



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 October 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- The Los Angeles Times reports that the number of deaths and serious injuries associated with prescription drug use rose to record levels in the first quarter of this year, with 4,825 deaths and nearly 21,000 injuries, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices said Wednesday. (See item [26](#))
- According to the Environment News Service, more than 190 million acres of federal land in 12 western states will be opened for development of geothermal energy resources, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior announced Wednesday. (See item [41](#))

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 23, Associated Press* – (Arizona; New Mexico; Utah) **Navajos to run program protecting groundwater.** The Navajo Nation is taking over a program from the federal government aimed at protecting groundwater on the vast reservation — one of two tribes in the country to do so. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Wednesday that it has granted the tribe's application to administer an underground injection control program for oil and gas injection wells. The Navajo Nation has been moving toward overseeing a number of environmental programs in an effort to exercise sovereignty on tribal land. The program will cover about 400 existing wells on the north and eastern part of the reservation where oil and gas drilling is prevalent. The tribal

regulations for permitting and monitoring the injection wells are stricter than the federal government's.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/10/23/ap5596916.html>

2. *October 22, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. to boost geothermal energy use on federal lands.** The U.S. Interior Department said on Wednesday it would make more than 190 million acres of federal lands in 11 western states and Alaska available to energy companies to develop geothermal energy resources for generating electricity. “These federal lands ... hold a huge energy potential,” said the Interior Secretary. He said the geothermal areas that will be leased could provide 5,540 megawatts of electric generation capacity by 2015, enough to meet the power needs of 5.5 million homes. Tax breaks for geothermal energy that were passed by Congress this month will help support the use of the renewable energy source. Geothermal energy comes from heat sources deep in the earth that generate electricity with few carbon emissions. Lands within the National Park System, such as Yellowstone National Park, would still be unavailable for leasing under the final geothermal plan. The department will publish details of its geothermal leasing plan in Friday's edition of the Federal Register of government regulations.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUKTRE49L75320081022?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 23, WVLT 8 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **Chemical tanker overturned in West Knoxville apartment complex.** Dozens of residents in a West Knoxville apartment complex were evacuated from their homes late Wednesday evening when a tanker truck hauling a flammable chemical overturned. The truck was carrying a chemical with an extremely flammable mixture of components that make up Freon. None of the chemical leaked out of the truck. The tanker, which holds several thousand pounds of material, is owned by BDP International of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was headed to Kentucky. Officials planned to transfer the chemicals to another tanker and move them away.

Source: <http://www.volunteertv.com/home/headlines/32618804.html#>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *October 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Feds OK controversial nuke waste storage plan.** Federal regulators have ruled that a radioactive waste storage plan can go forward at a California nuclear power plant without further study of whether it is safe from terror attacks. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) voted 3-1 Thursday morning to deny the novel objection from the activist group Mothers for Peace, which had won a federal court ruling forcing NRC to consider its arguments. The

decision approves PG&E's plans to store spent nuclear fuel in above-ground casks at its Diablo Canyon power plant near San Luis Obispo, California. Dry-cask storage is common around the country. Mothers for Peace had contended there was not sufficient study of whether the casks could safely withstand terrorism, but the NRC said no more study was needed.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-23-nuclear-storage_N.htm

5. *October 22, Lynchburg News & Advance* – (Virginia) **B&W spill results in \$32,500 fine.** A Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) employee got an eyeful of hydrofluoric acid in April, prompting a \$32,500 fine against the company announced this week. Thanks to quick treatment by the company's emergency response team, the employee did not suffer permanent vision loss or other adverse health effects from the acid. However, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said that the company could have prevented the accident by ensuring the labels on chemical containers faced the right way. The company also should have ensured the employee had more training and a face shield, the agency said. A spokesman for B&W said the company is working to "strengthen our spill-response procedures, enhance our requirements for wearing protective gear and better label chemical agents." The incident occurred on April 28 this year. A solution of hydrogen fluoride had been spilled in B&W's Lynchburg, Virginia, plant. The employee cleaning the spill should have used soda ash to neutralize the spill, the B&W spokesman said. Instead, the worker used sodium hydroxide. The label on the sodium hydroxide was facing away from the employee, the B&W spokesman said. The two chemicals reacted and splashed up to the employee's face. An NRC news release said the employee was not wearing proper safety equipment, including a face shield. On Monday, the NRC notified the company that the incident is a severity level III violation. Although the incident did not involve nuclear material, the NRC got involved because it regulates all procedures at sites it licenses. An NRC spokesman said the violation was the company's lack of sufficient labeling controls and spill-response training. "It could have happened with licensed (nuclear) material," he said.
Source: http://www.newsadvance.com/lna/news/local/article/bw_spill_results_in_32500_fine/9714/
6. *October 22, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (New Jersey) **Worker transported to local hospital.** A potentially contaminated individual was transported from the Salem nuclear power plant to the Salem County Memorial Hospital by the on-site fire protection personnel. The individual had been working in Unit 1 containment and collapsed. The individual was surveyed en-route to the hospital and was determined to be not contaminated. The individual remains at the hospital and is undergoing testing and evaluation. Salem Unit 1 remains defueled with spent fuel cooling in service. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector has been notified.
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20081023en.html#en44594>
7. *October 22, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Massachusetts) **RCIC declared inoperable due to aging concern of several flow controller components.** On October

22, with the reactor at 100 percent core thermal power and steady state conditions, Pilgrim nuclear power station declared the reactor core isolation cooling system (RCIC) inoperable in response to concern regarding the reliability of aged capacitors that are installed in the RCIC flow controller. The RCIC flow controller was calibrated and successfully tested on October 7 as part of normal surveillance activities; however, several of the capacitors installed in the controller were noted to be between 21 to 30 years of age. Industry recommended replacement interval for the capacitors is typically between 7 to 10 years of age. The Pilgrim station engineering review in conjunction with Entergy fleet consultation concluded Wednesday that there was no definitive technical basis to provide a reasonable expectation that the RCIC flow controller function can be assured throughout its mission time due to the capacitor aging concern. Therefore, RCIC was declared inoperable and a 14 day limiting condition for operability action statement was entered. A replacement controller is being prepared for installation. Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20081023en.html#en44593>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 23, Military and Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **Lockheed Martin announces Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range in flight test.** A Lockheed Martin Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range (JASSM-ER) completed an integration flight test at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The missile achieved safe separation from the B-1B launch aircraft, and navigated through a preplanned route, striking its intended target. The flight-test objectives were to validate new hardware and software in the Extended Range missile, including new wing molds and the JAGR-S in the ER configuration. The JAGR-S is an advanced Global Positioning System receiver that incorporates anti-jamming capability. JASSM is a critical weapon for the U.S. Air Force, with the seventh production lot under contract toward a total objective of 4,900 JASSM and JASSM-ER. The baseline JASSM is also produced for foreign military sale customers. JASSM is integrated on the B-1, B-2, B-52, and F-16 aircraft. Future platforms include the F-15E, F/A-18, and F-35.

Source: http://mae.pennnet.com/display_article/343274/32/NEWS/none/none/1/Lockheed-Martin-announces-Joint-Air-to-Surface-Standoff-Missile-Extended-Range-in-flight-test/

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *October 22, Bloomberg* – (National) **Moody's, S&P employees doubted ratings, e-mails say.** Lawmakers on Capital Hill criticized the role played by Moody's, S&P, and Fitch Ratings in the global credit freeze. The companies in recent months have downgraded thousands of mortgage-backed securities, as delinquencies have soared and home values have fallen. The Securities and Exchange Commission in a July report found the credit-rating companies improperly managed conflicts of interest and violated

internal procedures in granting top rankings to mortgage bonds. The executives of the credit-rating companies said in testimony that they were unprepared for the sharp drop in home prices and were making improvements. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman accuses the firms of colossal failures asserting they became focused more on profits at the expense of investor security. Calling reforms undertaken so far by rating firms inadequate, a former Moody's managing director of credit policy urges what he calls sweeping management changes, firing of those associated with issuing faulty ratings, and more transparency and simplicity.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a_GhN6Ihrky0&refer=home

See also: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-10-23-voa2.cfm>

10. *October 22, Financial Times* – (National) **U.S. capital injection sets up bank consolidations.** The U.S. government's planned \$125 billion capital injection into nine financial groups is set to unleash another wave of consolidation as banks scramble to use the cash on takeovers and bolt-on acquisitions, according to Wall Street executives. Senior bankers say that some institutions, such as JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Morgan Stanley, are looking to deploy part of the government funds to plug strategic holes by acquiring rivals, assets or people. Others, like Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo and Bank of America are expected not to enter the takeover fray immediately and use the cash infusion to increase their lending capacity and bolster their balance sheets instead. Recent speculation has focused on mergers between second-tier regional banks, which are yet to apply to receive the government aid. However, industry executives say the large financial groups that have already agreed to sell preferred shares and warrants to the government in return for the cash injection will move first.

Source: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b5b5f842-a066-11dd-80a0-000077b07658.html?nclick_check=1

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Transportation Sector

11. *October 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Better air-passenger screening slated for '09.** A long-delayed government program designed to more accurately prescreen the names of airline passengers against terrorist watch lists is expected to begin early next year. The program, called Secure Flight, would validate air travelers' information in order to minimize the chance of misidentification. The program has been delayed several times because of privacy concerns. Misidentification of passengers has been one of the biggest inconveniences in post-Sept. 11 air travel, widely known for putting thousands of innocent U.S. residents through extensive searching and questioning before they were allowed to fly. Currently, passenger prescreening for domestic flights is handled by the individual airlines, which do not always tap into the most up-to-date watch lists. Under the new program, the airlines will be responsible for collecting a passenger's full name, gender and birth date, as opposed to the current practice of only collecting names.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/oct/23/better-air-passenger->

[screening-slated-for-09/](#)

12. *October 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Wildfire burns in west L.A.; freeway reopened.** The California Highway Patrol says the San Diego Freeway has been reopened in both directions after a wildfire forced its closure for several hours. The fire in the Sepulveda Pass broke out close to the freeway and the Getty Center at about one a.m. Thursday and the freeway was shut down soon after. Authorities hoped to head off a morning traffic nightmare as both sides of the major freeway were reopened shortly after six a.m. Firefighters continue to battle the remains of the blaze, which consumed at least 150 acres about two miles from the Getty Center museum. Authorities warned that the freeway could be closed again at any time if the fire flares up. The cause of the fire was not known.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081023/ap_on_re_us/wildfires; ylt=AgO2xiR0_Wobkqt8_DBg1NtJvzwcF
13. *October 22, KIRO 7 TV* – (Washington) **Pilot killed, 2 injured in small plane crash near concrete.** A Stinson 108 small plane crashed at 10:05 p.m. Wednesday just west of Concrete, Washington. Skagit County Sheriff's deputies said the three people on board were not from the area and that police were working to contact their relatives. The exact origin of the flight is not known at this time. The two injured were transported to Skagit Valley Hospital in Mount Vernon and then transported by Airlift Northwest to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Their condition is not known.
Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/17784765/detail.html>
14. *October 22, Grand Junction Sentinel* – (Colorado) **Midair collision might have occurred just beyond controllers' range.** A midair collision Wednesday morning might have happened in an area in which both pilots were on their own to avoid other air traffic. The planes collided about 8:45 a.m., and part of one plane's tail assembly was sheared off, forcing it to crash-land on a sagebrush-studded plateau below. The other plane made its way back to Grand Junction Regional Airport, where it landed safely. No injuries were reported. Investigators will probe whether either or both pilots were in contact with the tower, whether they should have been, and whether either plane carried or was using a traffic-awareness system designed to warn pilots of traffic in the area. Outside of five miles from the tower, the aircraft may have been flying under visual flight rules and not required to communicate with the controllers.
Source:
http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2008/10/22/102308_7A_planes_side.html
15. *October 22, Government Technology* – (Washington) **Twitter is a continuity of operations tool, state agency discovers.** The government is slowly finding real-world purposes for Twitter, a free short messaging service that allows users to post updates (or "tweets") on twitter.com which can be accessed by subscribers via Web browsers, mobile phones as well as instant messaging clients. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) updates its feed with traffic alerts and route changes for

ferries, but it is also helpful in maintaining the continuity of operations during emergencies when their Web site would get overwhelmed with sudden spikes in page hits. WSDOT is considering the option of posting a “neutered,” bare-bones version of its Web site that contains a Web link to the Twitter feed. They would be able to post updates during emergency situations from their blog, BlackBerries, or iPhones. When WSDOT initially decided to log on to Twitter, the department was not thinking about continuity of operations, a WSDOT spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/423688>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *October 23, New York Times* – (National) **Suspicious letters sent to 45 banks this week.** More than 45 letters containing suspicious white powder have been sent to banks and federal banking regulators in 11 states since Monday, triggering inquiries from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A Dallas-area office of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation also received a suspicious letter. Non-financial organizations have received threatening letters as well, including several campaign offices for a U.S. Senator, the New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times. None of the letters has been shown to contain harmful substances, an FBI spokesman told news agencies. Earlier in the week, a JPMorgan Chase spokesman told USA Today that Chase branches in at least five states received the letters. Asked by Reuters if the bank letters this week were sent by a single mailer, the FBI spokesman said, “There’s certainly a common thread.”

Source: <http://dealbook.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/23/suspicious-letters-sent-to-45-banks-this-week/>

17. *October 23, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Unknown powder found in mail.** Roseville, Michigan, offices were closed for 2 1/2 hours Wednesday while authorities investigated a suspicious powder found in an envelope with a water bill. Authorities determined the substance was not hazardous, but gave the envelope and its contents to an agent from the Macomb FBI office. The police chief said police went to a home in Roseville, based on the return address on the envelope, and spoke with the female homeowner. Police determined there was no criminal intent on her part. No charges were filed and no one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20081023/NEWS04/810230370>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *October 22, Food Production Daily* – (International) **Sanitation kit could combat norovirus in food plants.** Food safety and sanitation product supplier, Chemstar Corporation, said the new container enables employees in a food processing plant to clean and disinfect bodily fluids spillages quickly and safely. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that among the 232 outbreaks of norovirus reported to the agency from July 1997 to June 2000, 57 percent were

foodborne. In addition, a recent U.S. study evaluated how a new ethanol-based sanitizer could improve hand hygiene as well as minimize the transmission of viruses in food processing environments. The findings of the University of Ottawa and North Carolina State University research teams show that transmission of multiple enteric viruses can be reduced by a newly synergistically formulated ethanol-based hand sanitizer.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/Quality-Safety/Sanitation-kit-could-combat-norovirus-in-food-plants>

19. *October 22, Associated Press* – (National) **Beetle invasion threatens New England trees.** An infestation of Asian longhorned beetles has gained a foothold in New England, and authorities plan to cut down large numbers of infested trees and grind them up to stop the pest from spreading to the region’s celebrated forests and ravaging the timber, tourism and maple-syrup industries. Calling it a national emergency, federal authorities have committed themselves to spending tens of millions of dollars to fight the invasion. They have sent in smokejumpers, tree climbers and other experts to identify infested trees. Eradication efforts in New York, New Jersey and Illinois have cost \$268 million over the past 11 years. Thousands of trees have been cut down. A Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association spokeswoman said the beetle could be devastating to the industry if it were to spread.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27325583/>

20. *October 22, the Packer* – (Florida) **Florida Citrus Commission creates advisory council.** The Florida Citrus Commission, which oversees the Florida Department of Citrus department, created its Long-Range Planning Advisory Council on October 20 to develop strategy to help guide the future of the two organizations. The council’s goal is to identify progressive marketing, research and regulatory strategies that can help insure the sustainability of the Florida citrus industry. The 10-member council plans to study industry challenges such as citrus diseases, increasing production costs and increased imports competition. The council’s members will also develop recommendations to increase the department’s and commission’s effectiveness.

Source: http://www.thepacker.com/icms/_dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-11420-678.asp&styp=topnews&fb=

21. *October 21, OMB Watch* – (International) **FDA to open regulatory offices in foreign countries.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will send personnel overseas to staff offices to help ensure the safety of imported food and drugs. The plan calls for staff to be assigned to offices in China, India, Europe, and Latin America. Many assignments will begin before the end of 2008. The change comes as a result of problems with mostly uninspected products increasingly coming from firms that have shifted their manufacturing and production overseas. The FDA staff will work with government officials and the companies producing the goods in an effort to improve quality assurance. They will inspect facilities, provide technical assistance, and help create third-party certification programs, according to the announcement. The FDA commissioner admitted that new staff would not be able to meet the growing need for inspections of facilities in growing economies around the world and “hoped manufacturers would voluntarily pay for inspections by independent parties — including

foreign governments and companies — to verify their plants meet U.S. standards,” according to an article in the Washington Post.

Source: <http://www.omwatch.org/article/articleview/4388/1/549>

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Water Sector

22. *October 23, Martha's Vineyard Times* – (Massachusetts) **DEP orders Oak Bluffs to fix wastewater problem at Ocean Park.** The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a notice of non-compliance to Oak Bluffs selectmen in connection with continuing water problems at Ocean Park. The notification follows an inspection of the wastewater leaching fields under the park conducted in August. In recent summers, treated wastewater has seeped to the surface of the park causing mushy ground, and in some cases, standing water. The DEP ordered the town to prevent any further treated effluent from reaching the surface of the park, and if it does, that area would have to be fenced off to prevent access by people or animals. The town was also ordered to turn off all irrigation systems, to hire an engineering firm to study the problem, and to submit that engineering report by January 22, 2009.
Source: <http://www.mvtimes.com/marthas-vineyard/news/2008/10/23/oak-bluffs-wastewater.php>

23. *October 22, Beaufort Gazette* – (South Carolina) **Merged military, civilian water and sewer systems to get overhaul.** Water and wastewater systems on Beaufort's military bases have been under the Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority's ownership, operation, and maintenance for almost two months. First announced in February, Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority purchased the Navy utility for \$12.3 million over 25 years at 5 percent interest. The switch happened September 1, and eventually water and wastewater systems will be overhauled. The Navy will pay \$37 million to update the water and wastewater systems. Specifically, improvements include new pump stations at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Parris Island, a 2.5-million gallon equalization tank at Parris Island, and consolidation of sewer operations. The wastewater plants at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Parris Island that empty into Albergotti Creek and the Beaufort River will be torn down. The Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority general manager said the water utility and the military have not determined locations for pipelines that will link the various parts of the infrastructure. It must first complete an environmental study to determine paths with the least environmental impact.
Source: <http://www.beaufortgazette.com/local/story/593468.html>

24. *October 22, Beach Reporter* – (California) **Seaside Lagoon fined for poor water quality.** Redondo Beach recently received notice that it was being fined for poor water quality at the saltwater Seaside Lagoon, but city officials are disputing the claims. According to a city manager, the city recently received notice from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board at the beginning of the month that the facility had 54 permit violations from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The violations occurred between June 2002 and October 2007. As a result of these permit

violations, the city owes a mandatory minimum penalty to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board of approximately \$147,000. “Seaside Lagoon is an obsolete facility, which was built decades before any of these regulatory requirements came into existence,” said the city manager. The violations address the quality of the water that is pumped into the ocean from the facility, including the 2.3 million gallons pumped daily during the summer when it is used as a swimming facility and open to the public.

Source: http://www.tbrnews.com/articles/2008/10/23/redondo_beach_news/news12.txt

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *October 23, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Huge new biodefense lab is dedicated at Fort Detrick.** The Department of Homeland Security dedicated a massive biodefense laboratory in Frederick, Maryland, Wednesday, moving toward the facility’s opening despite questions raised about the risks of deadly pathogens to be studied there. When the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center at Fort Detrick is fully operational in March, about 150 scientists in the lab will be tasked with protecting the country from a bioterrorist attack through prevention or containment. Another goal is to allow investigators to fingerprint biological agents such as viruses and bacteria, quickly tracing their source and catching the offender.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/10/22/ST2008102203102.html>

26. *October 23, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Prescription drug injuries and deaths reach record levels.** The number of deaths and serious injuries associated with prescription drug use rose to record levels in the first quarter of this year, with 4,825 deaths and nearly 21,000 injuries, the Horsham, Pennsylvania-based Institute for Safe Medication Practices said Wednesday. Those numbers represent a nearly threefold increase in deaths from the previous quarter and a 38 percent increase in injuries from last year’s quarterly average. The most dangerous medications were the anti-smoking drug Varenicline, which was linked to 1,001 injuries and 50 deaths in the three-month period ending in March, and the blood thinner heparin, which was associated with 779 injuries and 102 deaths. The data came from voluntary reports of adverse effects to the Food and Drug Administration, which made the data public after stripping information that identified victims. Because the reporting is voluntary, researchers have speculated that fewer than 10 percent of adverse events actually make it into the system

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/science/la-sci-drugs23-2008oct23,0,3402124.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *October 22, Politico* – (District of Columbia) **Senate receives bomb threats, no evacuation.** Several Senate offices have received bomb threats Wednesday afternoon,

but the offices have not been evacuated and Capitol Police are investigating the threats. Capitol Police sent out this alert to Senate offices: “Several offices have received a bomb threat by phone and email. The United States Capitol Police are actively investigating. There is no need for staff to take any precautions at this point. If your office receives a threat please take note of the time, caller I.D., and wording.” One Senate aide who alerted Politico to the bomb threats says all three Senate office buildings — Dirksen, Hart, and Russell — have received the calls. It is not clear which offices received threats and exactly what the callers said when they called in the bomb threat.

Source:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/10/22/politics/politico/thecrypt/main4539195.shtml>

28. *October 22, New York Times* – (Kentucky) **Shooting warnings at Western Kentucky University.** The Western Kentucky University (WKU) campus in Bowling Green was on lockdown Wednesday afternoon after reports that shots were fired on campus. But more than two hours after the alleged incident, police were unable to confirm that any shooting had occurred. University police said only that they had confirmed that a physical fight between two groups of individuals had taken place near the Pearce-Ford Tower dormitory on the main campus. In light of the shooting rampages that have taken place in recent years at Virginia Tech and other American college campuses, any report of weapons on campus is generally taken very seriously. A glance at how WKU communicated with the college community during the day shows how seriously the university took the often confusing reports of fighting and gunfire. Administrators used a rolling series of text messages, e-mail messages, and loudspeaker broadcast alerts to warn students and staff. Ever since the Virginia Tech shootings in April 2007, colleges and universities have been grappling with how to calibrate their response to incidents like this, and how to keep people on campus informed about potential dangers without either touching off panic or unnecessarily disrupting the life of the school. As they put new systems and new technology in place to tackle the problem, each new incident is watched closely to see what works and what does not, and the developments Wednesday in Bowling Green will add new data points to the discussion.

Source: <http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/22/shooting-warnings-at-western-kentucky-university/?hp>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *October 23, Environmental Protection Online* – (Guam) **EPA to train emergency responders in Guam.** Emergency response staff from the EPA’s Pacific Southwest regional office will hold two emergency response training sessions for Guam first responders November 4 through 7 in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard and Oceania Regional Response Team meeting in Guam on November 7. The hazardous materials response training will cover the operation, maintenance, and repair of equipment presently available to Guam first responders. The session will also include hands-on exercises in identifying unknown hazards, such as agriculture chemicals and

pesticides, hospital radiation sources, drug labs, and other situations where chemicals are improperly disposed or buried. This training session will also be held in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the following week.

Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/68735/>

30. *October 23, Huntington Herald Dispatch* – (West Virginia) **Chemical leak drill set for Thursday.** Cabell County emergency responders participated in a mock chemical leak drill that included about 150 people acting as patients. The drill simulated a tanker truck leak. Officials tested the county's Wide Area Rapid Notification system, a reverse call system used to alert citizens to local emergencies, such as chemical accidents, disasters and missing children.

Source: <http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/x802979242/No-Headline>

31. *October 22, Chicago Sun Times* – (Illinois) **Indicted 911 director surrenders to state police.** The director of a northern Kane County emergency dispatch center who was indicted on multiple counts of misconduct for allegedly misusing a criminal background search database surrendered to Illinois State Police on Wednesday. The indictment alleges that on multiple occasions in 2006, 2007, and 2008, the director accessed the state Law Enforcement Agencies Data System to gain information on four persons for his personal use. Misuse of LEADS is a violation of the Illinois Criminal Identification Act and the Administrative Rules for Department of State Police Law Enforcement Agencies Data System

Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/indicted.911.director.2.846655.html>

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Information Technology

32. *October 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **Microsoft to rush out emergency windows patch.** The company offered few details on why it was releasing the emergency security patch software update, which is rated critical for users of Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Windows Server 2003. The update will be released at 10:00 am, Pacific time on October 23, said a Microsoft spokesman in a blog posting published late October 22nd. In an advisory on the issue, Microsoft explained that the flaw is considered to be a less serious risk for users of the Windows Vista and Server 2008 operating systems. This latest vulnerability, however, appears to be unknown to the security community. For Microsoft to rush out this type of emergency update, it must consider the bug to be very serious, said an organizer of the CanSecWest hacking conference in an instant message interview.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/152665/microsoft_to_rush_out_emergency_windows_patch.html

33. *October 23, SearchSecurity* – (International) **Cisco warns of security appliance flaws.** Cisco Systems Inc. warned of multiple flaws in its ASA 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliances and PIX Security Appliances that could be used by an attacker to bypass security controls and gain access to critical systems. The appliances are used to provide

a variety of network security features to address Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) security, VPN connections for remote employees and firewall services. Cisco's advisory warned of a Windows NT domain authentication bypass vulnerability, IPv6 denial of service flaw and crypto accelerator memory leak vulnerability. Cisco said its ASA and PIX devices could be susceptible to VPN authentication bypass since they support Microsoft Windows server operating systems, which are vulnerable to a Windows NT Domain authentication flaw. Appliances configured for IPSec or SSL-based remote access VPN may be vulnerable, Cisco said. The IPv6 denial-of-service flaw could cause an IPv6 packet to force ASA and PIX devices to reload. Cisco said devices running software versions from 7.2(4)9 or 7.2(4)10 that have IPv6 enabled are vulnerable to this issue. ASA appliances are vulnerable to a crypto accelerator memory leak vulnerability.

Source:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid14_gci1335757,00.html

34. *October 22, CNET News* – (International) **Keystrokes can be recovered remotely.** Wired keyboards, like those found on desktop PCs, emit electromagnetic waves that can be read remotely, according to two Swiss researchers. Researchers of the Swiss Security and Cryptography Laboratory at LASEC/EPFL were able to recover keystrokes from wired keyboards at a distance up to 20 meters (about 65 feet), even through walls, simply by reading the electromagnetic emanations of the peripheral device. The experiments focused on wired keyboards attached to a computer either by PS/2 or USB connections.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10072967-83.html?tag=newsEditorsPicksArea.0

35. *October 22, IDG News Service* – (International) **Student gets jail for crashing university servers.** A 22-year-old University of Pennsylvania student has been sentenced to three months in prison and probation time, following a worldwide botnet computer bust. He had been facing as much as five years in prison on a computer fraud charge after he was rounded up as part of the FBI's "Operation Bot Roast II." He was also fined \$30,000 and must pay \$6,100 in restitution to the University of Pennsylvania, which was affected by an online distributed denial-of-service (DDOS) attack that he helped orchestrate in February 2006. The student wanted to wage an online war with three Internet Relay Chat networks and a now-defunct Web site called SSgroup.org. Authorities say he was angry after being banned from at least one of the forums, and he talked a teenaged New Zealand hacker into launching a DDOS attack against the networks. In late February, a Penn server used to host configuration information for the botnet attack was so swamped with queries from the botnet network that it was inadvertently knocked offline.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9117811&intsrc=news_ts_head

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 23, Wichita Eagle* – (Missouri) **Bomb threat reported before Kansas City explosion.** Authorities are investigating two bomb threats made shortly before an explosion and two-alarm fire that ripped a popular Kansas City restaurant. The Monday blast blew a sizable hole in the brick veneer on the Hereford House restaurant. Damages are estimated at more than \$1 million. The restaurant is closed indefinitely. Less than an hour before the explosion, someone called Kansas City police saying a bomb was at a nearby gas station. A few minutes later, another report said a bomb was under the gas tank at a liquor store.
Source: <http://www.kansas.com/news/updates/story/570655.html>
37. *October 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Brush fire burns near L.A.'s Getty Center.** A wildfire burned through grass and brush early Thursday a few miles from the Getty Center museum, forcing the closure of the nearby San Diego Freeway for several hours before dawn, authorities said. The blaze was moving south toward the Getty Center and Mount St. Mary's College, but both were "well-protected by a large number of firefighters," a fire spokesman said. About 350 firefighters helped by eight water-dropping helicopters were taking on the blaze. No structures had burned, no one was injured, and fire fighters feel they are making progress in containing the fires.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27336648/>
38. *October 22, Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Plot to bomb Xcel Center ends with guilty plea.** A 23-year-old Flint, Michigan, man has admitted to plotting to detonate a homemade bomb in the tunnels near the Xcel Energy Center, hoping it would cause a power failure and prompt cancellation of the Republican National Convention. The man pleaded guilty in federal court in Minneapolis on Tuesday to illegally possessing Molotov cocktails. According to the plea agreement, he spent about 90 minutes at the Hennepin County Library on August 18 researching recipes for homemade bombs. He bought the supplies for Molotov cocktails a few days later. He said that if he could bomb the Xcel Center on September 1, "they might call off the convention." He added that a "power outage would say a lot" and that it was his "main purpose." He also said that he would like to bomb the Xcel Energy Center on September 4 so that the convention would "end with a bang." On August 22, he allegedly made two jugs of a homemade napalm-like substance for use in the Molotov cocktails. He was

seen traveling to a remote location in Rosemount to allegedly assemble and test the Molotov cocktails.

Source:

http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/conventions/32322889.html?elr=KArks8c7PaP3E77K_3c::D3aDhUMeApc:E7_ec7PaP3iUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUU

39. *October 22, Plain Dealer* – (Ohio) **Wickliffe man arrested after homemade bombs found.** A Wickliffe man was arrested Wednesday after authorities found homemade explosive devices, flash powders, fuses and chemical compounds in his house. The search stemmed from an investigation into multiple incidents of homemade or improvised devices being detonated at city parks dating back to 2004, police said. No one was injured in the past explosions, but there were reports of minor property damage. Source: http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/10/wickliffe_man_arrested_after_h.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

40. *October 22, Wyoming Business Report* – (Utah) **Olmsted specialists at work in Yellowstone National Park.** National Park Service landscape preservation specialists from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (OCLP) are working in the Fort Yellowstone Historic District in Mammoth Hot Springs on condition assessment and the stabilization of the cottonwood trees that line Officer's Row. An OCLP team of arborists is in the park this week working with arborist trainees and Yellowstone staff on the technical pruning of dead, damaged or unsafe branches and trees. The OCLP will assist Yellowstone's landscape managers in identifying and slowing deterioration, improving resource conditions, and preserving the historical integrity of the culturally significant trees in the Fort Yellowstone area. Source: <http://www.wyomingbusinessreport.com/article.asp?id=96728>
41. *October 22, Environment News Service* – (National) **Geothermal development planned for western public lands.** More than 190 million acres of federal land in 12 western states will be opened for development of geothermal energy resources, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior announced Wednesday. The Secretary noted that 90 percent of the nation's geothermal resources lie on federal land. The plan would identify about 118 million acres of public lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and 79 million acres of National Forest Service lands for future geothermal leasing. If the newly announced plan is implemented, new geothermal energy could meet the needs of 5.5 million homes, capacity to serve a further 6.5 million by 2025. Lands closed to geothermal leasing will remain closed. Lands within a unit of the National Park System, such as Yellowstone National Park, for instance, will continue to be unavailable for leasing. Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/oct2008/2008-10-22-092.asp>
42. *October 22, West Branch Times* – (Iowa) **Hoover Park plans second prescribed burn for 2008.** Herbert Hoover National Historic Site will burn 40 acres of the 81-acre tallgrass prairie located on the site. The staff plans to conduct the prescribed fire

sometime in October or November. Weather conditions and safety considerations will determine the exact date and time of the fire. A specially trained National Park Service fire crew burned nine acres of the prairie in May.

Source: <http://www.westbranchtimes.com/article.php?id=3684>

43. *October 22, Visalia Times-Delta* – (California) **Cameras keeping eye on mountain fire.** Cameras are monitoring a fire in the Giant Sequoia National Monument that is inaccessible to firefighters, Sequoia National Forest officials said today. The fire was discovered October 14. It covers two acres and is burning slowly, according to rangers. The fire, at 8,000 feet, is located between Mountain Home State Park and the border of Sequoia National Park.

Source: <http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20081022/NEWS01/81022009/1002>

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Dams Sector

44. *October 23, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Water conservation is superior to building dams, rivers group says.** Four Southeastern cities could save millions of gallons of water a day by repairing leaks, replacing fixtures, and raising water prices, according to a report released Wednesday by a group that advocates protection of rivers. Conservation is a less expensive and more practical solution to the region's water problems than building dams to create new reservoirs, American Rivers concluded in its report, "Hidden Reservoir." The report said that building dams should be the last resort for solving water problems because they are expensive and lose more water to evaporation. "Dams are expensive, destructive and shortsighted," said the chapter director for the Sierra Club of South Carolina.

Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2008/oct/23/water-conservation-is-superior-to-building-dams-ri/>

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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.

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