



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 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/>

- Reuters reports that aerial inspection of Entergy’s power lines showed extensive damage in the Baton Rouge area. Entergy’s vice president of transmission said the lines will take weeks to restore. (See item [1](#))
- According to the Minneapolis Star, members of a self-described anarchist group began planning ways to disrupt the Republican National Convention over a year ago. Plans included kidnapping delegates, sabotaging air vents at the Xcel Energy Center, blocking bridges, and “capturing federal buildings” in Minneapolis and St. Paul. (See item [34](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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

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

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 4, Reuters* – (Arkansas; Louisiana; Mississippi) **Full recovery of Entergy grid weeks away.** Entergy Corp. officials were able to restore two critical transmission lines overnight, allowing the state’s largest utility to reconnect New Orleans to the statewide power grid, officials said on Wednesday. The return of two 230-kilovolt lines knocked out by Hurricane Gustav will allow more power to be restored to homes and businesses in New Orleans and communities along the Mississippi River; full recovery of the state’s largest utility grid is weeks away, Entergy’s vice president of transmission said Wednesday. Aerial inspection of Entergy’s power lines showed extensive damage in the Baton Rouge area, with many steel towers down, he said. “Those lines will take

weeks to restore,” he said. Entergy also restored another major line, but at least 10 of 14 of Entergy’s transmission paths to move power from generation north of Baton Rouge to New Orleans remained shut on Wednesday, officials said. More than 180 transmission lines and 138 substations remain out of service. Power had been restored to more than 75,000 customers late Wednesday, leaving Entergy with 774,000 customers in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas that lacked power. That is down from the storm peak of 850,000. New outages were reported as remnants of the storm moved inland.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0330056320080904?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

2. *September 3, Associated Press* – (California) **California: Utility violations led to deadly fires.** Improperly maintained utility lines were to blame for three wildfires that swept through California’s San Diego County last fall, killing two people, destroying 1,347 homes, and forcing massive evacuations, state regulators said. The California Public Utilities Commission said the October fires were started because San Diego Gas & Electric Co. (SDG&E) and Cox Communications violated state regulations regarding the maintenance of power lines. Two of the fires started when utility wires touched in strong winds, the commission said in a report released Tuesday. A third started when a tree limb fell onto one of the utility’s power lines, the report said. The commission accused the utility of failing to cooperate with investigators who were sent to probe the wildfires, hindering the release of a more timely report. The utility said regulators lack the evidence to support their claims. The utility also denied blocking access to its staff, saying employees were busy making repairs and re-establishing power when regulators first requested interviews. The San Diego City attorney said he plans to add Cox Communications to the city’s lawsuit to recover \$40 million in firefighting costs and damage to city property from SDG&E. The utility is also fighting lawsuits from more than 300 fire victims.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26526625/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *September 4, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Man sentenced for theft that caused chemical leak.** A Kanawha County, West Virginia, man will spend more than three years in prison for stealing a chemical from a tank and causing a leak that left him and several others injured. The man had pleaded guilty in May to stealing and negligently causing a dangerous chemical to be released into the air. He was sentenced Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Charleston. The U.S. Attorney’s Office said the man stole anhydrous ammonia from a 1,000-gallon tank at Penn Virginia Resources in eastern Kanawha County on February 27. He had planned to use the chemical to make methamphetamine. Clark suffered burns to his hands and injuries to his lungs when the chemical leaked. Several emergency personnel also required medical attention, and nearby residents were told to stay inside.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/News/200809040152>

4. *September 4, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Hundreds of barrels discovered in SW Mich. Field.** Government officials are investigating the discovery in a Kalamazoo County, Michigan, field of about 400 barrels that might contain hazardous materials. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tells Kalamazoo TV station WWMT that it has been monitoring the area's air quality and has not detected anything dangerous. Ground samples have been sent to a lab for analysis. Environmental investigators say they do not believe the 55-gallon drums pose a threat to people living near the wooded Texas Township property. Representatives of the EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality started going over the property early last week. Officials say they expect to know more soon about the barrels' contents.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-barrels-hazardous,0,4333680.story>

5. *September 3, Bay City Tribune* – (Texas) **Chemical spill closes county streets.** Several emergency crews responded to an early morning chemical spill Tuesday morning after a tanker turned over on FM 1862 just outside of Blessing, Texas. The Matagorda County Emergency Management coordinator said the spill occurred when an 18-wheeler tanker carrying hydrochloric acid slid off the road and lost its load. As soon as Matagorda County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the scene, they shut down FM 616 and FM 1862 and evacuated residents living within harm's way of the airborne chemical, the official said. The Railroad Commission was notified of the spill and they responded to the scene and shut down the stretch of railroad that runs along the hazardous area.
Source: <http://baycitytribune.com/story.lasso?ewcd=c3db0770a569e905>

6. *September 3, Industrial Info resources, Inc.* – (South) **Gustav spares chemical industry of major damage but leaves a wide path of plant disruptions.** An estimated 100 plants operating in the Chemical Processing Industry (CPI) were in the path of Hurricane Gustav, threatening billions in installed assets vital to the Gulf Coast's industrial food chain. Power remains unavailable to many while other plants fortunate enough to recover all or portions of their power do not have the available man power to restart operations. Several of the major ethylene producers in this area, such as the Dow Chemical Company, had only limited power late Tuesday, making it impossible to begin the restart process.
Source: <http://www.industrialinfo.com/showAbstract.jsp?newsitemID=138127>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *September 3, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Regulator says Utah can't be only solution for nuclear waste.** An Utah regulator advised nuclear waste producers that his state might not be willing any longer to solve their many disposal problems. The deputy director of Utah's Department of Environmental Quality noted that many around the nation rely on EnergySolutions Inc.'s disposal site for low-level radioactive waste in Tooele County, Utah. And it is being eyed as a solution for even more kinds of waste from more places, including international cleanups, he told nuclear waste handlers and regulators Wednesday at the RadWaste Summit in Las Vegas. The three-day meeting,

the second of its kind, involves local, state, regional, national, and international regulators, as well as businesses that provide cleanup, disposal, and treatment of low-level radioactive waste. Many of those attending are looking at ways to use hazardous-waste sites for material that is mildly contaminated with radiation. They also are considering blending mildly contaminated waste with hotter waste so that it is eligible for disposal at the EnergySolutions site. EnergySolutions is the only disposal site for low-level waste from 36 states.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_10371801

8. *September 2, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Indiana) **NRC proposes \$3,250 fine against Indiana company for failing to secure nuclear gauges.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a \$3,250 fine against Alt & Witzig Engineering Inc., headquartered in Carmel, Indiana, for a violation of NRC requirements. The NRC identified the violation during a routine inspection at the company's Lafayette, Indiana, facility and a temporary job site in May of this year. The violation involved the failure to properly secure portable nuclear gauges when not in use. The agency requires two independent systems to secure the gauges. In one instance gauges were stored in a room with only a single locked door, and in the second instance a gauge was stored in a locked box on the open bed of a truck. "This violation is a concern because someone could have been exposed to radiation if the devices were stolen and the radiation sources exposed," said an NRC regional administrator. After the NRC inspector brought the violation to the company's attention, they took immediate corrective actions to properly secure the gauges.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-032iii.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *September 4, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **General warns against further tanker delays.** On Wednesday, a top U.S. Air Force general who heads the service's Air Mobility Command warned that a further delay in overhauling the Eisenhower-era aerial-refueling-tanker fleet could leave the service flying some of its aircraft for decades longer. The comments came as the Pentagon considers whether to agree to Boeing Co.'s demand that it delay a final request for bids for the \$35 billion tanker program by six months, effectively kicking the decision on the contract to the next administration. He urged that the Pentagon stick to its plan to complete the bidding process on the lucrative defense contract by the end of the year. The general noted that if the tanker program is delayed another year or two, some of the aircraft in the fleet could be more than 80 years old by the time they are retired. In the preliminary request for proposals released in August after the audit, the Pentagon, which took over the bidding, made it clear it favors a plane with a greater capacity to haul fuel and cargo, such as the Airbus A330, the jet proposed by Northrop. However, Government Accountability Office investigators criticized Air Force evaluators for rewarding Northrop's proposed jet for carrying more fuel, cargo, and passengers than required, after stating no extra credit would be granted to aircraft that exceeded the government's performance guidelines.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-thu_tankersep04,0,1451098.story

10. *September 3, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Retired University of Tennessee professor convicted of arms export violations.** On Wednesday, a federal jury convicted a retired University of Tennessee professor after a seven day trial of illegally exporting military technical information relating to plasma technology designed to be deployed on the wings of drones operating as a weapons or surveillance system. The illegal arms exports by the professor related to technical data and information that was developed through a U.S. Air Force research and development contract to develop this advanced form of a drone. He was specifically convicted of one count of conspiring with Atmospheric Glow Technology, Inc., a Knoxville, Tennessee, technology company, to unlawfully export in 2005 and 2006 fifteen different “defense articles” to a citizen of the People’s Republic of China in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. He was also convicted of 15 counts of violating the Arms Export Control Act and one count of wire fraud relating to defrauding the University of Tennessee of the honest services by illegally exporting sensitive military information relating to this U.S. Air Force contract. Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/09-03-2008/0004878376&EDATE=>
11. *September 3, United States Transportation Command* – (National) **USTRANSCOM deploys container security system to better protect U.S. military supply chain.** The United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) deployed a container security system which detects tampering and helps protect military container shipments moving from Afghanistan to Pakistan. USTRANSCOM introduced the CommerceGuard container security system to better protect its container shipments. The command required quick action to add high technology intrusion detection and tracking to containers being transported to the port of Karachi in Pakistan. The system provides shipment security throughout the supply chain. USTRANSCOM contractors use CommerceGuard handheld readers at specific checkpoints in the supply chain to read container security devices on the command’s containers. The devices report the security status of each container, alerting USTRANSCOM if doors have been opened without authorization. Logistics managers can use the data to determine when and where containers were opened. U.S. military personnel mount the container security devices inside the container doors when the containers are filled with supplies, then use a handheld reader to arm the devices for shipment. Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/09-03-2008/0004878351&EDATE=>
12. *September 3, KTVN 2 Reno* – (Nevada) **Safety of air tankers questioned after Monday’s crash.** The air tanker that crashed on Monday near the Reno-Stead Airport was an old submarine hunter built for the U.S. Navy back in 1962. Most of the larger air tankers used these days are old military planes, modified to fight fires. The plane that crashed Monday was a Lockheed P2V-7. The plane that crashed came off the assembly line in 1962. At first glance, it looks like a twin-prop engine plane. But the P2V-7 model is unique. It has two props engines and two jet engines. And it is one of the jet engines that apparently caught fire, causing Monday’s crash. Nobody knows what led to

Monday's engine fire, but these planes do not fly unless they pass daily inspections. So the air tanker community is waiting for investigators to piece together what went wrong. Source: http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=8949059&nav=menu549_2

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *September 3, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota) **New scam targets cell phone users.** The South Dakota Consumer Protection Division is warning South Dakota cell phone users to be cautious of an ongoing scam that lures consumers into giving out personal information. The scam begins with a call to a consumer's cell phone and a recorded message that states that their credit card account at a credit union or bank has been deactivated. The recorded message then requests them to hit the number "1" on their cell phone and leave their account number. All messages are recorded and at no time does the victim talk with a live person. The caller's id typically shows up as a 6 digit number such as 206-766, 208-788. People, who have provided any personal account information to an unsolicited source like this, need to immediately contact your bank or credit union. Source: <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2008/09/03/news/top/doc48bef5f0e2d4b104170430.txt>

14. *September 3, Associated Press* – (National) **2 Wall St. brokers accused of \$1B subprime fraud.** A former Wall Street broker pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges he and a colleague duped investors into purchasing more than \$1 billion in high-risk securities by making it look as though the trades were protected by the federal government. An indictment unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn said because the securities actually were tied to subprime mortgages, the two former Credit Suisse Securities brokers stood to pocket higher commissions. The scheme was exposed when the subprime market collapsed. Credit Suisse said the two resigned last September "after we detected their prohibited activity and promptly suspended them." The New York investment firm said it immediately informed the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of their activities and has continued to assist the agency in its investigation. The indictment and a related SEC civil lawsuit alleged that the two led corporate customers to believe that auction rate securities being purchased in their accounts were backed by federally guaranteed student loans and were safe like cash. In reality, the securities were backed by subprime mortgages, collateralized debt obligations and other high-risk investments, the authorities said. Because of their higher risk, they brought a higher yield and much larger commissions for the brokers. The SEC is seeking unspecified restitution and civil fines against the brokers. Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iFYRzg0v88IHxu7fhmy3YTNrxijAD92VG8BG2>

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Transportation Sector

15. *September 4, Washington Post* – (National) **Radiation detector plan falls short, audit shows.** An ambitious program to use new technology to stop radioactive materials from being smuggled into the country has fallen far short of its aims and will likely be sharply curtailed, according to an audit report obtained by the Washington Post. The project, involving three contractors, has been embroiled in allegations that the department's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office misled Congress about the testing, cost and effectiveness of the machines. Budget documents this year showed the cost to put the monitors at borders and ports would be far higher than the detection office originally estimated. An audit report by the federal Government Accountability Office shows that officials in the detection office plan to deploy the machines, known as advanced spectroscopic portal monitors or ASPs, on a far more limited basis than originally planned. The new plan will focus on using the machines to monitor cargo containers, the report said. The detection office is not sure what method it will use to screen "rail cars, privately owned vehicles, airport cargo and cargo at seaport terminals" in the near future, the report said. The program has been delayed repeatedly after investigators turned up evidence that the detection office provided misleading cost estimates and inflated detection capabilities in a cost-benefit report to Congress in 2006. Last fall, the Homeland Security Secretary put off deployment after the GAO alleged that detection officials fudged testing of the machines and after customs officials complained that they did not work well in field tests. The current machines are effective at detecting the presence of radiation but often cannot distinguish benign sources, such as cat litter, from materials that can be used in weapons.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/09/03/ST2008090303418.html>

16. *September 3, KWMU 90.7 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Lambert to install more security cameras.** Lambert St. Louis, Missouri, airport will be expanding its security system soon by installing 142 new surveillance cameras. The closed-circuit cameras are part of a Transportation Security Administration grant to modernize security measures at Lambert. The airport director says cameras will be located throughout the airport's terminal and gate complexes. He says the second phase of the airport's security modernization will include a pilot perimeter surveillance system that most airports currently do not have.

Source:

http://publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1356650§ionID=1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *September 4, WTAM 1100 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Chagrin Falls package triggers an evacuation.** On Thursday morning, a policeman noticed a suspicious package taped to a blue mailbox outside the Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Post Office. The streets immediately in front of and behind the post office were evacuated as a precaution, along with buildings to the sides of the post office. A U.S. Postal Service spokesman reports that their inspectors were able to determine that the package was harmless.

Source: <http://www.wtam.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=122520&article=4192285>

18. *September 3, Atlanta Business Chronicle* – (South) **UPS service back online in most storm ravaged areas.** Atlanta-based package shipping giant United Parcel Service Inc. reported Wednesday it had restored package delivery service to most areas that bore Gustav's wrath. And none of its facilities or delivery vehicles suffered any substantial damage from the storm, it said. However, New Orleans' municipal government has not yet lifted its mandatory evacuation order, so service to the Big Easy is still on hold. UPS said it will get service there up and running once it can send employees into Greater New Orleans, even if it has to use generators to power up. Other areas still awaiting service are mostly in Louisiana, including Houma and New Iberia.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2008/09/01/daily34.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *September 4, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Food companies pledge not to use clones.** Twenty food companies have told a consumer group that they will not use milk or meat from cloned livestock. The companies, including Smithfield Foods Inc. and Kraft Foods Inc., were responding to a survey conducted by the Center for Food Safety, a consumer group that opposes animal cloning. Polls have shown most consumers are uncomfortable with the idea of eating products from cloned livestock, whether for health, ethical, or environmental reasons. A spokesman for Kraft, the U.S.'s largest food company by revenue and a major cheese producer, said the company has told suppliers it will accept only ingredients from conventional animals. The pledge now only applies to cloned animals; the company says it will continue to monitor consumer acceptance of products from clones' offspring. Other companies, including Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Tyson Foods Inc., have also banned the use of cloned animals in food products. Many have not made a similar pledge to avoid using food from the conventionally bred offspring of clones, however, partly because no one is tracking the offspring. A few have made such a pledge.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122049659020697987.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

20. *September 3, University of Manchester* – (International; National) **Scientists use bacteria to pinpoint chloride toxins.** Scientists have studied the sensor with which bacteria detect chloride compounds, many of which can be carcinogenic or dangerous to the environment, and now hope to speed up identification of these dangerous toxins from weeks to just a few hours. Many man-made compounds that are toxic contain chlorine, such as dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls, and some of these can be extremely dangerous carcinogens. The compounds can contaminate food, for example, when dioxins were discovered in citrus pulp from Brazil in 1998, the 1999 Belgian dioxin crisis involving chicken products, and contaminated bakery offal from Germany in 2003. The compounds can also be found in the environment; and while contaminated soil can be burned clean, contaminated water systems are difficult to deal with.

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news139669699.html>

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Water Sector

21. *September 3, Journal Gazette –Times Courier* – (Illinois) **Gas line leaks in Charleston; city water unaffected.** Marathon Pipeline LLC crews responded Wednesday to an apparent leak of diesel fuel from an underground line east of Charleston, Illinois. The mayor said Marathon crews reported that the leak did not reach the nearby Embarras River, but he said the city's water treatment plant stopped pumping water from the river into the Lake Charleston side channel reservoir as a precaution. A Marathon spokeswoman said the line shut down immediately as indications of a leak were detected Wednesday morning. She said a response team took containment measures, such as placing absorbent materials around the site, as a precaution. "We have been assured that at this point the leak of diesel fuel has been contained to the immediate area in the cornfield well away from our water supply," the mayor said after meeting with Marathon crews at the site. "We have been assured the company has adequate equipment and manpower available to control the leak and keep our water supply safe." When an incident like such a spill occurs, the mayor said, having a side channel reservoir between the Embarras River and the water treatment plant is a great advantage. "The river can literally be taken out of the system at this point," he said. "We have ample water available in the reservoir."

Source: <http://www.jg-tc.com/articles/2008/09/04/news/doc48bf354130ee0745388435.txt>

22. *September 3, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **EPA backs plan to cap tainted landfill.** The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is endorsing a plan to cap the Brick Township Landfill in New Jersey with a mix of plastic and clay to prevent further groundwater contamination in the Herbertsville section of the township. But the agency does not plan to treat the already contaminated ground water; it only will require water quality to be monitored. The 40.7-acre garbage dump opened in the 1940s, and contamination spreading from the landfill now covers 400.7 acres mostly to the southeast, which is the direction the ground water is flowing at about 1.8 feet per day, according to an EPA report released in July. Motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, pesticides and herbicides all were dumped at the site during its history. "A statistical analysis of groundwater sampling data indicates that there would be an unacceptable risk and hazard to human health if the ground water were used as a drinking water supply in the future," the report said. The cap is the final step toward being able to redevelop the property, said the mayor. The EPA report said it would pursue deed restrictions that would bar residential development.

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080903/NEWS02/809030347/1070>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *September 4, Reuters* – (National) **Fire retardant chemical found in children.** A fire retardant chemical used in electronics, toys, and furniture has been detected in children's blood at triple the levels found in their mothers, the Environmental Working Group reported on Thursday. In a small pilot study of 20 families, the non-profit environmental group tested blood samples from mothers and their young children ages 18 months to four years for the presence of PBDEs, a hormone-disrupting chemical. In 19 of the 20 families, concentrations of PBDEs were typically three times as high in children as in their mothers, said the study's author. She said young children are exposed to more of these substances because they play by putting their hands and other household items in their mouths after touching furniture or appliances that contain PBDEs. They also eat more and drink more, proportionally, than their mothers do, and food and drink can contain these chemicals, she said. PBDEs, or polybrominated diphenyl ethers, are hormone-disrupting pollutants that build up in the blood and tissues. Two forms of PBDEs are no longer made in the United States but are still present in items in U.S. homes, the study said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN0327109520080904>

24. *September 3, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Hospitals open and readying for returning residents.** Almost all New Orleans area hospitals had regained normal electrical power by Wednesday, with representatives saying they are readying clinics to open this week or next, while currently able to handle emergency room visits. The head of the Tulane University Hospital & Clinic said scheduled procedures at his facility were canceled through the weekend, but emergency services are available. On Monday his hospital will reopen clinics and resume normal services. While damage to the hospital is minor, he said the lack of usual staffing at the hospital means they are not yet back up to normal. Teams of medical personnel expected to relieve the doctors and nurses who have been working since the weekend are supposed to arrive over the next couple days, Lynch said.
Source:
http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2008/09/hospitals_open_and_readying_fo.htm
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Government Facilities Sector

25. *September 4, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Aide charged with bringing loaded gun to school.** A three-year employee of the Boston public schools was arrested on gun charges yesterday after police said a loaded weapon was found in his backpack at the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School in Dorchester, where he is a teacher's assistant. The man was arraigned in Dorchester District Court and placed on administrative leave.
Source:
http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/09/04/aide_charged_with_bringing_loaded_gun_to_school/

26. *September 4, North County Times* – (California) **Suspicious package at City Hall Fire Department equipment, not bomb.** Three battery-powered electrical wands caused a bomb scare that temporarily evacuated the Oceanside Civic Center Wednesday afternoon. A spokesman for the Oceanside Police Department said a mail room employee in the Oceanside City Clerk’s office heard a clicking noise coming from a package delivered by a FedEx messenger and addressed to a city battalion chief in the fire department. The office was evacuated until it was determined that that the package contained only battery-powered electric wands used to detect electrical circuits.
Source:
<http://www.northcountytimes.com/articles/2008/09/03/news/coastal/oceanside/z5e79cf69f1c20aef882574b9007ca5b1.txt>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *September 4, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Tammany’s 911 service restored.** Thousands of power lines and fiber-optic cables snapped during Hurricane Gustav, but damage to two particular lines meant that St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, lost its 911 emergency telephone service for about two hours during the height of the storm. As it blew through, Gustav damaged an aerial fiber-optic line running across the Rigolets and severed a second one near LaPlace, an AT&T spokeswoman said Wednesday. The lines were designed to be redundant so that if one is damaged, traffic can be rerouted through the other, she said. With both lines damaged, the connection between north shore dispatchers and the south shore system that routes their calls was broken sometime Monday morning. The outage left agencies with little recourse other than asking residents in need of help to try to flag down emergency responders on the road. Within two hours, a fallback system was quickly developed that allowed many citizens to reach operators or dispatchers, though without information on the location or phone number of the caller, which is provided by the south shore system.
Source: <http://www.nola.com/timespic/stories/index.ssf?/base//library-154/1220505771325680.xml&coll=1>
28. *September 3, TMCNet* – (Louisiana) **Verizon teams engage in emergency operations for Gustav.** Verizon Wireless has been continuously sending teams of network technicians and generators to areas in Louisiana that have been impacted by Hurricane Gustav. Although about 90 percent of the company’s network in the Gulf Coast region is up and running, the cell sites are being repaired for service by Verizon technicians. They are also utilizing mobile transmission units to boost network capacity in those areas where the wireless communications network is essential for the residents and rescue workers in the wake of the storm. Also, Cells on Wheels (COWs), Cells on Light Trucks (COLTs), and a number of mobile generators have been installed by the network teams of Verizon in the Gulf Coast areas to empower the network.
Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/disaster-planning/articles/38732-verizon-teams-engage-emergency-operations-gustav.htm>
29. *September 3, WPTZ 5 Burlington* – (Vermont) **Fairpoint infrastructure fails, knocks**

out 9-1-1 in northern Vt. A failure of Fairpoint Communications infrastructure knocked out 911 service in the northern half of Vermont Wednesday morning for more than an hour. Officials at the LaMoille County Sheriffs Department and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board announced Wednesday afternoon that 911 calls were not being connected properly and the two agencies immediately informed Fairpoint and the 911 systems contractor of the problem, according to a press release issued Wednesday morning. An investigation of the problem showed that 911 calls were not following an appropriate path to a call aggregation center in Burlington, Vermont, according to the 911 Board and police. Fairpoint was able to fix the problem by midday.

Source: <http://www.wptz.com/news/17381489/detail.html>

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Information Technology

30. *September 3, ComputerWorld* – (National) **Google Chrome at risk from ‘carpet bomb’ bug.** Attackers can combine a months-old “carpet bomb” bug with another flaw disclosed last month to trick people running Google Inc.’s brand-new Chrome browser into downloading and launching malicious code, a security researcher said today. The attacks are possible because Google used an older version of WebKit, an open-source rendering engine that also powers Apple Inc.’s Safari, as the foundation of Chrome, said a researcher on Wednesday. He posted a proof-of-concept exploit to demonstrate how hackers could create a new “blended threat,” so-named because it relies on multiple vulnerabilities, to attack Chrome, the browser Google released this week.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9114078&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

31. *September 3, InformationWeek* – (International) **The steady rise of targeted trojan attacks.** Reports out of South Korea say that North Korean spyware made its way onto the computer of a South Korean army colonel. “A North Korean spyware e-mail was reportedly transmitted to the computer of a colonel at a field army command via China in early August. The e-mail contained a typical program designed automatically to steal stored files if the recipient opens it. It has not been confirmed whether military secrets were leaked as a result of the hacking attempt, but their scale could be devastating given that the recipient is in charge of the South Korean military’s central nervous system – Command, Control, Communication, Computer & Information (C4I).”

Source:

http://www.informationweek.com/blog/main/archives/2008/09/the_steady_rise.html

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

32. *September 4, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FCC likely to cut back on phone data.** Federal regulators are on the verge of cutting back on the amount of information they collect from the country's largest phone companies about service quality and customer complaints. On Friday, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to approve a request from AT&T Inc. to allow the company to stop filing yearly reports on service quality, customer satisfaction and infrastructure investment. Similar requests by Verizon Communications Inc. and Qwest Communications International Inc. are also expected to be approved soon. Consumer groups and state regulators have objected to the proposal, saying the quality data are valuable. The FCC will open up a related notice of proposed rulemaking that looks at how to improve the collection of data on complaints and other issues from phone companies, including wireless and Internet phone providers.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122048636736397179.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *September 2, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Police hope violent St. Paul protests will end.** Police arrested more than 280 people Monday during a series of skirmishes that ranged throughout downtown St. Paul, Minnesota, some within blocks of the hockey arena where the Republican National Convention began its four-day run. "We are prepared for this type of activity to continue all week, although we certainly hope that the violence is done and the rest of the week will be peaceful," said the Minneapolis Police captain. Minneapolis is one of many agencies working with St. Paul on security. The small but persistent band of self-described anarchists were blamed for attacking delegates, smashing windows, puncturing car tires, throwing bottles, and starting at least one fire. Their actions largely overshadowed a much larger antiwar march that snaked from the Capitol to the convention site at the Xcel Energy Center. An estimated 10,000 people joined in the antiwar march, but it was a string of at-times violent actions by self-described anarchists that repeatedly frustrated police. Police responded with officers on horses and with smoke bombs and pepper spray. Late Monday afternoon, long after the antiwar marchers had dispersed, 150 Minnesota National Guard soldiers joined police to control the splinter groups.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/conventions/27737929.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUnciaec8O7EyUsr>

34. *September 2, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Kidnapping, sabotage was part of anarchists' plan to disrupt convention.** Almost a year to the day before the Republican National Convention (RNC) began, members of a self-described anarchist group gathered to talk about ways to disrupt it, including kidnapping delegates,

sabotaging air vents at the Xcel Energy Center, blocking bridges, and “capturing federal buildings” in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Two police informants and an undercover investigator had infiltrated the RNC Welcoming Committee ranks, according to an affidavit and search warrant application filed Tuesday. According to the document, the RNC Welcoming Committee held two “pReNC” gatherings, one from August 31 through September 1, 2007, and another on May 3. At the first, 150 to 200 people, including one of the informants, talked about tactics to “shut down the RNC.” At the second, St. Paul was divided into seven sectors for various anarchist groups to claim. The affidavit also said that group e-mails from the Welcoming Committee talked about leaving abandoned or overturned vehicles at intersections, pulling a single officer from a police line and beating him, using liquid sprayers filled with urine or chemicals, “unarresting” techniques to free people arrested by police, obtaining fake credentials, and dozens of other tactics. In addition to buckets of urine, investigators seized homemade devices used to disable buses and other vehicles, weapons, gas masks, flammable liquids, and rags that could be used to make Molotov cocktails, computer storage devices, documents, pamphlets, and banners. Some materials, such as banners and signs, were returned Monday for demonstrators to use during the protest marches. Source:

http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/09/02/anarchists_republican_convention.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *September 3, New York Times* – (California) **Damaged power lines blamed for wildfires.** A new report by state regulators has blamed improperly maintained power lines by two companies, one of which impeded investigators, for some of the most devastating wildfires in Southern California last year. The three fires, among the most severe of several wind-fed blazes in late October, burned more than 207,000 acres, destroyed 1,141 homes, damaged scores of others, killed two people and injured 40 firefighters. The commission plans to review the findings and could impose financial penalties against the two companies, San Diego Gas & Electric and Cox Communications, which investigators said failed to adequately maintain lines at the site of the Guejito, Witch, and Rice fires. The report said the Guejito fire started when an improperly maintained Cox line came into contact with a San Diego Gas & Electric conductor. The Witch fire was attributed to two of the utility's lines coming into contact, and the Rice fire began when a sycamore tree limb, which investigators suggested should have been trimmed, fell onto a utility line. The report said San Diego Gas & Electric delayed access to witnesses, sites, and other evidence, and it suggested that the commission consider ordering all utilities to provide immediate access to scenes under investigation. Both companies denounced the report as riddled with inaccuracies and said thin or misleading evidence led to premature or baseless conclusions.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/04/us/04fires.html?ref=us>

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Dams Sector

36. *September 4, Baxter Bulletin* – (Arkansas) **White River dams help limit crop flooding.**

As rains continue to soak the White River Basin, officials of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are hard at work using federal lakes to minimize flooding of cropland in the White River valley, Arkansas. The National Weather Service has forecast the river stage at Newport to rise from 12.2 feet Wednesday to a crest of about 17 feet Saturday. On Tuesday, the Corps reduced releases from Bull Shoals and Norfolk, and the lakes are rising as they capture flood water. After the rain passes, releases will be timed to allow the river stage at Newport to return to and hold at 12 feet. However, if the four-lake system of Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, and Norfolk becomes too full, the operating plan calls for Newport to be regulated to a 14-foot stage, as it was earlier this year. Depending on how much rain falls, the Corps might have to make larger than normal releases from Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, or Norfolk dams should any of them fill to capacity.

Source:

<http://www.baxterbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080904/UPDATES01/80904005/1002/NEWS01>

37. *September 3, Morganton News Herald* – (North Carolina) **Dam construction closes boat access.** Work on dams around Lake James is forcing Duke Energy to close a boat access. State officials say Hidden Cove boat access will close September 15 and will not reopen until spring. Hidden Cove access is located in McDowell County, North Carolina, just over the Burke County line, said the superintendent at Lake James State Park. The closing is due to Duke Energy's project to re-enforce three dams around Lake James, according to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. The boat access will be used as a construction staging area for heavy equipment. The project is part of an effort to shore up Linville, Paddy Creek, and Catawba dams, according to Duke Energy. Work on Paddy's Creek dam was completed in 2007. Work on Catawba dam is expected to start later this year, said a spokesperson for Duke Energy. Work on that dam should be complete in 2010. Work on the three dams should be completed in 2012 to ensure the dams comply with new changes in federal regulations.

Source: <http://www2.morganton.com/content/2008/sep/03/dam-construction-closes-boat-access/>

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