



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 October 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- USA Today reports that the U.S. Transportation Security Administration expects by next fall to lift restrictions that limit airline passengers to carrying 3-ounce bottles of liquids, gels, and aerosols in airplane cabins, according to an announcement on the agency's website. (See item [14](#))
- According to Reuters, two white supremacist skinheads were arrested in Tennessee over plans to go on a killing spree and eventually shoot the Democratic presidential candidate, court documents showed on Monday. (See item [28](#))

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 28, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (New Jersey) **Marine unit will monitor sites along river.** A new Gloucester County, New Jersey, marine unit will begin patrols on the Delaware River starting October 29 to protect oil refineries, chemical plants, and other potential terrorist targets monitored under homeland security. The county prosecutor said a \$47,000 homeland security grant will pay for the 19-foot Zodiac rigid-hull inflatable vessel, to be manned by county law enforcement investigators and sheriff's officers. The boat will dock at the Valero refinery in Paulsboro.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/nj/20081028_Marine_unit_will_monitor_sites_al

[ong_river.html](#)

2. *October 26, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Corrosion suspected in pipeline burst.** The oil company, British Petroleum (BP), suspects corrosion contributed to a pressurized natural gas pipeline blowing apart on Sept. 29, a spokesman said. No one was hurt, though some workers were in the vicinity when the line ruptured violently, hurling a length of pipe across the tundra. The incident forced the shutdown of two well pads producing about 5,000 barrels of oil per day -- less than one percent of total North Slope oil output. The pads remained out of service on October 24. BP will do a metallurgical analysis of the failed pipe before declaring corrosion as the culprit for the rupture, the spokesman said. Investigators found the corrosion had attacked the outside surface of the above-ground pipe at a point where insulation that normally jackets the line was missing. As a safety measure, BP workers will look for any pipes that might be in a similar condition, the BP spokesman said. State and federal pipeline regulators are investigating the pipeline rupture.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/money/story/568668.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

3. *October 28, Salt Lake Tribune* – (National) **Under the radar: Canada's, Mexico's radioactive waste comes into Utah.** Federal regulators permitted low-level radioactive waste from Canada and Mexico to be buried in Utah. But Utah never got the memo. Nor did the regional radioactive waste oversight organization Utah belongs to. Federal regulators saw no reason to keep Utah in the loop on such small shipments. The director of Utah's Radiation Control Division, checked his files October 27 and found no letters giving a heads-up about the imports, despite the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's stated policy of keeping "those affected" in the loop. There is no listing for such letters to Utah and the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-level Radioactive Waste on the NRC's online information service. The Northwest Compact in May clarified its 17-year agreement with EnergySolutions, noting foreign waste is not allowed at the EnergySolutions site even if other regulators permit foreign waste to be re-labeled U.S. waste after being processed.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_10833088

4. *October 28, Reuters* – (Mississippi) **Entergy Miss. Grand Gulf reactor to exit outage.** Entergy Corp's 1,266-megawatt Grand Gulf nuclear power station in Mississippi started to exit an outage and ramped up to 14 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut on Oct. 26 from about 50 percent due to a turbine trip. At the time of the shutdown, the

unit was ramping up after exiting an outage begun on Oct. 23 due to the loss of feedwater flow.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN289812220081028>

5. *October 28, Reuters* – (Virginia) **Dominion shut Va. Surry 1 reactor for brief work.** Dominion Resources Inc. shut Unit 1 at the Surry nuclear power station in Virginia from full power for brief work on a feedwater heater on October 27, a spokesman for the company said Tuesday. Electricity traders guessed the unit would return within a week.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2837643320081028>

6. *October 28, Reuters* – (Pennsylvania) **FirstEnergy Pa. Beaver Valley 2 reactor exits outage.** FirstEnergy Corp's 832-megawatt Unit 2 at the Beaver Valley nuclear power station in Pennsylvania exited an outage and ramped up to 36 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2837555720081028>

7. *October 27, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Pennsylvania) **NRC monitoring alert at Susquehanna 2 nuclear plant.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is monitoring an Alert declared this afternoon at the Susquehanna 2 nuclear power plant in Salem Township (Luzerne County), Pa. At 4:15 a.m. today, maintenance work was initiated on a water line that is part of a reactor safety system for the plant. That work involved the use of a "freeze seal" – that is, placing a device containing nitrogen over a section of piping so that the water inside the line can be frozen. Once frozen, the line can be isolated to allow maintenance to be performed on it. PPL, the plant's owner and operator, declared an Alert at 12:06 p.m. when higher-than-acceptable levels of nitrogen, a toxic gas, were detected inside the room. As required by procedures, the one plant worker who was in the room at the time evacuated. The NRC began formally monitoring the event at 1:02 p.m. The two NRC Resident Inspectors at Susquehanna are closely following developments at the site. No injuries have been reported and there are no off-site impacts as a result of the event. The plant planned to send personnel into the room to investigate the source of the leakage after ensuring nitrogen levels were safe. However, preliminary information did not detect any active leakage of nitrogen. Susquehanna 2 remains at 100-percent power. Susquehanna 1, an adjoining boiling-water reactor, was not affected by the event and continues to operate at 94-percent power. Federal and state officials have been notified regarding the event.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-058.i.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 28, Navy Times* – (National) **Versatility of converted subs earns praise.** The

operational debut of the Navy's four Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines converted to carry Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct large-force special warfare missions has exceeded expectations, according to operators, managers and leadership. Two of the subs, the Ohio and Florida, are on deployment loaded with various combinations of Tomahawk cruise missiles, SEALs and submersibles. The Michigan sets out in the coming weeks and will employ the Advanced SEAL Delivery System, a minisub. The Georgia will deploy in 2009. The SSGN program took four massive boomers bound for decommissioning and refueled and converted them over five years for \$1 billion each. Depending on the mission, its Tomahawk payload ranges from a standard 105 to a maximum 154 missiles, filling as many as 22 tubes previously designed for C-4 Trident ballistic missiles in seven-shot canisters. Top officials believe that SSGNs can step into the void of the troubled DDG 1000 destroyer program, a nominally stealthy surface combatant meant to pack a wallop. With a shorter load of Tomahawks, SSGNs can use several of the missile tubes to hold up to five tractor-trailer loads of ordnance and equipment for embarked SEALs. Two of the 24 tubes were converted to escape trunks for deploying divers, and the deck was widened to accommodate side-by-side dry-deck shelters. An SSGN has berthing for 66 SEALs. In addition to holding missiles, escape trunks and SEAL gear, one of the 24 missile tubes is set aside for experimental cargo such as unmanned underwater or aerial vehicles, a priority of the undersea fleet.
Source: http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/10/navy_ssgn_102708w/

9. *October 26, U.S. Navy* – (National) **USS New Hampshire joins fleet.** USS New Hampshire (SSN 778), the Navy's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine and the fifth of the Virginia-class, commissioned October 25 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. This is the first time in 12 years that two submarines of the same class have been commissioned in the same year. USS North Carolina (SSN 777) was commissioned in May. Cost-reduction initiatives resulted in USS New Hampshire being delivered eight months early and \$54 million under budget, one of the reasons experts say why the Virginia class of submarines is becoming a benchmark for future classes of naval ships. Virginia-class submarines directly enable the Maritime Strategy core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection and maritime security. Equally adept at operating in the world's shallow littoral regions and deep waters, New Hampshire will significantly contribute to the mission areas of anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; special operations forces; strike; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare.
Source: http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=40532

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Businessman sentenced in \$107M bank fraud.** A businessman has been sentenced to nine years and nine months after pleading guilty to charges related to bilking \$107 million from a taxpayer-funded bank. The businessman was ordered by a U.S. District Judge on Monday to pay \$10 million in restitution, equal to his profits from the scheme, and \$494,822 in back taxes. The judge also ordered him to serve three years of federal supervision after he is released from

prison. He pleaded guilty in August to wire fraud, conspiracy, tax evasion, money laundering and filing false tax reports and faced up to 10 years in prison, as part of a plea deal. Bank officials testified that the man exploited Export-Import Bank's medium-term loan guarantee program, forcing the bank to make good on \$107 million in loans that went into default. The man also allegedly caused another \$10 million in losses to Vinmar Finance Ltd., a commercial lender in Houston that he had turned to in 2005 when the Export-Import Bank stalled in issuing loan guarantees to Parker's clients.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6081424.html>

11. *October 28, Greenville Sun* – (Tennessee) **E-mail scam reported involving credit union.** Several Greenville residents reported receiving e-mail on Friday purportedly from a Georgia credit union that warned of restrictions placed on the recipients' accounts. The credit union e-mail says employees are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to handle calls. A TIC Federal Credit Union spokesman said the e-mail messages were part of a "phishing scam" designed to defraud those who respond by return phone call.

Source: <http://www.greenevillesun.com/story/298908>

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Transportation Sector

12. *October 28, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia; Maryland; Virginia) **Metro to randomly search passengers' bags.** Metro officials yesterday announced plans to immediately begin random searches of backpacks, purses and other bags in a move they say will protect riders and also guard their privacy and minimize delays. The program is modeled after one in New York that has withstood legal challenges. However, experts said it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of such searches. New York officials declined to say what they have found in their searches; none of the other transit systems conducting random searches have found any explosives, officials said. Metro officials said the program was not in response to a specific threat but prompted by increased security concerns before next week's election and the inauguration as well as by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and later bombings of commuter trains in Madrid, London and elsewhere. Although Metro police said the program will begin immediately, they would not say which of their 86 rail stations or more than 12,000 bus stops would be subject to inspection on any given day. The random searches will focus on detecting explosives, and it is likely that some riders will have their bags inspected before next Tuesday's election, officials said. Metro, the second-busiest subway system in the country, after New York's, carries more than 1.2 million passenger trips on a typical weekday.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/27/AR2008102700767.html?hpid=moreheadlineslocal>

13. *October 27, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Discovery of bomb closes El Paso highway.** Police closed a heavily traveled El Paso highway for a while Monday after someone found an unexploded bomb beside the highway. A Fort Bliss statement says someone

collecting cans found the bomb about ten a.m. Monday on Fort Bliss land near the eastern rest area on Loop 375, known locally as Transmountain Road. Officials at the Army post say the bomb was found about two feet from the highway guard rail. El Paso police officers sent to the scene closed the road and asked for help from the Fort Bliss Explosive Ordinance Disposal unit, which set off the bomb safely about 12:30 p.m. The highway was reopened about one p.m.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6081202.html>

14. *October 27, USA Today* – (National) **TSA likely to ease restrictions on liquids in 2009.** Airline passengers will likely be able to carry large bottles of liquids on airplanes by sometime in 2009, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) says. The TSA expects by next fall to lift restrictions that limit passengers to carrying 3-ounce bottles of liquids, gels and aerosols in airplane cabins, according to an announcement on the agency's website. Passengers would still have to remove liquids from carry-on bags at airport checkpoints and put them through X-ray machines separately. By the end of 2010, passengers should be able to keep liquids as they go through checkpoints. The changes are expected because better technology will enable checkpoint X-ray machines to spot dangerous liquids. X-ray machines currently cannot tell the difference between harmless fluids and explosives. Easing the restrictions could also speed up security lines, said the chairman of the Business Travel Coalition.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-10-27-tsa-liquids_N.htm?csp=34

15. *October 27, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Oregon, EPA at odds over invasive species rules.** Neither Oregon state regulators nor environmental groups are happy with the improvements the federal government is making to rules governing the release of ballast water from seagoing vessels, a practice associated with ecological contamination from invasive species. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has so far refused to back a federal permit proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to let ships continue discharging ballast water. State officials told the EPA the permit "perpetuates federal regulations that are insufficient for protecting Oregon's waterways." They also spelled out a list of other shortcomings and noted that the state has no funding to pay for the review and approval the EPA wants from Oregon. If Oregon refuses approval by mid-December, releases of ballast water in the state would become illegal. An Oregon task force released a report last week highlighting the risk posed by alien species that arrive in ballast water. Oregon law currently requires large ships to empty and refill their ballast water tanks at least 200 nautical miles offshore in hopes of ejecting any alien species far from state waters, but officials point out that this had previously been regarded as a stopgap measure. But that is largely the same requirement that the EPA's proposed permit outlines. Oregon lawmakers want the federal government to adopt standards for treating or filtering ballast water to keep species from hitchhiking aboard ships. Oregon's task force recommended that if the federal government does not act by next year, and if California and Washington have adopted standards by then, Oregon should take the same step to create a uniform West Coast standard.

Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/news-27/1225149848119500.xml&storylist=orlocal>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *October 27, Reuters* – (New York) **Reuters evacuates NY newsroom in powder scare.** The New York newsroom of Reuters News was evacuated for nearly three hours on Monday after receiving an envelope with a “puff of powder” in it, a Reuters spokeswoman said. Police told staff to evacuate the 19th-floor Times Square newsroom after the company’s managing editor for the Americas opened an envelope and a “puff of powder” came out of it. Nearly three hours later, authorities told Reuters the powder was harmless and workers returned to the desk. A New York police spokesman said no link had been established between the alert at the New York Times and the letters recently sent to financial institutions, and there was no immediate indication the latest incident was related to either.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/industryNews/idUSTRE49Q68820081027>

17. *October 27, Columbian* – (Washington) **Resident finds alleged pipe bomb in mailbox.** Authorities are investigating whether a suspicious device found in a mailbox Sunday is a pipe bomb. A woman called 911 after spotting the device in her mailbox at about 7:40 a.m., according to a Clark County Sheriff’s sergeant. The woman said she went outside to retrieve her newspaper when she noticed her box was open. Inside, she found the device, which consisted of paper wrapped in wire and partially burnt. Members of the Metro Explosive Disposal Unit, consisting of authorities from Multnomah, Clark, and Clackamas counties, responded to remove the device. It will take at least a couple days for explosive experts to determine whether the device is a pipe bomb.

Source:

<http://www.columbian.com/article/20081027/NEWS02/810279995/0/FRONTPAGE>

18. *October 27, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **‘MacGyver’-type device exploded mailbox.** A Des Moines woman reported her mailbox exploded Saturday night. According to police reports, the explosion was caused by a “MacGyver-type device.” The woman told police she heard what sounded like a gun-shot from the front of her house. She went outside to investigate and saw her mailbox was damaged and hanging from the post. The event remains under investigation.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20081027/NEWS03/81027009/1001/NEWS&community=dmsouth>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *October 27, Environment News Service* – (International) **Migratory ducks carry bird flu from Asia to Alaska.** Wild migratory birds appear to be important carriers of avian influenza viruses from continent to continent, according to new research that scientists say has important implications for highly pathogenic avian influenza virus surveillance

in North America. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska and the University of Tokyo, have found genetic evidence that northern pintail ducks carried Asian forms of avian influenza to Alaska. For this study, scientists with the USGS, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies, and Alaska native communities, obtained samples from more than 1,400 northern pintail ducks from locations throughout Alaska. The scientists observed that nearly half of the low pathogenic avian influenza viruses found in wild northern pintails in Alaska contained at least one of eight gene segments that were more closely related to Asian than to North American strains of bird flu. None of the samples were found to contain completely Asian-origin viruses and none were highly pathogenic.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/oct2008/2008-10-27-091.asp>

20. *October 27, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Wash. Feedlot owner fights beef labeling.** A feedlot owner in Pasco, Washington, is suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to rewrite the beef labeling provision in what could be one of several attempts to overturn a law long sought by consumer and farm groups. Meat packers and retailers have long opposed the rules, which went into effect September 30 and require grocery stores to identify the “country of origin” for meat, produce and certain nuts, saying they would be expensive and burdensome. In the lawsuit filed last month in U.S. District Court in Eastern Washington, Easterday Ranches Inc. contends that labeling will increase record keeping and operating costs and deter meat packers from buying Canadian-born cattle from Easterday’s feedlot. The owner also said the program offers no additional safeguards that beef products are any safer, though consumers may believe it does. Rather, it just allows retailers to discount non-U.S. products, which are just as high in quality, he said. The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association opposed the mandate on grounds that it should be voluntary.

Source:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/W/WA_LABELING_LAWSUIT_WAOL-?SITE=OREUG&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

21. *October 27, Fairbault County Register* – (Minnesota) **Anhydrous leak hospitalizes Stateline employee.** State officials are continuing their investigation of an anhydrous ammonia leak at a Pilot Grove Township farm that hospitalized a Stateline Cooperative employee. The cooperative’s general manager in Burt, Iowa said that “It was a malfunctioning pipe on a nurse tank that was leaking. It was not a storage tank.” Fifteen firefighters from the Blue Earth Fire Department and a Faribault County deputy sheriff were called to the scene. The local Fire Chief said medical attention was given to the man after he was exposed to the chemical he was applying to a field Monday night which caused irritation to his eyes, throat and lungs. During the onsite investigation, the state official inspected training materials the cooperative had regarding hazardous chemical spills and whether the applicator was licensed.

Source: <http://www.faribaultcountyregister.com/page/content.detail/id/500500.html>

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Water Sector

22. *October 27, KCBA 35 Monterey* – (California) **Carmel Wastewater Plant on cutting edge of water treatment.** The Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) says a new project designed to reclaim water for Monterey Peninsula golf courses is running without a hitch. The Pebble Beach Company spent \$22 million dollars in asking the CAWD and the Pebble Beach Community Services District to find an advanced method to reclaim water that would meet the requirements for the courses' needs. What was created was a new system that includes micro-filtration and reverse osmosis techniques. The plant cranks out 1.2 million gallons of treated water per day. While most is destined for Pebble Beach golf courses, some is used to help stabilize water demands in the nearby Carmel Lagoon. The CAWD plant manager says it has been a boon for Carmel River steelhead and that federal agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Fish and Game have been clamoring for the new treatment process.
Source: <http://www.kcba.com/Global/story.asp?S=9248191>
23. *October 27, News Journal* – (Delaware) **Wastewater spills into two waterways.** Environmental officials said October 27 they are investigating two wastewater spills in Wilmington, one potentially involving a multi-million gallon discharge. The surface water discharges manager for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) said the larger of the two incidents happened October 21 during a power failure at Wilmington's East 12th Street plant. The power loss stopped a chlorination process at the plant for nearly two hours, although the wastewater had been through all other treatment stages. The manager said the operation handles about 72 million gallons a day during the fall, meaning nearly 6 million gallons went into the Delaware River without chlorination needed to control bacteria and other pathogens. In a separate incident, a broken line near Brandywine Zoo sent more than 10,000 gallons of sewage into the Brandywine at about seven p.m. October 24. DNREC is awaiting reports on both spills, including an estimate of the amount involved in the Brandywine spill.
Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20081027/NEWS/81027048>
24. *October 26, WRGB 6 Albany* – (New York) **City of Glens Falls told to repair sewage pumping stations.** The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is demanding that the city of Glens Falls spend \$3 million to replace or repair old and faulty sewage pumping stations, one of which dumped sewage into a canal. The DEC also wants the city to pay a \$10,000 fine to settle charges that the pumping stations have malfunctioned and illegally dumped sewage 45 times since 2004. One of the stations failed 26 times. The agency says if the city does not agree to those terms, it will start an enforcement action and seek a significantly higher penalty.
Source:
http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/city_1258140_article.html/repair_falls.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *October 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Drug-resistant staph germs are on the rise.** Drug-resistant staph bacteria, once rare, now appears to cause more than half of all skin infections treated in U.S. emergency rooms, say researchers at UCLA Medical Center who documented the superbug's startling spread in the general population. Only a decade ago, these germs were hardly ever seen outside of hospitals and nursing homes. Throughout the course of a DCD-funded study, published in Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*, researchers analyzed all skin infections among adults who went to hospital emergency rooms in 11 U.S. cities in August 2004. Of the 422 cases, 249, or 59 percent, were caused by Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). Such bacteria are impervious to the penicillin family of drugs long used for treatment. The proportion of infections due to MRSA ranged from 15 percent to as high as 74 percent in some hospitals.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/living/story/519886.html>

26. *October 28, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Pandemic preparedness complacency still a problem.** On the heels of the World Bank's recent dire warning that an influenza pandemic would ignite a "major global recession," several UN officials have once again warned about growing complacency toward preparedness for a flu pandemic. Last Friday, the director general of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), warned that the complacency of developing countries where avian flu persists, like Egypt and Indonesia, has hampered efforts to eradicate the virus.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/5782/149/>

27. *October 27, WebMD Health News* – (International) **Small outbreak of zyvox-resistant MRSA.** For what researchers believe is the first time, there's been a small cluster of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) that failed to respond to Zyvox, an antibiotic that can be used as a last resort when others fail. The report of 12 such cases at a Spanish hospital comes at a time when new treatments for resistant MRSA infections are desperately needed, said a doctor at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville.

Source:

<http://www.webmd.com/news/20081027/small-outbreak-of-zyvox-resistant-mrsa>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *October 28, Reuters* – (National) **Skinheads held over plot to kill Obama.** Two white supremacist skinheads were arrested in Tennessee over plans to go on a killing spree and eventually shoot the Democratic presidential candidate, court documents showed on Monday. The two suspects were charged in a criminal complaint with making threats against a presidential candidate, illegal possession of a sawed-off shotgun, and conspiracy to rob a gun dealer. The plot did not appear to be very advanced or sophisticated, the court documents showed. The men stole guns from family members

and also had a sawed-off shotgun. They planned to target a predominately black school, going state to state while robbing individuals, and continuing to kill people, said a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives in an affidavit. “They further stated that their final act of violence would be to attempt to kill/assassinate presidential candidate Barack Obama,” he said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE49Q7KJ20081028>

29. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Montana) **2 arrested in theft of Humvee from Guard armory.** The Livingston Police Department has recovered a Humvee stolen from the Army National Guard Armory, and two men have been charged in the theft. The Humvee, reported stolen on October 21, was recovered Saturday in a remote area west of Livingston. Two men are charged in the theft. A police chief says charges are pending against a 17-year-old boy. The same three have also been identified as suspects in recent break-ins at a municipal water reservoir, two cell phone buildings, and two other public radio transmission buildings.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/10/ap_humvee_theft_102708/

30. *October 28, Army Times* – (International) **Burn pit at Balad raises health concerns.** An open-air “burn pit” at the largest U.S. base in Iraq may have exposed tens of thousands of troops, contractors, and Iraqis to cancer-causing dioxins, poisons such as arsenic and carbon monoxide, and hazardous medical waste, documentation gathered by Military Times shows. The black plume from the burn pit at 15-square-mile Joint Base Balad, the central logistics hub for U.S. forces in Iraq, wafts continually over living quarters and the base combat support hospital, sources say. And even though the military now has three clean-burning incinerators operating there, officials acknowledged that as of midsummer, the burn pit still was taking in 147 tons of waste per day — significantly more than half the daily output at Balad, home to about 25,000 U.S. military personnel and several thousand contractors. Most large U.S. installations in Iraq, as well as Afghanistan, have burn pits. A report recently released by the Rand Corp. think tank concluded that the military has no standard operating procedure or training policy for making sure those pits are operated properly. The burn pit at Balad has consumed Styrofoam, unexploded ordnance, petroleum products, plastics, rubber, dining facility trash, paint and solvents, and medical waste, including amputated limbs.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/10/military_burnpit_102708w/

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *October 27, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Albany state police chief gives drill a “C.”** Albany State’s Police Chief and the SWAT Commander gave their units a “C” for performance in the drill. The mock shooting at the Albany State University Campus involved every law enforcement and first responder organization in Dougherty County, plus the two hospitals and health department. At a drill debriefing meeting Monday, the police chief complimented his officers and the other agencies on the way they worked together, but said there are areas on which they can improve.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=9246199>

Information Technology

32. *October 28, SC Magazine* – (International) **Yahoo’s HotJobs site vulnerable to cross-site scripting attack.** Internet research firm Netcraft’s toolbar has detected a cross-site scripting bug in Yahoo that could be exploited to steal authentication cookies. The flaw resides on Yahoo’s HotJobs search engine site, on which hackers embedded malicious JavaScript code, an employee of Netcraft said in a blog post on October 26. The pilfered credentials could enable the attackers access to the victims’ Yahoo accounts, including email. This vulnerability is similar to another bug that affected Yahoo earlier this year, he said. “Simply visiting the malign URLs on Yahoo.com can be enough for a victim to fall prey to the attacker, letting him steal the necessary session cookies to gain access to the victim’s email the victim does not even have to type in their username and password for the attacker to do this,” the Netcraft employee wrote. “Both attacks send the victim to a blank webpage, leaving them unlikely to realize that their own account has just been compromised.” He said websites must protect cookie values. Netcraft notified Yahoo about the flaw.

Source:

<http://www.scmagazineus.com/Yahoos-HotJobs-site-vulnerable-to-cross-site-scripting-attack/article/120008/>

33. *October 27, SC Magazine* – (International) **Malicious spam sees eight-fold jump in six months.** The incidence of malicious spam attachments has increased eight-fold during the past six months, according to the third-quarter spam report released today by IT security and control firm, Sophos. During July to September, one in every 416 email messages contained a malicious attachment, compared to one in every 3,333 emails in the previous quarter, the report states. Data for the report is generated through global spam traps email addresses not used for legitimate purposes that have been set up or bought from now-defunct companies, according to a senior security analyst at Sophos. Other report findings indicate that the United States tops the list of the dirty dozen or top twelve countries that are responsible for relaying spam across the globe. Compromised computers in the United States sent out 18.9 percent of all spam, followed by Russia (8.3 percent), Turkey (8.2 percent), China (5.4 percent), Brazil (4.5 percent), South Korea (3.8 percent), India (3.5 percent), Argentina (2.9 percent), Italy (2.8 percent) and the United Kingdom (2.7 percent), Columbia (2.5 percent) and Thailand (2.4 percent). Even though the United States consistently tops the dirty dozen list, its lead has narrowed compared to previous quarters, when the nation’s compromised computers sent out approximately half of all spam. Entering the dirty dozen this month are India, Columbia and Thailand. The report also states that social engineering exploits are on the rise and spammers have increasingly used social networking websites to spread malware a trend Sophos researchers expect to continue to rise

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Malicious-spam-sees-eight-fold-jump-in-six-months/article/119994/>

34. *October 27, Dark Reading* – (National) **Internet apps & social networking office boom linked to breaches.** According to a new survey, by FaceTime Communications Inc., organizations where more employees are using social networking at work now than six months ago have experienced more security incidents. Nearly 60 percent of all IT managers surveyed reported that their users social-network at the office. Of those organizations, the ones where the number of users using social networking increased compared to six months ago experienced an average of 39 security incidents a month, requiring 24 hours worth of remediation. Those with about the same or fewer users of social networking at work experienced around 22 or 23 such incidents a month, with about half the remediation time. The overall survey looked at the use of Internet-based applications like Facebook, LinkedIn, instant messaging, and voice-over-IP. The report surveyed over 500 employees and IT managers, over half of which work at organizations with over 1,000 employees. Among the most surprising finds in the report was that one third of the employees surveyed said they had the right to run these applications on their desktop, even if it was a violation of IT policy. Another red flag was when it came to data leaks at these organizations: four in 10 IT managers said they had experienced security incidents that were purposeful, while 27 percent had seen “unintentional release of corporate information” occur.

Source:

<http://darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=211600874>

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

35. *October 28, Daily Telegraph* – (National) **G1 ‘Google phone’ security flaw found.** A team of computer security experts have found a “serious flaw” in the operating system used on Google’s first ever mobile phone, the T-Mobile G1. The phone, which runs the Android operating system, an open source platform developed in part by Google, went on sale in the U.S. last Wednesday. According to one of the computer specialists who discovered the flaw, hackers could have used the security loophole to trick G1 users into visiting a rogue website, which would in turn secretly install keystroke-logging software onto the phone. That would enable hackers to remotely monitor and record what buttons the user pressed, and could have made it easy to steal identity information, such as logins and passwords, for banking or shopping websites.

Source:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/connected/main.jhtml?xml=/connected/2008/10/28/dlgoogl28.xml>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *October 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Los Padres fire expected to be contained Wednesday.** A fire that has been burning in the Los Padres National Forest for a month is expected to be contained this week. Fire officials say after burning more than 16,000 acres the “Chalk Fire” is expected to be contained Wednesday. After breaking out on Sept. 27, the blaze spread through a rugged area of the forest in south Monterey County that is blanketed by dry chaparral and pockets of timber. No structures were destroyed by the fire, but officials estimate the cost of battling the wildfire will be close to \$23 million.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10827224

37. *October 27, Verde Independent* – (California) **Forest plans 3 burns this week.**

Prescott National Forest fire officials plan to conduct three prescribed burns Monday, Oct. 27, through Sunday, Nov. 2, if weather conditions are favorable. On October 23 and 24, Prescott Forest fire officials successfully conducted three separate burns. Prescribed burns help remove dead vegetation, invigorate plant and animal communities, promote a healthy watershed and help return fire to its natural role in the ecosystem. The burns are part of an ongoing fuels reduction project to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Source:

<http://verdenews.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&subsectionID=1&articleID=28248>

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Dams Sector

38. *October 28, Natchez Democrat* – (Mississippi) **Dam ownership very unclear.** Of the ten dams in Adams County, four are in need of costly upgrades and the group charged with overseeing the dams has no money to fix them. On October 27, representatives from state and federal agencies, as well as members of the Adams County Board of Supervisors met to discuss the current state of the dams and what can be done to fix them. Of the 10 dams in the county, four are classified as high hazard dams. As part of an agreement with the federal government, it states where the levees were built had to have sponsors to oversee the dams’ maintenance once they were built. In Adams County, the Second Creek Commission was formed to look after the dams even though most of the dams are on private property. The commission was reassembled after the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality sent a letter to the county, and others, addressing the need for emergency action plans. Those plans outline what

should be done in the event of a dam breach at any of the four dams in question — the plans were supposed to have been completed in 2006. A civil engineer working with the dams said while the dams are in need of repair that does not mean they are on the verge of breaking.

Source: <http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/news/2008/oct/28/dam-ownership-very-unclear/>

39. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Montana) **2 arrested in theft of Humvee from Guard armory.** The Livingston Police Department has recovered a Humvee stolen from the Army National Guard Armory and two men have been charged in the theft. The same men have also been identified as suspects in a recent break-in at a municipal water reservoir. Police say preliminary tests indicate no presence of contaminants in the water. However, residents were being advised not to drink or use the water pending test results from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/10/ap_humvee_theft_102708/

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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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