



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 September 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- Reuters reports that on Sunday a U.S. senator said Americans should brace for possible gas shortages as Texas oil refineries disabled by Hurricane Ike could remain idled for up to nine days. (See item [5](#))
- According to a CBS News and Associated Press report, federal investigators say they will seek the cell phone records of two teenagers and a train engineer as they probe whether text messages factored into a commuter train crash that killed 25 in southern California on Friday. (See item [23](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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 15, Bloomberg* – (International) **Nigeria’s MEND claims responsibility for Shell attack.** The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the main militant group in Nigeria’s oil region, said its fighters destroyed Royal Dutch Shell Plc.’s Alakiri flow station in a third day of attacks against oil installations. Shell confirmed the attack, saying a guard was killed and four others injured during the raid. The latest attacks started on September 13 when Nigerian troops and militants clashed in the Elem-Tombia district, south of Port Harcourt. The militants said the military had launched an air and marine offensive against its positions and declared an “oil war” targeting installations in the region that produces nearly all of Nigeria’s oil. Shell

“down-manned facilities in some field locations,” said the company’s spokeswoman in Nigeria. Further attacks were launched Sunday on Shell’s Soku gas plant and Chevron Corp.’s Robertkiri flow station among others, MEND said. The military and Chevron confirmed the attacks. Attacks by armed groups in the region have cut more than 20 percent of Nigeria’s oil exports since 2006. Nigeria is the fifth-biggest source of U.S. oil imports.

Source:

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=amfUN.IHyF10&refer=afri
ca](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=amfUN.IHyF10&refer=afri
ca)

2. *September 15, Enterprise IT Planet* – (National) **Lawmakers warned of threats to the grid.** Lawmakers are trying to move forward with a draft bill that would shore up the nation’s electrical grid against cyber-attacks. In response to the 2003 blackout in the Northeast, the National American Electric Reliability Corporation issued a set of standards to the facilities to shore up their defenses against cyber-threats. Subsequent auditing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) found that the self-regulatory approach for electrical producers had fallen short, and that many facilities on the Bulk Power System (BPS) grid were still vulnerable. One obstacle is that the industry appears to lack an authority to force compliance with security preparations. FERC can make recommendations to power companies but cannot enforce them. The bill, now under review, would change that by giving FERC some measure of authority to mandate compliance in the face of a threat. The window for that authority is still a point of debate. Some witnesses and lawmakers said that ultimate authority to mandate threat responsiveness should rest with the executive branch, though they agreed that since cyber-threats can materialize in a matter of seconds, FERC should have some interim authority to issue an order when it detects a threat. The FERC chairman also called on Congress to expand the definition of the BPS, which currently excludes facilities in Alaska and Hawaii, as well as many plants providing electricity to major U.S. cities, such as New York and Washington. The draft bill, “Bulk Power System Protection Act of 2008,” would expand FERC’s authority through an amendment to the Federal Power Act.

Source: <http://www.enterpriseitplanet.com/security/news/article.php/3771531>

3. *September 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Ike remnants blamed for Midwest deaths, blackouts.** Residents of the Midwest faced blackouts affecting more than a million homes and businesses Monday after a weekend of devastating weather caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ike. About one million households and businesses had no electricity Monday morning in Ohio alone, and authorities said it could take a week for power to be restored in some areas. Roughly 575,000 Duke Energy customers in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky plus 539,000 American Electric customers in Ohio were still without power Monday, according to the companies’ Web sites. It was the biggest outage in the company’s history, said a Duke Energy spokeswoman. Indiana utilities reported more than 100,000 customers without power Monday, and in New York more than 60,000 customers had no electrical service. Entergy Arkansas said about 75,000 customers remained without power in its state Monday.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jW->

4. *September 15, WSET 13 Lynchburg* – (Virginia) **Explosion investigation underway.** Investigators were on the scene of a massive explosion and fire in Appomattox County, Virginia, just north of Route 460, on Monday. They were trying to figure out what caused a natural gas pipe to burst, injuring five people. Workers with Williams Pipeline inspected the site while they waited for Federal investigators to arrive.
Source: <http://www.wset.com/news/stories/0908/553552.html>
5. *September 14, Reuters* – (National) **Texas oil refineries could be down 9 days: U.S. senator.** Texas oil refineries disabled by the massive Hurricane Ike could remain idled for up to nine days, and Americans should brace for possible gas shortages, said a U.S. senator on Sunday. “We are looking at another week or eight or nine days before refineries are up and going, so refined gasoline is going to be in a shortage situation because of the power outages and flooding,” the Texas senator said. Ike, a sprawling hurricane estimated to have caused billions of dollars of damage, forced a shutdown of a quarter of U.S. crude oil production as it passed over the heart of the U.S. energy industry. The biggest disruption in U.S. energy supplies in three years saw work halted at 15 Texas oil refineries as a precaution ahead of the storm.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1330721620080914>
6. *September 14, Reuters* – (National) **Two U.S. Gulf refineries tap emergency oil stocks-DOE.** The U.S. Energy Department will send 309,000 barrels of crude oil from the nation’s emergency stockpile to two refineries that are running short of supply due to hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the department said on Sunday. ConocoPhillips’ Wood River refinery in Illinois will get 200,000 barrels and Placid Oil’s Port Allen refinery in Louisiana will get 109,000 barrels, and deliveries begin later on Sunday, the department said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1444245520080914>
7. *September 14, Reuters* – (National) **BP Destin gas pipeline lifts force majeure.** BP’s Destin Pipeline Co. LLC said on Sunday it lifted its force majeure declaration on natural gas receipt points in the wake of Hurricane Ike. The 255-mile, 36-inch Destin Pipeline has a capacity to carry up to 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day from offshore production areas off southeastern Louisiana to interconnections with nine major interstate gas pipelines.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1446367820080915>
8. *September 14, Reuters* – (Texas) **Texas grid agency Ike knocks out 114 lines.** The Texas electric grid agency said 114 high-voltage transmission lines were knocked out of service in the Houston-Galveston area by Hurricane Ike, which slammed into the Texas coast early on Saturday. Preliminary reports indicated most of the problems were due to debris flying into the lines, rather than structural damage to transmission towers that could take longer to repair. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) said 13 power plants, or about 3,000 megawatts of generation, were unable to run due to a lack of transmission capacity. ERCOT said more than 2.1 million customers in its territory

were in the dark, while more than 390,000 Entergy customers in southeast Texas were also without power. ERCOT does not oversee power flow in the Entergy service territory, which is not connected to Texas primary grid. Entergy's Sabine Power Station near Bridge City and its Lewis Creek plant near Willis were shut due to the storm. More than 200 substations and 152 transmission lines were knocked out of service after the storm, Entergy said on its website.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1444984520080914>

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Chemical Industry Sector

9. *September 15, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Chemical leak sends 1 to hospital.** A chemical leak at the Eck Industries foundry in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, caused employees to evacuate and sent one worker to the hospital. About 30 to 40 employees evacuated Sunday night when a small amount of sulfur dioxide gas leaked from a tank. A worker who came in contact with the chemical was taken to the hospital. A hazardous materials team cleared the plant by 6:00 a.m. Monday. The fire department says Eck uses sulfur dioxide in its aluminum molding process.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-chemicalleak,0,4059897.story>

10. *September 15, San Mateo Daily Journal* – (California) **Precautionary measures assist in hazmat incident.** The South County Fire Department had its hands full with a two-alarm structure fire at a high-tech plating company in San Carlos, California, Saturday, but a battalion chief said systems in place for such an event prevented the fire from becoming too dangerous. Firefighters arrived at the business to find flames in the front part of the building, upgraded the fire to a second alarm, and called in a hazardous materials team. The hazmat team was called to control chemicals that were released during the fire, but a secondary containment unit, which is required at such businesses, prevented the chemicals from getting outside the building. The South County Fire Department determined the blaze was caused by a heating unit that caught fire but has not yet estimated the amount of damage caused.

Source: http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=97974

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

11. *September 13, Reuters* – (Texas) **STP Texas nuclear reactor stays on through Ike.** The South Texas Project nuclear power plant, located about 60-miles southwest of Galveston, Texas, said on Saturday it continued to run at full power throughout Hurricane Ike. "The South Texas Project (STP) nuclear power plant continued to operate safely and reliably throughout Hurricane Ike, as the storm made landfall near Galveston and moved inland this morning. Both units remain at full power," the company said in a press release.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN1337158320080913>

12. *September 13, Day* – (Connecticut) **Millstone adds spent-fuel storage bunkers.** Millstone Power Station in Connecticut has added nine bunkers to the 10 already on site to store spent fuel. The large bunkers are being used to house some of the spent fuel from the Unit 2 reactor. Normally, the radioactive fuel used in the generation of electricity is stored in pools at each of the site's three reactors, only two of which are still operating. Housing of some spent fuel in the bunkers preserves "full core reserve" – that is, the capacity, under extraordinary circumstances, to transfer all spent fuel from the reactor core to the pools. Loading will begin sometime before the next fuel outage for the Unit 2 reactor, which is set to occur before the fall of 2009, said a Dominion spokesman.

Source: <http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=138cc3e4-7273-4236-b496-bcac53ff0503>

13. *September 12, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Alaska) **NRC proposes \$3,250 fine for Alaskan company, R&M Engineering-Ketchikan, Inc.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a fine of \$3,250 against R&M Engineering-Ketchikan, Inc., of Ketchikan, Alaska, for violating NRC requirements for the possession and use of radioactive materials. The violation involved the company's failure to follow NRC security requirements in storing portable gauges containing radioactive material at its facility in Ketchikan. Specifically, the company failed to ensure that two doors of the vault where gauges were being stored were locked. When questioned by an NRC inspector on February 21, a company employee said he understood that both doors to the vault required locks, but he had failed to install a lock on one door. The company has taken corrective action to secure the gauges.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-037.iv.html>

14. *September 11, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Missouri) **NRC proposes \$3,250 fine against a Missouri university for violations of NRC regulations.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a \$3,250 fine against Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, for failure to account and control radioactive implant seeds used to treat cancer. The NRC determined two violations occurred during an inspection conducted on May 22 of this year, at the university's medical center. The inspection was performed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the loss of two radioactive implant seeds. On May 8, 2008 the medical center notified the NRC that two implant seeds were lost down a drain after a prostate cancer procedure was performed. The violations involved a failure to control the radioactive material and failure to properly account for the unused seeds immediately after implantation. The agency concluded the university took appropriate corrective actions to address the violations.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-034iii.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

15. *September 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Air Force faces changes in nuclear**

management. A Pentagon advisory group has condemned the Air Force for a dramatic deterioration in managing the nation's nuclear arsenal, and recommended last week that it consolidate nuclear responsibilities under one command. The decline has eroded international confidence in the United States' ability to provide a nuclear umbrella of protection, the task force said in rolling out more than 30 recommended changes in the structure, funding, inspections, and staffing of the Air Force's nuclear responsibilities. The U.S. defense secretary said Friday that the advisory group made a strong argument for unifying its nuclear management. The chair of the advisory panel said a central recommendation of his group was that the Air Force convert its existing Air Force Space Command – which now has responsibility for the service's land-based nuclear missiles but not other nuclear weapons – into an organization called Air Force Strategic Command. The new entity would “be held accountable for the efficacy of the nuclear mission,” he said. Under the existing Air Force structure, responsibility for the bombers and fighters that can deliver nuclear weapons is held by Air Combat Command, and Air Mobility Command has responsibility for the refueling aircraft used to operate with the nuclear bombers and fighters. The new plan, he said, would shift control of the supply chain from the Defense Logistics Agency to the Air Force – addressing a key issue in one of the foul-ups that triggered the review and recommended overhaul.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080915/NEWS08/809150315/1018/LOCALNEWSFRONT>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *September 15, CNN Money* – (National) **Bank of America buys Merrill – \$50 billion.** Bank of America said Monday that it has bought Merrill Lynch in an all-stock deal valued at as much as \$50 billion. The purchase price would value the company at at least a 70 percent premium from Merrill's closing price on Friday. The acquisition was put together Sunday as Wall Street awaited the fate of battered investment bank Lehman Brothers, which early Monday said it would file for bankruptcy. Concerns had been growing that Merrill would need to take more writedowns and raise more capital to shore up its balance sheet. Merrill has posted net losses of more than \$17 billion over the past four quarters. Bank of America is the nation's third largest bank holding company in terms of assets, behind only Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase. It is the largest by market value.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2008/09/14/news/companies/merrill_bofa_talks/index.htm

17. *September 15, Bloomberg* – (National) **Lehman files biggest bankruptcy case as suitors balk.** Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., the fourth-largest U.S. investment bank, succumbed to the subprime mortgage crisis it helped create in the biggest bankruptcy filing in history. The 158-year-old firm filed a Chapter 11 petition with U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan on Monday. The collapse of Lehman, which listed more than \$613 billion of debt, dwarfs WorldCom Inc.'s insolvency in 2002 and Drexel Burnham Lambert's failure in 1990. Lehman was forced into bankruptcy after Barclays Plc. and

Bank of America Corp. abandoned takeover talks Sunday and the company lost 94 percent of its market value this year. The company's chief executive officer turned the New York-based firm into the biggest underwriter of mortgage-backed securities at the top of the U.S. real estate market.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=awh5hRyXkvs4&refer=canada>

18. *September 13, Naples Daily News* – (Florida) **Couple may face prison time in southwest Florida real estate scam.** Last Wednesday, a man and his wife both pleaded guilty in federal court to fraud counts related to a mortgage fraud scheme in Cape Coral that involved at least 37 properties and more than \$27 million in home loans. In his plea agreement, the man admitted to contracting to buy homes at one price, then having the home appraised for a higher amount – often bumping the price up by about \$150,000 – and pocketing much of the difference as an “assignment fee.” In a year and a half, his wife’s company received \$5.8 million in those fees. To buy the properties, the couple relied on 100 percent financing and fraudulent loan applications using “straw buyers” – people told that they would make a profit when the homes were flipped in six months to a year. Some received initial payments of \$5,000. In effect, these buyers – many from New Jersey and south Florida – were agreeing to put their names on loan applications that the couple had filled out with inflated monthly incomes, invented work histories, and in some cases, temporarily pumped-up bank account balances. Many of the properties these buyers took out loans for have since gone into foreclosure – adding to the tally in Lee County, Florida, which still ranks as one of the foreclosure hot spots nationally.

Source: <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2008/sep/13/couple-may-face-prison-time-southwest-florida-real/>

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Transportation Sector

19. *September 15, Arkansas Democrat Gazette* – (National; Arkansas) **U.S. fund for roads is crucial, state says.** Last week, the U.S. Transportation Secretary declared that the federal Highway Trust Fund was running on empty and said she would delay and even cut back federal disbursements to the states for road and bridge projects. The money to pay off \$ 575 million in bonds and their interest comes from those federal disbursements, which was a selling point in using the Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle, an innovative financing program known as GARVEE, to finance the interstate repair program more than eight years ago. “We haven’t missed a payment from the feds since the trust fund was created,” in 1956, said a state Highway and Transportation Department spokesman. “It was considered a dependable source. We hope it still is a dependable source.” Congress, after months of intransigence, shifted \$ 8 billion into the Highway Trust Fund this week, averting the crisis. The trust fund collects the revenue from the federal taxes on motor fuels. Those collections have dropped significantly in recent months as motorists, in the face of high gas prices, have cut back on their driving. Given the history of the fund, though, it was difficult for many to imagine it running

dry. The secretary's warning caused some states, including Arkansas, to cut back on their projects. The Oklahoma Transportation Commission delayed awarding 32 projects worth \$80 million on which it opened bids last month. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation also warned it could cancel this month's bid letting, delay work orders on projects already awarded, suspend acquiring rights of way, and look for ways to stop construction on existing projects while maintaining public safety. In Arizona, six projects worth at least \$158 million were put on hold.

Source: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/237450/>

20. *September 15, Houston Business Journal* – (Texas) **Continental resumes flights.** Continental Airlines Inc. on Monday resumed flights to and from Houston. The Houston airline plans to operate most of its scheduled flights to and from George Bush Intercontinental Airport, while Continental Express and Continental Connection flights will operate at a reduced level. Continental is directing passengers to check the status of their flight on continental.com before going to the airport. The airline is still unable to accommodate standby customers, according to Continental.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/stories/2008/09/15/daily2.html>
21. *September 15, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Plane from Midway makes emergency landing.** A Southwest Airlines jet out of Midway Airport carrying more than 100 passengers made an emergency landing at the South Bend Regional Airport after the crew smelled smoke in the cockpit. An airport spokesman says no injuries were reported. Emergency equipment was dispatched to the airport about 10 p.m. Sunday, but the plane landed safely. Flight 1206 was carrying about 100 passengers from Chicago's Midway Airport to Hartford, Connecticut. The Hartford airport says the flight reached its destination early Monday.
Source: <http://blogs.trb.com/chicago-breaking-news/2008/09/plane-from-midway-makes-emerge.html>
22. *September 14, North Bergen Reporter* – (New Jersey) **'Bomb' train waited until North Bergen to unload.** Local authorities are furious that a CSX freight train did not stop until it reached North Bergen even though a tip had been received hours earlier that it might have an explosive on board. On Friday, September 5, a woman in Florida who had mailed a UPS package to her sister-in-law, called federal authorities and said that there was a bomb in the package, said North Bergen's mayor. Officials traced the item to a freight train. But according to the mayor, the train was allowed to continue on its route all the way to North Bergen, even though law enforcement officials were notified at 2:30 p.m. when the train was in Delaware. The "bomb" was later determined to be a hoax. The woman is now in custody and is facing investigation by federal authorities.
Source:
http://www.hudsonreporter.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20119161&BRD=1291&PAG=461&dept_id=523589&rfi=6
23. *September 14, CBS News and Associated Press* – (California) **NTSB to seek phone records in L.A. train crash.** Federal investigators say they will seek the cell phone records of two teenagers and a train engineer as they probe whether text messages

factored into a fiery commuter train crash that killed 25 in southern California. A board member for the National Transportation Safety Board says her agency is also talking with the two teens and their families. The teens told KCBS-TV that they received a text message from the engineer at 4:22 p.m. Friday, just moments before the deadly crash. She says that the engineer's cell phone was not recovered at the crash site Sunday. A dispatcher tried to warn the engineer of a California commuter train that he was about to collide with a freight train but the call came too late, rail officials said. The dispatcher reached the conductor in the rear of the train, but by then it had already crashed into the oncoming Union Pacific engine at 40 mph, Metrolink officials said. Metrolink said the engineer ran a red signal, but federal investigators said it could be a year before they determine a cause. The National Transportation Safety Board said Sunday it was looking into a report that the engineer may have been text messaging around the time of the crash. Some 135 were injured in the crash.

Source: <http://kdka.com/national/train.crash.la.2.817339.html>

24. *September 12, San Antonio Express News* – (National) **S.A. case shows gap in anti-terror shield.** A man from India who caused an evacuation at San Antonio's airport two weeks ago because security screeners thought he was carrying a bomb had no connection to terrorism, officials confirmed. However, his case highlighted holes in the safety net for catching terrorists. Besides the suspicious device, authorities found the man had a box cutter in his suitcase and some powder and was about to board a one-way flight from San Antonio to Washington, D.C. They also learned he had a fraudulent visa. As it turned out, the "bomb" was a homemade battery for his MP3 player and the powder was a drink mix. After further investigation, agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement uncovered 10 others who had tried to use similar fraudulent visas to get from India to the U.S., and their scheme showed how exposed the country could be. Two of the 9-11 hijackers entered the country using phony visas.

Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/28272504.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

25. *September 13, Daytona Beach News Journal* – (Florida) **Envelope with flour closes senator's office.** A white powdery substance inside a suspicious envelope sent to a Florida state senator's Daytona Beach office Friday resulted in a cadre of firefighters, police officers, hazardous materials experts, and an FBI agent being deployed. The powder was eventually determined to be flour. Some of those emergency workers had been through the same drill just four days earlier, when an envelope also containing flour showed up at U.S. representative's office in Port Orange. The final bill for each local incident will run into the thousands of dollars.

Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Headlines/frtHEAD03091308.htm>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *September 12, Capital Press* – (Washington) **Snokist fined \$10K for ammonia leak.** A fruit packing facility has been fined \$10,000 by the Washington Department of Ecology for failing to properly respond to an ammonia leak from its refrigeration system. Snokist Growers, which owns the facility in Sawyer, Washington, was cited for not reporting the leak to authorities and not cooperating during an initial investigation of the incident. About 60 to 80 gallons of anhydrous ammonia was released from the Snokist plant on June 19. A report of strong ammonia fumes was made to the local fire department by a resident near the plant about two hours after the leak. Local fire departments responded to the incident, setting up roadblocks and evacuating residents near the plant. Snokist Growers allegedly did not notify any emergency agencies after the release. The ammonia release sickened at least one person during the evacuation of the nearby area.

Source:

<http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=619&ArticleID=44488&TM=71049.59>

27. *September 12, City News Service* – (California) **Bugs, spores stopped at LAX and ports.** Two insects and a plant disease foreign to the United States were intercepted at Los Angeles International Airport and the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Friday. A shipment of Italian ceramic tile inspected by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials September 4 at the ports contained a wood-boring beetle that can eat and destroy wood, according to the agency. The tile was fumigated to avoid further spreading of the beetle. On August 23, CBP officials at LAX inspected a shipment of fresh cut flowers from the Netherlands and found another type of beetle never before seen in the U.S. The beetles, often found on fresh flowers, greenery, nuts, and grain products, feed off plants and lay their eggs inside them, causing the larvae to eat the plants from the inside out, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Given the option to re-export, fumigate, or destroy the flowers, the importer opted for destruction. A CBP agriculture specialist at LAX discovered rust disease spores while at LAX inspecting fresh green Lovage leaves a passenger was carrying after arriving from Romania, according to the agency. In a statement, the agency noted the rust spores – never before seen in this country – could have had “devastating effects on the cereal, grain, turf grass and cut flower/nursery industries.” The leaves were destroyed on site to prevent the airborne spores from spreading. On an average day, CBP inspectors seize about 4,300 prohibited meat or plant materials, including 164 agricultural pests, at U.S. ports of entry.

Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_10452344

28. *September 12, Packer* – (National) **Industry leader questions tomato link to outbreak.** At a Food and Drug Administration meeting on September 11, the President of the United Fresh Produce Association asked agency officials to reevaluate the evidence that linked tomatoes to a June salmonella outbreak that sickened more than a 1,400 people. Federal officials eventually found jalapeno and serrano peppers with the pathogen but never established hard evidence that proved the link with tomatoes. “I really, really, really ask the agency to join in a reassessment that tomatoes were ever

involved in this outbreak,” he said at end of the session in an auditorium at the agency’s College Park, Maryland, facility. He argued that there seems to be “no logical way” that tomatoes were involved in the outbreak.

Source: <http://thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-91938-88.asp&stype=topstory&fb>

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Water Sector

29. *September 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Tons of drugs dumped into wastewater.** U.S. hospitals and long-term care facilities annually flush millions of pounds of unused pharmaceuticals down the drain, pumping contaminants into America’s drinking water, according to an ongoing Associated Press investigation. These discarded medications are expired, spoiled, over-prescribed, or unneeded. Some are simply unused because patients refuse to take them, cannot tolerate them, or die with nearly full 90-day supplies of multiple prescriptions on their nightstands. Few of the country’s 5,700 hospitals and 45,000 long-term care homes keep data on the pharmaceutical waste they generate. Based on a small sample, though, the AP was able to project an annual national estimate of at least 250 million pounds of pharmaceuticals and contaminated packaging, with no way to separate out the drug volume. The massive amount of pharmaceuticals being flushed by the health services industry is aggravating an emerging problem documented by a series of AP investigative stories — the commonplace presence of minute concentrations of pharmaceuticals in the nation’s drinking water supplies, affecting at least 46 million Americans. Researchers are finding evidence that even extremely diluted concentrations of pharmaceutical residues harm fish, frogs, and other aquatic species in the wild. Also, researchers report that human cells fail to grow normally in the laboratory when exposed to trace concentrations of certain drugs.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080914/ap_on_re_us/pharmawater_flush_i
30. *September 14, Ocala Star-Banner* – (Florida) **Ocklawaha River still potential target for water grab.** The lower Ocklawaha River in Marion County could again be the target of a water raid. The St. Johns Water Management District will hold a symposium Wednesday and Thursday to discuss potential effects of withdrawing water from the St. Johns and lower Ocklawaha rivers. Attending the meetings will be water agency scientists and environmental experts outside the agency who were asked by the district to review its work and findings. “Our staff has said there is an amount of water that can safely be withdrawn from the river,” said the water agency’s spokesman. “But doing this study, with peer review, the hope is that whatever comes back, the public would see we’ve had the best investigation ... that can be done.” The meeting, being held in Gainesville, will focus on the water agency’s initial findings on the issue of water withdrawal from the two rivers. The Management District will hold more meetings in the future as additional information about water withdrawal becomes available.
Source:
http://www.ocala.com/article/20080914/NEWS/809140296/1001/News01&title=Ocklawaha_River_still_potential_target_for_water_grab

31. *September 13, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Drugs found in Tennessee river system.** At least 13 common drugs, including caffeine, several antibiotics, antidepressants, and substances that lower human cholesterol levels, were found in test samples of Tennessee River, according to a study. A professor of biological and environmental sciences at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is taking the samples as part of a study conducted with another UTC professor to gauge pharmaceutical concentrations. A landmark study published by the U.S. Geological Survey in 2002 and an Associated Press investigation last March delved into the issue, but neither included studies in Tennessee. The UTC team has spent 2 1/2 years analyzing river water samples from Knoxville to Chattanooga. So far, the drugs have been detected in minuscule proportions, the same as in other areas of the country. As in other studies, the pharmaceuticals were measured in parts per trillion in the local study. Environmental Protection Agency officials have said they believe the water supply is safe, but are looking into water standards for pharmaceuticals.
Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/health/17467569/detail.html#->
32. *September 12, WIBW 13 Topeka* – (Kansas) **Fort Riley water sample tests positive for E. Coli.** During routine testing of the Fort Riley water distribution system, a sample taken from Building 251, the Main Post Dining Facility, tested positive for E. Coli bacteria. Fort Riley Public Works received notification of the positive result from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment September 9. An investigation determined there was a filter under a sink that may have harbored the bacteria. Follow up tests were negative after the suspect filter was removed. Building 251 was temporarily closed September 11. The closure was based on Fort Riley safety concerns and not regulatory guidance requirements. Regulatory representative testing of Fort Riley’s water distribution system will continue. No indications of any bacterial contamination other than the isolated sink area in Building 251 exist. Building 251 will remain closed to allow for the scheduled installation of kitchen equipment. It will reopen September 22.
Source: <http://www.wibw.com/localnews/headlines/28332089.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *September 15, Salem Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **Hospital report outlines security flaws.** An internal Oregon State Hospital review of security, conducted in the wake of two patient escapes in July, found numerous flaws in hospital policies and practices, according to a draft report released to the Statesman Journal. The report makes 22 recommendations to bolster security at the state-run psychiatric facility in central Salem, including added security staffing, more patrols, upgraded technology, clarified policies for reporting escapes to law enforcement agencies, and “training for all hospital staff in becoming a more security minded culture.” Hospital officials described the draft report as a preliminary document that will provide a framework for security improvements. The hospital has contracted with an outside consulting firm to provide security expertise. Additional advice will come from an independent review panel made up of Salem Police.

Source:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080915/NEWS/809150317/1001>

34. *September 14, United Press International* – (Florida) **Florida doctors guilty of Medicare fraud.** Two Florida doctors have admitted to conspiring to defraud Medicare of \$110 million by billing the federal health insurance program for bogus HIV treatments. The men pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges Thursday in federal court, The Miami Herald reported Sunday. They face up to 10 years in prison. The doctors said they operated a Miami clinic on behalf of three men who authorities say fled to Cuba before their Medicare fraud indictment was unsealed in June. The doctors reportedly paid \$100 to \$150 kickbacks to patients for each visit to their clinic in exchange for using their Medicare number to bill the health insurance program.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/09/14/Florida_doctors_guilty_of_Medicare_fraud/UPI-39061221424711/

35. *September 14, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **L.A. County sees an upward trend in West Nile infections.** The year is shaping up to be the worst for West Nile infections in southern California since 2004. West Nile infections are up 50 percent in Los Angeles County from last year, according to the county director of public health. Statewide, there have been four deaths so far this year, all in southern California, including two in Orange County and one in San Bernardino County. The peak season for infections is from August to October. About 20 percent of those infected get the most serious, neuroinvasive form of the disease, which can cause encephalitis, meningitis, and death. People older than 50 and the chronically ill are most at risk.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-westnile14-2008sep14,0,1894808.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

36. *September 13, Fox News* – (International) **Japan police probe 2 explosions near U.S. Navy base.** A U.S. naval base may have been the target of two explosions that rattled a nearby residential area just south of Tokyo, police said Saturday. No one was wounded in the late Friday blasts in a neighborhood about half a mile from the Yokosuka Naval Base, according to a statement by the Yokosuka Police Station. Investigators found evidence of two possibly rocket-propelled bombs at the site in Yokosuka, police said, without elaborating. Local news reports said police were investigating if the blasts were aimed at the U.S. base. A Yokosuka police spokesman confirmed this was the nature of the investigation. The spokesman, who declined to be named citing department policy, could not verify media reports that the roof of a house in the neighborhood was damaged in one of the explosions. Yokosuka Naval Base officials have not released a statement and were unavailable for comment Saturday.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008Sep13/0,4670,JapanExplosions,00.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *September 15, WRCB 3 Chattanooga* – (Georgia) **North Georgia counties having problems with 911 calls.** Murray, Gordon, and Whitfield county emergency services want Sprint and Verizon customers to know about a serious issue when calling 911. Dispatchers are hearing a significant amount of static or noise. Dispatchers have been advised to verify the number and call back. The problem only happens when a caller dials 911. Officials are working to clear up the problem.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9008322>

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Information Technology

38. *September 15, Techworld* – (National) **BusinessWeek turned into malware playground.** The website of BusinessWeek magazine suffered a major SQL injection attack in recent days that left it hosting malware from hundreds of its pages, Internet security company Sophos has reported. Once compromised by such a server hole, the attack scripts could, in principle, launch anything desired by the attacker, but they currently include code for automatic attacks based on Javascript. This means that a visitor would find themselves hit by malware just by landing on one of the pages, without the need to interact in any way. The compromised part of the site is used by the magazine to advertise jobs to MBA graduates. “BusinessWeek, and the many other firms hit by SQL injection attacks, need to move fast to not only remove the malicious scripts, but also to ensure that they do not get infected again. Companies whose websites have been struck by such an attack often clean-up their database, only to be infected again a few hours later,” said a Sophos researcher. Sophos has posted a video on its website that runs through the attack in more detail. The video points out that the attackers would not have needed to target BusinessWeek specifically to have found the vulnerability from which the attacks sprang. Rather, a search engine could have been used to hunt down the vulnerable code.

Source:

<http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?newsid=104414&pagtype=all>

39. *September 15, ABC News* – (International) **Large Hadron Collider’s hacker infiltration highlights vulnerabilities.** Though the Large Hadron Collider’s infiltration by hackers did not disrupt the historic project, experts warn that its computer systems are vulnerable. Shortly after physicists activated the Collider on Wednesday, hackers identifying themselves as Group 2600 of the Greek Security Team accessed computers connected to the Compact Muon Solenoid detector, one of four key subsystems responsible for monitoring the collisions of protons speeding around the 18-mile track near Geneva, Switzerland. A few scientists had worried that the experiment could inadvertently create a planet-swallowing black hole. Physicists called this impossible, or at least extraordinarily unlikely. But the hack raises a different sort of worst-case scenario: the largest and most complicated science experiment in history, intended to

reveal basic information about the composition of matter, derailed by malevolent intruders. The LHC experiments have very complex computer systems for data recording and analysis and even more sensitive systems for experiment control, trigger and data acquisition,” said an MIT physicist and Collider collaborator. “You could imagine that penetrating the ‘real time domain’ could have catastrophic consequences.” Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=5804254&page=1>

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

40. *September 15, Computerworld* – (California) **Tab for lockup of San Francisco’s WAN may reach \$1M.** San Francisco officials estimate that IT costs stemming from a network administrator’s alleged hijacking of the city’s WAN will total \$1 million or more. The chief administrative officer in the city’s Department of Telecommunications and Information Services (DTIS) said the DTIS has paid out \$182,000 to Cisco contractors and \$15,000 in overtime costs thus far. An additional \$800,000 has been set aside to cover other expenses, he said, without elaborating. A DTIS administrator was arrested July 12 on computer-tampering charges. Prosecutors say he reset passwords to switches and routers in the WAN, blocking other IT workers from accessing them. He has pleaded not guilty.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=326239&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *September 12, United Press International* – (Arizona) **Grand Canyon beaches eroding.** U.S. researchers said some of the Grand Canyon sandbars and beaches built up by a manmade flood earlier this year are already eroding. U.S. Geological Survey researchers said photos show erosion is occurring as water releases from Glen Canyon Dam vary to meet peak power demands and interstate water-sharing agreements, the

Arizona Daily Sun reported Wednesday. Sand in the Colorado River is believed to be linked to the creation of backwaters that could help promote the survival of some fish species, the newspaper said. Boaters use beaches for camping. The Grand Canyon superintendent has proposed more regular floods to improve the canyon's ecosystem. Source: http://www.postchronicle.com/news/sports/article_212171681.shtml

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Dams Sector

42. *September 14, WWL 4 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Two major Plaquemines levee breaches endanger refinery.** In flood-plagued Plaquemines parish, Louisiana, the west bank continues to struggle. Crews spent hours last Thursday reinforcing the Citrus Land Levee with sandbags, but Hurricane Ike's massive reach and long windspan broke the levee in two spots. "One's about a football field long, the other's about 15 feet long," said the director of Homeland Security and Emergency Operations for Plaquemines Parish. Late Saturday night into Sunday morning, crews started stacking up the sandbags to try and block off some of the water, but the floodwaters were too overwhelming. The breaks in the levee will actually help water levels recede, he said. The parish is also activating 20 water pumps and counting on Mother Nature to lend a helping hand as well. "There is a cold front coming tomorrow that has north winds to help it push out," he said. But parish leaders say until hurricane protection levees come to Plaquemines Parish, each storm is another serious threat to their property and their lives. Source: <http://www.wwltv.com/topstories/stories/wwl091408cbplaq.77d194f6.html>
43. *September 14, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Hurricane Ike kills two, floods thousands of homes.** Two days of strong south winds coupled with Hurricane Ike's storm surge turned Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, roads into lakes and flooded homes in bayou communities and city neighborhoods. The storm's tropical-storm-force winds had pushed water into Terrebonne Parish all day Friday, and persistent south winds at lower speeds continued pumping water into lakes, bayous, and bays. Nearly every levee in the Terrebonne Parish system was overtopped, officials said. A spokesman for the parish's emergency-response team said Saturday night that an estimated 10,000 homes throughout Terrebonne Parish were flooded. A member of the parish's emergency operations unified command said the number may be closer to 6,000. Surge water was higher than nearly all of the levees protecting the lower reaches of the parish, said the levee director for Terrebonne and Lafourche. "Most of the levees are 5 and 6 feet, and you had basically a storm surge of close to 9 feet," he said. "Those numbers don't match." If the southeast wind had stopped after the storm's big surge, he said, the flooding in Houma would likely not have occurred. He said Terrebonne's drainage levee system – designed only to protect against flooding during rains and high tides and not hurricanes – suffered three breaches. The Chauvin Ward 7 levee had a 200-foot breach and a 300-foot breach. A 50-foot breach was detected on the Pointe-aux-Chenes-Montegut levee. Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20080913/ARTICLES/809149981/0/news0102>

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

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