



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 September 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to Reuters, the U.S. Navy secretary said on Wednesday he was concerned about maintaining a stable workforce at Gulf Coast shipyards after the recent evacuation caused by Hurricane Gustav. (See item [9](#))
- The Los Angeles Times reports that airport officials and federal authorities have tightened security at Los Angeles International Airport because of the recent arrest of an elevator mechanic suspected of smuggling illegal immigrants into the U.S. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

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Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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. *September 4, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. urges Turkmenistan to diversify gas exports.** A U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state on Thursday urged the Central Asian resource-rich state of Turkmenistan to diversify its natural gas export routes. Turkmenistan, which sells most of its gas to Russia, is currently building a pipeline to China. The West is lobbying for another route, the Nabucco pipeline, that would deliver 30 billion cubic meters of Caspian Sea gas per year to Europe, bypassing Russia and instead going through the Caucasus. The U.S. official met the Turkmen president earlier on Thursday. Besides Nabucco, they discussed U.S. participation in developing Turkmenistan’s gas reserves. Washington has stepped up its advocacy of the Nabucco pipeline since the war between Georgia and Russia in early August. The U.S. vice president, on a tour of U.S.

allies in the Caucasus region, pushed for Nabucco and other U.S.-backed energy plans.
Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSL438308120080904?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

2. *September 4, Associated Press* – (National) **Citgo pulls SPR request, Marathon makes its own.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) received a second request, this time from Marathon Oil, for a withdrawal from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve because of disruptions caused by Hurricane Gustav. The first request to arrive in the wake of Gustav, from Venezuela's government-controlled Citgo Petroleum Corp., was withdrawn late Wednesday with larger ships being allowed to pass through the Calcasieu Ship Channel. "With the partial opening of Louisiana's Calcasieu Channel, Citgo's Lake Charles refinery has determined that it will receive the necessary oil supply needed to meet their refinery needs and has withdrawn their request for 250,000 barrels of oil," said a DOE spokesman. Marathon said it was having difficulty getting crude to its Robinson and Catlettsburg refineries. DOE continued to review the request. Conditions in the Gulf improved further Thursday, and most energy companies were sending workers back out to rigs and platforms off the coast of Texas and Louisiana.
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/09/04/business/NA-US-SPR-Request.php>
3. *September 3, Reuters* – (California) **Valero: Wilmington refinery FCC shut due to snag.** Valero Energy Corp. said Wednesday a 54,000 barrel-per-day fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) was shut at its Wilmington, California, oil refinery due to a snag on Tuesday. Repairs were underway at the gasoline-making FCC, a Valero spokesman said, adding there was no estimate as to when the unit may be back on line.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0347059020080903>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *September 4, WLS 7 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Several injured in acid spill.** An acid spill at a Chicago chemical company sent at least one person to the hospital and caused several others to get treatment for respiratory problems. Hazmat crews were called to two separate locations near the TBS Chemical Company Thursday afternoon. Firefighters say 30 gallons of sulfuric acid spilled. The acid caused a plume of smoke which may have drifted to the second location nearby.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=6372247>
5. *September 4, Southtown Star* – (Illinois) **Glenwood chemical plant reopens after spill.** A discharge pipe in a corrosion-inhibitor tank burst, spilling as much as 3,600 gallons of a rust-preventing additive at a Glenwood, Illinois, chemical plant Wednesday afternoon. As a precaution, seven employees working in the area were sent to St. James Hospital and Health Centers in Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields. No injuries were detected and all were released. Glenwood Fire Department responded to the call and designated it a hazardous material site. An environmental cleanup company worked Wednesday night and Thursday morning to remediate the spill. Officials from the Illinois EPA and the

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District inspected the plant Thursday and declared it properly remediated, the official said. The facility reopened by 7 a.m. Thursday. Midlothian-based Dober makes performance cooling system products for diesel engines.

Source: <http://www.southtownstar.com/neighborhoodstar/homewood-flossmoor/1145269,090508glenwooddigest.article>

6. *September 4, Times-Gazette* – (Tennessee) **Restrictions urged on chemical storage near schools.** A group of concerned citizens and institutions Tuesday urged the Shelbyville City Council in Tennessee to restrict the storage of potentially dangerous chemicals close to schools and other facilities. In response, the council could use zoning laws to address the issue, Shelbyville’s city manager said. The group is asking the city for the elimination of any hazardous chemicals that could migrate off the property if there was “a catastrophic leak that could cause serious bodily harm or death.” “We request the potential purchaser of the property inform the city of the type and amount of chemicals used in the company production/process,” said a spokesperson for the group. The director of Homeland Security would then contact the state to analyze and provide information about the chemicals, she said. “Information would be provided to the council in order for them to make an informed decision regarding the protection and health of the citizens in this area.” The spokesperson said that the council was well aware of the history of the aluminum recycling plant, most recently known as Aleris, which ceased operations in June. She pointed out that prior to the plant’s closing, 15 tons of chlorine were allowed on the property, but there are no chemicals there now. Source: <http://www.t-g.com/story/1458375.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *September 4, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **NRC issues mid-cycle assessments for nation’s nuclear plants.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued mid-cycle assessment letters to the nation’s 104 operating commercial nuclear power plants. The agency’s most recent assessments show all the plants continue to operate safely. “The latest round of assessments shows that 90 percent of the nation’s commercial nuclear power plants require only the basic level of attention by the agency. This is an improvement from a year ago, when only 72 percent of the plants required this lower level of oversight,” said the director of the Division of Inspection and Regional Support in the NRC’s Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. If a nuclear power plant’s performance declines, the NRC assigns additional resources to ensure the plant operator is taking the steps necessary to correct the situation. Only one plant, Palo Verde in Arizona, requires the NRC’s highest level of attention, which will include additional inspections this fall to confirm the plant’s performance issues are being addressed. Five plants require significantly increased NRC attention, and another five plants get some additional attention. These numbers are significantly lower than last year’s mid-cycle assessments. A [list](#) of each plant’s current performance rating is available on the NRC Web site. Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-163.html>

8. *September 4, Platts* – (Louisiana) **Entergy sees Waterford nuclear unit restarted within the week.** Louisiana electric utility Entergy on Thursday said it has established a third 230-kV link between its main grid and the region between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which had been isolated as an electric “island” in the hours immediately after Gustav passed through. Additional connections will be made over the next several days, officials said. In anticipation of the grid connections being made and new load added, Entergy said it plans to restart its Waterford-3 nuclear plant near New Orleans “within a week.” The plant was shut on August 31 ahead of Gustav. The utility said it will take somewhat longer to restart its River Bend nuclear plant near Baton Rouge, explaining that the unit’s turbine building suffered exterior damage due to Gustav that will need to be repaired.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6947274.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *September 3, Reuters* – (Louisiana; Mississippi) **U.S. Navy concerned about Gulf Coast post-hurricane workforce.** The U.S. Navy secretary said on Wednesday he was concerned about maintaining a stable workforce at Gulf Coast shipyards after the recent evacuation caused by Hurricane Gustav. He said preliminary reports showed minimal, if any, damage to the yards, but he was worried about maintaining continuity in the workforce, which took a big hit after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Northrop Grumman Corp, which operates shipyards in Pascagoula and Gulfport, Mississippi, and New Orleans and Tallulah, Louisiana, said it is still assessing the impact of the latest hurricane on its employees and facilities. The company had shut down operations in preparation for the storm but will resume full operations by Monday, said a spokeswoman.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0347207520080903?sp=true>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *September 4, Associated Press* – (Oregon, Wisconsin) **E-mail scam from Spain aimed at Oregon consumers.** According to police, an e-mail survey sent to Grants Pass, Oregon, area residents that offered \$90 to answer questions for a bank turned out to be a scam run electronically from Valencia, Spain. The e-mail used a phony Home Valley Bank logo and asked for personal information the real bank says it would never request by phone or e-mail. And the scam hijacked a phone number for a health care organization in Wisconsin as its fake contact number, forcing the organization to waste time answering a number of angry phone calls before the scam was discovered. Home Valley Bank has blocked any transactions involved with the scam.

Source: <http://kdrv.com/news/local/42036>

11. *September 4, Reuters* – (National) **Wall Street, funds urge SEC to keep ratings in rules.** Securities regulators disagree with America’s most powerful mutual funds and Wall Street players over plans to scrap requirements that money market funds hold investment-grade securities. For years, the Securities and Exchange Commission allowed fund firms to buy only highly rated municipal bonds for money market funds but now the SEC is considering changing that rule in an effort to curb investors’ reliance on credit ratings. Ironically, players like the Vanguard Group, one of the biggest in the \$12.3 trillion mutual fund industry, want less freedom instead of more, arguing the SEC-mandated ratings offer would-be investors a sense of comfort. The SEC’s plan would remove an important investor protection and weaken investment standards, and could pose a risk to the stability of the \$3.5 trillion money market fund industry, the Vanguard Chief Executive said in a letter filed with the agency. The Securities Industry and Financial Market Association, a Wall Street lobbying group, said the ratings give investors faith in the funds and create standards for assessing credit risks. A chairman of the board of trustees that oversees mutual fund firm Evergreen Investments, a mutual fund and asset management unit of Wachovia Corp said eliminating the rating requirement would place an inappropriate burden on trustees of money market funds. Other proposals include finding alternatives to establish net capital requirements for investment banks the SEC supervises. But one of the more controversial is the plan to eliminate part of its rule that requires money market funds to hold securities with ratings in one of the top two investment grades from a major rating agency. The SEC’s comment period for the proposals closes on Friday and the agency’s chairman has signaled that the new rules are a priority.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSN0429200520080904>

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Transportation Sector

12. *September 5, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **LAX tightens security measures after alleged smuggling.** Airport officials and federal authorities said Thursday that they have tightened security at Los Angeles International Airport because of the recent arrest of an elevator mechanic suspected of smuggling illegal immigrants into the U.S. Officials for LAX and U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the measures included security adjustments at the federal inspection area inside the Tom Bradley International Terminal. Authorities declined to describe the changes to protect airport security. According to court records, the airport employee allegedly used his airport security clearances and a key to terminal elevators to help illegal immigrants skirt customs and immigration checks after arriving aboard Mexicana Airlines flights. A Customs and Border Protection spokesman said the man received security clearances from LAX and the federal government and passed background checks that included his employment history and whether he had a criminal record. State officials have described LAX as the top potential target for terrorists in California.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/careers/work/la-me-smuggle5-2008sep05,0,3755262.story>

13. *September 4, ABC News* – (National) **FAA acts on ice buildup in plane crash.** To better prevent ice from building up in airplanes, the Federal Aviation Administration will issue a new safety rule in the next few days, the FAA told ABC News Thursday. The FAA is rethinking the subject of ice in plane fuel systems due to a report released Thursday in the United Kingdom that details what caused a British Airways plane to crash at Heathrow Airport in January. The initial investigation report from the U.K.'s Air Accidents Investigation Branch found that the flow of fuel to both of the plane's engines was cut off, likely by ice that accumulated in the plane on previous flights in cold air at high altitudes. The report said that both engines consequently lost power just before landing. An FAA spokesperson said that the upcoming aviation changes do not mean there is a safety emergency, but that they will be "immediately adoptable," meaning airlines must put the new safety rule into practice without delay. Planes that fly in very cold temperatures would be more susceptible to the problem. Still, the question remains as to whether similar planes, as well as other types of aircraft, are at risk of ice accumulating. Accident investigators said they are not certain but recommend that the possibility be investigated. According to the FAA, there are 228 Boeing 777's worldwide that have the same type of Rolls-Royce engine as the British Airways plane. Of those, 56 are in the United States, flown by Delta and American airlines. Thursday's accident report recommended that in the short term, the European Aviation Safety Agency, the FAA and others should immediately figure out if this problem could happen in similar planes.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/story?id=5725583&page=1>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *September 4, Yuma Sun* – (Arizona) **Building at YPG evacuated over bomb scare.** In Arizona, a bomb scare forced the evacuation of a building at Yuma Proving Ground Thursday afternoon for several hours before military explosive experts determined that a suspicious package did not contain any explosives. According to an YPG spokesman, a package was delivered to an employee at the building at about 1:30 p.m. with the phrase "bomb inside" written very small on the outside corner of the box. The official said the employee who received the suspicious package then reported it and the installation's security and fire departments responded to the scene. "An investigation is underway to determine how the writing may have got on to the package, because it is a crime," he said. The explosive ordnance detachment at Marine Corps Air Station was also contacted and responded to the base to determine whether or not the package actually contained a bomb. "They have since determined that there was no bomb. It turned out to be a hoax." The package contained an automotive transmission, the official said.

Source:

http://www.yumasun.com/news/scare_44160_article.html/bomb_building.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *September 5, Seattle Times* – (Oregon; Washington) **Salmonella outbreak linked to alfalfa sprouts from Kent.** State health officials believe locally grown alfalfa sprouts are linked to an outbreak of salmonellosis that has sickened 13 people in Washington and Oregon. Sprouters Northwest in Kent has voluntarily recalled its products containing alfalfa sprouts, according to the Washington state Department of Health. The first cases of the salmonella poisoning were reported in early August. People in Clark, Island, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom counties have been sickened, and at least two required hospitalization, according to the health department. Four people in Oregon have also gotten sick. The recalled sprouts were distributed to groceries and other retail outlets in Washington and Oregon. The health department is urging restaurants and delis to check their stock for the recalled sprouts and to contact their suppliers.
Source: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008159775_sprouts05m.html

16. *September 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Mexico to U.S.: No more beef, poultry shipments.** The government of Mexico has voluntarily suspended shipments of meat and processed poultry to the United States after U.S. officials raised concerns about the quality of Mexican food processing and inspections, an Agriculture Department official said Thursday. The department’s Food Safety and Inspection Service identified systemic problems with sanitation controls and record keeping during an annual audit that took place in Mexico between June 24 and July 31. The voluntary suspension began August 29, said a spokeswoman for the service. About two percent of beef and poultry in the U.S. comes from Mexican producers. “Safety concerns in multiple establishments were not identified by Mexican in-plant inspection personnel, demonstrating that Mexico’s system to verify its plants were producing safe food in a clean facility was insufficient,” she said. She said the audit report was not yet completed and would be posted on the agency’s Web site within 60 days. It was not known how long the suspension would last as Mexico takes steps to improve food safety.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/09/04/beef.mexico.ap/index.html>

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Water Sector

17. *September 5, Intelligencer Journal* – (Pennsylvania) **Water data in doubt.** In Pennsylvania, a former supervisor of Penn Township’s sewage treatment plant is accused of falsifying data and altering wastewater samples submitted to state environmental officials. The former superintendent of Northwestern Lancaster County Water and Sewer Authority was arraigned Thursday in Dauphin County District Court in Harrisburg on 29 charges that he submitted falsified reports to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The state charged him with 15 felony counts of tampering with public records or information and 14 misdemeanor counts of unsworn falsification to authorities. Northwestern Lancaster County Water and Sewer Authority oversees public water and sewer facilities for 1,050 customers in Penn

Township and the eastern and southern sections of Manheim Borough. The state alleges that its investigation shows the former supervisor knowingly submitted false monthly discharge monitoring reports to DEP from April 2005 to March 2008. According to court documents, a meter used to measure daily wastewater flow rates was broken during the first quarter in 2007. Nevertheless, according to the complaint, he reported flow rates to the DEP. He allegedly falsified records by inflating the numbers regarding dissolved oxygen in samples that measure daily flow.

Source: <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/226827>

18. *September 5, WWMT 3 Grand Rapids* – (New Jersey) **Dentist confesses to dumping medical waste.** Investigators in New Jersey say they have figured out why medical waste keeps washing up on the Atlantic shore. They say a dentist has confessed to taking his boat out and dumping it in the water. City officials in Avalon closed their beach several times over a two week period when people kept finding used needles and cotton swabs in the sand. Residents are happy that the man responsible is now in custody so they can enjoy the beach once again. The suspect is currently getting treatment at a mental health facility.

Source:

http://www.wwmt.com/articles/medical_1353068_article.html/say_dentist.html

19. *September 4, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Michigan) **Michigan wastewater treatment company pleads guilty to illegally discharging untreated liquid wastes.** Comprehensive Environmental Solutions, Inc. (CESI), a corporation which operates an industrial waste treatment and disposal facility in Dearborn, Michigan, pleaded guilty Thursday before a U.S. district judge in Michigan to violating the Clean Water Act and making false statements in connection with illegal discharges of untreated liquid wastes from the facility. During the period from April 2001 to June 2002, facility employees frequently bypassed the facility's treatment system in order to discharge untreated liquid wastes directly to the sanitary sewer system. At the time, the facility had no operable equipment to treat incoming liquid wastes and its ten million gallon tank farm was full, with virtually no capacity to store additional liquid wastes. Nonetheless, the facility continued to accept about 13 million gallons of liquid industrial waste-streams for purported treatment and disposal. CESI has agreed to pay a fine of \$600,000. CESI, which is under new management, has taken a number of steps during the last several years to install new equipment and systems to treat liquid industrial waste before it is discharged to the sewer. CESI has agreed to abide by the terms of a consent order with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the cleanup of the facility, at an estimated cost of about \$1.5 million.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/michigan-wastewater-treatment-company-pleads/story.aspx?guid={4B4B84EB-14A3-4E9D-878B-22CE5FEFFA15}&dist=hppr>

20. *September 4, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Environmental group voices concerns over Duke nuclear plants in SC.** Two nuclear reactors Duke Energy is planning to build in Cherokee County, South Carolina, could further deplete the water supply that is already tightened by a drought, an environmental group said Wednesday.

“Water supply and trends are on a collision course,” the science director of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League said, referring to South Carolina’s recent drought conditions. Attorneys for Duke Energy, who said that they have assessed any potential impact on the state’s supply, say the supply’s safety is not a concern because the reactors can be shut down safely without relying on an outside water source.
Source: <http://www.thestate.com/breakingbiz/story/513542.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *September 5, La Crosse Tribune* – (National) **CDC chief states flu pandemic is coming.** Ready or not, a flu pandemic is coming, says director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She talked about preparing for the pandemic threat at a national conference Thursday at Logistics Health in La Crosse. She said she has only two meetings a week at the CDC and one focuses on flu pandemic preparations. “We take it very seriously,” she said, adding that the national strategy is to “save lives and sustain a civil society” during a pandemic. She said CDC officials are closely monitoring the bird flu virus, which has a death rate of 63 percent among the 385 cases reported worldwide since 2003. She said CDC scientists have created a potential vaccine in case the virus develops into a pandemic strain and are conducting more research to develop a vaccine. They have recreated the virus that caused the 1918 flu pandemic to better understand it.
Source: <http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2008/09/05/news/00lead.txt>

22. *September 4, Associated Press* – (National) **Arthritis drugs linked to risks from infection.** The Food and Drug Administration ordered stronger warnings Thursday on four medications widely used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and other serious illnesses, saying they can raise the risk of possibly fatal fungal infections. The drugs — Enbrel, Remicade, Humira, and Cimzia — work by suppressing the immune system to keep it from attacking the body. The drugs, however, also lower the body’s defenses to infections. The head the office that oversees arthritis drugs said the agency became concerned after discovering that doctors seemed to be overlooking a kind of fungal infection called histoplasmosis. Of 240 cases reported to the agency in which patients taking one of the four drugs developed this infection, 45 died. That is about 20 percent. The infection, which mimics the flu, is prevalent in the middle part of the country. It can have grave consequences if it is not caught and spreads from the respiratory system to other organs.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/05/washington/05arthritis.html?ref=us>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *September 4, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Charleston Air Force Base evacuated transports.** Charleston Air Force Base evacuated 11 C-17 transport planes to bases in Ohio and Missouri as Tropical Storm Hanna heads toward the U.S. coast. Air

Force officials say departures of the \$200 million aircraft and their three-man crews began Thursday morning and continued until 2:15 p.m. Six of the planes known as Globemasters went to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, and five were relocated at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. Air Force officials say there has been no mandatory evacuation order given for military personnel at the base or their families. Source: <http://www.wbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8955857>

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *September 5, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Officials briefed on state readiness for new storms.** As forecasters tracked a string of powerful storms sweeping toward the East Coast, Maryland’s governor convened top officials of his administration yesterday for a briefing from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). In a room at the State Emergency Operations Center in Reisterstown, the director of MEMA said the agency does not expect large-scale damage in the state, but that looming storms still have time to change their courses and levels of intensity. Similar meetings were held Thursday by local governments around the state to prepare for Hanna, which is expected to pass over the Eastern Shore tomorrow as it heads up the East Coast. More than 65 Maryland National Guard personnel, 20 Maryland state troopers, and 25 local ambulance strike force personnel have been deployed to Louisiana to help those affected by Hurricane Gustav, officials said, but some will be back by Saturday. Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.disaster05sep05,0,1372927.story>
25. *September 4, Times News* – (Tennessee) **Hawkins 911 may lose state funds due to county cuts.** Hawkins County 911 may lose so much state funding that it stops its dispatching services completely and places that responsibility on the county’s police, fire, and rescue agencies. On August 25, the county commission approved its 2008-09 fiscal year budget including an across-the-board 10 percent cut of all contributions. That meant the county’s annual contribution to 911 would be cut by \$14,000 from \$140,000 to \$126,000. Cutting local funds to an agency which also receives state funding constitutes a breach of maintenance of effort, and typically results in a very real threat of state funding cuts. One possibility is the elimination of a \$120,000 “bonus” from the state which was Hawkins County’s share of a \$14 million stipend approved by the General Assembly this year for 911 agencies statewide. Hawkins 911 is using that money to help pay for a new dispatching center now under construction in Rogersville. Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9007999>
26. *September 4, Madison Isthmus* – (Wisconsin) **911 Center oversight lapses continue.** Dane County’s 911 Center oversight board has failed to conduct performance evaluations of the center’s director in the past five years, in violation of a county law. In response to questions and a public records request, county officials acknowledge they have ignored a county ordinance that requires the 911 Center Board to conduct annual performance evaluations of the director and forward them to the county executive’s office for use in her own performance evaluations. Nor was there any evidence that the

County Executive has evaluated the director's performance in the past five years, despite longstanding concerns about the center's operation. This failure is the latest evidence of weak oversight and poor management of one of local government's most important public safety agencies. In 2004, an independent audit, not made public at the time, warned of a possible "catastrophic" event because of problems at the center.
Source: <http://www.isthmus.com/isthmus/article.php?article=23671>

27. *September 4, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **911 service restored in Teller County.** Phone service has been restored in Teller County after a failure caused by a severed fiber wire. Qwest Communications says service was restored late Wednesday or early Thursday. Partial service, including 911 calls, had been restored earlier. The cut occurred Wednesday three miles south of Cripple Creek and 115 miles south of Denver.
Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/local/qwest.outage.teller.2.809870.html>

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Information Technology

28. *September 4, Government Technology* – (National) **Companies continue to overlook evolved virus attacks.** A recent security advisory from a messaging security company warned that service providers are placing e-mail users at risk by continuing to ignore sophisticated virus propagation techniques. Attackers are moving beyond traditional tactics, such as sending messages with virus executables attached or virus-infected documents, to employing hybrid attacks that combine elements of both spam and viruses. In these attacks, malware authors embed links in informative or advertising e-mails. Recipients are enticed to follow these links to a Website that hosts the malware, which could be a virus, worm, or Trojan. These advanced threats embed anti-spam and anti-virus (AV) evasion techniques with the objective of eluding both spam and traditional AV filters. Most spam filters are not capable of catching these highly mutable threats because they do not follow the recurrent, mass e-mail tactics commonly found in spam. Likewise, conventional AV solutions bypass these messages as they appear to be spam or phishing. As these attacks become the norm, operators are urged to re-examine their anti-virus strategies and ensure that their messaging security processes are capable of detecting these hybrid threats.
Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/405320?topic=117671>
29. *September 4, Computer World* – (National) **Upcoming Microsoft patch lineup could be 'massive,' says researcher.** Microsoft Corp. today Thursday it will ship four security updates next week, only a third as many as it did last month, to fix critical vulnerabilities in Windows, Office, Windows Media Player, and other parts of its software portfolio. The director of security operations at nCircle Network Security Inc said, however, that "it's not going to be an easy month with all these different applications and different operating systems affected. Patching will be a lot more involved than you'd think with just four bulletins." He called the patching job "potentially massive." In the advance notification Microsoft published Thursday, it tagged all four of the expected updates as "critical" -- its highest threat rating. As customary, Microsoft limited the information to naming the affected software and

providing only generalities about the bugs. However, all four will patch one or more “remote execution” vulnerabilities, flaws that allow attackers to gain control of a system by introducing malicious code, often by convincing users to open a file attachment or tricking them into visiting a rogue Web site.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=windows&articleId=9114116&taxonomyId=125&intsrc=kc_top

30. *September 3, IDG News Service* – (National) **Spammers use free Web services to shield harmful links.** Spammers are abusing free Web services to make their spam links look more legitimate, according to e-mail security vendor MessageLabs Ltd. One of the services, a photo hosting site called ImageShack, lets people upload different types of photo formats, including Flash files, said a senior analyst at MessageLabs. Flash files, which have the extension “.swf,” can be used for animated graphics and to automatically redirect people to other Web sites — a feature that can be abused. The attack involving ImageShack works like this: Spammers upload a Flash file and then copy the link for that file, which comes from ImageShack’s domain, into a spam message. If the link is followed, the Flash file redirects the victim to a spam site, he said. The technique offers an advantage for spammers. Antispam software will often scan links in e-mail and block any e-mails with suspicious-looking links. But ImageShack’s domain is considered to have a good reputation, so messages will not be blocked. Another, more dangerous variation on this theme is a spam e-mail promoting a video. If the link is clicked, a Flash file redirects the victim to a site where a pop-up window immediately implores the user to download a codec supposedly needed in order to play the video file. Invariably, the file is not a codec but rather some piece of malicious software.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9114045&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *September 4, TMCNet* – (Southeast) **US Carrier: We’ll protect fiber optic network from Hurricane Hanna.** USCarrier Telecom, LLC., a company that provides high-speed fiber optic transport services in the Southeastern region, reportedly says it is prepared to combat the Hurricane Hanna along the Atlantic coast, primarily focusing Savannah, Georgia. Technicians have been spread across the multi-state area to manage

its fiber optic network in four states stretched over 3,400 miles. USCarrier received approval to join the Wireless Priority Service, a group that provides priority wireless services to vital private sector personnel and infrastructure providers in the event of any emergency. All the field technicians and staff of network operation center have been informed by USCarrier to stay in a 24-hour alert mode through this weekend, when Hurricane Hanna is being expected to arrive. The company will also send ancillary personnel who will physically drive the network so that areas with problems might be identified. Apart from this, as a part of preparations to combat the potential destruction of Hanna, the back-up generators of the company have been tested, POP doors have been sealed and sand bagged, all the terminals have been backed-up, emergency equipment parts have been ordered for, and the cable contractors have been asked to prepare for quick deployment if some emergency arises.

Source: <http://cable.tmcnet.com/topics/cable/articles/38893-uscarrier-well-protect-fiber-optic-network-from-hurricane.htm>

32. *September 4, InformationWeek* – (New York) **‘Nation’s largest wi-fi network’ launched by Cablevision.** Cablevision Systems on Thursday debuted what it calls the “nation’s largest and most advanced consumer Wi-Fi network” across a wide swathe of New York’s Long Island. The service covers high-traffic community zones in Nassau County and in some areas of Suffolk County, as well as on commuter rail platforms and parking lots across Long Island. The Wi-Fi service is available without additional charge to Cablevision’s Optimum broadband customers. The Long Island deployment is the vanguard of Cablevision’s \$310 million project to provide Wi-Fi service to its 2.4 million Internet customers in its New York-New Jersey-Connecticut tri-state service area.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/mobility/wifiwimax/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=210500064>

33. *September 4, WAOI 4 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Scam targets Time Warner cable customers.** Hundreds of people have already been affected by a new phishing scam that tries to get personal information over the internet and is targeting cable-TV customers. It comes in the form of an email that appears to be from Time Warner Cable. Time Warner has received more than 200 or emails related to the phishing scam. A spokesperson for Time Warner told News 4 the company would never send out an email asking for personal information or bank/credit card account information.

Source: http://www.woai.com/mostpopular/story.aspx?content_id=b5c19039-e590-4d3e-bed6-84c93e5d3d63

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *September 5, CNN* – (Minnesota) **Protesters, police clash outside convention.** Police faced off with crowds of protesters outside the Republican National Convention, arresting 396 people after using tear gas and percussion grenades to turn them back. Thursday’s arrests brought the total for the week to 818, authorities said. “Most of them

were cited and released,” a police lieutenant said Friday morning. Protesters who had gathered near the state capitol, about a mile from the site of the convention, were repeatedly cut off as they tried to march to the convention center. Police used tear gas when dozens of marchers tried to cross a bridge leading to the Xcel Center convention site after being warned not to. The Minnesota State Public Safety commissioner said the arrests were made at an interstate overpass that separated the marchers from the Xcel Center. He said the objective was to contain the protesters and keep them from reaching the convention hall.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/05/rnc.protests/index.html#cnnSTCText>

35. *September 4, North Country Gazette* – (New York) **U.S. Open employee accused of making bomb threat.** A teenage employee at the U.S. Open Tennis Championships in Flushing Meadows, Queens, has been charged with making a series of phone calls to the venue Wednesday while at work, claiming that a bomb had been planted at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. The threats turned out to be a hoax. The teenager, who is a contracted employee with the U.S. Tennis Association assigned to the fire watch area at the U.S. Open, is presently awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on charges of first- and second-degree falsely reporting an incident.

Source: http://www.northcountrygazette.org/2008/09/04/tennis_bomb/

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *September 4, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Cast-iron trim from Longfellow Bridge stolen.** Hundreds of feet of decorative, cast-iron trim that was taken off the Longfellow Bridge during repairs to the structure was stolen from a labor yard. Officials said that about 2,347 linear feet of trim that was being stored at the Stoneham Labor Yard was stolen sometime in the last three weeks. State officials planned to refurbish the trim and reattach it to the bridge. The historic metalwork is a feature of the Longfellow Bridge that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) planned to restore along with the bridge. Officials are also reviewing other state labor yards to make sure that property in DCR’s possession is secure.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/17393525/detail.html>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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