



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 November 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 the Associated Press, a former executive of an Iowa kosher slaughterhouse was arrested Friday on a bank fraud charge related to the depositing of checks from customers and the alleged diversion of money. The slaughterhouse owes St. Louis-based First Bank at least \$33 million. (See item [11](#))
- KIMA 29 Yakima reports that an airport in Pasco, Washington, has been on Orange Alert all weekend. (See item [15](#))

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. *November 17, Bloomberg* – (International) **Somali pirates hijack Saudi Arabian-owned oil tanker.** Somali pirates hijacked an oil tanker owned by Saudi Arabian Oil Co. in an attack off the east African coast, the U.S. Navy’s Fifth Fleet said. Oil prices pared losses on the news, and Odfjell SE said its vessels will now sail around Africa, rather than risk attacks near the Suez Canal and Gulf of Aden. The tanker, Sirius Star, operated by Vela International, was carrying crude oil and was hijacked when a group of pirates managed to scale the 32-foot high side of the ship, a U.S. Navy lieutenant said. The International Maritime Bureau said the incident took place 450 miles southeast of Mogadishu, Somalia. “We have heard reports that the ship has been freed and we are checking into it,” the lieutenant said. Piracy in the Gulf of Aden has more

than doubled in 2008. The attacks may force shipping away from the Gulf of Aden to take the longer route to Europe and North America round South Africa's Cape of Good Hope. The extra weeks of sailing and fuel consumption could have a major impact on oil and commodity prices, said research organization Chatham House. About 11 percent of the world's seaborne petroleum passes through the Gulf of Aden. The seizure is the first of a very large crude carrier on record, said an analyst at shipbroker Simpson, Spence & Young Ltd. Failure to increase the protection of its fleet would likely "compromise" Saudi Aramco's ability to sell oil to customers in the United States and Europe, he said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aLlc4IJL141M&refer=energyFirefoxHTML\Shell\Open\Command>

2. *November 17, Bloomberg* – (International) **Chevron shuts Nigerian oil output on pipeline breach.** Chevron Corp., the second-largest U.S. oil company, halted onshore production facilities in Nigeria's Delta state after a pipeline was breached last week. "Onshore production was shut in to protect the environment and will be restored as soon as an assessment on the damage is completed, repairs effected and pipeline re-commissioned," a company spokesman said in an e-mailed statement. The pipeline was ruptured on November 14, according to the statement. The country's crude industry has suffered this year from militant attacks and oil theft, which have at times allowed competing African producer Angola to overtake Nigerian output. Separately, Royal Dutch Shell Plc. said it had extinguished a fire at one of its Nigerian pipelines. The blaze, at Amukpe in Delta state, struck a major pipe that carries crude oil to the Forcados export terminal.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=ayqzO8Fqe4Eo&refer=energy>

3. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Utilities plan future without Vermont Yankee.** Vermont's two largest electric utilities are preparing for the future without Vermont Yankee if the nuclear power plant fails to get approval to extend its operating license or to reach a contract agreement with the companies. Central Vermont Public Service Corp. (CVPS) and Green Mountain Power (GMP) announced Friday that they are seeking bids for energy sources other than Vermont Yankee, a move they described as prudent. CVPS, GMP, and Vermont Electric Cooperative are considering new sources of about 100 megawatts of energy. The three utilities, which have contracts with Hydro-Quebec and Vermont Yankee, whose operating license expires in 2012, said they are looking through the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada for these new sources.

Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20081116/NEWS02/81116003>

4. *November 15, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **City shuts power lines in fire zone; blackouts reported in Valley.** City officials were urging Los Angeles residents to conserve power Saturday after they took the rare step of deactivating some transmission lines in the Sylmar fire zone out of fear that winds could blow them down

and cause more blazes. The Department of Water and Power (DWP) said transmission lines along the Interstate 5 corridor north of Sylmar were taken out of service Saturday morning. These lines are considered a major source of imported power to Los Angeles from power plants outside California. “These high-voltage power lines are critical to maintaining a steady supply of power to the city, especially as demand for energy rises throughout the day,” the DWP said in a statement. “If they remain out and are unable to return to normal service as demand increases, the LADWP may need to initiate rotating power outages in parts of the city.” Several blackouts were reported in the San Fernando Valley, with entire neighborhoods losing power and traffic jammed because traffic signals were off.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2008/11/city-shuts-powe.html>

See also:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1547042920081115>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *November 17, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA revises pesticide container and containment regs.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently published a final rule amending the pesticide container and containment regulations, which provide for the safe storage and disposal of pesticides as a means of protecting human health and the environment pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Pesticide formulators, agrichemical dealers, independent commercial applicators, and custom blenders may be affected by this rule. Specifically, the final rule: Extends the labeling compliance date from Aug. 17, 2009, to Aug. 17, 2010; Changes the phrase “sold or distributed” to “released for shipment” as associated with all of the compliance dates; Provides certain exceptions to label language requirements; Allows for waivers of certain label requirements; Amends 40 CFR 152 by establishing a definition for “released for shipment;” and makes various minor editorial changes.
Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/69226/>

6. *November 17, Reliable Plant Newswires* – (West Virginia) **Kidde-Fenwal settles EPA chemical case for 2 plants.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that Kidde-Fenwal Inc. has settled alleged violations of federal toxic chemical reporting at two plants located in Ranson, West Virginia. EPA cited the company for violating the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), which requires companies that manufacture, use or process more than a threshold amount of listed toxic chemicals to file an annual “toxic chemical release form” with EPA and the state. Companies must also report both routine and accidental releases of toxic chemicals, as well as the maximum amount of any listed chemicals at the facility and the amount contained in wastes transferred off-site. In a consent agreement with EPA, the company has agreed to pay a \$24,923 civil penalty for failing to file required annual reports for lead and copper for the year 2006 for its facilities located at 215 North Mildred Street, and 351 West 2nd Avenue, in Ranson, W. Va. The settlement penalty reflects the

company's cooperation with EPA's investigation of these alleged violations and its prompt compliance efforts.

Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=14390&pagetitle=Kidde-Fenwal+settles+EPA+chemical+case+for+2+plants>

7. *November 17, Bayer MaterialScience* – (Texas) **Bayer MaterialScience lifts force majeure in the United States for most products.** Bayer MaterialScience has lifted force majeure for most of the products manufactured at its facility in Baytown, Texas. There are no longer any restrictions on the company's ability to supply diphenylmethane diisocyanate (MDI) and isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI) in drums. The company had already lifted force majeure at the beginning of October for Makrolon polycarbonate and polycarbonate blends, and for toluene diisocyanate (TDI) and some inorganic basic chemicals. Force majeure was also lifted on November 1 for polyether polyol (PET) products manufactured in North America, and some isocyanate products, but remains in effect for liquid polyester coatings raw materials. Force majeure had been declared for these and other products in September 2008, after hurricanes Ike and Gustav had inflicted extensive damage in the Houston, Texas, region, which also affected some suppliers' facilities in Texas and Louisiana.

Source:

<http://www.specialchem4coatings.com/news-trends/displaynews.aspx?id=10329>

8. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Settlement reached in chemical plant explosion.** A settlement has been reached in a chemical plant explosion that critically burned two Wisconsin workers. The chemical company Cortec Corporation has agreed to pay a \$250,000 fine for the explosion. The fine is for failing to have a safety management system to handle flammable liquid propellants at its aerosol and liquid container filling plant. The blast was caused by odorless propellant vapor that escaped, and it is believed it was ignited by an electrical forklift.

Source: <http://www.wisn.com/news/17987767/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

9. *November 17, Associated Press* – (New York) **Upstate nuclear plant back up after pump problem.** A nuclear reactor on Lake Ontario near Oswego is back on line Monday after repairs on a water re-circulation pump. Constellation Energy, owner of the Nine Mile Point nuclear plant in Scriba, New York shut down its Unit 2 reactor in a planned and controlled shut down Thursday. The reactor was started up Sunday night and was at 80 percent power Monday morning. A utility spokeswoman says an upper pressure seal on a large pump degraded and needed to be replaced.

Source: http://www.rnntv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9362553&nav=menu566_2

10. *November 17, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Critics: Proposed nuke plant all wet; save H2O for public.** Critics hope that, without water, plans for Utah's first nuclear power plant will evaporate. Citizens opposed to the plant recently filed formal protests with the State Engineer's Office aimed at stopping the Kane County Water Conservancy

District from preserving its right to 29,600 acre-feet of water already under lease by the reactor's developers. Utah law puts the public's needs first, giving communities extra flexibility to ensure any future needs of their residents. "We don't see that [nuclear reactor] as a legitimate public use that benefits Utah," said a spokesman for the Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, one of the organizations trying to derail the plant. "I believe the protests do not have any merit," said the water district's administrator, noting that such challenges are common with water rights. The State Engineer's Office must determine whether the groups filing the protests have the legal standing for their objections. If so, the agency could set a hearing to discuss the arguments, said a deputy state engineer.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/News/ci_11003800

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Former CEO of Iowa kosher slaughterhouse arrested.** A former executive of a kosher slaughterhouse that was the site of one of the nation's largest immigration raids was arrested Friday on a bank fraud charge and ordered jailed until at least next week. The man was arrested at his home in Postville, Iowa, and driven to Cedar Rapids for his appearance in U.S. District Court. The arrest Friday was related to the depositing of checks from customers and the alleged diversion of money. Court records said that under a loan agreement with St. Louis-based First Bank, the man was supposed to deposit customer payments into an account at Decorah Bank & Trust as collateral on a loan. Records show that he instead diverted millions of dollars in customer payments into an Agriprocessors account at a different bank. The payments would then not be posted on the customers' Agriprocessors accounts until later. That resulted in the inflation of the value of accounts receivable in Agriprocessors' books, allowing the company to borrow additional funds from the bank without proper collateral. He also is accused of telling an Agriprocessors employee to erase evidence of the scheme from company computers. Two weeks ago, Agriprocessors filed for bankruptcy protection as it faced allegations of making inaccurate and misleading statements to First Bank. The slaughterhouse owes First Bank at least \$33 million.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i0NolsCsG4FIMxidnIGYywL3ms-gD94EVD9O4>

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Transportation Sector

12. *November 17, Globe Investor* – (International) **Potash strike leaves slippery side effect.** Airport delays for travelers this winter could be even more frustrating because of the strange ripple effect of a strike by Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan miners. A three-month strike by 500 Potash workers has created a massive shortage of potassium acetate, the key ingredient used to make runway deicer fluid that prevents planes from skidding off the runway when temperatures drop below freezing. The labor dispute, which was settled last week, disrupted production at three mines and has choked the supply of potassium to runway deicer producers such as Cryotech Deicing Technology, the largest supplier to North American airports. “The supply is gone. It’s not just low, it is zero,” the Cryotech president said in an interview. The Fort Madison, Iowa, company has only been able to manufacture two million gallons for this winter, down from last year’s nine million. The situation is so dire that the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration sent a letter to airport authorities and industry representatives last month warning of the potential effects and urging the development of contingency plans. The Potash strike sent Cryotech and its competitors scrambling to develop alternative deicer fluids to meet customer demand. Cryotech began shipping a corn-based product earlier this month. It believes it will have enough to supply existing customers but may not have enough to take on new orders. The corn-based deicer and other alternatives may take longer to apply, which could cause airport delays. Even with the strike settled, it will take at least two months for potassium supplies to reach deicer makers, which will likely be too late to meet this winter’s demand.

Source:

<http://www.globeinvestor.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081117.wrmelt17/GIStory/>

13. *November 17, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas game warden killed in helicopter crash.** A helicopter crashed in central Arkansas on Sunday, killing a state conservation officer who was patrolling for violators of a ban on deer hunting at night. A Sgt. was in the Game and Fish helicopter when the Vietnam-era craft went down in a field northeast of Quitman about 1 a.m. The contract pilot was taken to a hospital. His injuries were not considered life-threatening. The two men were the only ones aboard the helicopter.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/17/AR2008111700224.html)

[dyn/content/article/2008/11/17/AR2008111700224.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/17/AR2008111700224.html)

14. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Plane slides down Philly runway minus front wheels.** A US Airways Express airliner slid down a runway Sunday during an emergency landing without its nose landing gear. No injuries were reported. Before the scheduled landing at Philadelphia, the crew got an indication that the landing gear was not down and did a flyover to confirm that the nose wheels had not deployed, according to an airport spokeswoman. Fire crews spread foam on the runway and the plane skidded down the runway on its nose, but there was no smoke or fire. Passengers were taken to the terminal by bus. US Airways, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating, according to officials. The airport had to be closed for about 25 minutes, and reported

some flights delayed more than two hours around midday while the plane remained on one of the four runways.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/16/AR2008111600984.html>

15. *November 16, KIMA 29 Yakima* – (Washington) **Pasco airport on “Orange Alert.”** The airport has been on orange alert all weekend, one step below the highest warning, the red alert. According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website, the national threat level was yellow Sunday. TSA officials would not comment on why they stepped up the level. Passengers told KIMA 29 News it took them longer to get through airport security over the weekend. The “vehicle inspections in progress” signs were posted at the airport, but KIMA 29 news staffers did not see anyone checking cars. TSA officials did not return calls.
Source: <http://www.kimatv.com/news/34557394.html>
16. *November 15, WTOP 103.5 Washington, D.C.* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious package causes Franconia metro station to close.** A suspicious package caused metro officials to shut down the Franconia Springfield Metro Station Saturday. A Metro spokeswoman says the report about the package came in around 11:30 Saturday morning and police shut down the station as a precaution while they investigated. Shuttle bus service continued while the package was inspected, and the station is now open.
Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=600&sid=1518596>
17. *November 14, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Hot toilet pump prompts jet’s emergency landing.** An airport official says a Virgin Atlantic jet carrying nearly 350 people has made an emergency landing after crew members felt heat coming from the plane’s floor. It turned out to be coming from an overheated toilet pump, not a fire. Officials said the 331 passengers and 18 crew members on the Miami-to-London flight were taken to hotels early Friday morning. Officials say that no one was injured, and that the plane landed without incident.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/14/AR2008111400297.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *November 17, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. Food and Drug Administration to open China offices in effort to protect safety of exports.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will open three offices in China this week in an unprecedented effort to

improve the safety of exports headed to America amid recurring product safety scares. The new FDA offices, which are the first outside of the United States, will increase effectiveness in protecting for American and Chinese consumers, according to the office of U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary. The first office will open in Beijing on Wednesday, followed by one in Guangzhou and another in Shanghai. The U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary has said that 13 employees will be assigned to work in the FDA offices in China but has not said what their role will be. He plans to make opening facilities in India and Central America his next priority.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/business/nationworld/ats-ap-as-china-us-tainted-productsnov17,0,2363108.story>

19. *November 17, Wilkes Barre Times-Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Food service inspections may not be equal.** With thousands of municipalities in Pennsylvania, and tens of thousands of places, from Legion halls to gourmet restaurants, preparing and serving food, inspecting each one seems like a daunting task. In the interest of the public's health and wellness, the job gets done at least once each year, but not always to the same standard. In many municipalities throughout Pennsylvania, it's the state's duty to handle inspections. In others, a county health department handles the task. Still other inspections fall under the umbrella of a municipal health department. What inspectors find can be disconcerting. But at least when the state or certain municipalities are doing the job, diners can learn about violations on the Internet at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Web site. Two local departments – Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre – are among about two dozen in the state that have begun contributing results to the state inspection database. Larksville, Nanticoke and Hanover Township will continue to do their own inspections and have not committed to posting those reports on the state's Web site. Others, including Avoca, Pittston Township and Pittston, have handed over inspection duties to the state this year. Officials in some other county municipalities said they might follow suit. Dupont, Plymouth, Sugar Notch and West Pittston all will look into having the state assume inspection duties, while Kingston has already determined it will hand over responsibilities to the state starting January 1.

Source:

http://www.timesleader.com/news/Food_service_inspections_may_not_be_equal_11-16-2008.html

20. *November 15, Wausau Daily Herald* – (Wisconsin) **Wonderfarm brand biscuits might be tainted.** The Marathon County Health Department is warning local residents not to consume a brand of cookies that could contain the industrial chemical melamine. Environmental Health and Safety Director said inspectors found three packages of the Wonderfarm brand "Successful" biscuits, or cookies, at a local store on Thursday. The owner of the Schofield Oriental Market said Health Department officials were conducting an inspection at the store when they found the biscuits on the shelves. Local residents should return the biscuits to the store where they were purchased for a refund. There have been no reports of anyone becoming ill from the biscuits.

Source:

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20081115/WDH0101/811150623/1981>

Water Sector

21. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Warning issued after northeast Iowa sewage leak.** State environmental officials are warning Iowans about entering the Maquoketa River in Delaware County in northeastern Iowa because of a sewage leak. Officials say anyone entering the river between Dundee and Manchester should avoid ingesting the water and wash hands with anti-bacterial soap after contact with it. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources says the sewage leak comes from a main pipeline in the city of Dundee’s sewage system. The damage, which was discovered last week by deer hunters, could have occurred last spring or summer during flooding. Officials say repairs could take a week or more.
Source:
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-sewageleakwarning,0,4909727.story>
22. *November 15, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **100,000+ gallons of sewage spill in Vista.** An above-ground pipe spewed at least 100,000 gallons of raw sewage Saturday in Vista, authorities said. The sewage spilled near the on-ramp of state Route 78 at Mar Vista Drive at about 10 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol. “The age of the line seems to be the cause of the spill,” a California Highway Patrol sergeant said. There was no word on when the spill would be cleaned up.
Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/17988984/detail.html>
23. *November 15, Putnam County Sentinel* – (Ohio) **Continental gets sewer loan.** A \$218,825 interest-free loan from Ohio EPA will help the village of Continental in Putnam County pay for design work for improvements to its wastewater collection and treatment system. The loan comes from Ohio EPA’s Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. The design will include a new 200,000-gallon-per-day controlled discharge lagoon adjacent to the existing treatment plant, replacement of an existing pump station and a force main extension to the new lagoon. Improvements are needed because the village’s current wastewater treatment plant is old and undersized, which leads to frequent violations of its discharge limits. As part of a settlement with Ohio EPA, the village also has to eliminate excessive infiltration and inflow, which allow storm water drainage to overwhelm the treatment plant’s capacity. Combined with improvements at the wastewater plant, the village should be able to virtually eliminate discharge violations and bypasses. The new wastewater treatment plant also will discharge to a different stream, South Powell Creek, instead of Continental Ditch. This will eliminate gross pollution problems in the ditch. The effluent standards for the new plant will protect water quality in South Powell Creek.
Source:
<http://putnamsentinel.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=4298&TM=42297.52>
24. *November 14, Maui News* – (Hawaii) **Sewage spill closes Cove Park.** A blockage at a South Maui wastewater pump station Thursday morning led to an overflow of about 1,200 gallons of untreated sewage from a manhole cover fronting Cove Park in Kihei, Maui County officials said. The wastewater entered a storm drain and reached the

ocean, although the spill was stopped shortly after it happened at 10 a.m., the county reported. The pump station blockage occurred at the same time a gravity sewer line rehabilitation project was ongoing, said the chief of the Wastewater Reclamation Division. The project involved a bypass with a temporary, above-ground wastewater transmission line installed along South Kihei Road, and that system was unable to handle the sudden surge of wastewater caused by the pump station blockage. Signs warning people to stay out of the ocean were posted at Cove Park and at the south end of Kalama Park. Water samples are being taken for testing, and the warning signs will be removed when the state Department of Health determines the water is safe.

Source: <http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/511105.html?nav=10>

25. *November 14, KPBS 89.5 San Diego* – (California) **Cleaning up pollution on Mexican border.** An Arizona company will upgrade a sewage treatment plant that collects and treats 25 million gallons of Tijuana’s sewage. Environmental leaders say it is a significant step toward reducing pollution along a stretch of San Diego County’s coastline. The U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission awarded the \$88 million contract to a Tempe construction company. The upgraded treatment plant will clean the sewage to meet federal clean water standards before it is pumped into the ocean.

Source: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/local?id=13240>

26. *November 14, Water Technology Online* – (Montana) **MT plant to cost millions more than estimated.** The City Commission underestimated by more than \$10 million the cost of a new wastewater treatment plant and the amount of money the city would have available to pay for it, according to an Associated Press report published November 7. The new wastewater treatment plant, which would triple the city’s capacity to handle wastewater, still is in the planning stages with a projected completion in 2011. The plant now is estimated to cost \$51 million; in 2007, projected costs for the project were \$38 million. The City Commission proposed to pay for the plant through user fees, impact fees and loans. To help meet the increased project costs, commissioners are considering scaling back the plant and increasing residents’ sewer rates, the AP reported.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=70959

27. *November 14, American Water Works Association* – (National) **AWWA: 2008 State of the Industry Report.** The report, now in its fifth year, represents an annual checkup for the water industry, with more than 1,800 leaders assessing the overall health of the industry and identifying key challenges. For the first time, source water supply and protection was the most frequently mentioned area of concern for both the short and long term. The full report was published in the October issue of Journal AWWA. “The State of the Industry Report provides direct insights into how water professionals feel about issues today and in the future,” said the AWWA executive director. Other top issues identified in the report include: Infrastructure: Described as “aging” by most respondents, but also “crumbling” or “failing” by others, the state of underground water infrastructure continues to concern water utilities; regulatory issues: many water professionals express concern about complying with new, complex regulations;

business factors: financing infrastructure repair and improvements, source water development, regulatory requirements, security, and a host of other factors continues to be a challenge throughout the industry. The report, which provides U.S. and Canadian breakouts, also includes a measure of overall industry soundness, or the respondents' assessment of the industry's overall health. In 2008, U.S. respondents rated the current soundness of the industry slightly higher than in 2007. Among survey respondents, 68 percent were water utility professionals, 24 percent represented industry manufacturers or service providers, and the remaining respondents came from academia, science, and regulatory bodies.

Source:

http://www.waterandwastewater.com/www_services/news_center/publish/article_001557.shtml

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *November 17, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Investigation: MRSA lurks in Washington hospitals.** Over the past decade, the number of Washington hospital patients infected with a MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) has skyrocketed from 141 a year to 4,723. These numbers do not appear in public documents. Washington regulators don't track the germ or its victims, and Washington hospitals do not have to reveal infection rates. The Seattle Times analyzed millions of computerized hospital records, death certificates and other documents to track the swath of one of the nation's most widespread, and preventable, epidemics. In its investigation — the first comprehensive accounting of MRSA cases in Washington hospitals — the Times gained access to state files that revealed 672 previously undisclosed deaths attributable to the infection. MRSA, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, is spread by touch or contact. It can slip into breaks in the skin as tiny as a mosquito bite. Six out of seven people infected with MRSA contract it at a health-care facility. While federal veterans' hospitals screen all patients for MRSA, which has reduced their cases to near zero, no community hospital in Washington screens every patient for the pathogen.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/latestheadlines/story/672019.html>

29. *November 17, Arizona Daily Star* – (Arizona; National) **Climate change could increase diseases here.** Scientists at a University Medical Center conference warned Saturday that climate change in Southern Arizona could trigger an increase in asthma, bronchitis, West Nile virus, allergies, dengue fever, valley fever, heat-related deaths and malaria. These and other diseases could increase or arrive as the climate warms, dries and displays more extreme hot and cold spells and fiercer storms due to emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. While the gathering of over 80 scientists touched on the general effects of climate change and specific diseases, they acknowledge a lack of hard research documenting or predicting climate-change-disease links.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/267543>

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Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *November 16, National Ledger* – (North Carolina; National) **Homeland Security and Justice Departments providing more info to local officers.** Wake County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday became the first of four law enforcement agencies in North Carolina to receive new database link that will automatically check the criminal and immigration history of all individuals booked into the jail, according to a report submitted to the National Association of Chiefs of Police. This new process provides local officers as much information available about individuals they arrest and help to more efficiently identify criminal aliens for potential removal. The Departments of Homeland Security and Justice have made enhancements to their respective biometric systems — the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) and the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) — to improve the interoperability of the two systems and enable this new information sharing process. IDENT and IAFIS interoperability is the cornerstone of Secure Communities, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE's) comprehensive plan to identify and remove criminal aliens from local communities. In collaboration with DOJ and other DHS components, ICE plans to expand this capability to more than 50 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation by next spring.

Source: http://www.nationalledger.com/artman/publish/article_272623792.shtml

31. *November 16, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Peoria police warn cell phone users about 911 risk.** The location of cell phone users with Internet-based service can sometimes be difficult to track when they call 911 during an emergency, Peoria police dispatchers told a local news station. Cell phones rely on towers, a police spokesman said. A caller could be calling from Peoria, for example, but their call could be routed to Glendale dispatchers because of the cell phone tower's availability. Sometimes dispatchers will know the general area where the caller is located, but they will not know the exact address unless the caller tells the dispatcher. Dispatchers also have no way of locating Internet-based cell phone customers who fail to update their information when they move.

Source:

http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/story.aspx?content_id=f575c33c-300a-4124-9b21-e960d2b65e9d

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Information Technology

32. *November 15, PC World* – (International) **PDF malware hits Acrobat Reader flaw.** PC Tools is reporting an increase in PDF-based malware, some of which can evade antivirus software. According to a PC Tools blog posting, the security vendor’s user community is seeing a slew of rigged PDF files attacking various buffer overflow vulnerabilities in the Adobe Acrobat Reader software. The PDF malware attacks target the newest publicly known Adobe Acrobat Reader vulnerability. Adobe issued a patch last week. On some occasions users are duped into downloading malicious files that appear to be Microsoft software updates. More often, users appear to be downloading silent malicious installers. Two of the downloaded, packed files behave in a way that evades antivirus file scanning. The PC Tools blog posting says: “A chunk of the standard download and execute shellcode that we are currently seeing pulls a file from hxxp://ascoprguide.net/lel/load.php?xpl=pdf, renames it as `c:\\U.exe`, and runs it on the victim’s system. This “U.exe” then runs and installs other adware and spyware related components.”
Source:
http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/153955/pdf_malware_hits_acrobat_reader_flaw.html
33. *November 14, PC World* – (International) **Wireless networking hacked! Should you worry?** The latest 802.11 wireless hack was announced in a paper entitled “Practical Attacks Against WEP and WPA.” The current attack, which recovers what is known as the keystream and not the “secret key,” results in the attacker being able to send seven (some sources say 15, but the paper’s authors say seven) unauthorized, one-way network packets to the client every 12-15 minutes; it can also decrypt a single Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) packet. Because they only have one way communication, what an attacker could do is very limited. Essentially the malicious attacker would also have to have previous knowledge of unpatched, vulnerable software running on the victim, or access to a previously unknown zero-day exploit that would work on software running on the victim, either of which must be able to be accomplished using seven one-way Universal Datagram Protocol (UDP) packets. Most big, important attacks were the result of smaller, incremental discoveries made along the way. Even this attack builds upon the successful techniques of others. Microsoft’s senior security consultant based in the U.K said, “The thing is, just like with WEP, the first attacks took too long and required too much data. Now you can get a WEP key in under a minute. One has to ask how long it will be before subsequent attacks allow discovery of more keystream to reveal actual data for eavesdropping.”
Source:
http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/153903/wireless_networking_hacked_should_you_worry.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *November 17, USA Today* – (California) **SoCal community prepares for wildfire's aftermath.** Fires that began on Thursday have destroyed more than 800 houses, mobile homes, and apartments in Los Angeles County, Riverside, and Orange counties to the east and Santa Barbara County to the north. Firefighters continued to make gains early Monday as ferocious Santa Ana winds finally abated. Forecasters said wind speeds would drop to 15 to 20 mph Monday, making conditions far less dangerous than the 70-mph gusts Saturday that blew flames into a firestorm. In Orange and Riverside counties, the fires chewed through nearly 24,000 acres and were pushing toward Diamond Bar in Los Angeles county, home to 57,000 people. A major aerial attack on Sunday raised containment to 19 percent. Meanwhile, a 15 square-mile fire that hit hard in the Sylmar area of northern Los Angeles on Saturday had moved into the Placerita Canyon area of the rugged San Gabriel Mountains and was burning vigorously, but well outside the city. It was 40 percent contained. The Santa Barbara-area fire that swept through tony Montecito has burned 3 square miles and was 80 percent contained. Still, forecasters said dangerous fire conditions will continue at least through Monday. The California Governor said 26,500 people remained under evacuation orders for that fire alone. More than 735 firefighters were using bulldozers and manpower to cut away swaths of dried brush and trees ahead of the flames. These “fire breaks” are intended to starve the fire of fuel and prevent it from spreading. Planes and helicopters were dropping fire retardant, which includes park lands covered with brush interspersed with housing tracts. The Firestone Scout Reservation, a large camping area that Los Angeles-area Scouts used for decades, was overrun by the fire.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/wildfires/2008-11-16-southern-california-wildfires_N.htm

35. *November 15, WJLA 8 Washington, D.C.* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious package closes part of Constitution Ave. for hours.** A suspicious package shut down Constitution Ave. between 12th and 14th Streets in NW for several hours Saturday. The package was found in the ballroom at Melon Auditorium where a black tie affair for special dignitaries is to take place Saturday evening, according to sources at the scene. Hazmat crews and the FBI were on the scene. No information pertaining to the contents of the package has been released at this time.

Source: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/1108/570255.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Drilling platforms near national parks?**

The view of Delicate Arch natural bridge — an unspoiled landmark so iconic it’s on Utah’s license plates — could one day include a drilling platform under a proposal that environmentalists call a “fire sale” for the oil and gas industry. Late on Election Day, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced a Dec. 19 auction of more than 50,000 acres of oil and gas parcels alongside or within view of Arches National Park and two other redrock national parks in Utah. An examination of the parcels, superimposing low-resolution government graphics onto Google Earth maps, shows that in one case drilling parcels bordering Arches National Park are just 1.3 miles from Delicate Arch. “If you’re standing at Delicate Arch, like thousands of people do every year, and you’re looking through the arch, you could see drill pads on the hillside behind it,” said a spokesman for the environmental group Wildland CPR. In all, the BLM is moving to open 359,000 more acres in Utah to drilling. Other Utah leases that are certain to draw objections from conservation groups include high cliffs along whitewater sections of Desolation Canyon, which is little changed since explorer John Wesley Powell remarked in 1896 on “a region of wildest desolation” while boating down the Green River to the Grand Canyon. Others extend to plateaus populated by big game atop Nine Mile Canyon, site of thousands of ancient rock art panels, Moab’s famous Slick Rock Trail, and a campground popular with thousands of mountain bikers.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27753981/>

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Dams Sector

37. *November 17, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Water lowered during dam repairs in western Pa.** The Army Corps of Engineers is lowering the water levels in two sections of the Allegheny River northeast of Pittsburgh so workers can repair a badly eroded dam. The repairs are needed at Allegheny River Lock and Dam No. 6 near Freeport, about 30 miles upriver from Pittsburgh. The dam exists to keep the river’s pool at least nine feet deep so barges can navigate. The water in the pools immediately above and below the dam are being lowered by a foot. The dam is not used for flood control so there is no public danger if it fails. The dam work is expected to continue through the end of next month. Safety zones are in force to keep boats safely away from the dam in the meantime.

Source: http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_11004380

38. *November 16, Manteca Bulletin* – (California) **Funding allows move toward levee improvements.** Reclamation District 17, which protects a segment of Manteca, all of Lathrop, and all of Weston Ranch is moving forward with a project to address seepage issues and to work toward improving the levee to withstand a 200-year event. The seepage project alone will cost \$100 million. The district will be able to bond \$30 million toward that amount based on the assessment. Funding from state or federal

sources are being sought to help bridge the difference. The steps toward upgrades came after the Federal Emergency Management Agency made it clear if nothing was done they would impose mandatory flood insurance on property owners in southeast Manteca who have mortgages backed by the federal government if levees controlled by Reclamation District 17 that protects part of Manteca as well as all of Lathrop and Weston Ranch are not upgraded to increase the level of protection. The 1997 rural Manteca floods and the close call in April 2006 reflect how various conditions can create flood safety concerns in the Manteca-Lathrop area.

Source:

<http://www.mantecabulletin.com/main.asp?SectionID=28&SubSectionID=58&ArticleID=60280&TM=18438.11>

39. *November 14, Sierra Sun* – (California) **Researchers find two earthquake faults while studying safety of Martis Creek Dam.** The Army Corps of Engineers, as part of a study into the safety of Martis Creek Dam, dug two trenches in Waddle Ranch this fall. What they found, two earthquake faults, lends credence to the dam's ranking of one of the six riskiest in the nation. The dubious ranking, derived by the Corps, came because water is seeping under the dam through a loose glacial till, which in a worst-case scenario could result in failure and flooding in Reno. "We found a fault in each trench," said a representative with the Dam Safety Assurance Program of the Corps. "They are two separate faults, but probably related, and they do trend towards the dam." He said in a previous interview it could be four years, in a best-case scenario, before the Corps can come to a decision, on repairing, rebuilding, or removing the dam. More trenches will be dug both up and down stream from the dam to further map the faults, and an aerial map will be made of the surrounding landscape.

Source:

<http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20081114/NEWS/811149997/1066&ParentProfile=1051&title=Our%20faults%20>

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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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