



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 September 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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- Reuters reports that a U.S. senator has asked the Energy Department to revoke a recent order authorizing energy companies to continue exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Kenai, Alaska, to Japan and other Pacific Rim markets. The senator said those Alaskan supplies need to stay in the U.S. market because of a forecast for higher winter prices for natural gas. (See item [2](#))
- According to the Washington Post, a panel of aviation safety experts said that the Federal Aviation Administration should audit information it receives from airlines on safety and maintenance issues to ensure its accuracy. The FAA relies heavily on self-reported data from airlines to spot trends that could lead to mechanical failures or plane crashes. (See item [14](#))

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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 11, Dow Jones* – (National; Texas) **Hurricane Ike eyes oil refining belt along Texas coastline.** Hurricane Ike crept closer to the southeastern Texas energy hub Wednesday, prompting the shutdown of at least one refinery and the closure of a key

crude oil pipeline. Almost all oil output and three-quarters of the gas volumes are offline, according to official U.S. data. Much of this production capacity was idled ahead of Hurricane Gustav, which made landfall September 1. Output had recovered somewhat in the wake of Gustav, but producers began shutting in production and evacuating personnel again this week as Ike barreled into the Gulf. The forecasted track will take Ike west of most offshore production platforms and head on to the Texas coastline between Houston and Corpus Christi. Ike is scheduled to make landfall Saturday morning. Government officials ordered an evacuation for low-lying coastal areas including Freeport, Texas. The move forced the Seaway Crude Pipeline Co., a joint venture between TEPPCO Partners L.P. and ConocoPhillips, to prepare to shut down its operations. A spokesman for TEPPCO said there were no operational problems with pipeline but the company had to shut down Thursday morning due to a lack of crude shipments. ConocoPhillips' refinery in Sweeny, Texas, began closing down production Wednesday and will be completely shut by Thursday afternoon, a spokesman said. BP Plc. began shutting down Wednesday some units at its Texas City refinery and sending home non-essential workers, according to a state environmental filing and a source familiar with the plant's operations. Major oil and natural gas producers in the Gulf of Mexico continue to wrap up evacuations of rigs and platforms.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=251627>

2. *September 9, Reuters* – (National) **Senator wants to stop Alaskan gas exports to Japan.** A U.S. senator has asked the Energy Department to revoke a recent order authorizing energy companies to continue exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Kenai, Alaska, to Japan and other Pacific Rim markets. The department approved a request this summer from ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil for authority to export up to 98.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas to Japan and other Pacific Rim countries through March 2011. The senator said that with Americans forecast to pay 22 percent more for natural gas to heat their homes this winter, those Alaskan supplies need to stay in the U.S. market. The senator said there are new LNG import terminals along the West Coast that could receive the LNG. The amount of Alaskan LNG that would be exported is enough to heat 1.4 million American homes a year, according to the senator. Under federal law, any company that wants to export LNG must first obtain Energy Department permission to ensure the export would not harm U.S. energy supplies. The department has said allowing the LNG exports to continue “will not be inconsistent with the public interest.”

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0932191020080909?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *September 10, ICIS News* – (Texas) **Many U.S. Gulf chemical plants shut down before Ike.** A significant chunk of the chemical industry in Texas was beginning shutdown procedures on Wednesday as Hurricane Ike was poised to take a swipe at Freeport and other key locations southwest of Houston, company sources said. The

shutdowns would likely include Dow Chemical sites in Seadrift and Freeport, according to a source within the company. A shutdown of Freeport – one of the biggest chemical complexes in the world – was probable, the source added. The plants would be down at least through Sunday. Dow closed its Seadrift, Texas, plant earlier in the day on Wednesday. BASF, which produces acrylic acid, n-butanol, and 2-ethylhexanol in Freeport, said it was “on high alert” Wednesday but had not finalized a decision to take the plants down. BASF said it released its non-essential personnel from the complex on Wednesday afternoon. Among confirmed closures, ConocoPhillips has begun the shutdown of its Sweeny refinery in anticipation of the hurricane, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Equistar said it would shut down every production facility it has along the Texas coast by Friday night. The Port of Houston said it would shut down on Friday.

Source: <http://www.icis.com/Articles/2008/09/10/9155504/many-us-gulf-chemical-plants-shut-down-before-ike.html>

4. *September 10, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Olin declares force majeure at St. Gabriel facility.** Chemicals and ammunition maker Olin Corp. said it has declared a force majeure for product shipments from its St. Gabriel, Louisiana, facility due to the continuing impacts of Hurricane Gustav. The company said products affected by this force majeure event are chlorine, caustic soda, and hydrogen. The St. Gabriel plant, which suffered only minor damage as a result of the storm, had recently resumed limited operations due to continued issues with electrical power, transportation, and raw materials, the company said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSBNG35428620080910>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *September 10, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Minnesota) **Offsite notification due to car accident.** Tuesday at approximately 5:30 a.m., a car accident occurred on the driveway of the parking lot at the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant in Minnesota. The driver of the vehicle was not a plant employee. The driver left the scene of the accident. Plant security and local law enforcement are investigating. The licensee notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector, the emergency management agencies of Goodhue, Dakota, and Pierce counties, the State of Wisconsin, and the Prairie Island Tribal council.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080910en.html#en44475>

6. *September 10, Reuters* – (Texas) **South Texas nuclear plant readies for hurricane.** The STP Nuclear Operating Co. began taking steps on Wednesday to protect the nuclear plant in advance of Hurricane Ike, which is slowly churning toward a possible landfall Saturday morning in south Texas, plant officials said. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent four additional NRC inspectors to the South Texas Project (STP)

in Matagorda County, said an NRC spokesman. STP is required to take both reactors offline two hours before hurricane-force winds are expected to reach the site, which is about 10 miles from the coast, he said. Crews are securing equipment and vehicles are being moved to high ground, STP officials said. Nonessential personnel have been sent home and a storm crew is in place, said a plant spokesman. Buildings that house the reactors and spent nuclear fuel have steel-reinforced concrete walls – four to seven feet thick – that were built to withstand Category 5 hurricanes and tornadoes, STP said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1052451320080910>

7. *September 10, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Washington) **Non-licensed supervisor tested positive for alcohol.** On September 8 at the Columbia Generating Station in Washington, a non-licensed supervisor was determined to be unfit for scheduled work due to the consumption of alcohol based on a preliminary for cause test. The individual was not allowed to take the watch. The incident is being evaluated in accordance with station procedures and policies. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector has been notified.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080910en.html#en44478>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *September 11, Naval Sea System Command Public Affairs* – (National) **Navy awards \$5 billion contract for future aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford.** The Navy awarded a \$5.1 billion contract to Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Newport News for the detail design and construction of the future USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), the lead ship in the Navy's newest class of aircraft carrier. CVN 78 is the Navy's first major investment in aircraft carrier design in more than three decades and features many improvements over the 1960's Nimitz-class design. CVN 78 includes a new flight deck with an improved weapons handling system, advanced arresting gear, a completely re-engineered electromagnetic aircraft launch system, new and simplified nuclear propulsion plants, a new electrical power generation system and reconfigurable design architecture.

Source: http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=39656

9. *September 11, Military & Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **QPC Lasers completes defense contract, demonstrates eye-safe laser.** QPC Lasers Inc., developer of high-brightness, high-power semiconductor chip-based lasers for the medical, defense, and industrial markets, has completed its initial Department of Defense (DOD) contract to develop and deliver high-power, eye-safe surface-emitting diode pumps for directed-energy weapons applications. This milestone development is of key importance in the future of DOD high-energy laser applications because this technology enables the fabrication to be wafer-based and cost effective, says a representative. The company has been invited to submit a proposal for a larger follow-on contract. "QPC's demonstration points the way to a new generation of laser weaponry which combines the low cost of

wafer-scale manufacturing with beams that are 100,000 to 1,000,000 times less hazardous to our soldiers. Besides directed-energy weapons, these chip-based lasers have great promise for other defense applications, including rangefinding, covert/active illumination for surveillance, and remote sensing,” said the co-founder and chief executive officer of QPC.

Source:

http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ONEWS&PUBLICATI ON_ID=32&ARTICLE_ID=339293&C=ONEWS&dcmp=rss

10. *September 10, General Dynamics C4 Systems* – (National) **General Dynamics awarded \$70 million contract to equip U.S. Army Stryker Brigade with new Land Warrior system.** General Dynamics C4 Systems has been awarded a \$70 million contract to equip the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team (5/2 SBCT) with a new, lighter-weight version of the Land Warrior integrated fighting system. This order funds a Brigade-set of Land Warrior ensembles and vehicle integration kits. The slimmer Land Warrior system now weighs 7.2 pounds, down from approximately 17 pounds in 2006. Soldiers of the 5/2 SBCT will be equipped with advanced warfighting technologies that include built-in text messaging capabilities; maps and imagery that can be changed by leaders while on-the-move; virtual ‘chem-lights’ that identify known enemy locations; and acoustic sniper detection.

Source: [http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/09-10-2008/0004882853&EDATE=)

[bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/09-10-2008/0004882853&EDATE=](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/09-10-2008/0004882853&EDATE=)

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *September 11, Bloomberg* – (National) **Fed May expand funding aid to banks in a ‘Mother of Year-Ends.’** The Federal Reserve may have to increase the cash it provides to banks and brokers, already a record, to help them balance their books at the end of the year. Six bank failures in the past two months and rising concern about Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.’s capital levels pushed lenders’ borrowing costs to near a four-month high Wednesday. They may climb further as companies rush for cash to settle trades and buttress their balance sheets at year-end. One option is for banks and brokers to increase the loans they take out directly with the Fed; the central bank reports on the figures Wednesday. Officials could also offer options on its biweekly loan auctions or introduce special repurchase agreements to straddle the end of the year, economists said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aavHtPEY4aCc&refer=home>

12. *September 10, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **Data theft scheme affects 28,000 in state.** The personal information of more than 28,000 Connecticut residents was stolen from Countrywide Home Loan computers and sold. The theft of data about more than two million people who applied to Countrywide for mortgages between July 2006 and July 2008 is unlike other recent data losses, the Connecticut attorney general said Wednesday, because there is no doubt the information is not just missing. “It was sold,

we know that. We don't know precisely who bought it," he said, calling the loss "extraordinarily frightening," because it definitely came about through criminal activity. Last month, the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Los Angeles arrested two men – one a former Countrywide employee – on charges related to the illegal sale of the data. According to the official, a minimum of 28,123 Connecticut residents are among those whose data were allegedly downloaded.

Source: http://www.connpost.com/cj_10431496

13. *September 10, Phoenix Business Journal* – (National) **Countrywide Financial alerts customers to security breach.** Countrywide Financial Corp. is notifying mortgage holders in Arizona and other states regarding a possible security breach. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested a former Countrywide employee in August for the alleged sale of personal and financial data belonging to the California-based company's customers. The FBI contends the culprit sold consumer data for as much as \$70,000.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2008/09/08/daily34.html>

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Transportation Sector

14. *September 11, Washington Post* – (National) **FAA told to audit airline safety data for accuracy.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should audit information it receives from airlines on safety and maintenance issues to ensure its accuracy, a panel of aviation safety experts said Wednesday. The U.S. Transportation Department secretary asked an outside panel earlier this year to review FAA safety policies in the wake of blistering criticism from Congress and the department's inspector general that the FAA had grown too cozy with air carriers. The FAA relies heavily on self-reported data from airlines to spot trends that could lead to mechanical failures or plane crashes. Panel members said they supported the FAA's strategy of working closely with airlines on maintenance and safety issues, citing the approach as integral to the nation's aviation safety system. The panel made 13 recommendations for changes at the agency, including implementing the audits, more training of inspectors, and more consistency in inspection rules. The acting FAA administrator said the agency would work "full throttle" to implement the changes.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/10/AR2008091003499.html>

15. *September 11, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Aviation still a terror target; not all security holes plugged.** While aircraft, especially passenger jetliners, are still major targets of terrorist organizations like Al Qaeda, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary acknowledged Wednesday that there also continue to be significant vulnerabilities in aviation security – like not being able to detect liquid bomb components. The official told the Daily Telegraph that some airports are unable to detect the type of liquid explosives that alleged Al Qaeda members plotted using to blow up transatlantic flights in 2006 from the United Kingdom to America and Canada. Authorities have indicated that scanners currently in use are unable to identify liquids

that could be used to make a bomb and that certain combinations of liquids in amounts allowed in carry-on bags could still be used to make a small explosive. The DHS secretary told the Daily Telegraph that new technology to detect liquid explosives is under development but not yet practical for long airport check-in lines. Whole body imagers that see objects concealed beneath a passenger's clothing will help detect hidden liquids, but they will not be in widespread use for some time. The official said during an address Wednesday to the National Press Club that an astute Transportation Security Administration behavior detection officer who detected suspicious behavior on the part of an airline passenger resulted in the person's carry-on bag being searched and in it "found the various component elements of what could be made into a bomb."
Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/5116/149/>

16. *September 11, WGCL 46 Atlanta and Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Shotgun found at Atlanta airport.** Atlanta police are investigating after a Delta Air Lines employee found a disassembled shotgun in a break room at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Police said the employee was looking for his iPod Sunday night when he found the shotgun under a soda machine. The employee told his supervisor, who notified police. A police report said that a more thorough search of the break room turned up a container of gun lubricant and "tools for disassembly." An Atlanta police officer did a background check on the weapon but could not immediately determine who owned it. The incident comes a month after a judge upheld a ban on guns at the airport.
Source: <http://www.cbs46.com/news/17445093/detail.html>

17. *September 10, USA Today* – (National) **U.S. scans incoming air cargo.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will put all incoming air cargo through radiation detectors at the nation's airports to try to prevent terrorists from smuggling radioactive bombs into the U.S. The new initiative aims to close what the 9/11 Commission's final report called a major security vulnerability – cargo on airplanes as a potential avenue for terrorism. Any cargo shipped on passenger planes will also be scanned. Detectors will begin checking packages this week at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D.C. Arriving cargo – whether from Pakistan or Peoria – will be driven through giant detectors called Radiation Portal Monitors. Although every piece of cargo will be scanned, "our focus is on the international cargo," says an official with the Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection division. There is no specific threat information indicating terrorists are trying to smuggle radiological material into the country on commercial or cargo planes. Government auditors have criticized the detectors Homeland Security uses, hundreds of which are set up along land borders and at seaports, because they can be set off by naturally occurring radiation in products such as kitty litter.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-09-10-nuke_N.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *September 10, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Suspicious package found in outgoing Detroit mayor's office.** Detroit city staffers quarantined for about 2 1/2 hours after a

suspicious package was found in the executive suite of the outgoing mayor have been released. A general manager of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center says the Detroit Fire Department was called Wednesday evening “after an envelope of suspicious powder” was found. He says the building will reopen Thursday.

Source: <http://www.wwj.com/Suspicious-Package-Found-in-Outgoing-Detroit-Mayor/2945209>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *September 11, Monterey County Herald* – (National) **Conference highlights produce safety.** The findings of a \$2 million research program funded by Fresh Express will be disclosed in a daylong fresh produce safety conference today in Monterey, California. An advisory panel of independent scientific experts will gather to disclose findings in key areas of research identified after a 2006 E. coli outbreak in spinach that left three people dead and hundreds of others sickened. Fresh Express, a subsidiary of Chiquita Brands LLC Inc., was not linked to the recall. But the aftermath caused huge losses – the Monterey County agricultural commissioner pegged the drop in production values for spinach at \$77 million in 2006. At the time of the outbreak, the company already had formed a panel of volunteer scientific advisers to further the understanding of contamination by the pathogen Escherichia coli O157:H7 in lettuce and leafy greens, said a spokeswoman.

Source: http://www.montereyherald.com/business/ci_10435314

20. *September 10, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **No E. coli found on surfaces of eatery.** No disease-causing bacteria have been found on the surfaces at the Country Cottage, the restaurant at the center of an E. coli outbreak in northeastern Oklahoma, the state Health Department said Tuesday. “We found no firm evidence of E. coli O111 on food preparation and serving surfaces,” said the state’s epidemiologist. “I would caution, however, that it is very challenging to go to the scene of a food-borne illness outbreak and try to retrieve an organism from surfaces that may have been cleaned since any contamination took place.” Laboratory analysis of foods sampled at the restaurant is continuing. “It is possible that any environmental contamination was not widespread in the restaurant, so our epidemiological investigation will continue to focus on what foods may have been contaminated and caused persons to become ill,” she said. At least 206 people in 20 counties have been sickened and one man has died as a result of the outbreak of E. coli O111, a rare and virulent strain of the infection, officials said. Fifteen victims remained in Tulsa hospitals Tuesday.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/lifestyle/article.aspx?articleID=20080910_17_A4_hTests247748

21. *September 10, United Press International* – (National) **Wegmans-brand store-baked bagels recalled.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the recall of more than 1,000 cases of Wegmans-brand store-baked bagels because of possible contamination. The FDA said the in-store-baked bagels and bialys were sold in

Wegmans' 71 supermarket bakery departments in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland between August 24 and September 9. The recall does not involve Wegmans-brand packaged bagels sold in the stores' dairy or frozen food departments. Wegman Food Markets Inc. said it initiated the recall because the dough used to make the bagels might have contained pieces of a metal spring that broke in a mixer at the company's central bakeshop in Rochester, New York, posing a potential choking hazard.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2008/09/10/Wegmans-brand_store-baked_bagels_recalled/UPI-68921221072339/

22. *September 10, HealthDay News* – (National) **Scratched surfaces may trap bacteria during food processing.** Minute particles of food soil on surfaces can help bacteria survive industrial cleaning procedures in food processing factories, which may lead to possible contamination of food with pathogenic bacteria, say researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom. “Tiny amounts of soil are enough to provide nutrients and a reservoir for contaminating bacteria to survive the cleaning process, leading to food spoilage later. The soil should be identified to make sure effective cleaning regimes are used on food preparation surfaces,” a researcher said in a Society for General Microbiology news release. She and her colleagues compared different methods for detection of food residues, including chemical and physiochemical techniques, microscopy, and rapid industrial methods such as ultraviolet (UV) light. They found that standard UV light and detection techniques may not detect the tiny quantities of food soil, which can even adhere to stainless steel surfaces. The researchers concluded that more complex analytical methods are the most effective in identifying food soil and developing appropriate cleaning procedures.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/10/AR2008091000961.html>

23. *September 9, ScienceDaily* – (National) **Titanium work surfaces could cut food poisoning cases say scientists.** Food factory work surfaces coated in titanium could cut the number of food poisoning cases every year, scientists heard at the Society for General Microbiology's autumn meeting being held this week at Trinity College, Dublin. Researchers from Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom, have looked at the way different work surfaces harbor bacteria that could contaminate food. They discovered that titanium could be a better work surface than stainless steel, as some pathogenic bacteria find it more difficult to attach themselves to the metal. The researchers looked at how bacteria are retained after cleaning to surfaces with scratches. They found that the shape of the bacteria affected their retention; rod-shaped *Listeria* remained in tiny scratches less than 0.5 micrometers across, and round *Staphylococcus* cells stuck in scratches measuring one micrometer across.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080909204557.htm>

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Water Sector

24. *September 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Is beach water safe? EPA to improve**

testing. Beachgoers will be told more about whether it is safe to go in the water under a court settlement between environmentalists and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The settlement requires the EPA to develop criteria by 2012 to protect the public against a wider range of potential health hazards from ocean swimming than provided by existing standards. Currently, EPA criteria for the safety of ocean water are based on the likelihood of contracting gastrointestinal ailments. The settlement requires EPA to base its criteria on more illnesses, including hepatitis, skin rashes, ear infections, and pink eye. EPA will also have to deliver results of sea-water tests the same day they are done, so the public can have more timely and accurate information. EPA has not updated ocean pollution criteria since 1986. The Natural Resources Defense Council sued EPA over the issue in 2006 after the agency failed to meet congressionally mandated deadlines to do so. The settlement was filed Friday in federal court in Los Angeles. EPA said it would cost about \$14 million to conduct all the necessary studies to develop the new criteria. EPA will also be required to study the health risks posed by storm water runoff, the biggest known source of beach pollution.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26646837/>

25. *September 10, Politicker NJ* – (National) **Senator introduces bill to keep consumers informed about bottled water.** On Wednesday, a U.S. senator introduced a bill to provide consumers critical information about the origin and quality of the bottled water they are drinking. He introduced his bill while chairing a hearing in the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security and Water Quality. His bill, the Bottled Water Right-to-Know Act, would require bottled water manufacturers to display the quality and source of the water and type of treatment that the water has undergone on the bottles they sell. The bill also requires that manufacturers submit information about their bottled water's origins and quality to the Food and Drug Administration and that information be accessible to the public. While some bottlers may use additional treatment to clean the water, almost 40 percent of bottled water comes from municipal water sources.

Source: <http://www.politickernj.com/paganm/23357/lautenberg-introduces-bill-keep-consumers-informed-about-bottled-water>

26. *September 10, Reuters* – (National) **Sionix to deliver water treatment unit early 2009.** A southern California company said it is developing a modular packaged water treatment system which uses air bubbles to clean water, for use in remote areas or where safe water is temporarily unavailable, like after natural disasters. Sionix Corp. of Irvine, California, has developed a system it calls Elixir that pre-treats water to remove at least 99.5 percent of suspended particles without chemical byproducts, said the president of Sionix. The units can also be used for desalination. He said that most conventional water treatment systems use sand percolation as a filter, then add chemicals to disinfect the water to make it safe to drink. The Sionix Elixir system, which measures 40-feet by eight-feet, fits in a standard shipping container and can produce a minimum of 325,000 gallons of clean water a day, enough for about 550 homes, he said. Sionix is also working on a model to bottle drinking water. The cost of the system depends on how polluted the water is prior to treatment, he said. Sionix has a purchase order from an oil-drilling service company for 16 systems at more than \$2 million each.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1024041720080910?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *September 11, Newsday* – (National) **State: Medicaid change to cost LI clinics, hospitals \$50M.** A proposed change to Medicaid would slash \$450 million in annual revenue from New York clinics and hospitals, jeopardizing programs for children, pregnant women, and the disabled, according to a state Department of Health analysis and officials. The proposal restricts outpatient services covered by Medicaid to only those services covered by Medicare, an attempt to reduce costly outpatient treatment and encourage cheaper office visits, federal officials said. In effect, critics said, the change would cut essential services for Medicaid patients who use hospitals and clinics for child dental checkups, prenatal screenings, dialysis treatments, family planning, and physical therapy - all not covered by Medicare, which is primarily for the elderly. It will hit especially hard the more generous Medicaid programs in New York and California. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated the cost at \$300 million for the entire country.

Source:

<http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/thursday/longisland/ny-limedi115837849sep11,0,5163108.story>

28. *September 10, HealthDay News* – (National) **9/11's health effects lingered for years.** Two to three years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, psychological trauma and new respiratory problems were still elevated among people enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Registry, according to the latest New York City health department study. Released on the eve of the seventh anniversary, the study looked at the health effects among all 71,437 participants of the registry, which includes rescue and recovery workers, lower Manhattan residents, area workers, commuters, and passersby. Two to three years after 9/11, three percent of all adult enrollees reported they developed new asthma, 16 percent had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and eight percent had severe psychological distress, according to the study, published in the *Journal of Urban Health*. Rescue and recovery workers who worked on the debris pile had the highest rate of new asthma (six percent), while the PTSD rate was highest among injured (35 percent), low-income (31 percent) and Hispanic (30 percent) enrollees. Overall, minorities, people with low incomes, and women experienced higher rates of mental and physical problems.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/10/AR2008091001846.html>

29. *September 9, NRC News* – (Pennsylvania) **NRC begins special investigation of the Department of Veterans Affairs due to multiple medical events.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is conducting a special inspection at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to examine the circumstances

surrounding multiple underdoses during radiation treatments of prostate cancer that occurred between February 2002 and June 2008. In all, 112 procedures that took place since the inception of the cancer treatment program in February 2002 were reviewed. Fifty-five of these cases were identified as medical events that involved administering an incorrect radiation dose to a patient. As a result of the review, the VA Medical Center suspended its prostate cancer treatment program in June 2008. The Medical Center is reviewing possible effects on patients. Circumstances for each patient are being evaluated to determine if follow-up medical care is needed.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-033.iii.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *September 11, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Police: Faculty member made bomb threat at college.** The woman, who shut down part of Cape Cod Community College in Massachusetts Tuesday by allegedly making a bomb threat, is a part-time adjunct faculty member and may have a history of mental illness, according to police reports. She was arraigned in Barnstable District Court Wednesday afternoon on charges of communicating a false bomb threat, disturbing a school assembly, assault and battery on a police officer, and disorderly conduct, a Barnstable police sergeant said. According to the police, the suspect approached the Cape Cod Community College president's assistant at about 2:30 Tuesday afternoon, four hours before her class was scheduled to begin, demanding to see the president about a bomb.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080911/NEWS/809110310>

31. *September 11, Examiner* – (Texas) **Hurricane Ike closes Johnson Space Center.** The Houston-based Johnson Space Center, which houses Mission Control and astronaut training, will close at noon Thursday as Hurricane Ike roars in. Forecasters say that Ike could savage the Texas coast between Corpus Christi and Houston. The hurricane, currently a Category 2 storm, has already killed 81 people in the Caribbean, and forecasters say that the warm waters of the Gulf could power it to even stronger levels. Officials are hopeful that the center could return to full work status as early as Monday.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-504-Space-News-Examiner~y2008m9d11-Hurricane-Ike-Closes-Johnson-Space-Center-Today>

32. *September 10, Grand Island Independent* – (Nebraska) **Written bomb threat found in library.** A written note threatening a bombing Thursday at the Grand Island Public Library in Nebraska has been found in a bathroom at the facility. A Grand Island police captain said the note, which stated, "I will bomb the Grand Island library on 9/11/08," was found taped in a men's bathroom Tuesday morning. A custodian doing routine maintenance found the note just after the library opened, he said.

Source: <http://www.theindependent.com/news/x1729993501/Written-bomb-threat-found-in-library>

33. *September 10, WTAP 5 Parkersburg* – (West Virginia) **Third bomb threat.** For the third straight day, Parkersburg High School classes were disrupted by a bomb threat and three people have been detained in connection with Wednesday's threat. The Parkersburg police chief said three juveniles have been apprehended in connection with Wednesday's incident, which was reported at approximately 1 P.M. The police chief says the three individuals from Wednesday's threat face a detention hearing Thursday. One person has been detained in connection with the Tuesday threat.
Source: <http://www.wtap.com/news/headlines/28204384.html>
34. *September 10, Emporia Gazette* – (Kansas) **Bomb scare closes Memorial Union.** In Kansas, according to a press release from the university, a witness called and reported a suspicious package outside the west door of the Emporia State University (ESU) Memorial Union. Emporia police and ESU police and safety were notified, and access to the building and to Union Square was closed. In addition, the university got a chance to try its new RAVE text and e-mail notification system to warn students of the potential danger. Officers determined the bag was not a threat.
Source:
http://www.emporiagazette.com/news/2008/sep/10/bomb_scare_closes_memorial_union/
35. *September 10, Computerworld* – (Arkansas) **Irate Ark. man posts county e-mail records in privacy fight.** An Arkansas resident is posting the internal e-mail records of various officials in the Pulaski County clerk's office on his Web site in retaliation for what he calls the county's refusal to remove certain public documents containing Social Security numbers from its Web site. The e-mails are considered public records and were obtained by a native of North Little Rock under Arkansas' Freedom of Information Act. They represent a year's worth of e-mails sent and received by nine officials at the county office, including the county clerk himself. He started posting the e-mails on his Web site about a week ago, after the county clerk refused to remove tens of thousands of circuit court records containing social security numbers and other personal data from the county government Web site. That data included bank account numbers, birth dates, and check images.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyId=13&articleId=9114438&intsrc=hm_topic

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Emergency Services Sector

36. *September 11, State Journal* – (West Virginia) **Explosion forces officials to look at communication.** Officials soon will decide how they can stop communication breakdowns if another accident like the explosion at Bayer CropScience befalls the area. County officials also plan to release recordings from emergency responders at the accident. Kanawha County and Charleston, West Virginia, officials will meet with first responders and Bayer CropScience officials September 11 to critique the company and county reaction after the August 28 chemical plant explosion. Confusion remains about

who was in contact with whom, and at what point in the communication plan things went wrong. A county Emergency Operations Center coordinator said the county plans to release recordings of calls and radio communications made by law enforcement and fire department personnel. Some data, such as some Emergency Management Services communications, will not be released due to privacy issues, he said. A former city emergency services director, who was representing the Kanawha County Commission, said the company would not provide any further information to the Emergency Operations Center in the first hours after the accident. He said Bayer was commanding the incident but did not make the first contact after the incident.

Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=43842>

37. *September 10, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Vets help first responders prepare for the worst.** Emergency workers from across Colorado participated in a large-scale disaster drill on Wednesday. The National Disaster Medical System conducted the exercise at Butts Army Airfield at Fort Carson where more than 100 volunteer victims helped put the state’s emergency responders to the test. The scenario: more than 150 people hurt in a Utah earthquake were flown to Colorado for help. The goal was to bring together several hundred emergency workers from the Denver Federal Coordinating Center and the Jefferson County Incident Management Team to evaluate patient care under chaotic circumstances.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=99477&catid=188>

38. *September 10, WBAY 2 Green Bay* – (Wisconsin) **Kewaunee nuclear plant under terrorist siege in drill.** Terrorists, hostages, and a nuclear power plant. It is a formula for disaster, and Wednesday, on the eve of the 9/11 anniversary, it was the scenario in Kewaunee, Wisconsin, where agencies gathered for a government-ordered emergency drill. The security drill involved a terrorist taking hostage a group of students on a tour of the nuclear power plant. But this part of the terrorist’s plan was just a diversion while more terrorists, who came ashore from Lake Michigan, made their way into the nuclear plant. As the hostage situation was being handled by SWAT, a fire simulation began at the nuclear plant. Over the course of several hours, the attack was finally diffused. “Part of the emergency planning is, you never say it can’t happen,” a plant representative said, “and so we take a lot of these scenarios which are probably not very realistic but work through them in the event the unthinkable happens.” Every nuclear plant in the country is required to undergo one of these security drills.

Source: <http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=8985254>

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Information Technology

39. *September 11, Register* – (National) **CookieMonster nabs user creds from secure sites.** Websites used for email, banking, e-commerce, and other sensitive applications just got even less secure with the release of a new tool that siphons users’ authentication credentials – even when they are sent through supposedly secure channels. Dubbed CookieMonster, the toolkit is used in a variety of man-in-the-middle scenarios to trick a victim’s browser into turning over the authentication cookies used to gain access to user

account sections of a website. Unlike an attack method known as sidejacking, it works with vulnerable websites even when a user's browsing session is encrypted from start to finish using the secure sockets layer protocol. The vulnerability stems from website developers' failure to designate authentication cookies as secure. That means web browsers are free to send them over the insecure http channel, and that is exactly what CookieMonster causes them to do. It does this by caching all DNS responses and then monitoring hostnames that use port 443 to connect to one of the domain names stored there. CookieMonster then injects images from insecure (non-https) portions of the protected website, and the browser sends the authentication cookie. For now, CookieMonster is in the hands of only about 225 security professionals. In the next couple weeks, the creator of CookieMonster plans to make it generally available. He has listed some two-dozen sites that are vulnerable.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/11/cookiemonster_rampage/

40. *September 10, Dark Reading* – (National) **'Password recovery' services may be hackers for hire.** Services that promise to help find lost passwords may make their living by cracking the passwords of others, says the chief security strategist at IBM's Internet Security Systems unit. Webmail services such as Gmail and Hotmail are widely used as a quick, low-cost alternative to more sophisticated email services offered by ISPs or corporations. But Webmail accounts are not particularly secure, he warns. For between \$300 to \$600, a hacker can find a full suite of Webmail cracking tools on the Internet, complete with the ability to do brute-force "guessing" of simple passwords and enhanced tools for penetrating the CAPTCHA authentication methods used on Webmail services, he notes. CAPTCHA-breaking methods have become so effective that for about \$100, the service provider can not only promise to give you the password to a specific Webmail account, but it can also promise to give you subsequent passwords if the legitimate owner should change passwords. There is not much that users can do to protect themselves from these hack-for-hire services, he says. "The best thing you can do is to use strong passwords," he says. It would be difficult for any company to set a policy against using Webmail services, he says. "Your best bet is to educate your users about the vulnerabilities of these services, and discourage them from using their Webmail accounts for transmitting company information or other sensitive data," he says. Users also should stay away from the services themselves, many of which are based in Russia or southeast Asia and can be recognized by the stilted English grammar in their service descriptions, he notes.

Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=163471&WT.svl=news1_1

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

41. *September 11, Computerworld* – (National) **Wireless operators seek faster review of cell tower proposals.** Wireless network operators are pushing for faster consideration of cell tower construction applications in the U.S., urging that reviews be finished in 75 days. The CTIA, which represents the major carriers, wants state and local regulatory bodies to make more timely cell tower decisions because of a sizable backlog of construction applications and a clear desire by many customers to have more cellular network coverage and reliability, said the vice president of regulatory affairs at the CTIA. He said a survey of carriers showed that 760 applications have taken more than a year to review, with half that number of applications under review bodies for more than three years. The commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said the federal government and the FCC have no right to tell states and local communities whether to build a tower in a certain location, but the FCC has a directive from Congress to provide cellular access to Americans in a timely manner. He said the FCC can regulate the amount of power generated by a cell tower, adding, “but as for health problems, there’s no proof of this.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9114458&intsrc=hm_list

42. *September 10, Computerworld* – (National) **Yahoo expands Blueprint for mobile apps.** Yahoo Inc. announced Wednesday at the CTIA trade show that it has expanded Blueprint, a mobile development platform, to allow developers to build applications for mobile devices running Java, Windows Mobile, and Symbian operating systems. Blueprint was previously available to create mobile widgets for Yahoo Go, a mobile application that first appeared two years ago. The executive vice president of Yahoo Connected Life said Blueprint, which is available for free, allows a developer to write once and have an application run across many devices and operating systems to reach billions of users. As such, Yahoo is expecting its services and advertising system to be available for all kinds of devices globally, he added.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyId=11&articleId=9114440&intsrc=hm_topic

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

43. *September 11, Times-Standard* – (California) **Agencies break up first big pot grow in Redwood National Park.** A multi-agency team busted a huge pot grow in Redwood

National Park in California Wednesday and detained five people they suspect may have been involved. The grow was the largest, and perhaps the only big marijuana grow, found on the national park to date. Thousands of plants were cut down and then removed by helicopter from the Copper Creek area. About 30 law enforcement officers took part in the operation. They were from the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, a National Park Service Special Team, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, and the state Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

Source: http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_10435259

44. *September 11, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Navajo Nation seeks control of national monument.** The Navajo Nation is seeking full control of the only national monument entirely on reservation land, the majestic Canyon de Chelly and its hundreds of ancient rock carvings and paintings. Since 1931, the National Park Service has been charged with preserving thousands of artifacts and ruins within the monument's towering red sandstone walls, while the land revered by the Navajos as sacred remained tribally owned. Now the Tribal Council wants full control of the 131-square-mile monument in northeastern Arizona and the more than \$1.8 million in federal funding that goes with it. Congress would have the final say.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gUzIXvwpxZdmNb-DMzvcRp9d1wgD934D5G81>

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Dams Sector

45. *September 10, Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Spangler's Mill dam removed from Yellow Breeches.** The final chunks of a 97-year-old rock and concrete dam across the Yellow Breeches Creek near Spangler's Mill Road in Pennsylvania were being removed from the creek this afternoon. The dam was no longer used for its original purpose of powering a mill. Its presence blocked the free flow of the creek and degraded its environment. "It is our hope, in the future, that the 'Breeches' will be dam-free," said the board president of the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the non-profit that secured grants to pay for the removal, and one of many entities with an interest in removing the dam. A second dam, located downstream near the Green Lane Farms community, is expected to be removed within the next year.

Source:

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2008/09/spanglers_mill_dam_removed_fro.html

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