few additional approaches with his algorithms, and said he was able to beat the updated reCAPTCHA 30 percent of the time. Google, however, thus far has not seen any signs of this being actively used in the wild. A Google spokesperson said the company had strengthened the verification words in the program both before and after the researcher’s paper was published. “We’ve found reCAPTCHA to be far more resilient while also striking a good balance with human usability, and we’ve received very positive feedback from customers,” the spokesperson said. “Even so, it’s good to bear in mind that while CAPTCHAs remain a powerful and effective tool for fighting abuse, they are best used in combination with other security technologies.”

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/authentication/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=226700514>

55. *August 18, The Register* – (International) **Facebook login page still leaks sensitive info.** Facebook’s log-in system continues to spill information that can be helpful to phishers, social engineers and other miscreants attempting to scam the more than 500 million active users of the social networking site. When a legitimate e-mail address is entered along with an incorrect password, the authentication system returns an error that reads: “Please re-enter your password. The password you entered is incorrect. Please try again (make sure your caps lock is off).” When an e-mail address that doesn’t belong to a Facebook user is entered, the response is: “Incorrect Email. The email you entered does not belong to any account.” The difference in the wording makes it possible for anyone to discern whether a given e-mail address is registered on Facebook, even when the corresponding password is unknown. The flaw was flagged by a Register reader who is a security analyst for EMC Corporation’s Critical Incident Response Center who calls it “one of the oldest security malpractices in the book.” The configuration makes it possible to verify the validity of huge numbers of e-mail addresses. It has been in place since last week, when Facebook developers fixed a much more serious bug that allowed attackers to match unknown e-mail addresses with users’ pictures and full names. It worked even for accounts that were configured to be private. It came to light after a researcher published a simple script that could quickly

scrape large numbers of names and pictures that corresponded to e-mail addresses.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/08/18/facebook_login_info_leak/

56. *August 18, Help Net Security* – (International) **Twitter app demonstrates spammers have nothing to worry about.** A fun, seemingly innocuous Twitter application created by a Scottish teenager became a good example of how easy is to trick even technologically savvy users into participating in a spam operation. The application — named Twifficiency — ostensibly calculates a user’s Twitter efficiency score using an algorithm that takes into account the number of people who follow the user, of people who the user follows, tweet frequency, and other variables. According to Softpedia, the resulting score doesn’t actually tell you anything significant about your Twitter habit, but seemed to be enough of an incentive to make people curious and willing to try it. But then, their Twitter account started sending out messages: “My Twifficiency score is #%. What’s yours? <http://twifficiency.com/>,” and they were not amused anymore. It turns out that to use the application, one must agree to let it tweet the score from one’s own account. And this condition was not hidden — it is stated clearly on the application page: “Twifficiency will tweet your score on your behalf. Do not use this app if you do not consent to this.”
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9756>

57. *August 17, Softpedia* – (International) **New ICQ worm infects thousands of users.** According to hundreds of reports posted in the past 48 hours on Russian forums and blogs, there’s a new computer worm currently spreading and infecting users on ICQ. It seems that the outbreak started sometime yesterday and manifests itself as a message received from a friend followed by a file transfer request for an 916.5 KB executable called snatch.exe. The rogue messages seem to vary, with “Look))”, “No, look)))”, “well, a mini game-type)” or “hello!” being just a few examples. The threat seems to be of Russian origin, which is not unusual since ICQ is the most popular instant messaging (IM) application in the country. According to a report on the VirusInfo forum (in Russian), the new worm is detected as IM-Worm.Win32.QiMiral.ax by Russian antivirus vendor Kaspersky Lab. Once executed, the malware takes control over the IM application and sends copies of itself to everyone in the account’s contact list.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-ICQ-Worm-Infects-Thousands-of-Users-152599.shtml>

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

58. *August 19, TMCnet* – (Texas) **Dallas-Fort Worth AT&T, Time Warner customers lose data service due to manhole theft.** According to CBS reports, the cause of an outage August 18 for AT&T U-verse and Time Warner customers in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area, was a data line cut due to a fire when welders were working on a manhole cover on a pedestrian walkway. The Texas Department of Transportation claims its crew was replacing a stolen manhole cover when the welding activities ignited an old wood structure located under the utility lines. Reportedly, the flames caught hold, burning or melting a number of fiber optic cables going through the conduit, interrupting data service. Time Warner and AT&T responded by re-routing some of the lines, getting customers back in businesses as quickly as possible. An NBC DFW report highlighted that while most AT&T U-verse customers were back up and running August 18, some in downtown Dallas may experience issues with their phone or broadband services.
Source: <http://cable.tmcnet.com/topics/cable/articles/95801-dallas-fort-worth-att-time-warner-customers-lose.htm>
59. *August 18, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Single server overwhelmed with Wa. election data.** A software glitch confounded election watchers during the “top two” primary, causing the Washington secretary of state’s Web site to crash when results began pouring in. State elections officials said a programming error accidentally sent most of the Web traffic to just one of the state’s six servers at the digital archives in Cheney. While the other five sat essentially idle, the overload slowed and then overwhelmed that single server. The spokesman for the secretary of state said state officials are working with experts from Microsoft to fix the problem before November’s general election.
Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/24676433/detail.html>
60. *August 18, DarkReading* – (International) **Ferretting out rogue access points and wireless vulnerabilities.** For almost 18 months starting in 2005, attackers used wireless networks at TJX and other retail chains to steal credit card data. The vulnerabilities were not an isolated instance: Subsequent research found that about half of all retail outlets in one shopping center had insecure wireless networks. Today, WiFi security has improved somewhat, but insecurities in installations still remain far too common. Vulnerability assessments of more than two dozen companies found a quarter have rogue wireless access points that were installed by employees, and a third of their wireless networks had misconfigurations that undermined their security, according to wireless security firm AirTight Networks, which conducted the tests. “A rogue AP is a very serious problem if you have it — an unmanaged, unknown device that is circumventing your defenses,” said AirTight’s CEO. “All the layers of defense that you worked so hard to put in can be circumvented by a single device that is communicating in the clear.” Following the breaches at TJX and other retailers, the Payment Card Industry started requiring quarterly scans of wireless networks. It will likely increase the requirement to monthly scans. Firms that use wired-only scans are missing half of the picture, he said. Vulnerability scanning on the wired network could spot wireless routers, but it will not find insecurities in the network.
Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=226700495&subSection=Vulnerabilities+and+threats

61. *August 18, IDG News Service* – (National) **Satellite, public safety projects win broadband awards.** Four satellite-based broadband providers and emergency responders were among the winners in a new list of broadband grants and loans announced August 18 by two U.S. agencies. The awards, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, include more than \$307 million in grants to nine projects involving public safety networks, and \$100 million to four satellite broadband providers to cover remote areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced awards totaling \$1.8 billion to 94 projects August 18. The projects cover parts of 37 states. August 18 marked the first time that satellite providers received awards from the ARRA broadband programs. The satellite providers can help reach U.S. residents who live in areas that may be too expensive to serve in other ways, an administrator at the RUS said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9180879/Satellite_public_safety_projects_wi_n_broadband_awards

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Commercial Facilities Sector

62. *August 18, KSDK 5 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Bomb squad called to Crestwood law office.** The bomb squad was called August 18 in Crestwood, Missouri, after an employee at a law firm spotted a suspicious device. When police arrived, they found a pipe, a cap and a fuse. Dozens of people were evacuated while police searched the area. However, the bomb squad detonated the device. Further investigation revealed no powder was found inside the pipe.

Source: <http://www.ksdk.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=212293&catid=3>

63. *August 18, Easton Express-Times* – (New Jersey) **Land of Make Believe in Hope Township remains open after drinking water sample tested positive for E. coli.** A sample of drinking water at the Land of Make Believe in Hope Township, New Jersey tested positive for E. coli bacteria last month, leading to plumbing repairs and ongoing restrictions on water use, a Warren County, New Jersey, health officer said August 17. County officials anticipated new test results later this week, but given the safety measures already undertaken, the 50-plus-year-old amusement park will remain open even if those results come back positive. The facility is safe for visitors. The pool water has not tested positive for E. coli bacteria.

Source: <http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/warren-county/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1282104315245270.xml&coll=3>

64. *August 17, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Report of gunman forces evacuation of Aventura office plaza.** Police have evacuated an Aventura, Florida office plaza after a woman told police she saw a man with a firearm inside the building. An Aventura police spokesman said they received a call from a doctor's office employee inside the plaza. The employee said a man came into the office asking questions when she noticed he had a firearm. The woman told police she got everyone out of her office, went to a nearby travel agency and called for help. Police arrived and evacuated the rest of the building.
Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/08/17/1780308/report-of-gunman-forces-evacuation.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

65. *August 19, Associated Press* – (California) **Fire burns 66 acres in San Bernardino County.** Firefighters are nearing containment of a fire burning in the San Bernardino National Forest south of Hesperia and north of Crestline, California. A U.S. Forest Service spokesman said the fire was 75 percent contained late August 18 and had consumed 66 acres of brush that evening. It is expected to be fully contained by August 19. The fire did not pose any threats to homes, but the steep terrain challenged firefighters. The fire started about 5 p.m. August 17 during a thunderstorm.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_15825357?nclick_check=1
66. *August 18, Vancouver Columbian* – (Washington) **Forest fire forces evacuation of Lewis River Horse Camp.** A fire burning near Straight Creek on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington has forced the closure of Lewis River Horse Camp and a section of Forest Service Road 9300. The 15-acre fire is burning on Forest Service land between Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams. A bulletin from the U.S. Forest Service said campers at Lewis River Horse Camp have been asked to leave the area, but Forest Road 9300 is still accessible from the south via Forest Road 25 or 9039. Forest Road 9300 is closed from the junction with Forest Road 90 to Forest Road 9341, a closure of about 5 miles of Forest Road 9300. The closure is expected to last a week as the fire is contained and mop-up procedures are completed. As of the afternoon of August 18, about 25 firefighters were on the scene with three more 20-person crews on the way. This will be a small Type 3 team of nearly 100 people.
Source: <http://www.columbian.com/news/2010/aug/18/forest-fire-forces-evacuation-of-lewis-river-horse/>
67. *August 18, WTHI 10 Terre Haute* – (Indiana) **2,000 pot plants found in state park.** Authorities found about 2,000 marijuana plants growing in a state park in Turkey Run State Park in Parke County, Indiana. Around noon August 17, officials received information about a possible marijuana growth. When authorities arrived, they found a large plot with large plants growing along Narrows Road on the east side of the park. Conservation officials said it is not uncommon for them to find these plots growing in a place like this. "We have some knowledge that these types of growing processes do

take place on public parks, state property, federal property and it's because it is secluded and makes for a good growing operation.” a conservation officer said. Officials said the street values on these plants is about \$5 million. Police are still investigating. They have no suspects at this time.

Source: http://www.wishtv.com/dpps/news/indiana/big-marijuana-bust-in-state-park-share_3553269

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Dams Sector

68. *August 19, Sioux City Journal* – (Nebraska; South Dakota; Iowa) **Corps will release more water from dams on Missouri.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said August 18 it will gradually increase releases from Fort Randall Dam, South Dakota, and Gavins Point Dam, Nebraska, over the next two weeks. The releases are necessary to continue evacuating flood water stored in the Missouri River main stem reservoir system, according to the chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Office in Omaha. At the peak, more than 9 million acre feet of flood water was stored in the reservoir system, requiring evacuation prior to next year's runoff season. The increases will be timed to match the declines in the tributaries which enter the Missouri River just below Gavins Point Dam. The higher releases are not expected to increase stages on the lower river. Stages in the Fort Randall to Gavins Point reach will increase approximately 1 to 1.5 feet over the next two weeks.

Source: http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/article_6a65a840-fc28-56f2-934e-5c0bf7de37d3.html

69. *August 19, Dawn* – (International) **Garhi Khairo evacuated after breach in canal.** Fresh breaches made in the Begari canal in Pakistan sent torrents of water gushing towards small towns and villages in Qamber-Shahdadkot district August 18, leading to forced evacuations of thousands. The water level in towns affected by earlier waves of floods was receding, but they were likely to remain inundated for several days. In Dadu, two artificial breaches of 50 feet were made in an embankment at Aghamani-Nau Goth and Aghamani-Nari road to protect three union councils of Mehar taluka, inundating 15 villages. The Indus was building up pressure along the Right Bank Outfall Drain-II, and two 100-foot breaches occurred in a valley near Laki Shah Saddar, inundating Shahnawaz Mallah, Bhatti, Chohan and Mahar villages. Villagers were trying to repair the town's protective embankment. Some parts of the Manjhand embankment were depressed or curved, and breaches were likely at these places. Stones were pitched and sandbags placed along the embankment, but the staff deployed at the embankment was insufficient to cope with an emergency.

Source: <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/garhi-khairo-evacuated-after-breach-in-canal-980>

70. *August 19, Natchez Democrat* – (Mississippi) **Robins Lake Road residents suffer flood damage.** Water from the 50-acre Robins Lake poured over the dam on Robins Lake Road in Natchez, Mississippi like a waterfall August 18, covering approximately

80 yards of the road and rendering it impassable. The Adams County emergency management director said he strongly urged residents in the Robins Lake area and south of it to evacuate their houses as a safety precaution. The private gravel road across from the failed dam was opened for public use August 18 due to the emergency. Construction on the dam approximately six years ago added four culverts to allow water to pass by, for the purpose of preventing what happened August 18. An official said if the dam would have collapsed, it would release enough water from the lake to flood numerous homes in the area. The director said he did not think the dam would bust, but it was possible. The road will remain closed until the county roads department deems it safe to pass, he said.

Source: <http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/news/2010/aug/19/robins-lake-road-residents-suffer-flood-damage/>

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