



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 November 2008

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to Reuters, a natural gas pipeline was shut early Friday after an explosion in Grady County, Oklahoma, that injured one person and destroyed three homes. (See item [1](#))
- CNN reports that a brush fire in Santa Barbara County, California, burned more than 100 homes and forced students and staff at the campus of Westmont College to take cover in the school gym. The blaze began Thursday evening. (See item [29](#))

### 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. *November 14, Reuters* – (Oklahoma) **Enogex Oklahoma natgas pipe explodes, injures one.** A natural gas pipeline was shut early Friday after an explosion in Grady County, Oklahoma, that injured one person and destroyed three homes, a spokesman for the pipeline’s operator said. “We had an indication of a pipeline losing pressure at about 3 a.m. local time and shortly thereafter, we came to know of a pipeline rupture and a fire. We immediately closed the valves on either side of the area where the rupture occurred,” said a spokesman for OGE Energy Corp. and gas pipeline company Enogex. The line is a 20-inch natural gas gathering line that brings gas from producing areas nearby to a natural gas processing plant in the area. He said the line, which carries about 18 million cubic feet of gas, was running near operational levels. “It is not a critical service line for us, it is a processing line,” he said. The company was rerouting the gas and did not

expect any effect to customer deliveries.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1443824120081114>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

2. *November 14, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **First responders get a trial run at a dangerous situation.** First responders get a trial run at a dangerous situation. Thursday morning, Procter and Gamble (P&G) simulated a chemical spill in the utilities department. It is part of annual hazardous training conducted at the plant. Dougherty County EMS, police, and the Albany Fire department hazmat units responded. It was good training for P&G employees and first responders. P&G conducts 40 hours of hazardous emergency response training each year. In addition to the drill, they conduct class work and other hands on activities.  
Source: [http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=9346182&nav=menu37\\_2](http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=9346182&nav=menu37_2)
3. *November 12, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Environmentalists call for end to toxic waste at Edison plant.** The head of the Edison Wetlands Association lead a rally outside Basell USA Inc. in Edison today demanding action to finally stop the toxic waste that environmentalists said has been seeping from the plant into the Raritan River for decades. More than 12 local environmentalists, including members of the Baykeepers of NY and NJ, demonstrated outside the chemical plant -- a few hundred yards from the Edison boat basin, where people fish, boat and even swim. The demonstrators accused Basell executives of dragging their feet on a thorough cleanup. In January, the EWA filed a federal lawsuit against Basell and the former plant owner, Akzo Nobel Chemical Inc., to force action. A spokesman for Akzo refuted the claims, however, and maintained the firm and its successor on the site, Basell, have been cooperative. But consultants hired by EWA said the toxins are seeping from the plant. Chapin Engineering of Basking Ridge submitted a report to the EWA concluding that that the seepage contains the carcinogenic, benzene, as well as lead, mercury, arsenic, chromium and cooper.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/11/environmentalists\\_call\\_for\\_end.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/11/environmentalists_call_for_end.html)

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

4. *November 13, Associated Press* – (New York) **Upstate nuclear plant shuts down reactor after pump problem.** Operators of one of the nuclear reactors on Lake Ontario near Oswego shut down their reactor Thursday to fix a leaky cooling water re-circulation pump. Constellation Energy, owner of the Nine Mile Point nuclear plant in Scriba, says it shut down its Unit 2 reactor in a planned and controlled shut down. A utility spokeswoman says an upper pressure seal on a large pump failed and will be

replaced. She would not comment on how long the repair work would take.

Source: [http://www.rnntv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9343464&nav=menu566\\_2](http://www.rnntv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9343464&nav=menu566_2)

5. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Legislators want radiation rule rewritten.** Vermont lawmakers want the state Department of Health to rewrite a rule about how radiation from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is measured. And the special legislative panel wants the public to get a chance to weigh in on it. “It has very significant consequences how this rule is interpreted and whether Vermont Yankee has violated emission limits,” said the chairman of the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Opponents of the nuclear plant have said the Health Department reinterpreted a rule on how to calculate radiation releases, allowing radiation levels measured at the edge of the Vermont Yankee property to violate state standards. On Wednesday, the oversight panel voted to declare that part of the rule was confusing. Lawmakers also said changes made to the rule never went through a formal rule-making process. The Health commissioner will review the panel’s conclusions, said a Health Department spokesman.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/11/13/legislators\\_want\\_radiation\\_rule\\_rewritten/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/11/13/legislators_want_radiation_rule_rewritten/)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *November 14, VNUNet.com* – (National) **Federal Reserve spam attack emerges.** Security officials are warning users of a clever new phishing scam arriving in emails purporting to come from the U.S. Federal Reserve. The U.S. Computer Emergency Response Team (US-CERT) said that the spammed messages direct users to a web page which warns of a new phishing scam targeting users. The message contains a fake Federal Reserve letterhead and warns users in typically broken English that a “large-scales phishing attack started and has been still lasting.” In addition to the shoddy grammar, the messages are identifiable in their attempt to lure victims to an outside URL. On clicking the link, the user is briefly sent to a fake Federal Reserve page which attempts to download a PDF file, supposedly containing further details on the attack. Shortly after accessing the page, the user is forwarded to a pornographic web site. An advanced threats researcher at security firm Trend Micro said in a blog posting that the PDF file is loaded with malicious JavaScript which attempts to download and install a number of malware packages, including a botnet controller. He noted that the botnet uses a Secure Socket Layer connection to send and receive encrypted information between the botnet server and infected machines, a particularly interesting characteristic. In addition to keeping updated system and antivirus software, US-CERT recommends

that users exercise caution when viewing unsolicited messages and avoid clicking on any links which may seem suspicious.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2230518/federal-reserve-spam-attack>

7. *November 13, Bloomberg* – (National) **Banks see flaws in FDIC program to guarantee debt.** JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. are among banks that told the government its program to back their bonds is flawed because it does not have a strong enough guarantee. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. guarantee for repayments in default needs to be clearer, the fees are too high, and banks need more freedom on whether to opt in, according to a letter from law firm Sullivan & Cromwell LLP posted on the agency's Web site on behalf of nine banks. The comment period on the interim rules for the FDIC's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program ends November 13. The comments shed light on why almost a month after the government placed its guarantee behind new bank bonds, no U.S. company has yet tested the market. Credit Suisse Group AG sent a separate letter to the FDIC on November 4. Without rules that "fully and irrevocably" guarantee repayment, the size of the program and the number of banks that participate will be "significantly below the expectations of the FDIC, the industry, and all interested parties in the health of the U.S. banking system," wrote the managing director at Credit Suisse Securities USA LLC in New York.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a8vX68kdt21U&refer=worldwide>

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *November 14, Progressive Railroading* – (National) **TTCI ramps up emergency response, domestic preparedness training efforts.** With additional federal funding on the way, the Association of American Railroads' Transportation Technology Center Inc. (TTCI) plans to expand its emergency response and domestic preparedness training efforts in Pueblo. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act for fiscal-year 2009 provides \$5 million to TTCI — a member of DHS' National Domestic Preparedness Consortium — to increase training capabilities at its Emergency Response Training Center. The recently enacted rail safety law (H.R. 2095) also authorizes federal funding for TTCI to begin designing and building an above-ground rail tunnel and underground station facility for hands-on passenger-rail safety and security training exercises. In addition, the Federal Railroad Administration and TTCI plan to obtain more passenger cars for training and testing purposes at the Passenger Railcar Security and Integrity Training Facility, which TTCI is developing to test various inspection, response and remediation techniques for mitigating passenger-car incidents.

Source:

[http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=6068&Itemid=194](http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6068&Itemid=194)

9. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Probe finds FAA hid Dallas airport safety errors.** A Transportation Department investigation has concluded that Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials covered up safety errors at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the second such admonishment in the past three years. A spokeswoman for the department's inspector general said a report of the investigation's findings should be released today. She confirmed the general findings as outlined in documents released late Thursday by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel. That office said in a statement that between November 2005 and July 2007, FAA managers intentionally misclassified 62 instances in which airplanes were allowed to fly closer together than they were supposed to, attributing the errors to pilots or categorizing them as nonevents in an attempt to shift blame away from air traffic controllers at the Texas airport. The inspector general previously had confirmed a similar underreporting of safety errors at the airport in 2004. After that incident, FAA officials promised to take steps to fix the problem. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association has said previously that safety errors by controllers have increased nationally because airport towers and other traffic control facilities are understaffed and experienced controllers are leaving the FAA. Controllers and the FAA are at an impasse in contract negotiations. The continued problem at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport became public only because the whistle-blower who first reported in 2004 that agency officials were concealing safety violations came forward again last year to say the FAA managers were still underreporting safety violations by controllers or misreporting them as pilot errors.  
Source:  
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hXbhVyxRIitBGiptRL2qZj1erGXJwD94EE4D80>
10. *November 13, Coast Guard News* – (Massachusetts) **Barge collides with Amesbury swing bridge.** The Coast Guard is investigating what caused a 250-foot barge to strike the Amesbury Swing Bridge in the Merrimack River around 12 p.m. today. Coast Guard Sector Boston received a call at approximately 11: 50 a.m., reporting the barge William Breckenridge hit the Swing Bridge, which connects Newburyport to Amesbury, as it transited through the channel near Deer Island. No injuries or pollution have been reported. The Massachusetts State Highway Department is inspecting the extent of the damage to the bridge. The bridge is currently in the open position and is closed to automobile traffic. Marine traffic is being redirected south to the Chain/Hines Bridge.  
Source: <http://coastguardnews.com/barge-collides-with-amesbury-swing-bridge/2008/11/13/>
11. *November 13, WIRED* – (New York) **Red lights ahead for NYC subway surveillance plan.** The high-tech plan to secure New York City's subways is sliding deeper and deeper into trouble, a new report from the state comptroller's office finds. In 2005, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) signed a contract with defense contractor Lockheed Martin to put in thousands of security cameras, electronic tripwires, and digitally-controlled gates into New York's sprawling network of subways. The so-called "electronic security program" has never really gone according to plan. Costs have jumped 71 percent, from \$265 million to \$453 million. Completion dates have slipped from August 2008 to December 2009. Even "that date may be overly optimistic given

the challenges that still need to be overcome,” the New York State Comptroller’s report notes. “In April 2008, the MTA and the primary contractor for the electronic security program tested the software that will manage video and access control as well as records management for the MTA Police Department. Of the 1,400 software elements tested, 400 failed.”

Source: <http://blog.wired.com/defense/2008/11/red-lights-ahca.html>

12. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Plane collides with luggage tug at Detroit airport.** A regional jet collided with a small vehicle on a Detroit Metropolitan Airport taxiway Thursday, damaging the airplane and injuring the vehicle driver, authorities said. No one on the Northwest Airlinck plane was hurt in the accident, which happened shortly before 6 a.m., according to an airline spokesman. The plane, carrying 21 passengers and three crew members, had just arrived from Grand Rapids and was taxiing to the gate at the time. The cause of the accident was under investigation. The driver of the Delta luggage tug was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. The jet, operated by Pinnacle Airlines, suffered damage to the left wing and began leaking fuel, which was smothered with retardant foam as a precaution.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/13/AR2008111300870.html>
13. *November 13, Dallas Morning News* – (National) **American to test PDA/cellphone boarding passes.** American Airlines will not be the first, but it will be the latest to try out boarding passes displayed on a passenger’s cellphone or Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). American said it started offering the option of the mobile boarding passes, displayed as bar codes on a phone’s or PDA’s screen, to passengers leaving Chicago O’Hare on Thursday. The trial will be expanded to departing customers at Los Angeles International and John Wayne Orange County on Monday. According to the TSA as of late October, four airlines and 10 airports were trying out the paperless boarding passes.  
Source: <http://aviationblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2008/11/american-to-test-pdacellphone.html>
14. *November 13, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* – (National) **DHS announces security standards for freight and passenger rail systems.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced November 13 regulations aimed at strengthening the security of the nation’s freight and passenger rail systems and reducing the risk associated with the transportation of security-sensitive materials. The Rail Security final rule will require freight and passenger rail carriers to designate rail security coordinators and report significant security concerns to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The rule also will codify TSA’s broad inspection authority. For freight rail, the rule will ensure the positive handoff of security-sensitive materials as well as establish security protocols for custody transfers of security-sensitive material rail cars between receivers of these materials that are located in high threat urban areas, shippers of these materials, and rail carriers. To raise the level of security in the freight rail transportation sector ahead of the final rule, both TSA and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) developed security action items, along with the freight rail industry, to reduce the risk associated with the transportation of Poisonous by Inhalation (PIH) materials. These

measures have resulted in an overall risk reduction of more than 60 percent, well above the target reduction of 50 percent. PIH materials are potentially harmful and include essential chemicals like chlorine and anhydrous ammonia.

Source: [http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1226590026515.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1226590026515.shtm)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

15. *November 13, Associated Press* – (California; Utah) **White powder sent to Mormon temples in Utah, LA.** Letters containing a suspicious white powder were sent Thursday to Mormon temples in Los Angeles and Salt Lake City that were the sites of protests against the church's support of California's gay marriage ban. The temple in the Westwood area of Los Angeles was evacuated before a hazardous materials crew determined the envelope's contents were not toxic, said an FBI spokesman. The temple in downtown Salt Lake City, where the church is based, received a similar envelope containing a white powder that spilled onto a clerk's hand. The room was decontaminated and the envelope taken by the FBI for testing. None of the writing on the envelope was threatening, and the church received no calls or messages related to the package.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hWORMq91zcde41dhzAaSEx2wEHFwD94EEP9O2>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

16. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Louisiana; National) **USDA providing farmland repair funds.** Louisiana farmers are in-line to receive \$16 million in federal funds to repair farmland damaged by natural disasters this year. Nationwide, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says its providing \$77 million through its Emergency Conservation Program to help producers remove debris or repair fences and conservation structures damaged by storms, floods or fires and to implement emergency water conservation efforts after severe drought. Louisiana was affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike this summer. Other states set to receive significant funding: Iowa, Texas and Indiana, estimated to receive \$17.6 million, \$13.7 million and \$13 million, respectively.

Source: <http://www.katc.com/Global/story.asp?S=9348584>

17. *November 14, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **U.S. cattle group protests USDA identifier action.** The U.S. cattle producer group R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America is protesting what it sees as an unlawful regulatory action that signs producers up for the National Animal Identification Program against their will. A memorandum issued September 22 requires that producers entering one of several animal-disease-control programs have an NAIS-compliant premises identification number. If none is available, a program number will be assigned that is NAIS compliant. Previously, the states issued the ID numbers for the disease-eradication programs, which were kept in a

large database, but the lack of a centralized numbering system became problematic with things like duplicate numbers, the business plan said. In a release, R-CALF USA said APHIS' action was implemented without public notice or opportunity for comment, as required by the Administrative Procedure Act. R-CALF officials requested the NAIS-compliant order be withdrawn, and sent copies of their letter to several congressmen as well as animal health officials in each state.

Source: [http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2008/11/14/25871\\_cattle.html](http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2008/11/14/25871_cattle.html)

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## **Water Sector**

18. *November 14, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Plans to upgrade wastewater plant called a ‘victory.’** Nearly \$90 million in upgrades to the troubled wastewater plant in San Ysidro are on the way thanks to a construction contract announced yesterday by a federal wastewater agency. Work is expected to take about two years, at which point South Bay residents should have fewer worries about ocean pollution. The contract is the most concrete advance in years toward a solution to the decade-old problem of partially cleaned sewage flowing into the ocean from the International Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission. Since the late 1990s, the commission was mired in political battles over how to improve the facility, which treats up to 25 million gallons of sewage from Tijuana a day but fails to meet Clean Water Act standards. The upgrades, which will be made at the existing plant and on an adjacent 40-acre parcel, will include new tanks where bacteria can break down waste. The overall price tag is about \$12 million smaller than what the commission projected earlier this year.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20081114-9999-1m14sewage.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

19. *November 14, Jakarta Post* – (International) **7 in hospital with suspected bird flu.** A South Sulawesi hospital was overwhelmed as it admitted in two days 17 patients believed to have bird flu, an official said Thursday. The patients, mostly children, presented with symptoms of the disease, such as a high fever, cough and respiratory problems, spokesman for Wahidin Sudirohusodo General Hospital in Makassar said. He said the hospital had conducted urgent tests for the first seven patients, with the results indicating the presence of the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The hospital is waiting for confirmation of the results from blood tests conducted by the Micro Laboratory of the Hasanuddin University Medical School and the Visual Conversion Reaction, he said.
20. *November 13, Madison Capital Times* – (Wisconsin) **Local firm gets loan for bird flu vaccine.** Vaccine research and development firm FluGen Inc. is getting a \$250,000 loan from Wisconsin State to help in the development of a bird flu vaccine. The governor announced the Technology Venture Fund loan to FluGen on Wednesday. FluGen was



founded in 2007 to create faster, less expensive ways to make flu vaccine. The loan will be used by the Madison company to buy equipment and continue research and development in the \$2 million “bird flu” vaccine project.

Source: <http://www.madison.com/tct/business/314212>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

21. *November 14, USA Today* – (Virginia) **Va. Tech alert system fails in first use.** One of four methods Virginia Tech uses to alert students and faculty in an emergency failed Thursday when school administrators attempted to warn the campus about reports of gunfire in a dorm, the university said. This is the first time Virginia Tech has used its new emergency alert system since the April 16, 2007, massacre. University administrators on Thursday issued a first alert at 1:40 p.m. after Tech police responded to a report of gunfire near the Pritchard Hall dormitory, a university spokesman said. He said police believe that exploding cartridges from a nail gun in a trash bin caused what sounded to be gunfire. He said police believe that two people exploded the cartridge in the bin by slamming the lid. As police searched the dorm, the university posted a message to the university Web page, e-mailed it campus-wide, sent it to electronic message boards in classrooms, and relayed it to the VT Alerts system, the school said. The VT Alerts system is designed to send a text or voice message to mobile devices such as cellphones. The VT Alerts system failed to deliver some of the messages, the university said. Two other messages sent later Thursday afternoon to the VT Alerts system also failed, the school said. Tech officials said they have contacted the company that manages the system to determine why non-university accounts did not receive the text and voice messages.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-11-13-virginia-tech\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-11-13-virginia-tech_N.htm)

22. *November 13, Republican Herald* – (Pennsylvania) **Bomb threat freezes PSU Schuylkill.** Penn State Schuylkill campus did not open until noon Wednesday after a bomb threat was called in late Tuesday night, according to the school’s manager of human resources. The Manager said the Schuylkill County 911 Center received the threat at 11:35 p.m. Tuesday. All campus buildings, including residence buildings, were searched by officers from Penn State Schuylkill, Penn State University Park, Orwigsburg police, Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania State Police and Pennsylvania Capitol Police, the manager said. The police declared the campus clear by about 7:30 a.m.

Source:

[http://www.republicanherald.com/articles/2008/11/13/news/local\\_news/pr\\_republican.20081113.a.pg3.pr13psubombthreat\\_sl.2085305\\_loc.txt](http://www.republicanherald.com/articles/2008/11/13/news/local_news/pr_republican.20081113.a.pg3.pr13psubombthreat_sl.2085305_loc.txt)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

23. *November 14, New Haven Register* – (Connecticut) **Ansonia EMS agency in critical**

**condition.** An independent review of Ansonia Rescue Medical Services (ARMS) says the organization is in “crisis,” and identified serious management problems, as well as an unusually “high level of acrimony” within the work force. The report, completed by Fitch & Associates of Platte City, Missouri, strongly recommends the city hire an experienced, full-time paid chief to run ARMS. “The consultants have rarely experienced such a high level of acrimony within a work force and between individual managers,” the report states. “Patients have been served well, but the organization is in crisis. The work force is clearly divided into several factions. City files contain numerous charges and counter-charges of inappropriate medical care, protocol violations and inappropriate workplace behavior. ARMS’ leaders appear unable to provide its response personnel with an environment that focuses on patient care rather than organizational issues.” The report also found the agency’s chief exhibited “extremely poor judgment” and put the city at risk when he recently responded to an emergency call and rendered patient care “while knowing that his EMT license was expired for more than 90 days.”

Source: [http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2008/11/14/news/valley/a1\\_--\\_arms2.txt](http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2008/11/14/news/valley/a1_--_arms2.txt)

24. *November 13, Reuters* – (California) **Southern California stages biggest U.S. quake drill.** The Great Southern California ShakeOut, the United States’ largest earthquake drill, was organized by scientists and emergency officials as part of a campaign to prepare the state’s 22 million inhabitants for a catastrophic quake that experts say is inevitable and long overdue. Well over 5 million people registered to take part in the drill, which took place Thursday. The drill is based on the premise of a magnitude 7.8 quake striking the southern portion of the famed San Andreas Fault, a subterranean chasm between two massive plates of the Earth’s crust that extends hundreds of miles across the state. The hypothetical quake, similar in strength to the devastating tremor that hit China in May, also is the basis for this year’s annual Golden Guardian exercise — a days-long disaster simulation for emergency-response agencies statewide. A spokeswoman for Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in suburban Los Angeles, whose trauma center is taking part in the larger mass-casualty drill, said, “Being prepared to help the public is just an amazing advantage for the community.” Teaching people quake survival skills also “means fewer patients for us,” she added. Drill participants were guided by a public service message sent in advance to participating businesses, schools and other institutions and played over the airwaves by various radio and TV stations.

Source: [http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSN13439051.CH\\_2400](http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSN13439051.CH_2400)

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## **Information Technology**

Nothing to report

**[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

25. *November 13, VNUNet.com* – (International) **F-Secure warns of mobile malware growth.** Security firm F-Secure has launched the fifth iteration of its mobile security software, which tackles what the firm describes as a slow but steady growth in mobile malware. Smartphones are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and users are storing a large amount of personal and business information on the devices. Research conducted by F-Secure suggests that there are more than 400 mobile viruses in circulation. Some of these are simply annoying, such as Skull.D, which locks up the phone with a flashing skull and crossbones on the screen; but others can cause considerable damage. Although 400 viruses may be a tiny figure compared with the millions of PC viruses floating around today, some mobile malware applications are extremely worrying as they can continuously send premium rate texts or deliver email and other personal information to a third party. Some can even use a phone's GPS system to track the user's movements, and are marketed as legitimate applications as a way for parents to keep track of kids, suspicious partners to uncover infidelities, or businesses to audit the use of their mobile phones.  
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2230481/f-secure-launches-mobile>
26. *November 13, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Feds to work with state on prison cell phone jamming.** South Carolina's proposal to jam cell phone signals in prisons violates federal law, but regulators said Thursday they are willing to work with officials in their efforts to keep inmates from making calls using the contraband devices. The State prisons chief wants to demonstrate how the jamming technology would work. A Federal Communications Commission spokesman said the agency recognizes officials' distress about contraband cell phones, which some say have become a new form of cash behind bars. The FCC can grant federal agencies the authority to use the jammers, which prevent cell tower signals from ever reaching a phone, effectively blocking all calls. But there's no such provision for state and local law enforcement. Critics say it's impossible to contain the jamming technology to one or two buildings, and that using it runs the risk of affecting people using phones nearby.  
Source:  
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20081113/NEWS06/81113055/1001/NEWS>
27. *November 13, Science Daily* – (National) **To widen path to outer space, engineers build small satellite.** The "pico satellite" being designed and built in a University of Florida aerospace engineering laboratory may hold a key to a future of easy access to outer space — one where sending satellites into orbit is as routine and inexpensive as shipping goods around the world. "Right now, the way satellites are built, they're all large, one-of-a-kind and very expensive," says an associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and the lead investigator on the project. "Our idea is that you could mass produce these small satellites and launch 10 or 20 from a single launch

vehicle.” “There is a national push to make satellites smaller so that you can provide cheaper and more frequent access to space,” he said. As part of that push, the National Science Foundation this fall created the Advanced Space Technologies Research and Engineering Center at the UF College of Engineering.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081113181312.htm>

28. *November 13, SC Magazine* – (International) **New attack targeting Windows mobile phones.** Attacks on Google’s Android and Apple’s iPhone have made headlines recently but now Windows Mobile phones are the latest target. The latest wave is a Windows CE/Mobile polymorphic “companion” virus, according to a McAfee Avert Labs blog post on Thursday. It could also be regarded as one of the real first viruses for Windows Mobile, the head of global marketing for McAfee’s mobile division, told SCMagazineUS.com Thursday. The virus is notable because it combines two different PC attack methods — one called a “companion technique” and encryption. Researchers in the Georgia Tech Information Security Center (GTISC) recently predicted mobile threats will pose one of the top risks to end-users in 2009, suggesting that botnets will spread to handhelds.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/New-attack-targeting-Windows-Mobile-phones/article/121014/>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

29. *November 14, CNN* – (California) **More than 100 homes burned in California blaze.** A wind-driven brush fire roaring through the canyons of Santa Barbara County has burned more than 100 homes, injured 13 people, and charred more than 2,500 acres, a county spokeswoman said. She said residents of more than 4,500 homes were ordered to evacuate as flames from the Tea Fire engulfed multimillion-dollar mansions and modest ranch-style homes north of Los Angeles. The blaze began Thursday evening. Large homes continued to burn Friday morning, and the governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency in Santa Barbara County. The fire threatened roughly 1,500 homes, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. Winds calmed at daybreak Friday, slowing the spread of the fire, but were forecast to pick up to 50 mph to 70 mph through Saturday. The flames roared onto the campus of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, forcing students and staff to take cover in the school gym. Several buildings, including dormitories, the school’s physics building, and more than a dozen homes in Westmont’s faculty housing area, have been lost or “significantly damaged” by the fire, the school said in a statement on its Web site.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/11/14/california.fires/index.html>

30. *November 14, Pueblo Chieftain* – (Colorado) **Deadly blast on Union.** An explosion leveled two buildings in Pueblo, Colorado, killing one woman and injuring seven others Thursday afternoon. The Branch Inn exploded, collapsed, and caught fire at 2:09 p.m. The blast destroyed the popular bar/restaurant and its neighbor, A Classic Boutique. Rescuers late Thursday believed they had pulled everyone from the rubble, but, “We’re not taking any chances,” the Fire Chief said. “We’re going to go through this brick-by-

brick. It's consistent with a gas explosion, but we're not deeming it suspicious or ruling suspicion out." The FBI and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation are aiding in the investigation, which was set to begin in earnest Friday.

Source:

<http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2008/11/14/news/local/doc491d48ac7f9b1742497107.txt>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

31. *November 13, Daily World* – (Washington) **Storm takes out Cosi dam.** A series of floods hit the Harbor Wednesday causing thousands of dollars in damage and road closures countywide. Cosmopolites are facing at least half a million dollars of damage, according to a public works director. Howling winds and pummeling rains toppled trees along a bank at Mill Creek, causing a dam to break, flooding nearby residential areas. Water washed out the pedestrian foot bridge as well. The Department of Ecology surveyed the area this morning and determined dislodged root balls from the fallen trees collapsed a three-foot by six-foot section of the dam. No homes were evacuated and no injuries were reported, ecology officials said. However, city officials said as many as 12 residences in Cosmopolis may have sustained some flooding where water was "above the sidewalk." Construction placed 22 concrete blocks at the site to control the flooding, but the public works director said it would only be a "temporary fix" and permanent repairs to the dam would not be made until sometime this summer. Repairing the structure could mean extending the remainder of the dam from the damaged point to the bank beyond where the breach occurred. Replacing the entire dam could be a possibility also.

Source: [http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2008/11/13/local\\_news/01news.txt](http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2008/11/13/local_news/01news.txt)

32. *November 13, Pittsburg Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Emergency dam repairs to begin next week.** The Army Corps of Engineers said today that emergency repairs to Allegheny River Lock and Dam 6 in Armstrong County are expected to begin next week. Brayman Construction Corp. of Saxonburg won the nearly \$3 million contract to repair a severe erosion problem at the dam.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08318/927674-100.stm>

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