



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 August 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to United Press International, three gang members were in custody in Moldova after allegedly trying to sell uranium they had brought into the country illegally, authorities said. (See item [7](#))
- Now it is official: The most significant breach of U.S. military computers was caused by a flash drive inserted into a U.S. military laptop on a post in the Middle East in 2008, the Washington Post reported. (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, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Xcel slammed for response to fatal tunnel fire.** The U.S. Chemical Safety Board slammed Xcel Energy Inc. August 23 for the company’s handling of the aftermath of a tunnel fire that killed five workers at a hydroelectric plant in Denver, Colorado, as well as for a host of “troubling episodes.” The board cited the electric and gas utility’s failure to cooperate in the agency’s probe, and said that investigators had to turn to the the U.S. Attorney’s Office Civil Division

in Denver to compel the company to turn over information. The board, an independent federal agency that investigates serious chemical accidents and makes safety recommendations, plans to release its final report and recommendations August 25. That report comes about 2 weeks after Xcel decided to release a draft version after initially trying to block it. The company feared it would be released close to the criminal trial in the case, possibly influencing jurors. The five workers died from smoke inhalation after the October 2007 tunnel fire at Excel Energy's Cabin Creek plant, 35 miles west of Denver.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HPREA00.htm>

2. *August 24, Reuters* – (Tennessee; Kentucky; West Virginia) **Feds find egregious safety violations at U.S. mines.** More than 4 months after the worst U.S. mining accident in decades, federal mine officials have uncovered safety violations during surprise inspections at four underground coal mines, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) said August 24. As a result of the inspections in the last 3 weeks, MSHA issued 27 citations and 11 orders requiring a plan to correct hazards at Wilcoal Mining Inc's Tri-State One Mine in Claiborne County, Tennessee. An inspection at K&D Mining Inc's Mine No. 17 in Harlan County, Kentucky resulted in 15 citations and 5 orders being issued, and inspectors issued 21 citations and 10 orders to Maple Eagle No. 1 Mine in Fayette County, West Virginia.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67N61720100824?type=domesticNews>

3. *August 23, Reuters* – (Texas) **Texas breaks electric record as schools reopen.** Texas set a fourth all-time electric use record August 23 as many school districts and universities across the state resumed classes, boosting air conditioning demand and straining power supplies, according to initial data from the state grid operator. Power use between 4 and 5 p.m. CDT was 65,715 megawatts, surpassing the 64,805-MW record set 1 week ago, said the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). Because of the economic slowdown, ERCOT did not expect peak-hour power consumption to reach 65,000 MW before the summer of 2011. "The ERCOT region is continuing to experience high temperatures throughout the state which is causing high electricity usage," said ERCOT's vice president of system planning and operations.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67M5EX20100823?type=domesticNews>

For another story, see item [51](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *August 25, theadvocate.com* – (Louisiana) **Trailer closes I-10 for 14 hours.** The eastbound lanes of Interstate 10 near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, reopened August 24 at 8:30 p.m. after being closed to traffic for more than 14 hours because of an overturned tractor trailer carrying chemicals. Firefighters received the call about the overturned

tractor trailer near the I-10/I-12 split around 5:15 a.m. and the interstate was closed around 6 a.m., a Baton Rouge Fire Department spokesman said. Initially, there were no reports of the chemicals leaking from the tractor trailer, but the interstate was shut down because some of the chemicals were flammable. Firefighters and a private hazardous-material company started to remove the chemicals from the overturned tractor trailer and put them onto another truck. The chemicals were cleaned up before the offloading process resumed, and the tractor trailer was removed from the shoulder of the interstate. The tractor trailer, operated by R+L Carriers, was carrying 280 pounds of flammable liquids, 180 pounds of corrosive liquids, 35 pounds of crude oil and 15,000 pounds of lumina, which is used to make galvanized materials, the spokesman said. A quart of hydrazine, one of the flammable liquids, is what leaked from the tractor trailer.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/police/101443934.html>

5. *August 25, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection* – (Connecticut) **DEP proposes regulations for reporting of spills and discharges.** The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is proposing regulations that provide specific requirements for the reporting of releases, such as spills and discharges, to offer clarity for the regulated community. Connecticut law currently requires reporting of any spill or discharge of hazardous materials or hazardous wastes or petroleum or chemical solid, liquid or gaseous products which poses a potential threat to human health or the environment. The law, however, does not define what constitutes a reportable release, and what information needs to be reported in those cases. The public notice regarding the proposed regulations, which includes a link to the regulations, can be viewed at www.ct.gov/dep/publicnotices.

Source: http://www.norwalkplus.com/nwk/information/nwsnwk/publish/News_1/DEP-proposes-regulations-for-reporting-of-spills-and-discharges-to-clarify-requirements-for-regulated-community_np_9627.shtml

6. *August 24, KPSP 2 Thousand Palms* – (California) **Chemical Spill Shuts Down Highway 111.** Highway 111 was shut down for several hours August 24, after a crash caused a chemical spill near the border of Palm Springs and Cathedral City, California. About 5:30 a.m. the tire of a pool truck blew out and the driver lost control, causing acid and chlorine to spill out of the back of the truck. “The driver lost control and some chemicals from the back of the pick-up truck spilled onto the roadway,” said a spokeswoman from the Palm Springs Police Department. Both sides of Highway 111 were closed between Broadmoor Dr. and Golf Club Drive until 11 a.m. The county’s haz-mat team was called in to clean up the spill. No one was injured in the accident.

Source: <http://www.kpsplocal2.com/Content/Top-Stories/story/highway-111-traffic-chemical-spill-hazmat-haz-mat/A0yuHXFjvEOUIEWkArzF0w.csp>

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

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *August 24, United Press International* – (International) **Alleged Moldovan uranium dealers arrested.** Three gang members were in custody in Moldova after allegedly trying to sell uranium they had brought into the country illegally, authorities said. The Russian TV network RT reported August 24 the suspects were looking for a buyer for nearly 4.4 pounds of the radioactive material. Their asking price was \$11.4 million. It was not known where the uranium originated, RT said. “The group had seven members; three of them have been seized,” the prosecutor in the case said. “Some of the suspects have previously been tried in Russia and Romania for similar crimes. Two members of the gang are former Moldovan policeman.” The uranium, which could have been used for military purposes, was being kept in a basement where the level of radiation was about 60 times higher than the acceptable norm, authorities said. Some of the uranium has been sent to the United States for examination, and the rest is being stored in a special container at the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/08/24/Alleged-Moldovan-uranium-dealers-arrested/UPI-40061282687275/

8. *August 24, Global Security Newswire* – (International) **U.S. receives LEU-produced medical isotopes.** The United States has received its first commercial-volume delivery of medical isotopes made from low-enriched uranium (LEU) for potential use in hospitals throughout the country, Creamer Media reported August 20. The molybdenum-99 was produced by the state-owned Nuclear Energy Corp. of South Africa. The material reached the United States July 21 and must pass multiple quality assessments ahead of potential distribution. Molybdenum-99 through the decay process produces technetium-99m, which is employed annually in 16 million U.S. medical procedures, including detection of cancer, heart disease and other diseases, one U.S. lawmaker said last year. The U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration through its Global Threat Reduction Initiative aided the South African company’s switch from a radioisotope production process that relied on highly enriched-uranium to one involving LEU. The company is the first in the world to produce significant amounts of molybdenum-99 from LEU. Medical isotope samples have also been delivered to China, Israel, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands, and Poland for evaluation.
Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100824_4682.php

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *August 25, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Jeep fuel tanks targeted in probe.** Federal safety officials have launched an investigation into reports that problems with gas tanks on more than 3 million Jeep Grand Cherokees could cause fuel leaks and fires in some crashes. The government probe involves possible defects in the sport utility vehicles from the 1993 to 2004 model years, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said. The action is the first step in determining whether a recall is needed. The advocacy group Center for Auto Safety called for the investigation in October, alleging that the placement of the Grand Cherokee’s plastic fuel tank behind the rear axle and below the rear bumper allowed for the possibility of

tank ruptures, fuel spills and tank detachment during rear-end collisions and rollovers. NHTSA reported that in its initial review, the Grand Cherokee did not have a significantly higher number of fires after crashes than other vehicles.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-autos-jeep-tank-20100825,0,1349841.story>

10. *August 24, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FAA tightens Boeing 737**

inspections. U.S. aviation regulators, concerned about potentially dangerous vibrations and possible structural problems, are ratcheting up and expanding mandated inspections for more than 1,000 of Boeing's latest 737 jet models. A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety directive expected to be issued August 25 will require U.S. airlines to conduct enhanced inspections of the tail sections of certain Boeing 737-600 and newer models. Mechanics will seek to identify and replace loose or suspect parts that control the movement of elevators, movable surfaces on the tail that determine the upward and downward angle of flight. The latest FAA move comes after two previous rounds of mandated FAA inspections in the spring, which covered only a portion of the planes. The directive is unusual because it requires continued repetitive inspections even after suspect parts have been replaced by interim hardware. A Boeing spokeswoman said there have been two in-flight reports of "heavy vibration" of elevators, with the planes diverting and landing safely. The Boeing spokeswoman said the company is working on a permanent fix and the stepped-up inspections are intended to "ensure that safety continues at the highest level" until all the suspect parts are replaced.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704125604575449940255925652.htm?mod=WSJ_business_whatsNews

11. *August 24, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. agency steps up probe of stalling**

Corolla cars. U.S. safety regulators have stepped up their investigation into complaints of stalled engines on Toyota Corolla sedans and Matrix hatchbacks, but government officials stopped short of announcing a recall. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) upgraded its investigation last week, and is looking at two possible causes behind the stalling: Improper coating on circuit boards and a crack in the surface of a glass coating. Both could have happened during production of the cars. The new probe, called an engineering analysis, covers 1.8 million Corolla and Matrix cars from model years 2005 to 2007. It is a more in-depth investigation of the vehicles than the preliminary probe begun by NHTSA in December. That probe covered vehicles from the 2006 model year only. NHTSA said it has received 163 complaints of stalling engines in the cars as of last week. A Toyota spokeswoman said Toyota was cooperating fully but declined to give more details.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gIH3bY1lsCD9B8aC2CuYv_yZEx_QD9HPVEPO0

For another story, see item [12](#)

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *August 24, KCRG 9 Cedar Rapids* – (Iowa) **Rockwell Collins employees evacuated for chemical fumes.** Rockwell Collins evacuated employees in Cedar Rapids, Iowa after chemicals were mixed in a lab causing fumes to spread through the building. A Rockwell Collins spokeswoman said the employees were evacuated as a precaution. She said a hazardous materials team evaluated the building before making a decision about employees re-entering the building. Rockwell Collins is a large, international company that primarily produces aviation and information technology systems, solutions and services to governmental agencies and aircraft manufacturers.
Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Evacuation-Underway-at-Rockwell-Collins-101413179.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *August 25, Computerworld* – (National) **Visa offers new guidance on securing payment applications.** Visa August 24 announced a set of security best practices for vendors of payment applications, and for the systems integrators and resellers responsible for implementing and managing them. The guidelines are designed to address continuing vulnerabilities in the payment chain stemming from insecure implementations of applications that are used in credit and debit card transactions, according to Visa's head of global payment system security. The existing Payment Application Data Security Standard (PA-DSS) administered by the PCI Security Council, already requires developers of payment applications to implement specific security controls in software. For instance, the standard requires application vendors and developers to ensure applications do not store prohibited cardholder and authentication data. However, while the software itself may be secure, several vulnerabilities continue to persist because of improper configurations and other implementation errors, he said. Visa's guidelines were developed in collaboration with the SANS Institute, a Bethesda, Maryland-based security training and certification organization. The best practices touch upon 10 different issues, and include a mix of technology and process-related advice.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9181779/Visa_offers_new_guidance_on_securing_payment_applications
14. *August 25, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Authorities warn of gas credit scam.** Tifton, Georgia, area authorities are warning motorists that thieves may be stealing credit card numbers using gas pumps. Investigators in the city and the county are working together investigating several instances where individuals used their cards in Tifton and then discovered someone in California or Las Vegas, Nevada, had used their account information to steal hundreds of dollars. A Tifton Police Department detective said the

altered gas pumps grab a customer's information when they slide their card. Police are investigating two cases where individuals discovered someone in Las Vegas had stolen hundreds of dollars from their account. They are urging motorists to use cash when possible.

Source: <http://www.11alive.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=151425&catid=3>

15. *August 25, Homeland Security Today* – (International) **'Strippers' put U.S. homeland security at risk.** Recently, Britain's Barclays Bank became the latest foreign bank to be penalized hundreds of millions of dollars for allegedly helping U.S.-sanctioned parties clandestinely move large sums of money through the American financial system. Barclays agreed to pay \$298 million for allegedly helping clients in Iran, Cuba, Libya, Sudan and Burma by "stripping" international wire transfer messages, that is, by removing any reference to the sanctioned parties so that the U.S. banks clearing the transactions did not know that a sanctioned party was involved and therefore did not block or freeze the transaction. This practice was commonplace among European banks just a few years ago. Such "stripping" transactions typically violate America's Trading with the Enemy Act and International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/14477/152/>

16. *August 25, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **XXXL Bandit strikes in Clear Lake again.** Investigators believe the bank robber they are calling the "XXXL Bandit" hit a credit union inside a Clear Lake City, Texas, grocery store again recently. The FBI reports that the Associated Federal Credit Union in the Kroger store at 16400 El Camino Real was held up around 2 p.m. August 23 by a familiar figure of "uniquely large stature." The robber had no weapon, but he handed a demand note to one of the tellers and received cash. He then fled on foot. The suspect is described as a white man between 28 and 35 years old. He's 5 foot 10 to 5 foot 11, 275 to 300 pounds and cleanly shaven. He wore a white and maroon baseball cap, a red pull-over shirt, shorts and sunglasses.

Source: <http://www.ultimateclearlake.com/2010/08/xxxl-bandit-strikes-clear-lake-again>

17. *August 24, Arkansas City Traveler* – (Kansas) **Union State Bank warns of telephone scam targeting area.** Customers of Union State Bank in Arkansas City, Kansas should be aware of a phone scam. People who receive an automated call asking for their debit or credit card number, expiration date and PIN number should not provide that information over the phone, a local banker said August 24.

Source:

<http://www.arkcity.net/articles/2010/08/24/news/doc4c7408249c08d449677242.txt>

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Transportation Sector

18. *August 25, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **NTSB releases preliminary report on Stevens crash.** Federal investigators said the plane that crashed earlier this month in Southwest Alaska, killing a former U.S. Senator and four others, was equipped with an

emergency locator beacon, but the transmitter separated from its mounting bracket on impact. The antenna cable also was found separated from the beacon. This finding is included in the National Transportation Safety Board's preliminary report on the August 9 crash that also injured four people, including a former NASA chief. The report contains little other new information, though it does tighten up the timeline for when the plane left a corporate-owned lodge and when the wreckage was spotted. Authorities have said that no transmitter signal was detected during an aerial search. But the medical examiner has said it's unlikely a quicker response would have helped those who perished.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/2010/08/25/1423681/ntsb-releases-preliminary-report.html>

19. *August 24, NY1 News* – (New York) **LIRR riders can expect residual delays throughout week.** Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) riders can expect continued delays throughout the week as crews continue to repair cables damaged by an electrical fire August 23. Things were smoother on the evening commute August 24 with 66 percent of the trains running. LIRR managers said the railroad will be operating at about 75 percent capacity for the morning rush August 25. It will take several days for workers to replace and test the 200 cables damaged in the fire at Jamaica station. LIRR officials said the switching system is getting a \$56 million upgrade that will make it more efficient this autumn. Meanwhile, a low-voltage issue August 24 suspended Amtrak service for 1 hour between New York and Washington D.C. and Philadelphia and Harrisburg in Pennsylvania. It also halted all service on New Jersey Transit's Northeast Corridor line. It is unknown what specifically caused the power problem.

Source: http://www.ny1.com/content/news_beats/transit/124275/lirr-riders-can-expect-residual-delays-throughout-week/

20. *August 24, United Press International* – (Indiana) **Man arrested for 'belly bomb' remark.** A man who claimed he had a "bomb in his belly" was arrested at the Indianapolis International Airport in Indiana August 24, authorities said. There was no bomb, but the man was charged with felony false reporting. Police said the man was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs but was apparently upset when he was chosen for additional screening at a security checkpoint. When asked by a Transportation Safety Administration officer to go through extra screening, the man patted his stomach and said, "This is a bomb," officials said. He told police he said he had "a bomb in my belly" and then realized saying that had been a mistake. Both lanes of the security checkpoint were shut down while officials put the man through an X-ray.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/08/24/Man-arrested-for-belly-bomb-remark/UPI-79381282670922/

21. *August 24, Bulk Transporter* – (National) **PHMSA schedules international harmonization for hazmat regs.** The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has proposed amending the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) to maintain alignment with international standards by incorporating various amendments, including changes to proper shipping names, hazard classes, packing

groups, special provisions, packaging authorizations, air transport quantity limitations, and vessel stowage requirements. In a notice of proposed rulemaking published in the August 24 Federal Register, PHMSA has proposed amendments to harmonize the HMR with the most recent revisions to the UN Model Regulations, ICAO TI, and the IMDG Code. The amendments would cover the Hazardous Materials Table, Limited Quantity Exceptions, and would allow for a transition period to allow the new rules to take effect. Comments on the harmonization proposals must be received by October 25. Comments can be submitted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
Source: <http://bulktransporter.com/fleet/cargo-tanks/phmsa-hazmat-regs-0824/>

22. *August 22, Associated Press* – (Texas; International) **1 dead in Mexico shootout on border with El Paso.** A gunbattle erupted between Mexican police and gunmen near the Rio Grande August 21, killing one person and prompting U.S. authorities to close a highway that runs along the border in El Paso, Texas. The gunmen attacked a municipal police patrol on a boulevard in Ciudad Juarez next to the border river, said a spokesman for Mexico’s federal police. The fighting escalated when federal police rushed to help, he said. One gunman was killed and three municipal police officers were wounded. El Paso police closed that city’s border highway for about 30 minutes because of the shooting. City police said the U.S. Border Patrol asked for the shutdown. A spokesman for the Border Patrol said Paisano Street was closed “in the interest of public safety.” He said that to his knowledge, it was the first time a street in El Paso has been shut down because of a shooting in Mexico. Traffic was halted on a stretch running from downtown El Paso to the city’s northwest.
Source:
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gMi5B2USfJStXxfqgWwr2xjRYpOgD9HO9SO00>

For more stories, see items [4](#), [6](#), and [10](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *August 25, Rockmart Journal* – (Georgia) **Rockmart ammonia leak injures employees.** The Tip Top Poultry plant in Rockmart, Georgia is expected to be operating normally again by 11 a.m. August 25 after an ammonia leak earlier in the morning, the firm’s chief operating officer said. The ammonia leak occurred because of a faulty seal in a valve and lasted less than 30 seconds. Ammonia is used at the plant to chill processed chickens and to keep the plant cool. About 240 employees were evacuated after the event occurred. He said all the employees were able to walk out of

the plant. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency were notified of the incident. The director of marketing for Redmond Regional Medical Center, said the hospital has seen and treated 14 patients with ties to the accident. Nine people are being treated at Polk Medical Center.

Source: http://www.cedartownstd.com/view/full_story/9267627/article-BREAKING-NEWS--Rockmart-ammonia-leak-injures-employees-?instance=home_local_news

24. *August 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Salmonella vaccine might have prevented egg recall.** Low-cost vaccines that may have helped prevent the kind of salmonella outbreak that has led to the recall of more than a half-billion eggs haven't been given to half of the nation's egg-laying hens. The vaccines are not required in the U.S., although in Great Britain, officials said vaccinations have given them the safest egg supply in Europe. A survey conducted by the European food safety agency in 2009 found that about 1 percent of British flocks had salmonella compared to about 60 to 70 percent of flocks elsewhere in Europe, a spokeswoman for the British Egg Information Service said. There has been no push to require vaccination in the U.S., in part because it would cost farmers and in part because advocates have been more focused on more comprehensive food-safety reforms, those watching the poultry industry said. A poultry veterinarian at Iowa State University predicted vaccination will become more common after the recent outbreak. The salmonella vaccine prevents chickens from becoming infected and then passing the bacteria on to their eggs. It has been available in the U.S. since 1992.

Source:

http://www.salon.com/food/food_advice/?story=/news/feature/2010/08/24/egg_recall_salmonella_vaccine

25. *August 24, Salina Journal* – (Kansas) **Northwest Kansas counties declared disaster areas.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated nine counties in northwest Kansas as natural disaster areas because of losses caused by excessive rain, high winds, hail, flooding, lightning and tornadoes that occurred May 6 to June 20. The counties are Chase, Gove, Lyon, Rooks, Trego, Cloud, Jewell, Marshall, and Smith. The storms caused damage to wheat, corn, sorghum, soybean and forage crops. Farmers in contiguous counties also qualify for natural disaster assistance, including Ottawa, Clay, Phillips, Sheridan, Logan, Thomas, Ellis, Marion, Republic, Graham, Mitchell, Osborne, Washington, and others. Farmers in the designated areas are eligible for low interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers have 8 months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

Source: <http://www.saljournal.com/news/story/disaster8-24-10>

26. *August 24, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Anthrax cases reported in North Dakota county.** North Dakota's agriculture department on August 24 said more cases of anthrax had been confirmed in cattle. The new cases were in Pembina County. Earlier cases were confirmed in Barnes, Dickey and Sioux counties, all in the southern half of the state. State animal health officials are continuing to urge ranchers to have

cattle vaccinated against the disease. Anthrax bacteria spores lie dormant in the ground and become active under conditions such as heavy rainfall, flooding or drought. North Dakota usually has a few anthrax cases in cattle every year.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HQ01IO0.htm>

27. *August 23, Mobile Press-Register* – (Alabama) **Former martini bar owner pleads guilty to arson plot involving Bubble Lounge blaze.** A former west Mobile, Alabama, martini bar owner pleaded guilty to arson conspiracy August 23, joining a pair of co-defendants who admitted earlier this month that they plotted to set fire to a competing bar in April. The suspect owned the Metropolitan Groove on Old Shell Road when he decided to try to take out an upstart competitor down the road, the Bubble Lounge, according to law enforcement authorities. An assistant U.S. attorney told a U.S. district judge that the suspect met with two others March 22 to discuss plans. The owner of the bar offered between \$1,700 and \$2,000 to set the fire, according to the prosecutor. The other two pleaded guilty August 13. An affidavit filed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives stated the former martini bar owner also tried to arrange fires at Ollies Mediterranean Grill on Hillcrest Road and Paddy O’Toole’s nightclub on Airport Boulevard, although the plea covered only the Bubble Lounge fire.

Source: http://blog.al.com/live/2010/08/former_met_groove_owner_pleads.html

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Water Sector

28. *August 25, Pocono Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Brodhead Creek water authority study urges regular cleaning of septic tanks.** Authors of a 5-year Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA) water-quality study began taking their recommendations to Pennsylvania municipal leaders August 24. The study, prepared with the help of Meiser & Earl, Inc. hydrogeologists of State College, calls for towns to widen low-development stream buffers, mandate regular cleaning of septic tanks, identify potential local pollution sources, and urge emergency spill responders to report incidents to the authority. BCRA supplies potable water to 21,000 people from wells in Stroud Township near Route 191 and Stokes Avenue. It also provides water to residential and commercial customers in Stroudsburg, and portions of Smithfield, Hamilton and Pocono townships. BCRA will follow up the August 24 presentation with personal visits to municipal leaders. The study, which focused on a 1.5-mile area from BCRA water wells to Pinebrook Park, included the 2008 release of dyes in the Brodhead, and in the well field. The dye tests showed BCRA would have about 90 minutes to protect wells if there was a chemical spill in the vicinity, said the project hydrogeologist. “Now they know how quickly contaminants can travel under those conditions,” said the project hydrogeologist. “The rate of transport from the stream to the subsurface is rapid.” The study included a complete inventory of businesses in the watershed that deal with hazardous materials.

Source:

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100825/NEWS/8250330>

29. *August 25, Jackson County Floridian* – (Florida) **Jacob water supply out.** The residents of Jacob, Florida who depend on the city’s water system had been without water for three days straight as of August 24. The system went down August 22, a city maintenance worker confirmed. The city manager said it was a mechanical problem with the pump motor that pulls the water into the tank. He said a substitute motor from another well is being put in to replace the malfunctioning one. He could not estimate when the work would be finished, but was hoping it would be done by the night of August 24 or the morning of August 25. The city maintenance worker and the city manager said a large tank has been placed at a central location where citizens can come and fill buckets with water to bathe, flush toilets, or for other non-consumption uses. Some residents are going to friends’ homes outside the city for water, according to one resident.
Source: <http://www2.jcfloridan.com/news/2010/aug/25/jacob-water-supply-out-ar-746299/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *August 24, Government Executive* – (National) **NIH renews research for countering nuclear threats.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced it will renew a major research effort to develop medical devices for diagnosing, preventing and treating victims of a radiological or nuclear terrorist attack. The research will be conducted through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases’ Centers for Countermeasures Against Radiation, known as the CMCR program. CMCR was established in 2006 to fund 130 pilot studies to develop methods and tools to measure radiation exposure and evaluate potential drugs to treat radiation injuries. Under the renewed program, announced August 19, NIH expects to invest \$105 million to support research at seven institutions from 2010 to 2015. One of those is at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where researchers will devise methods for determining physical and chemical changes in teeth, hair and fingernails resulting from radiation exposure, which could be used to develop noninvasive diagnostic tools.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0810/082410kp1.htm>

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Government Facilities Sector

31. *August 24, USA Today* – (International) **Mexico gunbattle spurs U.S. warning.** The U.S. State Department was urging its employees August 24 to keep their children home from a school popular with Americans in Mexico after a shootout nearby in the northern city of Monterrey, the latest in a wave of violence. The shootout near the American School Foundation of Monterrey resulted in the deaths of two security guards at the nearby offices of a Mexican bottling company. Four other security guards were kidnapped in the shootout by what police said were drug smugglers. They were later released. The U.S. Ambassador urged consulate workers to keep their children

home while U.S. officials study the security situation around the school, the U.S. Consulate said in a written statement. “It is incumbent on all of us to take measures to reduce exposure to risk and enhance personal security,” the consulate said. The U.S. Embassy said there was no firm timeline for the security review, and that the decision to send children to school would rest with parents. The American School has about 600 students from kindergarten through 12th grade, 90 percent of them Mexican, according to the school’s Web site.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-08-25-mexicoshooting25_ST_N.htm

32. *August 24, Washington Post* – (National) **Defense official discloses cyberattack.** Now it is official: The most significant breach of U.S. military computers was caused by a flash drive inserted into a U.S. military laptop on a post in the Middle East in 2008. In an article to be published August 25 in Foreign Affairs discussing the Pentagon’s cyberstrategy, the Deputy Defense Secretary said malicious code placed on the drive by a foreign intelligence agency uploaded itself onto a network run by the U.S. military’s Central Command. “That code spread undetected on both classified and unclassified systems, establishing what amounted to a digital beachhead, from which data could be transferred to servers under foreign control,” he said in the article. “It was a network administrator’s worst fear: a rogue program operating silently, poised to deliver operational plans into the hands of an unknown adversary.” The Deputy Defense Secretary’s decision to declassify an incident that Defense officials had kept secret reflects the Pentagon’s desire to raise congressional and public concern over the threats facing U.S. computer systems, experts said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/24/AR2010082406495.html>

33. *August 23, Government Technology* – (Tennessee) **IT security incidents prompt Nashville, Tenn., to strengthen policy, hire IT security chief.** When more than 320,000 Nashville voters’ personal information was breached in late 2007, it was a turning point that propelled the incorporated Metropolitan Government (Metro) of Nashville and Davidson County to assess and define IT security policy, among other internal changes. A laptop was stolen from the Davidson County Elections Commission office, along with other electronic equipment, after someone threw a brick through a window, said the Metro technology chief. While there was no evidence voters’ Social Security numbers or other personal information was accessed, the laptop wasn’t encrypted, so the government had to assume the worst, he said. “We got a lot of [media] attention, as you might imagine,” said the technology chief, noting that along with the mayor and city council members, his voter registration information was on the stolen laptop. That was nearly three years ago. It was a wake-up call for the combined government, which has roughly 60 departments and agencies. The mayor, on the job just months before the security breach, set into motion a series of executive orders that established oversight boards and training programs, in hopes of preventing future security issues. A comprehensive security policy is set to go into effect this fall, and the Metro technology chief is in the process of hiring a chief information security officer to

lead the effort.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/768757>

34. *August 23, Global Security Newswire* – (New Mexico) **Los Alamos plutonium put into stronger containers.** Soviet-origin plutonium being stored at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico has been moved into stronger containers that are less at risk of breaking open, the Albuquerque Journal reported August 20. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board said in an April 2009 message that Los Alamos personnel or the public could be at risk for radiation exposure should heat produced by the plutonium cause the Russian-built containers in use at the time to fracture. The U.S. Energy Department facility addressed the matter by placing the 160 containers into new storage receptacles that are unlikely to face the same heat issues, the board said last week in a follow-up letter. The newer containers are built to satisfy U.S. atomic safety guidelines. Los Alamos is the end holder of the material shipped to the United States through a State Department initiative to purchase excess Soviet nuclear substances, the Journal reported.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100823_1561.php

35. *August 23, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Isle of Wight employees back to work after threat.** Isle of Wight County, Virginia and courthouse employees evacuated their buildings August 23 after a bomb threat. The threat was received at one of the courts just before 8:30 a.m., said a county spokesman. The telephoned threat was the fourth bomb threat received by the county in the past several weeks. Because the call was received before county offices were open for business, the threat didn't cause too much disruption, the county spokesman said. Employees were back in their buildings shortly after 10 a.m. The sheriff's office is following leads in the case, the county spokesman said. While the calls and disruptions have been frustrating, the county spokesman said that they have allowed employees to practice evacuation procedures.

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2010/08/isle-wight-employees-back-work-after-threat>

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Emergency Services Sector

36. *August 25, Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota) **N.D. developing regional emergency response teams.** North Dakota is undergoing an upgrade process to better prepare emergency response units in four regions and eight cities, including Jamestown. "We feel from the state of North Dakota that we are very fortunate to have these professional-level partners," said a southeast regional response coordinator with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services. Jamestown is considered a sub-level city in the southeast region with Fargo acting as the anchor city. Grand Forks anchors the northeast with Devils Lake as a sub. Bismarck anchors the southwest with Dickinson as a sub and Minot anchors the northwest with Williston as a sub. Although each anchor or sub is expected to respond to emergencies in its region, sometimes the

response from others may be closest. One example would be Jamestown to Foster County, which is in the northeast region. All eight cities are near completion for the first of three phases. Phase one is emergency response resources for chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and explosive threats.

Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/117834/>

37. *August 25, Springfield News-Leader* – (Missouri) **Police: Man plotted to kill arresting officer.** A Christian County, Missouri man charged with child abuse and domestic assault faces another felony charge after authorities said he plotted from his Ozark, Missouri jail cell to kill the sheriff’s deputy who arrested him. The 24-year-old man of Clever was charged August 23 with conspiracy to commit murder, a Class B felony. One of the men in a Christian County Jail cell with the suspect told officers that the man got upset when he saw the deputy bring in another prisoner. The suspect told his cellmate that he knew where the deputy lived, and that he wanted to use a guitar string to slit the deputy’s throat while he was sleeping, the statement said.

Source: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20100825/NEWS01/8250429/1007/NEWS01/Police--Man-plotted-to-kill-arresting-officer)

[leader.com/article/20100825/NEWS01/8250429/1007/NEWS01/Police--Man-plotted-to-kill-arresting-officer](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20100825/NEWS01/8250429/1007/NEWS01/Police--Man-plotted-to-kill-arresting-officer)

38. *August 24, Homeland Security News Wire* – (Maryland) **Hagerstown PD disappears from analog scanners.** Maryland State Police, fire and ambulance calls, and most municipal police department calls can still be heard on radio scanners, but those wishing to listen in on Hagerstown Police Department calls will have to update their technology now that the “patch” that allowed simulcasting of calls on the old analog frequencies was taken down last week. The Hagerstown Herald-Mail noted that according to a man in the police department, the patch to the old 800 MHz frequency used by the department had to be discontinued because that frequency will be used by the Washington County Sheriff’s Office for data — not voice — transmissions. Law enforcement agencies, including Maryland State Police and the Smithsburg, Boonsboro and Hancock police departments, have also gone digital with their radio systems, but their primary dispatching is still simulcast through the Washington County Emergency Communications Center, allowing them to be heard on analog scanners, he said.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/hagerstown-pd-disappears-analog-scanners>

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

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Information Technology Sector

39. *August 25, Help Net Security* – (International) **Increasing security on mobile applications will extend adoption.** Many of today’s mobile applications have limited functionality from a lack of overall security, according to an Entrust study. And for mobile applications that feature transaction-based capabilities, the requirement for security is greater, highlighting a key concern for deploying organizations. Regardless

of industry, organizations, retailers and financial institutions are using dedicated mobile applications. Entrust's survey suggests that more organizations are developing or considering use of mobile applications if security, cost and ease-of-use requirements can be balanced. Application security remains a top concern, regardless of whether or not the organization had deployed transactional mobile applications in the past. Specifically, more than 50 percent of organizations that had not deployed such applications ranked it as one of their top three concerns, and more than 40 percent of those that had deployed the applications continued to rank it as a key concern. From an adoption standpoint, the survey discovered that about 80 percent of organizations offer online transactions via Web sites. Many of these organizations, however, do not yet offer this capability to mobile users. Of those that do, only 31 percent of the online services and capabilities are available via the mobile platform.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9785>

40. *August 25, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Three million bogus YouTube pages discovered.** Security firm Zscaler has discovered nearly 3 million phony YouTube pages, pushing unsuspecting users towards fake anti-virus (AV) downloads. The firm's network security engineer explained in a blog post that the pages, which have all been indexed by Google, can be found by searching for 'Hot Video.' "The fake YouTube video page is covered by an invisible Flash layer and the Flash object automatically redirects the user to a fake AV page," he explained. The HTML code on the pages includes links to legitimate sites such as Flickr.com, in order to make sure the content is indexed by search engines. The fake AV software is hosted on several domains, and are undetected by most security tools. Google Safe Browsing does not block 90 percent of these pages in Firefox, while the detection rate among AV vendors is only 11 percent. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2268699/three-million-fake-youtube>

41. *August 25, Help Net Security* – (International) **The dramatic increase of vulnerability disclosures.** Vulnerability disclosures are increasing dramatically, having reached record levels for the first half of 2010, according to the IBM X-Force 2010 Mid-Year Trend and Risk Report released August 25. Overall, 4,396 new vulnerabilities were documented by the X-Force Research and Development team in the first half of 2010, a 36 percent increase over the same time period last year. Over half, 55 percent, of all disclosed vulnerabilities had no vendor-supplied patch at the end of the period. According to the report, Web application vulnerabilities continued to be the leading threat, accounting for more than half of all public disclosures. In addition, covert attacks increased in complexity hidden within JavaScript and PDFs, while cloud and virtualization were noted as key future topics for enterprise organizations. In the first-half of 2010, organizations are doing more to identify and disclose security vulnerabilities than ever before. This is having positive effects on the industry by driving more open collaboration to identify and eliminate vulnerabilities before cybercriminals can exploit them. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9784>

42. *August 25, IDG News Service* – (International) **Adobe fixes 20 vulnerabilities in Shockwave Player.** Adobe Systems patched 20 security vulnerabilities in its

Shockwave Player August 24. Most of the flaws could allow an attacker to run their own code on an affected computer. The vulnerabilities are in versions of Shockwave Player up to version 11.5.7.609, on both Apple's Mac OS X and Microsoft Windows. The patched version is 11.5.8.612, according to an Adobe advisory. Eighteen of the problems could lead to code execution, while the remaining two are denial of service issues, one of which could possibly lead to remote code execution. Shockwave Player is used to display content created by Adobe's Director program, which offers advanced tools for creating interactive content, including Flash. The Director application can be used for creating 3D models, high-quality images and full-screen or long-form digital content, and offers greater control over how those elements are displayed.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9181759/Adobe_fixes_20_vulnerabilities_in_Shockwave_Player

43. *August 25, The H Security* – (International) **Apple releases Security Update for Mac OS X.** Apple has released Security Update 2010-005 for its Leopard (Mac OS X 10.5.8 client and server) and Snow Leopard (Mac OS X 10.6.4 client and server) operating systems, resolving a total of 13 vulnerabilities – eight rated critical. Security Update 2010-005 addresses a buffer overflow in Samba that could allow an unauthenticated remote attacker to cause a Denial-of-Service (DoS), or execute arbitrary code on a user's system. The issue was corrected in a Samba 3.3 update 2 months ago. A heap buffer overflow in the way CoreGraphics' handles PDF files, which could lead to the execution of arbitrary code has been fixed. A second PDF vulnerability in the way that Apple Type Services' handles embedded fonts that could lead to code execution has also been closed. For an attack to be successful, a victim must first open a specially crafted PDF file. Other changes include fixes for network interception issues and a buffer overflow in PHP's libpng library. Additionally, the update includes the 0.96.1 release of the open source ClamAV anti-virus toolkit used only by Mac OS X Server systems, closing several DoS vulnerabilities. The included version of PHP has also been upgraded from 5.3.1 to 5.3.2.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Apple-releases-Security-Update-for-Mac-OS-X-1065741.html>

44. *August 24, eWeek* – (International) **Symantec: Rustock botnet pumps most spam despite shrinking.** A new report from Symantec put the Rustock botnet at the top of the heap for spamming in spite of the fact the number of infected computers under its control was slashed nearly in half. Rustock retained the top spot as the busiest spam-sending botnet on the Web this month despite the fact the number of bots under its control shrank. According to Symantec's August 2010 MessageLabs Intelligence Report, Rustock increased its output from 32 percent of botnet spam in April to 41 percent in August. Ironically, this happened even though the number of Rustock bots dropping from 2.5 million to 1.3 million during that same period, researchers found. "Rustock has shrunk in size perhaps as a result of infected computers being cleaned or replaced," speculated a MessageLabs Intelligence senior analyst for Symantec Hosted Services. "It is likely that a new variant of the Rustock botnet has been created to replace the bots that it has lost. This usually involves a new version of the Trojan code

being deployed, which at first appears as a new, unknown botnet. I would expect the botnet to grow again over the coming weeks and months.” In the meantime, Rustock has turned off its use of TLS encryption because of the large amount of computing resources it consumes. By turning off TLS encryption, the botnet can send great volumes of spam — in this case, 192 spam e-mails per minute instead of 96.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Symantec-Rustock-Botnet-Pumps-Most-Spam-Despite-Shrinking-799724/>

45. *August 24, The Register* – (International) **Firefox, uTorrent, and PowerPoint hit by Windows DLL bug.** A day after Microsoft confirmed a vulnerability in Windows applications that executes malicious code on end-user PCs, the first exploits have been released targeting programs including the Firefox browser, uTorrent BitTorrent client, and Microsoft PowerPoint. The attack code was posted August 24 to the Exploit Database. It included exploits for the Wireshark packet sniffer, Windows Live e-mail and Microsoft MovieMaker, in addition to those for the most recent versions of Firefox, uTorrent and PowerPoint. As many as 200 applications may be vulnerable to the so-called binary planting or DLL preloading attacks, according to the CEO of Acros Security, the Slovenia-based company that warned Microsoft of the issue 4 months ago. Microsoft said August 23 that the flaw stems from applications that do not explicitly state the full path name of DLL files and other binaries associated with the program. As a result, each application will have to be patched separately, rather than through a single Windows update. In addition to the four exploits, the CSO and chief architect of the Metasploit project has released an auditing tool to identify vulnerable applications. When combined with a module added to the Metasploit framework for penetration testers and hackers, it provides most of what is needed to exploit vulnerable programs. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/08/24/windows_dll_casualties/

46. *August 24, SC Magazine* – (International) **DDoS botnet family discovered targeting scores of sites.** A new family of bots is responsible for nearly 200 distributed denial-of-service attacks targeting Web sites in China, the United States, South Korea and Germany, according to researchers at security firm Arbor Networks. The bot family, which has been dubbed “YoyoDDoS” after the hostname of one of its initial command-and-control (C&C) servers, was first detected in March. To date, Arbor Networks has processed more than 70 variants from the family and identified at least 34 C&C servers, all but three located in China. DDoS attacks use large numbers of compromised PCs to flood a targeted Web site with traffic with the goal of knocking it offline. Out of the 180 YoyoDDoS attacks that have been identified, 126 of them targeted IP addresses in China, while 32 targeted victims in the United States, 9 in South Korea, and 5 in Germany. Many online merchants have been targeted, including sites selling auto parts and cosmetics, a researcher said. Several gaming and gambling sites also were attacked, along with a Web site-hosting provider, a music forum and a personal blog. The attacks typically last from a few hours to 2 days, he added. Several sites have been attacked continuously for 24 to 48 hours. Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/ddos-botnet-family-discovered-targeting-scores-of-sites/article/177429/>

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

47. *August 25, Port Huron Times Herald* – (Michigan) **Phone outage reported.** Frontier Communications, formerly Verizon, has notified St. Clair County, Michigan, Central Dispatch of a general land line telephone outage. This outage will affect 911 services. Residents who have an emergency and do not have a dial tone are asked to travel to the nearest fire department, according to a statement from Central Dispatch. These areas may include: Grant Township, Burtchville Township, Brockway Township, Jeddo, Avoca, Mussey Township, Kenockee Township, Lynn Township, Capac, Memphis, and Yale. Frontier Communications will inform Central Dispatch when the problem has been located and fixed. It does not appear that the outage is affecting cellular service.
Source: <http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20100825/NEWS05/100825005/Phone-outage-reported->
48. *August 24, Mitchell Daily Republic* – (South Dakota) **Qwest 995 prefix outage repaired Tuesday afternoon.** Qwest Communications encountered a major outage August 23 and 24, leaving many Mitchell, South Dakota, residents who are not Qwest customers unable to call any numbers with the 995 prefix for more than 24 hours. The outage affected area residents who are customers of Mitchell Telecom, Midcontinent and Santel communications, Verizon Wireless and Alltel Communications, according to THE Mitchell Department of Public Safety. The outage did not affect businesses that use a private telephone network within their company. A translation error stopped certain phone numbers from going through, a Qwest spokeswoman for South Dakota in Minneapolis said. The problem does not occur often, she said. Mitchell Telecom reported the problem at 4 p.m. August 23, and Qwest resolved it about noon August 24.
Source: <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/event/article/id/45565/group/News/>
49. *August 24, Wisconsin State Journal* – (Wisconsin) **TDS restores DSL service to 5,500 customers.** An Internet outage left approximately 5,500 TDS customers in Middleton, Cross Plains and Black Earth, Wisconsin, without service August 24. A TDS spokeswoman said the outage was due to a hardware problem. Crews began work at about 1 a.m., and service was restored at approximately 4 p.m. The outage affected the company’s DSL customers, but not the networks that many larger businesses have. “Larger businesses were able to continue on,” the spokeswoman said. “But smaller businesses or home-based businesses might have been impacted.”

Source: http://host.madison.com/wsj/business/article_5a5eac9c-afa9-11df-87a8-001cc4c03286.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *August 24, WDBO 580 Orlando* – (Florida) **Bomb scare shuts down polling place.** A suspicious package found near the Kiwanis Island Park Rec. Center in Merritt Island, Florida, August 24 closed a polling station. The bomb squad was called in to investigate. Brevard County elections officials said the ballots and voting equipment are secure. Voters who show up are being given a “pick-up” ballot and directed to the main elections office at 2575 North Courtenay Parkway. The Kiwanis Island polling place reopened once the bomb squad gave the all-clear.

Source: <http://wdbo.com/localnews/2010/08/bomb-scare-shuts-down-polling.html>

51. *August 24, DNAINFO.com* – (New York) **Twin manhole explosions wreak havoc on First Avenue.** Twin manhole explosions forced the evacuation of several businesses along First Avenue, New York, New York. The first fire started in a manhole on East 50th Street and First Avenue about 3:55 p.m. August 24, and the second broke out minutes later up the street at East 51st Street. Carbon monoxide from the manhole fires had seeped into the basement at 897 First Avenue, but was quickly contained, the FDNY said. No one was injured in the explosions. Although ConEd restored gas to the affected area about 5 p.m., it would be a while before full power would return to the businesses.

Source: <http://www.dnainfo.com/20100824/midtown/twin-manhole-explosions-wreak-havoc-on-first-avenue>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

52. *August 25, Idaho Mountain Express* – (Idaho) **Fires rage to north and south.** The Banner Fire located about 15 miles west of Stanley, Idaho, in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, was estimated at 2,010 acres as of late August 23. New estimates place the fire at about 1,600 acres, according to a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) spokeswoman. About 370 firefighters on the ground were focusing on containing the southern edge of the fire, and keeping the blaze from reaching Highway 21 and Marsh Creek Road, the spokeswoman said August 24. The Lola Campground, the Marsh Creek Trailhead and Cape Horn Road were closed August 24 and were scheduled to remain so until further notice. There is no containment estimate for the Banner Fire as of yet. Hotshot crews from Montana, Utah and Nevada BLM offices are helping Idaho firefighters fight the blaze.

Source: <http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005132877>

53. *August 24, Medford Mail Tribune* – (Oregon) **Crews line Selma-area fire, expect containment in a week.** Firefighters expect to contain the stubborn Oak Flat fire burning in a rugged section of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon by August 31. A line has been looped around the 4,400-acre Selma-area fire, which is considered 65 percent contained, said a veteran firefighter who is spokesman for the national overhead team managing the firefighting effort. “Full containment reflects confidence that will be the final perimeter,” he said, adding that the fire is not likely to burn more than 5,500 acres. The fire is about 20 miles southwest of Grants Pass in the lower Illinois River drainage near the confluence of Briggs Creek. A roughly 600-acre unburned area inside the fire line is expected to be burned out by firefighters as part of the strategy to remove fuel from the main fire, he said. There are now about 980 firefighters and half a dozen helicopters assigned to the fire, which is believed to have been human-caused.

Source:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100824/NEWS07/8240335/-1/NEWSMAP>

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Dams Sector

54. *August 25, KRTV 3 Great Falls* – (Montana) **DHS Secretary Napolitano tours Great Falls levee.** The U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security was in Great Falls, Montana, August 24 touring the west-side Great Falls levee district. Currently, levee districts around the country are concerned about the re-certification process for two reasons: certification comes at a heavy price to the levee district; and the regulations for re-certification take a one-size fits all approach, and not all levees are created equally. The influence of the Secretary could lead to changes in both of these areas. The west-side levee needs to be re-certified; if it is not, it could cause insurance costs to skyrocket and home values to drop in the Central Avenue West Area. A Montana state representative of Great Falls, who is a resident of the area, recently testified before a U.S. Senate committee on the levee issue. “We need to take the levees in the different categories,” he said.

Source: <http://www.krtv.com/news/dhs-secretary-napolitano-tours-great-falls-levee/>

55. *August 25, Eugene Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Valley floods possible.** An unprecedented series of repairs and upgrades to key safety systems on Willamette basin, Oregon dams operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers means the reservoirs can’t be filled to capacity, which could result in flooding in the valley this winter. The Corps is lowering the amount of water held back by the dams by an overall average of 15 percent this winter, to allow for upgrades currently under way on some dams, and to ease the pressure on aging spillway gates slated for fixes in coming years. It means more water will be flowing in the Willamette than usual. It is an unprecedented step for the Corps to reduce its holding capacity system-wide, but the risk of dam failure represents a greater threat than that of flooding from winter rains, Corps officials said. Of the Willamette basin’s 13 dams, 11 will need repair. The cost

could reach \$200 million, but money for all of the work hasn't yet been approved, and the fixes could take years to complete, an Army Corps spokeswoman said. Just how much flooding could result is difficult to forecast. The federal agency is in the process of creating computer models to help predict what might happen in a worst case scenario. Those models will combine the precipitation data from 1996 — a year of severe flooding in the Willamette Valley — with a 15 percent reduction in the amount of water the dams can store. The models won't be complete for another week or two, but once they are done, they will help the corps develop operating rules under the new conditions, and emergency response plans that will be coordinated with Lane County's emergency managers.

Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/updates/25213683-55/guard-register-startstoryhere-writername.csp>

56. *August 25, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Repairs to Town Lake dam set to begin.** After delays caused by storm runoff, crews will be in the bottom of Tempe Town Lake in Tempe, Arizona August 25, beginning repairs on the lake's dam. Tempe officials said bladder number 3 will be craned into place at approximately 7 a.m. A storm 1 week ago brought more than 2 inches of water to north Scottsdale. The water flowed into the Indian Bend Wash and then into Tempe Town Lake. PCL Construction decided for safety reasons to delay offloading the bladders until the water went down. The repairs to the inflatable rubber dam were necessitated by the July 20 collapse of a portion of the west side of the dam.

Source: <http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=13040377>

57. *August 23, Homeland Security News Wire* – (Louisiana) **New levee design, construction materials tested in Louisiana.** Since Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Louisiana in 2005, attention has been riveted on \$14 billion worth of federal projects to rebuild the deficient hurricane levee system so it can better defend from surges out of lakes Borgne and Pontchartrain. The Army Corps of Engineers plans to start experimenting with a new construction method, which relies on a mix of lime and clay to build the test levee higher without widening the levee base. This method of raising existing river levees can be done faster than a standard raising and will not require buying additional land to expand the base. Mixing lime and clay and water will not produce concrete, which has a measured strength of 3,000 pounds per square inch, or psi, the mixture will have a strength of 80 to 120 psi — substantially greater than the 3 to 5 psi of a compacted clay levee. Five years after Hurricane Katrina's deadly lessons, the Corps still has not confirmed which Mississippi River levees must go higher to better protect against hurricane surges pushed out of the Gulf of Mexico, but testing is about to begin on a new method of raising the ones that are ultimately determined to be low. The Corps estimated last fall that about 17 miles of Mississippi River levees might need to be raised in and around where they meet up with hurricane protection system levees in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes, specifically to defend against a so-called 100-year surge.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/new-levee-design-construction-materials-tested-louisiana>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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