



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 October 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 Bloomberg, the Wildlife Conservation Society said in a new report that higher temperatures and rainfall caused by global warming may spawn the spread of 12 deadly diseases into new regions, raising the danger to humans and animals. (See item [27](#))
- Gannett Tennessee and the Associated Press report that fires and threatening e-mails that warned of “large-scale devastation” prompted Middle Tennessee State University to suspend classes on Thursday. Authorities arrested a 19-year-old freshman they believe is responsible. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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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. *October 10, Grand Haven Tribune* – (Michigan) **Homeland Security elevates charge against man accused of BLP trespassing.** A Muskegon man will face felony charges for trespassing after a September incident at the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power’s (BLP) Sims Plant. According to the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety (GHDPS), the 26-year-old man was apprehended on September 12. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Joint Terrorism Task Force were contacted, a GHDPS official said, and advisers from those agencies were instrumental in the decision to pursue felony charges. A warrant was authorized on October 8, and the man was taken into custody. Trespassing on a key facility is a four-year felony. A power plant

employee who makes hourly rounds throughout the Harbor Island plant campus was the first to spot the suspect, according to a BLP spokeswoman. She said the suspect was wearing all black. “One of our employees saw him on the site and approached him and he took off running,” she said. The employee got into a vehicle and followed the suspect, who then ran into the brush, she said. The employee then used the plant’s intercom system to ask staff to call 911. She said the police discovered the suspect walking down the street with wet clothing.

Source: <http://www.grandhaventribune.com/paid/303753288642694.bsp>

2. *October 10, Newsday* – (New York) **Con Ed worker dies in Brooklyn blast.** A Con Ed worker was killed Thursday in a fiery electrical explosion below the streets of east New York, authorities said. The worker, a splicer for the utility, was pronounced dead at the scene after the 12:34 p.m. explosion. A second worker was also injured. The worker who was killed was 8 to 10 feet below ground, working on a cable carrying 120 volts of electricity when the explosion sparked a fire that sent flames jutting skyward. He tried to get up the ladder he had used to enter the 8-foot hole, but he may have slipped and was trapped below ground, authorities said. He was dead when firefighters removed his body from the scene two hours later – after the fire was brought under control, a job that required Con Ed to cut the power from 12 electrical cables running through the manhole, fire officials said. The workers were doing routine maintenance – replacing or repairing cables that run underground, supplying electrical power, Con Ed said. It is rare, the agency said, for a Con Ed worker to be injured, much less killed. Exactly what caused the explosion was unclear Thursday night. Con Ed is investigating, as is the state Public Service Commission and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/friday/news/ny-nyman105876882oct10,0,5840634.story>

3. *October 9, Platts* – (California) **California ISO worries battery powered cars may strain grid.** The California Independent System Operator (ISO) said Thursday it is eyeing an expected influx of thousands of plug-in electric cars in the state by the year 2012 that could pose a challenge to its grid’s power flows unless the cars are developed to charge only at night. The ISO met with researchers from the University of California-Davis on Wednesday, who are studying plug-in cars, to get a handle on what sort of impact plug-in cars will have on the grid in coming years. “We really don’t know yet,” what the impact will be, and the university researchers were not able to shed much light, an ISO spokesman said. “We know we will need new power plants by 2012 to meet load growth and because of the retirement of old units, but we shouldn’t need more new power plants” just to handle demand from plug-in vehicles, “if they are equipped with the right technology so they charge off peak,” he said. “We did learn that 2012 is the first year the manufacturers and dealers will be really geared up to sell them retail. How popular they will be remains to be seen,” he said. Individually, plug-in cars do not drain a lot of power, but having a few hundred thousand of them all plugged in at once will impact the grid, he said.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6976078.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *October 9, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Groups demand W.Va. plant dismantle chemical piles.** A coalition of environmental groups wants Bayer CropScience to dismantle stockpiles of chemicals it says are so deadly they present a safety risk to residents near a southwestern West Virginia plant that was the site of a deadly explosion in August. In a letter circulated Wednesday, the groups called for the removal of methyl isocyanate and phosgene from the Bayer plant about 10 miles from Charleston. Neither was involved in the August 28 explosion that killed one worker and seriously injured another. Both chemicals are commonly used in pesticides and plastics. The primary chemical involved in the explosion, methyl isobutyl ketone, is highly flammable but not especially toxic, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. Nevertheless, the groups' letter said Bayer was slow in providing that information to emergency crews after the explosion. Groups signing onto the letter include the environmental caucus of the West Virginia Young Democrats, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, the state chapter of the Sierra Club, and a German group called the Coalition Against Bayer Dangers. About 700 people work at the plant that primarily makes active ingredients for agricultural, industrial, and other products. Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iz-aMF-d6NOA-iIU_j7JDpKkcjigD93N2TLG2
5. *October 9, 2TheAdvocate* – (Louisiana) **Sulfuric acid leak detected at PCS nitrogen plant in Geismar.** There was a low-level release of sulfuric acid at the PCS Nitrogen plant in Geismar this morning according to the director of the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. A shelter in place order was issued for nearby plants and across the Mississippi River in White Castle. PCS officials think a weld broke in the storage tank. "The tank was leaking 30 to 50 gallons a minute," a police State Trooper said. "They have slowed the leak down to about 10 gallons a minute." Water trucks put a curtain of water on top of the cloud to keep it down. No injuries were reported. Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/breaking/30691149.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *October 10, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Worker shocked at plant.** Officials at Iowa's only nuclear power plant say they will conduct a thorough investigation after an electrician working in a non-nuclear section of the plant was shocked. Officials say the worker came in contact with energized equipment at the Duane Arnold Energy Center Wednesday. The worker, who was contracted by the plant, was treated and released from a hospital. Plant officials will inspect the plant to find out what caused the injury and make sure safeguards are in place to protect employees.

Source: <http://www.thehawkeye.com/Story/IA-WorkerShocked-101008>

7. *October 9, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **THP steps up inspections.** The Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) stepped up inspections October 8 on commercial vehicles and chased down drivers who bypassed the stations. Authorities were looking for a number of problems, including safety violations, drugs, and hazardous materials that could be linked to terrorist activity in the 12-hour crackdown funded by a \$64,000 federal grant. Working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the THP inspected trucks from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. A radiologic expert from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency was on hand to help assess any trailers with radioactive materials. The weigh station also has built-in monitors to alert officers to truck loads that are radioactive. The THP assigned 30 officers to the operation. THP officers with the Cookeville district were doing the same on Wednesday. “They want to see what’s in the rear of the trailer, the rear of the truck, to determine what type of materials they have on it,” said a THP sergeant. “That way, they can see if they’re transporting products for a company - if it’s a legitimate move or not - or whether it’s somebody out here with bomb-making components or hazardous materials that aren’t marked.”

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/oct/09/thp-steps-up-inspections/>

8. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Committee questions health officials on radiation.** A legislative committee on Wednesday criticized the Vermont Health Department for reworking the way it measures radiation being emitted by the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant without first bringing the changes to the committee. The Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules put the health department’s radiological health chief in the hot seat over changes that have made it easier for Vermont Yankee to stay within state limits for radiation as measured at the plant boundary. A health department spokesman said the changes are scientifically valid and still provide good public health protections. Some committee members are questioning the changes, while others focused on the process by which they were made. The health department spokesman said he relied on the legal standard that the department is supposed to apply the best available science to its regulatory processes, and that changes in the way Vermont Yankee’s radioactive emissions were measured met that standard. He argued that the rules did not change, merely the method of implementing them. But others were sharply critical of the changes, saying they were among multiple steps taken in recent years that had the effect of making it easier for Vermont Yankee to stay under its radiation limits.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2008/10/08/committee_questions_health_officials_on_radiation/

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *October 10, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (National) **Y-12 worker used crib notes.** A worker at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, admitted using

handwritten crib notes – a violation of procedures – during a warhead assembly operation earlier this year, leading to a temporary shutdown of those activities. An error occurred during the operation as a direct result of the worker using the cheat sheet, according to a report by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The operator had copied the part sizes from a specification sheet for a different nuclear weapons unit than the one actually being assembled, the report said. The incident was reported in an August 15 memo by board staff in Oak Ridge. That and several other reports on Y-12 activities were posted recently on the safety board's Web site after passing through a review for classified information. A spokeswoman for Y-12 contractor B&W Technical Services said no problems were found with the part involved. Work has since resumed in that area of the plant, she said. The incident occurred at about the same time Y-12 announced completion of the first production unit for refurbished W76 warheads. W76 warheads are deployed aboard Trident missile systems on submarines. A National Nuclear Security Administration spokesman said appropriate training has been performed since the crib-sheet incident to make sure it does not happen again.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/oct/10/y-12-worker-used-crib-notes/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 10, Reuters* – (International) **Plunging stocks pile pressure on G7 policy makers.** Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven nations meet in Washington against a backdrop of plunging shares after bank bailouts, liquidity injections, and coordinated interest rate cuts failed to get funds flowing again. In a bid to unfreeze bank lending, the U.S. government is weighing guaranteeing billions of dollars in bank debt and temporarily insuring all U.S. bank deposits, the Wall Street Journal reported. The ministers and bankers face intense pressure to coordinate a response to restore faith in the financial system. That partial nationalization of American banks would represent an enlarged role for the U.S. government as the lender and investor of last resort. U.S. policy had focused on a plan to buy banks' distressed assets. Many analysts say a move to shore up banks' capital would be a more direct way to break a logjam in credit markets that has shut down new borrowing for consumers and businesses.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE4987NC20081010?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=10338>

11. *October 9, Reuters* – (National) **Citi ends talks with Wells Fargo on Wachovia.** Citigroup abandoned its brief but acrimonious battle with Wells Fargo & Co. over Wachovia Corp., one of the United States' largest banks, losing out on a deal crucial to strengthening its retail banking business but vowing to pursue up to \$60 billion in legal claims. Citing dramatic differences in transaction structures and views of risks, Citigroup said on Thursday that a deal was "impossible." But the bank said it remained willing to buy Wachovia under terms of its original deal. Wells Fargo praised Citigroup's move and said it would aim to close the deal in the fourth quarter.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/innovationNews/idUSTRE49892U20081010?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

12. *October 9, Cnet News* – (National) **High-tech bank robbers phone it in.** An ordinary bank robber can now steal hundreds of account numbers from ATMs without lifting a finger. Instead, he skims. Two risks these high-tech criminals face are being caught fitting a faux cover over an ordinary ATM card slot and keypad, then later retrieving the skimmers in order to get the account information. For about \$8,000, skimmers can have their own ATM overlay capable of transmitting 1,856 cards via SMS. Bulk pricing is available. And if they do not want the information sent card by card, they can dial into the device and download the data at their convenience. Industry standardization of ATM readers makes it easier for criminals to copy, so a bank robber needs only to match the look and style. Once the account information is captured, the criminals tend to burn it onto blank magnetic stripe cards (ISO standard 7810), then use it at ATMs worldwide. Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-10789_3-10062529-57.html
13. *October 9, SC Magazine* – (National) **Prices for stolen information plummet.** In an investigation by the Sydney Morning Herald, it was found that almost anyone on the Internet can buy stolen payment card details for as little as \$1.50 (for Australian details), and \$2.50 American and English cardholder information. For credit card accounts in Britain and the U.S., the cybercriminal salesmen claim to be able to bypass some of the latest anti-fraud protection, including Verified by Visa. The hackers also offer a surprising level of detail about their victims, such as a customer's bank account number, mother's maiden name, social security number, date of birth, driver's license number, as well as answers to security questions. Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Prices-for-stolen-information-plummet/article/119263/>

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Transportation Sector

14. *October 10, Newsday* – (New York) **Port Authority seeks to stop airport auction plan.** The Port Authority is seeking a federal injunction to stop the administration's plan to auction takeoff and landing slots to ease air traffic congestion, the agency said Thursday. The Port Authority claims the plan for the three major New York City-area airports would result in exorbitant ticket prices and force at least 25 small airlines to pull service out of the New York area. The authority said it would seek an injunction in the U.S. Court of Appeals to block the Federal Aviation Administration's plan. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/friday/news/ny-nyair105876905oct10,0,2825974.story>
15. *October 9, USA Today* – (National) **TSA proposes screening private jet passengers.** Travelers who fly on private corporate jets would have to clear background checks before boarding under a new proposal made Thursday by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The TSA is seeking to impose the security requirements on roughly 15,000 corporate jets and 315 small airports that currently have none. A group

of private-plane owners and pilots warned that the proposal could be costly and represent an unprecedented intrusion into private flying. Hundreds of thousands of people travel each year on such jets. There is no specific threat to corporate jets, but the TSA said in its 260-page proposal that many are the same size and weight as commercial planes “and they could be used effectively to commit a terrorist act.” Private jets, possibly packed with explosives, could fly into a building or could transport terrorists or dangerous materials, the TSA said. The proposal would take effect next year at the earliest and be phased in over two years. The TSA said it would cost \$200 million a year, with corporate jet owners paying 85 percent.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-10-09-background_N.htm

16. *October 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Engine not powered off during landing.** An American Airlines MD-80 landed safely Thursday at San Diego International Airport after the pilot declared an emergency because a warning light indicated a problem with one of its two engines, airline and safety officials said. American Flight 1802 had just taken off from San Diego, bound for Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, when the warning light turned on, said an airline spokesman. The pilot returned to San Diego to land.
Source: http://weblog.signonsandiego.com/news/breaking/2008/10/no_problem_with_plane_engine.html
17. *October 9, WBBH 2 Fort Myers* – (Florida) **Stubborn alligator disrupts airport traffic.** An alligator made its way out onto the runway at the Naples Airport and did not want to leave, nearly causing disaster for one pilot who almost hit it. The situation came to an end with two deputies, with no trapping experience, tying the gator to a helicopter. The five and-a-half foot gator made a pit stop on runway five at the airport. It caused a potentially dangerous situation for incoming aircraft. “If an aircraft hits a really big one, you could shear off landing gear or nose gear, something like that and cause a fatal crash,” said the director of operations at the Naples Airport.
Source: <http://www.nbc-2.com/articles/readarticle.asp?articleid=22104&z=3>
18. *October 9, United Press International* – (Florida) **US Airways jet lands safely after scare.** A US Airways Boeing 737 landed safely in West Palm Beach, Florida, Thursday after its pilot reported possible landing gear problems, officials said. Flight 1801 from Charlotte, North Carolina, entered a holding pattern to perform trouble-shooting, while emergency services took positions on the ground, WPTV-TV News reported. After about 70 minutes, the plane landed safely at Palm Beach International Airport at 12:45 a.m., the TV station said. Rescue units followed the jet as it taxied to the gate on its own, where the passengers got off. US Airways canceled Flight 966 to Charlotte Thursday, which had been scheduled to depart with that plane at 8:30 a.m.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/10/09/US_Airways_jet_lands_safely_after_scare/UPI-36621223580982/

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *October 9, Clarion Ledger* – (Mississippi) **Police: Substance found at Madison post office harmless.** Police in Madison, Mississippi, identified the origins of a powdery substance found inside an envelope delivered to the city's Water Department as calcium carbonate, a vitamin supplement sold at health food stores. At about 11 a.m. Thursday, police and fire personnel were called to the Water Department after the envelope containing the powder and a payment for water service inside was discovered, police said. The building was evacuated and the Mississippi Department of Health and members of the U.S. Postal Inspectors Office began investigating.
Source: <http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20081009/NEWS/81009024>

20. *October 9, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **HAZMAT crews alerted to suspicious substance in package.** Hazardous Materials Units were called out to the Phoenix Police Headquarters just after 5 p.m. Thursday when a man received what he thought was a suspicious substance in the mail and brought it to the station to alert police. The couple parked their car at the police crime lab, across the street from the police headquarters. The man left the package inside the car and went into the lobby of the police headquarters to alert police of the suspicious substance. Police then closed off the lobby and treated both the parking lot at the lab and the lobby at the headquarters as HAZMAT scenes, because both places could have been exposed. HAZMAT teams and police spent the better part of two hours inside the lobby, examining the substance and seeing if anyone had been exposed. Just before 7 p.m., officials released everyone from the lobby and said the substance was not harmful. The nature of the substance is still unknown.
Source:
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2008/10/09/20081009abrkhazmat1009.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *October 10, Bloomberg* – (International) **Germany kills 1,400 fowl after first 2008 bird flu.** German authorities killed 1,400 domestic fowl after identifying the country's first case of avian influenza this year on a commercial farm in the town of Markersdorf, near the Polish border. A duck tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu, a spokeswoman for Germany's Friedrich Loeffler Institute said in a telephone interview Friday. Authorities have begun killing poultry and have set up a 1.9 mile quarantine, said a health ministry spokesman in the German state of Saxony. The sick duck was found in an area with several poultry farms, including one with 70,000 animals, he said.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=anbjVSZ43tU&refer=germany>

22. *October 10, Fresh Plaza*– (National) **Center for Food Safety challenges USDA on**

genetically engineered crops. In the Center for Food Safety's view, while stricter regulation of growing and field testing genetically engineered (GE) crops is needed, the USDA's newly proposed rules surrounding genetically engineered (GE) crops fails to fully protect the public's safety or the environment. The Center contends that these proposed regulations may set in motion a process that would put many GE crops completely beyond the bounds of regulation and outside the safety net designed to protect the American public. According to the Center, the biggest concern is that the proposed rules remove established criteria vital in determining the very scope of regulation. "Whether a GE crop falls within the scope of regulation or not will now be much more open to interpretation," a science policy analyst for the Center for Food Safety said. "We can expect the range of GE organisms subject to oversight to decrease over time, allowing for future food safety regulatory failures." The USDA also failed to address the epidemic of herbicide-resistant weeds associated with ubiquitous herbicide-tolerant GE crops, the Center claims. Another overlooked key area is the use of food crops for biopharming, and the Center also believes that the USDA has failed to properly address the issue of conventional and organic crop contamination by GE varieties.

Source: http://www.freshplaza.com/news_detail.asp?id=30422

23. *October 10, Free Press* – (California) **Lettuce in E. coli outbreak traced to California.** The tainted iceberg lettuce that has sickened 36 people statewide originated in California before being shipped to Michigan, state agriculture officials announced Thursday. Once in Michigan, the lettuce was sold by local distributors to institutions and restaurants, seeding an E. coli outbreak that started at Michigan State University and Lenawee County Jail in early September before spreading to metro Detroit. Aunt Mid's Produce of Detroit was identified as one of the local suppliers. Tests run by outside experts found no evidence of contamination, and Aunt Mid's will be able to resume operations soon. The investigation is ongoing in cooperation with California food and safety officials. The state is still looking at other suppliers.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20081010/NEWS06/810100328>

24. *October 9, Food Production Daily* – (National) **High-speed automated gripper boosts quality control.** A pneumatic gripper developed to pick and place fresh, cooked, or frozen food products reduces costs for processors and ensures sanitary handling of produce, says its U.S. manufacturer. A marketing communications manager with Applied Robotics said that with the recent outbreaks of foodborne illness related to pathogens such as Salmonella, Listeria, and E. coli, ensuring a contaminant-free food processing environment and handling fresh food (especially meat) cleanly and sanitarly is proving vital. The gripper is manufactured from light weight materials, which are Food and Drug Administration and United States Department of Agriculture approved and so enable wash downs to be performed quickly and easily. The gripper will also help improve quality control and packaging processes.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/Processing/High-speed-automated-gripper-boosts-quality-control-says-firm>

25. *October 9, WPBF 25 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **Fla. company recalls frozen beef**

for possible E. coli contamination. A Florida company is recalling about 20,460 pounds of frozen beef trim that could be contaminated with E. coli, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced Wednesday. The frozen beef trim products were produced August 19, 2008. They were then sent to distributors and establishments in New York and Pennsylvania. The problem was discovered through FSIS microbiological sampling of imported product from a foreign establishment that was sent to multiple importers of record in the U.S. There have been no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product.

Source: <http://www.wpbf.com/news/17672693/detail.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *October 10, Rome News-Tribune* – (Georgia) **More than 1,100 get free flu shots in public health training exercise.** The Floyd County Public Health Department held a drill Thursday, and in the process distributed 1,120 free flu shots to those willing to line up between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. In the first hour of the exercise, public health officials were able to vaccinate 182 people. A local official said that he believes that in the event of a real pandemic, Floyd County would have to rely more heavily on local personnel for public health and safety issues.

Source: <http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/680/public/news929719.html>

27. *October 8, Bloomberg* – (International) **'Deadly dozen' diseases spread by warmer weather, report says.** Higher temperatures and rainfall caused by global warming may spawn the spread of 12 deadly diseases into new regions, raising the danger to humans and animals, the Wildlife Conservation Society said in a new report. The "deadly dozen" that may spread as a result of climate-induced changes include avian flu, tick-borne infestations, the Ebola hemorrhagic fever virus, sleeping sickness, and red-tide algae blooms that create toxins potentially fatal to humans and wildlife, the report said. Pathogens that affect wildlife already have destabilized trade and caused financial damage, including an estimated \$100 billion in losses to the global economy, said the report released Wednesday at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature meeting in Barcelona.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=asbCNSO6VSW0&refer=africa>

28. *October 8, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. told to find \$250 million for prison health.** A federal judge on Wednesday ordered California to say whether it has the \$250 million needed to start an \$8 billion overhaul of the prison health care system. He

said the administration has until October 27 to say how and when the state will make the money available to a court-appointed receiver. The receiver wants the money immediately to design the first three of seven planned prison medical and mental health centers, which would house 10,000 inmates. He said he needed more than \$3 billion this fiscal year, despite the state's mounting financial problems.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27092595/>

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *October 10, Gannett Tennessee and Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Freshman arrested in threats at MTSU.** Fires and threatening e-mails, which warned of “large-scale devastation,” prompted Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to suspend classes on Thursday. Authorities arrested a 19-year-old freshman they believe is responsible. The freshman will face terrorism and arson charges and is reportedly cooperating with authorities. His arrest followed a day of intensified police presence on campus and the cancellation of classes for the rest of the week. Officials decided not to evacuate campus Thursday before the suspect's arrest, though police presence was intensified and signs were posted at residence halls notifying students not to admit anyone they did not know. The FBI issued a no-fly zone over the campus while law enforcement tactical teams swept the area for a suspect or witnesses. The FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Murfreesboro Police Department, Rutherford County Sheriff's Department, Rutherford County Emergency Management, and MTSU Campus Police were involved in the investigation.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081010/NEWS03/810100422/1017/NEWS01>

30. *October 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Nuclear weapons complex changes advance.** The U.S. Energy Department moved ahead Thursday on further restricting the nation's most dangerous nuclear material, part of a plan to scale back and modernize management of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. The department gave preliminary approval to an environmental impact study on the consolidation program, which includes limiting plutonium and highly enriched uranium to just five sites, compared with seven today. The government also would close 600 buildings and structures at the facilities and reduce the number of workers involved in weapons programs by 20 to 30 percent. The plan would focus uranium manufacturing, dismantlement, and research at a new center within the Y-12 Oak Ridge complex; concentrate manufacture of plutonium triggers and other plutonium research at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico; continue to use the Pantex weapons facility near Amarillo, Texas, as the center for plutonium warhead assembly and disassembly as well as some warhead surveillance work now done at Lawrence Livermore; and concentrate tritium research and manufacture at the Savannah River complex near Aiken, South Carolina. Other sites affected by the plan are the Nevada Test Site; Sandia, with locations in New Mexico and California; and the Kansas City Plant in Missouri.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gajIoRrr7j3t474Jb7jIDOnCbOiAD93N7HN00>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *October 10, Daily Local News* – (Pennsylvania) **County’s main 911 phone system fails again.** The main phone system in the county’s 911 operations center failed for the second time in as many months on Wednesday. The system failed while Verizon was performing maintenance, according to a release by the Chester County Department of Emergency Services. Approximately 10 minutes elapsed between the time supervisors recognized the failure and the backup system was operational, according to the deputy director of 911 operations. During that time, 36 calls went unanswered. All calls were captured by the automated receipt log and callbacks revealed no life-threatening situations, according to the department. The deputy director called the incident a “very serious” failure.

Source:

http://www.allaroundphilly.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20159312&BRD=1671&PAG=461&dept_id=635398&rfi=6

32. *October 9, Florida Times Union* – (Georgia) **Report: A disaster waiting to happen.** Despite millions spent on technological upgrades, Georgia’s first responders will likely face communication problems in the event of a large-scale disaster, according to a state audit released this week. Law enforcement, fire departments, and other response agencies have found ways to communicate with their neighboring counterparts for daily operations, such as car accidents. But a major tornado or hurricane could produce a situation sending disaster zone agencies together that have not worked together before. A lack of familiarity among those agencies could cause difficulty in communications, especially when state agencies respond and find local agencies have changed their communications technology or procedures, the 46-page Department of Audits and Accounts report said. While new radios with better technology fill in gaps that previously hampered communication, the state lacks an umbrella of leadership to coordinate improvements to communication, an ongoing effort since the 2001 terrorist attacks, the audit found.

Source: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/100908/geo_341826411.shtml

33. *October 9, USA Today* – (Missouri) **Mo. county to build tornado shelters.** Missouri is about to begin construction on the first of several underground tornado shelters that could become a national model if they prove effective at saving lives. Pettis County, home to 40,000 people in central Missouri, plans to build eight shelters; each would hold about 1,000 people. The idea is to have a place for people if they have no place suitable to hide. Pettis County went forward with the plan last year after tornadoes in March 2006 killed two people. An inventory of the city’s housing found that many homes lacked basements and proper shelters, the county commissioner says. The plan was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which agreed to pay for 75 percent of the \$2.9 million cost.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-08-storm-shelter_N.htm

34. *October 9, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **FEMA deploys e-signature solution for disaster victims.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency is providing 6,000 of its field agents with a computer application enabling them to collect signatures electronically from disaster victims in the field. The goal is to help speed the processing of release forms for disaster relief funding, low-interest loans, and other support. Source: <http://www.fcw.com/online/news/154043-1.html>

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Information Technology

35. *October 9, SC Magazine* – (International) **10,000 LinkedIn users targeted in spear phishing attack.** Ten thousand users of LinkedIn, a social networking site for professionals, were recently targeted in a “spear phishing” email scam trying to lure them into downloading a malicious software attachment. In a blog post Wednesday, a reporter with the Washington Post, who first reported the story, said recipients of the email were addressed by name, aiding in the authenticity of the email. The message was sent from the domain “support[at]linkedin[dot]com” with a subject line of “Re: business contact.” The email read: “We managed to export the list of business contacts you have asked for.” The message then directed the recipient to open an attachment that was supposedly a list of business contacts that the user requested. In reality, it loaded malicious software to steal data such as usernames and passwords from the victim’s computer. The director of security research and communications for McAfee Avert Labs recommended that if users receive the phishing scam, they should monitor their bank and credit statements because it means that someone already has some information about them. A spokeswoman for LinkedIn said Thursday that the emails were not sent by LinkedIn. Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/10000-LinkedIn-users-targeted-in-spear-phishing-attack/article/119268/>
36. *October 9, SC Magazine* – (International) **Microsoft set to deliver 11 patches next week.** Microsoft said October 9 it plans to release 11 patches next week, including four to address “critical” vulnerabilities that could be remotely exploited to execute malicious code. The critical fixes address flaws in Windows, Internet Explorer, Host Integration Server and Excel, according to Microsoft’s advance notification document. Six bulletins are labeled “important” and affect issues in Windows. Microsoft also has scheduled one “moderate” patch to fix bugs in Office. The security update matches the number of fixes in August. September saw only four patches. Along with the patches, next week Microsoft plans to release its monthly updated version of the Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool. This month also marks the unveiling of two initiatives aimed at helping end-users patch more effectively: the Microsoft Active Protections Program (MAPP) and the Exploitability Index. Each vulnerability will be placed into one of the three categories, depending on whether “consistent” exploit code is likely, whether inconsistent” exploit code is likely or whether exploit code is unlikely. Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Microsoft-set-to-deliver-11-patches-next->

[week/article/119267/](#)

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

37. *October 10, WNEP 16 Moosic* – (Pennsylvania) **Copper thieves cut down phone lines.** 300 Verizon customers in the Gouldsboro area lost telephone service late Wednesday night. State police said thieves stole 900 feet of telephone cable in the woods along Route 435 in Lackawanna County. Police also said they believe more than one person was involved. Verizon hoped to get phone service back sometime Friday. Source: <http://www.wnep.com/Global/story.asp?S=9157179>
38. *October 9, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Lawsuit against Monticello's fiber-optic network dismissed.** A lawsuit against the city of Monticello contesting its plans to create a high-speed fiber-optic network has been dismissed. The suit had been filed by Bridgewater Telephone Co., also known as TDS Telecom, one of the leading telecommunications companies in the country. The company and the city have been arguing for more than a year over TDS building a fiber-optic ring or upgrading its existing system to provide high-speed access to residents, businesses, and city offices and agencies. When the company hesitated, the city moved to create its own system, which should be completed next year and would compete with the company. The city conducted a referendum in which about 75 percent of those voting approved spending \$25 million in revenue bonds to create the city-owned system. The company now is upgrading its system but also filed suit contending that Monticello was illegally using the revenue bonds to finance its project. Source: http://www.startribune.com/local/west/30725629.html?elr=KArks7PYDiaK7DUoaK7D_V_eDc87DUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUU

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

39. *October 10, National Park Service Digest* – (International) **Man sentenced for stealing**

park lighting units. In the Northern Mariana Islands, a federal court has sentenced one of three men accused of conspiring to steal and sell portions of the American Memorial Park's metal lighting units to ten months in prison. After serving the prison term, the 24-year-old will be placed on three years of supervised release. He was also ordered to immediately pay \$35,490 in restitution jointly with a co-defendant and to perform 100 hours of community service. The three men were indicted for conspiracy to sell government property and theft of government property; one was also charged with destruction of a veteran's memorial. The three were accused of engaging in a conspiracy to steal portions of the metal lighting units from the park and selling them to a recycling center in November 2007.

Source:

<http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Incidents&id=4235&urlarea=incidents>

40. *October 9, KSBY 6 Santa Maria* – (California) **Chalk Fire now 74 percent contained.** In Monterey County, firefighters are gaining ground on the Chalk Fire burning in the Los Padres National Forest. Since it sparked September 27, the fire has burned more than 11,000 acres. It is now 74 percent contained. Fire crews expect to have it fully under control by next Friday. More than 1,000 firefighters are on-scene. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Source: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=9155632>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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

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