



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 October 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to Defense News, all 636 F/A-18 Hornets flown by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps are being inspected for possible cracks in a wing flap hinge, the Navy said October 24. (See item [10](#))
- CNN reports that two students were killed and another person was wounded in a shooting at the University of Central Arkansas on Sunday evening. The shooting prompted a campus lockdown and the cancellation of Monday classes. (See item [25](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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 27, Grand Forks Herald* – (North Dakota) **After Fargo house explosion, Xcel to replace brand of pipe statewide.** Xcel Energy says it will replace the brand of pipe blamed in a Fargo house explosion last month from its North Dakota natural gas system by 2010 or sooner. Xcel’s principal manager for North Dakota told the state’s Public Service Commission in a letter Thursday that Xcel will replace the pipe made by Century Utility Products Inc. “as part of its regular maintenance process.” Xcel plans to start replacing the 13.5 miles of gas main and approximately 1,300 service lines to homes and businesses next year, according to a news release posted on the utility’s Web site Friday. An Xcel spokeswoman said Monday that the lines lie within the utility’s Fargo and Grand Forks service areas. She said she did not have details yet on how much

the replacement project will cost. The federal government issued a bulletin in 1999 warning that Century pipe installed from 1970 to 1973 “may fail in service due to its poor resistance to brittle-like cracking.” The underground pipe serving the twinhome unit in south Fargo that exploded on September 2 was manufactured by Century in 1972, according to Xcel’s report to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The report cites a material defect in the pipe as the apparent cause of the incident.

Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/articles/rss.cfm?id=91000>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

2. *October 27, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Gas explosion at Exelon Ill. nuke plant outbuilding.** A gas explosion rocked an outbuilding near Exelon Corp.’s Quad Cities nuclear power plant in Illinois early Monday, the company said in a release. There were no injuries to plant personnel, no damage to equipment, and at no time was there any concern for the health and safety of the public, the company said, adding there was no radiological release. In an event report to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the company said the cause of the explosion appeared to be related to a buildup of some kind of hydrocarbon gas. Both Quad Cities reactors continued to operate at full power. The outbuilding, about 100 yards from the power generating portion of the plant, houses a rarely used tank and pump for storing floor drainage from the plant. Plant operators were investigating the cause of the blast. The explosion prompted the company to declare an “unusual event,” which is the lowest of the NRC’s emergency classifications.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2731817120081027>
3. *October 27, Reuters* – (New York) **Constellation NY Nine Mile 1 reactor exits outage.** Constellation Energy Group Inc.’s Unit 1 at the Nine Mile Point nuclear power station in New York exited an outage and ramped up to 25 percent power by early October 27, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The company shut the unit on October 23 due to the loss of the electronic pressure regulator.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2730780020081027>
4. *October 25, Bay City Tribune* – (Texas) **Security scare at STP diffused.** Two unrelated incidents caused a scare at South Texas Project (STP) the afternoon of October 23 that had plant security and Matagorda County Sheriff’s officers working quickly to diffuse

the situations. Coincidentally, within a time span of 10 minutes, an unidentified aircraft was detected flying in the vicinity of the plant, and a man was seen walking in the nuclear support center area carrying a rifle case. According to STP's director of corporate communications and public affairs, the first incident occurred around 1:30 p.m. when a small aircraft was detected flying in the vicinity of the plant. The plane was not submitting a proper transponder code, which caused plant security officers to dispatch an F-16 fighter jet from Ellington Field to escort the plane back to Ellington Field, said the director. Federal investigators are handling the case, and it is still unknown as to what the plane was doing in the area of STP. Around 1:40 p.m. two separate employees spotted a man walking in the employee parking lot carrying a rifle case. Plant security identified the man, searched the rifle case and the man's vehicle, and never found a weapon. The director said the man was a plant employee and it is unknown why he had the empty gun case — possibly because hunting season is nearing. "The good news is we have a very security conscious environment here at STP and not one, but two, employees spotted the man and contacted security," the director said. Source: <http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2008/10/26/f-16-escorts-plane-in-vicinity-of-south-texas-project-nuclear-plant/>

5. *October 25, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Davis-Besse radioactive leak is fixed: NRC says water in area is safe to use and drink.** Radioactive tritium was found leaking from a drainage pipe at FirstEnergy Corp.'s Davis-Besse nuclear plant north of Oak Harbor, Ohio, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said October 24. Businesses and homeowners near the plant, though, can continue using their water, an agency spokesman said. FirstEnergy rerouted the drainage pipe, and the utility is in the process of pinpointing the leak and fixing it, she said. Monitoring wells show the radioactive, watery material has not migrated off the Davis-Besse complex, she said. It was not clear how the leak occurred. The agency was notified of the leak shortly before midnight October 24 by FirstEnergy, 32 hours after a utility crew discovered the problem at 4 p.m. October 23. The state of Ohio and officials from Lucas and Ottawa counties were notified at 9 a.m. October 24, according to a report FirstEnergy filed with the NRC. The leak was discovered during fire-protection equipment inspections. It is not known how long the pipe has been leaking. FirstEnergy's report, based largely on the condition of the pipe, said the volume of leakage is "conservatively assumed to be more than 100 gallons, but this cannot be quantified at this time." Recent laboratory tests on samples from 30 monitoring wells at the complex are being expedited to see whether it can be determined when the leak began. Source: http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2738020.html
6. *October 24, Reuters* – (Pennsylvania) **FirstEnergy shut Pa. Beaver Valley 2 reactor for work.** FirstEnergy Corp. shut Unit 2 at the Beaver Valley nuclear power station in Pennsylvania on Friday to complete repairs on a low head safety injection pump, a plant spokesman said. He said the company expected the unit to remain shut for a couple of days. During the outage, workers will take advantage of the shutdown to conduct other projects in addition to the pump work. In a report to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the company said it removed the pump from service for routine preventative maintenance on October 19. Technical specifications require the pump

return to service within 72 hours. On October 20, during maintenance, the pump shaft was unable to be rotated by hand after about three-quarters revolution. On October 22, the company asked the NRC for another 36 hours to complete the repairs. The NRC agreed to the request. But, since unexpected difficulties delayed the pump reassembly, the company decided to proactively shut the unit beginning at 6 p.m. on October 23.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2444228820081024>

7. *October 24, Reuters* – (Michigan) **AEP to give Cook reactor return timeline in Nov.** American Electric Power Co. Inc. (AEP) said it will not be able to estimate the time needed to repair a Michigan nuclear reactor shut by fire for at least another month. Unit 1 at the Cook nuclear station shut September 20 after vibrations, likely caused by a broken low pressure turbine blade, damaged the main turbine, AEP said in a release. The vibration caused a hydrogen leak, resulting in a fire in the main generator that caused minimal damage to the facility. On October 24, AEP said disassembly of the main turbine of Unit 1 has been completed so that turbine rotors and other major components could be shipped to manufacturers for engineering analysis and repair. The company expects to issue a timeline for the unit's return to service, along with cost estimates for the repairs, by late November, according to a release.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2439663920081024>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 27, Air Force Times* – (National) **A-10s, pilots may be moved to accommodate groundings.** With more than one-third of Air Force A-10 Thunderbolts grounded because of wing cracks, the service is considering temporarily reassigning aircraft and even reassigning airmen. The groundings began October 3, when orders went out not to fly 127 jets that were built with “thin wings” until the wings had been checked and repaired, if needed. The number of grounded A-10s is likely to grow as more aircraft are inspected for cracks near the main landing gear. A Warthog subject matter expert with Air Combat Command headquarters said the full extent of the wing problems will not be known until end of October, when inspections are completed. Grounding the entire fleet is not anticipated. According to the Ogden Air Logistics Center in Utah, which oversees the health of all 356 Thunderbolts, 65 jets were grounded as of Wednesday awaiting inspections, and 96 were grounded awaiting repairs. The initial grounding had the greatest impact on active-duty units in the U.S., where about 50 percent of the A-10s could not be flown, according to information from the units and Ogden. Of the remaining Warthogs, 48 were inspected and returned to flight, and an additional 147 A-10s with a differently designed “thick wing” were deemed flyable but faced later inspections once all the “thin wing” A-10s are checked. Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/10/airforce_a10_update_102708/

9. *October 27, Associated Press* – (National) **Charges filed on 26 protesters near Lewis.** Thurston County, Washington, prosecutors have filed misdemeanor charges against 26 of the 42 anti-war demonstrators who were arrested at the Port of Olympia protesting Fort Lewis-Iraq war shipments. Each of the 26 was charged Friday with one count of attempted disorderly conduct and one count of obstructing a law enforcement officer. For one week in November, protesters blocked shipments of Stryker vehicles and other military cargo from the Port of Olympia to Fort Lewis. The military equipment was used in the Iraq war.
Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/10/ap_portprotesters_102508/
10. *October 24, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Navy inspecting Hornet fleet.** All 636 F/A-18 Hornets flown by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps are being inspected for possible cracks in a wing flap hinge, the Navy said October 24. The problem affects only A through D models of the Hornet strike fighter, and not F/A-18 E and F Super Hornets. The Hornets are not being grounded, said a Navy spokesman at the Pentagon. But each aircraft will need its flap hinges inspected before being flown more than an additional 15 hours. The issue came to light during a post-flight maintenance inspection by Marine Strike Fighter Squadron 224 (VMFA-224), a Beaufort, South Carolina-based squadron that flies the two-seat F/A-18D. Cracks were discovered in the VMFA-224 aircraft's aluminum outer wing panel outboard aileron hinge, the Navy said in a statement. The inspection bulletin, number AYB-1249, was issued after 15 aircraft were found with the problem. Aircraft that fail the inspections will be grounded or flight-restricted until the problem is fixed. "We expect to have the majority of the legacy Hornet fleet inspected within a couple of weeks," said the Navy spokesman at the Pentagon. The outer wing panel outboard aileron hinge is a critical safety item part, according to the Navy. The Hornets were all manufactured by McDonnell Douglas, now a part of Boeing.
Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3787670&c=AME&s=AIR>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *October 27, Reuters* – (National) **Treasury: First 9 banks to get funds this week.** The U.S. Treasury will begin sending \$125 billion to the first nine banks to sign up for its capital program early this week, and is willing to listen to other industries seeking government assistance, a senior Treasury official said. The U.S. Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions told CNBC television that the Treasury executed final investment agreements with the nine banks on Sunday. He declined to rule out capital injections for insurers and other companies but said there were significant questions about how such investments would work and whether they were needed for financial stability.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE49Q3CU20081027>
12. *October 26, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Alpha will reopen as Stearns.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. officials spent the weekend combing through Alpha Bank's records so the institution can open Monday as Stearns Bank, said a

regional ombudsman with the deposit insurance company. Alpha was the third bank failure in Georgia to follow the real estate slump, mortgage meltdown and credit crunch. According to the FDIC, Alpha Bank had total assets of \$354.1 million and total deposits of \$346.2 million as of September. 30. Alpha also had approximately \$16.8 million in brokered deposits that were not part of Friday's transaction. The FDIC will pay the brokers directly for the amount of their insured funds, an FDIC news release said. Additionally, the news release said at the time of closing, there were approximately \$3.1 million in uninsured deposits held in approximately 59 accounts that potentially exceeded the insurance limits. This amount is an estimate that is likely to change once the FDIC obtains additional information from these customers.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/services/content/business/stories/2008/10/26/alpha.html>

13. *October 25, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Feds issue new identity theft recommendations.** The current administration issued its annual Identity Theft Task Force Report, including 31 recommendations for combating identity theft and fraud, and boasting of a 26 percent increase in identity theft convictions from 2007. The Task Force recommended that the government's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) take the lead in reviewing how federal agencies use Social Security numbers and issuing new recommendations for reducing or eliminating their use in everyday paperwork. The Justice Department also reported progress in identifying and prosecuting criminal groups that traffic in the "underground economy" of stolen credit cards and personal information, including members of the "Shadowcrew" identity theft cartel. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which is part of the Task Force, announced that it would be delaying implementation of the "red flags rules" for businesses to implement identity theft protection plans until May 1, 2009. Businesses covered by the rules included banks, mortgage lenders, telecommunications companies, auto dealerships, and many others.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/10/feds_idtheft_report.html

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Transportation Sector

14. *October 27, NewsDay* – (New York) **Bomb squad removes box at LIRR.** The Nassau County bomb squad and Metropolitan Transportation Authority police were investigating an unattended package spotted at the Farmingdale Long Island Rail Road station Sunday afternoon, officials said. Police responded to the station at about noon and evacuated a nearby apartment building, Nassau police said. Service was suspended on the LIRR's main line between Hicksville and Deer Park for about three hours. The box was removed by the Nassau bomb squad, officials said. Police and railroad officials did not provide any other details.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/crime/ny-sfdsd5899678oct27,0,5728163.story>

15. *October 27, WTVM 9 Columbus* – (Georgia) **Train derailment slows U.S. 80 traffic.** A train derailment led to traffic delays on U.S. 80 in eastern Muscogee County, Georgia. Ten cars of a freight train derailed about two miles east of the Pratt and Whitney plant,

about six miles from the Talbot County line. The wreck may have occurred as early as Sunday evening, but Georgia Department of Transportation workers gave no details at the scene Monday morning.

Source: <http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=9242866>

16. *October 26, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **NTSB bridge findings already criticized.** The National Transportation Safety Board is more than two weeks away from publicly announcing what caused the collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge, but already some of its findings are running into skepticism from the halls of Congress and those representing victims of the collapse. An article in the Star Tribune on Sunday said investigators believe that the bridge's original designers likely neglected to calculate the size of key gusset plates that eventually failed. Investigators also determined that corrosion of certain plates, extreme heat, and shifting piers did not contribute to the collapse, according to sources with direct knowledge of the probe.

Source:

http://www.startribune.com/politics/33340314.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUl

17. *October 26, Southern Illinoisan* – (Illinois) **Plane makes emergency landing at Southern Illinois Airport.** A small plane was forced to make an emergency landing Sunday at Southern Illinois Airport. The pilot and passenger walked away. The Cessna 172/RG owned by Southern Illinois University Carbondale took off about 10:30 a.m. on what is termed an administrative flight "to check the plane's operational systems," a SIUC spokesman said. It was piloted by a part-time flight instructor; a student also was on board. When the landing gear malfunctioned on one side, the pilot circled for more than an hour to burn up fuel, then made a power-off landing in a grassy area adjacent to a landing strip. No one was injured.

Source: http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2008/10/27/front_page/26426207.txt

18. *October 26, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **Federal report released on Jackson Airport.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has made 12 recommendations for improvements to security at Jackson-Evers International Airport. The recommendations come after a 2-year study into airport security problems. Federal officials would not offer specifics. Homeland Security's Inspector General began his inquiry following a series of stories published in 2006 by The Clarion-Ledger. Those stories detail problems at Jackson-Evers, including allowing the local mayor to bring firearms aboard commercial flights, tip-offs of undercover inspections and other security breeches.

Source: <http://www.wreg.com/Global/story.asp?S=9240545>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *October 27, Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Post office plans to privatize bulk mail.** Several Hudson County politicians plan to join postal union leaders today to protest plans by the United States Postal Service to privatize bulk mail centers across the country, which could eventually include one of the nation's largest in Jersey City. The

rally is scheduled to take place at noon at the New Jersey International and Bulk Mail Center in Jersey City. The center employs 2,400 people and has not been slated to be closed. But union officials believe it is one of 21 bulk mail centers around the nation that will eventually be privatized.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/jerseycity/index.ssf?/base/news-7/1225088743299340.xml&coll=3>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *October 27, Central Indiana Star Press* – (Indiana) **Health Dept: Sick food workers must stay home.** The Delaware County Health Department is starting to crack down on food establishments that lack a policy of excluding employees from work if they have any of five illnesses. “A recent informal survey revealed operators typically could not name any of the five reportable illnesses, or name the reportable symptoms,” the Indiana State Department of Health reports in its Winter 2008 newsletter Food Bytes. “Only a few could name any symptoms and perhaps name one reportable illness.” There has been an Indiana administrative code regulating food workers with diagnosed illnesses since 2000, but it is now just starting to be enforced. The purpose of the law is to reduce the likelihood that certain viral and bacterial agents will be transmitted from infected food workers to food. Any food employee who is diagnosed with one of the following five illnesses must be excluded from the food establishment: salmonella, shiga toxin-producing E. coli, shigella, hepatitis A or norovirus.

Source: <http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20081027/NEWS01/810270329/1002>

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Water Sector

21. *October 27, Glens Falls Post-Star* – (New York) **PCB project threatened.** Construction on a facility that will be the staging ground for one of the largest environmental cleanup projects in history has been finishing up work. The 110-acre site is at the center of the long-awaited PCB dredging project that is set to begin in May. Polychlorinated biphenyls, a possible carcinogen, were discharged into the Hudson River from the 1940s until the 1970s by General Electric Co. Congress banned the use of PCBs in 1977. Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and General Electric Co. have said they are confident the project, which has been delayed by legal and bureaucratic wrangling for decades, will start in the spring of 2009. But a growing chorus of local officials about 25 miles downriver could prevent the project from achieving its expected start date. In separate interviews with community officials from Halfmoon, Waterford and Stillwater, all were resigned to the idea that some sort of legal action will be taken to delay the project. The concern is that the dredging will disturb the river bottom, releasing the chemical and sending it into local drinking water. Residents in Halfmoon and Waterford receive their drinking water from the river. In the village of Stillwater, residents receive water from wells that draw from the river. The EPA is building a \$6 million waterline from Troy to service Halfmoon and Waterford.

Construction began on the 4-1/2 mile line last month and the EPA is hopeful it will be completed by spring.

Source: <http://www.poststar.com/articles/2008/10/27/news/local/14032912.txt>

22. *October 26, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **Discovery Bay may face fines over sewage spill.** Discovery Bay has been found in violation of several codes stemming from the handling of an approximately 94,000-gallon raw sewage spill into a town lake last summer. The six-page document, released last week from the Central Valley Regional Water Board, outlined 11 violations in areas under state and regional wastewater discharge requirements. Violations included reporting the spill 53 days after it occurred, instead of within five as mandated by the region; submitting an incomplete report; and failing to properly clean up wastewater debris in the spill area. In mid-July, a power failure caused raw sewage to back up overnight when pumps failed to turn back on. As a result, about 94,000 gallons spilled into the 37-million gallon lake in The Lakes community. Days after the spill, several residents complained that it was not properly communicated to area residents. The investigation found that pumps backed up because the Southwest operator failed to manually turn them back on after a power outage shut them off. The operator also failed to spot an alarm supposedly flashing on the same computer screen he used to check sewage levels of the pump.
Source: http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2739478.html
23. *October 25, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma; Texas) **Dallas joins fight to buy water from Oklahoma.** The Dallas City Council has approved an agreement with other north Texas entities to pressure the state of Oklahoma into selling them water. The council has joined forces with the Tarrant Regional Water District, which is suing Oklahoma over a moratorium passed by the legislature that bars the sale of water until a comprehensive study assessing the state's long-term needs is completed. The district, which includes Fort Worth, wants Oklahoma to build an extensive pipeline network and transport water from southeastern Oklahoma across the Red River. Texas officials say that if they succeed through the courts, Oklahoma could be forced to give, rather than sell, water to Texas. Currently, water is being piped from southern Oklahoma to Oklahoma City, which has provided the pipeline to transport the water but not paid for it. If the Texas lawsuit is successful, it could force Oklahoma to treat out-of-state customers the same as it does in-state customers. Texas would have to pay only for building a pipeline, which would cost tens of millions of dollars.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6077818.html>
24. *October 25, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **District flushes use of chlorine at wastewater facility.** To eliminate rail shipments of chlorine — which carry with them the danger that a terrorist attack or accidental derailment could unleash a poisonous cloud of gas — the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District is in the final stage of switching to safer chemicals for its disinfection process. For years, Metro Wastewater has used chlorine to disinfect effluent before it is discharged into the South Platte River. Now, the district has constructed a new process that instead uses 12.5 percent liquid sodium hypochlorite, a concentrated form of household bleach, as the disinfection chemical. Metro Wastewater, which serves about 1.6 million people in the Denver area, has long brought railroad tank

cars, each containing as much as 90 tons of pressurized, liquified chlorine gas, into its facility. In 2004, the White House Homeland Security Council found that a terrorist attack leading to rupture of a rail tank car containing chlorine could kill as many as 17,500 people and hospitalize up to 100,000 if it occurred in an urban area, according to a Government Accountability Office report issued last year.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_10811288

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

Nothing to report

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *October 27, CNN* – (Arkansas) **2 dead in Arkansas campus shooting; one suspect in custody.** Two students were killed and another person was wounded in a shooting at the University of Central Arkansas on Sunday evening, according to a hospital spokesman. The shooting, which happened outside a dorm, prompted a campus lockdown and the cancellation of Monday classes. One person was detained for questioning but has not been arrested according to a spokesman for the campus police. Faculty and students were called and e-mailed through an automated system after 9:30 p.m. Sunday about the shooting. The messages urged them to stay inside and lock doors, according to The Associated Press. It was first time the system had been used since the university purchased it after the Virginia Tech massacre last year.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/10/27/arkansas.shootings/>

26. *October 26, Ann Arbor News* – (Michigan) **Teen faces charges in bomb case.** A 17-year-old Saline High School student faces three felony charges of possessing explosives and building a bomb with the intent to threaten people or property. The student of Saline Township was arraigned Saturday at the Washtenaw County Jail. Police found a bomb and explosives at his home. Police learned in interviews with students that the student had threatened to harm other students and the school building, and one student said he had seen some explosives that he had.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/annarbornews/index.ssf?/base/news-29/122500328736030.xml&coll=2>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *October 27, Government Technology* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania E-911 wireless fails performance audit, says auditor general.** Pennsylvania's Auditor General recommended Monday that the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) improve its administration of the statewide Wireless E-911 Emergency Services

Program, after a special performance audit determined that a fully operational statewide system was not in place by June 30, 2008. Auditors found that 11 of 69 call centers could not pinpoint the location of cell-phone users placing emergency 911 calls as of June 30, even though PEMA had invested \$214 million to build the system during the past 3 1/2 years. The funds were derived from a \$1 monthly surcharge the wireless service providers collected from Pennsylvania cell-phone customers. Auditors determined that inadequate staffing played a central role in the program's shortcomings, including PEMA's inability to make sure that the \$214 million in funding had been disbursed prudently to county call centers.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/424406>

28. *October 26, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Cell phone usage causes higher 911 call volume.** Some parts of the Washington, D.C., area have seen a jump in 911 calls as more people use their cell phones to report emergencies. District of Columbia officials say increasing wireless calls have pushed the total volume of 911 calls from 819,000 in 2004 to 1.3 million last year. In Loudoun County, 911 calls rose from 69,000 in 2000 to 98,000 in 2006. Since 2000, annual wireless 911 calls in Fairfax County have risen from 180,000 to 268,000. That has prompted the county to beef up call center staffing from 154 to 204— yet it's still understaffed. Local spending on 911 services also has gone up from almost \$2 million to more than \$10 million. The growing demand for language translation is adding other pressures to call centers. In Fairfax last year, dispatchers serviced more than 17,000 calls in foreign languages, requiring interpretation of 66 languages.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-dc--emergencydispatch1026oct26,0,5784720.story>

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Information Technology

29. *October 26, redOrbit* – (International) **Hackers exploit Microsoft bug.** Just one day after Microsoft distributed a rare emergency security patch, hackers have found new ways to exploit the bug. Security researchers identified a new worm called Gimmiv on October 24 after a hacker had posted an early sample of code that could be used to take advantage of the flaw on the Internet. Since the bug could be used to create an Internet worm attack, Microsoft issued the patch more than two weeks ahead of its next security update. In fact, the software giant said it had already witnessed a small number of attacks that exploited the flaw. According to a New York Times report, the vulnerability lies in the Windows Server service used to connect with other devices on networks. And while the Windows firewall software will block the worm from spreading, experts worry the flaw could be used to spread infections between machines on a local area network (LAN), which are typically not protected by firewalls. That is precisely what the Gimmiv worm intends to do, said a Symantec senior research manager. Both Symantec and McAfee said October 24 that they had only seen a very small number of attacks based on Gimmiv. However, Symantec reported a 25 percent jump in network scans searching for vulnerable machines beginning the evening of October 23. The searches could signal that more attacks are on the way, Symantec said.

Source:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/1592921/hackers_exploit_microsoft_bug/

30. *October 24, WGBA 26 Green Bay* – (National) **Better Business Bureau warns of e-mail scam.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) warns of a computer virus scam. The scammers are posing as the BBB asking you to register for software or to update your information. The scammers pick credible agencies like the BBB to gain trust. On the morning of October 24, the scammers sent out a massive attack preying on people's e-mail. They altered their mail message to match the BBB, but more than five million e-mails did not go through and bounced back to the BBB office. That is how the BBB knew the scammers sent out a massive attack on consumers. This is a new scam, but the BBB hopes that by warning consumers early they will prevent them from becoming a victim.

Source: <http://www.nbc26.com/Global/story.asp?S=9236395>

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

31. *October 26, WJLA 8 District of Columbia* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious briefcase at American University harmless.** A suspicious briefcase at American University that prompted evacuations of several campus buildings and cancellation of events turned out to be harmless. University officials say the briefcase was found in the Sports Center garage Saturday night amid the school's alumni weekend activities. Buildings such as Bender Arena were evacuated, shuttle buses were rerouted, and dining services were impacted as authorities investigated. An event featuring three former presidential press secretaries also was called off. District of Columbia police detonated the briefcase and found video equipment inside. The owner of the briefcase later said it had fallen from the top of his car when he was driving away.

Source: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/1008/564557.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

32. *October 26, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Markets fall, trees don't, raising risk of wildfires.** Wallowa-Whitman National Forest managers are concerned as the housing construction market continues to stagnate. The decreased demand for wood products means that mills are struggling and, in some cases, closing. Without them, the forest supervisor for the past four years explains that forests, already at a high risk for wildfires, could become even denser. He continued: "Suppressing wildfires gets more expensive every year and takes a larger portion of our budget every year. We were at a point this summer where the Forest Service is spending \$10 million a day suppressing fires across the country. It could have been worse, but in the Pacific Northwest, we had a rather quiet fire season." He says that the closing of mills in the area has decreased the amount of incoming revenue which would be used to support the costs of suppressing wild fires.

Source:

<http://www.oregonlive.com/business/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/business/1224903308117110.xml&coll=7>

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Dams Sector

33. *October 26, Pittsburg Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Mon River dam project likely to balloon to \$1.5B.** An Army Corps of Engineers project to rebuild locks and dams on the lower Monongahela River might cost twice as much and take three times longer to complete than initially estimated, officials concede. The \$750 million project that began in 1995 and was to be finished in 2004 has morphed into a delayed effort that will not be finished until at least 2022 at a cost of \$1.5 billion, said the project's manager. The Corps identifies many of the aging locks and dams as "critically near failure" or "highly unreliable." Repairs to the dams and locks are paid from the federal Inland Waterways Trust Fund and congressional appropriations to the Army Corps of Engineers. To keep the district's locks and dams operating, workers have had to perform maintenance "Band-Aids" on an as-needed basis for decades, said a Corps spokesman. A lock wall or dam collapse at one of the 23 locks and dams in the district, which stretches from western New York into West Virginia, becomes more likely every year and is "potentially catastrophic," said the executive director of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_595272.html

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