



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 October 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- WABC 7 New York reports that during last Friday evening's rush hour, the discovery of two suspicious bottles filled with an unknown liquid and glued to the median forced Port Authority Police to close down the Lincoln Tunnel for hours. Police records show it was the third such incident in a month. (See item [14](#))
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, a former U.S. Department of Defense contractor pleaded guilty Tuesday to participating in a scheme to steal fuel worth approximately \$39.6 million from the U.S. Army in Iraq. (See item [31](#))

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. *October 9, University of Maryland* – (National) **Instant Access Networks, Frostburg faculty developing renewable-energy-fueled power grids safe from electromagnetic pulse attacks.** Staff at Instant Access Networks LLC (IAN) and a Frostburg State University (FSU) physics and engineering professor are teaming – through a \$165,000 project recently approved by the Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) program – to create renewable energy-powered, electromagnetic pulse (EMP)-protected microgrids that could provide electricity for critical infrastructure facilities in the event of a disaster. IAN has developed a patent-pending shielding technology that encloses a room

or similar structure and protects it from EMP events. IAN's shielding, which includes electrically isolated layers of steel and aluminum, is up to 70 percent lighter than materials traditionally used by the military and other sources for EMP protection. This enables EMP-safe rooms to be portable. IAN's shielded rooms can protect mission-critical fiber optic network nodes and data or communication centers. They can also house generators, which, when several are connected, create a micro power grid, or microgrid, that can provide power to a campus or entire communities. "The idea is to create islands of power to reduce the cascading effects of a wide-scale failure," says the president of IAN. The challenge is finding a long-term energy source for microgrids, as it could take years to rebuild power infrastructure after a strong EMP event. The FSU team and IAN staff together will investigate renewable energy subsystems that the company can integrate into the EMP-protected microgrid.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/providing-power-there-none-instant/story.aspx?guid={06219DB5-6C4A-49F6-8850-7719847D43E5}&dist=hppr>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

2. *October 8, Record* – (New Jersey) **Tougher rules are urged to reduce chemical risks.** According to a report by labor and environmental organizations, New Jersey has 97 facilities that use or manufacture highly hazardous chemicals and pose a "potential catastrophic safety and health risk" to workers and the public. In recent years, New Jersey has adopted several policies to improve safety and security at plants. They include a requirement that industries evaluate whether they could use safer alternative technologies or chemicals. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), however, does not require plants to adopt the safer technologies or chemicals. The report released Tuesday presses the DEP to make it a requirement. The company's risk assessment estimates that a chlorine release from Kuehne Chemical in South Kearny, could affect up to 12 million people in a 14-mile radius around the plant.

Source: http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2691117.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *October 9, Aviation Week* – (National) **More MAVs in Iraq by end of November.** A U.S. Army major general says there are currently 20 Honeywell-made Micro Air Vehicles deployed with a Stryker brigade combat team in Iraq, with plans to have a total of 32 there by the end of November. He made the announcement during an Army briefing on the Future Combat Systems (FCS) program at the annual Association of the

U.S. Army conference in Washington on October 8.

Source:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/MAV100908.xml&headline=More%20MAVs%20In%20Iraq%20By%20End%20Of%20November&channel=defense>

4. *October 7, Congress Daily* – (National) **Army reviewing alternatives to troubled helicopter project.** Army officials acknowledged Tuesday that they are weighing alternatives to Bell Helicopter Textron’s Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter in anticipation of an upcoming U.S. Defense Department decision on the troubled program. Speaking at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting, Army officials would not comment on what aircraft they consider viable alternatives to the militarized version Bell’s 407 single-engine light helicopter now under contract.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41154&dcn=todaysnews

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *October 9, Reuters* – (National) **Blackrock, Pimco bid to manage bailout assets.** BlackRock Inc and Pacific Investment Management Co (Pimco) are bidding to manage mortgage-backed assets in the U.S.’s \$700 billion financial bailout, Bloomberg news agency said. State Street Corp and Bank of New York Mellon Corp are bidding to handle record-keeping and custody services for the U.S. Treasury, the agency said. In an attempt to clean up the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, the U.S. Congress has legislated to let the government buy illiquid mortgage assets from banks and other financial institutions.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE49826X20081009>
6. *October 8, Associated Press* – (National) **Wachovia, Citigroup, Wells Fargo extend stand still.** Citigroup and Wells Fargo agreed Wednesday to extend their legal standstill in the fight for Wachovia until Friday morning, giving the banks more time to work toward a mutual agreement. The Fed was engaging in talks with both Citigroup and Wells Fargo in the hope of reaching a quick resolution and avoiding a lengthy court battle. The extension of the standstill suggests that the parties believe an agreement is reachable. It puts on hold a hearing scheduled for 3 p.m. in New York federal court. Citigroup agreed last Monday to buy Wachovia’s banking operations for \$2.1 billion in a deal brokered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Four days later Wells Fargo announced that Wachovia’s board had agreed to its \$13.1 billion all-stock offer. The Wells Fargo proposal does not include assistance from the FDIC.
Source:
<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jjz5Hb-Nmj1z9ke5S6hdsfGtSf1AD93MFJM81>
7. *October 8, Science Magazine* – (National) **New version of SilentBank Trojan causes concern.** The SilentBanker Trojan has been improved to the extent that it is harder to detect and more effective at stealing data. Originally identified last year, the new version has a rootkit that makes finding infected files very difficult. The rootkit ensures

that when a user tries to search in the registry for files that indicate an infection, it is hidden from view as the Trojan intercepts the search request. SilentBanker is particularly good at defeating two-factor authentication, which involves the user having a separate log-in token that is synchronised with the bank's server to augment a password. The Trojan subverts the two-factor transaction by intercepting communications before they are encrypted and forwarding them to the attacker, essentially making the security of two-factor authentication useless.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/New-version-of-SilentBanker-Trojan-causes-concern/article/119196/>

8. *October 8, Dark Reading* – (National) **Financial crises leaves banks branches open to social engineering.** Heightened concern over the growing financial crisis is making banks more vulnerable to targeted social engineering and spear-phishing attacks, researchers said this week. Breaching a bank's physical security is also easier now, according to Errata Security. In a social engineering ploy for a mid-sized bank last week, an Errata's Chief Technology Officer was mistaken for a federal auditor and allowed access to the branch manager's unoccupied office. He made off with a computer backup tape containing account transaction data. Some social engineers are worried that the bad guys will soon start preying on bank employees' fears to wage real targeted attacks. One researcher has decided to hold off on releasing a powerful open source hacking platform he created for targeted email and phishing attacks that includes payloads for popular Web threats out of fear that it will be used by bad guys to wage real targeted attacks. "I think phishing and social engineering [are] the highest risk currently faced by the financial industry," said the CEO of PacketFocus, who is afraid that his so-called Lunker tool could be used for targeted phishing attacks.
Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=165537&WT.svl=news1_2
9. *October 8, MSNBC* – (National) **Paying at the pump just got more risky.** Police in Puyallup, Washington, say thieves snagged debit card numbers and PIN codes of hundreds of people at two gas stations in the area. They did it by installing their own hard-to-spot card reader, called a skimmer, on top of the card reader built into the pump. The skimmer is able to grab the account information from the card without interfering with the legitimate payment transaction. The crooks used the stolen data to create (or clone) fake debit cards that were used at ATMs in Washington state over the Fourth of July weekend and in northern California on Labor Day weekend. The bad guys like three-day holidays because it gives them more time to use the cards before the unauthorized withdrawals are spotted. "We are looking at a sophisticated, very well-organized group of individuals," says a detective with the Puyallup Police Department. When all the victims from these two incidents are identified, the total loss could reach half a million dollars. Gas pumps are being compromised in cities across the country. "We don't view it as an epidemic, but there are cases open in at least a half dozen states right now," says a spokesman for the U.S. Secret Service. These investigations are underway in California, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington. The detective says the Secret Service believes some of these crimes are inside jobs, involving someone at the service station. Police in Puyallup and Las Vegas now advise residents not to use their debit card at a gas pump because there is no way to be sure it

has not been tampered with.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27085818/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

10. *October 9, U.S. Department of Transportation* – (New York) **U.S. transportation secretary announces \$89 million commitment to capacity improvements at JFK International Airport.** The U.S. presidential administration is committing almost \$90 million over the next eight years to expand capacity at John F. Kennedy International Airport, the U.S. secretary of transportation announced Thursday. “The best way to cut record airline delays nationwide is to expand the limited capacity at New York’s airport,” the secretary said. “Building new taxiways or adding new runways takes time, though, which is why we’re also putting in place measures to cut delays and keep service vibrant over the short term.” The secretary said the U.S. Department of Transportation will sign what is known as a “Letter of Intent” committing the federal government to invest \$89 million between 2009 and 2016 to fund a series of taxiway improvements at JFK airport. The taxiway improvements include constructing two new taxiways, extending or improving six others, and creating new high-speed exit taxiways. Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot15008.htm>

11. *October 9, FOX News* – (New York) **Report: Passenger allowed to board plane after grenades found in luggage.** Federal airport screeners found two grenades in the luggage of a man set to board a JetBlue flight at New York’s Kennedy airport. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) specialists then determined that the explosives were inert and allowed the passenger to board the plane without ever informing police. The TSA maintained that it is up to their own personnel to determine when to call police and said the agency was reprimanded for notifying authorities in a similar incident last month. The port authority police union told the station that this was a “blatant disregard for public safety.” Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,434683,00.html>

12. *October 8, Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Progress slow on ways to prevent train wrecks.** Aside from some fiber-optic installations and statements from board members endorsing a system capable of stopping trains before they collide, Metrolink is in roughly the same position it was five years ago: Waiting for a system able to work in southern California, waiting for railroads to cooperate to develop a national system, and waiting for federal officials to foot the bill. Since the September 12 Chatsworth freight and Metrolink train collision that killed 25 and injured 135, momentum has sped positive train control to the forefront as a possible solution. The system allows computers on trains and at a control center to communicate via satellite and global positioning system technology, and automatically stop trains that run stop signals. Had it been in place, the Chatsworth accident would not have happened, said the Federal Railroad administrator. Source: http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_railsafety09.3fec092.ht

[ml](#)

13. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Fire breaks out in hangar at East Texas airport.** A 125-gallon gas tank on a Lear jet caught fire at East Texas Regional Airport, injuring one worker. Airport officials tell KETK-TV that the worker was conducting a test Wednesday afternoon when a flash fire broke out inside a hangar.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6047379.html>

14. *October 7, WABC 7 New York* – (New York) **Is Lincoln Tunnel being tested?** During last Friday evening’s rush hour, the discovery of two suspicious bottles filled with an unknown liquid and glued to the median forced Port Authority police to close down the Lincoln Tunnel for hours. Police records obtained show it was the third such incident in a month. The first one occurring four weeks ago, when someone placed “3 plastic heart shaped bottles” of an unknown liquid on the New Jersey side of the Lincoln Tunnel. One bottle had a “gray wire inside” and a message, “don’t look at me.” And then again last Wednesday, two “red sealed bottles were glued” near a lamp post.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/investigators&id=6435477>

15. *October 7, Associated Press* – (Texas; National) **Safety officers not on duty when bus entered U.S.** A federal transportation investigator said Tuesday no Texas or U.S. motor safety officers were on duty when an unsafe bus crossed the border hours before a fatal crash. A National Transportation Safety Board investigator said the Mexican-made bus was checked by customs and border officers when it came into the United States at a Laredo, Texas, crossing in January. But because no Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration or Texas Department of Public Safety inspectors were on duty “no safety inspection was conducted,” he said. The bus crashed near Victoria, Texas, killing one man among the 47 passengers. It was returning to Houston from Monterrey, Mexico, when the driver veered off the road and overcorrected, causing the bus to flip on its side and strike a guardrail. Motorcoach crashes have been in the headlines throughout the year. Initially, many of the bus crashes have been blamed on a missed curve, a fatigued driver, or tire problem. But investigations in several crashes have uncovered bigger problems such as poor screening of drivers and bus companies that were shut down but were still operating in the U.S. Advocates for increased motorcoach safety say the crashes have highlighted gaping holes in regulation of the passenger bus industry and the need for tighter enforcement.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6044575.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *October 9, Farmers Futures* – (National) **USDA awards nearly \$1 million for pest research.** USDA is awarding \$974,000 to universities in six states to research methods of combating invasive pests and diseases. Universities in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Nevada are receiving funding through USDA's Economic Research Service to study the economic effects and efficiency of strategies to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive pests.
Source: <http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=4E010CC5FE394791838F1A7EAC986DE3>
17. *October 9, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Grants to bolster food safety efforts.** A three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Protection Agency will be used to set up rapid-response teams designed to manage food emergencies in North Carolina. The money will pay for training, equipment and technology, the State Agriculture Commissioner said. The teams will allow the state to act more quickly to minimize public health risks and reduce potential economic impacts related to food disasters. The state also was awarded a two-year, \$500,000 grant to prevent the introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, in cattle feed and pet foods. North Carolina is one of a few states that tests animal feed products for adverse chemicals and to ensure nutrition labels are accurate.
Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=306833>
18. *October 8, Fresh Plaza* – (National) **34 supply chain leaders endorse plan for chain-wide electronic produce traceability.** Thirty-four companies from throughout the produce supply chain have endorsed a new plan developed by the Produce Traceability Initiative (PTI) to move the supply chain to a common standard for electronic produce traceability by the end of 2012. The plan involves adopting a standardized system of case bar-coding for all produce sold in the U.S., to allow product to be tracked throughout the distribution chain. The plan will maximize the effectiveness of the industry's current traceability procedures, improve internal efficiencies and assist public officials when they need to quickly trace back a product. Intended to enhance overall supply chain traceability in speed and efficiency, a standardized system could significantly improve the industry's ability to narrow the impact of potential recalls or similar problems.
Source: http://www.freshplaza.com/news_detail.asp?id=30368
19. *October 8, USDA* – (National) **USDA awards more than \$13 million in specialty crop research.** The Agriculture Secretary today announced that USDA has awarded more than \$28 million through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) to solve critical specialty crop agriculture issues, address priorities and solve problems through multifunctional research and extension. The Specialty Crop Research Initiative was established by the 2008 Farm Bill to address needs of specific crops and their regions in five focus areas: 1) improve crop characteristics through plant breeding, genetics and genomics; 2) address threats from pests and diseases; 3) improve production efficiency, productivity and profitability; 4) develop new innovations and technologies and 5)

develop methods to improve food safety. Although 17 institutions will manage the research/extension grant funds from this program, each award includes collaborators from an average of three other states who will work together in a multi-disciplinary approach to solve problems.

Source: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2008news/10081_scri.html

20. *October 8, Traverse City Record-Eagle*– (Michigan) **Chemical reaction may have caused fire.** Investigators still believe a chemical reaction caused an explosion and subsequent fire at a local fruit processing plant. Buckley’s Fire Chief said a mix of chemicals used in the processing facility likely led to the explosion, adding that his department will not investigate further. Insurance investigators also were scheduled to examine the site. The Fire Chief believes a portion of the building housing the company’s front offices might be salvageable. No one was injured in the fire.

Source: http://www.record-eagle.com/local/local_story_282095635.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

21. *October 9, Avalanche-Journal* – (Texas) **Big drain on drinking water supply looms for Lubbock, area.** Lubbock and ten other Panhandle cities can expect less drinking water next year and face far sharper cuts in the near future. Directors of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority committed 1.6 billion fewer gallons of water from its Lake Meredith reservoir and well fields dotting Roberts County. Lake Meredith’s depth of 50 feet remained well below normal, and Roberts County well fields making up the reservoir’s lost production need months more construction before reaching full power. Treatment systems used in Lubbock, Plainview, and Amarillo struggle without a mix of lake water — large doses from the aquifer make the water too clean to treat — and no city spoke up in favor of reserving Lake Meredith exclusively for the high-demand summer months. Longer term, the authority plans to build a massive, 48-inch pipeline to allow more water to flow from its groundwater holdings to member cities. Directors proposed spending another \$3.6 million of its reserves and \$17.5 million in additional bonds raised from member cities to fund the project.

Source: http://lubbockonline.com/stories/100908/loc_341959606.shtml

22. *October 9, Daily Gazette* – (New York) **Waterford water line project begins.** Construction has started on the 4.5-mile pipeline, paid for by the federal government and General Electric Co. (GE), that is designed to provide Halfmoon and Waterford with safe drinking water next year. Waterford and Halfmoon both draw their drinking water from the Hudson River, and state testing this year found low levels of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) in the public water supplies of both towns. Local, state, and federal officials are concerned that PCB levels may rise starting next May when the EPA is scheduled to begin its multiyear project of dredging PCB-contaminated sediment from the Hudson River. The EPA said the water line project should be completed by April 1, before dredging starts. An EPA statement said it would be paying for the water line, “which is to cost more than \$6 million, with no expenses for the construction going to water consumers in the two towns. GE is expected to contribute toward the cost of the

construction.” GE factories in Washington County legally discharged PCBs into the river until the 1970s.

Source: http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2008/oct/09/1009_waterline/

23. *October 9, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Water from district well exceeds arsenic limit.** Water from an Elk Grove Water District well has eclipsed federal limits for arsenic, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Public Health said Wednesday. The Department said the district will receive a formal notice of violation Friday. The notice is not considered an enforcement action, and there are no penalties, she said. It sets forth steps the district must take to come into compliance. The general manager said only one well was involved, and it has been closed. His office has been working with the state, and a meeting is set for Friday. Samples showed the well’s water exceeded the federal limit of 10 parts per billion for arsenic in the first nine months of this year. Statewide, according to the state, about 159 of some 3,500 California public water systems in California exceed federal arsenic limits.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/1300171.html>

24. *October 9, Post Independent* – (Colorado) **13,692 gallons of produced water spilled.** EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) said Wednesday that 1,386 gallons of produced water spilled from a waterline rupture this week flowed into Mamm Creek. A total of 13,692 gallons of produced water was released when the pipeline broke early Tuesday morning, said a spokesman for the company. The water traveled about a half mile before it entered the creek. A spokesman for the company said the waterline that malfunctioned was damaged by a contractor in July and that the company made repairs to the pipeline. However, the section that was repaired was “apparently over-pressurized.” The area where the earlier repair was made began to leak and later broke. Initial sampling of the released water conducted at points along a five mile distance from Mamm Creek to where it flows into the Colorado River by EnCana revealed no elevated concentrations of pollutants. That may be due to the fact that water had gone through treatment for removal of hydrocarbons before it was placed in the line for eventual use in the company’s drilling operations.

Source:

<http://www.postindependent.com/article/20081009/VALLEYNEWS/810089977/1074&title=13,692%20gallons%20of%20produced%20water%20spilled>

25. *October 8, Advocate* – (Louisiana) **Hammond to reclaim sewer ponds.** The city of Hammond will spend \$77,255 to reclaim two old sewer ponds used to pre-treat dairy wastes. The ponds were part of a 1991 agreement between food retailer Winn-Dixie and the city to pre-treat wastewater coming from Winn-Dixie’s dairy-products processing plant. Since then, the city has upgraded its sewer system, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality wants the ponds reclaimed and closed by December 31. The former ponds will be emptied and reseeded to allow grass to grow, according to the city engineer. The soil and groundwater also will be tested for contamination, which, if found, the city would have to clean up. So far, preliminary tests have indicated the soil and groundwater are clean.

Source: <http://www.theadvocate.com/news/suburban/30607979.html>

26. *October 8, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Park Service giving Port Angeles water plant.** The National Park Service has transferred ownership of a \$25 million water treatment plant to the city of Port Angeles as part of the process to remove two dams from the Elwha River. The City Council accepted the plant at Tuesday’s meeting. When it is completed in 2009 it will supply water to the city. The Peninsula Daily News reports that another \$70 million plant will supply water for industrial use. The treatment plants are needed to remove sediments that will wash downstream when the dams are removed. The dams — one built in 1913 and one in 1926 — should be removed from the Elwha after 2012.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008241681_apwaelwhadams1stldwritethru.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *October 8, WSIL 3 Carterville* – (Illinois) **Hazmat Scare at VA.** Part of the Marion Veteran Affairs (VA) medical center was on lockdown Wednesday night. Emergency crews were on the scene for more than five hours investigating a possible hazmat situation. A spokeswoman with the VA says an employee was opening mail when they noticed a strong odor and immediately developed a rash. That employee was treated in the emergency room at the VA. The emergency room was on lockdown while hazmat crews were on the scene. After several extensive tests, all results came back negative. There is no word on the condition of the employee.

Source: http://www.wsiltv.com/p/news_details.php?newsID=5751&type=top

28. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Test identifies deadly MRSA bacteria in hours vs. days.** Two Utah hospitals have a new machine that tests for the dangerous drug-resistant staph bacteria MRSA in only two hours. "Because we're working with DNA, DNA is specific, so it codes, you're looking at like a 99.99 percent accuracy rate with this," explained a microbiology supervisor at St. Mark's Hospital in Salt Lake City. One of the remarkable features of this test is how small the sample is. "You need one gene, and it codes from that gene on and replicates itself; and that's it," she said.

Source: <http://www.wlbz2.com/news/health/story.aspx?storyid=93977&catid=9>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

29. *October 8, North County Times* – (California) **Camp Pendleton: Fire chars 1,000 acres; dry winds expected Sunday.** A brush fire on Camp Pendleton had burned more than 1,000 acres as of Wednesday night and was still spreading, base officials said. A base spokeswoman said firefighters had the upper hand on the blaze but did not have it surrounded or controlled. Winds of 5 to 10 mph were slowly pushing the flames to the Northeast. The fire started about 3:30 p.m. on a grassy training range on the Southwest

part of the base. It produced a huge plume of smoke along the southern border of the Marine Corps base. Four strike teams of five brush engines from Camp Pendleton, coastal and inland North County fire departments, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection battled the blaze. Nine aircraft, including helicopters and planes, assisted by daylight but had to suspend operations at nightfall. The blaze charred unoccupied land, and no structures were damaged or threatened Wednesday night. No injuries were reported. The fire's cause had not been determined.

Source:

http://www.northcountytimes.com/articles/2008/10/08/news/sandiego/z34fd7825a4dcec_a5882574dc00802d0f.txt

30. *October 8, Reuters* – (Alaska; Tennessee) **Tennessee man indicted for hacking Palin e-mail.** A Tennessee man has been indicted for hacking into the Alaskan governor's personal e-mail account, the U.S. Justice Department said on Wednesday. The accused turned himself in and will appear before a U.S. judge on Wednesday, the Department said. The governor occasionally used the account to conduct state business, according to media reports.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/internetNews/idUSTRE497ATS20081008>

31. *October 7, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Former Department of Defense contractor pleads guilty to participating in scheme to steal \$39.6 million worth of fuel from U.S. Army in Iraq.** A former Department of Defense (DOD) contractor pleaded guilty Tuesday to participating in a scheme to steal fuel worth approximately \$39.6 million from the U.S. Army in Iraq, announced the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division and the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. The man pleaded guilty to a count charging him with theft of government property. In his plea, he admitted that between July 2007 and May 2008, he and his co-conspirators, purportedly representing DOD contractors in Iraq, used fraudulently-obtained documents to enter the Victory Bulk Fuel Point (VBFP) in Camp Liberty, Iraq, and presented false fuel authorization forms to steal aviation and diesel fuel from the VBFP for subsequent sale on the black market. According to plea documents, the United States owns and operates the VBFP in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The VBFP supplies aviation fuel and diesel fuel to both military units and U.S. government contractors operating in and around the VBFP. To retrieve and transport the stolen fuel from the VBFP, the man admitted he and his co-conspirators employed approximately 10 individuals to serve as drivers and escorts of the trucks containing the stolen fuel.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/former-department-defense-contractor-pleads/story.aspx?guid={62C57114-5D47-4704-8F64-A237C4147F89}&dist=hppr>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

32. *October 9, Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Earthquake planning drill to explore effects of magnitude 7.8 jolt on San Andreas Fault.** Almost four million people are scheduled to take part in the largest-ever earthquake drill in the United States. The

organizers of the mock disaster are hoping to at least double the number of participants before the November 13 date of the Great Southern California Shakeout rolls around. The Shakeout imagines what would happen during and after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake along a 200-mile section of the San Andreas Fault from the Salton Sea to Lake Hughes in Los Angeles County. The drill will mobilize not just emergency personnel, but every agency that might be affected by such a quake or be involved in the recovery process. Schools, hospitals, utility companies, businesses, and individuals will be part of the exercise. The San Andreas Fault cuts through the Cajon Pass and across many of the lifelines southern California depends upon. Scientists expect the earth on either side of the fault to be offset by surface rupture by as much as 12 feet, should a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strike the region. Interstate 15 and rail lines would be damaged either from the offset or from landslides triggered by the shaking. Major electrical, natural gas, water, and fiber optic lines all go through the Cajon Pass and would, most likely, be severed. Downed power lines and broken gas lines would help spark an anticipated 1,600 fires. The scenario predicts 1,800 deaths and 50,000 injuries, 3,000 of which will require emergency treatment.

Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_quake09.47ec7b0.html

33. *October 9, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **State’s rapid response vehicle helps specialists assess risks during emergencies.** The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection bought a new rapid response vehicle (officially named Field Assessment and Support Team or FAST), which can predict the weather, measure wind speed, and test air and ground water. The agency decided to buy the truck after reviewing its response to the devastating chemical explosion in Danversport almost two years ago. The vehicle will respond to explosions, floods, oil spills, and other environmental emergencies.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/10/09/sudden_impact/

34. *October 8, WTVC 9 Chattanooga* – (Georgia) **Major hazmat disaster readiness drill in Dalton today.** The Whitfield County, Georgia, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) participated in a Hazardous material disaster drill Wednesday. The drill will consisted of a simulated accidental hazardous chemical release, a shelter-in-place drill involving local schools, and a surge of chemically-contaminated patients at Hamilton Medical Center. The Whitfield County Emergency Services and the LEPC coordinated the county’s participation in the drill, and several agencies played an active role during the exercise, including Whitfield County Fire Department, the Sheriff’s Office, Dalton Fire Department, Dalton Police Department, Whitfield EMS, Dalton State College Police Department, National Weather Service, Whitfield County Board of Education, Public Health, Medical Reserve Corp., and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

Source:

http://www.newschannel9.com/news/planning_972143_article.html/emergency_committee.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

Nothing to report

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/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

35. *October 9, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. reaches deal with Verizon on FiOS.** D.C.’s Office of Cable Television and Verizon have reached an agreement on a 15-year franchise pact to bring FiOS television, high-speed Internet, and telephone service to the city. The deal was presented Tuesday for review by the D.C. Council. Comcast has had a near-monopoly on Washington’s cable TV service for years; some consumers have called for competition. RCN also provides service to a small percentage of District customers. Before FiOS TV service is available in Washington, Verizon must upgrade its network and cables to fiber optic. The proposed agreement describes a phased rollout. The first neighborhoods could get service by 2012 and the next group by 2015.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1493940>

36. *October 9, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **County approves towers contract.** After months of discussion, but no changes of position, the Hunterdon County freeholders have given the go-ahead to build two new towers in Raritan Township, New Jersey, for the county’s communications system. The board awarded a \$355,000 contract to JBL Electrical Inc. of Totowa to erect a 220-foot tower at a county complex on Route 12, and a 120-foot monopole at another county site on Route 31. The new towers will provide “line of sight” links among county offices, enabling them to share data instead of operating separately, according to the county’s information technology specialists. Some officials and staffers have raised security concerns about transmitting county data, including law enforcement and personal health information, over someone else’s fiber-optic network. Given those questions, a fiber-optic project “is not going to happen for at least three years,” a Hunterdon County freeholder said.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/somerset/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1223525958309170.xml&coll=1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *October 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Yosemite National Park rock slide**

destroys cabins. Chunks of granite crashed to the Yosemite Valley floor in a cloud of dust Wednesday, injuring at least three people and destroying several cabins and trees at one of the park's most popular lodging areas, officials said. The rock slide was the second in two days in the area called Curry Village, a lodging and retail area defined by dramatic, sheer cliffs. The slide destroyed five cabins and partially damaged at least three others, according to a park statement. Three visitors were treated for minor injuries. The volume of rocks cascading from the granite face was estimated at about 1,800 cubic yards, or about 180 truck loads, according to a park spokeswoman. There was another, smaller rock slide in the same area Tuesday afternoon. No one was injured then.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081009/ap_on_re_us/yosemite_rock_slide; ylt=AIJBOyoQ4jj08YMMTAGmS.qs0NUE

38. *October 8, Vancouver Sun* – (International) **CSIS, RCMP launch probes against possible Olympic threats.** The Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the lead agency for the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit (ISU) are predicting protests will escalate as the 2010 Olympics approach and have mounted a number of “intelligence probes” to counteract threats. The ISU is tracking a number of potential domestic and international threats and noted that Canada's increasing role in Afghanistan has changed peoples' perceptions of Canada as a peacekeeper. They noted a group called the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement planned to stop at 20 places in Eastern Canada and the U.S. East Coast to promote opposition to the Games.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=8c28d3a7-cd58-4331-a1b8-85196f81c6f0>

39. *October 8, KRNv 4 Reno* – (Nevada) **There were no explosives inside container at McDonalds.** The Consolidated Bomb Squad confirms that the set of wires inside of a container found at McDonald's Wednesday morning had the makings of an improvised explosive device had there actually been explosives inside. The item was left on the floor of the McDonalds on the corner of Wedge Parkway and Mt. Rose Highway, causing a response by Reno Police Department, Washoe County Sheriffs, and the bomb squad. Responding law enforcement personnel found the gray device – wrapped in duct tape – with wires attached to it, around 7:45 a.m. after an unknown citizen flagged down a Reno police officer outside the restaurant to tell them about the device left near the tables within the business. It was not enclosed or in a suitcase, according to officers. It is still unknown if the device was an explosive.

Source: http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9145515&nav=menu113_1_3

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

40. *October 8, Modesto Bee* – (California) **Pot plants destroyed.** Authorities seized and destroyed more than 7,400 marijuana plants found in three outdoor growing operations Wednesday and last week in the Stanislaus National Forest, the Tuolumne County

Sheriff's Department said. Officials from the Tuolumne Narcotics Team, U.S. Forest Service, and the state Department of Justice Campaign Against Marijuana Planting team found the marijuana gardens.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/local/story/456988.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

41. *October 9, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Feds seek new flood strategies.** This year's severe flooding along the Mississippi River has prompted three federal agencies to discuss how they can work more effectively together. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service, and U.S. Geological Survey are holding their first-ever joint summit in St. Louis this week. They're discussing what went well — and poorly — with forecasting rain and river stages during the floods, and how they can communicate forecasts more efficiently so that river communities, farmers, and the barge industry can respond. A Corps General said when the Corps learns of a levee break, it should share the details of that with the National Weather Service to help in its forecast of river stages, "so that a mayor can decide whether to evacuate a town or organize a flood fight." The president of the Marion County, Missouri, Drainage District said a levee break east of the Mississippi River in Illinois helped save the 4,000 farm acres and Burlington-Northern Railroad line that his district encompasses. "We were spared," he said, unlike in 1993, when floodwaters washed out the tracks. The Corps General said the Corps does its own river-stage forecasts to aid its operation of river locks and dams. He said the National Weather Service is the official forecast agency.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mo-riversummit,0,5349953.story>

42. *October 9, Journal Gazette* – (Indiana) **St. Marys levee work completed.** Fort Wayne's \$2.9 million levee project along the St. Marys River is ready to protect south-side residents from flooding. A city engineer said the last section of the flood wall was recently poured, and the functional portion of the project is complete. "I think we're substantially ready to fight floods," he said. The project included about 1,800 feet of earthen levees and 4,000 feet of flood walls to protect about 120 homes in Woodhurst that flooded in 2003 when the river hit a record 19.66 feet in Fort Wayne. Water spread four to five blocks east into Woodhurst. The Fort Wayne Board of Stormwater Management on Wednesday approved restoring the Rivergreenway along the levee. He said the path will be 15 feet wide and tough enough to handle heavy machines. He said the work would likely be bid in November, and completion would likely be next spring.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081009/LOCAL/810090368/1002/LOCAL>

43. *October 9, Hannibal Courier-Post* – (Illinois) **Corps awards contract for levee repairs.** The Army Corps of Engineers has awarded an \$11.7 million contract for the repair of two area levees damaged by flooding. More than one mile of breaches in the Hunt, Lima Lake, and Indian Grave drainage districts will be filled. The levees are

north of Quincy, Ill. In the Hunt and Lima Lake districts, 450 feet of sand levees will be fixed and 2,500 feet of breached areas will be filled. At Indian Grave, crews will build up three sand levees and fill in a breach of almost 1,700 feet. The Corps says repairs should be completed by January 15.

Source: http://www.hannibal.net/news_local/x1272966289/Corps-awards-contract-for-levée-repairs

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List: Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List: Send mail to NICCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421 for more information.

Contact DHS

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

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.