



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 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, at least 46 million Americans are affected by trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water. Positive tests were reported in 17 additional metropolitan areas since an investigation conducted in March. However, the overwhelming majority of U.S. cities have still not tested drinking water. (See item [24](#))
- The Associated Press reports that in a disaster, nearly two-thirds of U.S. parents would disregard orders to evacuate and would rush to pick up their kids from school, according to a new survey. The authors of the study said that despite years of government efforts to enhance disaster preparedness, schools need to do more to plan for disasters and parents need to be made aware of the plans. (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 12, Bloomberg* – (International) **Shell extends suspension on Nigeria crude obligations.** Royal Dutch Shell Plc. extended a suspension of export obligations for its Bonny Light crude after discovering further leaks on a pipeline attacked by militants in July. Bonny Light is the light, sweet variety of oil, typically pumped by Nigeria and favored by U.S. refiners for the quantity of gasoline it produces. Shell originally declared force majeure on Bonny deliveries in July, August, and September after

militants attacked the Nembe Creek trunk-line in the Kula area of Rivers state, shutting some crude production. Nigeria's main militant group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, claimed responsibility for the attack. "The company had worked hard to repair the pipeline and bring back production only to discover more leaks from the effects of the attack," said a Shell spokesman on Friday. Exports of Bonny Light were originally scheduled to increase 24 percent in October as production resumed. Shipments were scheduled to average 196,774 barrels a day, compared with 158,333 barrels a day in September. Bonny Light production is normally in excess of 300,000 barrels a day.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aMCvsKgSZGQM&refer=africa>

2. *September 12, Bloomberg* – (National) **Chavez expels U.S. envoy, threatens to cut U.S. sales.** The Venezuelan president on Thursday ordered the American ambassador to Caracas to leave and threatened to halt oil exports to the U.S. in a show of solidarity with his Bolivian counterpart. The Venezuelan president and the Bolivian president, who expelled the top U.S. envoy from his country on Wednesday, have accused the U.S. of backing opposition movements in their countries. The Venezuelan president threatened to halt Venezuelan oil shipments to the U.S. if it attacks his country. Venezuela is the fourth-biggest supplier of foreign crude oil to America. The South American country sold the U.S. 1.42 million barrels of crude oil a day last year, according to U.S. Energy Department figures. "Markets seem agitated by the risk of escalation," an economist with Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. wrote Friday in a note to investors. "We doubt we will see any, but superficial conflict will likely go on in the near term." Venezuela and the U.S. are unlikely to sever ties permanently, said a professor of political science at the Universidad Simon Bolivar in Caracas. "Trade between the two countries is gigantic," he said. "Venezuela wouldn't have anywhere to put all the oil it sells the U.S. so quickly."

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aSes30iS2PFc&refer=energy>

3. *September 11, Reuters* – (National) **DOE to deliver SPR oil to Placid Refining Co.** The U.S. Energy Department said on Thursday it will deliver 130,000 barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to Placid Refining Co. The company requested the oil for its Port Allen refinery in Louisiana after Hurricane Gustav caused supply disruptions. The department also will deliver an additional 250,000 barrels of emergency oil to Marathon Petroleum Corp.'s midwest refineries along the Capline pipeline system. The department already had approved a previous request from Marathon for 250,000 barrels of SPR oil.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1137463520080911>

4. *September 11, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Electricity restored to Conoco's La. refinery.** Power has been restored at ConocoPhillips's Alliance refinery in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, ten days after Hurricane Gustav disrupted electric service to a dozen

refineries, utility Entergy Corp. said on Thursday. On its website, Entergy said power had been restored to all 12 refineries affected by Gustav. Conoco's Alliance was the only plant without the power needed to restart, Conoco and government officials have said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1129981020080911>

5. *September 10, Computerworld* – (National) **U.S. sees six 'disruptive technologies' by 2025.** In December, the president-elect will get a report detailing threats to the U.S. that will most likely include a list of emerging technologies that will have a major impact on the U.S. and the world. This report, called Global Trends 2025, is a forecast prepared by U.S. intelligence agencies. The report is expected to look at disruptive technologies, and a preview of what may be in the report was prepared by the National Intelligence Council in April. A disruptive technology is defined "as a technology with the potential to causes a noticeable – even if temporary – degradation or enhancement in one of the elements of U.S. national power," the report said. It identified six technologies that have that potential. The following three technologies were included: Energy storage systems, such as fuel cells and ultracapacitors, which would replace fossil fuels; crop-based biofuels and chemicals production, which will reduce gasoline dependence; and clean coal technologies, which can improve electrical generation efficiency and reduce pollutants.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9114437&intsrc=hm_list

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *September 12, Myrtle Beach Sun News* – (South Carolina) **Chemical explosion jolts 3V plant.** An explosion rocked the 3V Inc. chemical plant in Georgetown, South Carolina, around 8:30 p.m. Thursday, about an hour after an employee was injured in an unrelated spill. No one was injured in the explosion, according to fire officials. The Georgetown County fire chief said employees were mixing chemicals and "it somehow ignited." One of the chemicals involved was sulfuric acid, he said. The plant was evacuated after the explosion, and everyone was accounted for. Though there are homes in the vicinity, no resident evacuations were needed. Officials from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office were not told when and where to control traffic, and police did not hear from the company until about an hour into the incident, according to the spokesman for the Sheriff's Office. "The sheriff's department is concerned with the lack of communication from 3V Inc., when citizens' lives could possibly be in danger," he said. The Georgetown County Hazardous Materials Team helped contain the area. Parts of Pennyroyal Road were closed during the incident, and the U.S. Coast Guard in Georgetown participated in keeping boats out of the area. This is not the first incident at the 3V plant. In May, 3V reached a settlement with the South Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration, under which the company had to pay \$20,075 in fines. Some of the violations considered most serious by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration included failing to post danger signs for employees about

entering confined spaces, not implementing a procedure to ventilate confined spaces during cleaning, failure to have “lock out and tag out” protocol, failing to test the atmosphere in confined spaces for toxic gases and vapors, and failing to develop emergency rescue procedures. The plant has also seen previous explosions. A fire erupted in November involving xylene and acetone. Multiple agencies were called in after employees tried and failed to contain the blaze.

Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/story/591419.html>

7. *September 11, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **WVa governor wants faster chemical leak reporting.** The West Virginia governor wants to require chemical companies to report accidents quickly. The governor is seeking to apply a 15-minute reporting requirement for coal mining accidents to other industries. Within the next few days, he will ask chemical companies to voluntarily comply with the reporting requirement, and then seek legislation next year. The West Virginia Homeland Security secretary announced the plan Thursday during a hearing on emergency response to the August 28 explosion and fire at the Bayer CropScience plant. Emergency responders have said Bayer gave them little information until nearly two hours after the explosion. The company waited more than two hours to formally report the accident to the federal government’s National Response Center.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/News/200809110392>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *September 12, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (National) **Scientists question comparing nuclear waste storage costs.** Government analysts are undertaking a study to compare the costs of building a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain against the costs of leaving the waste at power plants, where it is now stored. But scientists who spoke up Thursday at a briefing said the idea of such a study did not make sense to them. There are so many uncertainties, such a comparison might be near-impossible, they said. Nonetheless, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is tackling the study at the request of three U.S. senators. As part of a strategy to derail the ongoing government effort to bury nuclear waste at the Yucca site in Nevada, the senators introduced a bill that would leave radioactive spent fuel at reactor sites, where they now are stored in pools, and increasingly in concrete and steel dry cask silos. One thing that is not known is how those economics stack up against Yucca Mountain, which the U.S. Department of Energy estimated earlier this summer could cost \$96.2 billion to build and operate. On Thursday, GAO officials turned to the Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board, an arm of the National Academy of Science, for advice on how they might proceed. An analyst said the GAO also plans to compare the costs of establishing interim storage sites, where nuclear waste could be kept for a hundred years before being moved to a final destination. Radiation board members were skeptical a study could be done, or even was necessary. The Board chairman said the emphasis on cost “is completely contrary to how we deal with all our issues dealing with waste.”

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/28279379.html>

9. *September 12, Reuters* – (Minnesota) **Xcel Minn. Monticello reactor shut.** Xcel Energy Inc.'s Monticello nuclear power plant in Minnesota shut on September 11 due to a problem with a transformer, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. With a transformer shut for maintenance, Xcel said another transformer “experienced a lockout” resulting in a loss of normal offsite power and the reactor shutdown. The company did not say in the report what caused the transformer to fail.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1250208020080912>
10. *September 12, Reuters* – (California) **SCE Calif. San Onofre 3 reactor to exit outage.** Southern California Edison's Unit 3 at San Onofre nuclear power station in California started to exit an outage and ramped up to 18 percent power by early Friday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut on September 1 for unplanned work on a backup generator.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1238934420080912>
11. *September 12, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Wisconsin) **Unanalyzed condition related to certain fire conditions.** During a triennial fire inspection at Kewaunee nuclear power station by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a condition was identified in which – under certain fire conditions, possible damage scenarios, and required operator actions – the ability to meet the performance criteria of the approved fire protection program may be challenged. Specifically, it was postulated that under certain fire conditions affecting the relay room, the ability to maintain pressurizer level within indicated range (high) may be challenged due to a spurious opening of a pressurizer power operated relief valve. Compensatory actions to address the fire in the area of concern are in place.
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080912en.html#en44482>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *September 12, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Ex-Boeing worker admits sabotage.** A disgruntled ex-Boeing worker admitted yesterday that he disabled a nearly finished, \$24 million military helicopter during his last shift on the assembly line. The worker had applied for several transfers to other Boeing facilities, but was instead being moved to another job within the Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, plant. He used his work-issued wire cutters to sever about 70 electrical wires running together from the cockpit to the main body of an H-47 Chinook on May 10. The worker pleaded guilty to one count of destroying property under contract to the government. Boeing officials focused on the suspect within a week, and he readily admitted his role in a May 19 interview. The day Boeing officials found the severed wires, they also found a suspicious washer in the

transmission of another Chinook at the plant. The crime caused more than \$110,000 in direct damage and another \$164,000 in related costs stemming from the plant's two-day shutdown, said an assistant U.S. attorney. After the vandalism, there was no danger of the helicopter getting off the ground and injuring anyone.

Source: http://www.philly.com/dailynews/national/20080912_Ex-Boeing_worker_admits_sabotage.html

13. *September 11, Associated Press* – (National) **Air Force tests huge airborne laser gun.** An aircraft-mounted laser designed to shoot down missiles has been fired for the first time in a ground test aboard the jet, prime contractor Boeing Co. said. The test of the high-energy chemical laser was conducted Sunday by the contractors and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, the company said. "The program remains on track to reach the missile shoot-down demonstration planned for 2009," said the vice president and general manager of Boeing Missile Defense Systems. The laser is in the back half of a Boeing 747-400F jumbo jet. Subsequent tests will increase duration and power before the beam is sent through a fire control system to a turret mounted in the nose of the aircraft. Ground firings will be followed by flight tests of the system, which is intended to be capable of destroying all classes of ballistic missiles in the boost phase of flight. Last month, Boeing conducted a ground test of a laser mounted aboard a C-130H aircraft at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. The Advanced Tactical Laser aircraft is intended for use against ground targets.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,420810,00.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *September 12, Boston Globe* – (National) **Hacker pleads guilty in breach.** Federal prosecutors won a guilty plea Thursday from one of 11 men who made up a ring that was charged last month with the largest data theft case in history, involving tens of millions of customers of retailers, including TJX Cos. of Framingham and BJ's Wholesale Club of Natick, Massachusetts. Separately, the government also said it has evidence the group breached the security of many more businesses than previously disclosed. The filing did not disclose the businesses, and an assistant U.S. attorney did not release any more details in court. In all, more than 40 million credit and debit card numbers were stolen by the conspirators, he wrote, potentially victimizing hundreds of banks that issued the cards. Prosecutors said two of the men were key players in a loose-knit ring spanning countries from China to Ukraine that stole or trafficked in more than 40 million payment cards in all, causing more than \$400 million in damages. The ring initially accessed customer data by using laptops to penetrate wireless networks of retail stores, from which they were able to access the companies' servers.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2008/09/12/hacker_pleads_guilty_in_breach/

15. *September 12, Times* – (International) **'Hacker network' targets UAE banks in ATM cash fraud.** Banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are struggling to resolve a

security breach after it emerged that hackers used counterfeit bank and credit cards to steal funds from customers' accounts. An initial investigation by the banks indicated that cash machines were rigged with devices that stole customers' PINs as they made withdrawals. One industry source suggested that the problem could be internal and more widespread. "The fact that the stolen numbers appear to have been stolen randomly suggests the banks themselves were somehow breached." A general manager of retail banking for Emirates NBD, one of the nation's largest lenders, said that the hackers were part of an international network, with most of the fraudulent transactions originating from more than 20 countries outside the UAE. The banks have tried to prevent further losses by sending text messages urging their customers to change their PINs, and promising to reimburse them for any funds stolen from their accounts. HSBC, Citibank, Lloyds TSB, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, and Emirates NBD have issued statements saying that the problem is under control, but some customers remain unconvinced and believe that the banks failed to protect them. Some of the lenders moved to block the accounts of clients who have failed to change their PINs, causing chaos. Dubai Bank said that it had temporarily blocked international access to its cash machines after 42 of its customers' accounts were breached.

Source:

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/banking_and_finance/article4735682.ece

16. *September 11, Associated Press* – (National) **Brokerage to pay fine for alleged security breach.** A brokerage firm has agreed to pay a \$275,000 fine following a series of alleged online hacking incidents into customer accounts. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said Thursday that LPL Financial Services failed to protect its customers' personal information, leaving at least 10,000 clients vulnerable to identity theft. The company, which has headquarters in Boston, Charlotte, North Carolina, and San Diego, will pay the fine without admitting or denying the allegations. A SEC order against the firm claims hackers accessed customers' accounts between July 2007 and early 2008 and attempted to place more than 200 unauthorized trades worth more than \$700,000. No arrests have been made.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iOIdirSvLh9otLoInX7Ngmqd8ZmQD934MA900>

17. *September 11, Reuters* – (National) **House votes to bolster SEC enforcement power.** The House of Representatives passed a bill on Thursday to strengthen the enforcement arm of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The bill would give the investor protection agency broader authority to impose financial penalties and more explicit ability to ban securities law violators from other parts of the financial industry. The Securities Act of 2008 is not yet a companion bill in the Senate. The legislation includes a number of measures the SEC has been actively seeking, including the authority to obtain financial penalties from wrongdoers in SEC administrative proceedings without needing to file a separate civil action in federal court. It would also allow the SEC to prevent individuals who commit fraud in one sector of the securities industry from conducting business in other parts of the securities market. Further, it would for the first time make nationwide service of subpoenas available in civil actions

filed in federal court. The bill has the support of the North American Securities Administrators Association, an association representing 67 state, provincial, and territorial securities administrators. The SEC said the bill would eliminate unnecessary duplication and extraneous responsibilities for the agency's enforcement staff.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSN1148227220080911>

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Transportation Sector

18. *September 11, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Hurricane Ike bears down on busy Houston port.** Hurricane Ike threatened to wreak havoc with international commerce along the Gulf Coast, as the port of Houston, the nation's second busiest, prepared Thursday to shut down cargo operations through the weekend, and airlines canceled flights to the region. The Port of Houston Authority said it relied on information from the Coast Guard in planning the shutdown. Officials told cargo operators to prepare their vessels to leave the port if requested by the Coast Guard. The port is expected to reopen Monday. Airlines curtailed service to Texas cities in the storm's path. Continental Airlines Inc., Southwest Airlines Co., and AMR Corp.'s American Airlines canceled many flights to Houston, Corpus Christi, and Harlingen, Texas. Houston is Continental's largest hub, and the airline expected to stop outgoing flights early Friday afternoon there and possibly at other airports along the Gulf. Houston service will not resume until Sunday, the airline said. Trains and automobiles were affected by the incoming storm as well. Amtrak stopped service in parts of Texas because freight railroads, whose tracks it uses, began closing facilities around Houston. Amtrak said ticketed passengers slowed by the storm could get refunds. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. closed its facility at the Houston port Thursday afternoon but kept its New Orleans hub open. The company expected shipments would be delayed two to three days.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iUyM3MAkwYGZmjedSRx9VKXVCq7AD934QVD80>

19. *September 11, KCCI 8 Des Moines* – (Iowa) **Pigs walk down interstate after crash.** An overnight crash on Interstate 35 south of Des Moines, Iowa, led to a five-mile-long traffic jam Thursday morning that continued for close to nine hours. Traffic started flowing again around 10 a.m. in one lane, as crews worked to reopen both lanes. State patrol officials said the incident started when a truck carrying pigs suddenly swerved in a construction zone and overturned.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/cnn-news/17445977/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *September 11, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Ocala newspaper gets package with powder.** Employees at the Ocala Star Banner in Florida received a suspicious envelope

on Thursday. The package containing white powder arrived at about 11:30 a.m. to the newspaper's offices. Ocala Fire Rescue crews responded and were met by employees who said a coworker had opened the envelope. It was immediately taken outside and put in a plastic bag and later put in an airtight canister. The employee who opened the suspicious mail was examined by paramedics and taken to a local hospital. A Health Department representative picked up the canister to be processed at a lab.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/news/17450627/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *September 12, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA beefs up workforce with 1,300 new staffers.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Thursday that it has hired more than 1,300 professional staffers in a move that officials hope will help the agency better protect public health amid rapid technological and scientific change. The staffing drive, which begun five months ago, will result in an estimated 10 percent increase in the FDA's workforce. The senior manager directing the special recruitment initiative said the new hires will provide critical expertise after years of losing valuable medical and scientific people who took industry jobs or went into retirement. Within the FDA, the biggest number of jobs will go to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, which assesses new medications and monitors the safety of drugs on the market.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/11/BULA12SM09.DTL>

22. *September 11, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA: Infant formula from China tainted by chemical.** Federal officials say tainted infant formula from China may be on sale at ethnic groceries in this country. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday urged U.S. consumers to avoid all infant formula from China, after several brands sold in that country were found to be contaminated with melamine, a chemical used in making plastics. The FDA says all U.S. brands of infant formula are safe. But officials are concerned that some Chinese formula may be on sale at ethnic groceries, particularly in places like New York and San Francisco that have large populations of Chinese immigrants. No Chinese brands are approved for export to the United States. There have been no reports of illnesses in the U.S.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxcolorado.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7410915&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.5.1>

23. *September 11, Associated Press* – (National) **Ozone gas may be E. coli kryptonite.** Research on E. coli transmission released Thursday said ozone gas is faster and more effective than chlorinated water at sanitizing leafy greens. Scientists said it could be pumped into cooling vacuums where lettuce is stored after arriving from the fields. The \$2 million research, funded by Fresh Express, was conducted in response to the 2006 E. coli outbreak in spinach that killed three people, sickened 200 others and cost the leafy greens industry about \$80 million. Among the research findings: Contamination can spread during washing, cutting and the tumble drying of greens, and chlorinated water

alone is not enough to kill the pathogens; some varieties of spinach with textured leaves have greater potential for harboring pathogens than smooth-leaf varieties; E. coli can paralyze pore closures on spinach leaves and allow bacteria into the plant; even cooked compost used in organic operations can retain traces of live E. coli cells that can reconstitute under the right conditions; and spinach and lettuce harvested on hotter days are more likely to create an environment for pathogen growth.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/food/ci_10440799

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Water Sector

24. *September 12, Associated Press* – (National) **Report: Prescription drug-tainted drinking water affects 46 million Americans.** Testing by local and federal officials has shown that more Americans are affected by trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water than previously thought – at least 46 million. That is up from 41 million people reported by the Associated Press (AP) in March as part of an investigation into the presence of pharmaceuticals in the nation’s waterways. The AP stories prompted federal and local legislative hearings, brought about calls for mandatory testing and disclosure, and led officials in at least 27 additional metropolitan areas to analyze their drinking water. Positive tests were reported in 17 cases, including Reno, Nevada, Savannah, Georgia, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Huntsville, Alabama. Results are pending in three others. The overwhelming majority of U.S. cities have not tested drinking water, while eight cities – including Boston, Phoenix, and Seattle – were relieved that tests showed no detections. While the comprehensive risks are still unclear, researchers are finding evidence that even extremely diluted concentrations of pharmaceutical residues harm fish, frogs, and other aquatic species in the wild and impair the workings of human cells in the laboratory. And while the new survey expands the known extent of the problem, the overwhelming majority of U.S. communities have yet to test, including the single largest water provider in the country, New York City’s Department of Environmental Protection, which delivers water to nine million people. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,421444,00.html>
25. *September 12, State* – (South Carolina) **DHEC: Poor upkeep led to sewage in river.** Alpine Utilities failed to maintain equipment, causing equipment to break down and allowing partly treated sewage to spill into the lower Saluda River in July, South Carolina state officials said Thursday. Also, during repairs that took 10 days longer than expected, plant personnel failed to monitor emissions into a creek that flows into the river, according to reports obtained by The State newspaper through the state Freedom of Information Act. In addition, an incident timeline completed by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) reveals that state inspectors might have been more vigilant after first hearing of the problem, critics say. State inspectors did not return to the plant until July 29, six days after checking on the leak, following an anonymous complaint about odor in the creek. The privately owned utility faces penalties for inadequate operation, violation of clean water standards, and lack of immediate disclosure of the problem to state officials. DHEC’s investigation continues. It is unknown how many gallons of sewage flowed into the river. The new reports say

the plant could handle up to 650 gallons per minute of operation. Bacteria in the river initially was 230 times the limit considered safe before it dispersed naturally, tests showed.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/521885.html>

26. *September 10, PennWell* – (Arizona) **Ariz. water, sewer company and developer sued for water, air quality violations.** The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality director and the attorney general announced Wednesday that they have filed a lawsuit against Far West Water & Sewer Company, Inc. (Far West) and H & S Developers Inc. (H & S) seeking penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for numerous, long-standing, and repeated water and air quality violations in Yuma County. Far West is the company currently providing water and sewer service to the affected Yuma-area community. H & S originally developed this area of Yuma. Before April 1998, H & S and Far West operated as one company. About that time, H & S formed Far West as a separate corporation and transferred drinking water and wastewater facilities to Far West. The 49-page complaint lists 50 counts against the companies. Thirty-eight of the counts are for violations at Far West's seven sewage treatment facilities, and the other counts are against Far West and H & S for drinking-water violations that began before April 1998 before Far West became a separate company.

Source:

http://www.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ARTCL&SubSection=Display&PUBLICATION_ID=41&ARTICLE_ID=339309

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *September 12, Daily News* – (Michigan) **Fertilizer explosion injures Greenville man, United Memorial contaminated.** Spectrum Health United Memorial-United Hospital in Greenville, Michigan, is experiencing a contamination issue after a local man opened a package containing an unknown substance that blew into his face and ate away at his clothes. Authorities still do not know the identity of the substance. Twenty-six people in the emergency department - patients and staff members - were exposed to the unknown substance and a decontamination tent was set up outside. The emergency department was shut down and the hospital's surgical area was transformed into an emergency room to help with the situation. The Montcalm County, Michigan, sheriff said he does not think they have handled anything like this before. All Montcalm County hospitals were put on standby, including Carson City Hospital, Spectrum Health United Memorial Kelsey Hospital in Lakeview, and Sheridan Community Hospital and ambulances were diverted from Greenville to those hospitals since Greenville's emergency department was shut down.

Source:

<http://www.rockfordindependent.com/main.asp?SectionID=11&SubSectionID=11&ArticleID=1525&TM=55745.88>

28. *September 11, New York Times* – (National) **Detailed study on spread of H.I.V. in U.S.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported Thursday the results of

a detailed study of people newly infected with H.I.V. in the United States. In 2006, the study found, 56,300 people were newly infected with H.I.V., 40 percent more than the agency's previous estimate of roughly 40,000 new cases a year. The study was performed using new technology that allowed researchers to distinguish between new and older infections. The details of the agency's demographic analysis were released on Thursday in the hope that knowledge of the age, race and other characteristics of the newly infected would better direct prevention efforts. Agency officials said that more must be done, including expanded H.I.V. screening programs and better directing of prevention efforts at those most at risk.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/12/science/12HIV.html?_r=2&ref=science&oref=slogin&oref=login

29. *September 11, FierceHealthcare* – (National) **Retail clinics utilized mostly for simple treatments.** According to a study discussed in the Wall Street Journal's Health Blog, patients with easy-to-treat symptoms go to a retail clinic in a Wal-Mart or a Kroger grocery store. Out of 1.35 million visits to more than 300 clinics, approximately 90 percent of patients went for "relatively simple treatments" such as blood pressure checks and ear infections. While that may not seem like anything new, consider that 67 percent of patients had their visits paid for by insurance. Most of those patients said they did not have a primary care provider. While a big concern going into the study was that these clinics could potentially fracture the doctor-patient relationship, the numbers show that, at least three-fifths of patients did not have a relationship to begin with.

Source: <http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/retail-clinics-utilized-mostly-simple-treatments/2008-09-11>

30. *September 11, Reuters* – (International) **Indonesian man dies of bird flu, brings toll to 112.** An Indonesian man from Tangerang, a satellite town near Indonesia's capital Jakarta, has died of bird flu, bringing the country's death toll from the disease to 112, a Health Ministry official said on Thursday. The official said the 37-year-old man had worked as a driver for a cargo company at Sukarno-Hatta airport, Jakarta's main airport for domestic and international flights. The man, who had had no contact with sick fowl, died in early July, after being treated at three different hospitals, the official said. Tests had showed he was infected with the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. The virus has infected 387 people in 15 countries, killing 245 of them, according to the World Health Organization's August 10 tally. Indonesia has the highest toll of any nation. Although bird flu remains an animal disease, experts fear that the virus might mutate into a form easily passed from human to human, sparking a pandemic in which case millions could die.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSJAK1356420080911>

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Government Facilities Sector

31. *September 12, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Shelters around Dallas-Fort Worth prepare for thousands of Hurricane Ike evacuees.** Emergency officials in North

Texas prepared Thursday to house thousands of evacuees fleeing Hurricane Ike, even as they acknowledged it was difficult to know just how many people will actually need help. Officials with the American Red Cross estimated that North Texas could need as many as 17,000 shelter beds. So far, several cities, including Dallas, Fort Worth, Irving, Carrollton, Denton, and Lewisville, were providing shelter space.

Source:

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/091208dnmetike_shelter.1828198.html

32. *September 11, Daily Camera* – (Colorado) **Bomb threat evacuates Longmont High.** Longmont, Colorado, High School students were evacuated and sent home early today after police received an anonymous phone call from a nearby convenient store threatening that a bomb would detonate in the building at 3 p.m. The caller dialed 911 about from a pay phone at the Pantry Market, said a spokesman for the St. Vrain Valley School District. Although Longmont police were able to trace the call, officers have not identified a suspect in the threat. School and police officials chose to evacuate the 1,300-plus Longmont high students at about 12:25 p.m. after assessing the threat's seriousness and considering that Thursday is the seventh anniversary of the terror attacks in New York City and Washington D.C., he said. Police continued their search of the school and determined the threat was unfounded.

Source: <http://www.dailycamera.com/news/2008/sep/11/bomb-threat-evacuates-longmont-high/>

33. *September 11, IDG News Service* – (California) **San Francisco hunts for mystery device on city network.** With costs related to an alleged rogue network administrator's hijacking of the city's network now estimated at \$1 million, San Francisco officials say they are searching for a mysterious networking device hidden somewhere on the network. The device, referred to as a "terminal server" in court documents, appears to be a router that was installed to provide remote access to the city's Fiber WAN network, which connects municipal computer and telecommunication systems throughout the city. City officials have not been able to log into the device, however, because they do not have the username and password. In fact, the city's Department of Telecommunications and Information Services (DTIS) is not even certain where the device is located, according to court filings. The router was discovered August 28. When investigators attempted to log into the device, they were greeted with what appears to be a router log-in prompt and a warning message.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9114479&intsrc=hm_list

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *September 12, Associated Press* – (National) **Survey finds holes in U.S. disaster preparedness.** In a disaster such as an earthquake or terrorist attack, nearly two-thirds of U.S. parents would disregard orders to evacuate and would rush to pick up their kids

from school, according to a new survey. The survey found that 63 percent of parents would ignore orders to evacuate and instead attempt to reunite with their children, possibly hindering rescue efforts by adding to traffic congestion. The authors of the study, released Thursday on the seventh anniversary of the September 11 attacks, said that despite years of government efforts to enhance disaster preparedness, schools need to do more to plan for disasters and parents need to be made aware of the plans. The report was commissioned by the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and the Children's Health Fund. The federal Department of Homeland Security has allocated billions of dollars to help state and local governments set up disaster contingency plans. But just 44 percent of the U.S. residents surveyed this year said they have all or some of the basic elements of a disaster preparedness plan, including food, water, a flashlight with extra batteries, and a meeting place in case of evacuation.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-09-12-us-disasterpreparation_N.htm

35. *September 11, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* – (Texas) **HHS secretary declares public health emergency for Texas.** The Human and Health Services (HHS) secretary declared Thursday a public health emergency to ensure that individuals in Texas, including those enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), continue to receive their health care items and services. The action gives HHS' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs for its Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP beneficiaries. The official acted under his authority in the Public Health Service Act.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/hhs-secretary-declares-public-health/story.aspx?guid={3815345C-3F2E-4B08-B2D5-F1D826DC5361}&dist=hppr>

36. *September 11, Norwalk Advocate* – (Connecticut) **Drill simulates tanker crash, lightning strike at chemical plant.** Police, fire, Coast Guard, hospital, and United Way workers participated in an emergency planning exercise in Norwalk, Connecticut, this week. The exercise involved a simulated scenario involving a crashed propane tanker and a lightning strike at the King Industries chemical plant on the Norwalk River. The plant has its own fire department and works with Norwalk police and fire officials several times a year.

Source: <http://www.smartbrief.com/news/acc/storyDetails.jsp?issueid=500CD2BA-4FBE-4297-ABFD-C3712BF47FBB©id=EE9E4349-0264-4378-AF64-AF2C356E96AC>

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Information Technology

37. *September 11, Register* – (National) **'UK's Chernobyl' spam spreads Trojan.** A widespread spam campaign claims that a nuclear power plant on the outskirts of London exploded on Tuesday afternoon. The email claims to offer pictures of victims. In reality, the attached zip file is contaminated with a Trojan horse, identified by net security firm

Sophos as Troj/Agent-HQE. Once the malware is installed, hackers can use it to spy on the victim's computer and steal information for financial gain. The emails typically arrive with subject lines such as – Reply: A report on radiation contamination of Canada. “Rather than use a real life event, the hackers have turned to fictional explosions and conspiracy theories in the hope they will strike a nerve with potential victims who will then click on the attachment without a second thought,” commented a senior technology consultant at Sophos. “People are sometimes tempted to click on something they receive by email in the misguided belief that their anti-virus software will always protect them,” he added.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/11/chernobyl_uk_malware_ruse/

38. *September 11, CNET News* – (National) **New tool creates fake YouTube pages for spreading malware.** Cybercriminals are getting more and more business-like. The latest examples involve a tool that automates the creation of fake YouTube Web sites that can be used to deliver malware and password-cracking services for sale. Panda Security said it has uncovered a tool circulating in underground hacking forums, dubbed YTFakeCreator, that enables anyone to easily create a fake YouTube page that surreptitiously installs a Trojan, virus, or adware on a visitor's computer, said the chief corporate evangelist of Panda Security. The tool does not spread the video link on its own. An attacker must distribute it via e-mail, FTP, IRC channels, peer-to-peer file-sharing networks, or CD. Once a visitor arrives at the page, a fake error message appears saying that the video can not be played because an important software component, such as a codec or Flash update, is missing. The visitor is prompted to download the software and the malware is installed. YTFakeCreator makes it easy for even unskilled people to set up an attack.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10039974-83.html

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

39. *September 12, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Court ruling allows regulation of cell towers.** A federal appeals court reversed itself Thursday and said cities and counties can regulate the location and appearance of wireless towers and poles, a ruling that could revive a dormant San Francisco ordinance. The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld San Diego County's limits on the placement, size, and design of towers and poles that are needed for companies to provide cell phone service and wireless Internet connections. The court also voted 11-0 to discard a standard it had established in 2001 that barred local governments from adopting any restrictions that “may have the effect of prohibiting” wireless services. Federal courts in the nine-state

circuit have relied on the 2001 ruling to overturn restrictions on telecommunications structures in several communities, including San Francisco and Berkeley. The court said Thursday that it had misinterpreted federal law when it issued the earlier ruling, and that local governments can regulate wireless towers and poles as long as they do not actually prohibit wireless service within their borders or create a “significant gap in service coverage.” The ordinance required wireless companies to seek a city permit before locating transmitters or other installations near a park, a historic landmark, or a building with architectural importance, or on a street that the city has designated as scenic.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/12/BAAT12SF2D.DTL>

40. *September 11, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Phone carriers reprise Gustav plans for Ike.** With Hurricane Ike bearing down on the Texas Gulf Coast, telecommunications providers are getting a quick opportunity to reprise the preparedness plans they activated last week to cope with Hurricane Gustav. Verizon Wireless, Sprint Nextel Corp., and AT&T Inc. said Thursday they had deployed mobile cell towers and extra generators and had personnel on hand to deal with network damage. Verizon Wireless said it has spent \$137 million enhancing its network in the Houston Gulf Coast region in the past year, including doubling its capacity at regional switching centers to handle a barrage of calls when disaster strikes. A Sprint Nextel spokeswoman said the company has some of its key network and emergency response team staged in the San Antonio area to assess damage, help first responders, and repair damaged cell sites. AT&T Inc., the main landline phone company in the region and the country’s largest wireless carrier, said it was preparing for the storm by doing things like increasing its wireless network capacity to support increased call volume, testing backup batteries at cell sites, and protecting its facilities against flooding. Gustav’s landfall in Louisiana on Labor Day caused power outages that cut out cellular and Internet service in parts of Louisiana, but overall its impact was much milder than that of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26663586/>

41. *September 11, Computerworld* – (National) **Get ready for mobile social networks.** Mobile social networking is a small part of the way people use their cell phones, but industry officials expect that use will grow. Analysts and network providers also expect that there will be affinity groups, such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, or even baseball fans, who are linked with wireless devices. The future of mobile social networks became a major topic of discussion in seminars and forums at the CTIA trade show this week. Device manufacturers, network operators, and social network providers debated how the services will be paid for and by whom, and what steps must be taken to protect user privacy and safety. The director of new services at Virgin Mobile USA LP and others said carriers and social networking sites will have to be vigilant to protect privacy and safety.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyId=17&articleId=9114487&intsrc=hm_topic

42. *September 11, Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Stolen cable cuts phone service in Eugene.**

More than 800 telephone lines in Eugene are reportedly out of service Thursday afternoon because of the theft of about 50 feet of aerial cable near downtown Eugene, Oregon. Qwest Communications workers are making repairs. It is not known when service will be restored, Eugene police said.

Source:

<http://www.registerguard.com/web/news/story.csp?cid=129945&sid=105&fid=45>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

43. *September 11, Associated Press* – (California) **Man charged with starting wildfire near Yosemite.** Mariposa County, California, prosecutors have filed criminal charges against a Merced man in connection with a 34,000-acre wildfire that destroyed about 30 homes outside Yosemite National Park. Prosecutors say the man started the blaze fire that raged in July while target shooting using bullets with steel jackets, which they say are known to cause fires. The district attorney said Thursday that the man was charged with careless or negligent conduct and possession of unregistered assault rifles, both misdemeanors. According to the district attorney, the man has said he was aware of the fire danger in the area, but has denied knowing he was shooting steel-jacketed ammunition.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10438277

44. *September 11, USA Today* – (National) **80% of pot crop invades parks.** Mexican drug cartels are stepping up marijuana cultivation in national parks and on other public land, endangering visitors and damaging the environment, law enforcement and National Park Service officials said. The director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy says 75-80 percent of marijuana grown outdoors is on state or federal land. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) says there were more than 4.8 million marijuana-plant seizures at outdoor sites in 2006. Tighter border controls make it harder to smuggle marijuana into the U.S., so more Mexican drug networks are growing crops here, he said. The number of marijuana plants confiscated on public land in California grew from 40 percent to 75 percent of total seizures between 2001-2007, says the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting task force. A site with 16,742 marijuana plants was raided last month in North Cascades National Park in Washington State. It was operated by a Mexican organization, said the park superintendent. Thousands of marijuana plants were seized last month in Utah's Dixie National Forest. Last month, officials burned thousands of marijuana plants seized in Cook County, Illinois, forest preserves. Drug organizations use the Chicago area as a base for distributing marijuana across the Midwest, said a DEA special agent. In July and August, officials seized more than 340,000 plants, some from Sequoia National Forest and Kings Canyon and Sequoia

national parks.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2008-09-11-national-parks_N.htm

45. *September 11, KTRE 9 Lufkin and Nacogdoches* – (Texas) **Storm Watch: National Forests closing.** As Hurricane Ike approaches the Texas Gulf Coast, the Forest Supervisor is closing the four national forests in Texas, including all campgrounds. “The Angelina, Sabine, Davy Crockett, and Sam Houston National Forests will remain closed until the storm has passed and our personnel have determined the roads and recreation areas are safe for public use,” he said. He emphasized that national forest lands and campgrounds in Texas cannot serve as evacuation sites for hurricane evacuees. “We’ve witnessed the destructive nature of hurricanes in recent years, and I believe it is far better to err on the side of caution than to place even one person in jeopardy,” he said. The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas cover 675,807 acres of public land in east and northeast Texas.

Source: <http://www.ktre.com/Global/story.asp?S=8991068&nav=2FH5>

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Dams Sector

46. *September 11, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. says 75 dams at greatest risk in heavy rain.** Seventy-five Pennsylvania dams pose the greatest risk of causing downstream problems in heavy rains, according to an updated list produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The agency distributed its “dams of special concern” list to emergency planners last week in advance of Tropical Storm Hanna. Most dams on the list have spillways that are not considered adequate to handle worst-case levels of rainfall, said a DEP spokesman. The rest are on the list for other reasons, such as ongoing construction or rehabilitation, seepage problems, or doubts about stability. One of the dams on the list, at Ryerson Station in Greene County, developed cracks and required the state to drain the popular 62-acre Duke Lake in July 2005. More recently, the West Leechburg reservoir dam in Westmoreland County has been identified as a potential killer, even though it has been drawn down. Local officials have sought state assistance to address the problem.
- Source: http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_10438245
47. *September 11, Wicked Local Wrentham* – (Massachusetts) **Wrentham dam repairs in bill signed by Patrick.** Funds to repair Eagle Dam, which helps control the flow of Eagle Brook out of Lake Pearl in Massachusetts, have been included in an environmental bond bill that was recently signed by the governor. The bill allocates at least \$250,000 to repair the more than three-century-old dam site located 500 feet from the northern shore of Lake Pearl. The dam, situated downstream from Red Dam, which is located at the shore, and a pond area, is presently an earthen structure with a stone sluiceway that has deteriorated. “The earthen portion of the dam is still intact. It’s the sluiceway area that was breached,” said the water superintendent at the Department of Public Works. He noted that, while Eagle Dam is “breached,” it is not a crucial concern because Red Dam, which controls waters flowing from Lake Pearl into Eagle Brook, is a

new structure. The larger dam, which had been a significant concern, was reconstructed about four years ago, he said. While not a crucial concern, reconstruction of Eagle Dam would help to restore the dwindling mill pond located between the two dams.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/wrentham/news/x332630315/Wrentham-dam-repairs-in-bill-signed-by-Patrick>

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