



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 November 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- The Associated Press reports that a part-time assistant harbor master on Cape Cod has been charged by federal authorities with pretending to be an armed federal agent so he could bypass security at Logan International Airport in Massachusetts. (See item [11](#))
- According to eWeek, Google says GeekCondition.com’s claims about a Gmail vulnerability are incorrect. The issue is just an example of a successful phishing attack targeting Web domain owners, Google says. (See item [29](#))

**DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

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

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

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

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. *November 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Climate crisis energizes radical environmentalists.** Grassroots group Rising Tide North America disdains collaboration between the Big 10 environmental groups and elite corporations, as well as the view that technology can save the environment. The protest at Dominion’s North Anna Nuclear Power Station in Virginia — which is seeking to build a new reactor — was the latest stunt organized by Rising Tide. Rising Tide came to the United States in 2006 when a group of activists involved in Earth First!, one of the earliest groups to use in-your-face tactics such as tree sitting and blocking roads with human chains, decided that more attention needed to be paid to global warming. Small cells have spread across the country in Asheville, North Carolina, Boston, Massachusetts, Portland, Oregon, and

more recently Houston, Texas, and Baltimore, Maryland. Rising Tide's first protest took place in July 2006 at a coal plant in Carbo, Virginia, where two activists chained themselves to a coal truck and another suspended himself from a bridge. Rising Tide took one protest to the North Carolina home of Duke Energy Corp.'s chief executive. They placed post-it notes on his windows criticizing construction of a new coal-fired power plant that Duke is building.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/apwire/b9db368a5ca0ab97313df30aa1058b47.htm>

See also: <http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/009086.html>

2. *November 26, Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Solar upgrade at Midtown.** The world's first large-scale solar power system serving both day-to-day electrical needs and functioning as a source of emergency backup power is now up and running at the Midtown Community School in Bayonne, New Jersey. The extra emergency power — which extends the time the school's backup generator can operate during a grid outage from one and a half days to possibly as long as two weeks — is especially important since the school is designated as a community shelter. The founder of Advanced Solar Products, Inc. explained that, until now, when grid power went down, Midtown's solar panels — normally generating 272 kilowatts of power for the school building — would also shut down to protect utility workers who might be working on "hot" lines. But this new system, which Advanced Solar helped design, gets around that, he explained. The trick was to install new circuitry and insert a device called a "PV inverter" to automatically transfer power from the solar panels to a reserve generator, even when disconnected from the outside power grid. The State Board of Public Utilities president called Midtown the "first school in New Jersey to have a Homeland Security system in place, even when the grid goes down."

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/bayonne/index.ssf?/base/news-4/1227684340193050.xml&coll=3>

3. *November 24, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Power restored after manhole fires zap electricity.** Several manhole fires in downtown Boston sparked a five-hour power outage early Monday morning that stretched from the Theatre District to the Back Bay. The outage knocked out electricity to hundreds of business and tied up traffic in knots before power was restored just before 11 a.m., officials said. Two schools were also affected. No injuries were reported. The manhole fires occurred at 5:30 a.m. near the intersection of Stuart and Tremont streets. A subterranean cable failed and left up to 1,000 customers without power, the local utility provider, NSTAR, said. The mayor of Boston has ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the fires.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/2008/11/manhole\\_fires\\_z.html?p1=Well\\_MostPop\\_Emailed5](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2008/11/manhole_fires_z.html?p1=Well_MostPop_Emailed5)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to report

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

4. *November 26, Reuters* – (Georgia) **Southern Ga. Hatch 1 reactor up to 80 pct power.** Southern Co.’s Unit 1 at the Hatch nuclear power station in Georgia ramped up to 80 percent by early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. On Tuesday, the unit was operating at 20 percent of capacity after exiting an outage. The unit shut on November 22 after a condensate booster pump tripped due to low suction pressure, causing both reactor feed pumps to trip. The company said the problem was caused by a power supply failure on a control valve.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2633043820081126>

5. *November 26, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **City nixes nuclear waste ban.** A proposed ban on transporting high-level nuclear waste through Asheville, North Carolina, likely would not work and could complicate the safe storage of the deadly radioactive material, a majority of City Council members said Tuesday. Council members rejected the idea of a local ordinance making the transport of waste from nuclear power plants on interstates or rail through the city a misdemeanor. A local group, Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads, had proposed the ban to protect the city from accidents or acts of sabotage on vehicles transporting the waste. A city attorney said the research he has done so far showed such an ordinance would “probably be invalid,” because of superseding federal laws. Some council members said the ban could mean forcing the waste on other cities or making it difficult for the federal government to find the best way to deal with the waste, which is now sitting at the power plants. A motion to ask the city attorney to craft a nonbinding resolution against the waste also failed. One resident said the waste as it is transported in heavy-duty casks is safe. He worked with nuclear reactor fuel and said the casks could withstand tremendous impact.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008811260354>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *November 25, Navy Times* – (National) **San Antonio underway after repairs in Bahrain.** Nearly a month after limping into Bahrain with extensive seepage from the lube oil system for its main propulsion diesel engines, the amphibious transport dock San Antonio got back underway Tuesday. “Repairs have corrected all deficiencies and the lube oil system has returned to fully operational status,” said a spokeswoman for Naval Sea Systems Command. “The oil leaks were attributed to inadequate pipe supports, poor welding, material selection and insufficient [quality assurance].” She added that a “root-cause analysis” is ongoing, and some technicians from the original

team of more than 30 who met the ship in Bahrain on Oct. 31 remain aboard. She said the repair job costs are about \$1.4 million. In the aftermath of LPD 17's breakdown, inspectors from NavSea, Naval Surface Force and regional maintenance commands have gone aboard the follow-on ships in the class — New Orleans, Mesa Verde, Green Bay and New York — to inspect welds in the lube oil systems. Engineers did not find systemic problems, but they did find faulty welds, according to sources.

Source: [http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/11/navy\\_sanantonio\\_112508w/](http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/11/navy_sanantonio_112508w/)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *November 26, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Mortgage rates fall as U.S. expands rescue.** U.S. officials pledged to pump another \$800 billion into ailing credit markets, much of it directly from the Federal Reserve. The Fed, whose traditional lending role has been to make emergency loans to banks, plans to purchase in coming months up to \$600 billion of debt issued or backed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae, and Federal Home Loan Banks, all mortgage-finance businesses with close ties to the government. The Treasury Secretary announced plans to try and help banks loan money out to people faster. But critics say that “throwing money at the problem” is what spurred the crisis to begin with. In addition, with support from the U.S. Treasury, the Fed will provide up to \$200 billion in financing to investors buying securities tied to student loans, car loans, credit-card debt, and small-business loans. The intervention, the latest in a series of unprecedented government actions, immediately pushed down rates on 30-year mortgages by as much as one-half percentage point.  
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122761978389056335.html>
  
8. *November 25, New Jersey Star Ledger* – (New Jersey) **ID theft ring targeted NJ home equity lines of credit.** Four men were arrested Monday in connection with an international identity theft scheme that siphoned at least \$2.5 million from home equity lines of credit at dozens of banks, including at least eleven in New Jersey, authorities said. The suspects targeted homeowners with big credit lines at large and small financial institutions, including Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, and credit unions in Basking Ridge, Bridgewater, and Toms River, authorities said. They used stolen personal data and technological tricks to fool bank employees into transferring funds to accounts in at least seven countries, authorities said. “Home equity lines of credit are an expanding front in the battle against mortgage fraud,” a U.S. attorney said. Monday’s arrests follow an FBI investigation that began in November 2007.  
Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-12/1227591361311770.xml&coll=1>
  
9. *November 25, Washington Post* – (National) **FDIC chair: more problem banks. The** FDIC chairwoman said Wednesday that the number of “problem” banks and thrifts in the third quarter rose from 117 at the end of the second quarter of this year to 171 at the end of the third quarter, the highest level since 1995. “Community banks — those with total assets of under \$1 billion — are beginning to exhibit stresses similar to those facing the industry as a whole,” the FDIC said. “However, capital levels and reliance

on retail deposits remain higher at these banks than the industry average.” More people are putting their money in banks, the FDIC reported. Estimated insured deposits were up by 1.8 percent in the third quarter and 7.1 percent over the past four quarters, the agency said.

Source: [http://voices.washingtonpost.com/economy-watch/2008/11/fdic\\_chair\\_more\\_problem\\_banks.html?hpid=topnews](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/economy-watch/2008/11/fdic_chair_more_problem_banks.html?hpid=topnews)

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## **Transportation Sector**

10. *November 26, Associated Press* – (New York) **Feds warn of terror plotting against NYC subways.** Federal authorities are warning law enforcement personnel of a possible terror plot against the New York City subway system during the holiday season. An internal memo obtained by The Associated Press says the FBI has received a “plausible but unsubstantiated” report that al-Qaida terrorists in late September may have discussed attacking the subway system. The report indicates that al-Qaida terrorists “in late September may have discussed targeting transit systems in and around New York City. These discussions reportedly involved the use of suicide bombers or explosives placed on subway/passenger rail systems,” according to the document. “We have no specific details to confirm that this plot has developed beyond aspirational planning, but we are issuing this warning out of concern that such an attack could possibly be conducted during the forthcoming holiday season,” states the warning, which is dated Tuesday. While federal agencies regularly issue all sorts of advisory warnings, the language of this one is particularly blunt. No changes are being made to the nation’s threat level, or for transit systems at this time, said a Department of Homeland Security spokesman. However, transit passengers in larger metropolitan areas like New York may see an increased security presence in the coming days.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/26/AR2008112601099.html>
11. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts; National) **Cape Cod harbor master charged with being fake fed.** A part-time assistant harbor master on Cape Cod has been charged by federal authorities with pretending to be an armed federal agent so he could bypass airport security. The man from Rockland was freed on \$50,000 unsecured bond following his initial appearance Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Boston. He was flying from Boston to San Diego on January 1, 2007, when he approached an American Airlines ticket counter at Logan International Airport and flashed a badge he carries as a part-time assistant harbor master in Chatham, according to federal prosecutors. The man, a medical supplies salesman, also filled out a “flying while armed” form and wrote that he worked for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, prosecutors said. He did not bring a gun on the plane. He allegedly did the same on his return trip to Boston three days later. But this time, according to court documents, he was invited into the cockpit, was told the identity of the two air marshals on the flight, and was informed who else on the plane was armed. The man told WHDH-TV that he volunteered for a Coast Guard subcommittee, which is a division of Homeland Security. He is charged with impersonating a federal agent and making false

statements. The case took almost two years to come to light so federal authorities could tighten airport security and prevent similar incidents, said a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office. "The flying public can be assured that this has led to a change of procedures to ensure that credentials are properly vetted," said a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration.

Source: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO96509/>

12. *November 26, WFAA 8 Dallas* – (Texas) **Chemical spill forces DART detour.** The Forest/Jupiter DART light rail station was closed during a portion of the Wednesday morning rush hour as a result of a nearby chemical spill. A hazardous materials team was dealing with the fuel spill and helping with evacuations in the immediate vicinity. DART established a "bus bridge" for Blue Line riders between the downtown Garland station and the platform at LBJ Freeway and Skillman Street during the alert. The transit agency says regular service resumed shortly after 7:30 a.m. when hazmat crews gave the all-clear.

Source:

[http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/localnews/news8/stories/wfaa081126\\_wz\\_fuelspill.3aafeae.html](http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/localnews/news8/stories/wfaa081126_wz_fuelspill.3aafeae.html)

13. *November 26, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **TSA to begin TWIC reader pilot.** This winter, several port authorities and vessel operators will launch a pilot program to read the identification cards of transportation workers entering port authorities, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced. The port authorities participating in the pilot under the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) include the port authorities of Los Angeles and Long Beach in California; Brownsville in Texas; and New York/New Jersey. The vessel operators include Magnolia Marine of Mississippi, Watermark Cruises of Maryland, and Staten Island Ferry of New York. TSA and the Coast Guard continue to call ports into compliance with TWIC in stages, stretching from the east coast to the west coast.

Source:

[http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=6217&Itemid=149](http://www.hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6217&Itemid=149)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

14. *November 25, WMAQ 5 Chicago* – (Illinois) **'Weird' packages cause stir at Cook County building.** Nothing harmful was found, but suspicious packages delivered to the Cook County Building drew a massive emergency response Tuesday afternoon. An EMS Plan 1 was called, sending five ambulances and several fire vehicles to the scene. Five packages were mailed to county commissioners and the board president. The Chicago Fire Department said suspicious material was found on the third floor and fifth floors, inside the mailboxes of several commissioners. One official opened an envelope and found a strange substance inside. Authorities would not say whether the packages contained a letter, or would they identify the substance, but did say it was not dangerous.



Source: <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Emergency-Crews-Respond-to-Cook-County-Building.html>

15. *November 25, Northern Ohio News-Herald* – (Ohio) **Bomb threat reported at local post office.** Gates Mills police are investigating a bomb threat that was made at the Gates Mills Post Office Tuesday morning. At approximately 9:50 a.m., a male called the post office and stated there was a bomb inside the building and it would go off in 30 minutes, according to a Gates Mills police lieutenant. Police responded and evacuated the post office, adjoining buildings, and homes throughout the area. The Hillcrest SPAN Bomb Unit was requested to assist, and the U.S. Postal Inspectors as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation of Cleveland were notified. With the assistance of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Police Department, a bomb-detection dog was used to check the building and no bomb was found. The incident is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.news-herald.com/articles/2008/11/25/news/doc492c531fbab9c926235287.txt>

16. *November 25, Tidewater News* – (Virginia) **MRSA scare hits Franklin post office.** An employee of the city's post office was reportedly sent home Monday, and was later diagnosed with having Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). Sources, including a Postal Service worker, told the Tidewater News that a female employee of the post office reported to work on Monday but was sent home early. The woman was later diagnosed with MRSA and put on antibiotics, the sources said. In a written statement, a spokeswoman said the Postal Service's medical unit had "not officially seen any medical information, nor have we been officially contacted as an agency by health officials with a diagnosis of MRSA for an employee in that area." Asked how MRSA spreads, a public health specialist said that "it can basically be passed from person to person through direct skin to skin contact, either through your hands, or touching items that someone else has used." A spokesman of the Postal Service's medical unit wrote that "as a precaution, the (Franklin) Postmaster has sanitized the facility and the employees have been given information and a safety talk regarding MRSA and staph infection. The information and safety talk addressed symptoms, treatment and prevention."

Source:

<http://www.tidewaternews.com/news/2008/nov/25/mrsa-scare-hits-franklin-post-office/>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

17. *November 26, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA finds traces of melamine in U.S. infant formula.** Traces of the industrial chemical melamine have been detected in samples of top-selling U.S. infant formula, but federal regulators insist the products are safe. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said last month it was unable to identify any melamine exposure level as safe for infants, but a top official said it would be a "dangerous overreaction" for parents to stop feeding infant formula to babies who depend on it. Previously undisclosed tests, obtained by the Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act, show that the FDA has detected melamine in a sample of

one popular formula and the presence of cyanuric acid, a chemical relative of melamine, in the formula of a second manufacturer. Separately, a third major formula maker told AP that in-house tests had detected trace levels of melamine in its infant formula. The three firms — Abbott Laboratories, Nestle, and Mead Johnson — manufacture more than 90 percent of all infant formula produced in the United States. The FDA and other experts said the melamine contamination in U.S.-made formula had occurred during the manufacturing process, rather than intentionally. The U.S. government quietly began testing domestically produced infant formula in September, soon after problems with melamine-spiked formula surfaced in China. It was not until the AP inquired about tests on domestic formula that the FDA articulated that while it could not set a safe exposure for infants, it would accept some melamine in formula — raising the question of whether the decision to accept very low concentrations was made only after traces were detected.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALEqM5j7SAbhJj3By\\_isZUoRAgTOPHzwkQD94MJEJ80](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALEqM5j7SAbhJj3By_isZUoRAgTOPHzwkQD94MJEJ80)

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## **Water Sector**

18. *November 26, Island Packet* – (South Carolina) **Corps of Engineers reduces water flow to Savannah River.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began Tuesday reducing the amount of water flowing into the Savannah River, a primary drinking-water source for Beaufort and Jasper counties, to conserve water in the drought-stricken Upstate. Local and state officials say they support the reduction and that it should have happened sooner. A general manager of the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority said lake levels are “far too low.” The reduction would save about 300 million gallons of water per day for the Upstate – nearly one month’s supply, he said. The Corps operates the three lakes as one system and releases water from the lakes’ reservoirs into the Savannah River to meet the needs of downstream users, including the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority and the city of Savannah. Both states asked the Corps to reduce that flow from 3,600 to 3,100 cubic feet per second. They wanted the reductions to begin November 1 and last at least through February.

Source: <http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/story/680328.html>

19. *November 26, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Water pumps failed in Yorba Linda fire, officials say.** Water officials said Tuesday that pumps designed to push water to the upper reaches of a hillside Yorba Linda neighborhood failed during a November 15 firestorm, possibly explaining why firefighters were forced to abandon the area and let homes burn after fire hydrants went dry. Agency officials had said they believed the dry hydrants were caused by the overwhelming water demands of such an intense and widespread firefighting effort. The problems first surfaced at 1:22 p.m., when the water district’s computer system lost communication with Santiago Reservoir and a nearby pump station, which together supply water to the neighborhood of about 110 homes for residential use and for hydrants, the assistant general manager told reporters Tuesday. The electronic communication lapse lasted 24 hours. At 4:15, a water district crew



made it up to the burned-out Santiago pump station to find three electric pumps and a gas-powered backup had shut down. Workers then checked fire hydrants one by one, finding that while some still had water pressure, the highest ones had run dry. Water officials believe the electric pumps shut off because the fire had burned through their electrical communication systems. The backup, they said, failed because of the heat. Workers were able to restart the pumps manually but later had to shut them off because too much air – and not enough water – in the system was causing them to vibrate.

Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water26-2008nov26,0,4811636.story>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

20. *November 26, Washington Post* – (National) **Ailing FDA may need a major overhaul, officials and groups say.** The Food and Drug Administration is widely seen as struggling to protect Americans from unsafe medication, contaminated food, and a flood of questionable imports from China and other countries. Shaken by a series of alarming failures, the FDA desperately needs an infusion of strong leadership, money, technology, and personnel — and perhaps a major restructuring, say former officials, members of Congress, watchdog groups, and various government reports. With nearly 11,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$2 billion, the FDA is charged with overseeing products that account for one-quarter of consumer spending in the United States, including over-the-counter and prescription medications, heart valves, stents and other medical devices, the blood supply, and food. But morale within the FDA, along with its credibility outside, has plummeted as the agency has been stretched to keep pace with its responsibilities.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/25/AR2008112502219.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

21. *November 25, New York Times* – (Louisiana) **Plan for New Orleans hospitals draws outcry.** Local and federal officials on Tuesday announced plans for a 70-acre medical campus in the heart of New Orleans to replace two hospitals damaged during Hurricane Katrina, a \$2 billion investment that supporters say will create thousands of jobs and begin to rebuild the city's shattered health care system. One of the hospitals, to be built by Louisiana State University, would replace the city's landmark Charity Hospital, a lifeline for generations of the city's poor, which has been vacant since the storm damaged its lower floors. The other would replace the vacant Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, also severely damaged by the flooding. The old hospitals and adjacent buildings will be abandoned under the plan, which local officials described as the foundation for a new economy for New Orleans, and the largest investment in the area since Katrina. But the plan, brewing for months, has drawn strong criticism from preservationists and neighborhood activists because it will lead to the destruction of dozens of old houses and buildings in the Mid-City National Register Historic District. They had urged the Veterans Affairs Department and the State to consider alternative locations.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/26/us/26hospital.html?em>

## **Government Facilities Sector**

22. *November 25, Orland Press Register* – (California) **Lockdown closes GCOE office.** The Glenn County Office of Education was locked down Tuesday after a former employee threatened to harm staff, officials said. The 49-year-old, a former maintenance worker believed to have made the threats, surrendered to a medical facility in Chico shortly after the threats were reported, the Willows police chief said. A witness from Chico told police that the man allegedly stated he was angry with his former employer. The witness told police that the defendant allegedly made the threats while on the phone with a compensation agent in Southern California.  
Source: [http://www.orland-press-register.com/news/office\\_2796\\_article.html/threat\\_down.html](http://www.orland-press-register.com/news/office_2796_article.html/threat_down.html)
23. *November 26, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Air Force chief wants better oversight of nuclear arsenal.** The U.S. government must take steps to modernize how it keeps track of its nuclear weapons to help prevent mistakes, the Air Force Chief of Staff said Tuesday on a visit to part of his service's nuclear force. The Air Force Chief visited Barksdale Air Force Base, one of the installations housing the nation's nuclear-capable B-52 bombers, in a trip designed to emphasize the importance of reforms in how weapons are handled. The Air Force Chief became the top uniformed Air Force officer in August with a mandate to overhaul nuclear weapons procedures after a series of problems involving oversight of the nuclear arsenal. The new Air Force Chief praised airmen for passing surprise inspections conducted at the base in recent months. But he appeared disappointed when told that the Air Force still used paper ledgers to keep track of nuclear weapons. He said Pentagon and U.S. Energy Department officials were exploring the use of bar codes on warheads and other parts to better track them. Also under consideration are proposals to use global positioning systems to keep track of the locations of nuclear material. Some officials voiced concern that such devices could compromise security, but the Air Force Chief said there should be a way to more accurately and efficiently track the weapons.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/print/edition/asection/la-na-airforce26-2008nov26,0,7096483.story>
24. *November 26, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Sandwich loses nearly \$50k to hacker.** The same type of data security breach that has menaced retail stores, restaurants, and other businesses has made its way into the Sandwich treasurer's office, where a hacker with possible international ties stole tens of thousands of dollars from town coffers in a complex computer-fraud scheme. Sandwich officials have warned their counterparts in surrounding towns of the computer breach. Police believe the hacker used a virus to attack the treasurer's computer and implant a keystroke logger. With technology similar to what is known as a sniffer, a device that tracks computer information, the hacker was able to record the treasurer's security code and password as he typed them, and used that information to make withdrawals from town bank accounts. The money was then transferred to four accounts — three in Florida and one

in Georgia. The police chief said Tuesday that the Treasurer discovered the breach two weeks ago, and notified police detectives. Investigators were able to determine that the scheme netted close to \$50,000.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/11/26/sandwich\\_loses\\_nearly\\_50k\\_to\\_hacker/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/11/26/sandwich_loses_nearly_50k_to_hacker/)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

25. *November 26, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Panel supports fewer medevac flights.** Maryland's emergency medical helicopters could fly fewer accident victims to hospitals without reducing survival or affecting quality of care for patients, a panel of experts told state officials November 25. Several panel members also questioned the size of Maryland's state-run helicopter fleet, which numbered 12 aircraft before a fatal crash September 28, and the need for the state's eight regional medevac helicopter bases. The group, convened in response to the crash in Prince George's County that killed four people, called for a task force to reconsider how many aircraft Maryland needs and where they should be located. The report stopped short of calling for a specific number of helicopters and bases, or making a precise recommendation on how many of Maryland's 4,100 annual medevac flights might be excessive. But the findings could have implications for a \$120 million proposal to replace Maryland's state-run medevac helicopter fleet, a plan under way before the crash.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/health/bal-md.medevac26nov26,0,2360554.story>

26. *November 25, Gaston Gazette* – (North Carolina) **New device makes checking for bombs safer.** The Gaston County, North Carolina, Police Department Hazardous Device Unit on Tuesday unveiled an Open Vision X-Ray system to provide X-ray video images of suspect devices and a pair of new bomb suits engineered to improve communication between bomb squad technicians. The \$58,000 X-ray system and two \$28,000 suits were provided through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant disbursed through the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and State Bureau of Investigation. The X-ray system, which works as a handheld X-ray or as an attachment to the Remotec Andros F6A bomb squad robot, replaces an earlier system that provided still images. Gaston is one of just two North Carolina counties with Open Vision, which provides real-time X-ray video and is billed as the most advanced technology available to hazardous device teams. Better-quality video images allow police to spend less time exposed to the potentially hazardous devices.

Source:

[http://www.gastongazette.com/news/bomb\\_27500\\_article.html/ray\\_new.html](http://www.gastongazette.com/news/bomb_27500_article.html/ray_new.html)

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## **Information Technology**

27. *November 26, Softpedia* – (International) **Widespread malware attacks target Windows 7, Vista SP1, and XP SP3 vulnerability.** Microsoft confirmed not only that malware attacks designed to take advantage of a Server Service vulnerability, affecting both Windows client and server versions of the platform, were no longer isolated and targeted cases, but also that infections with malicious code had been detected. On November 25, a Microsoft Security Response Center communications manager, and senior program manager and response coordinator, revealed that the company was aware of a new wave of attacks, targeting a vulnerability rated as critical, for which Microsoft Security Bulletin MS08-067 had been released in October as an out-of-band patch. The security update was designed to integrate with a variety of Windows operating systems, including Windows Vista SP1, Windows XP SP3, and even Windows 7. Microsoft pointed out that there were two pieces of malware associated with attacks exploiting the Server Service vulnerability: Win32/Conficker.A (also TA08-297A, CVE-2008-4250, VU827267 W32.Downadup (Symantec)) and Win32/IRCBot.BH (Win32/IRCBot.worm.Gen (AhnLab); Win32/IRCBot!generic (CA); WIN.IRC.WORM.Virus (Dr.Web); Exploit-DcomRpc.gen (McAfee); Mal/IRCBot-B (Sophos); Purple Exploit). According to Microsoft, Win32/Conficker.A even patches the very API vulnerability, which it uses to infect machines, in order to prevent any further exploits to take advantage of the security hole. The senior program manager and response coordinator explained that the majority of infection reports were generated in the United States, but that the worm was also detected in Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Taiwan, Japan, Brazil, Turkey, China, Mexico, Canada, Argentina, and Chile. At the same time, Win32/Conficker.A completely avoids to exploit and infect Ukrainian computers.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Widespread-Malware-Attacks-Target-Windows-7-Vista-SP1-and-XP-SP3-Vulnerability-98716.shtml>

28. *November 25, eWeek* – (International) **Spam levels creep back up 2 weeks after McColo shutdown.** Spam levels are heading back up after dropping dramatically following the shutdown of Web hosting company McColo. According to Symantec security research, some notorious botnets are back in action. Spam levels appear to be rising again after a steep decline. According to researchers at MessageLabs, now part of Symantec, spam volumes have doubled since last week. Spam levels dropped off dramatically with the shutdown of Web hosting company McColo on November 11. Though the firm briefly gained new life the weekend of November 15, it was quickly shut down again, and spam at first remained at relatively low levels. In a blog post, Symantec Security Response noted that in addition to overall spam volumes being up, the percentage of spam messages containing the text/HTML content type mime part have jumped to 55 percent of all spam. Since the McColo takedown, that percentage has been around 34 percent. This change indicates that a return to normal spam activity could be in the works, according to the blog.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Spam-Levels-Creep-Back-up-Two-Weeks-After-McColo-Shutdown/>

29. *November 25, eWeek* – (International) **Google says reports of Gmail flaw unfounded.** Google says GeekCondition.com's claims about a specific Gmail vulnerability are

incorrect. The issue is just an example of a successful phishing attack targeting Web domain owners, Google says. Google officials have challenged the assertion that a Google Gmail security flaw was at the center of an issue described on the GeekCondition.com blog. A posting on GeekCondition.com November 23 warned of a flaw allowing attackers to force Gmail users to create a malicious message filter without their knowledge. As a result, the post said, attackers could hijack messages sent to a victim's Gmail account by redirecting messages into the trash and forwarding copies to the attacker. Google, however, explained that the source of the problem was not a flaw in Gmail, but a phishing scheme in which attackers sought to lure Web domain owners to rogue sites so their information could be stolen.

Source:

<http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Google-Says-Reports-of-Gmail-Flaw-Unfounded/>

### 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

30. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas to test wireless call blocking in prison.** Texas officials plan to test cell phone jamming technology after a prison system lockdown and search turned up hundreds of smuggled mobile devices. The test has been proposed for December 18 at the Travis County state jail in Austin. The House Corrections Committee Chairman said he requested the test. Officials at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice were working to set up the demonstration, said an agency spokeswoman. Florida-based CellAntenna Corp., which recently conducted a similar test in South Carolina, has agreed to do the Texas demonstration. Prison officials from several states gathered at a South Carolina prison on Friday to see how the equipment blocks wireless calls. The technology prevents cell tower transmissions from reaching the phone. Regulators can grant permission to federal agencies to use the technology, but federal law prevents State and local agencies from jamming cell phone signals. Still, prison officials hope they will be granted permission to use the blocking technology. Critics say it is impossible to contain the jamming technology to one or two buildings, and that using it runs the risk of affecting people using phones nearby. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6133209.html>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *November 25, Central Florida News 13* – (Florida) **Pool chemicals found leaking at Aquatica.** Leaking chemicals caused a hazardous material scare at SeaWorld's

Aquatica water park Tuesday. Employees said when they arrived at work, they noticed a pair of five-gallon containers with cracked lids that were leaking a type of dry bleach used in the water park. The chemicals were being kept in an area behind the public area of the park. Workers cleared out the immediate area as a precaution, and called in hazardous material crews to contain the leak. No one was hurt in the incident.

Source:

[http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Local/2008/11/25/pool\\_chemicals\\_found\\_leaking\\_at\\_aquatica.html](http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Local/2008/11/25/pool_chemicals_found_leaking_at_aquatica.html)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

32. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Government backs off drilling near national parks.** Drilling leases on and near the border of Utah’s scenic national parks have been pulled from an auction block. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced its decision late Tuesday after negotiations with National Park Service officials who objected to noise, lights and air pollution near Arches National Park, Dinosaur National Monument and Canyonlands National Park, all in Utah. Some of those parcels were within 1.3 miles of Delicate Arch, a freestanding span of 33 feet that is the signature landmark at Arches near Moab, Utah. In all, the Park Service objected to 93 parcels where drilling could drown out the sounds of wind, water and wildlife for visitors, possibly contaminate nearby springs and worsen ozone levels. BLM maps showed the agency will remove 34 parcels from the December auction, including those bunched along park boundaries.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2008/11/25/AR2008112502347.html>

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## **Dams Sector**

33. *November 26, Summit Daily News* – (Colorado) **Patrol cars pulled from Dillon Dam Road duty.** Drivers on the Dillon Dam Road this week may have noticed a decrease in security patrol at either end of the dam, after local law-enforcement patrols were removed from surveillance duties Monday night. Denver Water’s agreement with local law-enforcement agencies to patrol the dam entrances was designed to expire before the holidays, and officials said that added security measures provide adequate protection to the dam. Over the last few months Denver Water crews have been installing “pop-up” barriers at either end of the dam that can be remotely activated should a vehicle over 13,000 pounds attempt to cross. Police presence on the road was part of a temporary security solution agreed upon by Denver Water and local law-enforcement officials in August, almost a month after the road was closed abruptly for three weeks for unspecified security concerns. “We’ve made a big step in resolving some of these issues we have had for decades,” a Summit County sheriff said. “The dam is a critical piece of infrastructure, and we want to make sure we are working



together to strike a balance between public access and security needs.” The Dillon Dam security task force is still developing a long-term and permanent solution.

Source:

<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20081126/NEWS/811259946/1078&ParentProfile=1055&title=Patrol%20cars%20pulled%20from%20Dillon%20Dam%20Road%20duty>

34. *November 24, Michigan Times* – (Michigan) **Flint River to be set free: Hamilton Dam to be removed.** The Hamilton Dam will be torn down, hopefully, before it falls down. After years of indecision over what to do about the dangerously deteriorating 88-year-old dam, the city of Flint has opted to remove the structure - or at least its visible parts. City management is still in the process of deciding which of two competing proposals to adopt in the dam's place. The decision not to replace or renovate the structure was made based on cost concerns, according to the utilities communications coordinator for the city of Flint. "It's a lot cheaper to remove it than to replace it," the utilities communications coordinator said, adding that the city had been looking at a \$7-10 million price tag for a replacement project. "Everything visible above the water will be removed." Also included in the proposal was the possible removal of the Fiber Dam - the next dam downstream from Hamilton located behind Character Inn - to allow for paddling and fish passage through the entire downtown corridor. The proposal was estimated between \$2.1 and \$3 million, depending on whether the Fiber Dam was addressed as part of the project.

Source:

<http://media.www.themichigantimes.com/media/storage/paper620/news/2008/11/24/LocalNews/Flint.River.To.Be.Set.Free.Hamilton.Dam.To.Be.Removed-3558185.shtml>

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

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

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