



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 October 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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- According to the Associated Press, Indspec Chemical Corp. in Petrolia, Pennsylvania, halted production of the chemical compound resorcinol after a weekend chemical leak that forced hundreds to evacuate their homes. (See item [3](#))
- USA Today reports that the U.S. Transportation Security Administration failed for years to track security passes and uniforms of former employees, creating widespread vulnerability to terrorists, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security inspector general. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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. *October 13, North County Times* – (California) **SDG&E puts fire shutoff policy on hold.** Responding to complaints from customers and county officials, San Diego Gas & Electric Co. (SDG&E) on Monday put on hold its new policy of cutting power in the fire-prone backcountry in extreme Santa Ana conditions. The utility shelved the plan as wind, humidity, and plant moisture levels approached the company’s threshold for switching off circuits, and as an out-of-control wildfire forced the evacuation of residents and businesses in Camp Pendleton’s back gate area. SDG&E suspended the policy one week after it went into effect. But a spokeswoman for the utility said the company will put it back into effect, possibly late this week, after talking to affected

residents in De Luz, Rainbow, Pala, Valley Center, Palomar Mountain, Ramona, and Julian. The policy calls for shutting off power when all of five conditions are met: the National Weather Service has issued a “red flag” wind warning, humidity is less than 20 percent, dead-plant moisture is less than 6 percent, live-plant moisture is less than 75 percent, and winds reach sustained speeds of 35 mph or gusts of 55 mph. On Monday, four of the five conditions were met, she said. Turning off the electricity in San Diego County will require residents to obtain generators to keep lights on and wells pumping, she said. The chairman of UC San Diego’s Electrical Safety Group and a former SDG&E control center worker said many generators will be hooked up incorrectly, pushing electricity into lines that have been taken out of service.

Source:

<http://www.northcountytimes.com/articles/2008/10/14/news/sandiego/z481bcfe2267c9fd6882574e1006d7053.txt>

2. *October 13, Reuters* – (California; Utah) **Coal-fired Utah plant that serves California off-line.** Unit 1 at the Intermountain Power Project (IPP) in Utah, a coal-fired power plant that supplies electricity to southern California and Utah, went off-line over the weekend in an unplanned shutdown, according to a report issued Sunday by the California Independent System Operator (ISO). The Cal ISO report did not say when the unit may return to operation. About three-fourths of the power from the IPP goes to southern California.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1343541120081013>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 14, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. plant halts chemical production after leak.** A western Pennsylvania plant that had a weekend chemical leak that forced hundreds to evacuate their homes is not producing a compound used by the rubber and tire industry. Indspec Chemical Corp. in Petrolia, a town about 60 miles north of Pittsburgh, began operating at full capacity on Monday, with workers filling all regular shifts. But the plant manager says the plant has halted production of the chemical compound resorcinol until the cause of Saturday’s leak is determined. Indspec, a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corp., is the only plant in North America to produce the compound. Late Saturday, about 2,500 people were told to leave the area after oleum – a material similar to sulfuric acid – leaked, forming a mile-long cloud over Petrolia.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/10/14/ap5551779.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *October 14, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL’s Fla. Turkey Point 4 reactor up to 2 pct power.**

FPL Group Inc.'s Turkey Point 4 nuclear reactor in Florida was at 2 percent power early Tuesday as it began to exit a brief outage, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its power reactor status report. The unit shut in early October to work on a valve on the turbine generator, a spokesman for the company said previously. The valve is one of four used to control the amount of steam used to turn the turbine to make electricity.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1453303820081014>

5. *October 11, Las-Vegas Review Journal* – (National) **Nevada sues over radiation limit.** It was back to court for Nevada on Friday when attorney general of Nevada filed a federal lawsuit asking judges to throw out new radiation limits for the Yucca Mountain Project. The radiation exposure standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will fail to protect Nevadans “from cancer-causing radioactive contamination” if nuclear waste is buried at the site, she said. Meanwhile Friday, the Yucca project took a step forward on another front when the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a formal record of decision to build a rail line from Caliente to the repository site 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. DOE said the rail could take between four and 10 years to build. The latest cost estimate, issued this summer, was \$2.7 billion. State officials said Friday they were reviewing the railroad document but were more immediately focused on the lawsuit against the EPA. The Nevada lawsuit challenges the EPA setting separate “near term” and “long term” radiation limits for people who may live near the repository site thousands of years into the future. The EPA radiation rule was finalized on September 30 after three years of review within the agency. The agency said the 100 millirem standard has been endorsed by international nuclear organizations. But the state in its lawsuit charged the EPA misapplied the international standard.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/30835694.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 14, Air Force Times* – (National) **C-130s upgraded with curved props.** The Air Guard's pre-eminent cold weather fliers are upgrading their C-130s with new propellers. The 109th Airlift Wing of Scotia, New York, will be upgrading LC-130Hs to better handle the supply mission at both poles. In September, the 109th received their first C-130 equipped with a NP2000 composite propeller manufactured by Hamilton Sundstrand of Connecticut. The curved eight-bladed propellers are designed to replace the current four-bladed versions used on the LC-130, which is modified with skis designed to land on snow and unimproved runways. The new props were installed at the 109th after a five-month test period with the Wyoming Air National Guard. Hamilton Sundstrand also tested the propeller with Snow Aviation International Inc., a company that modifies older C-130s. According to Hamilton, the new propellers shorten takeoff and landing distances and are more efficient than older four-blade models. They also reduce external and cabin noise. Installation of the propellers on the dozen 109th planes is the first step in marketing the propellers to retrofit other C-130 aircraft, said a

spokesman with Hamilton.

Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/10/airforce_cold_props_101308/

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *October 14, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. to pump \$250 billion into banks.** The U.S. will pump \$250 billion into its banks on Tuesday, following similar measures in Europe, but data showed the threat of recession has not been banished even if a financial sector meltdown has. Under the Treasury plan, about half the total funds is likely to go to the top nine U.S. banks to get them lending to each other again, people familiar with the scheme said. The Treasury will buy stakes in Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Bank of New York Mellon Corp., said two sources speaking anonymously. Media reports said State Street Corp. and Merrill Lynch would also receive a capital injection.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE49A36O20081014>

8. *October 14, Bend Bulletin* – (Oregon) **Scam targets Bend bank customers.** Bank of the Cascades customers were targeted last week by scammers seeking account information, but the scam was quickly shut down, the bank CEO said Monday. The bank now works with the Federal Trade Commission to combat the scams within minutes after learning of them by shutting down associated phone numbers. Scammers typically send out deceptive e-mails, text messages, and automated phone calls reporting suspicious account activity to customers, who are then directed to call a phone number and leave account information.

Source:

http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081014/BIZ0102/810140399/1001/NEWS01&nav_category

9. *October 13, Big Mouth Media* – (International) **Bank turmoil fuels phishing boom.** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission issued a warning saying phishing gangs were using the current global financial crisis to extract valuable information from consumers. The news comes as a U.K. banking group reveals that phishing attacks were up more 180 percent in a year. Secure Computing said its October spam report showed that many of the banks and other financial institutions caught up in the turmoil were topping its list of phishing targets. Chase, Wachovia, and Bank of America were among the most popular targets for scammers. The firm said that it expected British banks to also prove popular in the coming weeks as changes and mergers are completed.

Source: <http://www.bigmouthmedia.com/live/articles/bank-turmoil-fuels-phishing-boom.asp/5231/>

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Transportation Sector

10. *October 14, USA Today* – (National) **Simulated bomb tests of jets launched.** Last

year, the government posed a question for scientists: Could a computer program show how bombs might rip through jets? Today, that question is answered. Researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque have created the first computer model that simulates a bomb blowing up a passenger plane. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is hoping that it will be an improvement from the traditional method of testing airplanes by blowing up actual bombs in retired jets. The tests could lead the TSA to ease or tighten the amount of liquids passengers can carry on airplanes, an agency spokesman said. “We can make any number of potential changes based on the results,” he said. “It could affect the amount of any given item we allow on board. It could affect our prohibited-items list.”

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-10-13-bombtests_N.htm

11. *October 13, Reuters* – (International) **Step-on scanner lets air travelers keep shoes on.**

Israel has introduced a step-on scanner that spares airline travelers the nuisance of having to remove their shoes so they can be X-rayed for hidden weapons, though the new device cannot yet sniff out explosives. Only the shoes of passengers deemed suspicious by Ben-Gurion Airport staff are removed, X-rayed, and swabbed for bomb residues. Most people can now keep their shoes on. Installed next to the walk-through scanners at Ben-Gurion, “MagShoe” announces within two seconds whether the footwear of the passenger standing on it contains unusual metal that might be a knife for a hijacking or a bomb detonator part. A bomb-sniffing version of the suitcase-sized MagShoe is in the works, an Israeli security source said. The current version, produced by Israeli firm Ido Security Ltd., costs about \$5,000. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is assessing MagShoe’s feasibility for American airports, and several other countries have expressed an interest, the Israeli source said.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27149081/>

12. *October 13, USA Today* – (National) **Report slams TSA failure to track security passes.**

The agency overseeing security at the nation’s airports failed for years to track security passes and uniforms of former employees, creating widespread vulnerability to terrorists, says a government watchdog report obtained by USA Today. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) lacked centralized controls over the secure passes issued to some of its employees, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security inspector general. The passes grant people access to the most sensitive areas of an airport, such as where baggage is screened or planes are parked. Investigators found numerous cases in which former employees retained their passes long after they had left the agency. The investigation also found that TSA uniforms were frequently not collected when employees left or were transferred. People using improper badges, IDs, or uniforms – particularly in combination – “could significantly increase an airport’s vulnerability to unauthorized access and, potentially, a wide variety of terrorist and criminal acts,” the report said.

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=3769134>

13. *October 13, Associated Press* – (Michigan; National) **Michigan, DHS reach agreement on secure license ID.**

Michigan motorists can seek an enhanced driver’s license next year to comply with tougher security measures at U.S. border crossings, state and

federal officials said Monday. The Homeland Security Department (DHS) and the Michigan secretary of state said they reached an agreement on offering the new and more secure driver's license that provides identity and citizenship information. Michigan's agreement is similar to those reached with Washington, Vermont, Arizona, and New York. The Michigan secretary of state and DHS officials met in Detroit and signed an agreement and a business plan on the enhanced licenses. "The state enhanced driver's license will bolster security through advanced technology, and at the same time it will make travel faster and easier," said the DHS assistant secretary for policy. Under tighter, post-September 11 security measures, the government has pushed for driver's licenses that are as secure as a passport for the purpose of crossing the U.S. border. The enhanced license will fulfill requirements from the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which requires all citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda to have a passport to enter or depart the U.S. from within the western hemisphere.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/10/13/ap5546760.html>

14. *October 13, Associated Press* – (Texas) **TV station helicopter crashes.** A pilot and television camera operator died Monday when their helicopter crashed near Houston on the way to cover a news story. KTRK, an affiliate of ABC, reported the helicopter it had leased was flying to the scene of a shooting when it crashed in a state forest near Conroe, on the northern edge of Houston's suburbs. Local stations showed video of burning trees and a pile of debris made up of pieces of the helicopter.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27165062/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 14, Livingston Daily* – (Michigan) **Police investigate more homemade explosives.** For the second time, police investigated a report of a homemade explosive device in the Howell area. The latest incident occurred Sunday morning. A Sheriff said Monday that the family found a bottle with an unknown liquid and tinfoil in their mailbox October 5, but they did not call police until Sunday after reading about a soda bottle bomb found. "It had disintegrated; the bottle shrunk and the cap popped off," the sheriff explained. "It wasn't deemed dangerous, so it was removed." What was left of the second bottle was taken to a lab for analysis. In the first incident, a man discovered a bottle wrapped in duct tape inside his mailbox just after 9 a.m. Saturday when he went to get the mail at his home. Michigan State Police Bomb Squad personnel determined it was an explosive device and were able to incapacitate it. That device also was taken to the state police crime lab for analysis. No injuries were reported in either incident.

Source:

<http://www.livingstondaily.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081014/NEWS06/810140307>

16. *October 13, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **White powder in letter; woman quarantined.** A woman is out of the hospital after being quarantined because of what was in her mail. The woman says that when she opened a letter from MasterCard, she

found a powdery white substance inside the envelope. She says that her skin started burning immediately. She was taken to the hospital and quarantined. Haz-Mat crews came out to her home on trying to figure what exactly was inside that letter. Investigators say that the woman may have had an allergic reaction to something in the envelope, but the case is still under investigation.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/30874609.html>

17. *October 13, USA Today* – (National) **White powder scares cost law enforcement time, money.** Firefighters and federal agents have responded to more than 30,000 incidents involving suspicious powders, liquids, or chemicals since 2001 in what authorities say is the terrifying legacy of the anthrax attacks after 9/11. Postal service and law enforcement officials say thousands of the incidents are hoaxes involving white powder sent through the mail and thousands more are emergency calls to report powder found on countertops, in mailrooms, and elsewhere. There is no official count of the number of white powder calls in the seven years since letters poisoned with anthrax killed five people. But in just the past year, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service has responded to 2,893 incidents, many of which involved white powder, a spokesman says. The FBI, which is called when a threatening note is found or when it otherwise appears a crime may have been committed, looked into more than 900 biological incidents from January 2007 to August 2008, “the majority of those incidents being white powder letters,” a spokesman says. So far this year, “several dozen people” have been convicted under federal hoax and domestic terrorism laws. None of the incidents since 2001 has involved anthrax or any substance nearly that dangerous.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-12-powder_N.htm

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *October 14, WOOD 8 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Contaminated food seized at weigh station.** Inspectors seized and destroyed more than 2,000 pounds of food, including tofu, dairy, meat, seafood, and noodles. They also seized 200 pounds of beef that had not passed a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection at the weigh station on I-96 near Ionia, Michigan. An Asian yogurt beverage product known as Biofeel was part of the seizure. It is under nationwide import alert because of melamine contamination in Asian baby food and milk products. “In the course of the officer’s investigation they noticed that the bills were saying the product needed to be refrigerated and that the vehicle was a non-refrigerated truck,” said an official with the Motor Carrier Enforcement. By law, refrigerated items are supposed to be kept at 41 degrees. A representative of the Michigan Department of Agriculture said the items in the seized truck “ranged anywhere from 49 to 60” degrees. The shipment originated from a Chicago suburb and was on its way to Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Detroit. Nara Foods Corporation of Lincolnwood, Illinois, rented the truck. The Department of Agriculture says this is its first offense and that it faces fines ranging from \$50 to \$2,500.

Source: <http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9173527>

19. *October 14, WEAU 13 Eau Claire* – (Wisconsin) **Salmonella strain linked to**

Wisconsin illness. The Wisconsin Health Department says four people got sick from a salmonella strain linked to raw, frozen stuffed chicken products. The Wisconsin cases are 4 of the 32 from 12 states involving entrees like Chicken Cordon Bleu and Chicken Kiev that appear pre-cooked.

Source: <http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/30934134.html>

20. *October 13, Medical News Today* – (National) **FDA launches food defense awareness training kit for employees in the food industry.** On Monday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture launched its food defense awareness training kit for first line food industry employees. Food industry management will use the FIRST (Follow, Inspect, Recognize, Secure, Tell) tool kit as part of ongoing employee food defense training programs. The tool kit focuses on five key points that industry and businesses can use to educate first line workers about the risks of food contamination. It also provides industry with measures to consider and implement to reduce these risks. The FIRST tool kit focuses on preventing food contamination. A shift to an increased emphasis on prevention is at the core of the FDA's Food Protection Plan. The FDA released the Food Protection Plan last fall and has been implementing the plan since that time. The plan provides a robust strategy to protect the nation's food supply from both unintentional contamination and deliberate attack.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/125282.php>

21. *October 13, Packer* – (National) **USDA chemical reporting program axed.** Both consumer and industry groups expressed alarm that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has stopped funding its annual study of agricultural chemical use. The head of the NASS' environmental and demographic section said the USDA has collected no data on chemical use in 2008 because of budget restrictions. The program takes about \$8 million to fully fund; the overall NASS budget is about \$160 million. A sometimes-controversial pesticide residue testing program at the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service remains in place, an agency spokesman said October 7. The absence of data may require the Environmental Protection Agency to assume 100 percent of the crops are treated with all registered pesticides, which he said would overestimate risk and jeopardized continued registration of many pesticides critical to U.S. growers.

Source: http://thepacker.com/icms/_dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-155727-161.asp&stype=topnews&fb=

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Water Sector

22. *October 14, Allentown Morning Call* – (Pennsylvania) **Water advisory may be lifted at Delaware Water Gap.** Delaware Water Gap's advisory to borough residents not to drink the public water could be lifted Tuesday evening. The "do not consume" advisory was imposed Monday after the borough learned an unauthorized person had trespassed and climbed onto the water storage tank that supplies the borough's drinking water. The water is being tested for contaminants, and the borough expects to receive the results by

Tuesday night.

Source: <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-wateradvisory1014-cn,0,5190201.story>

23. *October 14, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Tunnel and water projects get funds.** The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has given a \$161 million, low-interest loan for Detroit for part of the Upper Rouge Tunnel Project, and \$32.1 million to continue improving its Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility in Wyandotte. They are among 24 loans from the state’s revolving funds for water-quality and drinking-water improvement projects.
Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20081014/NEWS02/810140385/1004/news>

24. *October 13, Environmental News Service* – (Florida) **Florida fines Lockheed Martin \$50,000 for tainted water discharge.** The Florida Department of Environmental Protection reached a legal agreement with defense contractor Lockheed Martin to resolve violations that occurred when about 5,000 gallons of untreated wastewater was released from the company’s on-site pump and treat system on Florida’s west coast. The company was using the pump and treat system to clean up long-standing groundwater contamination from the site of a former nuclear weapons parts production facility. The wastewater was contaminated with volatile organic compounds which escaped on August 3, after a faulty shut-off sensor and a compromised secondary containment structure allowed the release of the contaminated groundwater. Lockheed Martin is cleaning up the groundwater associated with the release to prevent further migration of the contaminated water into the deeper aquifers. The volatile organic compounds are primarily trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene, commonly used industrial solvents and degreasers, and their breakdown products. Lockheed Martin notified the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and entered into a voluntary site cleanup. The company has entered into a consent decree with the state of Florida that identifies a definitive plan for cleanup action.
Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/oct2008/2008-10-13-094.asp>

25. *October 13, Environmental News Service* – (Arizona) **Arizona developer fined \$1M for altering Santa Cruz River.** An Arizona land developer and a contractor have agreed to pay one of the largest fines in the history of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to settle alleged violations of the Clean Water Act for bulldozing, filling, and diverting five miles of the Santa Cruz River, a major waterway in Arizona. “A seven-figure penalty in this type of enforcement case is virtually unprecedented,” said the assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division. “It underscores the Justice Department’s commitment to enforce the nation’s laws that protect valuable water resources in Arizona and other arid western states and to hold violators of those laws accountable.” The case was referred to the EPA by the Corps of Engineers after concerned citizens, tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies complained about the serious flooding dangers and ecological impacts in connection with defendants’ land-clearing activities. The proposed consent decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court in Phoenix, is subject to a 30-day comment period and final court approval.
Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/oct2008/2008-10-13-091.asp>

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *October 13, Med Guru* – (International) **Rodents might be behind mysterious South African disease.** The mysterious disease in South Africa that bleeds its victims to death is suspected to be carried by rodents, the country's health department said. Already claiming three lives and subjecting many to the isolation wards, the disease causes the patient to bleed internally as well as externally, finally leading to his or her death. Suspected to be highly contagious, people contracting the disease are being put in isolation wards. The main reason behind this is the death of both the nurse as well as the paramedic accompanying the first sufferer of this deadly disease, who was flown in from Zambia. All three died due to heavy external as well as internal bleeding. Blood samples from the victims were sent to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta last week by the health department.

Source:

http://www.themedguru.com/articles/rodents_might_be_behind_mysterious_south_african_disease-86114135.html

27. *October 12, Welt* – (International) **U.S. controls bird flu vaccines over bioweapon fears.** The United States export regulations bar U.S. exports of vaccines for avian bird flu and dozens of other viruses to five countries designated “state sponsors of terrorism,” as the U.S. fears they will be used for biological warfare. Under this little-known policy, North Korea, Iran, Cuba, Syria, and Sudan may not get the vaccines unless they apply for special export licenses, which would be given or refused according to the discretion and timing of the U.S. Three of those nations — Iran, Cuba and Sudan — also are subject to a ban on all human pandemic influenza vaccines as part of a general U.S. embargo. The regulations, which cover vaccines for everything from dengue fever to the Ebola virus, have raised concern within the medical and scientific communities. Although they were quietly put in place more than a decade ago, they could now be more relevant because of recent concerns about bird flu. Officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they were not even aware of the policies until contacted by The Associated Press last month and privately expressed alarm. Some experts say the idea of using vaccines for bioweapons is far-fetched, and that in a health emergency, it is unclear how quickly authorities could cut through the red tape to get the vaccines distributed. Under normal circumstances it would take at least six weeks to approve export licenses for any vaccine on the list, said the former headed of a CIA advisory group on ways to counter biological attacks. That could make it harder to contain an outbreak of bird flu among chickens in, say, North Korea, which is in the region hardest hit by the virus. Sudan and Iran already have recorded cases of the virus in poultry and Syria is surrounded by affected countries. Cuba, like all nations, is vulnerable because the disease is delivered by migratory birds.

Source: <http://www.welt.de/english-news/article2566649/US-controls-bird-flu-vaccines-over-bioweapon-fears.html>

Government Facilities Sector

28. *October 14, Gulf Daily News* – (International) **Terror attack drill at U.S. embassy.** Bahrain’s emergency services swung into action in response to a mock terrorist attack at the U.S. Embassy yesterday. The two-hour drill simulated a bomb explosion at the embassy in Zinj, which “seriously injured” seven people, and caused “minor to moderate injuries” to another eight people. Interior Ministry officers and Salmaniya Medical Complex accident and emergency specialists and paramedics were on the scene within minutes to “evacuate” those injured to the hospital. The Accident and Emergency Department chairman said the drill had gone off well but some shortcomings were noticed. The exercise was organized by the embassy, in coordination with the SMC and the Interior Ministry.
Source: <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=231700&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=31208>
29. *October 13, Associated Press* – (International) **Shots fired at U.S. consulate in Mexico.** The gate at the U.S. consulate in Monterrey, Mexico, is pockmarked with bullet holes a day after assailants opened fire on the building and threw a grenade that failed to explode. No one was injured. The consulate issued a statement saying that two men launched the attack around midnight Saturday, when the consulate was closed. Six spent .45-caliber casings were found at the scene. Officials are analyzing the consulate’s security video, but had no suspects or motive in the attack. The consulate responded by increasing security and expressing its “profound concern.” Offices were also closed Monday because it was Columbus Day in the U.S., but two police pickups were stationed outside the building.
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/americas/10/13/us.consulate.ap/?iref=mpstoryview>
30. *October 13, Associated Press* – (California) **Pendleton fire forces evacuations of 1,100 homes.** A wildfire that began on an explosives training range at Camp Pendleton forced the evacuation of a military housing area and more than 1,100 homes near the Marine base, military and fire officials said. The Juliet fire, named for the training range where it started, had grown to more than 1,500 acres by nightfall and was burning southwest according to a spokeswoman for San Diego County Office of Emergency Services. No containment was reported by 9 p.m. A base spokeswoman said the American Red Cross set up a shelter on the base for families affected by the fire. It was not immediately clear how the fire started shortly after 3 p.m., but it started in the training area. It is not known whether the range was being used at the time. A second, unrelated fire was burning on the base in another training area. No buildings were threatened by that fire.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10711803
31. *October 13, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Bomb scare at Sparks High was false alarm.** Sparks High School students got a half day off school due to a bomb scare that turned out to be a false alarm. School officials say the bomb threat was sparked by information from a homeless man at a local hospital. It forced a lockdown at the

school. Authorities were able to confirm later that the alleged bombs placed on school baseball fields were non-explosive. A patient at the VA Hospital had told hospital officials the two packages were explosives and where to find them. The man is well known to the VA Hospital as well as to Sparks police, who are questioning him in connection with the incident. His name has not been released.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10711726

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *October 13, Government Health IT* – (National) **HHS hands out \$1 billion for emergency response upgrades.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded a total of \$27 million to seven universities and a public health research firm to help first responders cope with a pandemic or other health emergency. The CDC awarded a \$16.9 million, one-year contract to American Type Culture Collection in Manassas, Virginia, to develop the CDC Influenza Reagent Resource (CDC-IRR), a secure Web-based system to improve access to influenza viruses, test kits and testing substances for approved laboratories. The nonprofit firm focuses on acquiring and authenticating standard reference micro-organisms, cell lines and other materials for research in the life sciences. The system will provide public health officials better access to testing resources through a secure Internet Web portal. Should a pandemic occur, labs will be essential for a quick response by detecting and confirming initial cases and monitoring the pandemic's progression. The CDC also announced in early October awards of \$10.9 million to schools of public health to create Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers (PERRCs). The awards went to the Harvard School of Public Health, Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of Minnesota, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Washington. They will use the money to create sustainable preparedness systems and generate metrics to measure the effectiveness and emergency response systems.

Source:

<http://www.govhealthit.com/online/news/350616-1.html>

33. *October 13, KJRH 2 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **E-911 system will soon be operational in Tulsa.** On October 22, Tulsa's 911 call center will begin using E-911, a new system to trace the location of wireless calls. Current technology only allows dispatchers to see a caller's phone number. The new system will allow dispatchers to track a wireless caller's location within a half block, based on what cell phone tower the call is transmitting from. The manager of Tulsa's 911 call center says, "it's based on the strength of the signal reaching each one of the towers; there will be a location that they can identify." Though the system will be operational on the 22nd, wireless carriers are not required to provide the call center with the information it needs to track a location, for another six months.

Source: http://www.kjrh.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=fedc9ca8-9796-4526-bf45-3f85267a8dab

34. *October 12, Georgia Tech Research News* – (Georgia) **Models help determine food distribution and school closing strategies.** Knowing how many people will need food, how many food distribution facilities will be necessary, where the facilities should be located, and how the resources should be allocated among the facilities is very important, according to the manager of disaster readiness for the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross. She has been collaborating with Georgia Tech researchers to develop a model to help determine the process and demands of food distribution during a pandemic. “These models have provided solid food distribution data that has helped us formulate the questions we have to ask and the decisions that we have to make about food distribution during a pandemic on a local and statewide level,” she continued. Interventions such as voluntary quarantine or school closures could also affect food distribution by changing the number of infected individuals. The researchers plan to conduct future work in two areas – developing models for other states and extending the model to also include vaccine distribution.

Source: <http://gtresearchnews.gatech.edu/newsrelease/pandemic-flu.htm>

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Information Technology

35. *October 13, IDG News Service* – (International) **‘Experimental’ security fix is malware, Microsoft says.** Scammers are sending out phony e-mails that claim to include critical Windows security alerts, Microsoft warned Monday. The fake alerts describe themselves as part of a new “experimental private version of an update for all Microsoft Windows OS users,” Microsoft said in a note on the scam, posted October 13. The e-mails then instruct the victim to download an attachment, which is actually a malicious Trojan Horse program known as Win32/Haxdoor. This software records sensitive information such as passwords and credit card numbers and sends this data back to the attackers who are running the scam. The malware is well-known, however, and is detected by antivirus programs as well as Microsoft’s free Microsoft Malicious Software Removal Tool. The warning comes the day before Microsoft is set to deliver 11 genuine security fixes. These updates, due October 14, include critical security updates for Windows Active Directory, Internet Explorer, Excel, and the Microsoft Host Integration Server. But they will be delivered via Microsoft’s standard automated update tools. Major software vendors such as Microsoft simply do not distribute security patches via email. “As a matter of company policy, Microsoft will never send you an executable attachment,” wrote Microsoft’s spokesman in a blog posting on the scam. “If you get an e-mail that claims to be a security notification with an attachment, delete it. It is always a spoof.” Microsoft does, however, send out security notification emails to customers who have asked to be told whenever patches are released or updated. These emails are in plain text and never contain any sort of attachment, the spokesman said. Users who have doubts about any security notification email they have received can go to Microsoft’s TechNet security Web site, which contains the same information as its e-mail notifications.

Source:

http://www.peworld.com/businesscenter/article/152211/experimental_security_fix_is_malware_microsoft_says.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *October 14, VNUnet.com* – (International) **Blackmailing hacker hijacks hotel emails.** Guests at a luxury hotel owned by the Thompson Group could see their private emails published online, according to court documents filed last week. The documents detail how a hacker set up an open Wi-Fi portal at the hotel and snooped on web emails that were sent through the system. The hacker then attempted to extort money from the hotel chain by threatening to publish the emails. “On 30 September the defendant sent an email to one of the principles of Thompson,” the court documents read. The IP address of the sender was identified as coming from Sunnyvale in California. Further details about the identity of the hacker, who has not been caught, are not included. The case shows that hotels and other venues offering Wi-Fi will have to beef up security sooner rather than later, according to the managing director of Global Secure Solutions. “Many hotel guests use webmail, rather than email client software, on their laptops for the sake of convenience,” he said. “If a hacker gains access to an open Wi-Fi network in the hotel, they can easily eavesdrop on the web mail sessions with potentially embarrassing consequences for the guests and the hotel concerned.” The managing director warned that other hotels should now be looking to their Wi-Fi security procedures to prevent a possible run of copycat attacks. “Using Wi-Fi passwords is not rocket science, it is common sense security,” he said. “While this has highlighted one potential issue with open web mail, it also highlights issues with all open public hotspots.”
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2228134/blackmailing-hacker-hijacks>
37. *October 13, Associated Press* – (California) **Office building bomb scare suspect booked on felony.** San Francisco police this evening arrested a man who entered a Financial District office building earlier in the day and threatened employees of a law firm with a fake bomb. According to a local police sergeant, the man walked into a law firm office around 12:40 p.m. with a white plastic device strapped around his waist. Floors 20-30 of the building were evacuated, and Battery Street was temporarily shut down while a police bomb squad was called in. By 4:45 p.m. all floors of the building except the 30th were accessible to the public. A short time later all floors reopened.

The suspect was booked on two felony charges, one for making criminal threats and the other for intent to frighten the law firm employees. Police could not specify why the suspect had targeted that specific law firm but said he had previously had some type of disagreement with the firm.

Source: <http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=SF-BOMB-bagm->

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. *October 13, WDBJ 7 Roanoke* – (Virginia) **Crews still working brush fire in Craig County.** Crews are working a brush fire in the Jefferson National Forest. Firefighters on the ground Monday were able to map the fire perimeter and give a more accurate estimation of the burn area. The estimated area is 16 acres. The fire is on both sides of the Appalachian Trail near the Niday Shelter. As a result, the forest service has closed the trail between Route 42 and Route 621. Hikers will have to find another route. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

Source: http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=9169645&nav=menu368_4_11_1

39. *October 11, Associated Press* – (National) **Mexican marijuana cartels sully U.S. forests, parks.** National forests and parks – long popular with Mexican marijuana-growing cartels – have become home to some of the most polluted pockets of wilderness in America because of the toxic chemicals needed to eke lucrative harvests from rocky mountainsides, federal officials said. The grow sites have taken hold from the west coast's Cascade Mountains, as well as on federal lands in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Seven hundred grow sites were discovered on U.S. Forest Service land in California alone in 2007 and 2008 – and authorities say the 1,800-square-mile Sequoia National Forest is the hardest hit. Weed and bug sprays, some long banned in the U.S., have been smuggled to the marijuana farms. Plant growth hormones have been dumped into streams, and the water has then been diverted for miles in PVC pipes. Rat poison has been sprinkled over the landscape to keep animals away from tender plants. And many sites are strewn with the carcasses of deer and bears poached by workers during the five-month growing season that is now ending. The first documented marijuana cartels were discovered in Sequoia National Park in 1998. Then, officials say, tighter border controls after September 11, 2001, forced industrial-scale growers to move their operations into the United States. Millions of dollars are spent every year to find and uproot marijuana-growing operations on state and federal lands, but federal officials say no money is budgeted to clean up the environmental mess left behind after helicopters carry off the plants.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081011/ap_on_re_us/pot_environment

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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