



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 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/>

- CNN Money reports that federal officials unveiled the takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, putting the government in charge of the mortgage giants and the \$5 trillion in home loans they back. (See item [13](#))
- Reuters reports that a Boeing machinist strike that is halting production at the plane maker's Seattle-area plants is likely to cause problems for a long list of suppliers across the world in an increasingly global aerospace business. (See item [16](#))

**DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

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

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

**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 8, Bloomberg* – (National) **Ike hits Cuba, may head toward Gulf oil installations.** Ike smashed into northeastern Cuba on a course that may take the hurricane through the center of the island and into the Gulf of Mexico, threatening U.S. oil installations hit by Gustav a week ago. Crude oil rose 2.7 percent from a five-month low as producers delayed resuming operations in the region that were stalled by Gustav. Energy producers reported that personnel from ten rigs and 202 production platforms have been evacuated, the Minerals Management Service said Sunday on its Web site. Most energy output in the Gulf has been halted since Hurricane Gustav ripped through the area and made landfall in Louisiana on September 1.  
Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=amNsxlXxqmog&refer=energy>

2. *September 8, Reuters* – (Arkansas; Louisiana; Mississippi) **Some 180,000 Entergy customers still without power.** More than 180,000 customers in Entergy Corp.'s service area in Louisiana remained without power Monday, one week after Hurricane Gustav caused massive damage to the company's transmission system when it hit September 1-3. Over the past week, Entergy has restored power to more than 767,000 of the 964,000 customers who lost service in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Regionwide, Gustav cut power to more than 1.8 million homes and businesses along the Gulf Coast and shut more than a dozen oil refineries and numerous oil and natural gas pipelines and other energy facilities. Entergy predicted its team of 14,000 restoration workers would return power to most of the remaining affected customers by the end of the week. Some homes and businesses in the hardest hit areas may have to wait until the end of the month. Entergy said it restored power to all 12 of the oil refineries and petrochemical plants affected by the storm. Even with power, it still takes days or weeks for a refinery to ramp up to normal production depending on the damage.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0842254820080908?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>
3. *September 7, Washington Times* – (District of Columbia; Maryland; Virginia) **Hanna moves on; Ike churning to Gulf.** Tropical Storm Hanna left thousands without power in the Washington, District of Columbia, area. Dominion Virginia Power reported that as of 10 a.m. Saturday, 44,000 customers had lost power, mostly because of the storm. By Saturday evening, the number had been reduced to 9,000 and the utility expected power to be restored to all customers by Sunday night. Baltimore Gas & Electric reported 16,000 outages remaining Saturday evening, while 5,000 Pepco customers, nearly all in Montgomery County, Maryland, were still affected.  
Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/07/hanna-brings-flooding-power-outages/>
4. *September 5, Reuters* – (Pennsylvania) **PPL sees Pa. Montour 1 coal unit back late Sept.** PPL Corp. expects to restart Unit 1 at the Montour, Pennsylvania, coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania by the end of September, a spokesman for the company said Friday. On August 5, PPL shut the unit after a portion of the wooden frame that contains a system of piping and other equipment that delivers hot water to the cooling tower collapsed, the company said in a statement filed with federal regulators last week. The company decided to replace the wooden structure – something it had already planned to do during a maintenance outage scheduled for 2011. As a result of the outage, PPL estimated its net income for 2008 could be reduced by about \$30 million, primarily due to reduced electricity sales, the cost of replacement power purchases and incremental operating and maintenance cost, the company said in a release, adding its capital expenditures for 2008 will increase by about \$20 million. During replacement, PPL plans to operate the unit with temporary portable equipment that can perform the same function as the damaged cooling tower. The company expects to install the

temporary equipment by the end of September. It hopes to complete the installation of the permanent cooling structure in December.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0526314820080905?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *September 7, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **State bills tough on scrap metal recyclers.** Police believe the high prices for metal have lured drug addicts into stealing everything from manhole covers to farm equipment. In response, legislators have passed bills that would regulate scrap metal dealers in unprecedented ways. The dealers would be required to photograph every seller and their goods, take thumbprints, keep extensive records and pay out only after a three-day wait. In the Bay Area, thieves have run off with freeway guardrails, stripped copper from homes, hacked away catalytic converters from sport utility vehicles and even metal stolen from cemeteries. Thieves stole bronze valves from a chemical plant in Richmond in May, sending 3,500 gallons of toxins into the bay, requiring an estimated \$250,000 cleanup. A new scrap metal bill (AB844) would put new liability on scrap yards. If they knowingly buy stolen metal, they would be responsible for all ensuing collateral damage.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/06/BAVJ12MS72.DTL>

6. *September 6, Boston Globe* – (International) **Oil refineries underestimate release of emissions, study says.** A study by the Alberta Research Council that investigated the plume of contaminants emanating from a Canadian oil refinery using high-tech sniffing equipment found the facility dramatically underestimated its releases of dangerous air pollutants. The refinery, which was not identified but is believed to be in Alberta, released 19 times more cancer-causing benzene than it reported under Environment Canada disclosure regulations, about 15 times more smog-causing volatile organic compounds, and nine times more methane, a greenhouse gas, according to the study. The testing is believed to be the first at a North American refinery using the sophisticated technology relying on lasers. The technology, developed by British Petroleum, has been in widespread use in Europe for nearly two decades. Based on the study, funded by the federal, Alberta and Ontario governments, it is likely that all refineries in Canada and the U.S. are undercounting emissions because they follow an estimating protocol developed by the Washington-based American Petroleum Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Under the protocol, refineries do not calculate their actual emissions, but try to reach approximate figures using technical assumptions and mathematical equations. Details of the study, published in a journal last month, have prompted controversy, with the petroleum institute calling for the expunging of tables showing the embarrassing differences between industry practice and the test results, according to a letter it sent to the EPA and Environment Canada.

Source:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080906.POLLUTANTS06/TPSt>

## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

7. *September 8, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Some 180,000 Entergy customers still without power.** Both of Entergy’s nuclear power reactors in Louisiana remained out of service Monday morning. Entergy shut the Waterford 3 reactor before Gustav hit and the River Bend reactor after the storm hit. After inspecting the station, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency said on September 4 that Entergy could restart Waterford 3. Entergy meanwhile said workers were repairing wind damage to the turbine building siding at River Bend. Entergy did not say in a release Monday morning when the reactors would return to service.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0842254820080908?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>
8. *September 8, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Exelon Ill. Dresden 2 reactor cut to 67 pct power.** Exelon Corp.’s Unit 2 at the Dresden nuclear power station in Illinois dipped to 67 percent power by Sunday from 99 percent Friday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said in a report Monday. In a report to the NRC, Exelon declared the isolation condenser inoperable following surveillance testing. The company said it would have to fix the system within 14 days or shut the unit and that it is performing maintenance to adjust the cooling flow valve stroke time to retest the system.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0842729220080908>
9. *September 7, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Peach Bottom completes corrections.** A federal agency found that Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania has taken appropriate corrective actions in response to an incident last fall when former security guards were videotaped sleeping while on duty. The plant has put in place a host of improvements such as the revising of security officer post assignments so that no one guard remains stationed in a particular area for an entire shift, according to a letter issued August 28 by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Also, the plant has revamped its Ready Room to include a television, a computer, improved air conditioning, and upgraded lighting, said a spokeswoman for the power station. Between March 2007 and August 2007, an employee videotaped his fellow Wackenhut Corp. security officers napping in Peach Bottom’s Ready Room – an area inside the plant in which officers not on patrol are allowed to relax. An initial NRC inspection conducted last fall found the plant’s Ready Room was marked by warm temperatures, dim lighting, lack of reading materials, and lack of a computer that might have otherwise kept the guards engaged. Also, as part of its corrective actions, the plant put in place an in-house security force, Exelon Nuclear Security, soon after it terminated its contract with Wackenhut Corp. “What this all means is that Exelon has fulfilled the commitments that were spelled out in its Confirmatory Action Letter last October,” an

NRC spokesman said. Such a letter documents changes a plant agrees to put in place as a result of an event such as inattentive guards who are required to respond to site emergencies, he said.

Source: [http://ydr.inyork.com/ci\\_10400899](http://ydr.inyork.com/ci_10400899)

10. *September 5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (North Carolina) **NRC to send special inspection team to Brunswick nuclear plant to assess and inspect emergency diesel generator issue.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is dispatching a special inspection team to the Brunswick nuclear power plant, operated by Progress Energy near Southport on the southeastern coast of North Carolina. The team will inspect and assess circumstances associated with an August 19th failed test of one of the plant's four emergency diesel generators. Specifically, local control of the diesel generator, needed for alternate safe shutdown, was prevented when it was found that there was no electrical power to reset a relay. Plant employees have preliminarily determined that the error was due to some modifications made in the middle of 2007, and that the change affected all four generators. The error has now been corrected in all of the generators. The special inspection is expected to begin September 8 and take about a week. The NRC will issue a report within 45 days of the completion of the inspection.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-045.ii.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

11. *September 6, Azom.com* – (National) **Boeing completes software development for C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP).** The Boeing Company announced Saturday that it has completed software development for its C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP). The milestone was achieved following the successful flight test of aircraft AMP 2 (H2.5), conducted by Boeing and the U.S. Air Force on August 18. During the 1.6-hour flight from Edwards Air Force Base, California, the combined Boeing/Air Force crew tested the functionality of Core Complete 2.2. Boeing will install kits on 11 C-130 transport aircraft under the Low Rate Initial Production agreement. The company is expected to provide the AMP modifications and upgrades to more than 200 C-130 aircraft under the Air Force contract awarded in 2001. The first AMP aircraft, AMP 1 (H2), is at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, for isochronal inspection, which is a comprehensive nose-to-tail inspection and system check. AMP 2 will continue ground and flight testing at the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards. A third aircraft, AMP 3 (H3), is undergoing modifications and upgrades at Boeing Support Systems' San Antonio facility. The aircraft will receive a fully integrated, night-vision-goggle compatible, digital glass cockpit and a new digital avionics system, increasing situational awareness for the warfighter. The AMP upgrade also brings commonality to the C-130 fleet and offers flexibility in assigning aircrew, regardless of the model design type.

Source: <http://www.azom.com/news.asp?newsID=13619>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *September 8, Bloomberg* – (National) **SEC ‘missed opportunity’ to save auction-rate buyers.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission failed to protect investors from the collapse of the \$330 billion auction-rate market by not policing how banks sold the bonds to customers. Federal regulators did not stop brokers from selling the long-term securities to individuals as alternatives to cash late last year when credit markets seized up, though they knew dealers routinely propped up the bonds. The SEC ended a probe of bid-rigging in May 2006 by permitting 15 banks to take part in auctions as long as they disclosed it on the Internet. “It’s obvious they missed an opportunity,” said the Massachusetts Secretary of State, who filed complaints against UBS AG, the biggest Swiss bank, and Merrill Lynch & Co., the third-largest brokerage firm, in June and July. “They could have raised a red flag.” The collapse left investors who thought they were holding something similar to money-market funds with long-term securities they could only sell at losses of as much as 40 percent, according to data compiled by New York-based Restricted Stock Partners, which trades auction-rate bonds.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=aNpaeNekCTe4&refer=home>

13. *September 7, CNNMoney* – (National) **U.S. seizes Fannie and Freddie.** Federal officials on Sunday unveiled the takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, putting the government in charge of the mortgage giants and the \$5 trillion in home loans they back. The move, which extends as much as \$200 billion in Treasury support to the two companies, marks Washington’s most dramatic attempt yet to shore up the nation’s housing market, which is suffering from record foreclosures and falling prices. The sweeping plan, announced by the Treasury Secretary and the director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), places the two companies into a “conservatorship” to be overseen by the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Under conservatorship, the government would temporarily run Fannie and Freddie until they are on stronger footing. On Sunday, officials stressed that both Fannie and Freddie will be open for business on Monday morning, although the firms will have undergone a dramatic facelift by then. In addition, the Treasury Department announced a series of moves targeted at providing relief to both housing and financial markets. The Treasury would boost housing by purchasing mortgage-backed securities from Freddie and Fannie, as well as offering to lend money to the companies and the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks. The home loan banks advance funds to more than 8,000 member banks. The Treasury, with fellow regulator FHFA, will also buy preferred stock in Fannie and Freddie to provide security to the companies’ debt holders and bolster housing finance.

Source:

[http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/07/news/companies/fannie\\_freddie/index.htm?postversion=2008090711](http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/07/news/companies/fannie_freddie/index.htm?postversion=2008090711)

14. *September 5, Wired Blog Network* – (International) **Israeli hacker known as “The Analyzer” suspected of hacking again.** Canadian authorities have announced the arrest of a 29-year-old Israeli believed to be the notorious hacker known as “The Analyzer”

who, as a teenager in 1998, hacked into unclassified computer systems belonging to NASA, the Pentagon, the Israeli parliament and others. The culprit and three Canadians were arrested for allegedly hacking the computer system of a Calgary-based financial services company and inflating the value on several pre-paid debit card accounts before withdrawing about CDN \$1.8 million (about U.S. \$1.7 million) from ATMs in Canada and other countries. The arrests followed a months-long investigation by Canadian police and the U.S. Secret Service.

Source:

<http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/09/the-analyzer-su.html>

15. *September 5, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Police warn of ‘phishing’ scam targeting bank customers.** The Altamonte Springs, Florida, Police Department announced that the Bank of America Fraud Response team is currently investigating an e-mail “phishing” scam that attempts to obtain unauthorized access to banking software including Bank of America Direct. Recent fraudulent e-mails appearing to be from Bank of America have been identified as phishing e-mails. The e-mail may ask customers to verify confidential account information by clicking on a Customer Verification Form with a fraudulent link provided in the e-mail. The message may refer to a required or mandatory confirmation necessary for a routine software upgrade. Phishing e-mails often contain links that if clicked, may trigger the installation of malicious software onto the client’s computer that can capture sensitive data, including information about their Bank of America and other financial institution accounts.

Source: [http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news\\_local\\_orlandocrime/2008/09/police-warn-of.html](http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_local_orlandocrime/2008/09/police-warn-of.html)

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## **Transportation Sector**

16. *September 8, Reuters* – (National) **Boeing strike threatens global aero industry.** Boeing Co’s 27,000 machinists prepared for the third day of a strike, halting production at the plane maker’s Seattle-area plants in protest at Boeing’s contract offer and what they see as plans to shift more jobs to non-union and foreign companies. The fourth strike in 20 years by Boeing’s biggest union threatens to cost the company \$100 million a day in revenue and is likely to cause problems for a long list of suppliers across the world in an increasingly global aerospace business. Union members in the nearby IAM hall said there would be more action early on Monday Seattle time, when greater numbers of picketers are expected at the plant’s gates to see if workers attempt to cross the picket line. In the U.S., Spirit Aerosystems Holdings Inc., a former Boeing unit making the front fuselage, looks to be the most vulnerable. Aerospace component firms Rockwell Collins Inc. and Goodrich Corp. may also face inventory problems if Boeing stops taking delivery of parts. There will be no further production of Boeing’s 737, 747, 767 and 777 planes – one of the main U.S. export currency earners – and the already delayed 787 Dreamliner could fall even further behind schedule. The new freighter version of the popular long-range 777, which has 75 orders and is set for first delivery in the fourth quarter, also faces delays, along with early production work on Boeing’s new jumbo, the 747-8. Airlines have been quiet so far on the effects of the strike.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUST12880220080908>

17. *September 8, Marianas Variety* – (Northern Mariana Islands) **Feds warn Saipan on power outages at airport.** The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has told the Northern Marianas government it must provide stable electrical power supply at Saipan’s international airport or risk losing its operating certificate, the Marianas Variety reports. The newspaper says the FAA Regional Administrator in a July 21 letter to a governor said the commonwealth government is supposed to provide consistent electricity to the airport as a condition of maintaining its federal operating certificate. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on numerous occasions, including when aircraft are arriving and departing, has shut down power to the airport as part of island-wide outages. “The intentional power blackouts are causing interruptions of the navigational aids for extended periods of time,” the FAA official said. “The high voltage transformers, cables, and engine generators feeding critical airport navigational aids are being exercised repeatedly beyond their design limits damaging and shortening the life-cycle of vital equipment and systems,” he said in his letter.

Source: <http://www.pacificmagazine.net/news/2008/09/08/feds-warn-saipan-on-power-outages-at-airport>

18. *September 7, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Deadly crashes bring FAA focus on Reno air races.** Critics call the Reno National Championship Air Races “the world’s most dangerous motor sport” after three pilots were killed during competition last year and another racer was killed during a practice flight Saturday. The crashes have prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to place greater scrutiny on the races, and local school officials for a time reconsidered whether to continue student field trips to the event. About 150 of the nation’s top racing pilots will compete September 10-14 for \$1 million in prize money at Reno-Stead Airport just north of Reno, Nevada. The competition is like a car race in the sky, with planes flying wingtip-to-wingtip as low as 50 feet off the sagebrush at speeds sometimes surpassing 500 mph. Pilots follow an oval path around pylons, with distances and speeds depending on the class of aircraft. An FAA spokesman said his agency is stepping up its presence at Reno in an effort to promote safety. He said an FAA inspector provided briefings at organizers’ “Rookie School,” which is held each June. Rookies must pass certain criteria before they are allowed to compete. In addition, inspectors will give pilots safety briefings at the beginning of the races, pay closer attention to pilots’ records and place more scrutiny on aircraft modifications, he said.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ga3XuK-Pvp40a5ThmLxWhtY0E4swD9320NFG0>

19. *September 7, Aero-News Network* – (National) **FAA flight data system ‘upgraded.’** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) claims that modernization of a computer system responsible for the processing of essential flight data is near completion. An outage in the National Airspace Data Interchange Network (NADIN) last week caused hundreds of air traffic delays. However, the FAA claims that important upgrades to the



system are just months from being finished. NADIN supports the critical exchange of flight plan data, weather information, Notices to Airmen and other flight safety-related messages. New high-speed servers are replacing the collection switches at the FAA's two primary NADIN facilities in Atlanta and Salt Lake City, as well as the antiquated concentrators in each En Route Center. In addition, system gateway upgrades have already been completed at En Route Centers in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago and Fort Worth. When that deployment is finished in early 2009, NADIN will have increased storage and dramatically improved processing speed, which will alleviate the bottlenecks the FAA has seen in the past.

Source: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=d5a5fe8d-2a58-47bd-9455-063dcf9f3683>

20. *September 6, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **2 arrested in Lewis Co. railroad bomb scare.** Two men were arrested Friday by Lewis County, Washington, sheriff's detectives in connection with an explosive device found last month alongside railroad tracks leading to a coal-fired power plant. The device, which contained powder inside a five-gallon propane tank, had the potential to deliver "an incredible amount of destructive power," said Lewis County's Sheriff. It was found August 20 about a mile from the Trans Alta power plant by an employee. One culprit told detectives he made the bomb device for the 4th of July, but the device did not detonate as planned at that time. He said he put the device in his car a few weeks later and was planning on transporting it to a location where he could dump it, deputies said. He was frightened when he saw a security guard near Trans Alta and disposed of the device quickly, alongside the railroad tracks. The device is still at the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab for processing.  
Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/27953134.html>
21. *September 6, USA Today* – (National) **Officials find 17 new cases of airlines missing safety bar.** Federal aviation regulators discovered 17 new cases of airlines failing to comply with critical safety mandates in a review prompted by revelations this year of widespread maintenance violations, officials said Friday. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is reviewing whether to take enforcement action in the cases, which involve 11 unnamed carriers, said the agency's acting administrator. He said the violations did not create a risk to airline passengers. The agency has conducted 5,618 audits of compliance at large and small airlines across the country and found two percent of cases involved violations, he said. In addition to the 17 violations, the agency found 61 instances in which more minor violations occurred. These included cases in which the maintenance work was done adequately, but airlines had not properly documented the work. In other cases, airlines had performed maintenance work using unauthorized procedures that were approved later by the agency.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-09-05-faa-investigation\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-09-05-faa-investigation_N.htm)
22. *September 6, Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **O'Hare flight makes emergency landing.** A Boeing 747 bound for Hong Kong made an emergency landing at O'Hare International Airport Saturday because of unspecified problems with a temperature probe, officials said. United Airlines Flight 895 was about an hour into the 13-hour trip when the pilot rerouted it back to O'Hare, where the plane had departed at 1:37 p.m. A United

spokeswoman said 323 passengers and 18 crew members were on board. The aircraft landed safely at O'Hare at 5:27 p.m., she said. The flight was delayed until Sunday.  
Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=233231&src=1>

23. *September 6, Alton Telegraph* – (Illinois) **Railroads to crack down on thefts.** A multi-railroad task force organized last month will visit area scrap yards this week searching for stolen property in a continuing effort to stem the growing problem of metal thefts. An Alton, Illinois, Deputy Police Chief said the task force would be back in Alton on Tuesday, after making an arrest there last month. Railroad company special agents are sworn officers and can arrest and seek charges against trespassers and others suspected of committing crimes on railway property. Members of the task force are one agent each from the Alton and Southern Railway Co., Burlington Northern, Santa Fe, CSX, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern, Terminal and Union Pacific railroads. The first arrest resulting from the eight-company effort came August 12 in Alton. With the help of Alton police, the task force arrested a woman who allegedly had stolen metal tie plates, spikes and rail anchors lying by train tracks in Granite City. With cooperation of Mullins employees, the railroad agents and Alton police arrested the woman on that second trip. The task force is “intent on targeting metal thieves and scrap dealers knowingly accepting railroad-specific materials. This task force will be working with local law enforcement agencies to curb this growing problem,” according to a press release from a special agent of Alton and Southern Railway. Fortunately, he said no one has stolen any rail sections from Alton and Southern tracks under use, which would cause a train derailment. An official said railroads’ losses from metal thefts in the St. Louis, Missouri, area could be as much as \$100,000. Thieves in Texas have taken aluminum gates and signal equipment in recent years, online news reports say. Although several people will work together in thefts and resale, he said there does not appear to be any organized rings of thieves targeting railways.  
Source: [http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/alton\\_17982\\_article.html/task\\_force.html](http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/alton_17982_article.html/task_force.html)
24. *September 6, KPTV 12 Portland* – (Washington) **Puget Island Bridge closed by bomb scare.** Washington State Police said that the Puget Island Bridge will be closed to traffic while a bomb squad from Everett, Washington, investigates a suspicious package. Police said a black backpack appeared to be intentionally tied to the bridge. The bridge is closed to vehicle traffic and is expected to remain closed until 6 p.m. Saturday. There is currently no detour route available. The ferry system has been notified of the closure. The coast guard is patrolling the waterway and keeping boats away from the bridge.  
Source: <http://www.kptv.com/news/17409499/detail.html>
25. *September 6, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Suspicious package shuts down 101 Freeway.** All lanes on the 101 Freeway in Woodland Hills, California, were reopened after being temporarily shut down as authorities investigated a suspicious package found on an overpass. Immediately after the package was reported at 8:53 a.m., all lanes and onramps near Valley Circle Boulevard were closed, said an officer of the California Highway Patrol. The lanes were reopened at 9:33 a.m., when authorities determined that freeway commuters were not threatened. The package found on the Valley Circle Boulevard overpass resembled a suitcase, authorities said. Traffic was initially backed

up for more than a mile in both directions.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-package6-2008sep06,0,1057976.story>

26. *September 5, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Suspicious device causes evacuation of Boeing building.** About a hundred people were evacuated Friday afternoon from the Algona, Washington, Boeing plant after a suspicious device that resembled a bomb was reported inside. After the bomb squad destroyed the device with a water canon, it was determined to be fake. It was unclear if a Boeing employee is responsible for the device, and there was no written or verbal threat.

Source:

[http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW\\_090508WAB\\_boeing\\_building\\_evacuation\\_KC.4a71779a.html](http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW_090508WAB_boeing_building_evacuation_KC.4a71779a.html)

27. *September 5, KAKE 10 Wichita* – (Kansas) **Four railroad cars derail in Neodesha.** Four railroad cars derailed in Neodesha, Kansas, at around 8:00 Thursday night. The derailment caused Highway 75 and the SKO and Union Pacific Rail lines to be closed for nearly 10 hours. Although some of the rail cars carried Potassium Hydroxide, according to the Neodesha Fire Chief, there were no signs of leakage or spills. The rail cars were not carrying the required placard information identifying the hazardous material, but the conductor was able to immediately provide a manifest to emergency responders, which identified the chemical so that appropriate protective measures could be taken if necessary. The cause of the derailment is unknown at this time. The incident is being investigated by Federal Railroad Transportation Agency. Heavy equipment was brought in by SKO to clear the tracks, which was accomplished without complications, and traffic was reopened at about 5:30 am. No damage estimates are available at this time. Coincidentally, the Wilson County Local Emergency Planning Committee has recently been working on planning specifically for the possibility of a train derailment. A tabletop exercise with a fictional derailment scenario including the presence of hazardous materials has already been scheduled for Thursday, September 11 for local emergency responders to come together and share ideas and expertise.

Source: <http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/27917009.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

28. *September 7, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Bomb scare spurs search of freight train in NJ.** Authorities in New Jersey searched a freight-train car after a woman reported that a Federal Express package containing a bomb might be aboard. The CSX train was stopped in North Bergen, New Jersey, about 5:30 p.m. EDT Friday. Police officials at the scene told the Jersey Journal of Jersey City that the car containing the suspicious package was detached there and, while the rest of the train continued on to a nearby train depot, bomb squads searched the detached car for the parcel. Officials said a Florida woman called CSX on Friday morning to tell them about the package, which she believed was sent by her ex-boyfriend. North Bergen police would not comment on the matter or even confirm whether a search was being conducted.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gUedc8OTY64kpmEH9whOCZiYTyBAD930T0SGO>

29. *September 5, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Official: Powder that clears post office lobby turns out to be fertilizer.** The powder on a suspicious package that a customer brought into the main post office in Detroit Friday afternoon that prompted postal office officials to order everyone out of the inner lobby turned out to be fertilizer, according to a U. S. Postal Service spokesman. The discovery of the powder prompted postal officials to order everyone out of the inner lobby while the powder was tested.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080905/NEWS01/80905087/1003/NEWS>

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## Agriculture and Food Sector

30. *September 8, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Problem weed pops up.** An invasive weed called yellow toadflax is spreading in South Dakota, and it threatens to cut into the productivity of pastures used for livestock grazing. Thousands of acres are already infested, and an Extension Service official says the spread in eastern counties may call for control measures. A weed specialist said yellow toadflax is widespread in northeastern counties and has reached as far south as Madison. He says the weed is difficult to control, and every toadflax stem per square foot can reduce the growth of pasture grasses by two percent.

Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/273025.asp>

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## Water Sector

31. *September 6, Bismarck Tribune* – (North Dakota) **Morton working to resolve water project issue.** Mandan, North Dakota, city officials are still calculating construction delays after two caskets and an undetermined number of human remains were found at Mandan's south side water reservoir dig site. It all depends on how quickly the graves can be identified and permitted by the state for reburial. Construction of the \$8 million project halted late Wednesday afternoon after construction crews ran into something wooden. North Dakota State Historical Society officials later confirmed the find involved a number of wooden caskets and human remains. A Mandan City administrator said earlier last week that the city is complying with protocol set by the state Century Code. He said preliminary testing of the dig site indicated there were no graves at the site. Work on the new reservoir site began in late August and was planned to be used by the fall of 2009. The four-million-gallon reservoir near the Heart River will replace a 50-year-old water storage facility on Collins Avenue in Mandan. The water processed is drawn from the Missouri. The project's cost also includes a new water transmission line and sewer treatment improvements.

Source: <http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2008/09/06/news/local/163874.txt>

32. *September 5, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (International; National) **U.S.-Mexico environmental partnership bringing cleaner water and air to border communities.** At a ceremony concluding this year’s Border 2012 National Coordinators Meeting held in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, the U.S. and Mexico pledged to continue to provide additional water and sanitation along the border. The Border Environment Infrastructure Fund has brought improved sanitation and drinking water to more than four million people. Through the U.S. Tribal Border infrastructure program, over 8,100 homes have been provided with safe drinking water, or basic sanitation. Also, a new sanitary facility was completed in the indigenous communities of San Jose de la Zorra and San Antonio Necua. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Border 2012 U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program protects the environment and public health for ten states on both sides of the 2,000-mile border, including 26 U.S. tribes and seven groups of Mexican indigenous people. The Border 2012 program seeks to reduce pollution in water, air, and on land, reduce exposure to chemicals from accidental releases or terrorism, and improve environmental stewardship.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/65a55bf92f289899852574bb0076ff49?OpenDocument>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

33. *September 7, Associated Press* – (California) **Tuberculosis patient put in medical isolation.** San Bernardino, California, county officials say they have forced a tuberculosis (TB) patient into medical isolation after health officials suspected the patient was not taking medication and was going to work. The County Public Health Director says it is the first time in county history that such an action had been taken. The patient’s name and gender are not being released. The patient was treated for TB in Las Vegas on August 7 but officials suspected the person was not taking his or her medication or remaining in isolation. On August 28, officials ordered the patient to cease all contact with the public, and when the person did not comply, the county took the patient into medical custody Thursday.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_10402715](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10402715)

34. *September 6, Gannet New Jersey* – (New Jersey) **U.S. to probe treatment at Ancora.** The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division will begin an inquiry into conditions at Ancora Psychiatric Hospital in Trenton, New Jersey, the state announced Friday. The Justice Department “intends to examine patient safety and treatment quality at Ancora,” the state Human Services Commissioner said in a written statement. She said she expects the inquiry to begin immediately. The announcement comes after the Asbury Park Press published more than 30 stories since January detailing patient conditions.

Source:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080906/STATE/809060>

35. *September 5, Associated Press* – (New York) **New law lets pharmacists administer flu vaccinations.** New York’s governor signed legislation this week that will let pharmacists administer flu and pneumonia shots, a change expected to increase the number of adults vaccinated statewide. Starting December 4, New York pharmacists who complete state training and certification will be permitted to give the shots with a prescription from a physician or nurse practitioner. Three-year certifications will cost \$100. State records showed 20,303 state-licensed pharmacists at the start of 2008, with 16,219 listing primary mailing addresses in New York.  
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/06/nyregion/06flu.html?ref=nyregion>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

36. *September 8, Post* – (International) **U.S. missions receive suspicious envelopes.** The U.S. embassy in the federal capital and its consulate in Karachi have received suspicious envelopes containing an unidentified white substance, sparking a security alert, according to embassy and other security officials on Sunday. The officials told the Post that the embassy received a packet by mail containing an unidentified substance. The embassy spokesman confirmed that the embassy had received a mysterious envelope as well. The U.S. Consulate in Karachi had received a similar packet on Tuesday, he said, adding the U.S. Embassy had received the envelop containing unidentified white powder on Friday. The U.S. embassy in Pakistan has no facility of laboratory examination of the unidentified substance, he said. “There are no reports of any illnesses among the very small group of people that dealt with the incidents,” he said. Source: [http://thepost.com.pk/Ba\\_ShortNewsT.aspx?fbshortid=3352&bcatid=14&bstatus=Current&fcid=14&fstatus=Current](http://thepost.com.pk/Ba_ShortNewsT.aspx?fbshortid=3352&bcatid=14&bstatus=Current&fcid=14&fstatus=Current)
37. *September 8, KRDO 13 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Security breach at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station.** A security breach at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station in Colorado put authorities on high alert Friday afternoon. At 2 p.m. a man was arrested by the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office after military police detained a man near the visitor center. According to the sheriff’s office, the man was arrested and taken to the Criminal Justice Center because he was wanted on several warrants. At 3:30 p.m., in an unrelated incident, military police began searching for a second man who also breached a security checkpoint. According to the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, the man was asked to leave but refused. Military police somehow lost contact with him and a massive manhunt began. The Colorado Springs Police Department used its helicopter to search by air, and the Sheriff’s Office used K-9’s to search on foot. NORAD Road, which leads to the air station and a nearby neighborhood, was shut down during the search.  
Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=8962501>
38. *September 7, Lafourche Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Storm damage forces Lafourche Government to move operations center.** Lafourche Parish Government moved its operational base from the Barrios Center on Sunday due to wind and rain damage from

Hurricane Gustav that caused lingering concerns of mold in the building. An old Wal-Mart building in Mathews will house the parish government offices starting Monday and will host parish council meetings starting Tuesday. The move could last six months to a year, a Lafourche Parish Government spokesman said. He noted, in the interim, the move should not make a difference on storm recovery. The Barrios Center, where the council chambers are located, suffered extensive roof damage during Gustav, allowing rain to saturate the building's carpet, walls, and chairs. The carpet and chairs have since been removed, but officials are hopeful the building won't have to be demolished.

Source:

[http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20080907/HURBLOG/809070263/1223&title=Storm\\_damage\\_forces\\_Lafourche\\_Government\\_to\\_move\\_operations\\_center](http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20080907/HURBLOG/809070263/1223&title=Storm_damage_forces_Lafourche_Government_to_move_operations_center)

39. *September 6, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **National briefs: Man with gun, live grenades held near Capitol.** Capitol Police arrested a man Friday after they found a live grenade and several weapons in his car several blocks from the Capitol building in Washington, District of Columbia. The man was charged with carrying a deadly weapon and possessing unregistered firearms and ammunition. He was detained after he stopped to ask a police officer for directions and the officer saw a rifle case. Source: [http://www.star-telegram.com/national\\_news/story/888496.html](http://www.star-telegram.com/national_news/story/888496.html)
40. *September 6, Concord Monitor* – (Massachusetts) **LGC employee arrested over missing data.** The Concord, Massachusetts, police arrested a former Local Government Center (LGC) employee yesterday, accusing her of removing computer backup tapes and manipulating computer information at the organization. The LGC, which administers benefit plans for public employees, maintains databases that include personal information for public employees throughout the state, including Social Security numbers and medical information, according to the police. The data in question had the potential to affect an estimated 190,000 current and former public employees, the police said. There is a window of time - between 4½ hours and 60 hours - when law enforcement officials cannot account for the whereabouts of the two backup tapes, said a Concord police detective. But a breach of personal data was unlikely, he said. Source: <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080906/FRONTPAGE/809060436>
41. *September 5, Beacon Journal* – (Ohio) **Bomb threat leads to evacuation of Summit County CSB.** A bomb threat Friday morning prompted the evacuation of the Summit County Children Services administration building in Akron, Ohio. Agency security workers oversaw the evacuation of about 150 to 200 people from the building. No explosives were found and employees returned to the building sometime after 10 a.m. Source: [http://www.ohio.com/news/break\\_news/27915624.html](http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/27915624.html)
42. *September 5, Wired Blog Network* – (National) **Israeli hacker known as “The Analyzer” suspected of hacking again.** Canadian authorities have announced the arrest of a 29-year-old Israeli whom they believe is the notorious hacker known as “The Analyzer” who, as a teenager in 1998, hacked into unclassified computer systems

belonging to NASA, the Pentagon, the Israeli parliament and others. The culprit and three Canadians were arrested for allegedly hacking the computer system of a Calgary-based financial services company and inflating the value on several pre-paid debit card accounts before withdrawing about CDN \$1.8 million (about U.S. \$1.7 million) from ATMs in Canada and other countries. The arrests followed a months-long investigation by Canadian police and the U.S. Secret Service. The suspect was 19 when he was arrested in 1998 along with several other Israelis and two California teens in one of the first high-profile hacker cases that made international news. He then used sniffer and Trojan horse programs to break into computer systems belonging to two Israeli ISPs and obtain user names and passwords of customers. He used the hi-jacked customer accounts to breach other computer systems belonging to all of the universities in Israel, the web sites for the Israeli parliament and Israel's president as well as a system belonging to Hamas, a militant Palestinian organization. An attempt to breach the computer system of the Israel Defense Forces failed. The suspect, who referred to the California teens as his pupils, taught his accomplices how to hack into U.S. systems and gave them sniffer and Trojan programs to assist them. Although the hacker's attacks were unsophisticated, he and his cohorts were nonetheless able to breach systems belonging to the Department of Defense, the Air Force and Navy, NASA, MIT, and several U.S. Ivy League universities. The attacks on the U.S. military systems came at a time of high alert in the Middle East. U.S. authorities were so unsettled by the breach of military computers -- which they called "the most organized and systematic attack" that had occurred to date -- that a joint investigation was launched by several government and military agencies, dubbed Operation Solar Sunrise, to track down the source of the threats. The man was caught after the two California teens were arrested.

Source:

<http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/09/the-analyzer-su.html>

43. *September 5, Matton Journal Gazette and Times-Courier* – (Illinois) **Shelbyville courthouse evacuated after bomb threat.** The Shelby County, Illinois, Clerk's Office received a phone call on Friday morning that two bombs had been placed in the Shelby County Courthouse. The caller said one bomb had been placed in the courtroom and one had been placed in the basement. The courthouse was evacuated and the building was searched by Shelby County sheriff's deputies. The Secretary of State Police Bomb Squad was contacted and completed a more extensive search of the building. After the building was searched, it was determined there was no evidence of a bomb or bomb manufacturing materials. The courthouse was reopened and court proceedings resumed at 1:15 p.m. Other agencies assisting were the Shelbyville Police Department and the Shelbyville Fire Department.

Source: <http://www.jg->

[tc.com/articles/2008/09/05/news/doc48c1ed0a581a5837028047.txt](http://www.jg-tc.com/articles/2008/09/05/news/doc48c1ed0a581a5837028047.txt)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

44. *September 8, Wisconsin State Journal* – (Wisconsin) **Many Wisconsin 911 centers not equipped with latest technology.** Dane County, Wisconsin's, 911 center cannot receive



text messages, though centers around the country see the need to receive text messages, video, and other digital forms of communication growing in the next five to 10 years. Recognizing the rapidly growing popularity of sending short text messages via cell phone, some states are taking steps to ensure local 911 centers are equipped to receive text messages, Internet-transmitted phone calls, video, and other “next generation” forms of communication. Wisconsin risks falling behind, according to state and national 911 experts, partly because statewide coordination of 911 centers is virtually nonexistent. That means local governments must fend for themselves to keep up with the latest digital technology, and rely on local property taxes to pay for new equipment. Dispatch centers in Wisconsin that have cell-phone-locating technology were able to pay for it with money collected through monthly surcharge on wireless phones. As of July 1, the state stopped collecting the surcharge. That leaves Wisconsin as one of three states with no funding dedicated to maintaining enhanced 911 equipment and related costs. Source: [http://www.twincities.com/allheadlines/ci\\_10410011](http://www.twincities.com/allheadlines/ci_10410011)

45. *September 7, Albany Times Union* – (National; New York) **EMS in critical condition.** It is becoming harder to attract emergency medical services (EMS) volunteers in rural communities, according to the program director for the Adirondack/Appalachian Regional EMS Council, which relies exclusively on volunteers to staff 107 of its 115 EMS agencies. The council oversees Delaware, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie counties. It is a concern echoing throughout the country. “It’s not that there aren’t enough people trained or qualified,” said the associate director of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, in Columbus, Ohio. “It’s that they for whatever reason don’t appear to be volunteering or working.” Increased time constraints, commuting distances, and state requirements have drained the pool of volunteer candidates, EMS officials say. Source: <http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=718445&category=REGIONOTHER&BCCode=&newsdate=9/8/2008>
46. *September 7, KGW 8 Portland* – (Oregon) **Ore. National Guard to assist in Hurricane Ike.** The Oregon Army National Guard announced they will send two Ch-47 helicopters and nine National Guard personnel to areas damaged by Hurricane Ike. The crews left from the Pendleton base on Sunday afternoon and planned to land at Hunter Army Air Field near Savannah, Georgia. The aircraft and crews were mobilized as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which allows National Guard resources to be shared among states when a disaster or crisis occurs. The helicopters are capable of carrying dozens of people and nearly ten tons of internal cargo or thirteen tons of external cargo in a sling. They can also be used for search and rescue missions. Source: [http://www.nwcn.com/statenews/oregon/stories/NW\\_090708ORN\\_ore\\_guard\\_ike\\_SW.5391cb03.html](http://www.nwcn.com/statenews/oregon/stories/NW_090708ORN_ore_guard_ike_SW.5391cb03.html)
47. *September 6, Washington Post* – (National) **FCC plans new auction for first-responder airwaves.** New details on a plan to create a national communications network for police, fire and other emergency first responders were announced Friday by

the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) after an earlier effort to sell the network this year failed to produce a buyer. Under the new proposal, the network would be auctioned as one national block of radio spectrum or, alternatively, as 58 separate regional airwaves licenses. The agency said that it prefers to sell the spectrum as a whole and that it would give priority to such a bid. But if no one meets the minimum reserve price for the national block, the commission would close the auction with a minimum of half of the 58 regional licenses sold. The creation of an interoperable public safety network, whereby police could trade video and calls with fire crews and federal law enforcement around the nation, has been pushed by Congress and the FCC after communication problems plagued emergency crews during the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and during the floods following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In March, the FCC set aside a chunk of spectrum in an auction of valuable 700-megahertz airwaves for public safety officials. A commercial partner would purchase the spectrum in the auction and share it with first responders during emergencies.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/05/AR2008090503500.html?hpid=sec-tech>

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## **Information Technology**

48. *September 8, CNET News* – (National) **Facebook app herds PCs into botnet.** Researchers have created a proof-of-concept application for Facebook that turns the machines of people, who add the app to their Facebook page, into elements of a botnet. In a demonstration, the botnet launched denial-of-service attacks on a victim server. “Social-network websites have the ideal properties to become attack platforms,” according to the Antisocial Networks: Turning a Social Network into a Botnet paper, written by five researchers from the Institute of Computer Science in Greece and one researcher from the Institute for Infocomm Research in Singapore. The demo application, ‘Photo of the Day’, displays a new photo from National Geographic every day. However, every time someone views the photo, the host computer is forced “to serve a request of 600KB”, according to the paper. Such a botnet could be used for other types of attacks, such as spreading malware, scanning computers for open ports, and overriding authentication mechanisms that are based on cookies, the paper warns. The researchers suggested that Facebook and other social networks exercise caution in designing their platform and application programming interfaces (APIs) so that there are few interactions between the “social utilities they operate and the rest of the internet”. Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/security/0,1000000189,39485526,00.htm>
49. *September 8, Network World* – (National) **McAfee touts “cloud-based” malware defense system.** McAfee Monday is announcing a change in how it delivers malware-signature software updates that it says should result in much speedier fixes. Instead of only waiting to distribute signature updates after a daily analysis of collected malware samples, McAfee via its new McAfee Artemis Technology method is making changes to its existing software so that if suspicious and as yet-unidentified harmful code is detected on the customer’s machine during surfing or in some form of download, a process will occur in which that code will be collected and instantly uploaded to a

McAfee analysis point for automated review. “You will be delivered a signature update on the fly,” said the director of security research and communication at McAfee Avert Labs. The move is part of a growing “cloud-based” antimalware movement also embraced by competitors F-Secure and Trend Micro in an effort to handle exploding malware volume.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/090808-mcafee-cloud-malware.html?hpg1=bn>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto: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

50. *September 8, Ars Technica* – (National) **New satellite to give Google Maps unprecedented resolution.** As part of a joint venture between a commercial satellite imaging provider and the Department of Defense, Google launched a rocket into space Saturday. In return for undisclosed terms, Google got two considerations: its logo on the side of the launch vehicle and exclusive use of the mapping images that the satellite produces. The partnerships in the new satellite are extensive. The hardware was built by General Dynamics and put in orbit by Boeing; the funding for the project came in part from a commercial satellite imaging company, Geosys. The rest of the funding came from the Defense Department’s National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which provides map-based intelligence resources. The launch took place yesterday from the Air Force’s Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080908-new-satellite-to-give-google-maps-unprecedented-resolution.html>

51. *September 8, Washington Post* – (National) **Phone companies freed from reporting mandate.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved late Saturday a request by telephone giant AT&T to end a decades-long requirement for the company to submit an annual report on service quality and infrastructure investments. The decision also extended to other providers, including Verizon Communications and Qwest, which had filed similar petitions. The FCC granted the requests on the condition that the companies continue to report and track data on consumer complaints and investments for two years. Consumer groups have criticized the proposal, saying such information keeps phone companies accountable to their subscribers and gives smaller phone providers important data to remain competitive.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/07/AR2008090702423.html>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

52. *September 7, New York Times* – (New York) **Agency fights building code born of 9/11.** A federal agency has joined some of the nation's biggest landlords in trying to repeal stronger safety requirements for new skyscrapers that were added to the country's most widely used building code last year, arguing that they would be too expensive to meet. The new provisions, which include requiring tall office buildings to have more robust fireproofing and an extra emergency stairwell, were enacted as a result of an exhaustive federal study into the collapse of the twin towers at the World Trade Center seven years ago this week. The General Services Administration is now opposing the tougher standards, even though they were based on a report by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which issues recommendations for safety standards after investigating fires and other building catastrophes. The dispute reflects a debate among safety officials and real estate executives nationwide as to how to respond adequately to the 2001 attacks. The fireproofing and stairwell requirements alone could cost real estate developers \$13 million for a 42-story office building, as well as perhaps \$600,000 a year in lost rent because of decreased floor space, real estate industry officials estimated. Advocates of the stronger requirements questioned those figures, saying they were inflated. The contested provisions will now be reconsidered as part of a comprehensive review of the building code, which is conducted every three years.

Source:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/08/washington/08codes.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/08/washington/08codes.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=all)

53. *September 7, WMAR 2 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Explosives found in Riva, Maryland.** At approximately 4:30 p.m. Sunday, the Anne Arundel County fire department was dispatched for a suspicious package at the intersection of Scottsborough Way and Westbury Drive. An Anne Arundel Fire spokesman said when they arrived at the location, they were met by a citizen who found "three or four detonated, improvised explosive devices in a community park." Further investigation revealed two additional explosive devices which had not been detonated. One of those devices was found on a curb, in front of a house.

Source: [http://www.abc2news.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=871b2f16-bf7a-4d31-bc12-1958be7bf65d](http://www.abc2news.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=871b2f16-bf7a-4d31-bc12-1958be7bf65d)

54. *September 6, WTAJ 10 Altoona* – (Pennsylvania) **Beaver Stadium suspicious package.** The bomb squad spent part of their evening at Beaver Stadium as a suspicious package was called in. Penn State police say it all happened just before 7:00 Saturday night near the Joe Paterno statue. Police say there was a backpack that was left behind. They were not sure what was in the backpack. The State Police and a bomb technician were called in. A section of road was also blocked off. Police say they quickly figured out it was just a backpack. Everything was back to normal just a few minutes later.

Source: <http://wearecentralpa.com/content/fulltext/?cid=28091>

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## National Monuments & Icons Sector

55. *September 8, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Bark beetles are feasting on Utah forests.** Dead trees are fuel for wildfires, which experts say contributes to global warming. And climate change is now being blamed for an increased population of bark beetles. The Dixie National Forest bears one of the most obvious signs in Utah of the mark being left by a tiny tree predator commonly known as the bark beetle, a wood-boring insect that in large enough numbers can decimate an entire forest. “We’re talking hundreds of thousands of acres they have basically been wiped out - pretty much the entire spruce component in the Dixie National Forest,” said the forest-health program manager for Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. The U.S. Forest Service’s Bark Beetle Technical Working Group calls the bark beetle an “agent of change” in conifer forests in the Rocky Mountain region, noting that the insects can play a critical role in the development and rebirth of Western forests. In some areas, the beetle’s numbers are considered to be in outbreak proportions, with potential negative impacts to recreation, wildlife, and watersheds. She said that the best hope this year for letting nature control bark-beetle outbreaks would be a cold Utah winter with several consecutive days of minus 40 or below at higher elevations. If that does not happen, she said, the Ashley and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National forests may see years of increased beetle activity.  
Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,700257110,00.html>
56. *September 8, Associated Press* – (National) **National parks’ program for ruins in ruins.** Inside the dark, cliffside cave last occupied by the people of Frijoles Canyon some 500 years ago is evidence of more recent human activity: graffiti proclaiming “2008” and “I love you” carved into a wall. Vandalism is just one of many threats to the fragile archaeological sites that are the heart of national parks and monuments in the arid West. For the past decade, a special program within the National Park Service has been struggling to combat the deterioration. At 45 parks in eight states stretching from Texas to California, the Vanishing Treasures program has assessed and documented the damage and made repairs. At the Grand Canyon this summer, archeologists stabilized a two-room ruin on the North Rim that was likely the seasonal home of a farming family about 900 years ago. Other parks in the program have forts, missions, cabins, ancient trail systems, wooden fences, mines, and sweat lodges. At the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Texas, Vanishing Treasures helped restore an old adobe hospital and trained people in historic plaster conservation. In California, the program has underwritten some excavation of the community garden at Manzanar National Historic Site, where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26603837/>
57. *September 7, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota; Wyoming) **‘Wildfire’ of bugs plagues forests.** The worst infestation of mountain pine beetles in more than a century is devastating huge swaths of the Black Hills National Forest, expanding by 50,000 acres a year and changing once-green slopes into red-gray mosaics of dying trees. The latest surge in the beetle spread was documented recently during an aerial survey of storm damage to trees in parts of the forest. The photographers also captured images of expanded and in some cases new areas of bug damage. Those include ongoing damage

in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and Black Elk Wilderness as well as more recent explosions of bugs in the Medicine Mountain Scout Camp area near Spring Creek and south of Deer Park. There are also new outbreaks between Spearfish and Sundance, Wyoming. It is especially difficult to fight the bugs in the Black Elk Wilderness because of prohibitions against manipulating the environment there. Female pine beetles tunnel into pine trees, lay their eggs, and begin a life cycle that is usually deadly to the trees. The eggs hatch, and the grubs burrow and feed under the bark and continue to develop, finally emerging as adults the following July and August, when they fly to other trees and begin the process there. As the bugs kill, pine trees turn from green to red to gray.

Source:

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2008/09/07/news/local/doc48c30ca38bb0f268106462.txt>

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## **Dams Sector**

58. *September 8, Austin American-Statesman* – (Texas) **City upgrades dams to guard homes from bad flood.** A 2003 study commissioned by the city of Austin found that 57 of Austin's 161 dams, mainly in residential areas, did not meet state requirements and might fail in the event of a worst-case flood. Since then, the city's Watershed Protection and Development Review Department has been working its way down that list, starting to "modernize" dams that protect the greatest number of homes and buildings. The projects aim to reinforce the dams, many of them edging city-managed storm water ponds, so that even if water goes over them during a worst-case storm, they will not break. The city council in August approved improvements to the Maui Dam in southwest Austin, a project that will cost about \$350,000. Another project at the Great Northern Dam will start construction later this year and cost about \$2.5 million. The city estimates that it will take as much as \$40 million over 15 to 25 years to upgrade all the dams. Both the Great Northern and Maui dams are earthen berms that border ponds and are meant to catch runoff during storms. If the Great Northern Dam broke, as many as 300 homes could be at risk, and as many as 90 homes would be jeopardized if the Maui Dam gave way. None of the dams is in immediate risk of failing, though.

Source:

<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/09/08/0908dams.html>

59. *September 5, Bonner County Daily Bee* – (Idaho) **Dam breach data raises concerns.** Idaho Department of Environmental Quality officials are poring over monitoring data on the Clark Fork River to determine whether the breach of the Milltown Dam in Montana is sending sediment contaminated by mining waste across the border. Last week, the Missoulian newspaper reported that research indicates far more of the tainted sediment is moving downstream than was originally predicted. The dam was breached in March and celebrated as a major step in cleaning up one of the largest Superfund sites in the nation. However, the owners of the Thompson Falls Dam, PPL Montana, have conducted regular sediment quality monitoring at the hydroelectric project, and the results are troubling. Sampling done in May showed dramatic increases in metals concentrations. Levels of arsenic were 12 times higher than when they were measured

last year. Copper levels were five times higher, and lead and zinc levels were each four times higher, according to a July 31 letter from PPL Montana’s legal counsel to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Source:

<http://www.bonnercountydailybee.com/articles/2008/09/05/news/doc48c0cbc1b5bd4874646202.txt>

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