



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 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/>

- An Associated Press survey of the 20 busiest U.S. airports found that seven of them — Philadelphia, Detroit, Phoenix, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, and San Francisco — let people with gun permits carry firearms in the general public areas of the terminal. (See item [16](#))
- According to Occupational Health & Safety, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited the U.S. Forest Service for 51 alleged serious safety violations, 77 repeat violations, and 16 other-than-serious violations at 10 locations throughout the Salmon-Challis National Forest and involving ranger districts in Idaho. (See item [35](#))

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. *October 16, Reuters* – (International) **Gunmen attack Nigerian navy near key oil, gas plants.** Gunmen in speedboats attacked Nigerian navy vessels guarding the country’s main crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals on Wednesday, the Nigerian military and security sources said. The attackers hit gunboats protecting Bonny Island in the Niger Delta, home to an LNG terminal whose exports make up close to 10 percent of world supply and to Nigeria’s biggest crude oil export facility, operated by Royal Dutch Shell. Industry executives say continued insecurity, as well as chronic funding problems hampering joint ventures with the state-run Nigerian National

Petroleum Corp. mean production is stagnating in the world's eighth-biggest exporter. Militants in the Niger Delta have shut down around a fifth of Nigeria's oil production since early 2006 with a campaign of pipeline bombings and attacks on oil facilities, but the country's LNG exports have largely escaped the violence. LNG is shipped in special tankers to markets including Europe and the United States, and is generally considered more secure than oil exports. Bonny, in the southern Niger Delta, is home to Nigeria's only functioning LNG plant, controlled by a group of Western companies.

Source: <http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnJOE49F000.html>

2. *October 15, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Natural gas pipelines face heavy opposition in Yamhill County.** A group of Yamhill County, Oregon, residents is fighting proposals that would send a natural gas pipeline through the county. Proponents say pipelines and corresponding terminals are needed to ensure that Oregon has an adequate supply of natural gas. In mid-September, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission conditionally approved one of the terminals and a 36.3-mile send-out pipeline. Beyond residents' concerns, the companies could also face an obstacle from the Oregon State Land Board, which retains authority over the use of state lands. Residents are skeptical of companies promises of compensation citing past pipeline construction projects where landowner compensation amounted to only 5 to 10 percent of the land's long-term value. And ground was not returned to its original condition

Source:

http://www.tdn.com/articles/2008/10/15/breaking_news/doc48f61d1f068fb041053652.txt

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 15, Reuters* – (Rhode Island) **Southern Union guilty of storing hazardous waste.** The Southern Union Co., which once owned the New England Gas Company, was convicted on Wednesday of illegally storing mercury at a Rhode Island site, the U.S. Justice Department said. A federal jury in Providence, Rhode Island found Southern Union guilty of failing to get a permit to store the mercury from gas regulators that had been removed from customers' homes. The mercury was discovered after three teenagers broke into the mercury storage building in September 2004 and stole several containers of the substance. The company was found innocent of failing to report a mercury spill and of illegally storing gas regulators containing with mercury.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1546433620081015>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *October 14, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **NRC issues advanced reactor design policy.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published

the latest update to its policy statement on advanced nuclear power plant designs. The policy provides expectations and guidance on safety, security and preparedness-related issues so, as a matter of prudence, designers can address them early in the development of advanced reactors. The policy encourages the earliest possible interactions between the NRC and reactor vendors, potential applicants, the public, and other government agencies. The Commission believes designers should consider several reactor characteristics, including: highly reliable, less complex safe shutdown systems; simplified safety systems that allow more straightforward engineering analysis, operate with fewer operator actions, and increase operator comprehension of reactor conditions; concurrent consideration of safety and security requirements while designing a facility; features that prevent a simultaneous breach of containment and loss of core cooling from an aircraft impact, or that inherently delay any radiological release; and features that maintain spent fuel pool integrity following an aircraft impact.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-189.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *October 16, Grand Forks Herald* – (National) **Soldiers conduct airspace study for unmanned aerial systems.** The University of North Dakota (UND) and the North Dakota Army National Guard have had their eyes on the skies over Grand Forks and the Red River Valley. A dozen Sentinel radar operators with the Guard's 1-188th Air Defense Artillery Battalion used the Sentinel system to study previously unmapped airspace in and around the northeastern part of the state. The nine-day project wrapped up Sunday. UND is in the process of developing systems to help the Air Force look at how unmanned aircraft can work in non-segregated airspace. Grand Forks Air Force Base is in line to be home to unmanned aircraft in the next few years. The project was part of the \$50 million Air Force training contract awarded to UND and others involved in aviation technology and global defense. Also through the contract, UND will train instructor pilots for the Air Force, including the North Dakota Air National Guard. The Sentinel system is used to track airborne threats, such as cruise missiles and opposing aircraft, but for this study, soldiers used the Sentinel's technology to detect and track civilian flights. That data will be used by UND to help develop the new systems. The radar has a range of as much as 46 miles, and it can identify types of aircraft in addition to recording their patterns. Researchers want to provide a picture of common flight patterns, which could be used for future training purposes in northeastern North Dakota airspace.

Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/articles/index.cfm?id=89697§ion=news>

6. *October 15, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Air Force eyes fighter cuts to boost modernization.** The U.S. Air Force is seeking to retire early more than 300 fighter aircraft next year to save \$3.4 billion in the hope of funding advanced Lockheed Martin Corp. fighters and other modernization efforts, a published report said on Wednesday, citing internal Pentagon documents. The plan would retire 137 F-15 and 177 F-16 fighters plus nine A-10 close air support attack aircraft as much as 11 years before the end of their scheduled useful lives, an online news service reported. The document was

quoted as saying an Air Force analysis showed a “smaller but modernized fighter force, when coupled with a robust bomber fleet, can effectively bridge the gap until the F-35 can be produced in required numbers (ramping to 110) and the F-22 can be modified to a common configuration.” A key Air Force concern is what it calls a potential fighter gap until Lockheed’s radar-evading F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is produced in large numbers. Air Force officials have said they plan to increase F-35 production over the next five years to address the fighter gap. The savings would fuel a push to modernize the Air Force’s bombers, late-date fighters, and go toward a new “nuclear-specific” B-52 bomber rotational squadron and Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk unmanned aerial system expansion. The president of the Air Force Association said it remained to be seen if Congress would let the Air Force get rid of so many aircraft so early and if Pentagon leaders would grab the savings to fund competing priorities within other armed services.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1531730620081015?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *October 16, Wall Street Journal*– (National) **U.S. agencies investigate WaMu failure.** Federal prosecutors are investigating the failure of Washington Mutual Inc., citing the “intense public interest” in the largest bank collapse in the history of the country. A U.S. attorney in Seattle, said he has formed a task force with investigators from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.’s inspector general. “Given the significant losses to investors, employees and our community, it is fully appropriate that we scrutinize the activities of the bank, its leaders and others to determine if any federal laws were violated,” the attorney said. The investigation into Washington Mutual is part of a wider effort by U.S. law enforcement to determine the extent of fraud connected to the subprime-lending troubles that have battered financial institutions. The Justice Department has allowed the probes to be handled largely in U.S. attorneys’ offices around the country.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122410840828437953.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

8. *October 16, Daily Chronicle* – (Illinois) **Banking scam using email.** A scam in which perpetrators claim to represent local banks now includes both phone calls and e-mails to area residents, the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office said Wednesday. The e-mails advise the recipient that their account has been suspended and they should click on a link and enter some personal information to reactivate the account. Other county residents have received automated phone calls that also name local banks and direct recipients to call an 800 number to reactivate an account. So far, American National Bank of DeKalb County and Resource Bank have been identified as the banks whose names are being used in the scams.

Source: <http://www.daily->

chronicle.com/articles/2008/10/16/news/local/doc48f6dec42a231386405821.txt

9. *October 15, Reuters* – (National) **SEC again makes case for regulation of CDS.** The SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) and other policymakers have called for oversight of the fast-growing \$55 trillion credit default swap (CDS) market, which has been blamed for contributing to the global financial crisis. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) is calling for a centralized derivative clearinghouse to reduce the risk posed by CDS. The swaps can pose systemic risks because the secretive nature of the market makes it impossible to know the size and distribution of a counterparty's exposures. The SEC's current authority over the over-the-counter credit default swaps is limited to enforcing anti-fraud prohibitions such as insider trading.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/innovationNews/idUSTRE49E6VE20081015>

10. *October 15, Bloomberg* – (National) **SEC makes hedge funds report short sales until 2009.** Investment managers who oversee more than \$100 million must disclose to the SEC the stocks they have bet will fall in price until August 1, the agency said in a statement on its Web site Wednesday. Those positions will not be made public, the SEC said. Under the SEC rule, hedge funds will have to report weekly any new short positions they take. The records will be shielded from public disclosure in Freedom of Information Act requests because they are considered "trade secrets," the SEC said. Such documents are exempt from release.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=abBj84kfzaGY&refer=us>

11. *October 15, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **5 bay area firms targeted in credit scam inquiry.** Florida's attorney general is targeting five Tampa Bay area companies in a statewide campaign against scams on people desperate for relief from debt and credit problems. The state has already settled with New Leaf Associates of Port Richey. This week, the Attorney General filed suit against Dunedin-based Enterprise Technology Group, which was operating as Ameritrust Financial Card. The state says the company charged \$200 enrollment fees for a credit card that it claimed would perform like a normal card and could improve a person's credit score, but did not. The Attorney General's office has also subpoenaed records from three other bay area debt-relief companies: Financial Freedom Resources Inc. of Clearwater, Specialized Funding of Largo and United Debt Solutions, also known as American Debt Arbitration of Tampa. The office said companies being looked at — there are 31 in Florida — are suspected of violating the state's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act along with other laws regulating telephone solicitation and credit counseling services.
Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/state/article856976.ece>

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Transportation Sector

12. *October 16, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Huntsville crash leads to new bus safety rules.** All new school buses must have higher seat backs, and smaller school buses must be equipped with lap-and-shoulder seat belts under new guidelines prompted by the

2006 deaths of four Huntsville students on a school bus that careered off an overpass. The new guidelines mandate seat backs at least 24 inches high, up from the current 20-inch requirement, in all new school buses and three-point safety belts on new buses weighing less than 10,000 pounds. Federal highway safety money will help pay for equipping buses with belts. School districts that want to buy new buses with seat belts will be able to apply for the federal money as well. A release from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) added that the new rules include a performance standard for seat belts on new, larger buses so schools that want to voluntarily add belts will have guidance on which belts are best. Providing a standard also may lower the cost of adding belts, said the DOT secretary. Alabama is in the first year of a three-year pilot program to determine the feasibility of requiring seat belts on all school buses.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/metro.ssf?/base/news/1224144935138870.xml&coll=2>

13. *October 16, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Firm says bridge repair to cost nearly \$4 million.** An engineering firm says it will cost more than \$3.8 million to repair two bridges over the Cedar River that were damaged during record flooding in June. The Cedar Valley Nature Trail bridges, built in 1912, include one bridge at McFarlane Park near La Porte City, Iowa, and another at Evansdale. A report prepared by Shuck-Britson Inc. estimates the cost of replacing the McFarlane bridge at just over \$2 million, with a possible \$1.83 million repair option. The estimate for replacing the Evansdale bridge is \$1.82 million, with a \$1.34 million repair option. Officials say that replacement or repair costs likely would be covered with 90 percent federal dollars and 10 percent state funds.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-bridgerepairs,0,7867952.story>

14. *October 16, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Airport loses power during systems test.** Power was lost at the Honolulu International Airport control tower for 20 minutes Sunday night during an annual electrical systems check, but no damage occurred and just four flights were delayed, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Wednesday. Portions of the radar room also lost some radar and radio frequencies during the outage, but no flights were affected, according to an FAA spokesman. The outage occurred at 7:47 p.m. during testing to ensure the switch to a backup generator goes smoothly if power is ever lost at the airport. While most of the power transition was seamless, the spokesman said something happened to prevent the backup power from reaching some electrical systems, particularly all power at the tower and some radar and radio frequencies at the control center. Twelve planes were in the air at the time, and four departures, two from Honolulu and one each from Maui and Hilo, were briefly delayed. Controllers in the air traffic control tower immediately began using emergency radios to communicate with airborne aircraft. In the radar room, they quickly transferred operations to sectors that retained radar and radio capabilities, he said.

Source:

http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20081016/NEWS09/810160333/1019/LOCA_LNEWSFRONT

15. *October 16, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Airport to use new passenger screening system.** Tampa International Airport is introducing new passenger screening technology that will make it easier to detect weapons and explosives. The new screening system is based on millimeter wave technology, which passes electromagnetic waves over the body to create an image that looks much like a fuzzy negative. The system will allow better detection of metallic items being carried by passengers without physical contact by agents.
Source: http://www.mysuncoast.com/Global/story.asp?S=9186664&nav=menu577_2_1
16. *October 15, Associated Press* – (National) **In many U.S. airports, guns are OK outside security.** Flying in the United States has been transformed since September 11th, with passengers forced to remove their shoes, take out their laptop computers, and put liquids and gels in clear plastic bags. Yet it is perfectly legal to take a loaded gun right up to the security checkpoint at some of the nation's biggest airports. An Associated Press survey of the 20 busiest U.S. airports found that seven of them — Philadelphia, Detroit, Phoenix, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, and San Francisco — let people with gun permits carry firearms in the general public areas of the terminal. Some anti-terrorism experts say that is a glaring security loophole that could endanger airport workers, passengers, and people waiting to pick them up or see them off. Other authorities say the nonsecure areas of the terminal are no different from other public venues and do not warrant special restrictions. However, even at those airports that ban guns, officials are not frisking people or using metal detectors on them as they enter the terminal. Experts say such an additional layer of security would be unworkable at America's bustling airports.
Source:
<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ikpdm5j53syU55EbQ4KM2E54S55gD93R5DU04>
17. *October 14, Foster's Daily Democrat* – (National) **New security measures at state port start Wednesday.** A Coast Guard initiative focused on ensuring the nation's ports are safer and more secure is expected to go into effect Wednesday. The new security measures affect port facilities throughout New England, as mandated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) and the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act. Regulations require that all personnel needing unescorted access to secure areas of MTSA regulated facilities carry Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWIC) as an additional means of security in all of America's ports. To obtain TWIC, an individual must provide biographic and biometric information such as fingerprints, sit for a digital photograph, and successfully pass a U.S. Transportation Security Administration security threat assessment. Meanwhile, other security measures at the port are slowly being rolled out. These include an underwater surveillance system in the Piscataqua River to deter terrorist attacks on bridges, ships, and other potential targets. The technology includes sonar equipment and a remotely operated underwater robotic camera. The Sea Otter underwater camera will let the Port of New Hampshire, state police, New Hampshire Marine Patrol, and Coast Guard check any potential threats to three major bridges that connect New Hampshire and Maine, or examine the hulls of incoming ships. The Coast Guard will conduct routine announced and unannounced

spot checks to ensure owners and operators of MTSA regulated facilities are complying with the applicable TWIC regulations.

Source:

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081014/GJNEWS_01/710149931/-1/FOSNEWS

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *October 15, WFSB 12 Montgomery* – (Alabama) **Melamine found in cookies sold in Alabama.** Alabama’s Agriculture Commissioner says tests have confirmed that a brand of cookies sold in Alabama contains Melamine, a chemical linked to contaminated infant formula in China. The cookies, sold as “Koala’s March creme filled cookies,” are made in China. The commissioner says the “strawberry” and “chocolate” flavors of the cookie brand were tested by the Department’s Pesticide Residue Laboratory and were found to contain the presence of the chemical. Other flavors have not yet been tested. The company that distributes the cookies, Lotte USA, is conducting a “market withdrawal” for all flavors of the cookie, though a full recall has not been made at this time.

Source: http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=9183312&nav=menu33_2

19. *October 15, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Computers speed agriculture inspection process.** Portable computers deployed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture at warehouses and packing sheds are speeding the inspection process, while making it easier for industry officials to gather information necessary to market the crop and monitor shipments. The fruit and vegetable program currently inspects seven commodities — apples, pears, cherries, asparagus, potatoes, onions, prunes, peaches, and apricots — for grade, size and quality to ensure they meet requirements of export countries. The Agriculture Department first introduced the computers to inspectors two years ago, but they are only now being widely used. Inspectors use a stylus to write on the tablet’s screen, selecting criteria from drop-down fields and checking boxes about the quality of the produce. Information recorded on the computers is sent to the department’s Web site in short order, making it available in real-time to shippers and trade associations responsible for marketing their crops and monitoring crop movement. Also new to the inspection process: Packers and shippers can now submit certificates of compliance electronically.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j-zchUSpkK0rZ3HaxTTLB5NZHejAD93REO380>

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Water Sector

20. *October 16, Arizona Daily Star* – (Arizona) **Bombs made at sewage plant?** A 24-year-old man accused of setting off explosives in the desert last week might have been constructing improvised explosive devices at a Pima County wastewater treatment plant where he worked, authorities said. Bomb squad investigators think the man may have been constructing the devices at the plant and at two places he lives in. A search warrant says investigators found ammunition magazines and an ammunition can in his white Toyota Tacoma pickup. Another search warrant says authorities found a 50-pound bag of ammonium nitrate, a digital camera, CDs, and other evidence of explosives at one of his homes and in his locker at the treatment plant. The documents do not describe his job at the plant. A background check by deputies found that the man considered himself a loner, made idle threats against a Pima Community College employee, and showed diagrams of bomb-making activities, as well as photographs of vehicles he destroyed with bombs, the court documents state.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/262687>

21. *October 15, Environmental News Service* – (National) **EPA stormwater program needs “radical changes”**. Increased water volume and pollutants from stormwater have degraded water quality and habitats in virtually every urban stream system in the United States, says a new report from the National Research Council. The committee of experts that wrote the report says, “Radical changes to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [EPA] stormwater program are necessary to reverse degradation of fresh water resources and ensure progress toward the Clean Water Act’s goals. The current regulatory framework for stormwater, which was originally designed to address sewage and industrial wastes, has suffered from poor accountability and uncertainty about its effectiveness at improving water quality, said the committee in its report. The committee recommended that the EPA adopt a permitting system based on watersheds that would encompass all discharges — stormwater and wastewater. Additionally, the committee recommended that the stormwater program focus less on chemical pollutants and more on the increased volume of water.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/oct2008/2008-10-15-094.asp>

22. *October 15, California Aggie* – (California) **Small fish “tracers” detect Bay mercury threats**. In collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, UC Davis researchers have made headway in understanding the sources of toxic mercury in the San Francisco Bay and Delta. The findings indicate that changes in current habitat management techniques could prevent mercury from entering the food web and threatening the health of wildlife and humans. A small fraction of elemental mercury is converted to the organic form methylmercury by bacteria in the sediments of aquatic environments. Methylmercury poses a health concern if it enters the aquatic food web and builds up to toxic levels further up the food chain. No management solutions have been implemented as a result of the project.

Source: <http://www.californiaaggie.com/article/1575>

23. *October 15, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Southeast is warned of more water**

wars ahead. The South Carolina Attorney General predicted future water wars in the Southeast and said Tuesday a lawsuit South Carolina brought against North Carolina will set a precedent for settling the disputes. “This is the kind of thing we’re going to be seeing from now on,” he told about 300 people at the South Carolina Water Resources Conference. “It won’t be long before Atlanta tries to build a pipeline to the Savannah River.” Much of the drought-stricken Southeast has been wrangling over water. Tennessee and South Carolina worry Atlanta may look to the nearby Tennessee or Savannah rivers for relief. Meanwhile, Georgia, Alabama and Florida have fought over how much water can be stored in north Georgia lakes. The South Carolina Attorney General sued North Carolina last year after the state decided to allow 10 million gallons of water a day be diverted from the Catawba River, which flows into South Carolina. He said the suit is rare because the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to directly take up the issue. McMaster originally expected a decision by 2010 but said it will take longer after the city of Charlotte, Duke Energy, and a water system serving Union County, N.C., and Lancaster County, S.C., were allowed to enter the case earlier this year.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27197772/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *October 16, Associated Press* – (International) **Flu shots a tough sell to health care workers.** Nearly 60 percent of health care workers fail to get a flu shot despite recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that all health care workers get vaccinated, from hospital volunteers to doctors. “It is a professional obligation on the part of health care workers to make sure that they are as protected against influenza as possible,” the chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Vanderbilt University said. However, despite the attention given to the problem, there are few well documented cases of flu outbreaks caused by health care workers.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081016/ap_on_he_me/med_flu_health_care;_ylt=At3DNJeDoG3uEAfYM1kKIfms0NUE
25. *October 16, Associated Press* – (National) **High-security germ labs not so high security.** Intruders could easily break into two U.S. laboratories where researchers handle some of the world’s deadliest germs, according to congressional investigators. The Associated Press identified the vulnerable lab locations as Atlanta and San Antonio. The serious security problems at the two labs were described by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in a report expected to be released publicly as early as Thursday. The GAO, Congress’ investigative and auditing arm, did not identify the labs except to say they were classified as Biosafety Level 4 facilities, but the report included enough details for the Associated Press — and others knowledgeable about such labs — to determine their locations. Biosafety Level 4 labs do research on deadly germs and toxins. In Texas, the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research features an outside window that looks directly into the room where the deadly germs are handled. The lab, which is privately run, also lacks many security cameras, intrusion detection alarms, or visible armed guards at its public entrances. Officials there said they will tighten

security. The other lab described with weak security in the report is operated by Georgia State University in Atlanta. That lab lacked complete security barriers and any integrated security system, including any live monitoring by security cameras. During their review, investigators said they watched an unidentified pedestrian enter the building through an unguarded loading dock.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27210837/>

26. *October 15, Reuters* – (National) **Newer vaccine may be better for polio hot spots.** A newer vaccine that targets the most common form of the polio virus works up to four times better than the conventional vaccine that tries to protect against all three types of the crippling disease, researchers said on Wednesday. The so-called monovalent vaccine may help speed the fight to eradicate polio, U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials wrote in a commentary in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, where two studies on the three-year-old vaccine appear. Although eradicated from most of the globe, polio can still be found in northern Nigeria, northern India and along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. In 2007, 1,310 cases were reported worldwide, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27205155/>

27. *October 14, HealthDay News* – (National) **Death rate 70% lower at top U.S. hospitals.** The death rate at top-ranked U.S. hospitals is 70 percent lower than at the lowest-ranked hospitals, according to a study that examined 41 million patient records at the nation's approximately 5,000 hospitals over three years. The 11th annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study focused on 17 procedures and found that overall death rates declined by 14.7 percent from 2005 to 2007. Top-performing five-star hospitals reduced their death rates at a much faster rate (about 13.2 percent) than poorer-performing one- and three-star hospitals (12.3 and 13.1 percent, respectively), resulting in large state, regional and hospital-to-hospital variations in the quality of patient care. The study also concluded that if all U.S. hospitals performed at the level of top-rated five-star hospitals, 237,420 Medicare patient deaths could potentially have been prevented from 2005 to 2007. More than half (54 percent) of those deaths were associated with four conditions: sepsis (a life-threatening illness caused by systemic response to infection); pneumonia; heart failure; and respiratory failure.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/14/AR2008101400907.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *October 16, Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Addison woman admits making bomb threat to avoid jury duty.** An Addison woman Thursday admitted threatening to blow up the DuPage County Courthouse after being called for jury duty. She was sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to perform 100 hours of public service after she pleaded guilty to attempted disorderly conduct. Authorities said the woman threatened to blow up the courthouse March 4 during a telephone call with a jury commission member

regarding her two failed appearances for jury summonses. Deputies searched the Wheaton facility, but no explosives were found.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=243179>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *October 16, Kingsport Times-News* – (Tennessee) **Washington County/Johnson City EMS facing difficult reality of huge budget cuts.** Next week, Washington County/Johnson City Emergency Medical Service managers will have to decide where to cut nearly a quarter-million dollars from the current operating budget. The director said Wednesday that, unfortunately, it could come in the form of personnel, reduced services and longer response times to calls. The cuts are necessary because an anticipated recall of reduced funding from TennCare for dual-eligible patients — those whose ambulance transports to and from doctor’s appointments or other convalescent calls are partially funded by Medicare — did not pan out. In fact, EMS leaders across the state learned late last week that a request from the state House and Senate governmental operations committees, which recommended unanimously last month that the money be restored out of TennCare’s \$598 million reserve fund, was rejected by the state’s welfare medical program.

Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9008593>

30. *October 15, Security Management* – (Texas) **Houston first responders to go interoperable.** The city of Houston’s first responders are about to receive an all-digital emergency radio system that will allow city police, firefighters, public works officials and engineers to speak directly to one another for the first time. The Houston Chronicle reports that the city’s City Council will agree as early as next week to award a \$107 million contract to Motorola that will “mean more than 10,000 new field radios for police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and utility workers. It will be the largest single purchase of equipment in Houston’s history. The goal is to phase in the project, which will operate on a 700 MHz system, over the next four years,” said the city’s director for Information Technology. Previously, the four city agencies used different radio systems. To speak with each other, first responders from different departments had to rely on inefficient patches, according to the director of Public Safety and Homeland Security for Houston. The new system will provide “complete interoperability” between first responders.

Source: <http://www.securitymanagement.com/news/houston-first-responders-go-interoperable-004750>

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Information Technology

31. *October 16, VNUNet.com* – (International) **Security industry falling behind the hackers.** A Georgia Tech Information Security Center (GTISC) panel comprising members of the government, IT specialists and academics warned in its 2008 Emerging

Cyber Threats Report (PDF) that existing systems are falling behind hacking techniques, which are becoming more popular and effective. “The rapid rate of application development for these mediums has outpaced information security technology so far,” the report concludes. The report highlights five key areas that need addressing: botnets, Web 2.0 attacks, targeted messaging, telecommunications and RFID hacking. The panel suggests that carriers must do more to integrate firewalls within IP subsystems to check the spread for botnets. The emergence of Web 2.0 poses new threats to internet users, the report finds. “In 2008, expect to see underground organizations shift tactics and focus more on Web 2.0, particularly mashup technologies, leading to more abuses at the user end wherever possible.” The increasing convergence of communications systems and computing into voice over IP (VoIP) systems also poses new dangers. Finally, RFID hacking is expected to take off in 2008. “In the near future, GTISC expects mainstream exploit tools to enable less technical hackers to attack RFID technologies.”

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2228330/security-industry-falling>

32. *October 16, IDG News service* – (National) **Woman is first to plead guilty in notorious spam case.** A woman accused of helping a spam kingpin send out tens of millions of unwanted e-mail messages each day has pleaded guilty to spam charges. She pleaded guilty to fraud and conspiracy charges October 14 in federal court in Michigan. She was arrested in January and charged with participating in a complex pump-and-dump stock scam that flogged Chinese penny stocks. With her guilty plea, she has agreed to cooperate with the U.S. Department of Justice as it pursues its case against ten other people, including the spam kingpin, who were allegedly involved in the scam. She claims the kingpin is a legitimate business operator, but antispam advocates have long considered him one of the world’s most prolific junk e-mailers. The Department of Justice claims that the kingpin and others used a botnet network of infected computers to send out tens of millions of spam messages per day. .

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9117300&intsrc=news_ts_head

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

33. *October 16, The Times* – (International) **Internet phone calls are crippling fight against terrorism.** The huge growth in Internet telephone traffic is jeopardizing the capability of police to investigate almost every type of crime, senior sources have told

The Times. As more and more phone calls are routed over the web – using software such as Skype – police are losing the ability to track who has called whom, from where, and for how long. The key difficulty facing police is that, unlike mobile phone companies, which retain call data for billing purposes, Internet call companies have no reason to keep the material. The U.K.’s Home Secretary outlined plans Wednesday for a huge expansion of the government’s capability to access data held by Internet services, including social networking sites such as Facebook and Bebo, and gaming networks. The move follows growing concern among police and the security services that serious criminals and terrorists are using websites as a way of concealing their communications. Source: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article4951864.ece>

34. *October 16, Aurora Beacon News* – (Illinois) **NTSB investigating cause of helicopter crash.** The National Transportation Surface Board (NTSB) says it is investigating whether the radio tower that an Air Angels helicopter clipped Wednesday night was properly lit, whether the pilot was flying high enough, and whether there were any mechanical problems. Four people were killed in the crash when the helicopter went down in a cornfield late Wednesday in Aurora, Illinois. A spokesman for the NTSB said Thursday that the helicopter’s rotor blade may have separated during flight, but he would not speculate on the cause. The agency will issue a preliminary report within a week, he said. He said the helicopter was flying about 50 feet below the top of the tower when the wire was clipped. He said NTSB was investigating whether lights on the tower were on at the time or could have been knocked out during the incident. “I can say that when I was out here last night after the accident that the lights on the tower were not lit,” he said Thursday. The Air Angels chief executive officer said the pilot did not report mechanical problems, and weather was not an issue. Source: <http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/1225432,aurora-helicopter-crash-sidebar-au101608.article>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *October 16, Occupational Health & Safety* – (Idaho) **U.S. Forest Service cited for 144 safety violations in Idaho.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited the U.S. Forest Service for 51 alleged serious safety violations, 77 repeat violations, and 16 other-than-serious violations at 10 locations throughout the Salmon-Challis National Forest and involving ranger districts in Salmon, Challis, North Fork, Mackay, and Leadore, Idaho. The agency’s inspection found serious violations involving fall hazards, emergency egress design and maintenance, machine guarding, storage of compressed gas cylinders, liquefied petroleum gas, and flammable liquids and electrical hazards. In addition, OSHA cited the supervisor’s office for a broad spectrum

of deficiencies in its agency-required safety and health program. A serious citation is issued when death or serious physical harm is likely to result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/Articles/2008/10/16-US-Forest-Service-Cited-for-144-Safety-Violations.aspx>

36. *October 15, Orange County Register* – (California) **Water drops help crews get jump on forest brush fire.** Water-dropping helicopters helped firefighters get a quick jump on a wildfire in a remote corner of the Cleveland National Forest about a half-mile south of the 91 freeway Wednesday. The blaze had chewed up about 30 acres of brush by nightfall. No containment figures were immediately available. About 150 firefighters remained on the firelines near Sierra Peak in the rugged hills near the border between Orange and Riverside counties Wednesday night, working to corral the small blaze. Thick black smoke could be seen for miles as Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) helicopters flew over the flames dropping water and trying to snuff out the blaze in the remote area. The blaze broke out just before 4 p.m. amid high temperatures and dangerously low humidity. Firefighters have set up a command post at the Green River Country Club, and water drops by helicopter and fixed wing aircraft were making quick work of the blaze, which had scorched an estimated 30 acres, according to OCFA reports. OCFA was working with fire crews from the U.S. Forest Service and Anaheim Fire Department to keep the flames from getting out of control. More than 20 fire engines, two water-dropping helicopters, two hand crews, four water tenders, two bulldozers, and one fixed-winged aircraft were called in to battle the blaze, according to OCFA reports.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/low-cleveland-firefighters-2196453-blaze-forrest?slideshow=1>

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Dams Sector

37. *October 16, Galveston County Daily News* – (Texas) **Cleanup begins at dike.** Heavy trucks and backhoes converged Wednesday on the Texas City Dike on for what will be an extensive — and drawn out — cleanup. Hurricane Ike ravaged the 5-mile-long dike that the city dubbed “The World’s Largest Man-Made Fishing Pier.” Every bait camp and fishing pier was destroyed, the road has been washed out in several spots, and the beach area on the dike’s north shore was devastated by the hurricane. But for the emphasis on its recreational uses, the dike’s main job is to protect the Texas City ship channel. It is estimated debris pickup and removal will top \$2 million for the dike.

Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=47ab6d81ea5b7a78>

38. *October 16, Florida Times-Union* – (Florida) **Nassau spillway fails ‘in best way’ it could.** A concrete spillway damaged during Tropical Storm Fay finally gave way Wednesday, releasing a torrent of water but apparently causing little damage. The remaining spillway on top of the earthen Lake Hampton levee collapsed slowly enough that culverts were able to handle the flow, avoiding a potentially serious event, county engineering officials said. In another bit of luck, no debris clogged the culverts,

allowing the muddy water to flow through instead of backing up and washing over the road. “It failed in the best way to fail,” said a county engineer. Water levels in the lake had dropped 4 to 5 feet by midday. County officials said the collapse of the privately owned structure, which has been monitored closely in recent weeks, had been expected. Tropical Storm Fay dumped about 20 inches of rain in the area, generating heavy water flow over the spillway. Those waters finally receded enough on Sept. 22 to reveal that a third of the spillway had been washed away.

Source: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/101608/met_344606088.shtml

39. *October 14, Sierra Sun* – (California) **Army Corps of Engineers assesses Martis Dam risks.** The Army Corps of Engineers already knows water can work its way under the Martis Creek Dam, with the potential to destabilize the structure, letting a flood loose downstream in a worst-case scenario. Now the engineers are investigating a series of earthquake faults in the Martis Valley, one of which could jut under the dam. “Through aerial photography we found two features we strongly believe are faults,” said a representative with the Dam Safety Assurance Program of the Corps. Next year the Corps will cut a third trench on the downstream side of the dam, and if there is evidence of movement from the same date, that means the fault runs under the dam. After all the research is complete, Congress will have to decide ultimately to rebuild the dam, repair it just for flood control (eliminating water storage from its functions) or remove the dam. The agency is keeping the water level low, currently below the level of the dam, to reduce any risk, but a worst-case scenario could do serious damage downstream in Reno. The dam has a 1-in-350 chance of filling and failing, significantly riskier than the federal agency is willing to allow. This puts it in the top six riskiest dams in the country. A representative said study, environmental review, and planning could take four years before construction in a best-case scenario, and he said he thinks a flood control-only solution is most likely at this point.

Source:

<http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20081014/NEWS/810149937/1066&ParentProfile=1051&title=FINDING%20FAULTS>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

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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