



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 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/>

- According to United Press International, the U.S. Army has set up a task force to counter the theft of sensitive data by hackers breaking into the computer networks of military contractors. (See item [8](#))
- The Associated Press reports that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is ordering 11 public water systems in California to reduce levels of arsenic in their drinking water systems. (See item [26](#))

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](#)

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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, KSLA 12 Shreveport* – (Louisiana) **Gas line explosion rocks part of Caddo Parish.** An afternoon natural gas explosion in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, sent one man to the hospital Tuesday. The blast happened about 1:30 Tuesday afternoon in the 7000 block of Highway 3049. The Caddo sheriff said the explosion happened at the Dixie Interconnect, which is a gas transmission station. He says the injured man works for CenterPoint Energy. He was hurt when a high-pressure valve blew apart. He says some of the flying debris hit the employee. Caddo Fire Districts one and seven responded to the scene. The explosion is being investigated by CenterPoint Energy. Source: http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=9253231&nav=menu50_2_1

2. *October 28, Associated Press* – (New Jersey; New York; Pennsylvania) **Snowstorm in the U.S. Northeast has closed major highways and cut power.** The first big snowstorm of the season in the U.S. Northeast closed sections of major highways and blacked out more than 100,000 utility customers. PPL Corp. said about 39,000 of its customers in northeastern Pennsylvania lost power when the heavy, wet snow brought down trees and power lines. Utility companies in New Jersey said about 67,000 customers lost power, mostly in the northern part of the state, and New York State Electric & Gas said about 14,000 customers in southern New York counties were without electricity Tuesday evening.

Source: <http://www.metronews.ca/edmonton/world/article/132342>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 28, WTAJ 10 Altoona* – (Pennsylvania) **Tanker rollover causes complications.** Tuesday morning a DC Guelich Explosives truck crashed on Old Erie Pike in Lawrence Township, Pennsylvania. The truck was carrying a compound that can be explosive when mixed with diesel fuel under pressure. The diesel fuel from the tractor-trailer also spilled onto the road. While police say there was not an explosion precaution, they wanted to make sure that nothing could spark a fire, and certified HazMat crew was brought in. Police say the driver of the truck drifted onto the berm when his front right tire sunk into the soft, newly-paved black top. The driver was unable to correct the problem, and the truck flipped. No one was injured.

Source: <http://wearecentralpa.com/content/fulltext/?cid=38661>

4. *October 28, Huntington News* – (West Virginia) **TV station reports MIC incident at Bayer in September.** A Huntington television station has reported that “a very low level” release of MIC occurred at the Bayer Cropscience Plant at Institute in late September. According to the station’s report, a tank of the deadly chemical was opened by an employee causing a leak that plant officials said was “far below reporting levels.” The plant has been under scrutiny following an explosion at the Larvin unit in September that took the lives of two workers. Plant officials did not report the circumstances of the accident to Kanawha County authorities prompting them to err on the side of caution with shelter in places and closure of Interstate 64. The West Virginia plant has received numerous inspection and compliance violations, but not for the MIC unit. One of the concerns with the amount of the liquid stored comes from the close proximity of the plant to West Virginia State University.

Source: <http://www.huntingtonnews.net/state/081028-rutherford-statebayerplant.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *October 29, Daily News of Newburyport* – (New Hampshire) **Some say N-plant sirens too quiet.** There were no reports of spooked animals running downtown in the wake of the first region wide Seabrook Station siren test. In fact, many local residents are saying

the drill sirens were not even loud enough to hear from their homes. On Saturday, 121 sirens were activated to allow residents a chance to hear the sound. But many local residents said they could barely hear them, or did not hear them at all. Seabrook Station officials are deeming the drill a success, saying the goal of activating the sirens to raise awareness about how they will be used was achieved. At his home in Salisbury, a resident said he went onto the porch to listen for the sirens but heard nothing. About 15 years ago, the resident remembered reporting that a man had cut down one of the siren poles with a chain saw in protest of nuclear power plants. The resident informed the director of Emergency Management in Salisbury that the siren pole was not working. The director said that Seabrook officials are aware that the pole was never replaced. In light of any complaints voiced to local emergency management offices, the Seabrook Station spokesman said discussions about what worked will be ongoing until a final technical report is filed in the coming weeks.

Source: http://www.newburyportnews.com/punews/local_story_303001156.html

6. *October 28, Triangle Business Journal* – (National) **Standardized nuclear plant design eluding utility firms.** The nuclear plant design favored for new plants by Progress Energy, Duke Energy, and three other utilities is the subject of multiple design changes that energy industry watchdogs say undermine the concept of a pre-certified design and could delay the construction of new reactors while adding billions to the cost. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) certified the plant design of Westinghouse Electric Co.'s AP1000 at the end of 2005. A Westinghouse spokesman acknowledges that design changes have been made, but he says the changes are minor and represent less than 10 percent of the overall design. He says Westinghouse is responding to new NRC requirements, such as demonstration of safety in the event of an airplane crash. The utilities have not requested the changes under consideration. A scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists says utilities are requesting the design changes to suit individual sites. For example, he says TVA sought modifications for its Alabama plant's seismic design to fit the soil type of the site. The spokesman says that if each applicant seeks reactor modifications for its site, the result could be many more changes, each of them requiring regulatory review. He says design changes add time to the review process and likely would add cost to the plants. The outcome of the AP1000 review could affect how other utilities move forward with their plans for new nuclear generation.

Source:

<http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2008/10/27/story10.html?b=1225080000^1722565>

7. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **PPL ends alert at Susquehanna nuclear plant.** Utility company PPL Corp. said October 28 that oxygen levels have returned to normal at its Susquehanna nuclear plant in northeastern Pennsylvania and it took the facility off alert. PPL placed the plant on alert on October 27 after higher-than-acceptable levels of nitrogen were detected inside a pump room related to the facility's Unit 2 reactor. It said it ended the alert at 5:26 p.m. that same day when oxygen levels were returned to normal after workers shut off the flow of nitrogen being used to support maintenance work on water piping in the room. PPL said there were no injuries or

impact on the public, adding that the plant's two generating units are operating normally. The company said it will conduct a follow-up investigation of the incident. Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/27418923>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 27, United Press International* – (National) **Army defense task force targeting hackers.** The U.S. Army has set up a task force to counter the theft of sensitive data by hackers breaking into the computer networks of military contractors. The Defense Industrial Base Cyber-Security Task Force was quietly established earlier this year, in the face of what an Army document says are continuing large-scale thefts of “controlled unclassified information” from contractor systems. “Exfiltrations of unclassified data from [military contractor computer] systems have occurred and continue to occur, potentially undermining and even neutralizing the technological advantage and combat effectiveness of the future force,” the document says. At stake is sensitive data “used in the development of war-fighting systems during the acquisition life-cycle.” In military lingo, that means information about weapons programs being developed and produced by private-sector contractors. Source: <http://www.infosecnews.org/hypermail/0810/15489.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *October 29, Mondaq* – (National) **FDIC issues interim rule to implement the temporary liquidity guarantee program.** The FDIC approved an interim rule to govern the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (“TLGP”). The TLGP has two components: the Debt Guarantee Program, which guarantees newly issued senior unsecured debt of participating banking organizations issued between October 14, 2008 and June 30, 2009 (“Guaranteed Debt”); and the Transaction Account Guarantee Program which provides full deposit insurance coverage for non-interest bearing transaction accounts (“Guaranteed Accounts”), regardless of dollar amount. All eligible institutions are automatically enrolled in the TLGP for the first 30 days at no cost. All participating banking organizations must clearly identify, in writing and in a commercially reasonable manner, whether newly issued debt is guaranteed under the TLGP. Participating banking organizations must also post notices which indicate its participation, and if participating in the Transaction Account Guarantee Program, that all funds held in Guaranteed Accounts are insured in full by the FDIC. Source: <http://www.mondaq.com/article.asp?articleid=68772>
10. *October 29, Reuters* – (National) **GMAC seeks bank status for rescue funding.** GMAC, the auto finance and mortgage company, is seeking to become a bank holding company in order to access the government's \$700 billion financial rescue plan, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. As a bank holding company, GMAC could receive equity injections from Treasury Department and sharply reduce its borrowing

costs in part by gaining access to the Fed's discount window. A GMAC spokesman said earlier on Tuesday that GMAC LLC had been granted approval by the Fed to use a commercial paper funding facility created earlier by this month by the central bank. The newspaper said that while the mechanics of a bank registration would be complex for GMAC it might include a requirement that General Motor's (GM) stake in GMAC be no more than 24.9 percent. Cerberus owns 51 percent of GMAC. GM owns the remainder. Cerberus and General Motors Corp have been discussing a merger deal for Chrysler since September.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE49S1K520081029>

11. *October 28, SC Magazine* – (International) **Turkish hacker arrested by FBI made video giving tips for installing ATM skimmers.** A Turkish hacker was arrested as part of the FBI operation against underground forum DarkMarket produced his own training videos, researchers revealed this week at the RSA Europe conference in London. The RSA Consumer Solutions Head of New Technologies said the hacker was behind the manufacture of hundreds of ATM skimming devices made from readily available parts, including switches from IKEA, and sold online.
Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Turkish-hacker-arrested-by-FBI-made-video-giving-tips-for-installing-ATM-skimmers/article/120035/>

12. *October 28, CU Info Security* – (National) **GAO-Check 21 Act: Most consumers have accepted and banks are progressing toward full adoption of check truncation.** Check truncation, the process by which a check is converted into an electronic debit or image of the check, which serves as the official record of the check, has not yet resulted in overall gains in economic efficiency for the Federal Reserve or for a sample of banks while Federal Reserve and bank officials expect efficiencies in the future. GAO's analysis of the Federal Reserve's cost accounting data suggests that its costs for check clearing may have increased since Check 21, which may reflect that the Federal Reserve must still process paper checks while it invests in equipment and software for electronic processing and incurs costs associated with closing a number of check offices. Check imaging and the use of substitute checks appear to have had a neutral or minimal effect on bank fraud losses.
Source: http://www.cuinfosecurity.com/regulations.php?reg_id=920

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Transportation Sector

13. *October 29, KGW 8 Portland* – (Oregon) **Two dead in plane crash near Estacada Airport.** Two people died when a small plane crashed near an airport in Estacada on the evening of October 28. According to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, the small plane went down around 7:30 p.m., killing both the pilot and passenger on board. Rescue crews found the plane close to the airport runway. The pilot made several calls before the Cessna 206 went down. He called 911 and a friend and said he was having electrical problems and that none of his equipment was working. The pilot also called the airport and asked them to turn on the runway lights for a reference point. The airport owner complied and heard the plane circling but did not see any lights in the sky. Within

minutes, neighbors heard the plane crash. The Sheriff's Office said the plane was returning from somewhere in eastern Oregon. The Federal Aviation Administration had been alerted of the crash and expected to investigate the accident. The names of the victims had not been released yet.

Source: http://www.kgw.com/news-local/stories/kgw_102808_news_estacada_plane_crash.15b7b08b6.html

14. *October 29, Duluth News Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Dock owners get more time to make security changes.** The U.S. Coast Guard announced Tuesday that it will extend the deadline for Great Lakes dock owners to comply with new federal security standards spelled out as part of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program (TWIC). The program requires sailors and people working in secure waterfront areas of the port to obtain and be ready to produce an identification card that includes a photo and biometric fingerprint data. It also requires docks and other waterfront facilities to have in place systems that ensure that only properly credentialed workers be allowed in secure areas. The original deadline for compliance was October 31, but it has been pushed back to December 1 because of a power outage at a Transportation Security Administration facility that delayed the activation of TWIC cards.
Source: <http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/event/article/id/76956/>
15. *October 29, Jane's Transport Business News* – (International) **SITC chief calls for 'less predictable' security at airports.** Airport security needs to be less predictable and less reliant on technology if it is to defeat terrorism, according to a former head of the Police International Counter Terrorism Unit. The official, now the chief executive officer of the Security Innovation Technology Consortium, said that current security arrangements at airports are "too predictable and transparent." He believes that airports need to make use of innovative technology but should not rely on it as a panacea on which to base their security activities.
Source: http://www.janes.com/news/transport/business/jar/jar081029_1_n.shtml
16. *October 28, Congress Daily* – (National) **NTSB calls out aviation agency on medical helicopter safety.** The National Transportation Safety Board on Tuesday ruled "unacceptable" the Federal Aviation Administration's progress on installing terrain awareness warning systems in emergency medical helicopters. The vote came during the board's meeting on updating the "Most Wanted" transportation safety improvements. The board unanimously decided to add EMS aviation issues to the most wanted list.
Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41283&dcn=todaysnews

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *October 29, Hawk* – (Pennsylvania) **Anthrax scare on campus.** On October 23, a faculty member in Bellarmine Hall found a suspicious white powder in a piece of mail. He immediately reported the incident to Campus Security and Saint Joseph's University's Environmental Safety Office, and the area was secured. Bellarmine was evacuated and Philadelphia police and fire personnel, as well as a hazardous materials

unit, investigated the scene. The building was reopened after it was discovered that nothing harmful was present. Security was present near the scene for the remainder of the day, and also provided extra supervision on October 24, according to the assistant director of Public Safety Operations.

Source:

<http://media.www.sjuhawnews.com/media/storage/paper763/news/2008/10/29/News/Anthrax.Scare.On.Campus-3510649.shtml>

18. *October 28, News-Gazette* – (Illinois) **Workers investigate white powder in Rantoul postal box.** Emergency workers are investigating a white powder found in a blue U.S. Post Office drop box in Rantoul. The Champaign Fire Department hazardous materials team and Rantoul police and fire departments are investigating. They cordoned off a two-block area near the postal box. A postal worker was picking up the mail from the box, and when the mail shifted, a white powder emerged, said the Rantoul Fire Department captain. He said emergency workers do not yet know what the powder is, but they are treating it as hazardous while they investigate.
Source: http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2008/10/28/workers_investigate_white_powder_in_rantoul_postal_box
19. *October 28, WCAV 19 Charlottesville* – (Virginia) **UVA investigates suspicious letter.** The Environmental Sciences Building at the University of Virginia has been evacuated because of a Hazardous Materials scare. According to a university spokesperson, a suspicious letter arrived in the mailing department. The letter was suspicious because of the writing on the envelope. The letter has not been opened. It is not known where the letter came from or to whom it was addressed. Police, fire, and HAZMAT crews were called to the scene, and the building was evacuated. State police are en route to x-ray the letter and figure out what is inside. There have been no reports of injuries.
Source: <http://www.charlottesvilleneplex.tv/news/headlines/33455709.html>
20. *October 28, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Observer receives suspicious package.** Police and law enforcement officials were called late in the morning of October 28 to the Charlotte Observer building, after a suspicious package was received in the mail. Authorities said the package was not hazardous. A Charlotte Fire Department official says it is the second time this week that a suspicious package has been mailed to uptown area businesses. The Charlotte fire captain said the fire department's Hazmat team responded to a call from the Observer about a suspicious package. Among the contents of the package was a powdery substance. The matter has been turned over to Charlotte-Mecklenburg police and federal officials.
Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/breaking/story/284053.html>
21. *October 28, KVOA 4 Tucson* – (Arizona) **Douglas High School, ER temporarily closed by white powder.** Officials in Douglas temporarily shut down an emergency room at Southeast Arizona Medical Center, and Douglas High School today because of yet another white powder letter scare. On October 27th, police say an administrative assistant at Douglas High School opened a letter addressed to her. A white powdery

substance was inside. That person went to the medical center, while the powder was sent to a lab in Phoenix for testing, which determined the powder to be benign. The hospital ER has re-opened.

Source: http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=9249139&nav=menu216_2

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *October 28, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **UN calls for China to report on melamine in livestock feed.** A UN agency called Tuesday for China to immediately disclose if an industrial chemical found in dairy products had been used in livestock feed and contaminated the wider food chain. The recent discovery of melamine in mainland chicken eggs sold in Hong Kong has triggered worries that the chemical was present in a wide range of foods such as farm-raised meats and fish, a UN official said. The program officer with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization said that feed producers could have laced their products with melamine to falsely boost protein content, similar to the methods of milk producers in a scandal that has tarnished China's dairy industry. The dairy scandal has expanded worldwide with governments around the world recalling or banning Chinese products with milk content. The findings that eggs produced in northeast China were found to be tainted with melamine led Hong Kong to expand its testing of food imported from China to pork, farmed fish and offal products. A food safety official in Dalian city, near where the tainted Hong Kong eggs were produced, said Monday melamine had been detected in eggs last month.

Source: <http://www.asiaone.com/Health/News/Story/A1Story20081028-96688.html>

23. *October 28, Southwest Farm Press* – (National) **Voluntary food safety regulation may prevent unwanted control.** Segments of the U.S. produce industry are initiating self-regulating policies they hope will prevent government regulations they do not want. Participation in the agreement is voluntary but the organization does have teeth. "Membership requires corrective action on any non-compliance," the CEO of California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement said. Participation requires documentation, including a list of growers and production plans. A new program instituted by Sysco Foods includes good agricultural practices (GAP) and third party audits, especially for "at risk" crops such as lettuce, spinach, berries and cucurbits. A database allows for monitoring and documentation of compliance and a list of approved suppliers. Traceability is a key to improving food safety.

Source: <http://southwestfarmpress.com/news/food-safety-1028/>

24. *October 28, Brown Field Network* – (California) **Explosion rocks California Dairies powder plant.** Investigators in California are trying to figure out what caused powdered milk to explode at California Dairies' new plant in Visalia. The plant opened in January with a capacity of 5 million pounds of milk per day. Reports say seven fire engines responded to the explosion on the fourth floor which blew a hole in the side of the eight-story evaporation tower on Monday. Fire officials speculate friction from the powder as it moved through the tower sparked the explosion. No one was injured. The portion of the wall that blew out was designed to do just that in the event of an explosion.

Source: <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=455DD24D-5056-B82A-D00E126A9A36463D>

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Water Sector

25. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma; Texas) **Texas district wins round in Okla. water lawsuit.** A Texas water district has won a court decision in its lawsuit over Oklahoma’s ban on out-of-state water sales. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on October 27 denied a request by Oklahoma to throw out the lawsuit filed by the Tarrant Regional Water District in Fort Worth. The judges also wrote that Oklahoma does not own the water located in the state. The lawsuit claims Oklahoma’s ban on selling water to out-of-state interests is unconstitutional. The Tarrant Regional Water District said the court decision is the most important legal victory yet in its fight to get water it says would otherwise flow into the Gulf of Mexico. The lawsuit is part of a larger simmering battle between the two states over Oklahoma water. Oklahoma has an abundance of water flowing from the Kiamichi River and two smaller rivers in southeastern Oklahoma. North Texas wants to build an extensive pipeline to capture Oklahoma’s water before it mixes with salty water in the Red River.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6082388.html>

26. *October 28, Associated Press* – (California) **EPA orders Calif water systems to reduce arsenic.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is ordering 11 public water systems in California to reduce levels of arsenic in their drinking water systems. The EPA is requiring the water systems to develop and meet a schedule to comply with the federal government’s arsenic standard. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral found in groundwater that is known to increase the risk of cancer as well as heart disease, diabetes and neurological damage. EPA officials say the water systems will face penalties of up to \$32,500 per day if they fail to take steps to reduce arsenic levels.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10837346

27. *October 28, East Valley Tribune* – (Arizona) **State: Utility violating rules on sewage sludge.** Johnson Utilities has been burying potentially dangerous sewage sludge near one of its wastewater treatment plants in violation of state rules, according to environmental regulators. Officials with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) showed up at a Johnson Utilities sewage plant in late September on an unannounced inspection that was launched after an anonymous complaint, according to DEQ records. They found sewage sludge that would fill half a backyard swimming pool. About 34,713 gallons of the sludge was dumped in various trenches that also held construction debris. The DEQ last week issued two violation notices and listed 15 separate infractions. The infractions included failure to ensure that the sludge did not contaminate underground water supplies and failure to test the sludge – also called biosolids – for contaminants. The utility spilled raw sewage in May in a portion of Queen Creek Wash, polluting it for several months before it was disinfected.
Source: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/129140>

28. *October 28, Chesterton Tribune* – (Indiana) **Driver hits NIPSCO pole; surge fries sewage treatment plant.** When a motorist, at approximately 12:11 a.m. on October 26, struck a NIPSCO pole, he not only interrupted electric service to the Chesterton wastewater treatment plant, he caused a power surge which zapped into oblivion the whole of the plant's automated computer system. Since the early morning of October 26, operators have been working the plant by hand after the computer system known as SCADA — tasked with running the facility automatically — was fried and failed. A NIPSCO crew subsequently got those emergency generators running and then restored electric service to the plant as a whole. Until systems can be restored, though, operators will continue to “walk the plant around the clock” to keep it in operation.

Source:

http://www.chestertontribune.com/Town%20of%20Chesterton/driver_hits_nipSCO_pole_surge_fr.htm

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *October 28, New York Times* – (Texas) **Bio lab in Galveston raises concerns.** Much of the University of Texas medical school on the Galveston barrier island suffered flood damage during Hurricane Ike, except for one gleaming new building, a national biological defense laboratory that will soon house some of the most deadly diseases in the world. The Galveston National Laboratory opens on November 11. How a laboratory where scientists plan to study viruses like Ebola and Marburg ended up on a barrier island where hurricanes regularly wreak havoc puzzles some environmentalists and community leaders. Officials at the laboratory and at the National Institutes of Health, which along with the university is helping to pay for the \$174 million building, say it can withstand any storm. Built atop concrete pylons driven 120 feet into the ground, the seven-floor laboratory was designed to stand up to 140-mile-an-hour winds. Its backup generators and high-security laboratories are 30 feet above sea level.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/29/us/29lab.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *October 27, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Evacuation lifted after powder found to be talcum.** A federal office building in the Denver, Colorado, area was briefly evacuated after a white substance was discovered on the floor, but firefighters say it was only talcum powder. A West Metro Fire Protection District spokeswoman says the evacuation was lifted shortly before 1 p.m. October 27th. The powder was reported about an hour earlier. She says it was found on the floor, not in a letter or package. The building is in the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, a west Denver suburb.

Source: [http://www.examiner.com/a-](http://www.examiner.com/a-1658502~Evacuation_lifted_after_powder_found_to_be_talcum.html)

[1658502~Evacuation_lifted_after_powder_found_to_be_talcum.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1658502~Evacuation_lifted_after_powder_found_to_be_talcum.html)

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *October 29, Helena Independent Record* – (Montana) **Seamless and secure.** The Lewis and Clark County sheriff conducted a test Tuesday of the Interoperability Montana radio system, which now links his department to Hill County. He communicated with the sheriff of Hill County in Havre, about 200 miles away, using a 6 watt hand-held radio. The call to Havre marked the first for the northern tier of the state. In 2005, Lewis and Clark County was the first county in the state to embark on the state-of-the-art emergency radio communication network. The system allows law enforcement and other agencies responding to emergencies to securely and seamlessly communicate, meaning that radios will now automatically switch to the closest transmission repeater without interruption. Before the \$150 million in improvements, hand-held radios would work on a repeater for about 15 to 20 miles. Officers would have to memorize all the repeater codes and switch accordingly. Now, the radios work more like cell phones and remain on the same channel with the user unaware of any changes.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2008/10/29/top/top/50lo_081029_radio.txt

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Information Technology

32. *October 29, CIO-Today* – (International) **Virus infections via USB drives increasing sharply.** Antivirus software maker Trend Micro Inc. has found that reported computer virus infections via USB flash memory drives more than doubled in September, Jiji Press learned. Infections in the month with the Otorun worm, which propagates via removal drives such as USB drives, surged 140 percent from the previous month to 347 cases, Trend Micro said in a monthly survey report. The company's monthly reports showed that viruses transmitted via USB drives began to rapidly increase in February, with the number of Otorun infections in January-June reaching 517, the most popular to far exceed 201 cases of the Agent, Trend Micro said. The company said that 53.7 percent of viruses newly found in September were capable of sneaking into computers via USB drives. Such viruses are becoming a great threat because most people are not aware of them, the security software firm warned.

Source: http://www.cio-today.com/news/Virus-Infections-via-USB-Increasing/story.xhtml?story_id=13100BOFQ847

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

33. *October 28, Sacramento Business Journal* – (National) **FDIC warns banks of threatening letters.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. today issued an alert to banks, credit unions, and brokerages regarding threatening letters. The alert reads: “The FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and state and local authorities are investigating more than 30 threatening letters that have been received by financial institutions in California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington, D.C. Most of these letters contain a powder substance with a threatening communication. At this point, field and laboratory tests on the powder have been negative. Financial institutions that receive one of these letters at any location should contact their local FBI office and ask for the WMD Coordinator.” The bank regulator is asking all its banks to notify their FDIC regional office if they receive a threatening letter.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/10>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *October 29, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Forest fire contained.** Investigators are trying to determine the origin of a wildfire about seven miles northwest of Hill City. The blaze was reported on the afternoon of October 28 and quickly corralled. It was burning in the Black Hills National Forest within a few hundred yards of the nearest homes. U.S. Forest Service and state fire engines were dispatched to the blaze, along with volunteer firefighters and the Sierra Hotshots, a Forest Service firefighting crew based in Sierra National Park in California. The 20-member hand crew from California was in the Black Hills to assist with prescribed burns elsewhere. A prescribed burn was planned for Wednesday afternoon at Wind Cave National Park.

Source: <http://www.keloland.com/News/NewsDetail6371.cfm?Id=0,75647>

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Dams Sector

35. *October 29, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Officials move quickly to build flood barrier.** Officials are moving quickly to build a major flood barrier on the eastern side of New Orleans to keep hurricane surge out of the Industrial Canal, a weak point in the city’s levee system. In the past two weeks, state and federal officials have announced steps to speed up the work. The huge floodgate and barrier is expected to cost about \$700 million. It is one of the largest public works projects in U.S. history. The corps

wants the barrier built by 2011 and an interim barrier in place by the peak of next year's hurricane season.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/news-43/1225272557208350.xml&storylist=louisiana>

36. *October 29, Union-Tribune* – (California) **Rubber dam a concrete remedy?** The daunting challenge of finding more drinking water for the region while protecting the environment could rest on the air-filled back of an unusual device being considered in North County. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is proposing an inflatable dam for the rugged Santa Margarita River, an approach already used in other parts of the country to divert water without resorting to traditional concrete structures. The giant, industrial-rubber bladder, technically called a weir, would direct flows toward a lake and an aquifer at Camp Pendleton, building up enough “new” water to serve the equivalent of at least 11,000 families and reducing demand on other drought-stressed waterways. The proposed inflatable dam would divert water so it could recharge Camp Pendleton's aquifer, replacing a metal weir that is clogged with sediment. It would be roughly 7½ feet tall and deflate during floods, allowing the waterway to replenish the coast with sand and letting fish pass through.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20081029-9999-1m29dam.html>

37. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Erosion could cause western Pa. river dam to fail.** A dam on the Allegheny River is so eroded it could fail if it is hit by a barge or a large ice load, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it will seek bids to repair the damage. Inspectors found more erosion than they anticipated on a recent dive at the Allegheny River Lock and Dam No. 6 near Freeport, a concrete structure about 30 miles upriver from Pittsburgh. For now, there is no immediate threat to public safety and the lock is operational, said a Corps spokesman. Should the dam fail a nine-foot-deep pool above it that allows commercial and recreational traffic to navigate would dry up, as would some wetlands and the source of drinking water for some communities. In July, the Corps outlined its infrastructure problems in the region, saying the 100-year-old lock and dam at Elizabeth, south of Pittsburgh, and those at Emsworth northwest of the city are “critically near failure.” Several others are not much better, the Corps said.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/10/28/ap5616474.html>

38. *October 28, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Work begins on floodwall to protect Montz area.** A month after Hurricane Ike pushed tide-driven water onto Evangeline Road in Montz, the Pontchartrain Levee District has begun work to build a temporary floodwall along the roadway. The \$790,000 project will lay sheet piling with closeable gates across the Prescott Canal and channel the drainage from two other canals into Prescott Canal. The Pontchartrain Levee District president said the structure will be in place for several years until the West Shore Levee is completed. That project, a federally funded hurricane protection levee, will run from the upper guide levee at the Bonnet Carre Spillway at Montz through St. John the Baptist Parish and into St. James Parish and protect communities from Lake Pontchartrain.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/10/work_begins_on_floodwall_to_pr.html

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