



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 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 a GAO report has found that many of the nation’s largest and most seriously deficient bridges are not getting fixed because the federal Highway Bridge Program is unfocused and lacks sufficient standards. (See item [12](#))
- According to the Associated Press, New York officials announced Tuesday that city hot lines are now able to receive photos and video from computers and cell phones. While hundreds of cities accept text messages to emergency hot lines, New York is believed to be the first with the capability to accept images. (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. *September 10, Reuters* – (National) **Sabine issues shipper alert for Sea Robin natgas.** Sabine Pipe Line LLC said Wednesday it issued a “critical operational flow order” effective 7 a.m. for all natural gas from the Sea Robin interconnect at the Henry Hub, the benchmark trading point for NYMEX natural gas futures. Sabine said the flow order was issued for all gas receipts from Sea Robin due to “the presence of liquid hydrocarbons being delivered at levels that threaten the operational integrity of the pipeline system and the BTU content of the gas stream being at a level that exceeds the maximum allowable level of interconnected downstream pipelines.” The Sea Robin natural gas processing plant was one of several plants along the Louisiana Gulf Coast

shut in the wake of Hurricane Gustav. If conditions are not corrected by 9 p.m., Sabine said it would curtail all gas receipts from Sea Robin. A portion of the Sabine system remains under force majeure after also being shut in due to Gustav.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1039402820080910>

2. *September 9, Reuters* – (National) **Ike keeps U.S. Gulf oil output at a trickle.** Oil and natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico remained at a trickle on Tuesday as Hurricane Ike moved toward the region, triggering the second storm-related wave of offshore platform evacuations and production shutdowns in less than two weeks. The hurricane was expected to move through the Gulf of Mexico midweek south and west of the biggest concentration of platforms before coming ashore near the Texas refining hub of Corpus Christi. The U.S. Minerals Management Service said about 78 percent of the 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil along with about 65 percent of the 7.4 billion cubic feet per day in natural gas produced in the Gulf was shut as of Tuesday due to Gustav and Ike's one-two punch. BP Plc., Anadarko, and Exxon Mobil Corp. said on Tuesday they were shutting production and pulling workers from platforms in the Gulf to prevent injuries and environmental damage, joining Shell, Conoco, Apache, and Marathon. Gulf of Mexico oil production was already mostly paralyzed in the wake of last week's Hurricane Gustav. Together, Gustav and Ike have already triggered a cumulative loss of nearly 12.8 million barrels of crude oil and 62.5 billion cubic feet of gas. While Ike's track is expected to spare offshore facilities any major damage, the hurricane poses a risk to the three low-lying, flood-prone refineries in Corpus Christi.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0930710620080909?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>
3. *September 9, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Power to return to Conoco's La. refinery by Monday.** Power is expected to be restored at ConocoPhillips's Alliance refinery in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, no later than Monday, two weeks after Hurricane Gustav made landfall, utility Entergy Corp. said on Tuesday. An Entergy spokesman said power was expected to be back on by Monday in Plaquemines Parish, south of New Orleans, where the 247,000 barrel per day refinery is located. Entergy officials have declined to identify the refinery by name, although they have talked about the last refinery without power following Gustav. Conoco's Alliance was the only plant without the power needed to restart as of Tuesday, Conoco and government officials have said. A dozen refineries were forced to shut in advance of Gustav's landfall in south Louisiana. Conoco reported no significant damage at the refinery from Gustav. The Entergy spokesman said the company is using a Chinook helicopter on loan from the Ohio National Guard to move heavy equipment into marshy areas to speed the recovery effort.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1038988520080910?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>
4. *September 2008, InTech* – (National) **Communication changes in the air.** An evolution is taking place in the design and implementation of communication and network systems for control and operation of process industries, including chemical, petrochemical, and

oil and gas plants. Even though these systems may eventually integrate with IT networks such as corporate/enterprise LANs and WANs, special care should be taken in the separation of these systems from the normal IT networks, so it can provide maximum availability with minimum disruption for a process plant's normal and emergency system operations. Subsystems form the plant communication infrastructure. Change is coming, so industries should find the least disruptive way to integrate systems.

Source:

http://www.isa.org/InTechTemplate.cfm?Section=Article_Index1&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=71519

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *September 9, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **CAU building, site of chemical spill, reopens Wednesday.** Classes will resume Wednesday in a building at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia that had to be evacuated Tuesday after a chemical spill. The spill, which involved an unknown amount of mercaptoethanol, a chemical used to denature protein, happened shortly after 11 a.m. at the Cole Research Center for Science and Technology, an Atlanta fire captain said.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/cherokee/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/09/09/clark_atlanta_chemical_spill.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *September 10, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Entergy La. Waterford 3 reactor exiting outage.** Entergy Corp.'s nuclear Unit 3 at the Waterford power station in Louisiana started to exit an outage and ramped up to 18 percent power by early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The company shut the unit on August 31 before Hurricane Gustav made landfall in south Louisiana on September 1.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1039059320080910>

7. *September 9, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **NRC permanently bars contractor from many activities, restricts other NRC-licensed functions.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued an order to a nuclear materials contractor permanently prohibiting him from any work related to packaging and transporting so-called "Type B" nuclear materials. The agency issued the immediately effective order, which also places restrictions on other NRC-regulated activities for five years, following the contractor's plea agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). NRC officials said the man, a contractor for Source Production and Equipment Company (SPEC), which supplies industrial gamma radiography equipment, repeatedly and deliberately provided inaccurate information regarding modifications to, and

inspections of, a shipping container for radioactive material. The order and the DOJ agreement require the man, over the next five years, to take several actions before he can perform other NRC-regulated activities, including: notifying the NRC, in writing, before doing such work so that the agency can perform proper inspections; notifying his customers of the order; and completing radiation safety officer training.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-165.html>

8. *September 9, Reuters* – (New York) **NRC renews Entergy NY FitzPatrick reactor license.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) renewed the operating license for of Entergy Corp.'s FitzPatrick nuclear station in New York for an additional 20 years, the NRC said Tuesday in a release. The FitzPatrick plant began commercial operation in 1975. Its license was set to expire in 2014. The renewal extends the license to 2034. Entergy applied to renew the license in August 2006. The FitzPatrick renewal brings the total number of license renewals to 49 units, the NRC said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0930100120080909>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *September 10, Israel News* – (International) **Police shut down giant con operation.** The Tel Aviv, Isreal, District Police Fraud Unit arrested 10 people on Tuesday, on suspicion of conning American citizens out of \$2 million. The suspects were charged with fraud, forgery, conspiracy to commit a crime and false representation. The Tel Aviv District Police Fraud Unit has been conducting a widespread investigation into the alleged sting. During the course of the investigation, police officers have been able to trace the suspects' activities back to a Ramat Gan office, believed to be the base of operation. The suspects allegedly called thousands of US citizens, most of them elderly, presented themselves as lawyers and said they were calling to inform them that they had won the lottery. In order to collect the prize money, they told victims, they would be required to pay \$10,000 in taxes. The victims in most cases agreed to wire the money to a bank account set up by the con artist. The con was discovered after several of the victims pressed charges with their local police departments. Those local investigations eventually led to the discovery of the Israeli connection, at which point, the Tel Aviv District Police became involved.

Source: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3594632,00.html>

10. *September 9, WALA 10 Mobile* – (Florida) **Attorney General urges credit and debit activity monitoring.** Florida's attorney general issued a consumer alert Tuesday

following a significant loss of data from the Bank of New York Mellon Shareholder Services. More than 742,000 Florida residents may have had their personal data disclosed as a result, out of a total of 12.5 million consumers nationwide whose data was involved in the breach. The attorney general cautioned consumers who are or have been clients of BNY Mellon to closely review their accounts for unauthorized charges and monitor their bank and credit card statements. All consumers who have received a notification from BNY Mellon should promptly review bank statements and transactions to check for unusual activity and report fraudulent charges to banks or credit card issuers for investigation, reversal, or card re-issuance.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxgulfcoast.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7393750&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.1.1>

11. *September 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Billions to be shared by Enron shareholders.** Enron Corp. shareholders and investors will split about \$7 billion from financial institutions accused of participating in the fraud that caused the once-mighty energy company to collapse. The settlement amount was listed at \$7.2 billion, a sum that has been accruing interest since 2002 and includes \$688 million plus interest in attorneys fees. The deal, approved late Monday by a U.S. District Judge, and the attorneys fees are the largest in history in a U.S. securities fraud case. About 1.5 million individuals and entities will be eligible to share in the distribution under the settlement plan. Besides the University of California, other plaintiffs who will share in the proceeds include pension plans from New York City and Hawaii, various investment firms and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The distribution plan was part of a \$40 billion lawsuit filed by shareholders and investors, who claim Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Citigroup and others participated in the accounting fraud that led to Enron's downfall.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hdE7khcb30E48EoMCNifVBa9-hngD933GEUG0>

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Transportation Sector

12. *September 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Bridge repair program unfocused, says GAO.** Many of the nation's largest and most seriously deficient bridges are not getting fixed because a federal program funding bridge repairs is unfocused and lacks sufficient standards, congressional investigators say. The Highway Bridge Program that provided more than \$4 billion to states last year has become so broad that "nearly any bridge" is potentially eligible for federal aid, according to a draft of a Government Accountability Office report being released Wednesday. The number of structurally deficient bridges in the U.S. decreased 22 percent between 1998 and 2007 — from 93,118 to 73,519. But most improvements have been to locally owned and rural bridges rather than the largest bridges in urban areas that carry the most people and goods, the report said. The Federal Highway Administration, which administers the program, said in a statement that the agency has "long cautioned that Congress' insistence on establishing over 100 federal transportation programs presents states with needless overlaps, conflicting guidance and

cumbersome process requirements. That is why we have called on Congress to significantly reduce the number of federal programs so states can be provided with clearer direction on how to ensure that crucial infrastructure needs are fully met.” GAO’s managing director for infrastructure issues and author of the report said in testimony prepared for a hearing Wednesday by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee that often “the largest and most critical bridges ... are too expensive to be funded.”

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jnoQyupGB7NfNAh3chG95INEUqVQD933HMOV00>

13. *September 9, Pacific Business News* – (Alaska) **Alaska Airlines’ technology aims to cut down runway incidents.** Alaska Airlines said it is the first airline in the U.S. to install new technology that is intended to cut down possible accidents on airport runways and taxiways. The subsidiary of Seattle-based Alaska Air Group Inc. will begin installing the Runway Awareness and Advisory System. According to Alaska Airlines, the system lets pilots know they are on the correct runway and warns them if they try to take off on a taxiway. “By putting this advanced situational awareness technology on all of our planes, coupled with other systems we have in place, Alaska will be flying the most technologically modern airline fleet in the U.S. and our pilots will be assured of an additional layer of safety while on the nation’s runways,” said an Alaska Airlines’ executive vice president of flight and marketing, in a statement. Alaska began installing the systems in July after three years of testing. Every plane in Alaska’s fleet will be equipped with the technology by the end of this month, according to the airline.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2008/09/08/daily19.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *September 10, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **FBI, USPS probe 2 more suspicious letters at Orlando-area congressman’s office.** Suspicious packages were found this week in a U.S. representative’s offices in Central Florida. A letter discovered at the official’s Titusville office Tuesday afternoon marked the third suspicious package mailed to the Oviedo Republican in two days. Early Tuesday, an envelope with a powdery substance was delivered to his Orlando office near the University of Central Florida’s main campus. The building was evacuated, and it was determined that the powdery substance was flour – the same material found in a letter mailed to the official at Port Orange City Hall on Monday. The Titusville package was sent unopened to a lab for tests. Members of Orange County Fire Rescue’s Hazmat Team were joined by members of the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force and U.S. postal inspectors.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orange/orl-b3focus1008sep10,0,7683984.story>
15. *September 10, Daily Item* – (Massachusetts) **FBI to investigate suspicious envelope in Peabody.** Federal authorities are investigating a suspicious envelope that was delivered to a home in Peabody, Massachusetts, Monday night. Residents called police around

6:30 p.m. after someone opened an envelope that was addressed and mailed to the home, according to police. “When the person opened the envelope some white powder spilled out,” said a police official. A state hazardous materials crew, the Peabody Fire Department and the state Fire Marshal’s Office were called in to assess the envelope. The crews were on scene for four hours. The police official confirmed the envelope would be sent to a state lab for analysis and said inspectors from the U.S. Postal Service and the FBI would be investigating. He declined to speculate on whether the envelope was sent maliciously.

Source:

<http://www.itemlive.com/articles/2008/09/09/updates/doc48c6d986c3f8a960839483.txt>

16. *September 9, WTVD 11 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Worker discovers suspicious powder at government building.** Authorities are investigating a powdery substance found in a package at the Social Security Administration building. The building was evacuated Tuesday morning and HAZMAT was called to the location. No customers were inside the building at the time. HAZMAT took the package to examine it. They are not sure if it was mailed or if it was placed in a drop box. Authorities are also reviewing surveillance video. “We have not yet received any information from the lab regarding the nature of the powder-like substance,” said a public affairs specialist with the social security office.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=6379888>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

Nothing to report

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Water Sector

17. *September 10, KFOX 14 El Paso* – (Texas) **Elevated arsenic levels in Anthony water supply.** The engineer for the Town of Anthony in Texas is looking at different plans of action after the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) found arsenic levels in the water supply do not meet standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Town officials told KFOX they were notified of the results of a quarterly TCEQ inspection three weeks ago and sent notices to residents last week. EPA has established the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic in drinking water at .010 parts per million (10 parts per billion) to protect consumers from the effects of long-term, chronic exposure to arsenic. According to the notice sent to residents, analysis of drinking water in the community for arsenic indicates a level of 0.011 parts per million. The notice says that this is not an emergency and residents do not need to use an alternative water supply. Arsenic enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. The mayor of Anthony said TCEQ did not give the town a deadline to comply. He said this is the first time the system has been out of compliance since the new standard was set in January 23, 2006.

Under former guidelines arsenic level was set at 0.050 parts per million. The town's engineer is looking at the possibility of adding more filters to the water wells.

Source: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/17434867/detail.html>

18. *September 9, Southeast Missourian* – (Missouri) **Department of Natural Resources places Chaffee under boil-water advisory.** The city of Chaffee, Missouri, is again under a state-issued boil water order. A Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) water quality specialist discovered Monday the municipal water system had again lost chlorine and issued the order at 3:14 p.m. He tested several sites, including a 200,000-gallon storage tank, where a scant 0.05 parts of chlorine was detected among a million parts of water – one quarter of the minimum acceptable amount of the water-sanitizing chemical.
Source:
<http://www.semissourian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080909/NEWS01/709099991/>
19. *September 8, CQ Politics* – (National) **Water utilities first to measure security progress under infrastructure protection plan.** The water sector is set to become the first of the country's 18 critical infrastructure and key resource sectors to develop a metric and launch a tool to gauge security progress under the National Infrastructure Protection Plan framework. On Tuesday, drinking water and wastewater utilities will be able to access the tool and fill out the 22 questions that comprise the metric. Developed as part of a collaboration between government representatives from such agencies as the Homeland Security Department and the Environmental Protection Agency and members of the Water Sector Coordinating Council, the tool's questions range from general – “Have you integrated security and preparedness into budgeting, training, and manpower responsibilities?” – to more specific – “For what period of time does your utility have backup power?” For four weeks – beginning Tuesday – water utilities will have the opportunity to fill out the online questionnaire. By December, the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC), which created the online tool, plans to issue a report based on the submissions. The manager of security policy for the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies said the water sector is leaning on national wastewater and drinking water associations to get their members to participate.
Source: <http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?docID=hsnews-000002945366&cpage=1>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *September 10, Desert Sun* – (National) **TB testing urged for about 600.** About 600 Coachella Valley residents have been asked to get tested for tuberculosis after the Riverside County Department of Public Health was notified of an exposure in the area. The letters were dated August 12, around the same time the department sent similar notices to about 150 people in Corona, said the department's director of disease control. She said she is unaware of anyone with active tuberculosis in Coachella Valley. She declined to specify where the exposure may have occurred, and said the valley and

Corona cases are unrelated.

Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080910/NEWS01/809100313/1006/news01>

21. *September 9, Reuters* – (National) **Bacteria glue points to superbug vaccine: scientist.**

A sticky glue secreted by drug-resistant bacteria could help scientists develop an effective vaccine against “superbugs,” U.S. researchers told a conference on Wednesday. The sticky substance is a complex sugar called PNAG which the researchers said was a promising vaccine target because animal studies have shown it produces a protective immune response when manipulated chemically. The bacteria produce the substance when growing a biofilm that protects them from antibiotics, a researcher at Harvard Medical School told the Society for General Microbiology’s meeting in Dublin. “We are targeting this material as a possible vaccine, but natural exposure to the sugar compound does not result in most people and animals making an immune response that would protect them from attack by the bacteria or recurring infections,” he said in a statement.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSL961587420080909>

22. *September 9, Associated Press* – (International) **Togo says bird flu hits poultry farm.**

An outbreak of bird flu has been confirmed in the West African nation of Togo for the first time since last year, the Health Ministry said Tuesday. The virus was detected at a poultry farm housing more than 4,500 birds in the village of Agbata outside the capital, Lome, said a ministry statement read over state television. It was not known how many birds died, but more than 80 percent of those infected by the flu were fatalities, the ministry said. The statement did not say whether the birds were infected with the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus, which has scientists concerned because it has the potential to infect humans. At least 235 people have died of bird flu worldwide since 2003, according to the World Health Organization.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iUJOIBwZcddCAPRCLyiMu5itPPWgD933FE3O0>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *September 9, WVLT 8 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **City-County Building evacuated due to bomb threat.** The City-County Building in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, was evacuated Tuesday morning due to a bomb threat, according to Knox County Sheriff’s deputies. Two phone calls were received that reportedly said that a bomb would go off around 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, according to Public Building Authority sources at the City-County Building. The building was cleared by Knox County Sheriff’s deputies and the Knox County Bomb Squad.

Source: <http://www.volunteertv.com/home/headlines/28051014.html>

24. *September 9, Flint Journal* – (Michigan) **Authorities report two bomb threats during presidential candidate Barack Obama’s visit to Flint.** Two bomb threats were called in Monday afternoon to Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan, during a presidential candidate’s visit, a college official said. Both warnings turned out to be hoaxes.
Source:
http://www.mlive.com/flintjournal/index.ssf/2008/09/authorities_report_two_bomb_th.html

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *September 10, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Disaster training center to open in Lake County.** A disaster training center in far north Lake County – called the first of its kind in the Midwest – will open early next year, project planners say. A permit for the facility on 80 acres near the Wisconsin state line won unanimous approval Tuesday from the Lake County Board. When complete, the center will train firefighters, police officers, and other first responders on underwater rescues, trench rescues, collapsed building operations, fire rescues, hostage situations, sniper incidents, and other emergencies, officials said. “This facility will place Lake County in the forefront of training for first responders,” said the president of the Great Lakes Disaster Training Foundation. The foundation, which was founded in 2004 to develop the training site just east of the Tri-State Tollway, will lease 70 acres of the property from the county for \$1 a year for 60 years with an option to extend the lease.
Source:
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-disaster-training-center-10-sep10,0,4897008.story>
26. *September 10, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **City’s reverse 911 system upgraded to send texts, recorded messages to cell phones.** Chicagoans will no longer have to be near a radio, television, or hard-line phone to get recorded alerts on weather emergencies, natural disasters, and terrorist attacks. The city’s five-year-old reverse-911 system has been upgraded to send recorded messages, e-mails, and text messages to cell phones, Blackberries, and other hand-held devices. Two years after ordering the changes amid questions about the calling and incident capacity of the city’s existing system, the city’s mayor formally unveiled the \$1 million upgrade just in time for the seventh anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack. The so-called “Notify Chicago” system will allow Chicagoans or their out of town relatives to register one e-mail address and up to three telephone numbers for home, work, and cell phone. They can also specify a geographic area and the types of alerts they want – everything from weather emergencies, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks to traffic accidents, power outages, and gas leaks.
Source:
<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/1153093,emer090908.article>
27. *September 10, Vindy.com* – (Ohio) **Terrorist exercise almost ends early.** About 200

law enforcement and emergency officials participated in an emergency exercise sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Poland, Ohio, on Tuesday. In the scenarios, a perpetrator tried to poison the water supply, take hostages, and flee from police. The exercise, dubbed Rabid Bulldog, began at the Aqua Ohio Water Treatment Plant, state Route 170. Officials from the state Emergency Management Agency (EMA) observed the exercise and will do a formal evaluation that should be completed in about a month. The Mahoning County EMA director said that report will allow participants to identify areas that need improvement.

Source:

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2008/sep/10/terrorist-exercise-almost-ends-early/>

28. *September 10, Coastal Courier* – (National) **1st BCT preps for security exercise.** The U.S. Army's First Brigade of the Third Infantry Division is joining the ranks of those special civilian and military members who prepare the nation for the consequences pertaining to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive events on U.S. territory. Local and federal authorities will deal with the immediate consequences of such an event, but the Department of Defense's Joint Task Force North is ready to put its assets to work if needed. The Raiders of the 1st Brigade are training in Georgia for a mission readiness exercise where they will officially be certified to handle national emergencies. Many of the 500 people participating in traditional classroom training are members of the 1st BCT, but participants also come from the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and other Army units. Some are civilian employees and contractors.

Source: <http://www.coastalcourier.com/news/article/8441/>

29. *September 9, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYC hot lines accept videos, cell phone pictures.** New York officials announced Tuesday that city hot lines are now able to receive photos and video from computers and cell phones. Callers to the city's 911 and non-emergency 311 lines will now be able to send in photos and video to report crimes and complain about quality-of-life problems like uncollected garbage. While hundreds of cities accept text messages to emergency hot lines, New York is believed to be the first with the capability to accept images, officials said. By next year, photos sent by bystanders will be made available to patrol cars, and pictures could even be used as evidence in prosecutions, officials said. More than 12,000 new computers have been installed in precincts around the city; technology in radio cars has been improved; and the department is better able to share information. It took about 18 months to develop the image software, which cost about \$250,000, city officials said.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iXFr7QairkKIM8LvPKoLJOn2t3eQD933EMJG0>

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Information Technology

30. *September 9, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft patches 8 critical bugs in Windows, Office.** Microsoft Corp. Tuesday patched eight vulnerabilities all rated critical, in four security updates for Windows, Office, Windows Media Player, Internet Explorer 6, SQL Server, and other programs. Unlike last month, when Microsoft issued

12 bulletins that fixed 26 flaws, Tuesday's patched vulnerabilities did not include any that have already been exploited in the wild. The update in that bulletin, highlighted by Storms and other experts as the one most crucial to apply immediately, fixes a total of five vulnerabilities in the Graphics Device Interface (GDI+) component of Windows. GDI+ debuted in Windows XP and is a core part of Windows Vista and the current server-side operating systems, Windows Server 2003, and Windows Server 2008. Hackers could exploit the GDI+ bugs by sending specially-crafted image files in a variety of formats, including EMF, GIF, WMF, and BMG, to a user via e-mail or by convincing users to visit sites that contain malicious image files. By triggering the vulnerabilities, attackers could then follow up with additional malware to hijack a system or steal data.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9114368&intsrc=hm_list

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

31. *September 9, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Verizon adds cable, internet service to Puget Sound.** Verizon is planning to add cable and internet service in the Puget Sound area in Washington. Verizon workers are laying fiber optic cables directly into people's homes for its new service FiOS. The company claims it is creating a better experience for internet and cable customers and creating competition with Comcast. The move is a blow to Comcast's dominance in the local market. Verizon said it has laid fiber optic lines to 75,000 homes in northern King County and most of Snohomish County and plans to add 50,000 more in those areas by the end of the year. There are no plans to bring the network to Seattle because of the city's contract with Qwest.

Source:

http://www.nwcn.com/business/stories/NW_090908WAB_verizon_fios_TP.5e33eee9.html

32. *September 9, Forbes* – (International) **Google, HSBC offer cheap Internet.** Google and HSBC launched a plan Tuesday to provide a cheap and fast Internet connection to three billion people in an area from Spain to South Africa, a move to bridge the digital divide between developed and emerging markets. Google has joined forces with the bank and cable operator Liberty Global to back a group called O3b Networks, which stands for the "other 3 billion" people who do not have access. It will provide high-speed backhaul for telecoms operators and Internet providers, which can then sell services to businesses

and consumers. The project, which is expected to cost \$650 million until the launch, intends to offer fiber-optic performance over at least 16 satellites to parts of the world where Internet access is limited or not commercially viable.

Source:

http://www.forbes.com/markets/2008/09/09/hsbc-google-internet-markets-equity-cx_je_0909markets18.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *September 10, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Groups challenge new Sierra logging rules.** Environmental groups accused the Bush administration in a lawsuit Tuesday of changing the rules for protection of threatened wildlife to promote logging in national forests that cover nearly 10 million acres in the Sierra. Four conservation groups asked a federal judge in San Francisco to overturn a U.S. Forest Service decision in December that scaled back the agency's duty to monitor and protect designated species. The animals and plants are considered "indicator species" that reflect the overall health of the forest. The new rules reduce the number of species to be monitored from 60 to 13 and allow the Forest Service to approve logging before studying any indicator species in the area, the suit said. One reason for reducing the number of indicator species to be monitored before reviewing logging plans is that some of the listed species are seldom found in the forests, the forester's decision said.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/09/BA5R12R6MS.DTL>

34. *September 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Giant sequoias face warming risk, experts say.** Federal researchers are warning that warming temperatures could soon cause California's giant sequoia trees to die off more quickly unless forest managers plan with an eye toward climate change and the impact of a longer, harsher wildfire season. Hot, dry weather over the last two decades already has contributed to the deaths of an unusual number of old-growth pine and fir trees growing in Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, according to recent research from the U.S. Geological Survey. In the next decade, climate change also could start interfering with the giant sequoias' ability to sprout new seedlings, said one of several scientists speaking Thursday at a government agency symposium on how global warming could affect the Sierra Nevada. As both temperatures and summer droughts increased in the two southern Sierra Nevada parks from 1982 to 2004, he found the trees' normal death rate more than doubled, and stands became more vulnerable to attacks from insects or fungus. While those species have a faster life cycle than the ancient sequoias, scientists say the mortality rates can help predict what may happen to the organisms as temperatures increase as predicted an

average of three to 10 degrees Fahrenheit statewide by the end of the century.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26559983/>

35. *September 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Park officials watch on Web cam as Sierra fire grows.** A persistent, slow-moving fire has grown to more than 4,300 acres in Kings Canyon National Park and the Sierra National Forest as firefighters monitor its progress by Web cam. Park officials say that in the past several days the two-month-old blaze has picked up speed as it consumes mixed conifer, red fir, and lodgepole pine in steep, inaccessible terrain. The fire began July 14 when lightning struck the remote high-elevation wilderness in the Tehipite Valley. In mid-August, park officials decided that actively fighting the blaze was too risky for firefighters, especially since no structures are immediately threatened. Park officials are instead monitoring the fire on a publicly accessible Web cam and with occasional flyovers.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10420439

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Dams Sector

36. *September 9, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Corps plans October update on Devils Lake levee.** A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official says the agency plans a public meeting in late October to give an update on any changes planned for the Devils Lake levee system. The Corps' Devils Lake project manager said the agency is considering changes in the system's alignment, but they would be small in scale and would be handled on a property-by-property basis. She says cost estimates for future levee work range between \$100 million and \$200 million. The cost is affected by new rules being discussed for the design of levees and dams in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. She said the Corps still hopes to choose a plan for any future Devils Lake levee raise by the end of the year.

Source: <http://www.kxmb.com/getArticle.asp?ArticleId=273459>

37. *September 9, Cape May County Herald* – (New Jersey) **Dam dilemma: Who mows the lake?** Residents of a campground in Dennisville, New Jersey, are angry that their ability to refer to their homes as "lakefront" condominiums is slowly washing away. A member of the Holly Lake Condo Association Board of Trustees told the Herald a faulty dam is causing Ludlam Pond to drain. He said he is looking to township and state officials to help the Holly Lake community with this ongoing problem. He has been in contact with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Transportation (DOT). State dams generally fall under the purview of the DEP's Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control. In a DEP letter to a DOT engineer regarding the pond's water loss, the dam safety manager said "the dam appears to be in sound condition and we suggest that the water loss requires further investigation by the NJDOT." A DOT spokesperson told the Herald her agency inspected the dam in April and found that no repairs were necessary.

Source: <http://www.capemaycountyherald.com/article/34773-dam-dilemma-who-mows-lake>

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