



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 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/>

- Dark Reading reports that energy companies worldwide experienced more Web-based malware attacks than any other vertical market in the third quarter of this year, with an increased rate of exposure of 189 percent, according to the new “Global Threat Report” from ScanSafe. (See item [2](#))
- According to the Associated Press, federal regulators and Entergy Nuclear officials say they are investigating a release of radioactive contaminants at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vermont that led to a brief evacuation of 25 workers. The release occurred Monday while the cover of a reactor vessel was being removed for refueling. (See item [6](#))

### 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 22, San Francisco Examiner* – (California) **Gasoline tanker explodes, shuts down I-880.** A big-rig gasoline tanker exploded in flames after overturning on Interstate 880 in Oakland, California, shutting down both northbound and southbound traffic on the highway during Wednesday’s morning commute. The accident occurred about 6:15 a.m., when a black sedan rear-ended the big tanker as the vehicles traveled southbound, according to a spokesman for the California Highway Patrol. After the two vehicles collided, the tanker, carrying 8,600 gallons of gasoline, overturned and erupted in flames, he said. About 35 firefighters from the Oakland Fire Department helped contain

the flames.

Source: [http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Gasoline\\_tanker\\_explodes\\_shuts\\_down\\_I-880.html](http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Gasoline_tanker_explodes_shuts_down_I-880.html)

2. *October 21, Dark Reading* – (International) **Report: Energy companies are top target of web-borne malware.** According to the new “Global Threat Report” from ScanSafe, energy companies worldwide have a nearly 200 percent rate of being hit with Web-borne malware attacks. Energy companies experienced more Web-based malware attacks than any other vertical market in the third quarter of this year, with an increased rate of exposure of 189 percent. Overall, corporations experienced 338 percent more Web-based malware in the third quarter versus the first quarter, and 553 percent more than in the fourth quarter of last year, the report says. ScanSafe attributes this jump to the wave of SQL injection attacks that have hit websites over the past few months, as well as socially engineered email. Most of the malware came from legitimate sites. As for the types of malware, backdoor and password-stealing Trojans increased by 267 percent from January to September.

Source: [http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc\\_id=166407](http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=166407)

3. *October 21, Platts* – (National) **U.S. DOE sets out guidelines for scrutinizing overseas investors.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed guidelines late Monday that outline the role that DOE would play on a special federal panel that could block international buyers from purchasing U.S. oil companies, electric utilities, and other energy-related entities. The guidelines pertain to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an inter-agency panel that was established in 1975 to ensure that U.S. security is not compromised when companies with ties to international governments buy U.S. assets. Congress passed legislation in 2007 bolstering DOE’s role on CFIUS. The new DOE guidelines, which are still in draft form, describe how the Energy Secretary and other department officials would analyze proposed business deals that have “potential implications for US critical infrastructure and critical technologies.” The guidelines say DOE could recommend that a transaction be approved without conditions, or that the department could propose a plan to “mitigate” potential security concerns. In either of those cases, DOE would have to disclose any “unclassified contracts or supply relationships” that have a bearing on the deal, according to the guidelines. DOE could also recommend that the president “block” a proposed transaction, the guidelines say. It was unclear Tuesday when DOE would seek to finalize the guidelines.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6993130.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

4. *October 21, San Gabriel Valley Tribune* – (California) **Explosion spurs power outage.** Southern California Edison is investigating an early-morning underground explosion that left 21 businesses without power for much of Tuesday and caused minor injuries to one employee. An electrical equipment failure in an underground vault caused an explosion about 1:30 a.m. The blast was powerful enough to set off nearly 50 security alarms in the El Monte, California, commercial area south of the 10 Freeway. An Edison

employee suffered minor injuries in the incident, but it is not clear if he was working in the area, an Edison spokesman said. Businesses in Flair Plaza, off the 10, and down Aero Jet Avenue were forced to close until power returned after 3 p.m. Edison does not yet have an estimate of damages. Nearly 2,000 Edison customers lost power for about 30 seconds immediately following the incident.

Source: [http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci\\_10781403](http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_10781403)

5. *October 21, Laurel Leader-Call* – (Mississippi) **Oil well catches fire.** Sharon, Mississippi, volunteer firefighters extinguished an oil well fire Monday morning around 11:40. The cause of the fire had not been determined Monday afternoon. The fire erupted at a Venture Oil and Gas unit. Flames destroyed a nearby pickup truck, and damaged several out buildings. Departments responding along with Sharon were Shady Grove, Sandersville, Rustin, Glade, M&M, and Powers. The Jones County Fire coordinator said no one was injured. A Dixie Electric Power Association crew cut power to the pumping station, about 50 yards away. Residents within a 500 yard area were evacuated as a precautionary measure. The fire appeared to have started near a triplex unit, which pumps oil to storage tanks, said the public information officer for the Jones County Fire Council. He said employees were at lunch when the explosion occurred, but a nearby employee heard the explosion and called emergency personnel.

Source: [http://www.leadercall.com/local/local\\_story\\_295094248.html](http://www.leadercall.com/local/local_story_295094248.html)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to report

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

6. *October 22, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Brief evacuation at nuke power plant after leak.** Federal regulators and utility officials say they are investigating a release of radioactive contaminants at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vermont that led to a brief evacuation of 25 workers. A spokesman for the utility Entergy Nuclear says the release occurred Monday while the cover of a reactor vessel was being removed for refueling. He says the cover was placed too close to a fan that spread airborne contaminants. He says the workers were evacuated from the top floor of the reactor building but returned about four hours later after they were checked for exposure to radiation. The release occurred during the power plant's regular refueling and maintenance outage, which is scheduled to last three weeks. A U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman says the agency is investigating.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/10/22/ap5590856.html>

7. *October 22, San Luis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **Swarm of jellyfish clog cooling water intake at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.** In an unusual event, a swarm of jellyfish has clogged the cooling water intake structure at Diablo Canyon nuclear power

plant in California, forcing operators to take one reactor offline and reduce the other to half power. Plant operators shut the unit down at 8:51 p.m. Tuesday after a large number of moon jellies entered the intake cove and impaired the ability of pumps to circulate enough cooling water through the system. Divers were sent down to inspect the intake structure Wednesday morning, and plant operators are inspecting equipment to see if the jelly fish caused any damage, said a plant spokeswoman. There is no estimate of when the plant will return to full power, she said. Plant operators often ramp the plant down in the fall when the first large swells of the season clog the intake structure with kelp. But there were no large swells and operators were taken by surprise by the mass of jelly fish, she said. Moon jellies have been unusually prolific off the Central Coast this year.

Source: [http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/story/505081.html](http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/breaking_news/story/505081.html)

8. *October 22, News Journal* – (New Jersey) **NRC investigating failure at Salem.** U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) investigators opened a probe Tuesday into a cooling system control failure last week at the Salem Unit I nuclear plant along the Delaware River in New Jersey. Agency officials said that, for more than eight hours on October 15, plant operators were unable to determine the water level in a system that keeps reactor cooling water pressurized. The reactor was shut down for refueling at the time. Workers were lowering water in a pressure-maintenance system when they discovered that a level-indicator malfunctioned. Although the indicator showed that 80 percent of the water remained, repair crews later learned that it had fallen to 16.6 percent. An NRC spokesman said there was no danger to the public and no “unusual incident” was declared, although continued draining could have affected control of residual heat inside the shut-down reactor. The NRC’s three-member team will review the incident, as well as PSEG’s control of “risk-significant” work, the NRC said. The NRC spokesman said levels in the pressurizer fell to 16.6 percent of total volume, coincidentally just above the 10 percent to 15 percent level that operators were seeking before the breakdown.

Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20081022/BUSINESS/310220005/1003>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *October 22, Ventura Country Star* – (California) **Chemical blaze damages business.** A chemical fire damaged a Moorpark business early Tuesday, authorities said. The fire was reported at 2:10 a.m. in a building belonging to Special Devices Inc., according to a captain of Ventura County Fire Department. Fire officials identified the chemical burning in a container as zirconium. Firefighters and hazardous materials crews monitored the fire as it burned itself out because water cannot be used to douse metal fires. The fire caused some damage to the inside of the building. Information on the extent of the damage was not immediately available. Investigators Tuesday had not determined what caused the fire.

Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/oct/22/nb1mcchemblaze22/>

10. *October 22, Marine Corps Times* – (National) **Helo squadron to stand up at Cherry Point.** The second of two new helicopter squadrons will be activated this week at the

Cherry Point Marine Corps air station. Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 will stand up Thursday afternoon. The squadron operates UH-1N Huey transport helicopters and AH-1W Cobra attack helicopters, the first time those aircraft have been based at Cherry Point. Last month, the Marines reactivated Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366, which has CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters.

Source:

[http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2008/10/ap\\_squadronstandsup\\_102108/](http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2008/10/ap_squadronstandsup_102108/)

11. *October 22, Navy Times* – (National) **Transplant complete, attack sub floats again.** More than three years after a devastating underwater crash killed one sailor, injured 100 more and crushed the bow of the fast-attack submarine San Francisco, the sub has returned to the water. Workers at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Washington, amputated more than one million pounds' worth of the bow section of the decommissioned attack sub Honolulu and grafted it onto the ailing San Francisco. The systems transferred from the Honolulu included its active sonar sphere and its forward ballast tanks. The San Francisco crashed into an undersea mountain Jan. 8, 2005, suffering damage so severe that the warship almost sank. Although the San Francisco is the first submarine to get another submarine's bow, the procedure is common with surface ships.

Source: [http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/10/navy\\_sub\\_surgery\\_102108w/](http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/10/navy_sub_surgery_102108w/)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *October 22, American Banker* – (National) **\$4.4 billion deposit sparks FDIC-Wamu dispute.** A fight may be brewing between the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and Washington Mutual Inc. over claims by debt holders of the thrift holding company and its two failed subsidiaries. At issue is \$4.4 billion that Wamu deposited in its two thrifts before their September 25 failure and forced sale to JPMorgan Chase & Co. Wamu, which declared bankruptcy a day later, wants a judge to approve the transfer of the funds from JPMorgan Chase to the bankruptcy estate, which is used to compensate the holding company's creditors. But the FDIC, in a motion filed Monday in the Delaware district of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, asked a judge to stay the transfer. The agency said it may conclude that the funds belong in the receivership of the thrifts, not the holding company, and should be used to compensate the subsidiaries' senior unsecured debt holders. The court filing did not argue the FDIC deserved the funds, only asking for the judge to delay the transfer of funds.

Source:

<http://www.onwallstreet.com/asset/article/724351/44-billion-deposit-sparks-fdic-wamu-dispute.html?pg>

13. *October 22, Mondaq* – (International) **SEC adopts foreign issuer reporting enhancements.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued its final rules relating to the reporting requirements of foreign private issuers (FPIs). These new rules, based on proposals that the SEC issued earlier this year, contain a mix of provisions, some of which help FPIs or add minor burdens to their reporting requirements. Others, such as the new Form 20-F filing deadline and the requirement to provide an Item 18

reconciliation to U.S. GAAP, will be more burdensome to many FPIs. As to these latter requirements, the SEC is providing for relatively long transitional periods before compliance with these new rules becomes mandatory.

Source: <http://www.mondaq.com/article.asp?articleid=67984>

14. *October 21, Financial Times* – (National) **Fed offers \$540bn to prop up money funds.** The U.S. Federal Reserve on Tuesday said it would finance up to \$540bn in purchases of short-term debt from money market mutual funds to shore up a key pillar of the U.S. financial system. Policymakers are worried that moves to prop up US banks may have undermined money funds, which compete with bank savings accounts. Under the scheme the U.S. central bank will lend money to five special purpose vehicles, to be managed by JP Morgan Chase, tasked with purchasing assets from money market funds. These assets are low-risk paper, including certificates of deposit, bank notes and commercial paper with three-month maturities or less. The creation of an extra liquidity facility on Tuesday was seen as complementing a move the Fed announced two weeks ago to create a vehicle aimed at purchasing potentially unlimited amounts of three-month debt from banks and non-financial companies.

Source: [http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4da5eebc-9f83-11dd-a3fa-000077b07658.html?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4da5eebc-9f83-11dd-a3fa-000077b07658.html?nclick_check=1)

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## **Transportation Sector**

15. *October 22, USA Today* – (National) **TSA to expand paperless boarding pass program.** Airplane boarding passes will increasingly be electronic bar codes that passengers display on cell phones and personal-digital assistants instead of paper documents, airline and government officials say. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), after testing paperless boarding passes at a few airports to make sure they are secure, plans a nationwide expansion in the next year. The boarding passes are e-mailed to a passenger's cell phone or PDA and appear on screen as a bar code. At security checkpoints, a TSA screener scans the code with a handheld device, which displays a passenger's name and flight information for comparison to a passenger ID. Passengers can still use traditional paper boarding passes.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-10-21-tsa-pda\\_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-10-21-tsa-pda_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip)

16. *October 22, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Logan to host antiterror task force.** Logan airport is slated to become the first in the country to bring representatives of several federal law enforcement agencies under one roof. The board of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), which runs the airport, yesterday approved an agreement allowing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to build the nation's first Joint Terrorism Task Force airport office. The FBI, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Customs and Border Protection, and possibly other agencies will share the same office, according to Massport. The 2,700-square-foot facility will allow for instant collaboration among representatives of the FBI, TSA, Customs and Border Protection, US Secret Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Federal Air Marshals, and

Massachusetts State Police. Currently, Customs and Border Protection officials sit in Logan's Terminal E, while the TSA occupies the fifth floor of an airport administrative building, and the FBI has offices in downtown Boston.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/10/22/logan\\_to\\_host\\_antiterror\\_task\\_force/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/10/22/logan_to_host_antiterror_task_force/)

17. *October 22, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Forest fire burns hundreds of acres in NJ.** A forest fire burned through parts of three southern New Jersey counties Tuesday, engulfing hundreds of acres of forest and forcing the closure of a major roadway. Fire officials did not know what caused the blaze that tore through a section of Wharton State Forest spanning parts of Camden, Burlington and Atlantic counties. Police said about 700 acres were involved by eight p.m., and said the fire was about 20 percent contained. Police closed off heavily traveled Route 206 when the fire jumped both sides of the highway.

Source: <http://cbs3.com/local/Forest.Fire.Wharton.2.845713.html>

18. *October 22, Visalia Times-Delta* – (California) **Suspected pipe bomb detonated on Hwy. 99.** A suspicious device believed to be a possible pipe bomb was safely detonated about two p.m. Tuesday on Highway 99 in Bakersfield, the California Highway Patrol reported. The highway was closed during the operation and reopened at 2:33 p.m. The nature of the device will not be known until its remains have been examined. No further details were disclosed.

Source: <http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20081022/NEWS01/810220330/1002>

19. *October 21, Homeland Security Daily Wire* – (National) **Closed Maine suspension bridge used for anti-terror testing.** DHS is using the closed-down Waldo-Hancock Bridge in Prospect, Maine, to conduct tests on how better to protect suspension bridges from terrorist attacks. The 77-year-old span over the Penobscot River between Prospect and Verona Island has sat idle since it was shut down nearly two years ago, replaced by the new Penobscot Narrows Bridge. DHS is now working with the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) on testing that involves looking at vibrations and how they affect the old bridge. Crews from the DOT and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were on the bridge for several days earlier this month conducting tests, some of which created explosion-like booms that echoed up and down the Penobscot River near the bridge.

Source: <http://hsdailywire.com/single.php?id=6984>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

20. *October 22, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Powder-laced letters mailed to Chase branches in 9 cities.** More than 30 letters containing a suspicious powder were mailed to Chase bank branches and federal banking regulators' offices in nine cities, authorities said Tuesday in what was being investigated as a first, if extreme, public backlash over the nation's financial crisis. Initial tests on the powder proved negative for poisonous or otherwise dangerous toxins, the FBI said. An FBI spokesman in

Oklahoma, where eight letters turned up, said local preliminary assessments showed the powder was harmless calcium. Additional tests were being run on the letters Tuesday as officials zeroed in on possible suspects near Amarillo, Texas, where the letters were postmarked. A law enforcement official said the letters were mailed to Chase bank branches in or near Atlanta; Chicago; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas; Denver; Newark, New Jersey; New York; Oklahoma City; and Washington. They all appear to be from the same source and began showing up on Monday.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/10/22/BU2913LUT2.DTL&tsp=1>

21. *October 22, Biloxi Sun Herald* – (Mississippi) **Powder shuts down post office.**

Discovery of a suspicious powder that turned out to be a harmless chemical forced closure of a U.S. post office in Pass Christian, Mississippi, for more than 4 hours Tuesday morning. The Pass Christian Fire chief said postal workers found a greenish-yellow powder on the outside of a package while sorting mail from a truck on the rear loading dock of the post. The powder was noticed by two postal workers and a truck driver. He had just hauled in a load of mail aboard an 18-wheeler. All three apparently came in contact with the powder, the fire chief said, and were quarantined until the substance was identified. Hazardous materials experts responded from agencies including the Gulfport Fire Department and the state Department of Environmental Quality. Also on scene were U.S. postal inspectors from Mobile.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/local/story/897295.html>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

22. *October 22, Kansas City Info-zine* – (National) **NRDC calls on Food and Drug**

**Administration to ban BPA from food packaging to protect children.** The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to ban the use of bisphenol A (BPA) in food packaging. BPA is found in plastic bottles and metal containers, and poses a serious health risk, especially to infants and children. BPA is a chemical originally developed to mimic estrogen that the FDA has approved as a food additive. It can be found in the lining of metal cans, including canned food and infant formula, as well as hard, clear polycarbonate plastic, such as baby bottles. BPA can leach into the foods and beverages from the packaging. Since BPA's original approval by the FDA, however, new data evaluated by another federal agency - the National Toxicology Program - shows that BPA is a threat at lower levels than the FDA has concluded.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/31382/>

23. *October 22, Wisconsin Ag Connection* – (Wisconsin) **USDA designates 29 Wisconsin**

**counties as primary natural disaster areas.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 29 Wisconsin counties as primary natural disaster areas after suffering flooding, freezing or a combination of drought, freeze and frost. Farm operators in the counties listed may qualify for low interest emergency loans from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Contiguous county farm operators can also be



considered for relief efforts by the FSA.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.php?Id=1278&yr=2008>

24. *October 20, Western United Dairymen* – (National) **CAFO discharge rule awaits final signature.** The White House has approved the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule that would allow certain livestock operations to bypass Clean Water Act permit requirements if the owners voluntarily certify that they do not discharge animal waste into waterways, according to a published report in Inside EPA. The rule also would ensure that information within the livestock producers' nutrient-management plan is available for public comment, reviewed by the permit authority and incorporated into relevant permits. An EPA spokesman said that the agency is working to quickly finalize the rule but noted that the agency cannot discuss the decision until it is signed by an EPA Administrator in the last step in the rulemaking process. The text of the rule will not be available until then.

Source: [http://www.porkmag.com/directories.asp?pgID=675&ed\\_id=6688](http://www.porkmag.com/directories.asp?pgID=675&ed_id=6688)

25. *October 20, Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **The Hartz Mountain Corporation voluntarily recalls one specific lot of nationwide chicken-basted rawhide chips because of possible health risk.** The Hartz Mountain Corporation of Secaucus, New Jersey is voluntarily recalling one specific lot of Hartz Chicken-Basted Rawhide Chips due to concerns that one or more bags within the lot are potentially contaminated with Salmonella. Hartz is fully cooperating with the US Food and Drug Administration in this voluntary recall. The product involved is 4,850 - 2 pound plastic bags of Hartz Chicken-Basted Rawhide Chips, lot code JC23282, UPC number 3270096463 which were distributed to a national retail customer. While the normal testing that Hartz conducts through an independent outside laboratory did not detect the presence of Salmonella in any Hartz rawhide products, sample testing conducted by another laboratory did indicate the presence of the bacteria in a sample bag of the Chicken-Basted Rawhide Chips. Hartz has not received any reports of animals or humans becoming ill as a result of this product.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/hartz10\\_08.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/hartz10_08.html)

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## **Water Sector**

26. *October 22, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Michigan) **Executives of Michigan wastewater treatment company found guilty of illegally discharging untreated liquid wastes.** A federal jury in Detroit has convicted three former managers of Comprehensive Environmental Solutions, Inc., a company that operates an industrial waste treatment and disposal facility in Dearborn, Michigan, following a three week jury trial. During the period of January 2001 to June 2002, facility employees routinely bypassed the facility's treatment system in order to discharge untreated liquid wastes directly into the sanitary sewer system. During most of this time, the facility had no operable equipment to treat incoming liquid wastes and the 10 million gallon tank farm was full, with virtually no capacity to store additional liquid wastes. Because the facility had no space available for this additional waste, nor equipment to treat it, company

employees discharged nearly 13 million gallons of untreated liquid waste into the sanitary sewer in violation of the Clean Water Act, the facility's permit, and the consent order under which the facility operated.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/executives-michigan-wastewater-treatment-company/story.aspx?guid={B6104F1F-864F-4B94-BCC1-9DE4FD059077}&dist=hppr>

27. *October 22, Tasley Eastern Shore News* – (Virginia) **Officials seek water solutions, expansion.** Cape Charles, Virginia, officials are simultaneously pursuing solutions to growing water and wastewater needs to meet future demand and a state-imposed deadline for a new treatment plant that lessens the impact to the Chesapeake Bay. The town is making plans to build new infrastructure, the costs of which it hopes will be shared by the massive Bay Creek community, as part of the annexation agreement that paved the way for the development. The town's wastewater plant needs to be replaced to meet state requirements for nutrient removal, while growth projections for the town indicate additional wells and other infrastructure will be needed to meet water demand at buildout. The Cape Charles wastewater treatment plant, built with an average life expectancy of 20 years, is in its 24th year of service. A \$600,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant passed on to the town from the county will help cover those costs.

Source:

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081022/ESN01/810220316/-1/ESN>

28. *October 21, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **\$20 million pumped into clearing Bayou Lafourche drinking water.** A project that experts say will prevent a recurrence of the pungent, orange-colored water that filled the taps of some 300,000 local residents after Hurricane Gustav was approved Monday night. The \$20 million dredging project is intended to smooth the bottom of a 6.2-mile stretch of Bayou Lafourche that experts say the dredging will increase the flow of water southward. A smoothed base should allow better water flow to push out stagnant water, which in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav trapped decaying matter that sucked oxygen from the bayou, giving its waters a putrid taste and smell. If the dredging works like officials expect, the drinking water should stay fresh after future hurricanes and flood risk when the bayou reaches high tide should lessen, particularly in low-lying areas like parts of Donaldsonville bordering the bayou.

Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20081021/ARTICLES/810212962/-1/MOBILE?Title= 20 million pumped into clearing Bayou Lafourche drinking water>

29. *October 21, Citizen of Laconia* – (New Hampshire) **Water system said adequate — for now.** Estimated numbers for water system capacity and costs to fix it highlighted issues that were given to the Board of Selectmen Monday in a preliminary report on the ongoing study of the water system in Laconia, New Hampshire. According to the report, "sufficient capacity exists to supply the town's needs at this time." The chair of the water system committee said testing was done on the plant to determine capacity and flow as well as stress testing to test the endurance and status of pieces of plant

equipment. The current chemical usage at the plant is deemed adequate, backwash has been reduced, and efficiency has increased on the filter beds. Testing did discover that the raw water pumps, installed 20 years ago, are not capable of delivering plant capacity and priority should be made to replace them. Quotes have also been received for system leak detection and meter replacement, with contracts to be released soon. Expenses for the SCADA system in 2010 are estimated at \$110,000, and \$100,000 is estimated for the finished water pumps, also in 2010. Total improvements, also including four phases of ground source water testing and testing equipment, is estimated to cost \$410,000 over the course of 2009 and 2010.

Source:

<http://www.citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081021/GJNEWS02/710218255/-1/CITNEWS>

30. *October 21, Northwest Indiana and Illinois Times* – (Indiana) **Feds raid Gary Sanitary District on suspicion of pollution.** Federal law enforcement agents seized boxes of documents from the Gary Sanitary District on Monday, the Gary mayor confirmed. The mayor, who took over as the district's administrator in 2006, believes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking into allegations of illegal pollution, but he said he did not know any other details. An FBI spokeswoman said her agency and the Criminal Investigation Division of the EPA were serving search warrants on the district. An acting special agent for the EPA said the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the U.S. Coast Guard, Indiana State Police, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources also were involved in the investigation. The Gary Sanitary District, which provides sewage treatment for Gary, Merrillville, Lake Station, Hobart, and New Chicago, has been cited six times by IDEM since 2003 for failing to maintain its equipment and dumping large amounts of E. coli and mercury into the Grand Calumet River, which flows east through the city, Hammond, and East Chicago, and discharges into Lake Michigan.

Source:

[http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2008/10/21/news/top\\_news/doce47f41e752d417a3862574e90004ebe6.txt](http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2008/10/21/news/top_news/doce47f41e752d417a3862574e90004ebe6.txt)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

31. *October 22, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Lincoln Park Hospital fails to meet codes.** Lincoln Park Hospital has been in violation of state health and safety codes, putting patients at risk and threatening the facility's ability to get federal funding in the future, according to state and federal health records and a national hospital accreditor. The 125-year-old North Side hospital, which is closing in the face of financial troubles, has been operating since at least July despite the violations, which include ineffective communication among staff and inadequate monitoring of patients. Separately, the Joint Commission made the rare move last week to deny Lincoln Park Hospital its seal of approval, the organization confirmed Tuesday. Lincoln Park officials a week ago said they had filed a letter of intent with the state to close the facility. The hospital discharged its last patient Thursday night, the state Health Department said, adding that

the closing plan was proceeding.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/chi-wed-lincoln-hospital-violatioct22,0,7857761.story>

32. *October 22, Myrtle Beach Sun News* – (South Carolina) **Standoff ends at Conway hospital.** A standoff that began Tuesday night outside the emergency room of the Conway Medical Center ended at 11:35 a.m. after police negotiated with an armed man who they described as rational and calm. The man parked his car in the space reserved for ambulances outside the emergency room between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday. After the man refused to move, hospital officials called police. The hospital is operating today at full service but is encouraging people to go to other nearby hospitals if they can. The parking lot outside of the emergency room area, at the rear of the hospital, remains closed. All ambulances and visitors are being routed through the front entrance. Hospital officials moved about 30 people in the emergency room away from the window and into the hallways and placed the hospital on lockdown for about six hours. The Myrtle Beach Police SWAT team was called in to handle negotiations.

Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/135/story/639681.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

33. *October 22, Bridgeton News* – (New Jersey) **Bomb threats cancel court.** Bridgeton, New Jersey, officials had to close municipal court Tuesday following two phoned-in threats directed at the judge Wednesday afternoon, according to police. The threatening calls were received at the county 911 center at 1:14 and 2:13 p.m., according to police. City hall was evacuated and searched by a Cumberland County Sheriff's Department K-9 both times. The first call included a threat against the judge, while the second informed authorities that the first call was not a hoax. Police believe the same person may have made both calls and have identified a "solid suspect."
- Source: <http://www.nj.com/bridgeton/index.ssf?/base/news-3/122465583086590.xml&coll=10>
34. *October 22, KSBW 8 Salinas* – (California) **Prescribed burns to take place on Fort Ord.** The military plans to conduct another round of prescribed burns at Fort Ord beginning Thursday. A burn five years ago in October got out of control and frayed many nerves on the Central Coast. This time, the Army said it wants to burn about 400 acres on the seaside edge of the Army base. The week's main focus is Unit No. 3, a 137-acre area, where lots of heavy ammunition may be buried. About three helicopters will torch the area, and after the burn, surface removal teams will extract any leftover ordnance, mostly bazookas. If all goes well with Unit No. 3, the Army said it may conduct controlled burns in the unit next to it and two other sections in the northeastern part of the impact area.
- Source: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/17776042/detail.html>
35. *October 21, Niagara Gazette* – (New York) **Residents want school board to address chemical waste.** A handful of residents want the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education to

put more pressure on federal agencies responsible for monitoring and cleaning chemical waste around the school district. With new action on the horizon that would expand Chemical Waste Management's capacity at its Porter landfill and possibly create a second landfill, a group of concerned residents said Tuesday the board's time to speak up is fast approaching. More testing is needed to determine how contamination from the former Manhattan Project storage affects the school district, the head of Residents for Responsible Government said, noting a September 8 letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Army Corps recommended additional off-site testing to gauge how far the contamination extends.

Source: [http://www.niagara-gazette.com/communities/local\\_story\\_295223232.html](http://www.niagara-gazette.com/communities/local_story_295223232.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

36. *October 22, News Austin* – (Texas) **Telephone fiber cut in Caldwell repaired.** The Office Emergency Communications said the cut fiber in Caldwell County has been repaired and all communication has been restored. Earlier Tuesday, AT&T reported of a fiber cut between Austin and Lockhart which effectively isolated the City of Lockhart communications. Citizens from the City of Lockhart were advised to call an alternative phone number in the event of an emergency to a dispatcher. Emergency calls made in Caldwell County were rerouted to the Hays County Sheriff's Office.

Source: [http://www.news8austin.com/content/your\\_news/default.asp?ArID=222525](http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=222525)

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## **Information Technology**

37. *October 22, VNUNet.com* – (International) **Risky behavior still looms large.** Many employees are continuing to behave in a way that puts company data at risk, according to a recent survey commissioned by Cisco. It asked a number of employees in the Americas, Europe and Asia about their general computing practices in comparison to their company's IT policies. The study found that potentially risky behavior, such as downloading files for personal use or deliberately modifying system security settings, remains prevalent. The numbers were highest in China and Brazil, while figures in the U.K. and U.S. were lower than the average. The survey found that IT administrators are generally aware of the problem, although few are worried about the risk of data loss. On average, 55 percent of IT decision makers believed that employees were running unapproved applications on company machines. However, 24 percent believe that unapproved programs did not account for any data leaks, while 53 percent believe that the behavior accounted for less than a quarter of leaks.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2228755/risky-behavior-looms-large>

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Communications Sector**

38. *October 22, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Video doesn't show helicopter crash but indicates warning lights were working on Aurora tower.** Video shot by a security camera confirms that the warning lights on a radio tower in Aurora were functioning last week when an emergency medical helicopter hit one of the structure's support wires and crashed, the chief investigator into the fatal accident said Tuesday. Authorities had hoped the camera, positioned at the Metra commuter parking lot at Illinois Highway 59, would have shown the Air Angels helicopter as it flew by last Wednesday night en route to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago from a hospital in Sandwich.  
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-chopper-video-22-oct22,0,6369795.story?track=rss>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

39. *October 21, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Man charged with causing huge fire in 2007.** A camper from Washington, D.C. has been indicted on charges of causing a wildfire that blackened nearly 120 square miles of forest in northeast Minnesota and Canada. The man, 64, is charged with three counts, including giving false information to a U.S. Forest Service officer. He camped on Ham Lake and started a trash fire on the morning of May 5, 2007, then left the fire unattended, the indictment says. The blaze lasted more than a week, blackening about 57 square miles of the Superior National Forest plus about 61 square miles in Ontario. It was rated Minnesota's most destructive forest fire since 1918. It damaged or destroyed some 140 structures worth about \$4 million on the Minnesota side, including 10 year-round homes, according to Forest Service figures, but nobody was killed or seriously injured. The maximum potential sentence on a count of setting timber afire would be five years in prison.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27310524/>

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## **Dams Sector**

40. *October 22, Los Angeles Times* – (Arizona; California; Nevada) **Construction of**

**Imperial Valley water reservoir begins.** Federal and state officials Tuesday began construction on a \$172.2-million reservoir that will store water from the Colorado River that otherwise would be “lost” to Mexico. The reservoir will mean more water for coastal Southern California, southern Nevada, and central Arizona — where water agencies have agreed to split the cost. For decades, the United States has allowed Mexico to receive more water from the Colorado River than it was assured under a 1944 treaty. The excess water came from those occasions when more water was surging down the river than Imperial Valley farmers could use. But with the region suffering a historic drought, the U.S. Interior Department took the lead in devising a project to capture excess water from the All-American Canal rather than allowing it to flow south of the border. The reservoir, scheduled to be completed in August 2010, is the second Imperial Valley project that will mean more water for the United States but less for Mexico.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-water22-2008oct22,0,5683412.story>

41. *October 21, WTHR 13 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Crews make emergency repairs to central canal.** A problem with the central canal could affect the water supply of several hundred thousand people. Workers are constructing a steel wall on part of the canal towpath behind Butler University. The dike that keeps the water in the canal was beginning to leak. Veolia Water uses the canal as a reservoir. The concern was that the water from the canal would drain out. “When you see weakening of the infrastructure, you see seepage that’s something that could happen down the line. We want to prevent it from happening in the future,” said a representative with Veolia Water. The scenic canal is an open water main to Indianapolis’ largest purification plant, supplying water for all of downtown Indianapolis — around 600,000 customers. The dike gave way in 1992 in the same area. A 40-foot section of the dike was washed out, draining the canal. Downtown Indianapolis temporarily lost its water supply.

Source: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=9213697&nav=9Tai>

42. *October 21, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Dulac could have new levee by 2009 hurricane season.** More than 7 miles of Dulac levee should be elevated by next year’s hurricane season, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official told the Terrebonne Parish Council Monday. Though the stretch — a combination of the Suzie Canal and Orange Street levees — is not considered a federal levee, it has to be built to Corps standards and will be 9 1/2 feet tall when finished. The presentation came on the heels of criticism from federal and local lawmakers that the Corps appears to be taking its time in using \$30 million that Congress set aside for local levees in 2006. So far, \$1.3 million to \$1.4 million has been spent on design and preparations.

Source:

[http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20081021/ARTICLES/810212946/1212?Title=Dulac could have new levee by 2009 hurricane season](http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20081021/ARTICLES/810212946/1212?Title=Dulac%20could%20have%20new%20levee%20by%202009%20hurricane%20season)

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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