



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 September 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 one worker was killed and a second was injured in an explosion Thursday night at a chemical plant in West Virginia. A state official said the chemical that appears to be involved is not especially toxic. (See item [5](#))
- According to Wenatchee World, a Washington state investigation this summer discovered nearly 600 bodies of water that appear from aerial photographs to be illegally dammed reservoirs. The 244 dams and reservoirs identified as “high hazard” will be examined by a state inspector. (See item [32](#))

**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. *August 29, Bloomberg* – (National) **TransCanada gets Alaska governor’s approval for pipeline.** TransCanada Corp. won approval from the Alaska governor to build a \$27 billion pipeline to carry natural gas from the Arctic to U.S. markets. On August 27, the governor signed a bill authorizing the state to award TransCanada a license to build the 1,715-mile link from Prudhoe Bay to the Alberta Hub in Canada, according to a statement. The license will be granted in 90 days. Alaskan authorities plan to develop gas deposits on Alaska’s North Slope that were discovered decades ago and left untouched by the inability to get the fuel to users. Tapping the North Slope fields, which Alaska estimates to hold 35 trillion cubic feet of gas, would help make up for lower state

revenue arising from declining oil production. Alaskan crude output has dropped by more than half since 1998. The link will ship 4.5 billion cubic feet of gas a day through Canada to U.S. markets. The project could be operating by September 2018.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=acNe2vW46POk&refer=canaada>

2. *August 28, Platts* – (National) **FEMA deploys DOE staff to U.S. Gulf ahead of landfall of Gustav.** As Tropical Storm Gustav heads towards U.S. Gulf of Mexico production areas and then a predicted landfall near New Orleans, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has deployed U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) staff to south and southwestern parts of the country likely to feel the effects of the storm. DOE will coordinate emergency operations with 11 other federal agencies. DOE personnel will work with state and local officials and energy companies to monitor the effects on power plants, pipelines, and other energy infrastructure, and help them restore operations when services have been curtailed. “We have responders en route to the Regional Response Coordination Centers, which are located in Denton, Texas, in Region 6 and Atlanta in Region 4,” a DOE spokeswoman said. The two regions – 4 and 6 – include states as far west as New Mexico, and as far east as South Carolina.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6944377.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

3. *August 28, Reuters* – (National) **BP Destin natgas line in force majeure due Gustav.** Destin Pipeline Co LLC said Thursday it declared force majeure as of August 30 until further notice due to Tropical Storm Gustav, expected to disrupt offshore energy production in the Gulf of Mexico as a powerful hurricane this weekend. The 255-mile, 36-inch Destin Pipeline has the capacity to carry up to 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day from production from Main Pass, Viosca Knoll, eastern Mississippi Canyon, and DeSoto Canyon areas offshore southeastern Louisiana.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2836496620080828>

4. *August 28, Reuters* – (Texas) **Energy Transfer-rupture on Oasis Texas gas line.** Energy Transfer Partners said Thursday a rupture occurred on a portion of its 36-inch natural gas pipeline in a “remote” area of Texas between San Antonio and Austin. A company spokeswoman said there were no injuries, but was not immediately sure of the volumes of gas flowing at the time of the incident. The deputy chief of the Luling Police Department told Reuters just prior to 8 a.m. there were “several 911 calls reporting an explosion.” “Responding units arrived at or near a refinery... A gas transmission line had breached and was on fire,” he said. The breach happened near Stairtown, Texas. The Austin American Statesman newspaper reported on its website a refinery pipeline exploded Thursday morning in Caldwell County, south of Austin. The report did not say what refinery was supplied by the pipeline. The Oasis Pipeline is an intrastate natural gas line that runs from the Permian Basin in west Texas to natural gas supply and market areas in southeast Texas.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2829492320080828>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *August 29, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **1 killed, 1 injured in W.Va. chemical plant blast.** One worker was killed and a second injured in an explosion at a chemical plant that shook an area west of Charleston, West Virginia. The Thursday explosion sent a fireball hundreds of feet into the air and could be felt miles away. The blast occurred in a section of the Bayer CropScience plant where waste products are treated before disposal, a Bayer spokesman said. The unit had been closed for maintenance and was restarted earlier in the week. A state official said the chemical that appears to be involved is not especially toxic. Bayer said the cause of explosion has not been determined. The unit was shut down and will not be restarted until the company determines that it can be safely operated. A State Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman said the plant produces several chemicals, including the one primarily involved in the fire, methyl isobutyl ketone. Methyl isobutyl ketone is used a solvent for gums, resins, paints, varnishes, lacquers and nitrocellulose, according the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Web site. Air monitoring found no sign of chemical exposure, either on or off the site, Bayer said. As a precaution, emergency officials temporarily closed Interstate 64, U.S. 60 and state Route 25. Also, residents in at least five nearby communities were told to stay indoors. The highways were reopened and shelter-in-place orders lifted shortly after 2 a.m. Friday.

Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iz-aMF-d6NOA-iIU\\_j7JDpKkcjigD92RUI7G0](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iz-aMF-d6NOA-iIU_j7JDpKkcjigD92RUI7G0)

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

6. *August 29, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **PSEG NJ Hope Creek reactor has water pump issue – NRC.** An “unusual event” was declared and quickly terminated at Public Service Enterprise Group Inc.’s (PSEG) Hope Creek nuclear reactor in New Jersey on Thursday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Friday. In the NRC’s event report, the commission said the unusual event – meaning there is a minor problem, or a potential problem, but no threat to the health or safety of the public – was declared due to internal flooding in the plant’s service water intake structure. A PSEG Nuclear spokesman told Reuters the water level was just over an inch.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2940304320080829>

7. *August 29, Reuters* – (Florida) **Progress Fla Crystal River reactor up to 60 pct power.** Progress Energy Inc.’s Crystal River 3 nuclear power unit in Florida was at 60 percent power early Friday after shutting Sunday following a manual reactor trip, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its power reactor status report. The company tripped the unit due to feedwater flow oscillations. A condensate pump became uncoupled, lowering condensate flow, an NRC event report said previously.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2940060120080829>

8. *August 29, San Luis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **New steam generators arrive at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.** The second batch of replacement steam generators has arrived at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. Two of the four massive cylinders were pushed by tugboat into the plant’s cooling water intake cove Thursday morning. The other two will be unloaded Friday. The four generators will be installed during an extended refueling shutdown early next year. The old generators had to be replaced because they deteriorated faster than anticipated, and tubes within them had to be plugged to prevent leakage. The first batch of generators was installed during a refueling early this year.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/story/454477.html>

9. *August 28, Canwest News Service* – (International) **Chalk River reactor can’t meet global isotope needs: AECL.** It is impossible for the Chalk River, Ontario, Canada, nuclear reactor to meet the global demand of medical isotopes, even as it ramps up production following warnings of a worldwide shortage, says a spokesperson for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. A spokesman for the Crown corporation which owns the reactor said Thursday the facility will increase its production of medical isotopes following the closure of the reactor in Belgium this week, but there is no way the plant could supply the entire world’s isotope’s needs. All five of the major reactors which provide virtually all the world’s isotopes – including one in Canada and others in Europe and in South Africa – were shut down for various unrelated reasons as of this week. The Ontario plant produces about 50 percent of the global supply of radioactive isotopes. Four of the reactors were closed for routine maintenance, but the unexpected closure of the Belgium plant due to safety concerns spawned predictions of global shortages and underlined the need for international co-ordination of medical isotope production. The Chalk River plant is expected to resume operations next week. This week’s series of closures set up a “perfect storm in isotope availability,” the effects of which have been felt with U.S. hospital shortages, and could reach Europe next week, said the president of the U.S.-based Society of Nuclear Medicine on Wednesday. He said it could be October before the world’s production of medical isotope resumes normal levels.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=7c408ae7-832e-40a6-b96f-be4785c46558>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *August 28, Reuters* – (National) **Bank of NY Mellon data breach now affects 12.5 mln.** Bank of New York Mellon Corp said on Thursday that a security breach involving the loss of personal information is much larger than previously reported, affecting about 12.5 million people, up from 4.5 million. The case is the largest new reported U.S. data breach in 2008, as measured by the number of exposed records, according to the Identity Theft Resource Center. According to Connecticut officials, the case stemmed from the bank's February 27 loss of six to 10 unencrypted tapes, while it was transferring back-up tapes that contained names, addresses, birth dates and Social Security numbers.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2834717120080828>
11. *August 28, Mercury News* – (National) **Former venture capital manager convicted of stealing \$20 million from clients.** A 49-year-old former Silicon Valley venture capital fund manager was convicted of stealing more than \$20 million from 13 clients. Prosecutors say that in 1999, the culprit began working as the manager of Anila Fund, a \$15 million venture capital fund in Palo Alto. Over the next six years, he formed shell companies to raise money for the fund. He obtained loans and investments from banks, large corporations and some private citizens by exaggerating his personal wealth and the success of the shell companies, according to prosecutors. He provided his investors with dozens of phony financial statements and counterfeit documents, and forged signatures on signature cards, bank checks and stock certificates. At his sentencing, he is expected to be ordered to pay restitution to the 13 clients, which include US Bank, Wells Fargo, Eastman Kodak, Bank One and Silicon Valley Bank.  
Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_10327846](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10327846)

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## **Transportation Sector**

12. *August 29, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **LAX workers go on strike, threatening Labor Day weekend travel.** Threatening to inconvenience air travelers throughout the Labor Day weekend, several hundred airline service workers walked off the job Thursday at Los Angeles International Airport after months of inconclusive contract talks with their employers. Members of the Service Employees International Union Local 1877 went on strike about noon at the Tom Bradley International Terminal and other terminals serving American, United, Southwest and Northwest airlines – some of the largest at the airport. Union officials say the number of workers participating in the action could increase through the holiday weekend, a traditionally busy time of the summer for LAX, which is expected to handle about 850,000 passengers. As of Thursday afternoon, airline and airport officials said the strike had not disrupted operations or delayed flights, but they cautioned travelers to arrive at the airport two hours before departure for domestic flights and three hours early for international flights.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/careers/work/la-me-airport29-2008aug29,0,1343060.story>
13. *August 28, Associated Press* – (New York) **FAA delays first slot auction for Newark.** The Federal Aviation Administration's plan for slot auctions at Newark airport got stuck at the gate on Thursday, a victory for airlines who have fiercely opposed government

sales of landing rights at some of the nation's busiest airports. The airlines had asked the FAA's Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition to halt the auction planned for Wednesday for two slots at Newark's Liberty airport, saying the FAA has no Congressional authority to sell the slots. The ruling on Thursday does not address the merits of airline opposition to the auction, but says there is no harm in waiting. According to the ruling, the FAA said the slots could not be used before October 26. The two slots were to be the first of several auctions the FAA says are needed to reduce congestion and increase competition at the three airports run by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey - Newark, JFK and LaGuardia.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/08/28/ap5369612.html>

14. *August 28, Associated Press* – (International) **Probe reveals oxygen bottle burst on Qantas flight.** An oxygen cylinder caused the explosion that blew a car-sized hole in a Qantas jet last month, forcing an emergency landing, air safety officials said Friday. The release of the interim report confirmed earlier suspicions by investigators that an exploding oxygen tank was the cause. The Boeing 747-438 aircraft, carrying 365 people, was flying over the South China Sea July 5 when the explosion blew a hole in the fuselage five-feet in diameter, causing a loss of cabin pressure.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hyMwb2AkOW3y1vGZ9AJRPghSa4dQD92RLS B00>

15. *August 28, Canwest News Service* – (National) **U.S. concerned with new Canadian shipping rules in Arctic.** Canada's Prime Minister's plan to tighten shipping regulations in the disputed Northwest Passage has caught the attention of the U.S. government, which said Thursday that "we will be discussing the proposal with Canada" to ensure it does not violate international law. The American reaction suggests the U.S., which considers the Northwest Passage an "international strait" rather than "internal Canadian waters," may have concerns about the Conservative government's plan to impose mandatory registering of foreign vessels in the Arctic. Under the UN Law of the Sea, a country's "exclusive economic zone" extends 370 km offshore. But in testimony this summer before the Senate fisheries committee, senior Transport Canada officials noted that most shipping activities still occur less than 100 nautical miles offshore. And they warned that the extension of the law's reach could rankle other countries, such as the United States. Under the Maritime Transportation Security Act, foreign ships must report to the Canadian Coast Guard 96 hours before entering Canadian waters. Ships are also "encouraged" to report through NORDREG - a traffic-monitoring system run by the Coast Guard - 24 hours before they enter Canada's exclusive economic zone.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=ddf03f21-1628-4659-aeda-52dfe3635085>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report



## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

16. *August 29, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center* – (National) **Scientists discover new virus invading US honeybees.** Scientists at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), located in Edgewood, Maryland, working with scientists at the University of Montana and industry partners Bee Alert Technology, Inc. and BVS, Inc. have discovered in U.S. honeybees a virus only before identified in European honeybees. The invading bee virus newly discovered in the U.S. is called Varroa Destructor Virus -1 (VDV-1). First definitively identified in Europe in 2006, VDV-1 is carried by both honeybees and the tiny varroa mites that affect them. VDV-1 is related to a family of paralytic viruses that causes a breakdown of some membranes. The virus was discovered using a technology developed for battlefield detection of viruses. This technology, called Integrated Virus Detection System / Proteomic Mass Spectrometry, reveals virus by size and peptide information contained in a sample and compares that information against known genetic sequences. This approach may provide important clues to scientists around the world working to find the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder. This is the first detection of this virus in North America and will allow beekeepers in the U.S. the possibility of early control and quarantine of affected colonies.  
Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/08-29-2008/0004875607&EDATE=>
17. *August 29, Bradenton Herald* – (National) **Feds: Worst of salmonella is over.** As reported cases of salmonella illness continue to wane, investigators say the worst is over. Since early July, reported cases of people becoming ill from the rare salmonella Saintpaul strain began to significantly drop, indicating that outbreak has subsided. As of August 25, there had been reported 1,442 cases of illness with about 286 people hospitalized in 43 states, including the District of Columbia and Canada. Salmonella poisoning may have contributed to two deaths. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory warning consumers not to consume raw jalapeno or raw Serrano peppers grown, harvested, or packed in Mexico has been lifted. The advisory was lifted after a joint investigation between Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration determined that the outbreak is over and the peppers are no longer in circulation, said the FDA's associate commissioner for foods. While the FDA has come under fire for implicating tomatoes in the initial salmonella Saintpaul outbreak, investigators contend that the peppers may have not been the sole source of contamination. What they do know is that Serrano peppers and contaminated water was found on farms in Mexico. But what is unclear is whether the contamination spread through a canal system or cross contamination of produce at a distribution or packing center.  
Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/102/story/844007.html>
18. *August 28, Reuters* – (International) **Striking potash workers find other jobs-union.** About two-thirds of the 500 workers on strike at three mines owned by Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan have found other jobs in Western Canada's booming labor market, a union spokesman said. Potash Corp, the world's biggest fertilizer company, risks losing

workers permanently, which will make it harder to restart production when the strike ends, a United Steelworkers union spokesman said. Workers at the three mines have been on strike since August 7, as they fight for a bigger share of the company's profits. The mines account for six percent of world capacity for potash, a mineral in demand from farmers wanting to boost yields to capture surging grain prices. The strike has raised concerns about shortages of potash because of tight world supplies and record prices for the fertilizer. Managers restarted operations at the facility this week, but the company has not given details on how much they will be able to produce from the mine. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2833735420080828>

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## **Water Sector**

19. *August 29, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Water board sues U.S. over mothball fleet.** The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board is readying a lawsuit against the U.S. Maritime Administration claiming federal authorities have allowed toxic chemicals and metals from the mothball fleet to continue to leach into Suisun Bay, California. The board contends the 50-plus decrepit ships have dumped asbestos, used oil, and as much as 19 tons of mercury, lead, and copper from their hulls and pose hazards to water quality, commercial and sport fishing, fish migration, and endangered species. Unless federal maritime officials halt the pollution discharges in 60 days, the water board plans to file suit in U.S. District Court in Sacramento under the Clean Water Act. Despite ongoing complaints, maritime officials said the water board's move was disappointing and highlights the agency's rock-and-a-hard-place position in the Bay Area. In essence, the Maritime Administration said it cannot move the ships without first cleaning them, according to a U.S. Coast Guard requirement under the National Invasive Species Act. Cleaning the ships, however, can release more toxic substances into the water, thereby violating the Clean Water Act.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/29/BA3R12K9BU.DTL>

20. *August 28, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **State: 1 in 8 private wells contaminated.** One in eight private wells in New Jersey, tested during real estate transactions or by landlords from September 2002 to April 2007, violated at least one limit for drinking water contaminants, according to a new state report. The 51,028 wells were tested under the Private Well Testing Act of 2001, according to the Department of Environmental Protection report. New Jersey has an estimated 400,000 private wells used for drinking water, and the report indicates that a significant number of them may be contaminated. Statewide, a total of 6,369 private wells exceeded one or more of the maximum contaminant levels for so-called primary drinking water contaminants linked to health concerns. The contaminants include arsenic, mercury, nitrate, total coliform and fecal coliform, gross alpha particle activity (a measure of radioactivity), and volatile organic chemicals, according to the report.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/NEWS03/808280507/1007>



21. *August 28, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Water in Rochester schools to be tested after lead traces found.** The Rochester Community Schools district in Michigan has continued testing the water in two Rochester Hills middle schools after traces of lead and copper were found in water earlier this month, a school official said Thursday. A letter was e-mailed and mailed to parents Wednesday, saying that the drinking water at Van Hoosen and Reuther middle schools exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's safety guidelines when initially tested. However, subsequent tests indicated that the copper and lead levels were low, making the water safe to drink. A spokeswoman for the district said faucets may need to be replaced in the rooms where the lead and copper levels were higher, including boiler rooms and science rooms in both schools. As well, she said the problem may have been caused by water standing in pipes throughout the summer while the schools were closed.  
Source:  
<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/NEWS03/80828075/1005/news>
22. *August 28, Associated Press* – (New York) **Huge underground water plant takes shape under NYC.** A water filtration plant is being built ten stories beneath a Bronx driving range. The plant's completion date has been pushed back six years, and its price tag, which early estimates put at \$660 million, is now \$2.8 billion. Costs, delays, seven-figure fines, and a brush with a high-profile mafia case have sharpened criticism of the city's handling of a project. Officials say they are making good progress despite a late start, and the cost increases are an unavoidable reflection of an industry-wide trend. The federal government has ordered the city to build what will be its first drinking water filtration facility, and the project is believed to be the first subterranean water plant in the nation. By 2012, if the schedule holds, a 12-foot-wide tunnel will feed the plant up to 300 million gallons of water a day – about a quarter of the city's supply. The water will run through a complex set of steps that filter out contaminants: a chemical that makes unwanted particles clump together, air bubbles that push them to the surface to be skimmed off, and a barrier of sand and anthracite coal that strains out still more contaminants. Finally, ultraviolet light will kill bacteria and viruses small enough to have squeezed through the various filters. Most of the city's water supply, piped in from rural upstate areas more than 75 miles away, will remain unfiltered. The Bronx plant will treat the ten percent to 30 percent that comes from closer, more suburban reservoirs in what is known as the Croton watershed. The city Department of Environmental Protection said the Bronx location provides more security, more city jobs, and will indeed be cheaper to build – largely because it requires shorter tunnels to the water supply.  
Source:  
<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jgYkgbX7Jwv1F6U5kk9Y95iP3LdQD92RGUHO1>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

23. *August 29, KPMH 26 Fresno* – (California) **Possible hepatitis, HIV exposure at Valley**

**Hospital.** The State Department of Public Health is investigating Clovis Community Medical Center after the hospital discovered that more than a dozen patients may have been exposed to Hepatitis and HIV. Clovis Community Chief Quality Officer said that “one batch of medical instruments may not have completed the full sterilization cycle.” Doctors believe the instruments were cleaned and sanitized, but the final “heating” step may have been overlooked. The exposure in question stems from instruments used during labor deliveries and minimal invasive surgeries.

Source: [http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=8919319&nav=menu612\\_2](http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=8919319&nav=menu612_2)

24. *August 28, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **DHHS calls for evaluation, security at Cherry Hospital.** The North Carolina Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services has directed the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to contract the services of an independent outside hospital management firm to evaluate the operational and management structure of Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro. He has also directed Division management to increase the number of security personnel on the campus. “The serious and ongoing nature of issues at Cherry Hospital has convinced me that an outside evaluation by an independent hospital management group is necessary in order to identify problems and to recommend immediate steps for corrections and improvements,” he said.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200880828042>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

25. *August 29, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FEMA says weaknesses remain.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is rushing to prepare for what may be its first major test since Hurricane Katrina. The agency has changed markedly since then, with new management, beefed-up procedures, and a heightened sense of the nation’s vulnerability to catastrophic natural disasters. But lawmakers and department investigators are warning that the agency’s ability to marshal its forces quickly still is lagging. FEMA has put supplies, including ready-to-eat meals, tarps, blankets, and cots, at 11 locations in the region, from Fort Worth, Texas, to Orlando, Florida, according to agency documents. The agency has identified shelters for evacuees, including some in surrounding states. Lawmakers are concerned that the agency faces operational hurdles that could hamper its response if Gustav batters the Gulf Coast with a force approaching that of Katrina. A Department of Homeland Security inspector-general report in March assessed nine key areas at FEMA relating to preparedness and found moderate progress in five and very little progress in one: managing resources and training.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121996708294481511.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121996708294481511.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

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## **Information Technology**

26. *August 28, Web Wereled Netherlands* – (International) **Defending Islam, hacker defaces thousands of Dutch websites.** Over the last six weeks, a ‘hactivist’ calling himself ‘nEt^DeViL’ has hijacked numerous Dutch sites, posting ideological statements on their home pages in retaliation for the anti-Islamic short film “Fitna” which was made and released earlier this year by a right-wing Dutch politician. Such an attack is known as website defacement. Zone-H.org, a website that tracks website defacement attacks worldwide, has documented thousands of compromised websites over the last months. Zone-H reports that ‘nEt^DeViL’ has hacked 18,157 websites as of Thursday, August 28.

Source: <http://www.itworld.com/security/54552/defending-islam-hacker-defaces-thousands-dutch-websites>

27. *August 28, Redmond Mag* – (National) **Microsoft updates IE patch due to VML flaw.** Microsoft this week released an update to a 2007 Internet Explorer (IE) patch covering Internet Explorer 5.01, Internet Explorer 6, and Internet Explorer 7. The update follows the company’s cumulative general security patch release for August, which included critical fixes for Microsoft’s browser application. The software giant says this latest IE security update, which was published on Wednesday, “resolves a privately reported vulnerability” in the Vector Markup Language (VML) implementation in Windows. The main purpose of VML is to allow servers to communicate with one another and share structured data, particularly via the Web. The updated IE patch addresses the kill bit for ActiveX controls, as well as the way certain strings in cascading style sheet (CSS) files are configured and aggregated for Web publishing.

Source: <http://redmondmag.com/news/article.asp?EditorialsID=10162>

### **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**

28. *August 28, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* – (Indiana) **Fiber optic line cut.** A fiber optic line was cut Thursday in Indiana, disrupting communications in several northeast Indiana counties, the Indiana Emergency Management Agency reported. In a statement relayed by the National Weather Service, the agency said work to fix the line is in progress, but when the work will be finished has not been determined. Service was disrupted in Allen, Adams, Blackford, Huntington, Jay, and Wells counties, the

statement said.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/LOCAL/808280263/1044/LOCAL08>

29. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Phone companies can't ban class action in Washington.** The Washington State Supreme Court has unanimously ruled that class-action lawsuit waivers in phone company contracts are not valid in Washington State because they violate state law. The high court's decision was similar to a ruling it made last year in a case against Cingular Wireless. In Thursday's case, a man sued AT&T over Wenatchee city taxes that showed up on his bill after he got long distance service in 2002. He actually lived outside Wenatchee city limits, but AT&T told him it charged the tax according to zip code - even though his zip code extended to people living outside the city.

Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008145181\\_apwascowphonecontracts2ndldwritethru.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008145181_apwascowphonecontracts2ndldwritethru.html)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

30. *August 28, Government Executive* – (Colorado) **Special TSA force helps secure Democratic convention.** A special squad of 100 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees helped out at the Democratic National Convention this week. The TSA screeners are under the direction of Secret Service, which oversaw the security at the convention. "We brought in additional officers from our national screening force; they're available to travel to different airports based on need," said a Rocky Mountain regional spokeswoman for TSA. That group, the National Deployment Force, has existed since TSA was created in late 2001. Members are not based at any one airport, so they can travel to events as needed without pulling security personnel away from regional airports. Transportation security officers from the National Deployment Force are working only in Denver and will not travel to the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, next week. TSA will provide 50 security officers to help with screening in St. Paul, half the number used in Denver, but the screeners will come from airports rather than the special squad. The agency's security officers are trained in identifying suspicious behavior. The agency also will deploy K-9 dog teams to assist in explosives detection.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0808/082808ar1.htm>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

31. *August 29, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **Vandalism, theft reported.** Recent vandalism at the Fetterman Battlefield site near Story, Montana, has resulted in the theft of a bronze eagle from the plaque on the monument memorializing the historic Indian battle.

The theft is believed to have occurred during the past few weeks. The eagle, with wings spread and grasping two U.S. flags in its talons, was mounted above the words memorializing the battle between U.S. Army soldiers from Fort Phil Kearny and Indian warriors of the Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes on December 21, 1866.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/08/29/news/wyoming/60-vandalism.txt>

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## **Dams Sector**

32. *August 29, Wenatchee World* – (Washington) **Nearly 100 suspected illegal dams discovered in NCW.** Nearly 600 bodies of water that appear from aerial photographs to be illegally dammed reservoirs – the largest one covering 26 acres – were discovered during a state investigation this summer. “We knew there were some out there, but we were surprised by the number of them,” said the dam safety supervisor for the state Department of Ecology. The agency scanned high-resolution aerial photos taken across the state to find reservoirs held by earthen dams that were built without required state permits. At the same time, property owners were given several months to voluntarily come forward and own up to having an unlicensed dam and reservoir without facing penalties. Of the 594 suspected illegal dams found in the pictures, 99 are in north central Washington. Grant County had the most in the state with 77. The 244 dams and reservoirs identified as “high hazard” – because they sit above at least three homes – will be examined by a state inspector, and then the property owners will be required to hire an engineer to provide recommendations on how to bring the facilities up to current safety standards.

Source:

<http://wenatcheeworld.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080829/NEWS04/708299933>

33. *August 29, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps beefs up battle plan for levee emergencies.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ disaster preparedness and response procedures for New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2005 made up a general disaster plan that did not address the potential for, or the potential response to, a levee or floodwall breach. But the Corps chiefs say that the current plan takes that possibility into account. Corps officials can not promise that breaches will not occur, nor that they could be immediately closed. But thanks to Katrina’s lessons learned and an overhauled emergency disaster plan, a Corps major promises a more organized, more efficient response to emergencies.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/index.ssf?/base/news-0/121998790256200.xml&coll=1>

34. *August 29, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Dike concerns could prompt lowering of Lake Okeechobee.** In Florida, Lake Okeechobee rose so high, so fast, after Tropical Storm Fay that federal water managers may start dumping lake water to ease the strain on the aging dike that protects south Florida from flooding. Lowering the lake means sending water into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and out to sea. The lake on Thursday measured 14.02 feet above sea level. The U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers tries to keep the lake between 12.5 feet and 15.5 feet to keep from overwhelming the 70-year-old, earthen dike named one of the six in the country most at risk of failing.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-flakeo0829sbaug29,0,1094920.story>

35. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans wonders if rebuilt levees will hold.** Just three years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans confronts a new threat from Gustav and a stark question: Will the partially rebuilt levees hold? Despite \$2 billion in improvements – including 220 miles of repaired, raised, and replaced floodwalls, 17 new pump stations, and more flood-resistant pump stations – nobody can say for sure the city will not be swamped again. Levee experts and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers insist New Orleans is safer than before Katrina flooded more than 80 percent of the city. Yet the system still has severe shortcomings: Flood barriers meant only to withstand medium-strength storms, hidden layers of weak soil, and navigation channels that inadvertently funnel storm surge into the city, to name a few. Experts estimate the system is only a third of the way to where the Corps wants it by 2011 – strong enough to protect against what scientists call a 100-year-storm.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26444204/>

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