



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 September 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to the Associated Press, one person was hospitalized with chemical burns and about 29 others were taken to hospitals for evaluation after a chemical explosion on Monday at a company that makes gold and silver alloys in Attleboro, Massachusetts. (See item [7](#))
- The Wall Street Journal reports that the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism has advised that the next U.S. president should put more emphasis on countering biological threats as part of a rethinking of national security strategy. (See item [34](#))

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 9, Bloomberg* – (National) **Ike hits western Cuba, may intensify, spare Gulf oil.** Hurricane Ike began moving over western Cuba and is expected to strengthen as it heads west into the Gulf of Mexico on a course that may spare most U.S. oil installations. U.S. government forecasts call for the eye to track west through the center of the Gulf and slam into southern Texas, veering away from New Orleans and the offshore Louisiana oil and natural gas fields, which came under threat from Hurricane Gustav less than two weeks ago. Ike, still a Category 1 storm, is likely to gain steam before it makes landfall in Texas near the border with Mexico early on September 13,

the National Hurricane Center said. “If this southerly track continues, the major energy complex in and around Houston and Galveston Bay may dodge this bullet as well,” said a senior energy meteorologist with Planalytics Inc. “Though Mexican energy production operations may shut down, the track of Ike will probably be too far north to create significant damage.” The governor of Texas issued a disaster declaration Monday along the coast in preparation for Ike’s landfall. Rigs, refineries, and platforms shut down by Gustav stayed shut because of the threat from Ike.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=amffIF.bkRT0&refer=latin_america

2. *September 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Offshore wind farms may line U.S. coast.** If offshore wind advocates have their way, scores of 140-foot blades will be spinning in the ocean breeze nearly a dozen miles away from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Offshore wind has taken a back seat to offshore drilling for oil and natural gas in the current energy debate. But those wind-driven turbines probably will be operating long before oil platforms appear off Atlantic Coast states. Delaware hopes to be the first state to construct a wind farm off its coast. The project, scheduled to be completed in 2012, is one of several offshore wind proposals that have cleared significant hurdles in recent months. Offshore wind supporters say recent proposals have not faced the same kind of opposition that previously dogged projects off Massachusetts’ Cape Cod and New York’s Long Island. But even on Cape Cod, attitudes are changing. Where critics once held a floating anti-wind farm demonstration, polls show that public opinion has swung in favor of an offshore project. Significant obstacles to offshore wind still remain. Policymakers and utility companies need to commit to long-term contracts, said a University of Delaware professor. There also needs to be more stability in the federal government’s support for wind power, said the manager of siting policy at the American Wind Energy Association. When Congress allowed a renewable energy tax credit to expire in the past – in 2000, 2002, and 2004 – wind capacity installation dropped 93 percent, 73 percent, and 77 percent respectively from the previous year.

Source:

http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/09/09/offshore.wind.ap/index.html?eref=rss_1atest

3. *September 8, Reuters* – (National) **DOE to deliver 250,000 barrels of oil to Marathon.** The U.S. Energy Department said on Monday it will deliver 250,000 barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to Marathon Oil Corp. The company requested the oil for its Midwest refineries along the Capline pipeline after Hurricane Gustav caused supply disruptions.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSWAT00999220080908>

4. *September 8, Register* – (National) **Gas refineries at Defcon 1 as SCADA exploit goes wild.** Gasoline refineries and other critical facilities that rely on computerized control systems just became more vulnerable to tampering or sabotage with the release of attack code that exploits a security flaw in a widely used piece of software. The exploit code, published over the weekend as a module to the Metasploit penetration testing tool kit,

attacks a vulnerability that resides in CitectSCADA, software used to manage industrial control mechanisms known as SCADA, or Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition, systems. In June, the manufacturer of the program, Australia-based Citect, and Computer Emergency Response Teams in the U.S., Argentina, and Australia warned the flawed software could put companies in the petroleum industries at risk from outsiders or disgruntled employees. The exploit was created by the director of penetration testing at security firm Netragard. He said he decided to release the code following conflicting statements by Citect about the severity of the flaw. As a result, he said, organizations that use CitectSCADA were confused about whether they were truly vulnerable. To cut through the confusion, he provided a detailed description of the bug, which he described as a “classic stack-based buffer overflow.” By default, a server component of CitectSCADA known as Open Database Connectivity monitors TCP/IP networks for client requests. Attackers can gain control by modifying the size of the packets sent to the system.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/08/scada_exploit_released/

5. *September 7, Canadian Press* – (Maine) **Tidal power projects move forward in eastern Maine and around the world.** Ocean Renewable Power Co. envisions producing enough electricity to power 22,000 homes by harnessing the power of Passamaquoddy Bay, off Maine, where twice each day the tide rises and falls upward of six meters, the greatest tide change in the continental United States. Even before energy prices surged, a study conducted by the electric utility industry concluded that tidal power could be produced at a cost competitive with wind power and power plants fired by natural gas. The experiment taking place in the 37-meter-deep Western Passage represents the latest advance in an emerging technology that seems to be moving forward in baby steps, but could one day help meet the growing worldwide demand for electricity. Ocean Renewable Power was the only developer with turbines in U.S. waters that generated electricity this year, said the leader of the study for the Electric Power Research Institute in California. Tides hold a number of advantages. Winds can turn calm and clouds can obscure the sun, but the immutable tides turn twice a day, no matter what, providing a steady and predictable source of power. Because of water’s greater density, the technology requires fewer turbines to produce the same amount of electricity as wind. But tidal power still has a long row to hoe. He figures that tidal is more than 15 years behind wind, which today has an installed capacity of 80,000 megawatts worldwide.

Source:

http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5h4_97bK4_urR9AP6zdke1NHyfU4g

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *September 9, Associated Press* – (National) **WMD report: U.S. remains ‘dangerously vulnerable.’** The United States remains “dangerously vulnerable” to chemical, biological and nuclear attacks seven years after 9/11, a forthcoming independent study concludes. And a House Democrats’ report says the current administration has missed one opportunity after another to improve the nation’s security. Efforts to reduce access

to nuclear technology and bomb-making materials have slowed, thousands of U.S. chemical plants remain unprotected, and the U.S. government continues to oppose strengthening an international treaty to prevent bioterrorism, according to the report produced by the bipartisan Partnership for a Secure America. The group includes leaders of the disbanded 9/11 Commission, the bipartisan panel that investigated government missteps before the 2001 terror attacks on the United States. The independent study, which was released Tuesday, cited improved U.S. port security, reduction of military chemical stockpiles, increased U.S. funding for securing nuclear weapons sites in Russia and new international programs aimed at preventing crimes involving biological weapons.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jbb52zxvudou3fL2E5gORXnHHGDQD93353UG0>

7. *September 9, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **1 severely hurt as chemical explosion rocks Attleboro plant.** On Monday, one person was hospitalized with chemical burns and about 29 others were taken to hospitals for evaluation after a chemical explosion in Attleboro, Massachusetts. Workers at Stern-Leach Co., which makes gold and silver alloys, caused the minor explosion when they tried to mix sodium cyanide and hydrogen peroxide solutions totaling about 2.5 gallons under a fume hood, said a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection. A fire captain said 19 people were taken to Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro and 10 others to Pawtucket Memorial of Rhode Island as a precaution. Company employees routinely mix the chemicals, and there was no immediate explanation for the explosion, said the DEP official. About 200 people evacuated the building shortly after the blast, a fire captain said. He said 29 people were decontaminated at the scene by hazardous materials crews.

Source:

http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/general/view/2008_09_09_1_severely_hurt_as_chemical_explosion_rocks_Attleboro_plant/srvc=home&position=also

8. *September 9, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Feds to clean up former chemical treatment plant.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to clean up the site of a Terre Haute, Indiana, company where the owner was sentenced to five years in prison for concealing elevated levels of chemical discharges into the Wabash River. The EPA says the cleanup at the former Wabash Environmental Technologies will begin in October and could take several months. The company once operated a wastewater treatment plant at the site that accepted liquid wastes from its industrial customers for treatment and eventual discharge to the Wabash. An inspection of the site found chemicals, waste oil and caustic materials. The company's president was sentenced to prison in November after being convicted in of 10 counts of violating the federal Clean Water Act.

Source: http://www.wlfi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8976059&nav=menu591_3

9. *September 9, Forum* – (North Dakota) **Crews investigate plant chemical leaks.** Emergency and city crews in Moorhead, North Dakota, responded to two chemical leaks

that occurred Monday evening at the city's water treatment plant. Responding officials initially said there was a chlorine leak at the plant because a chlorine detection alarm sounded about 5:20 p.m., said the Moorhead Assistant Fire Chief. After fire officials arrived and began investigating, they found an ammonia leak coming from a broken hose in the facility's lower level, said the spokesman for Moorhead Public Service. The chlorine leak was discovered on the main level of the facility in a storage area, he said. He called the leaks coincidental and said the leaks were contained inside the facility. Officers from Moorhead police, the Minnesota State Patrol and the Clay County Sheriff's Department responded and shut down traffic in a two- to three-block radius, said the Moorhead Assistant Fire Chief.

Source: <http://www.in-forum.com/News/articles/214141>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

10. *September 9, World Nuclear News* – (National) **Yucca Mountain application docketed.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted its application for what would be the country's first repository for high-level nuclear waste on June 3. Now, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has formally ruled that the application is sufficiently complete for it to begin its full technical review. The NRC is allowed a statutory three years, with a likely one-year extension, to complete its safety analysis and public hearings, but NRC has already warned that meeting the deadline is contingent on its receiving sufficient resources from Congress. The U.S. energy secretary described the docketing as a significant step towards disposing of the used nuclear fuel and high-level waste currently in storage at 121 different temporary locations, many of them nuclear power plants.
Source: http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/WR-Yucca_Mountain_application_docketed-0909087.html
11. *September 9, Platts* – (National) **French EDF doubles stake in US' Constellation Energy to 9.5%.** France's EDF has increased its stake in U.S. power company Constellation Energy from 4.97 percent to 9.51 percent, the French utility said Tuesday. EDF said the share acquisition follows an agreement made between EDF and Constellation Energy in July 2007, in which the companies said they would set up a joint-venture called Unistar in order to build and develop nuclear power stations in the U.S. The companies agreed the new plants would be European Pressurized Reactor power plants, a third-generation design which is being built for the first time in Finland and France.
Source:
<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8014681.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/News&?undefined&undefined>
12. *September 8, Reuters* – (California) **San Onofre nuclear plant in California back soon.** The Southern California Edison (SCE)-operated San Onofre nuclear power Unit 3 is expected to be back on-line "soon" now that repair to a backup diesel generator has been completed, SCE said on Monday. Unit 3 shut on September 1 for unplanned

maintenance when one of the unit's two backup generators failed. The generators are required in case other the normal power sources to the reactor are not available. SCE said on Monday that testing that occurs prior to restart was under way.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0848934720080908>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *September 9, Augusta Systems* – (National) **Navy selects Augusta Systems intelligent network technologies.** Naval port and river security operations are expected to improve as a result of an intelligent, panoramic imaging system under development by Augusta Systems, Inc. Augusta Systems has been awarded a contract from the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research for the intelligent imaging system, built with the company's platform technologies. The system is designed for use at fixed points or installed on unmanned vehicles. Relying on panoramic imaging technologies from partner EyeSee360, Inc., the system can provide 360-degree images from a single location, eliminating the need for multiple cameras, and instantly process and wirelessly communicate the imaging information across military networks. The intelligent system also features data fusion and change detection capabilities, meaning that algorithms installed on the system enable it to detect changes in multiple images of the same scene taken at different times, and transmit only relevant images back to naval personnel. This capability eliminates the need to transmit and analyze large quantities of raw imagery data, thus conserving network bandwidth and saving time for military personnel.
Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/navy-selects-augusta-systems-intelligent/story.aspx?guid={D897C07A-176A-4C68-B951-28741446A117}&dist=hprr>

14. *September 5, North County Times and McClatchy-Tribune News Service* – (National) **Pendleton commander says area code change brings military burdens.** Changing North County's area code to 442 would impose significant military and security burdens, the commanding officer of Camp Pendleton said Thursday at a special hearing on the proposed change. Having to adopt a new area code would cause significant difficulties for Marines already deployed overseas, and to local military operations at Camp Pendleton, the colonel told the hearing of the California Public Utilities Commission at the Carlsbad City Council chambers. "This change, if it's permitted to go forward, will create a major burden on what's called the Defense Information Systems Agency," a burden he had just learned about Thursday morning, he said. The agency uses a voice, data, and information network called the Defense Switched Network, which he called "the Autobahn of numbers." "It's used by the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, FBI, the Secret Service, amongst others," he said. "DISA (Defense Information Systems Agency) must perform extensive rework to reprogram their DSN (Defense Switched Network) switch system to match the new area code for each of Camp Pendleton's 30,000-plus assigned phone number IDs.
Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1865601/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *September 8, Reuters* – (National) **Big payments are expected in credit default swaps.**

The government's takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may lead to one of the largest ever payments in the credit default swap market, analysts said on Monday. Losses to protection sellers, however, are expected to be minimal because of the high trading levels of the \$1.6 trillion of outstanding Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac debt. Credit default swaps are used to hedge against the risk of borrowers defaulting on their debt, or to speculate on a company's credit quality. They trade in the private market, so the actual amount of protection written on Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's debt is hard to estimate. When a credit event occurs, sellers of protection pay buyer the full amount insured, and the buyer gives the seller debt underlying the contracts or a cash sum based on the debt's value. The high trading levels of agency debt, which in most cases is trading at or near par value, will make settling the contracts different from contracts initiated by defaults, which typically recover little. "If bonds rally and trade close to par, recovery could be close to 100 percent, with sellers of protection having little to pay out despite a technical default," CreditSights analysts said on Monday.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/09/business/09credit.html?ref=business>

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Transportation Sector

16. *September 9, Newsday* – (National) **Senator finds dangerous gaps in anti-terror efforts.**

The United States has failed to close dangerous gaps in domestic security since the September 11 terrorist attacks, a New York senator said Monday. In his annual Homeland Security Report Card, the New York representative said the country is at greater risk for an attack than it has been in previous years, and he lowered his grade for the government's overall effort to a C-, from a C last year. Of the eight areas examined, he rated port security, mass transit and truck security, and grants funding for high-threat cities as the weakest. The report card says the government has been slow to implement new security standards. The official said that even with increased funding, and in some cases a congressional mandate for new security standards, the government has not pushed for timely enforcement.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/tuesday/nation/ny-usterr095835269sep09,0,5019660.story>

17. *September 9, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **Amtrak train derails near Joliet.**

A St. Louis-to-Chicago Amtrak train derailed near Joliet, Illinois, on Monday night, authorities said. None of the 112 passengers aboard Lincoln Service Train 304 were injured and the cars remained upright after a set of wheels jumped the track south of Joliet at 7:50 p.m., said an Amtrak spokesperson. The train behind it, number 306, also was delayed as a result of the derailment, as was a southbound Chicago-to-St. Louis train. In both cases, buses were dispatched to take passengers to their final destination.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/1152127.amtrak090808.article>

18. *September 9, Saratogian* – (New York) **County airport to be fenced in.** In response to a request for increased security at the Saratoga County, New York, Airport by the Milton Town Supervisor, and following a rash of break-ins to planes on the property, the Building and Grounds Committee has approved the installation of two sliding gates at the site. Most of the airport is surrounded by a fence, but there is currently nothing in place to stop vehicles from entering the property. The official said he has received numerous late-night phone calls from people complaining vehicles are out on the airport runway. Last week, three planes were broken into, with New York State Police and Homeland Security investigating the matter.

Source:

http://www.saratogian.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20111417&BRD=1169&PAG=461&dept_id=602469&rfi=6

19. *September 8, Associated Press* – (California) **Regional jet runs off San Antonio runway.** A regional carrier jet ran off a runway at San Antonio International Airport after landing on a flight from Los Angeles. A Chicago-based United Airlines spokeswoman says none of the 52 passengers and four crew members on the United Express jet was injured. She says United will work with SkyWest Airlines, the operator of the regional carrier, to try to determine what caused the aircraft to leave the runway. A San Antonio airport spokesman says in a story on the San Antonio Express-News Web site that the plane appeared to be having some mechanical difficulties.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26608499/>

20. *September 8, New York Times* – (New York) **Group sues for details on security downtown.** On Monday, lawyers with the New York Civil Liberties Union filed a suit seeking information about the New York Police Department's proposed Lower Manhattan Security Initiative. The security plan envisions a London-like "ring of steel" around downtown, with mobile teams of heavily armed officers as well as technology including closed-circuit television cameras, license plate readers and explosive trace detection systems. In a segment of the plan called Operation Sentinel, the department also proposes to photograph every vehicle entering Manhattan, scan the license plates and use sensors to check for radiation, and then keep the information on file for at least a month. In a statement, the group said that with a system expected to cost about \$100 million, public knowledge and input was essential. The Police Department's chief spokesman said the department had already released as much information as it could without compromising its plans for an area of the city that has repeatedly been a target of terrorists. "We have already provided the N.Y.C.L.U. with information short of a road map for terrorists to use in another attack on the financial district," he said. The civil liberties group has raised questions about how long the police will warehouse the information on cars entering Manhattan, how it will be used and whom it will be shared with. Officials of the group said that the department handed over 91 pages of documents but that those papers did not satisfy its quest for information.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/09/nyregion/09steel.html?_r=1&ref=nyregion&oref=slogin

21. *September 8, Associated Press* – (National) **Flights from Venezuela to the U.S. may not be safe.** Air travelers taking nonstop flights from Venezuela to the U.S. will receive advisories stating that the U.S. cannot vouch for the security of those flights. Venezuela has refused to allow U.S. officials to assess security measures at the country's four international airports that have nonstop flights to the U.S. — a requirement all other countries have complied with since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, according to the Transportation Security Administration. From now on, air carriers providing tickets for flights between the U.S. and Venezuela will have to state in writing that Venezuela does not comply with international aviation security standards. There are 10 daily flights from Venezuela to the U.S., eight of which are on U.S. carriers, according to the TSA.
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jt3kuU7tod3AZIlvdiL3ksakH1wD932PUVO3>

22. *September 8, News Yemen* – (International) **Yemen to set anti-piracy center, U.S. offers help.** As the piracy activities in the Gulf of Aden increased last few months, Yemen is seeking help and more cooperation with countries that have concerns about sea piracy. The Transport minister was quoted as saying that Yemen will host a regional center for combating piracy to respond to ships hijacking in the Gulf of Aden. Yemen will establish the center in collaboration with 20 other countries and the International Maritime Organization, said the official. He said the participating countries will sign a memo of understanding for mutual cooperation between the signing countries to fight piracy. The Yemeni Defense Minister met on Sunday with the commander of U.S. Task Force in the Horn of Africa. During the meeting, they discussed ways to develop bilateral military relations between the two armies of the two countries, particularly in fighting terrorism and sea piracy and preserving the security of international maritime navigation in the Red Sea.
Source: http://www.newsyemen.net/en/view_news.asp?sub_no=3_2008_09_08_7424

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Postal and Shipping Sector

23. *September 9, KMBC 9 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Corn starch causes concern at post office.** Hazardous materials crews were called to the Gladstone, Missouri, Post Office after white powder was found early Tuesday morning. Authorities said the powder was found on the door handle to the post office and inside on the glass door to the lobby. Workers made the discovery at about 7 a.m. as they reported for work.
Source: <http://www.kmbc.com/news/17427695/detail.html#->

24. *September 8, Reuters* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious package probed at emergency agency.** A leaking package in the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency mail room forced an evacuation of the headquarters building, a fire department official said on Monday. A Washington, D.C., fire department spokesman said an X-ray of the package showed a need for further investigation, and a hazardous materials team was taking air samples. "Nobody is injured, nobody is sick," he said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080908/ts_nm/securtiy_package_dc

25. *September 8, WOFL 35 Orlando* – (Florida) **Orlando congressman receives suspicious envelope.** On Monday, the Port Orange, Florida, Fire-Rescue and Port Orange Police Department responded to a call received from a congressman's office located inside Port Orange City Hall. Officials say an envelope containing about 1-2 teaspoons of an unknown white powder substance was received and opened by secretarial staff. The building was evacuated as police secured the area.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxorlando.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7386013&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

26. *September 8, WMBD 31 and WYZZ 43 Peoria* – (Illinois) **Suspicious package at courthouse.** Authorities examined a suspicious package around noon Monday at the Peoria, Illinois, County Courthouse. County police say the package was mailed to the State's Attorney's office. A bomb sniffing dog from the Peoria Police Department was called the package was determined to harmless. However, for about a half hour, the Main Street entrance to the courthouse was closed as a precaution.

Source: <http://centralillinoisproud.com/content/fulltext/?cid=21511>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

27. *September 9, ScienceDaily* – (National) **Hotline to the cowshed.** A wireless measuring system, consisting of sensors and transmission units, helps to keep livestock healthier with a minimum use of resources. It is easy to overlook the first signs of disease. This situation can now be remedied by a tiny sensor in the cow's rumen, which monitors the animal's state of health and raises the alarm in good time. The system determines the pH level and the temperature inside the cow's rumen. The data are wirelessly transmitted to an external receiver module in the animal's collar via an encapsulated measuring probe. A network of sensors forwards the signals to a central database. The farmer immediately receives a warning if the readings are above or below a reference value. At present, the pH level in the rumen can only be measured via pharyngeal probes. Scientists from the Fraunhofer Institute for Microelectronic Circuits and Systems IMS in Duisburg, Germany, have developed the new system, which they can also adapt to numerous other applications in agriculture and forestry.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080908135912.htm>

28. *September 8, FederalComputerWeek* – (National) **Center develops food tracking tools.** Researchers at the Homeland Security Department's National Center for Food Protection and Defense are developing two new computer applications to track the spread of food-borne illnesses and contamination and to assess the vulnerability of the food supply chain. The center has set up information-sharing arrangements with a number of major food manufacturers and processors to track specific shipments of food. That data is fed into the consequence management computer model to predict, track, and react to contamination incidents, and to identify the origin of the contamination. Also in

development is the Food and Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool, now in the design and testing phase. The tool identifies the critical elements and vulnerabilities of the food and agriculture supply chain. It was developed in partnership with the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense based at Texas A&M University. The assessment tool has been distributed to more than 30 state agencies for field testing, the news release said.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/online/news/153711-1.html>

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Water Sector

29. *September 9, Las Vegas Sun* – (Nevada) **Application in, but water still an issue.** In the same breath that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission made its announcement Monday that it would accept for review the application for Yucca Mountain, the nuclear waste repository in the Nevada desert, it asked for more studies on water. The 8,600-page application submitted by the U.S. Energy Department was acceptable, the commission said, but only if it is supplemented by an additional water study. The commission will turn its army of scientists loose over the next four years to decide whether the nation's nuclear waste dump should be built 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. For now, it wants to know more about the potential for radioactive toxins leaking into the water supply. The commission is not alone. Not long after scientists started considering the mountain as the potential dump for the nation's nuclear waste, water became the potential problem. Scientists realized water would seep through the mountain in greater amounts than originally thought, making the rock an imperfect barrier against the canisters of radioactive waste that would be stored underground. The Environmental Protection Agency also decided that too many cancer-causing toxins could reach the water system, and sent the Energy Department back to work to lower that risk. Scientists now hope to block the water with a man-made system of barriers – titanium drip shields, whose job is to stop the water from hitting and corroding the canisters in a way that could spread their toxic cargo underground.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/sep/09/application-water-still-issue/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *September 9, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **House panel knocks VA over destroyed specimens.** Personal animosities at a Veterans Administration (VA) health facility led to the destruction in just a few hours of biomedical material on Legionnaires' disease that two prominent infectious disease researchers had collected over a quarter-century, a House panel says. "It is breathtaking that a federal health agency official would order the destruction of a human tissue specimen collection without discussing it with and receiving approval of the agency's research officials," the House Science subcommittee on investigations and oversight states in a report prepared for a hearing Tuesday. The report investigates the December 4, 2006, incident at the VA Pittsburgh Health Service that resulted in the incineration of a unique collection of legionella, the

bacterium causing Legionnaire's disease. It urges the committee to consider legislation to set policy on the handling and disposition of biobanks, places where traditional human biospecimens such as blood and tissue are matched to databases with medical records, genomic sequence data, and other information. According to the report, the order to destroy the material came after a dispute over how one of the doctors involved was financing his research that led to the shuttering of his laboratory in July 2006 and his firing for refusing to stop processing samples.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hIrbb_E7A4haxWQsNHHcC8x2pqIgD93325200

31. *September 9, Xinhua* – (International) **Laos reports bird flu outbreak.** Samples from dead ducks in Laos' northern Luang Prabang province have been tested positive for bird flu virus, prompting local authorities to cull thousands of poultry to curb the disease's spread, Lao newspaper Vientiane Times reported Tuesday. The authorities, already culling 3,000 fowls, plan to cull over 7,000 others in the province's Nambak district. Ducks started to die on August 27. They have been banned from transport, trade, and consumption in the district. No human cases have been recorded, and Lao authorities are advising locals to take preventative measures.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-09/09/content_9876618.htm

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *September 9, Helena Independent Record* – (Montana) **Stay off firing range, Montana Guard warns.** Scrap metal collected from the Limestone Hills firing range found at a local recycling center has the military issuing new warnings about trespassing and the dangers of tampering with unexploded ordnance (UXO). The UXO project leader for the Montana Guard said a crate of scrap ordnance was recently confiscated from Pacific Steel by the military. While the government is unlikely to prosecute anyone for theft of government property or for trespassing on federal land, he said, it could begin doing so if others attempt to salvage spent or unexploded ordnance from the firing range.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2008/09/09/top/55lo_080909_guard.txt

33. *September 8, News Journal* – (Delaware) **K-9 bomb alert sparks campus evacuation.** Delaware Technical & Community College's Stanton campus was evacuated for two hours Monday morning after a K-9, trained in the area of explosives, alerted on a vehicle in the school's parking lot. The alert occurred at around 7:30 a.m. when a campus security guard was conducting routine sweeps with his K-9 partner. A state police K-9 brought to the scene also alerted on the same vehicle, a van belonging to a Wilmington Radio Station. College officials called for evacuation of the campus at 8 a.m., and the state police bomb unit was brought in to investigate. The vehicle and surrounding areas were searched, and neither explosives nor hazardous materials were found. Police could not determine the motivation behind the K-9's alerts, but said they can be attributed to a variety of reasons.

Source:

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080908/NEWS01/8090804>

Emergency Services Sector

34. *September 9, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **WMD panel urges focus on biological threats.** The next U.S. president should put more emphasis on countering biological threats as part of a rethinking of national security strategy, according to early assessments from the leaders of a commission investigating the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Both biological and nuclear threats are significant in their ability to kill hundreds of thousands, but a biological attack is easier to launch and harder to combat because many biological weapon components are widely available and have benign uses, said the chairman of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism. The first hearing examining the nature of the threat is to be held September 10 in New York. The commission's final recommendations are due in mid-November. Multiple assessments of government progress against security threats are planned for release this week, timed to the seventh anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks. A report from the Project on National Security Reform, a separate government-funded initiative analyzing the government's national security apparatus, is due out next month.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122091968688012699.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

35. *September 8, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont demands in 911 outage investigation.** After nearly two hours of a 911 emergency calling system outage in northern Vermont, a Vermont firefighters' union is demanding an investigation into the phone company, FairPoint Communications, reported the Associated Press. At least one resident failed to reach emergency personnel during the outage, eventually getting help via an alternate seven-digit number. The outage was caused due to work parts of the network that affect the 911 system. Two state agencies said investigations already were underway. One agency told AP that FairPoint agreed to adopt a protocol of bringing in officials from Vermont's Enhanced 911 Board on a conference call whenever the company works on parts of the network critical to the 911 system.

Source: http://firechief.com/news/vermont_911_0908/

36. *September 8, U.S. Postal Service* – (Indiana) **Delaware County first responders will join U.S. Postal Service in emergency drill on September 11.** First responders from Delaware County will join employees from the U.S. Postal Service as they hold a practice drill involving a simulated biological hazard emergency at the Muncie Processing and Distribution Facility on Thursday, September 11. Participants will include county law enforcement, the health department, emergency management and their HAZMAT team, as well as U.S. Postal Inspection Service and plant employees. The Postal Service began installing the Biohazard Detection System in mail processing plants across the nation after anthrax had made its way into the mail system in late 2001.

Source: <http://www.indianafreepress.com/node/171>

Information Technology

37. *September 9, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Nonprofit introduces information security metrics.** The nonprofit Center for Internet Security Tuesday introduced initial metrics for the benchmarking of information security, providing government agencies and private companies with the means to objectively measure the security of their computer systems. The Center for Internet Security, formed in 2000, had previously dedicated itself to the development and distribution of free security configuration benchmarks, which have been embraced by the likes of the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology and other government agencies as a means of regulatory compliance. While the nonprofit organization will continue to distribute those benchmarks, it also will distribute the information security metrics free of charge in hopes of their widespread adoption as a basis for establishing external benchmarks for measuring security progress. While the center will release the information security metrics free, it also will roll out a service to measure those metrics for its member companies sometime in November.
Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/5082/128/>
38. *September 8, CNET News* – (National) **Twitter page used to pass malware.** In yet another new way to infect people, criminal hackers are using a Twitter page, according to one security researcher. In a blog, the director of malware research for Facetime explained how a Twitter page is being used to lure victims. To lend credibility to his discovery, the Twitter page lists 17 followers; however, each appeared to be fraudulent. The messages, written in Portuguese, attempt to get visitors to download a photo album. In order to view the album, you will need to download a Flash update, which is really the infection files themselves. The director and his team have identified the infection as Orkon. Once installed, the infected files do various things to the compromised desktop, such as attempt to gain your Orkut account log-in information, or displaying a browser image of a man identifying himself as the “Trickster.”
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10035580-83.html
39. *September 8, ComputerWorld* – (National) **Flawed Trend Micro antivirus update cripples PCs.** Antivirus updates issued by Trend Micro Inc. on Friday crippled Windows XP and Vista PCs when they mistook several critical system files for malware, and blocked access to those files. Some users have yet to regain control of their PCs, according to an e-mail sent to Computerworld. Two signature updates that Trend Micro released Friday for its most popular consumer security software incorrectly identified up to eight different Windows files as Trojans, then quarantined those files, thinking they were dangerous. The updates were issued to users running Trend Micro’s AntiVirus plus AntiSpyware 2008, Internet Security 2008, and Internet Security Pro 2008. In some cases, quarantining the files prevented the PC from booting. When it realized that the updates were flagging innocent files, Trend Micro issued a replacement signature update.
Source:
<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxono>

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 9, USA Today* – (North Carolina) **Pioneer Wilmington, N.C., flips switch to all-digital TV.** On Monday, Wilmington, North Carolina, became the United States' first all-digital TV market. Early next year, the rest of the country will follow. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), overseeing the nationwide conversion, says it will take a few days, at least, to gauge success. But early signs are good, says the chairman of the FCC.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/media/2008-09-08-digital-switch-wilmington_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

41. *September 8, CNET News* – (National) **Maverick Mobile secures lost or stolen phone data.** Maverick Mobile announced a new application at DemoFall on Monday that helps people locate their lost or stolen phone, as well as track the phone, retrieve the phone book, and disable the device remotely. If the SIM card is replaced, the application sends information about the new account, as well as call logs and messaging history, to a remotely controlled reporting device that helps the owner track down the phone. All the contacts can be remotely transmitted from the phone to its owner via SMS using the data plan of the thief. The owner also has the ability to render the phone unusable by remotely setting off a loud alarm to play on the device or disabling the phone.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10035442-2.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *September 8, Associated Press* – (New York) **Man guilty in false bomb report at Buffalo concert.** A New York man has pleaded guilty to falsely reporting a bomb threat against an outdoor concert in Buffalo. Federal officials say the 27-year-old male told Buffalo police and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents June 26 that he had heard three men discussing a plot to bomb that day's "Thursday at the Square" concert. Investigators determined he was lying, but only after spending hours searching the downtown concert site before thousands of fans arrived. After his arrest, agents said the man told them he was upset because he heard his former girlfriend was going to the concert with another man. He pleaded guilty Monday to a felony charge of making

material false statements and agreed to make restitution to law enforcement.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--bombthreat0908sep08,0,378546.story>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

43. *September 9, Greenville News* – (South Carolina) **New projections: Twelve Mile dam removal project could start in early 2009.** More than two years after a consent decree was finalized, a corporation responsible for removing two dams on the Twelve Mile River says work is back on track. Dam removal could start in early 2009, the project manager said. Once work begins, the process is expected to take about two years, he said. The volume of material behind the two century-old Woodside dams near Catechee has almost doubled in the time since the consent decree was finalized in January 2006. As sediment has washed downstream, the amount of material behind the dams has grown from an estimated 300,000 cubic yards of sediment then to between 500,000 and 600,000 cubic yards, he said. There is still no decision on where the PCB-contaminated sediment from behind the dams will be stored.

Source:

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080909/NEWS01/809090348/1001/NEWS01>

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