



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 August 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to Reuters, crews were working August 23 to control an oil well blowout that has forced evacuation of homes and businesses near Belle Rose, Louisiana, about 70 miles west of New Orleans, officials said. (See item [5](#))
- Seven people are in intensive care, and 130 people have sought treatment, one day after an August 23 ammonia leak at a coastal Alabama plant that freezes chickens, Associated Press reports. (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. *August 24, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Japan to inspect oil tanker after suspected Mideast attack.** Officials for the United Arab Emirates have said they believe an explosives-laden boat struck the M Star in the July 28 “terrorist attack,” which dented the hull of the Japanese vessel and slightly injured one crew member. Militant jihadists have made unconfirmed claims that a suicide bomber attacked the ship, owned by Mitsui OSK Lines and crewed by 16 Filipinos and 15 Indians, in the

vital waterway leading to the oil-rich Persian Gulf. Japan has set up a special committee comprising self-defense force, coastguard, diplomatic, police and other officials, and the government has described the suspected attack as “extremely grave.” The transport ministry has reported that the tanker’s voyage data recorder captured radar images showing a small vessel making suspicious movements nearby around the time of the blast. The ministry also reported that the tanker suffered sizable damage both above and below the waterline, and that “extraneous material” had been recovered from the blast area, the official said.

Source: <http://news.ph.msn.com/business/article.aspx?cp-documentid=4292102>

2. *August 24, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **Transformer fire causes outages in downtown Shreveport.** A transformer in downtown Shreveport caught on fire August 24 causing power outages in the area. It happened about 7:30 a.m. behind a business in the 400 block of Commerce Street, according to officials. Firefighters used a dry chemical fire extinguisher to keep the blaze under control until AEP Swepeco arrived on the scene. There were no damages to the nearby building, but several businesses were without power. The fire also knocked out traffic lights in the area.
Source: <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20100824/NEWS03/100824007/Transformer-fire-causes-outages-in-downtown-Shreveport>
3. *August 24, KVUE 33 Austin* – (Texas) **Severe thunderstorms create power outages across Houston.** At least 51,000 customers were left without power the evening of August 23 after severe thunderstorms moved across the Houston, Texas area. At one point 95,000 customers were without power and many of those outages were clustered in southwest Houston, according to CenterPoint Energy. A strong line of thunderstorms moved across multiple counties during the evening rush hour. Damage from strong winds and hail were also reported.
Source: <http://www.kvue.com/news/state/Severe-thunderstorms-create-power-outages-across-Houston--101368214.html>
4. *August 24, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Fire does minor damage at SD ethanol plant.** A spokesman for Sioux Falls-based ethanol producer Poet says a fire at a plant in Chancellor, South Dakota caused only minor damage and no injuries. He said crews quickly had the blaze under control after it broke out about 9:15 p.m. August 23. Crews were working on a dryer at the plant and some dust ignited. Dozens of firefighters from three towns responded to the scene, and highway patrol troopers blocked off roads around the plant for a time.
Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=13034490>
5. *August 23, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Crews work to shut 2nd Louisiana oil well blowout.** Crews were working August 23 to control an oil well blowout that has forced evacuation of homes and businesses near Belle Rose, Louisiana, about 70 miles west of New Orleans, officials said. No one was hurt when the blowout began August 11. But six homes and two businesses were evacuated and stretches of road closed in a 1-mile perimeter around the well that has gushed as high as 200 feet into the air. The well,

owned by Mantle Oil and Gas LLC of Friendswood, Texas, was being completed by Cajun Well Service of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, when the blowout happened, officials said. Drilling of a relief well to control the blowout began over the weekend and could take 3 to 6 weeks, a news release from the Assumption Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness said. More than 44,000 barrels (1.8 million gallons) of oil, gas condensate and brine have been captured inside a dike around the well since the blowout began, and the spill was being vacuumed up, officials said. Source: <http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN2362670820100823>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *August 24, WAFB 9 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **I-10 closure creates major traffic problems.** An 18-wheeler carrying hazardous materials overturned on Interstate 10 East at the I-10/I-12 Split near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, early August 24, closing all I-10 eastbound lanes. According to traffic officials with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the accident happened around 5:40 a.m. and the closure will probably last at least until noon. Traffic is being diverted to I-12 East. Congestion is heavy on the exit ramp at I-12 East at Essen and has reached the I-10/I-12 Junction. Congestion on the exit ramp from I-12 East leading to Airline South has reached onto I-12. The Baton Rouge Fire Department said the box truck carried barrels of flammable liquid, but they have not found any leaks and there is no imminent danger to the public right now. Hazmat officials are assessing whether or not those containers must be taken out of the trailer before it can be turned back upright. No time frame was given for when any of the lanes would be reopened. Source: <http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?S=13033289>

7. *August 23, Jefferson City News Tribune* – (Missouri) **Emergency crews clean up liquid oxygen spill.** A faulty valve caused about 3,000 gallons of liquid oxygen to leak onto Missouri Boulevard in Jefferson City, Missouri, the afternoon of August 23. According to Jefferson City Fire Department reports, a valve broke on a truck hauling 6,000 gallons of liquid oxygen around 1:40 p.m. This was near the rear of St. Mary's Medical Center and across the street from the hospital's accounting building. As a precaution, 50 people working in the accounting building were evacuated. The Cole County HAZMAT Team was called in to stand by and officials with the state department of natural resources were also called in. Eventually the valve was repaired and the workers were allowed to return to their office building. Jefferson City police shut down the 500 block of Missouri for about an hour so crews could work the scene. Source: http://www.newstribune.com/articles/2010/08/23/breaking_news/doc4c72d0ddae075227883840.txt

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *August 24, Reuters* – (Alabama) **TVA Ala. Browns Ferry 1, 2 reactor output rises.** Tennessee Valley Authority’s 1,065-megawatt Browns Ferry 1 and 1,104-MW Browns Ferry 2 nuclear power reactors located near Athens, Alabama had increased output by early August 24, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said in its power reactor status report. Browns Ferry 1 was at 92 percent power August 24, up from 70 percent August 23, while Unit 2 was at 81 percent power, also up from 70 percent August 23. The 1,105-MW Unit 3 remained at 68 percent of capacity August 24 the NRC report said. All three units at the station have been reduced several times this summer due to high river water temperatures. Unit 3 was shut early in the month to fix a small packing leak on a head vent valve within the containment, the agency said previously.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2423993020100824>

9. *August 24, Vermont Public Radio* – (Vermont) **Group wants feds to address Yankee safety.** An anti-nuclear group said federal regulators need to address a potential safety problem at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon, Vermont. The New England Coalition said Yankee’s electric cables could get wet and disable safety equipment. As a VPR newscaster reports, the coalition has asked the NRC to reopen hearings on Yankee’s request for a new, 20-year license. Back in May 2010, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine inspection at Vermont Yankee and noted that a number of electric cables at the plant were submerged in water. The inspectors said it is a potential safety problem because the cables are not designed to work when wet. The New England Coalition has asked the NRC to include the cables in its review of Yankee’s request for a new 20-year license.
Source: http://www.vpr.net/news_detail/88691/

10. *August 20, Global Security Newswire* – (Massachusetts) **Authorities drill at MIT for ‘Dirty Bomb’ material theft.** Federal, state and local agencies August 19 responded to a simulated attempt by extremists to seize radioactive cobalt from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for use in a radiological “dirty bomb,” the Boston Globe reported. The FBI and Energy Department coordinated the unpublicized exercise, which involved medical and fire personnel as well as state, city and campus police. The effort was part of the “Silent Thunder” series of drills, which focuses on responses by multiple levels of government to threats involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons. Government sources refused to discuss difficulties that might have emerged in the drill, which addressed possible means of preventing would-be thieves from obtaining dirty-bomb ingredients as well as potential government responses to an attack involving radiological material or a different type of unconventional weapon. “Exercises of this type are valuable tools for enhancing coordination among the various organizations involved in response management,” the MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory

head said.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100820_3693.php

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *August 24, Middletown Press* – (Connecticut) **Workers at manufacturing co. evacuated after transformer begins smoking Monday.** Workers at Pegasus Manufacturing in Middletown, Connecticut were evacuated August 23 after someone spotted smoke from a transformer and thought it might be on fire. When firefighters arrived, there was moderate smoke coming from the transformer inside the building but no active fire could be found. All workers had already been evacuated. It appeared to be an electrical issue, officials said, and Connecticut Light & Power was called to the scene. There were no injuries. Office staff was let back into the building after about 15 to 20 minutes, while shop staff was kept outside for a bit longer. Pegasus is a contract manufacturer of aerospace, defense and hi-tech related components that also makes ground turbine/engine efficiency inspection equipment.

Source:

<http://middletownpress.com/articles/2010/08/24/news/doc4c72ba5997a73453790358.txt>

12. *August 23, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Mason plant cited for safety violations.** A Mason County facility has been fined nearly \$70,000 by federal authorities for workplace safety and health violations including noise and respiratory hazards. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) launched an inspection of Quality Engineered Steels LLC, doing business as West Virginia Cold Drawn in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, as part of a national emphasis program on violations that can lead to amputations. As a result, OSHA cited the steel-bar manufacturer for 35 serious violations with a proposed penalty of \$67,250, and four other-than-serious violations with a proposed penalty of \$2,000. “Inspectors identified a long list of hazards compromising the company’s ability to provide a safe and healthy work environment for its employees, and those issues should be corrected immediately,” said the director of OSHA’s Charleston Area Office.

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201008231012>

13. *August 20, WBRC 6 Birmingham* – (Alabama) **Two people arrested for stealing copper in McCalla.** Two people have been arrested in connection with the theft of several hundred pounds of copper from an aerospace supply company in McCalla, Alabama. The Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department said two men were arrested August 17 trying to sell the copper. Deputies said the men are suspects in two burglaries that happened at the company August 14 and 15. A detective, with the help of a local recycling company, caught the two men trying to sell the copper. The copper, described by deputies as “high-dollar copper Aerospace pins,” was said to be worth more than \$5,000.

Source: <http://www.myfoxdotcom.com/Global/story.asp?S=13019798>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *August 23, Aviation Week* – (National) **First UCAS flight slips to December.** The U.S. Navy is slipping the first flight of the Unmanned Combat Air System (UCAS) demonstrator at least six months to December, said the Navy's UCAS program manager. Navy officials said they still expect to meet the goal set by the chief of naval operations for UCAS to operate from an aircraft carrier in Fiscal 2013, but they need more time to work on the air vehicle/ship interface. The unexpected complexity of the interface caused the delay. Resolving this issue now is essential, because this piece of UCAS will flow into a successor program called the Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (Uclass) system, and it is likely to set the precedent for future unmanned carrier aviation systems. Northrop Grumman has been designing and building two X-47B air vehicle demonstrators since 2007. The Navy and the company targeted late 2009 for the first UCAS flight, but it slipped until summer 2010. Now, however, the first UCAS flight at Edwards Air Force Base in California, is planned for December 12. In early 2012, both air vehicles will be shipped to Houston, then loaded onto barges bound for NAS in Patuxent River, Maryland, in preparation for further trials. These will involve shore-based catapult takeoffs and trap landings. The aircraft will then be sent to "chase ships" and operate near the carrier before attempting a landing on the aircraft carrier Truman in 2013.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=defense&id=news/asd/2010/08/23/07.xml&headline=First UCAS Flight Slips To December

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *August 24, Associated Press* – (International) **U.K. fines Zurich Insurance for losing customer data.** Britain's financial regulator August 24 imposed a record fine of \$3.5 million on Zurich Insurance PLC for losing confidential data on 46,000 customers. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) said the security breach — which included the loss of identity information and in some cases details of bank accounts, credit cards and insured assets — could have exposed customers to significant losses although there is no evidence the data was misused. The FSA said Zurich Insurance, part of Switzerland's Zurich Financial Services Group, outsourced some data work to the company's South African unit, which lost an unencrypted back-up tape in August 2008. The FSA said the loss was not discovered until a year later. "Zurich U.K. let its customers down badly," said the FSA's director of enforcement and financial crime. She said the company failed to oversee the outsourcing arrangement effectively and did not have full control over the data being processed. "To make matters worse, Zurich U.K. was oblivious to the data loss incident until a year later," she said. The fine was

the largest ever imposed by the FSA on a single company for a data loss, even though Zurich Insurance got a 30 percent discount from the maximum because it cooperated with the investigation.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/08/24/business-financials-eu-britain-zurich-insurance_7872461.html

16. *August 24, Bank Info Security* – (International) **An end to ‘empty envelope’ fraud.** It has been nearly six years since the passage of Check 21, the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, but the banking industry has not fully embraced it. Check 21 is the federal law that gives electronic check images value legally equivalent to paper checks. It also speeds the delivery and exchange of check images. Other advantages have been realized, too, such as the ability for merchants to remotely deposit check images, and for institutions to eliminate deposit envelopes. Many large institutions have emerged as leaders in the automated, “envelope-free” ATM movement, but a senior analyst at Aite Group LLC said this is isolated. That’s because a large percentage of mid-sized firms, and most small banks and credit unions, have made few strides. The analyst estimates that 50 percent of the country’s bank- and credit-union-owned ATMs still rely on envelopes, which keeps the door open for fraud. Empty-envelope fraud is perpetrated by accountholders who deposit envelopes that are either completely empty or hold deposits of cash or checks for amounts that are less than what they have keyed in at the ATM. Banks and credit unions don’t catch the fraud until the envelopes are opened, often several days after the actual deposit has been made. Imaged deposits eliminate empty-envelope fraud, since deposits are imaged and verified in real-time, as they are inserted into the ATM.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2865

17. *August 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **Apple can’t stop ongoing iTunes charge scam.** Users of Apple’s iTunes services should keep a close eye on PayPal and credit card statements for fraudulent iTunes charges. For more than a year, scammers have been racking up unauthorized charges on iTunes accounts, leaving Apple’s customers to clean up the mess. Tech Crunch and the San Jose Mercury News report that the scam drains hundreds of dollars or more from accounts and that consumers have been complaining about the problem since at least early 2009. The number of people being hit by the fraudsters now seems to be growing, however. PayPal, which is often processing the unauthorized charges, confirmed August 23 that customers are being reimbursed for the fraud. The fraud “is happening on the iTunes side,” a PayPal spokeswoman said via e-mail. She referred further questions about the scam to Apple. Scammers appear to be gaining access to the accounts by sending out fake phishing e-mail messages that try to trick users into disclosing their iTunes user names and passwords. Those credentials are then used to pile on charges for music or iTunes gift codes. Apple said that victims of the fraud must work things out with their banks and credit card companies.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9181503/Apple_can_t_stop_ongoing_iTunes_charge_scam

18. *August 23, DarkReading* – (International) **Cybercriminals bilked Calgary company of \$1.8 million in payment card scam.** The U.S. Secret Service and Canadian authorities have busted a credit- and debit-card fraud ring that stole nearly \$2 million from a Calgary-based short-term credit and financial services firm by falsifying the value of prepaid debit cards offered by the company, according to reports. Authorities in Calgary did not reveal the company that was hacked. The firm was bilked of money when the fraudsters inflated the value of the cards and then withdrew the cash from bank machines across Canada and in other countries, Canada.com reported. Among the four Montreal-based suspects arrested in the case was an Israeli living in Montreal. Authorities are trying to confirm whether he is the hacker of the same name — aka “The Analyzer” — who in 1998 broke into Pentagon computers. A 29-year-old suspect was charged with six counts of fraudulent use of credit card data and another fraud count; a 30-year-old suspect, of Montreal, was charged with 23 counts of fraudulent use of credit-card data and another fraud count; a 28-year-old suspect, was charged with four counts of fraudulent use of credit-card data and two other fraud counts; and a 33-year-old suspect, was charged with one count of fraudulent use of credit-card data and one other fraud count. According to the report, there may be U.S. victims as well, as the Secret Service is still investigating the case. Vancouver authorities were working with the Secret Service in another case when they were alerted of the investigation by Calgary authorities.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/database_security/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=226900085&subSection=Attacks/breaches

19. *August 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Judge approves Countrywide ID theft settlement.** A federal judge August 23 granted final approval to a settlement between Countrywide Financial Corp. and millions of customers left at high risk for identity theft because of a security breach. Countrywide, now owned by Bank of America, will provide free credit monitoring for up to 17 million people whose financial information was exposed, according to the settlement. That group includes anyone who obtained a mortgage and anyone who used Countrywide to service a mortgage before July 1, 2008. People could be reimbursed up to \$50,000 for each time their identity was stolen. They would have to prove they lost something of value, were not already reimbursed, and that the theft stemmed from the Countrywide breach. The U.S. district judge of Paducah, Kentucky who oversaw more than three-dozen lawsuits related to the security breach, granted class-action status to the lawsuit and gave final approval of the settlement August 23. Attorneys for the plaintiffs say Countrywide Financial had all their clients’ financial information including mortgage information, credit card, and Social Security numbers and birth dates.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ifs94UkklbV95KwOjiNjclie-LewD9HPBMD00>

20. *August 23, Reuters* – (International) **No bomb found at Mexico bourse, operations normal.** No bomb has been found at the headquarters of Mexico City’s stock exchange and operations at the bourse continue normally, said a communications official at the

exchange. An anonymous bomb threat was called into Mexico City police earlier August 23.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67M4EI20100823>

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Transportation Sector

21. *August 24, Associated Press* – (New York) **Fire on NY’s Long Island Rail Road causes delays.** Morning rush-hour commuters on New York’s Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) should expect significant delays as the railroad works to fix the damage from a switching station fire. The LIRR said 33 westbound morning trains — or 25 percent of trains - were being canceled August 24. The affected routes will be replaced by bus service. The fire happened near the Jamaica station in Queens, a major transfer point for commuters going to or from Manhattan and Brooklyn and to various locations across Long Island. The commuter rail line is the nation’s largest and carries about 265,000 daily riders. The cause of the blaze appeared to be weather-related but is under investigation. The railroad said it could take several days to repair the problem.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/24/AR2010082401349.html>

22. *August 24, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FAA set to plumb mid-air incidents.** Responding to a spate of midair near-collisions in recent months, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) wants to bring pilots and air-traffic controllers together to voluntarily share information after such events. The goal of the initiative is to obtain a more complete picture of what led up to such dangerous incidents and how to prevent them. United Airlines is likely to be the initial participating carrier. The model program is intended to “more accurately identify potential hazards and develop more robust mitigation strategies” without seeking to punish either controllers or pilots, according to agency documents. “Merging the perspectives” of both groups and jointly analyzing data about mistakes, according to the FAA, may help “enhance the understanding” of the incidents. The National Transportation Safety Board, which recently began collecting its own data from pilots about airborne near-collisions across the U.S., has received roughly 400 reports over the past few months of cockpit-warning systems activating because planes may have flown too close to each other. The FAA Administrator has called for a review of procedures to combat the trend. The review is to include possible changes in training for air-traffic controllers, but also new ways to encourage controllers and their supervisors to report voluntarily. Under the initiative, controllers would rarely face punishment if they quickly and fully report inadvertent errors.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704340504575447883834823838.html>

23. *August 24, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Power problem halts MARC, Amtrak trains on Northeast Corridor.** Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) and Amtrak rail

service between Baltimore and Washington was suspended for more than an hour August 24 after low voltage problems halted trains along the Northeast Corridor. A system-wide catenary wire failure occurred around 7:40 a.m., according to a Maryland Transit Administration spokesman, halting MARC service on the Penn Line. By 9 a.m., Amtrak said that power was being restored. Three MARC trains along the Penn Line route were affected, with passengers on board. According to commuter reports, rescue trains were being sent to disabled trains. Diesel engines have been able to travel, but there weren't enough to accommodate all the morning traffic. There were no estimates on when train schedules would return to normal. Rail service disruptions were reported on Amtrak and regional train lines from New York to Philadelphia. This is the second time Northeast Corridor service has been disrupted in less than two weeks because of an Amtrak power problem.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-train-delays-20100824-9,0,4969275.story>

24. *August 23, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Weapon found in bag at airport, man arrested.** A native of India is facing some serious charges after investigators allegedly find a weapon and suspicious literature in his baggage at a Houston, Texas airport. The man was in court August 23 accused of carrying a prohibited item into an airport. Investigators said they found silver knuckles in the suspect's bag during the screening process at Bush Intercontinental Airport. Transportation Security Administration agents also found manuals on how to spy and create explosives in the man's bags. Prosecutors are also concerned about the books on Islam found in the suspect's possession. He is being held on a \$50,000 bond. The courts are notifying the man's embassy about his arrest.

Source: <http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/100823-vijay-kumar-arrest>

25. *August 23, Aircraft Maintenance Technology* – (International) **FAA announces category 1 safety rating for Nigeria.** The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that Nigeria has achieved a Category 1 rating under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program, which means that Nigeria complies with international safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). ICAO is the United Nations' technical agency for aviation which establishes international standards and recommended practices for aircraft operations and maintenance. The IASA Category 1 rating is based on the results of a July FAA review of Nigeria's civil aviation authority. With the IASA Category 1 rating, Nigerian air carriers may now apply to operate to the United States with their own aircraft. An IASA Category 1 rating means a country has the laws and regulations necessary to oversee air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards, and that its civil aviation authority – equivalent to the FAA for aviation safety matters – meets international standards for technical expertise, trained personnel, recordkeeping and inspection procedures.

Source: <http://www.amtonline.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=11594>

26. *August 23, Long Island Newsday* – (New York) **Pounding rain floods LI roads, strand motorists.** Pounding rain that hit Long Island, New York late August 22

flooded roadways, caused power outages, and left some motorists stranded in their vehicles, authorities said. Nassau County police said early Monday morning that there were no motorists still stuck in their vehicles. Just under 2 inches of rain had been recorded at the National Weather Service's Islip station. Forecasters said light rain would continue all day. There were also scattered power outages across Long Island, with 2,004 Long Island Power Authority customers without power, down from nearly 6,600 August 22. The flooding also caused at least 100 people to be evacuated from a Herricks neighborhood after part of a basement wall of one house collapsed, rupturing a gas main. Crews are trying to determine which homes are safe enough for residents to return to, and the Red Cross is on the scene to help anyone who might need shelter. The New York Department of Transportation reported flooding on the Northern State Parkway eastbound at Exit 28. Police responded to calls from several motorists on the closed stretch of the Long Island Expressway who had become trapped in their vehicles by the rising waters.

Source: <http://insurancenewsnet.com/article.aspx?id=220250&type=newswires>

27. *August 23, Natchez Democrat* – (Mississippi) **Bridge lights safe for river traffic.** Despite a few reports of concern, officials feel confident the new lighting on the Mississippi River bridge in Vidalia, Mississippi is safe for river traffic. A Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) resident engineer said his office had received one complaint call from the U.S. Coast Guard, but no other problems have been encountered. The Coast Guard received complaints that the \$3 million lighting system turned on in June reportedly made it difficult for some tugboat pilots to see. The engineer said MDOT had a plan in place just in case the lights made it a challenge for tugboat pilots to see. “When the bridge is finally finished, we will give a phone number to the tugboat captains to call if they are having a hard time seeing,” he said. “When they call the number, the lights are shut off so that they can see better.” He said crews contracted by MDOT have been working on the lights since July 2009, and by the end of this month, things should be complete. Overall, he said that reaction to the new lighting has been positive.

Source: <http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/news/2010/aug/23/bridge-lights-safe-river-traffic/>

28. *August 23, WCPO 9 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Explosive device found on Montgomery Road in Pleasant Ridge.** Police shut down a portion of Montgomery Road in Cincinnati, Ohio, for one hour after a passerby discovered an explosive device between railroad tracks and a driveway while cutting through the woods. Police removed the device and say it is an improvised type pipe bomb that they believe has been at the location for a number of years. Police also say because of its age, the device would not have gone off. No one was injured during the incident. Police have reopened the roadway and traffic is able to pass through normally. Police are focusing the rest of their investigation on finding out if a disgruntled employee of a nearby business may have left the device there some time ago.

Source: http://www.kypost.com/dpp/news/tri-state_news/suspicious-item-closes-montgomery-road-in-pleasant-ridge1282588688032

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Postal and Shipping Sector

29. *August 24, Hagerstown Herald-Mail* – (West Virginia) **Berkeley County office building evacuated after powder ‘hoax’**. Berkeley County’s administrative office building in Martinsburg, West Virginia was evacuated August 20 after an employee discovered white powder, later determined to be a sweetener, in an envelope, according to police and county officials. The Berkeley County Fire Board office administrator said she told the staff member who opened the envelope in the office at 400 W. Stephen St. to lay it on the desk and go wash her hands. “It was a little scary this morning,” she said. The building was evacuated for about an hour until the substance was removed, and preliminary tests revealed the substance was believed to a dextrose-based sweetener, police and emergency officials said. The Martinsburg Police Department said in a news release that the FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service had been contacted to help investigate.

Source: http://www.herald-mail.com/?cmd=displaystory&story_id=251358&format=html

30. *August 23, WATE 6 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **2 Knoxville men arrested for attempting to blow up mail boxes**. Two Knoxville, Tennessee men were arrested August 23 for making explosives in a West Knox County park. The two suspects are charged with two counts of prohibited weapons possession. Deputies were called to Bob Leonard Park on Watt Road after dispatchers were notified of someone exploding fireworks around 2:12 p.m. Officers said they arrived and found two men using fireworks to make improvised explosives to blow up mailboxes. Two devices were detonated by sheriff’s office bomb technicians with rural/metro was on standby. No one was injured and the deputies were assisted by FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents.

Source: <http://www.wate.com/global/story.asp?s=13031878>

31. *August 20, Calhoun Times* – (Georgia) **Police called for suspicious package in Calhoun**. Police were called to the Calhoun Post Office in Calhoun, Georgia August 19 after a man set a box in a corner and then quickly left. A bomb-sniffing dog and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation bomb disposal unit were called to the scene, but officers determined the box was empty. “Any time we have something like this, for obvious reasons, it’s better to let the dog check it out as opposed to just grabbing it,” said a spokesman with the Calhoun Police Department. He said witnesses indicated the man ran out of the building after leaving the package, worrying postal workers. “Of course we have to take whatever procedures possible for their safety,” he said. The police department received the call around noon and the post office reopened by mid-afternoon. Officers got a partial license plate number for the man’s vehicle. The spokesman said charges could include disorderly conduct and terroristic threats.

Source: http://romenews-tribune.com/view/full_story/9205387/article-Bomb-dog-

[clears-suspicious-package-left-at-Gordon-PO--GBI-will-x-ray?instance=home_news_lead_story](#)

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Agriculture and Food Sector

32. *August 25, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **7 in intensive care after Ala. ammonia leak.** Seven people are in intensive care a day after an ammonia leak at a coastal Alabama plant that freezes chickens. About 130 people have sought treatment since ammonia spilled August 23 at Millard Refrigerated Services in Theodore, creating a vapor cloud that also caused respiratory problems for people working nearby. Officials said four people were in intensive care at the University of South Alabama Medical Center August 24, and three more were in intensive care at Infirmary West. Hospitals said people are still showing up with complaints. Many of those taken to hospitals were working with BP's oil spill response along the Theodore Industrial Canal.
Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gJ0Lhi8d8b376OYsNwe7wEH/AhtGAD9HPUTNO1>

33. *August 24, CNN* – (National) **Nationwide meat recall announced.** Zemco Industries in Buffalo, New York, has recalled approximately 380,000 pounds of deli meat that may be contaminated with bacteria that can cause a potentially fatal disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced August 23. The products were distributed to Wal-Marts nationwide, according to the USDA's Web site. The meats may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, which was discovered in a retail sample collected by inspectors in Georgia. The USDA has received no reports of illnesses associated with the meats. The meats were produced on dates ranging from June 18 to July 2, 2010. The "Use By" dates range from August 20 to September 10, 2010.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/08/24/meat.recall/index.html?hpt=T2>

34. *August 24, Visalia Times-Delta* – (California) **Ammonia leak in Cutler forces evacuation; 6 workers hurt.** Six workers at the Wawona Packing plant in Cutler, California suffered what are believed to be minor injuries August 21 when an ammonia leak forced the evacuation of 500 employees, the Tulare County Fire Department reported. The affected workers complained of dizziness and breathing difficulties following the 10:32 p.m. incident, according to the division chief. None was expected to be hospitalized for more than 24 hours, he said. The status of the unidentified patients — four went to Kaweah Delta Medical Center and one each to Selma Community and Sierra Kings District hospitals — was not available August 23. The leak at the packing plant at 12133 Avenue 408 was the result of a damaged ammonia compressor that filled an engine room with the heavier-than-air gas, according to a news report. An ammonia alarm failed to warn employees, one of whom opened the engine-room door and allowed the gas to escape, the report said. The Visalia Fire Department haz-mat team was asked to respond, but the call was canceled when the

plant owner identified the chemical, he said.

Source: <http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20100824/NEWS01/8240314>

35. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island; New York) **Heath officials say exotic cheese from a N.Y.-based firm tests positive for listeria in R.I.** Rhode Island health officials are warning people not to consume an exotic cheese from a Brooklyn, New York-based firm after routine tests came back positive for listeria bacteria. A state department of health spokeswoman said the advisory covers queso fresco manufactured by Azteca Linda Corp. that has an expiration date of September 11. She said there are no confirmed cases of listeria in humans that are linked to the product. It was not immediately clear how widely the cheese has been distributed in Rhode Island. Health officials expect the manufacturer to recall the product.

Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/economy/heath-officials-say-exotic-cheese-from-a-ny-based-firm-tests-positive-for-listeria-in-ri-101381579.html>

36. *August 24, Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Dalton gas leak causes closure of downtown area.** Residents were being asked to avoid the downtown Dalton, Tennessee, area August 24 because of a gas leak at Reddy Ice. All downtown roads between Cuyler Street and Walnut Avenue were closed, from Thornton Street to the railroad tracks. The gas leak at Reddy Ice is an anhydrous ammonia leak. According to the Dalton Fire Department, it was caused by a problem that occurred during maintenance. A hazardous materials team from the Dalton Fire Department has closed the leaking valve and has left the building. They are now waiting for the gas to ventilate out. A second team will be going in shortly to monitor air quality.

Source: http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_182528.asp

For another story, see item [39](#)

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Water Sector

37. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Augusta testing water for contamination.** Officials in Augusta, Georgia, have broadened their examination of water downtown after an Augusta Chronicle analysis found elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria. The sampling began August 23 after the newspaper published a report August 22 revealing the results of water sample testing from 50 locations in Richmond, Columbia and Aiken counties. The manager of the Augusta Engineering Department's Stormwater and Environmental Section said his department has been aware of some of the problems and is moving to correct them. He said old, hidden sewer lines that are not properly hooked up to sanitary sewer systems may be to blame for the high levels of bacteria.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/augusta-testing-water-for-597980.html>

38. *August 23, Lahontan Valley News* – (Nevada) **Fire crews, HAZMAT crews called to water plant for acid leak.** The Fallon/Churchill, Nevada Volunteer Fire Department

along with the Federal Fire Department at Naval Air Station Fallon responded to a hydrochloric acid leak at the Fallon, Nevada water plant August 23. Others called out included the Fallon Police Department, paramedics from Banner Churchill Community Hospital, and a haz-mat response team. The Fallon mayor said the acid leaked from a holding tank. Employees were evacuated, and no injuries were reported. He said the spill is under investigation. He could not elaborate on the cause of the leak. According to the mayor, containment teams were checking the facility for any damage.

Source:

<http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/article/20100823/NEWS/100829955/1055&ParentProfile=1045>

39. *August 23, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Colorado; Nebraska; Kansas) **Western Sugar Cooperative to pay \$56,736 penalty and upgrade plant to settle Clean Water Act issues at Scottsbluff, Neb.** Western Sugar Cooperative, of Denver, Colorado, has agreed to pay a \$56,736 civil penalty, and will spend an additional \$350,000 on plant upgrades to cut pollution and save water and energy, to settle allegations that its sugar beet processing facility in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, had excessively high discharges of fecal coliform bacteria in wastewater. Western Sugar's facility at 2100 East Overland Drive in Scottsbluff allegedly violated the federal Clean Water Act on at least 14 occasions between December 2007 and January 2010, according to an administrative consent agreement and final order filed in Kansas City, Kansas. The plant's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit allowed it to discharge a daily maximum limit of 400 colony forming units (CFUs) of fecal coliform per 100 milliliters (mL) of water. However, an EPA inspection of records showed that the Scottsbluff facility reported excessive discharges ranging from 485 to 20,000 CFUs per 100 mL. Discharged water from the plant flows directly into the North Platte River, which has been officially listed by the State of Nebraska as being impaired by fecal coliform bacteria. In addition to paying a \$56,736 civil penalty to the United States, Western Sugar will undertake a supplemental environmental project through which it will spend at least \$350,000 to install a non-contact water condenser system at the Scottsbluff plant.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/5E082A198FCBAE6E852577880064F13B>

40. *August 22, Honolulu Star-Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Sand Island fire spontaneously starts.** Firefighters extinguished a fire that started by spontaneous combustion August 20 at the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Hawaii. The blaze started among the leftover material sitting in the transfer hopper of the fertilizer processing plant about 11:30 p.m., said a Honolulu fire captain. The plant makes fertilizer from solid waste material. About 35 firefighters, including a fire rescue crew and hazardous materials crew, struggled with the blaze in the confined space for about 3 and 1/2 hours. Firefighters sprayed water into the metal box, which is about 15 feet long on each side, and prevented the fire from spreading to other areas. No damage estimate was available.

Source:

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/policeandfire/20100822_Police_and_fire.html

41. *August 21, Wetumpka Herald* – (Alabama) **Exercise tests county’s response to lethal HAZMAT incident.** On August 17, The Elmore County, Alabama, Emergency Management Agency held a training exercise at the Wetumpka Water Works in Wetumpka, Alabama simulating an attack which resulted in a chlorine leak. The real-world conditions including high temperatures and 100 percent humidity added to the challenge, according to the Wetumpka fire chief and the deputy police chief. The exercise tested the response times of various area first responders. The Wetumpka fire and police departments, the Elmore County Sheriff’s Department, and hazardous materials experts from the county and the city of Tallassee all took part in the exercise. Source: <http://www.thewetumpkaherald.com/articles/2010/08/20/news/news01.txt>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

42. *August 23, Kurzweil Accelerating Intelligence* – (International) **Protein that destroys HIV discovered.** Loyola University Chicago researchers have identified the key components of a protein called TRIM5a that destroys HIV in rhesus monkeys. The finding could lead to new TRIM5a-based treatments that would knock out HIV in humans, said a senior researcher. The lead researcher and his colleagues report their findings in an article featured on the cover of the September 15, 2010 issue of the journal *Virology*, now available online. In 2004, other researchers reported that TRIM5a protects rhesus monkeys from HIV. The TRIM5a protein first latches on to a HIV virus, then other TRIM5a proteins gang up and destroy the virus. Humans also have TRIM5a, but while the human version of TRIM5a protects against some viruses, it does not protect against HIV. Researchers hope to turn TRIM5a into an effective therapeutic agent. But first they need to identify the components in TRIM5a that enable the protein to destroy viruses. “Scientists have been trying to develop antiviral therapies for only about 75 years,” the senior researcher said. “Evolution has been playing this game for millions of years, and it has identified a point of intervention that we still know very little about.” Source: <http://www.kurzweilai.net/protein-that-destroys-hiv-discovered>

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Government Facilities Sector

43. *August 24, The Register* – (International) **McAfee re-issues fake visa waiver virus warning.** Proving there’s not much new under the sun, McAfee is warning travelers to the United States to be aware of the danger of fake visa waiver Web sites. Travelers from 36 countries now need to apply online for a visa waiver when traveling to the United States. Because this is not something anyone will do often — the free pass lasts for two years — the danger of falling for a scam is increased. McAfee warns that cybercrooks have been busy building fake sites to mimic Homeland Security’s Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). The security firm found a simple search for “ESTA” or “ESTA form” threw up dodgy sites. These include sites offering

to fill in the free form for a fee, fake government sites, and sites requiring a form to be downloaded which actually contains malware. In fact, as the Bitter Wallet blog pointed out in 2009, many of the fake sites look more convincing than the real thing. The site noted of one of the fake sites it visited: “In fact it’s far more convincing than the official ESTA website, which has a design provided by a seven-year-old and the user functionality of a frightened horse.”

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/08/24/visa_celeb_warning/

44. *August 24, Everett Daily Herald* – (Washington) **Naval Station Everett personnel hospitalized after hazardous materials spill.** Several members of the fire department at Naval Station Everett in Everett, Washington were taken to the hospital August 23 as a precaution after a small hazardous materials spill at the base, officials said. A man who was delivering a package containing a cleaning compound also was taken to Providence Regional Medical Center Everett, said a public affairs officer for the base. The spokeswoman said the man received a leg injury. The incident occurred around 9 a.m. August 23, and led to the evacuation of the Fleet Industrial Supply Center on the base, the spokeswoman said. Everett medic and fire crews were called. The package fell to the ground, causing the leak, but it’s not clear how the accident occurred, the spokeswoman said.

Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100824/NEWS01/708249897>

45. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Douglas County investigates school vandalism.** The Douglas County sheriff’s office said two elementary schools in Minden, Nevada were the apparent targets of arson. Investigators said the incidents at Minden and Gardnerville elementary schools occurred August 18 and 19. In both cases, school custodians discovered the evidence that included scorch marks on the backboards of handball courts at both schools and an outer wall at Minden Elementary. Authorities said broken glass bottles and wicks made from cloth were found at the scenes. A \$500 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible.

Source: <http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=13033683>

46. *August 23, DarkReading* – (International) **United Nations website contains SQL injection flaws three years after hack, researcher says.** Three years after the United Nations’ Web site was defaced by activist hackers using a SQL injection attack, the site still contains multiple instances of these vulnerabilities. A security researcher who is CEO of Errata Security, did his now-annual checkup on the UN site and found that while the UN had removed the bug that was exploited in the August 2007 attack, the site is still rife with multiple SQL injection vulnerabilities. In the 2007 defacement, attackers replaced the then-Secretary General’s speeches with some of their own calling for “peace forever” and “no war.” The attackers exploited a SQL injection bug. “In what’s become a yearly blogpost, the UN still has not fixed the SQL injection problems that led to their Web site being hacked back in 2007,” the researcher blogged August 23. “For example, if you click on ‘print this article,’ then use that URL instead, the SQL injection still works.” He cited one example that shows how the Secretary-General’s speeches section of the site could easily be hacked by abusing the SQL

injection flaws there. A computer security expert, who develops the popular NoScript add-on for Firefox and a software developer working for InformAction, said the SQL injection-ridden UN website case is an example of how some organizations rely too heavily on setting rules to virtually “patch” their sites with Web application firewalls (WAFs) rather than actually fixing them. He said the bug used in the defacement was left unfixed for several months or more.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=226900111

47. *August 23, Augusta Chronicle* – (South Carolina) **Minor infractions found at MOX plant.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) most recent round of inspections at the U.S. Energy Department’s mixed oxide fuel facility near the Savannah River in South Carolina yielded four notices of violation for minor procedural infractions, according to a copy of the report made public this month. Inspectors, who conducted extensive reviews at the construction site from April 1 to June 30, also noted that many programs — including testing, mechanical and electrical work, adherence to policies and other construction activities — were “performed in a safe and quality- related manner.” The \$4.8 billion MOX facility, scheduled to open at the Savannah River Site in 2016, is designed to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium by using small amounts to make fuel for commercial reactors. The inspections evaluated construction of principal structures and included quality assurance and documentation activities, the report said. The four violations identified by the NRC were assigned a priority level of IV, the least serious on the agency’s scale. All are being corrected.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2010-08-23/minor-infractions-found-mox-plant?v=1282600531>

48. *August 23, Associated Press* – (Texas; International) **Stray bullet prompts call for more border security.** The Texas governor called again August 23 for the federal government to step up border security after officials said at least one stray bullet from a weekend shootout in Mexico hit a University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP) building in El Paso, Texas. A 30-minute firefight between gunmen and local and federal police broke out August 21 along the border on the west side of Ciudad Juarez, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso and ground zero in the Mexican drug cartel war. The shooting prompted the closure of a border highway in El Paso. On August 22, UTEP officials found a bullet lodged in an office door frame inside a campus building that police believe flew across the border during the shootout. Parts of the campus overlook Juarez. The Texas governor issued a written statement August 23 demanding that the U.S. President deploy a “significant force of personnel and resources to the border to protect our homeland.”

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15869786?nclick_check=1

For more stories, see items [10](#) and [29](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

49. *August 24, FortBendNow.com* – (Texas) **Fort Bend County ‘well served’ by ham radio operators during storm.** During the severe storms that battered Fort Bend County, Texas August 23, the county’s Emergency Management Radio Operators Group (EMROG) provided “vital information to the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office,” according to the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management. The weather reports and data that are reported by EMROG are utilized by the NWS to update its weather forecasts during the storm. More than 25,000 Centerpoint customers lost power during the storm, primarily in the Sugar Land area and Rosenberg/Richmond area. Though trees were falling, power outages were frequent and traffic was backed up, the resident volunteers of EMROG stayed by their stations and reported relevant information in a “very disciplined manner.” The sheriff’s office said EMROG’s operation during the storm provided the “best and most accurate” information he received.

Source: <http://www.fortbendnow.com/2010/08/24/47440>

50. *August 23, WALA 10 Mobile* – (Alabama) **More than 1.5M feet of boom recovered.** More than 90 percent of the hard boom initially deployed as part of the federal-led response but now potentially posing more risk than it offers protection for vital shorelines in Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle has now been recovered. Because virtually no visible oil has been spotted on the surface of the Gulf of Mexico in these areas recently, and in order to protect shorelines from any potential damage caused by boom in severe weather, the Incident Command Post at Mobile (ICP Mobile) announced that more than 1.5 million feet of hard boom has been recovered from those state waters. Responders remain vigilant and ready to deploy the boom should it be needed to protect the coast from any new threats from oil that may emerge in the coming days and weeks. ICP Mobile has worked with federal, state and local officials to evaluate plans for boom removal. During extreme weather, the boom could become a navigational or safety hazard, or could damage environmentally sensitive lands. After the boom is removed, it is inspected, cleaned, repaired (as necessary) and stored at sites along the Gulf Coast for immediate redeployment should the need arise. Boom that cannot be redeployed is recycled or reused to the fullest extent practical.

Source: http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/gulf_oil_spill/more-than-1-5m-feet-of-boom-recovered

51. *August 23, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (International) **Disaster response experts call for ‘red-helmet brigade’.** As Pakistan struggles with the biggest natural disaster in its history, complaints are increasing over the slow international response and demands are growing for the creation of an international reaction force to cope with catastrophes. “When you look back at disaster after disaster, we are confronted with the same problems,” said a Liberal MP from British Columbia. “The coordination of logistics on the ground always starts from square one. From the tsunami that hit Southeast Asia in 2004, to the earthquakes that killed thousands in Afghanistan and Pakistan, to the devastation Hurricane Katrina inflicted on the southern United States, to the Haiti earthquake, and now the floods in Pakistan, it is obvious we have learned

very little.” A medical doctor who has worked extensively on humanitarian crises in the developing world, the MP has long advocated having the United Nations establish a rapid response unit to coordinate responses to natural disasters.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/disaster-response-experts-call-red-helmet-brigade>

52. *August 22, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **McKinney police building’s success against gun attack shows value of secure design.** After not one employee felt a scratch when a suspect fired more than 100 rounds at the McKinney, Texas public safety building August 17, the building itself became a hero. Praised in public by the mayor and police chief, the bulletproof fortress represents the new breed of municipal buildings. In an era of homeland security, even the smallest towns are erecting safeguarded structures designed to keep people out rather than draw them in. And on August 17, it paid off. “We saw the design change after the Oklahoma City bombing,” said a man whose company, Pogue Construction, led the \$17.6 million McKinney project four years ago. “Whereas before people thought of public buildings as open spaces to see your tax dollars at work, now they’ve started thinking about those people’s safety and closing off the building. The intent is to separate.” Secure access points and the arrangement of rooms create a buffer between McKinney law enforcement officials and the public. Windows sit just above eye level to prevent direct attack. They slope to limit ledges for explosive devices. Bulletproof glass protects the lobby, and bullet-resistant liner lies inside the masonry walls.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/collin/mckinney/stories/082210dnmetmcs shooting.258565a.html>

For another story, see item [58](#)

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Information Technology Sector

53. *August 24, Help Net Security* – (International) **Malware peddlers engaged in celebrity mass killings.** Plane crashes and car accidents are the preferred methods of killing off celebrities in order to lure e-mail recipients into opening a malicious attachment, Symantec reports. Many names are rotated in the template e-mails sent in this recent malicious spam run, professing either that the celebrity in question was killed when a plane crashed into a mountainside or in an automobile accident. To find out more about the accident, potential victims are urged to download the attached file (Hot News.zip), which actually contains the Zeus Trojan, waiting to be run. Even if the discrepancy between the name in the subject line and the actual content of the e-mail escaped a person’s notice, they can be sure it is never a good idea to open attachments or links contained in unsolicited e-mails. Perhaps the sender name or e-mail looks like it belongs to a reputable news agency, but that information can be faked.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1440

54. *August 24, Help Net Security* – (International) **DEFCON survey reveals vast scale of cloud hacking.** An in-depth survey carried out among 100 people at the 2010 DEFCON conference in Las Vegas has revealed that an overwhelming 96 percent of respondents said they believed the cloud would open up more hacking opportunities for them. “While ‘only’ 12 percent said they hacked cloud systems for financial gain, that still means a sizeable headache for any IT manager planning to migrate their IT resources into the cloud,” said Fortify’s chief privacy officer (CPO). According to the CPO, when one reviews the prediction from numerous analysts that at the start of 2010, 20 percent of businesses would have IT resources in the cloud within four years, one can appreciate the potential scale and complexity of the security issues involved. In the many predictions, he explained, 20 percent of organizations would own no appreciable IT assets, but would instead rely on cloud computing resources — the same resources that 45 percent of the DEFCON attendees in the survey cheerfully admitted to already having tried to hack. Breaking down the survey responses, 21 percent believe that SaaS cloud systems are viewed as being the most vulnerable, with 33 percent of the hackers having discovered public DNS vulnerabilities, followed by log files (16 percent) and communication profiles (12 percent) in their cloud travels.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9773>

55. *August 23, DarkReading* – (International) **Mobile devices threaten enterprises from within.** Today, most office workers carry mobile phones into work. Much of the time, the devices are more advanced smartphones, such as Android-based phones, Blackberry devices, or Apple iPhones. The employees almost never consider the security implications of bringing connected devices behind a company’s firewall. Yet the trend has not escaped the notice of chief security officers and information-technology administrators. Smartphones are becoming prolific within enterprises, but the security teams do not really have a handle on how to secure the devices, said the CEO of Lookout, a mobile security firm. “They have spent a vast amount of resources in terms of dollars and time to defend their corporate networks and the traditional network security perimeter, but the mobile device has trusted access to the very critical data at the soft and chewy center of the company,” he said. “It’s almost a Trojan horse into the enterprise itself.” In other words, insider attacks may come not from a malicious employee, but from an ignorant employee bringing a compromised device into the workplace. The conclusion is not a surprise: Over the past year, security researchers and attackers have increasingly focused on smartphones and other mobile platforms. The attention highlighted a bevy of potential attack scenarios, including information leakage and outright control of the personal devices.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/insidethreat/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=226900118>

56. *August 23, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft releases tool to block DLL load hijacking attacks.** Microsoft August 23 responded to reports of potential zero-day attacks against a large number of Windows programs by publishing a tool it said would block known exploits. However, the company declined to confirm whether any of its own applications are vulnerable, saying it is currently investigating Microsoft-

made software. The advisory was its first public reaction to a wave of reports from researchers that developers have left a large number of Windows programs open to attack. Many Windows applications do not call code libraries — dubbed “dynamic-link library,” or “DLL” — using the full pathname, but instead use only the filename, giving hackers wiggle room. Criminals can exploit that by tricking the application into loading a malicious file with the same name as the required DLL. The result: Hackers can hijack the PC and plant malware on the machine. Microsoft went to lengths today to tell users that the flaw isn’t in Windows. Because application developers, not Windows, are to blame, Microsoft can’t patch the operating system without crippling an unknown number of programs that run on the platform. Instead, Microsoft and third-party developers must sniff out which of their programs are vulnerable, then patch each separately. To ward off attacks until then, Microsoft has, as expected, released a tool that blocks the loading of DLLs from remote directories, such as those on USB drives, Web sites and an organization’s network, all possible vectors.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9181518/Microsoft_releases_tool_to_block_DLL_load_hijacking_attacks

57. *August 23, Computerworld* – (International) **Hacking toolkit publishes DLL hijacking exploit.** The appearance August 23 of exploit code for the DLL loading issue that reportedly affects hundreds of Windows applications means hackers will probably start hammering on PCs shortly, security experts argued. “Once it makes it into Metasploit, it doesn’t take much more to execute an attack,” said the director of security operations for nCircle Security. “The hard part has already been done for [hackers].” The director was referring to the release earlier August 23 of exploit code by the founder of the Metasploit open-source hacking toolkit. The founder of Metasploit also issued an auditing tool that records vulnerable applications, information which can then be used to launch the exploit code that he crafted and added to Metasploit. Together, the tool and exploit create an effective “point-and-shoot” attack, said the founder. “With it in Metasploit, people will definitely be looking at these [vulnerabilities],” said the CTO at Qualys. “They gain a lot of visibility once in Metasploit, and I’d expect to see some kind of public exploit in the next couple of weeks.” According to reports that first appeared recently, developers, including Microsoft’s, have misused a crucial function of Windows, leaving a large number of Windows programs vulnerable to attack because of the way they load components.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9181513/Hacking_toolkit_publishes_DLL_hijacking_exploit

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 23, KSNT 27 Topeka* – (Kansas) **911 system failure.** Residents were unable to make 911 calls to the Shawnee County, Kansas, Sheriff’s office in areas near Silver Lake and Rossville. The Shawnee County Emergency Communications Center has reported this outage to CenturyLink, the service provider in these communities. Citizens were asked to call non-emergency numbers to report emergencies. The outage was reported August 23 just before 2 p.m., and CenturyLink was notified immediately. Source: <http://www.ksnt.com/news/local/story/911-system-failure/L8AKSvNfhEOvdZKNpUnf5A.csp>
59. *August 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **Microsoft BPOS cloud suite hit by access problems.** Access to various Microsoft hosted software products for businesses in North America was affected August 23 due to a performance issue with its data center in the region. The problem lasted more than 2 hours, between 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time, and impacted “some customers in North America” who experienced “intermittent access to our data center,” Microsoft said in a statement. “The outage was caused by a network issue that is now fully resolved, and service has returned to normal. During the duration of the issue, customers were updated regularly via our normal communication channels,” Microsoft added. Earlier, Microsoft alerted potentially affected customers with a notice distributed via a syndicated feed, which stated that customers could experience “timeouts” with a number of hosted services, including Business Productivity Online Suite (BPOS), Exchange Online, SharePoint Online, Office Live Meeting and Office Communications Online. Also among the services impacted were the Administration Center, Sign-In application, My Company Portal and Customer Portal of Microsoft Online Services, according to the alert. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS188745639320100824>
60. *August 20, KY3 Springfield* – (Missouri) **Thieves target telephone lines for valuable copper.** Copper thieves have been targeting the Springfield, Missouri area’s lines of communication. “We’ve had several thefts recently where people have cut down our cables,” said AT&T’s regional director. Those AT&T lines were in northern Greene County, and were stolen from at least two different locations. The company said the lines cut were some main trunk lines that serve numerous customers. Also, at least 400 feet of Windstream’s lines in southern Polk County were ripped off early August 20, leaving dozens of locals without a dial tone. Service to most customers was expected to be restored by Friday evening. Source: <http://www.ky3.com/news/local/Thieves-targetting-telephone-lines-for-valuable-copper-101208594.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

61. *August 24, Allentown Morning Call* – (Pennsylvania) **3 workers sicked at Quakertown pool: As they mixed chemicals, chlorine gas was released.** Three men working at a Quakertown, Pennsylvania, public swimming pool were taken to a hospital August 23 after two chemicals accidentally were mixed, producing hazardous chlorine gas. As the haz-mat teams did their work, police and firefighters cleared out Quakertown Memorial Park and closed Mill Street. Although residents and news reporters were kept at least a block away, emergency workers remained close to the pool without face masks or other special protection. The Bucks County and Lehigh County hazardous materials teams evaluated the air in the pump room and flushed out the remaining chlorine gas at about 6:25 p.m.
Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4434121>
62. *August 24, Associated Press* – (International) **Suicide bomber attacks Somali hotel, killing 32.** A suicide bomber and gunmen wearing military uniforms attacked Muna Hotel near Somalia's presidential palace August 24, sparking a 1-hour gun battle with security forces. At least 32 people were killed, including six Somali parliamentarians. Witnesses described a horrific scene of dead bodies throughout the Muna Hotel and guests scrambling to safety by escaping out of windows. The multi-pronged assault came less than 24 hours after al-Shabab, a group allied with al-Qaida, threatened a "massive" war against what it labeled as invaders, a reference to the 6,000 African Union troops in Mogadishu. The attack on the Muna raised the 2-day toll to at least 70 people, a high number even by Mogadishu's violent standards. Fighting that rocked Mogadishu August 23 killed 40 people, health officials said. Somalia's deputy prime minister told The Associated Press that 19 civilians, six members of parliament, five security forces and two hotel workers were killed in the attack. Two attackers also were killed.
Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g7OaI4_kjeHA-o4UhlmP7vIWmrrwD9HPT6TG3
63. *August 23, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **No bomb found at evacuated building, suspect in custody.** Police found no explosives at a Salt Lake, Utah apartment building they evacuated August 23 after tenants said a resident threatened to blow up the building. The bomb squad used a robot to check the man's apartment after officers saw items that caused them concern. The robot found no explosives and the suspect had left the building by then. Police took the 57-year-old into custody when he returned to his apartment that afternoon. He was arrested for making terroristic threats. Tenants called police around 9:30 a.m. saying a suicidal man was threatening to blow up his room at 1900 W. North Temple. The building is the former Days Inn but now houses formerly homeless veterans. About 80 people live in the building, but it is not clear how many were home at the time of the evacuation. A Salt Lake police detective said the man has a past history with small explosives and mental instability.
Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=12111551>
64. *August 23, Cookeville Herald-Citizen* – (Tennessee) **Meth lab found at Eastwood Inn.** Two males were arrested and charged with manufacturing of methamphetamine when the makings of a methamphetamine lab were discovered at the Eastwood Inn in

Cookeville, Tennessee, August 19. A finished amount of methamphetamine was also found inside the room. Officers arrived on the scene just after 6 p.m. and worked the case until around 8:30 p.m. A hazardous materials crew was called to the scene to clear the room.

Source: http://www.herald-citizen.com/view/full_story/9247082/article-Meth-lab-found-at-Eastwood-Inn?instance=crime_log

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

65. *August 24, Eugene Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Lightning-caused fire grows, forces forest area closures.** Firefighters are battling a growing 200-acre fire that has shut down popular hiking and camping areas near Scott Mountain in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon, officials said August 23. Ignited by lightning storms, the Scott Mountain Fire is burning 15 miles west of Sisters. It blew up suddenly August 23 driven by strong, dry winds coming from the northeast. “The winds are hot and dry, and they hit any heat and that grows your fire,” a Willamette National Forest spokeswoman said. The McKenzie River Ranger District has responded to more than 100 fires in the past week as a result of the storm.

Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/25214655-41/guard-register-startstoryhere-writername.csp>

66. *August 23, KCSG 14 Cedar City* – (Arizona; Utah) **Lightning caused Mustang wildfire burns 2566 acres.** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona Strip District Fire Management unit has 4-engines and 27-firefighters assigned to the 2566-acre lightning caused Mustang wildfire. Additionally, the Beaver Dam Littlefield Fire Department is assisting with 1-engine crew. Fire personnel are working to clear existing roads, and complete resource chipping activities while monitoring fire behavior. The fire is currently burning in Pinyon Pine, Juniper and sage vegetation on BLM administered lands within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. The fire is being managed for multiple objectives to meet future desired conditions established in the Monument Resource Management Plan. Smoke may be visible near Black Rock Mountain and from St. George, Utah.

Source: http://www.kcsg.com/view/full_story/9249674/article-UPDATE--Lightning-Caused-Mustang-Wildfire-Burns-2566-Acres?instance=home_stories1

67. *August 23, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Southern Idaho wildfire scorches 335 square miles.** A fast-moving grass fire in southern Idaho has scorched more than 325 square miles, forced the closure of the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, and knocked out power to some residents in the region. The Long Butte fire started at about 4 p.m. August 21, 30 miles south of Glens Ferry. It is burning mostly on Bureau of Land Management land in grass and hardwood slash. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality warned August 23 that air quality in the Twin Falls area was “unhealthy” for all residents. Idaho Power officials said about 1,000 customers near Buhl and Castleford were without power August 23 after the fire destroyed power

poles. Another 60 customers around Rogerson and Twin Falls also lost power because of the fire. The Castleford School District canceled classes August 23 due to the power outage.

Source: <http://www.kivity.com/Global/story.asp?S=13027672>

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Dams Sector

68. *August 24, Xinhua News Agency* – (International) **Flood peak arrives at Three Gorges Dam.** The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China, will likely experience another flood peak August 24 amid heavy rain in its upper reaches. Water-flow into the huge reservoir of the dam reached 55,000 cubic meters per second at 8:20 a.m., the Yangtze River Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said. The dam took the edge off the fierce flow by holding back about 30,000 cubic meters of flood water per second, discharging only 25,000 cubic meters. The water level in the dam was 152.24 meters at 8:20 a.m., and 7.24 meters above the 145-meter flood alarm level. The water level might still rise when the flood peaks at around 2 p.m. Shipping through the Three Gorges has been halted since 8 p.m. August 23. Ship locks were closed after water flow into the reservoir exceeded 45,000 cubic meters per second. The water flow is expected to fall to 45,000 cubic meters per second August 25 and 35,000 cubic meters per second August 26.

Source: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FERB-88MC8X?OpenDocument>

69. *August 23, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Workers continue testing at Hope Mills Lake dam.** Workers at the failed Hope Mills Lake dam in Hope Mills, North Carolina drilled holes on the structure's east side August 23 to determine its sturdiness, the town manager said. The work is not related to a proposal to remove part of the dam wall, a suggestion that drew fire from some town officials. "They just want to check some areas," he said. "They want to make sure it's completely solid." The dam failed and the lake drained June 17. Since then, engineers have been trying to figure out the reason for the breach, and how to proceed with its repair. Two weeks ago, engineers proposed removing part of the remaining dam wall to prevent water build-up in the case of a major storm. Some town commissioners raised concerns that taking out part of the wall would mean removing evidence if the matter goes to court. The town manager said any removal would be reviewed by the town board of commissioners and would have to be approved by the state.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/08/23/1024254?sac=Home>

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