



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 October 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to the New York Times, radio-frequency identification tags used in two new types of border-crossing documents in the United States are vulnerable to snooping and copying, a researcher said on Thursday. (See item [15](#))
- NewsFactor Network reports that, according to a national survey commissioned by Office Depot, 40 percent of small U.S. businesses admit they are not prepared for a disaster. One-third said they have no plans to prepare. (See item [37](#))

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 24, Associated Press* – (California) **San Francisco weighs takeover of electrical system.** Nearly a dozen times over the past century, San Francisco voters have rejected ballot measures to support a takeover of the city's privately run electrical system. But advocates of public power have not given up their goal of wresting control from Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and this year are linking support of the measure to combating global warming and securing energy independence. Proposition H would amend the city charter to require that San Francisco get 51 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar by 2017, 75 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2040. The ballot measure also would require the city's Public Utilities Commission to study ways to reach its clean energy goals, including a transition to a

municipal utility similar to those run by about 40 other California cities, including Los Angeles and Sacramento. The proposition would authorize the Board of Supervisors to issue revenue bonds to fund an acquisition of PG&E's San Francisco operations or construction of a new electrical system — depending on what the study finds. Under current state law, investor-owned utilities are required to generate 20 percent of their electricity from renewables by 2010, but PG&E and its counterparts in Southern California are expected to miss that target by at least three years, according to the California Public Utilities Commission.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i_x60e4vvz1waOw3a5onxM442jtQD940R72G0

2. *October 23, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (National) **Gulf of Mexico production slowly being restored after September hurricanes.** Energy producers in the Gulf of Mexico are slowly restoring production after hurricanes Gustav and Ike. More than 32 percent of all Gulf of Mexico production remains shut down in the aftermath of last month's storms, the Minerals Management Service reported Thursday afternoon. Roughly 33 percent of the Gulf's gas production also remains shuttered. Roughly 10 percent of the platforms in the Gulf remain evacuated because of the storms, but all of the drilling rigs have been fully restaffed.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2008/10/gulf_of_mexico_production_slow.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 23, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Power outage causes flaring at Norco plant.** Heavy flaring at the Shell Chemical plant in Norco, Louisiana, since Tuesday was thought to be caused first by a mechanical failure at the plant's olefins unit and later by a power outage to the facility Thursday, although the site supervisor on duty disagrees. The olefins unit, which makes a component used in plastics, went offline due to a mechanical failure but was back on line when a problem with the plant's power supply forced the shutdown of three of the plant's four boilers, which knocked the units offline again. The flaring process is a safety mechanism that involves burning off raw material in processing units when they shut down unexpectedly. Shell is in the process of restarting the gas olefins and the liquid olefins cracker units at the plant.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/10/power_outage_causes_flaring_at.html

See also:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aEgxm1MKGcVI&refer=energy>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *October 23, Agence France-Presse* – (Virginia) **Northrop Grumman, Areva to build**

U.S. nuclear parts plant. The U.S. defense group Northrop Grumman and French nuclear giant Areva said October 23 they have teamed up to manufacture nuclear reactor components in the United States to supply rising demand. The joint venture, Areva Newport News, with Areva as the majority owner, was forged to build a manufacturing and engineering facility that will make the heavy components for Areva's third-generation U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR). They said the new facility, to be built in Newport News, Virginia, would "supply the growing American nuclear energy sector."

Source: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5g76wBHRJ3-4iy5t9_037xrtaHBjg

5. *October 23, Gannett New Jersey* – (New Jersey) **NJ upset Oyster Creek did not report nuke problem fast enough.** A state official said that New Jersey is considering enforcement action against the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey, New Jersey, for failing to rapidly report an elevated level of radioactive tritium detected in storm water last month. Water from Tropical Storm Hanna accumulated in an excavation area at the plant, and initial test results on a puddle water sample revealed tritium, according to government and plant officials. An Oyster Creek spokesman explained that previous soil testing in the excavation area did not detect radiation and that the initial water sample was "analyzed incorrectly" and "inaccurately reflected" a trace amount of tritium. The plant is taking steps to ensure that the lab meets Exelon standards, the Oyster Creek spokesman said. According to a DEP letter, two tests of an initial sample of storm water taken on Sept. 8 revealed elevated levels of tritium and a subsequent sample had a low level. But the DEP hot line was not notified until 11 days later. State rules require discharges to be reported within 15 minutes.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081023/UPDATES01/810230344>

6. *October 24, Reuters* – (Mississippi) **Entergy Miss. Grand Gulf reactor at 1 pct power.** Entergy Corp's 1,266-megawatt Grand Gulf nuclear power station in Mississippi ramped up to 1 percent after shutting on October 23, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. Early October 23, the unit was operating at 15 percent as it prepared to exit a refueling outage. In the report, the company said the reactor automatically shut from 10 percent power due to the loss of feedwater flow after a reactor feed pump decreased to zero. Operators used the reactor core isolation cooling system to restore water level to within the normal band. All systems operated as designed to shut the reactor.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2450965220081024>

7. *October 24, Reuters* – (New York) **Constellation shuts NY Nine Mile 1 reactor.** Constellation Energy Group Inc shut the 621-megawatt Unit 1 at the Nine Mile Point nuclear power station in New York from full power on October 23, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The company shut the unit due to the loss of the electronic pressure regulator. In the report, the company said control room

operators observed slight reactor pressure rise during panel walk down. After investigating, operators determined the electronic pressure regulator was not functioning properly. After trying to fix the problem, the operators decided to shut the reactor. The company said it would take the unit to cold shutdown.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2453073820081024>

8. *October 24, Reuters* – (California) **Diablo Canyon reactors start back.** PG&E Corp's 1,118-megawatt Unit 2 at Diablo Canyon nuclear power station in California started to exit an outage, while the 1,122 MW Unit 1 returned to full power by early Friday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The company shut Unit 2 and reduced Unit 1 to about 50 percent power on Tuesday after jellyfish floated into and clogged the cooling water intake racks. Jellyfish had covered 80 percent of the area on racks used to keep ocean creatures out of the water used to cool Unit 2 and about 40 percent of the racks for Unit 1, the company said earlier in the week. Divers cleared the jellyfish off the racks.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2450595320081024>

9. *October 23, Salt Lake Tribune* – (National) **Legal roadblock aims to keep Brazilian nuclear waste from Utah.** No sooner was the proposal to store a shipment of radioactive wastes from Brazil in Utah's EnergySolutions Inc. landfill revealed publicly on October 22 than a regional oversight panel made clear its intentions to tell federal regulators the foreign waste would not be allowed at the site. Members of the eight-state group agreed to take a few more steps to make sure that the Salt Lake City nuclear waste company does not bury any more foreign waste at the specialized Utah landfill. Eastern Technologies, of Ashford, Alabama, applied for an import license from the NRC on July 16. The compact states were surprised when informed of the application last month and had not discussed it publicly until the October 22 meeting. The compact will tell the NRC that even though the amount of radiation that would be added to the Tooele County site is small, the import license should be rejected because EnergySolutions' contract with the Northwest Compact does not specifically allow waste generated in another country. Besides making sure that the waste can be imported safely, the NRC must ensure that any waste products have an approved place for disposal.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/polygamy/ci_10790733

10. *October 23, Mid-Hudson News* – (New York) **Three sirens malfunction in test of new IP alert system.** Only three of 172 sirens in the new Indian Point alarm system malfunctioned when tested on Wednesday. That is a success rate of 98.3 percent, above the 97 percent threshold set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. One siren each in Haverstraw, Fort Montgomery and Croton did not sound. This was the second of three tests of the new siren system required by the NRC this year. The third test will be held next month.

Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/October08/23/IP_siren_test-23Oct08.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *October 23, C4ISR Journal* – (National) **Surprise cancellation: Congress overrules Pentagon, intel chief on mapping sats.** Congress withdrew funding for two proposed satellites, known as the Space-based Imagery Collector, confirmed a spokesman for the Director of National Intelligence. The congressional action put lawmakers at odds with the U.S. Defense Secretary and Director of National Intelligence. On September 8, they gave the go-ahead for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to spend \$1.7 billion to build and launch two BASIC satellites by 2012. The two U.S. commercial imagery companies, GeoEye of Virginia and DigitalGlobe of Colorado, had argued they could provide the same imagery at lower cost. The deputy undersecretary of the Air Force for space had argued that BASIC would be an important addition to commercial imagery purchases. “We see BASIC being integrated with current operations more tightly than we could ever tie [commercial imagery],” he said. “These targets and operations will have operational security implications that the combatant commander may not be comfortable supporting with a commercial imagery purchase.” That argument did not gain traction among defense analysts, who responded that the NRO can get the same satellite imagery for less than half the cost by buying it from commercial satellite companies. U.S. agencies currently acquire imagery from about a dozen less sharp-eyed U.S. and foreign-owned commercial satellites.

Source: <http://www.c4isrjournal.com/story.php?F=3784874>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *October 24, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **SEC’s Cox backs merger of agency with CFTC.** The Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman said he strongly supports merging his agency with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. His endorsement came during a tense House Oversight Committee hearing where lawmakers sought to hold him, the former Federal Reserve chairman, and the former Treasury Secretary accountable for lax regulation leading up to the financial crisis. Congressional leaders are aiming to change oversight procedures. Appeals for merging the agencies have not led to substantive changes, partly because neither the Agricultural committee, who oversees the CFTC, nor the Banking and Finance committees who oversee the SEC, are willing to cede jurisdiction. The chairman of the SEC also suggested establishing a bipartisan task force to develop a future regulatory oversight structure.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122480710183665011.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

13. *October 24, CNN Money* – (National) **PNC to buy National City.** PNC announced Friday it would acquire regional bank National City in an all-stock deal worth \$5.2

billion. The sale would create the nation's fifth-largest U.S. bank based on deposits. Making the announcement before Friday's opening bell, Pittsburgh-based PNC said it would also get a capital injection from the government by selling \$7.7 billion worth of preferred stock as part of a federal program aimed at propping up the nation's banking system.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2008/10/24/news/companies/bank_stocks/index.htm?postversion=2008102409

14. *October 24, WDIV 4 Detroit* – (Kentucky; Michigan) **Scammers using DTE to steal customer's identity.** Police said people are getting a voice message telling them their DTE Energy bill is overdue and their electric service is about to get cut off. When customers return the call the automated voice asks the customers to state their Social Security number and other personal information after the tone. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has traced the 800 number to Kentucky. The operation has been shut down previously but has resurfaced.

Source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/17793838/detail.html>

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Transportation Sector

15. *October 23, New York Times* – (National) **Researchers find problems with RFID passport cards.** Radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) tags used in two new types of border-crossing documents in the United States are vulnerable to snooping and copying, a researcher said on Thursday. United States Passport Cards and enhanced driver's licenses (EDLs) issued by the U.S. Department of State and state of Washington contain RFIDs that can be scanned at border crossings without being handed over to agents. Both were introduced earlier this year for border crossings by land and water only, and cannot be used for air travel. The information in these tags could be copied on to another tag, which might be used to impersonate the legitimate holder of the card if Homeland Security agents at the border did not see the card itself, the researchers said. Another danger is that the tags can be read from as far as 150 feet away in some situations, so criminals could read them without being detected. Although the tags do not contain personal information, they could be used to track a person's movements through ongoing surveillance.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/external/idg/2008/10/23/23idg-Researchers-fin.html>

16. *October 23, Pegasus News* – (Texas) **Emergency demolition of SH 310 bridge in southeast Dallas is underway.** The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) has drafted an emergency contract with AUI Contractors, Inc. of Fort Worth, who began demolishing the SH 310 bridge over U.S. 175 at 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Demolition was necessary after TxDOT bridge engineers determined the bridge was damaged beyond repair following a fuel truck collision and explosion on Sunday, October 12. AUI Contractors, Inc. is expected to employ heavy equipment crushers and jack hammers to tear the bridge structure apart. All lanes of SH 310 will remain closed in both directions until the bridge can be rebuilt. TxDOT has set a deadline to reopen the main lanes of

U.S. 175 by October 31. Detour routes have been established and signed to assist motorists.

Source: <http://www.pegasusnews.com/news/2008/oct/23/emergency-demolition-sh-310-bridge-southeast-dalla/>

17. *October 22, National Transportation Safety Board* – (South Carolina) **NTSB issues update on business jet accident in South Carolina.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued an update as part of its ongoing investigation into a business jet crash at Columbia Metropolitan Airport in South Carolina. On September 19, 2008 a Learjet Model 60 overran runway 11 while departing Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE), Columbia. Tire debris and portions of airplane components were found along the 8,600 foot runway. The airplane continued beyond the runway blast pad and through the approximately 1,000 foot runway safety area while striking airport lighting, navigation facilities, a perimeter fence, and concrete marker posts. The airplane then crossed a roadway and came to rest where it struck an embankment on the far side of the road. Evidence of a fuel fire began on the airport side of the roadway. The two crewmembers and two of the four passengers were fatally injured; the other two passengers suffered serious injuries. The aircraft was destroyed by extensive post-crash fire.

Source: <http://www.nts.gov/Pressrel/2008/081022.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *October 24, WITN 7 Washington* – (North Carolina) **Courthouse open again after powdery substance found.** Authorities have reopened one courthouse in Eastern North Carolina after an envelope with powdery substance was found. It happened Thursday morning at the Lenoir County courthouse in downtown Kinston. Authorities secured the office, to where the envelope was delivered, and employees who had contact with the envelope were temporarily isolated. As a precaution, the courthouse was shut down, and nonessential personnel were kept out. The samples were sent for testing in Raleigh. The Lenoir County Health Department director says the first round of tests are complete and all came back negative for all contaminants for which they tested. He says a second round of testing is underway, and they should know later Friday what the powder is.

Source: <http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/33022474.html>

19. *October 24, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **2 smoke bombs found in mailbox of write-in candidate.** A write-in congressional candidate is offering a \$5,000 reward after his wife found two smoke bombs in the mailbox of their Todt Hill home in the afternoon of October 23. The candidate's wife said she found the smoke bombs — one green, one yellow — in her mailbox at about noon. She called the police, and officers from the Mid-Island's 122nd Precinct responded and took both devices. A New York Police Department spokesman referred to the devices as "unknown fireworks."

Source:

<http://www.silive.com/news/advance/index.ssf?/base/news/1224851414279690.xml&coll=1>

20. *October 24, KAAL 6 Austin* – (Minnesota) **Rochester hazmat team looks into white powder.** Around 9:30 this morning haz-mat trucks lined up at the front entrance of the Federal Medical Center. It happened after an employee came across an envelope and was able to see white powder through the plastic window. The facility was promptly secured while the haz-mat teams removed the suspicious “powder laced” letter out of the facility. Officials were unable to determine who the sender was or who the letter was addressed to because the writing on the envelope was “obscure.”
Source: <http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S630495.shtml?cat=10219>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *October 23, Pig Site* – (National) **USDA issues final rule on swine contractors.** USDA’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards (GIPSA) Administration is adding “swine contractors” to the list of regulated entities subject to specific regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act. GIPSA is amending the rules to clarify that swine contractors are prohibited from knowingly circulating misleading reports about market conditions or prices; are required to provide business information to authorized USDA personnel; and they are required to permit authorized USDA personnel to inspect their business records and facilities. In addition, GIPSA clarified that its agents and personnel are barred from unauthorized disclosure of business information obtained from swine contractors.
Source: <http://www.thepigsite.com/swinenews/19432/swine-contractors-subject-to-ps-act>
22. *October 23, Xinhua News* – (California) **Salmonella sickens dozens of people in Los Angeles.** A salmonella outbreak has sickened more than two dozen children and adults in the Los Angeles area, health officials said on Thursday. The outbreak was traced to a kitchen that supplies food to 29 preschools operated by the Volunteers of America of Greater Los Angeles, a faith-based nonprofit organization. County public health officials inspected the kitchen, which voluntarily closed at the end of last week and reopened Tuesday, said the president of the Volunteers of America of Greater Los Angeles. The first reported case was reported on October 15 and as of Thursday noon, there were 25 confirmed cases.
Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-10/24/content_10246048.htm

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Water Sector

23. *October 24, Daily Sentinel* – (Ohio) **EPA announces sewer system grant for Middleport.** Middleport has received a \$140,169 low-interest loan from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help plan long-term control of combined sewer overflows. Such overflows are a major cause of water pollution and can have adverse effect on human health, the EPA said. The loan itself will come from the Ohio

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. The village has submitted a long-term control plan for its combined sanitary and storm sewer system to the EPA. Work will include review of existing sewer and pumping system design, a survey of manholes, an inspection of sewers and a year-long monitoring of flow at multiple locations, as well as modeling of flow at the main interceptor and regulators in order to size a relief sewer and force main and improve a pump station. The actual cost of construction has been estimated at over \$1 million, and could take up to two years to complete. Preliminary work has already begun.

Source: <http://www.mydailysentinel.com/articles/2008/10/24/news/news01.txt>

24. *October 24, Plainview Herald* – (New York) **Water district takes additional safety measures to prevent contamination.** The Plainview Water District Commissioners recently announced the district’s plan to install nitrate gauges to monitor various plant sites. “The District is always willing to research and add technologies that will protect our water supply and prevent contamination. We will continue to aggressively monitor our water supply to ensure that the people of Plainview always receive the cleanest and most reliable drinking water possible,” stated the Water District chairman. The Plainview Water District plans to install nitrate gauges as a precautionary measure. These gauges detect and measure the level of nitrates. Once the level rises to exceed health standards, the gauges trigger a series of actions that automatically shut the well down. When a well is shut down by the system, an emergency message is automatically forwarded through the District’s computer SCADA system notifying our employees to take action. With the ability to adjust nitrate gauges to read levels below required standards, the District can detect and prevent contamination ahead of time.

Source:

<http://www.antonnews.com/plainviewoldbethpageherald/2008/10/24/news/maxie.html>

25. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Seaside fined because sewage entered river.** The state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) fined the city of Seaside \$10,000 because untreated sewage entered the Necanicum River. The failure of a monitoring system to alert workers at a Seaside pump station caused 1,000 gallons of effluent to be discharged into the river. The city manager said this week that Seaside would appeal. The DEQ fined the city of Cannon Beach \$1,365 for a discharge of 85,000 gallons of untreated sewage into the ocean July 19. That spill was caused by an improperly installed alarm at a pump station, and occurred the same day as the Seaside spill.

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-27/1224814450302480.xml&storylist=orlocal>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *October 24, Ventura County Star* – (California) **Flu shot clinic doubles as public health drill.** The Ventura County Public Health Department held a flu shot clinic Thursday that was doubly successful, officials said, vaccinating hundreds of people while showing that the county could handle a serious outbreak. “This looks like a regular old flu clinic, but it really is an exercise for us to demonstrate our readiness in

case of a public health emergency,” said the department’s emergency preparedness manager. Every year, the county holds a public health drill by inviting the general public in for free flu shots. That allows the Public Health Department to see if it would be prepared to distribute vaccines or antibiotics to thousands of people in the event of an influenza outbreak, anthrax attack, or other public health crisis.

Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/oct/24/flu-shot-clinic-doubles-as-public-health-drill/>

27. *October 24, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Up to 50 teens exposed to HIV at Missouri high school.** Officials refused to give details on who the person was or how as many as 50 students at Normandy High School in suburban St. Louis might have been exposed to HIV, but the district is consulting with national AIDS organizations as it tries to minimize the fallout and prevent the infection — and misinformation — from spreading. The St. Louis County Health Department said last week that a positive HIV test raised concern that students at Normandy might have been exposed. The department is not saying whether the infected person was a student or connected with the school, only that the person indicated as many as 50 students may have been exposed.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,443715,00.html>

28. *October 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Man in Fresno hospital contracts Legionnaires’.** Officials said Wednesday that a 26-year-old man hospitalized with a bacterial skin infection came down with the severe form of pneumonia while housed in the west wing of the hospital. Testing found Legionella present in the hospital’s water system. Hospital officials flushed all lines with 180-degree water. They plan to install a special water filter system by the end of the week. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control says Legionnaires’ infects between 8,000 and 18,000 people in the U.S. annually, about a quarter of them while hospitalized.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10795525

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *October 24, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Fort Ord burn is called off.** Plans for a prescribed burn on the former Fort Ord have been cancelled because of weather conditions. A 140-acre prescribed burn near Del Rey Oaks was scheduled to start October 23, but hot weather and very low humidity created too many potential problems for containing the fire, according to the U.S. Army. The fire has been postponed until further notice.

Source: <http://thecalifornian.com/article/20081024/NEWS01/810240331/1002>

30. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Air tests set for 7 Hill Air Force Base buildings.** The air inside seven buildings at Hill Air Force Base will be tested for contaminants that might be seeping up from the soil. The tests will be looking for evidence of 2 chemicals used in degreasing solvents. The soil and groundwater near the buildings were contaminated years ago. Environmental engineers are trying to determine whether vapors from the chemicals are migrating up through the soil into the buildings,

where they could be inhaled by employees. Air sampling is scheduled to start November 3 with results expected in early December. Drinking water sources at the base have not been affected by the contamination.

Source: http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=9227551&nav=menu554_2_3

31. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Bomb found at Florida high school, two students arrested.** Police bomb dogs were called in after one student reported seeing another with a suspicious device. A police spokeswoman says they found what they describe as a “stinger” — a carbon dioxide cartridge filled with gunpowder and apparently rigged to explode. The device did not detonate and no one was injured. The students, both juveniles, are being questioned. Classes resumed in the afternoon after a three-hour lockdown.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,443809,00.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *October 24, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **A failure to communicate.** Officials said A new study by a George Mason University professor entitled “Using Sense-Making and Co-orientation to Rank Strategic Public Communication in State Emergency Operations Plans” claims that states have been remiss in communicating emergency plans to the public. Nearly half of U.S. states either have no state-level emergency plan or do not provide it readily to the public, according to the study, which graded and ranked the state emergency operations plans of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia on their communication components. The report found that despite federal laws that require a state emergency operations plan (EOP) as a prerequisite to some federal funding, 22 states were unable to provide the report’s author with an EOP, withheld the plan on security grounds or made it difficult for even trained researchers to gain access.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/5753/149/>

33. *October 23, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy* – (National) **ACIP opens door to anthrax shots for first responders.** The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has opened the door to voluntary anthrax vaccination for first responders, revising an 8-year-old recommendation against that step. The committee said the risk of anthrax exposure for emergency responders is low but “may not be zero,” and therefore first-responder agencies may want to offer the vaccine on a voluntary basis, according to information supplied by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Thursday. The CDC routinely adopts the ACIP’s recommendations.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/anthrax/news/oct2308anthrax-jw.html>

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Information Technology

34. *October 23, IDG News* – (International) **Attack code for critical Microsoft bug surfaces.** Just hours after Microsoft posted details of a critical Windows bug, a new attack code that exploits the flaw has surfaced. It took developers of the Immunity security testing tool two hours to write their exploit, after Microsoft released a patch for the issue Thursday morning. Software developed by Immunity is made available only to paying customers, which means that not everyone has access to the new attack, but security experts expect that some version of the code will begin circulating in public very soon. Microsoft took the unusual step of rushing out an emergency patch for the flaw October 23, two weeks after noticing a small number of targeted attacks that exploited the bug. The vulnerability was not publicly known before October 23; however, by issuing its patch, Microsoft has given hackers and security researchers enough information to develop their own attack code.

Source: <http://www.itworld.com/windows/56655/attack-code-critical-microsoft-bug-surfaces>

See also: <http://www.siliconrepublic.com/news/article/11662/cio/microsoft-releases-critical-patch-trojan-virus-on-the-loose>

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

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *October 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Wildfire near LA's Getty museum contained.** A wildfire burned 100 acres of brush and grass near the world-famous Getty art museum before it was doused early Thursday without causing any damage or injuries, fire officials said. Nearby Interstate 405 was closed for about four hours but reopened at six a.m., as the morning rush was getting underway. The fire erupted around 12:50 a.m. on a steep urban hillside about two miles from the Getty Center. The Center was closed for the day as a precaution, and nearby Mount St. Mary's College canceled morning classes. About 400 firefighters and eight water-dropping helicopters fought the flames for about seven hours before the blaze was declared knocked down at 8:16 a.m. Crews were expected to remain at the museum throughout the day to douse any

remaining embers that could flare up if dry, hot Santa Ana winds returned. The museum is about 10 miles west of downtown Los Angeles.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081024/ap_on_re_us/wildfires;_ylt=Aqq6rYn.GibYVJq7HbbkZIRvzwcF

36. *October 23, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Powder found at Starbucks not harmful.** A Scottsdale Starbucks reopened Thursday after authorities determined that the white powder an employee found inside a roll of coins was not toxic. According to a police spokesman, the evacuation of the coffee shop was a precaution until hazmat crews determined what the substance was. “It was a sufficient quantity where the employee was suspicious,” the police spokesman said. “But there is no indication that this was an intentional threat of any kind.” None of the three employees who were exposed to the powder showed any symptoms of illness.

Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/17786800/detail.html#->

37. *October 23, NewsFactor Network* – (National) **Small firms are unprepared for disaster.** According to a national survey, 40 percent of small U.S. businesses admit they are not prepared for a disaster. One-third said they have no plans to prepare. The survey of 5,000 small business professionals, commissioned by Office Depot, did show that small businesses located in natural disaster-prone regions (coastal areas or the Midwest) are far more inclined to prepare for disasters. But nationally speaking, a full 25 percent of business owners said they would rather deal with a disaster when it occurs than get ahead of a potential problem.

Source: http://www.newsfactor.com/news/Small-Firms-Unprepared-for-Disaster/story.xhtml?story_id=113003OSW9AA

38. *October 23, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Idaho) **Downtown streets reopened after suspicious suitcase removed.** Several blocks in downtown Boise were closed due Wednesday afternoon after a suspicious suitcase found in front of Idaho’s tallest building. A bomb-sniffing dog was brought in and police took the steps to clear the area. Two store fronts directly across from the discovery were evacuated, but the greater US Bank tower was not. Streets surrounding the area were shut down and pedestrian traffic was also limited in the area. The suitcase was placed in an explosive resistant container and taken away by the Boise Police Bomb Squad to an undisclosed location where it was later determined that the brown leather suitcase did not contain any dangerous items. It is very likely that the suitcase had in the past carried something of an explosive or firearms nature.

Source: http://www.ktvb.com/news/nearyou/boise/ktvbn-oct2208-roads_cleared.13b121e22.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

39. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Repairs cut leakage from Wenatchee reservoir.** Leakage from a 4-million-gallon water reservoir in Wenatchee has been drastically reduced by a bit of repair work. The underground Okanogan Reservoir, built in 1930 and covering nearly an acre, had been leaking about 74 million gallons of water per year into the ground, or 140 gallons per minute. The city hired Advanced Construction of Mukilteo to seal 6,000 linear feet of cracks that had developed between the concrete slabs that line the reservoir. That is expected to reduce leakage by up to 90 percent.

Source:

http://www.montanastation.com/Global/story.asp?S=9230874&nav=menu227_8

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