



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 November 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- According to Reuters, Entergy Corp. reduced the Grand Gulf nuclear power station in Mississippi on November 17 due to a fire in a protected area, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. (See item [4](#))
- The Associated Press reports that the Homeland Security Secretary announced new rules for screening passengers and crew members on private aircraft bound for America. The goal is to keep terrorists from using a private plane to smuggle a dirty bomb or nuclear weapon into the United States and detonate the weapon over a major city. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 17, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Nigerian gunmen seize oil vessel, hold crew hostage: military.** Gunmen captured an oil firm vessel and its crew in a weekend raid off the shores of Nigeria’s volatile southern Niger Delta region, an army spokesman announced Monday. “Militants suspected to be from Tompolo’s camp seized one MV Thou Galaxy vessel on the Gbaramatu waterway along Escravos (River),” the military spokesman in the region said. Government “Tompolo” Ekpemupolo is a powerful militant leader in Delta state notorious for extorting money from vessels on the Escravos River and for stealing oil on a large scale. Several people had been on board at the time of the raid but their nationalities were not immediately

available. “It happened yesterday (Sunday) around 10:25 in the morning. The ship was on its way from Singapore to Warri seaport conveying equipment meant for a Chevron project,” the army spokesman said. Negotiations were underway between the vessel’s owners and relevant government agencies to secure the release of the vessel and its crew.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20081117/wl_africa_afp/nigeriaoilunrestkidnap;_ylt=AtyK8VnAHCH.LWweQ_ByX6a96Q8F

2. *November 17, WBZ 4 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Route 195 reopens after tanker crash.** A fuel spill on Interstate 195 East in Swansea, Massachusetts, affected the Monday morning commute. Two lanes are open on the eastbound side near Route 6 as crews continue to clean up from a tanker truck rollover Sunday. Officials say about 8,500 gallons of gasoline spilled. Police shut down both sides of the highway. The truck driver is recovering from minor injuries. No one else was involved. The truck belonged to KDK Enterprises, and the tanker belonged to Cape Cod Gasoline.
Source: <http://wbztv.com/local/swansea.truck.rollover.2.865903.html>

3. *November 17, Reuters* – (Texas) **BP restarting Texas City ultraformer.** BP is restarting its No. 3 ultraformer at its refinery in Texas City, Texas, after it was shut down due to Hurricane Rita in 2005, a filing with the state environmental agency showed on Monday. The start-up process began on Monday and will last until December 3. “This is the last unit to be brought up after the major refurbishment that the refinery underwent after the passing of Hurricane Rita,” said a source familiar with refinery operations. BP’s chief financial officer said last month its 467,000 barrel per day refinery in Texas City would be back at “full economic contribution” by the end of the year, with the return to service of Ultraformer No. 3. The refinery, which also shut down ahead of Hurricane Ike this year, already had restarted the second residual hydrotreater.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1728248920081117>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *November 18, Reuters* – (Mississippi) **Entergy Miss. Grand Gulf reactor reduced due to fire.** Entergy Corp. reduced the Grand Gulf nuclear power station in Mississippi on November 17 due to a fire in a protected area, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in a report. A spokeswoman for the plant said teams were investigating the incident to determine the source of the oil and make any necessary repairs. She said the fire caused only minor damage and did not pose any

danger to public or workers. The fire was under one of the reactor feedwater pumps involving oil that had accumulated under the pump. Operators tripped the pump, which reduced the reactor from full power to 48 percent. They were able to increase the plant output to about 65 percent where it was holding early Tuesday, the spokeswoman noted. Because the fire lasted more than 15 minutes in a protected area, the company declared an unusual event to the NRC.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN18168920081118>

5. *November 18, Reuters* – (South Carolina) **Progress SC Robinson 2 reactor starts to exit outage.** Progress Energy Inc.'s nuclear Unit 2 at the Robinson power station in South Carolina started to exit an outage and ramped up to 2 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The company shut the unit from 78 percent on November 17 due to high turbine vibration. Earlier Monday, it was operating at full power.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1863620081118>

6. *November 18, Seacoastonline.com* – (Massachusetts; New Hampshire) **2 sirens in nuke plant drill didn't sound.** Two of the Seabrook nuclear power plant's 121 sirens did not sound in the first-ever audible demonstration of the emergency alert system on October 25. The two sirens were near the west side of Seabrook and in South Hampton, New Hampshire, according to an FPL Energy Seabrook Station spokesman. "The reason they didn't sound was due to radio interference," he said. There was radio communications interference with the electronics of the siren, he said. The sirens were functional and sounded electronically, but not audibly. "We did do a full analysis," he said. "It could have (been) somebody close to a siren, it could have been an emergency dispatch communication. But the signals were being received at the sirens. We were able to send command, they did not sound." The October 25 demonstration was the first time it audibly sounded all 121 sirens in 17 towns in New Hampshire and six in Massachusetts in the Emergency Planning Zone. The sirens sounded for 3 to 5 minutes at 12:30 p.m. After the demonstration, some members of the public said the sirens were not loud enough. There is no way to turn up the volume, he said. The system is designed per rigid federal requirements, including decibel levels. The demonstration was successful in meeting its objective, he said.

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20081118-NEWS-811180324>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *November 18, Reuters* – (National) **China denies attempting to get U.S. space data.** China on Tuesday denied it had illicitly sought technical data for space launch vehicles from the United States, after a physicist from Virginia pleaded guilty to illegally exporting the information to China. The U.S. Justice Department said on Monday that

the man, a China native who is a naturalized U.S. citizen, entered the guilty plea in federal court in Norfolk, Virginia. He admitted that from 2003 through October of 2007 he violated the U.S. arms export control law by providing China with assistance in the design and development of a cryogenic fuelling system for space launch vehicles. He admitted that in 2003 he violated the same law by exporting to China military technical data from a document about designing and making a liquid hydrogen tank and various pumps, valves, filters, and instruments. Sentencing for the man was set for April 6. He faces up to 10 years in prison on each of the export violations and up to five years for violating the foreign corrupt practices law, department officials said.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKTRE4AH2L320081118>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *November 17, CNNMoney.com* – (National) **Treasury: \$33.6 billion to 21 banks.** The Treasury Department said Monday that it has dispersed \$33.56 billion to 21 banks in a second round of payments as part of the \$700 billion bailout program designed to boost the nation's banking system. The new distribution brings the total to \$158.56 billion so far. The government previously distributed \$125 billion to nine banks in the form of stock purchase programs. In this second round, Minneapolis, Minnesota-based U.S. Bancorp received the largest amount of \$6.6 billion. Atlanta-based SunTrust Banks received \$3.5 billion, as did Birmingham, Alabama-based Regions Financial Corp. Capital One Financial Corp. based in McLean, Virginia. received \$3.56 billion. The smallest amount of \$9 million went to Los Angeles-based Broadway Financial Corp. Source: http://money.cnn.com/2008/11/17/news/companies/tarp_banks/index.htm

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Transportation Sector

9. *November 18, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Two killed in plane crash in Smithfield.** Two men died when a small plane crashed on its way to North Central State Airport about 5 p.m. yesterday, exploding in a ball of fire in woods off Clark Road, about a half-mile from the airport. An aeronautics inspector for the Rhode Island Airport Corporation said they were both from Rhode Island and experienced pilots. They took off from T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, where the red-and-white single-engine Piper was based. "All indications are that the plane had left Green airport to do a practice approach on Central, but lost power, for whatever reason," he said. Source: http://www.projo.com/news/content/plane_crash_11-18-08_IOCAMNE_v11.3b9b248.html
10. *November 18, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Propeller kills flight school student in Merced.** A student who was learning to fly with Sierra Flight School at Castle Air Force Base was killed about 6 p.m. Saturday when he ran into the spinning propeller of his Cessna 150 airplane. The whirring propeller struck him in the head. He was dead at the scene. The Merced County Sheriff's Department said the man, who was not

identified, was a Chinese national. He flew only with a second student, which violated Federal Aviation Administration regulations requiring an adult flight instructor to accompany a student, the Sheriff's Department said. The two students' names were not made public while authorities sought to contact the Chinese Consulate and, through it, their parents.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1020375.html>

11. *November 17, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Man taken off plane after domestic violence threat.** An Alaska Airlines flight bound for Ketchikan and Juneau returned to Seattle Monday and a passenger was arrested for investigation of domestic violence. A Port of Seattle spokesman said nearby passengers on Flight 69 reported “threats being made” Monday night in a dispute between a male and female traveling with an infant. The flight turned around about 30 minutes after it left Seattle. Port of Seattle police arrested the man for investigation of domestic violence. He says the woman and presumably the child also left the plane, which then refueled and resumed its trip. Cooper said port police were booking the man late Monday night. The man was not immediately identified.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/388291_flightarrest18.html

12. *November 17, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S.-bound private planes to face tighter security.** Closing what he called the last major vulnerability for bringing a weapon of mass destruction into the United States, the Homeland Security Secretary announced new rules for screening passengers and crew members on private aircraft bound for America. Starting in about a month, at least one hour before takeoff, general aviation pilots will have to submit the names and other information about every person on board a flight to the United States. The goal is to keep terrorists from using a private plane to smuggle a dirty bomb or nuclear weapon into the United States and detonate the weapon over a major city. Requiring that information be sent one hour before takeoff gives officials more time to screen passengers and crew against intelligence databases that list suspected terrorists. Private aircraft have not undergone the intense screening given to U.S.-bound cargo and commercial flights, leaving general aviation flights vulnerable, the Secretary said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The rule takes effect 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41436&dcn=todaysnews

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *November 17, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Hazmat scare restricts parts of Kaiser Hospital.** Kaiser Hospital's emergency room in Allied Gardens and an administrative building on Murphy Canyon Road had limited access the afternoon of November 17 after more than two dozen people were exposed to an unknown white powder, authorities said. The powdery substance is believed to have come from an envelope sent to the hospital's administrative building. A woman in the mail room opened the envelope about noon and got some of the powder on her arm, said a San Diego Fire-Rescue Department spokesman. She washed off the powder in a bathroom,

but said she felt a burning sensation afterward. The woman came into contact with five co-workers in the building and the group decided to go to the hospital to be checked. They drove in separate cars and entered through the emergency room and an occupational services entrance. A total of 26 people, including the woman, her co-workers, the drivers in the group and hospital patients, employees, and visitors were exposed, he said. Hazardous material crews went to the hospital and the administrative building about 12:30 p.m. to investigate a substance. The first floor of the administrative building, where the mail room is, was cleared. Hazardous materials crews said they could not find the envelope, which had been tossed in the trash. They took air samples, which did not show any hazardous materials existed.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20081117-1706-bn17hazmat.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

14. *November 17, Reuters* – (International) **Canada confirms its 15th BSE case in dairy cow.** Canada confirmed its 15th case of mad cow disease since 2003 on Monday and identified the animal as a 7-year-old dairy cow born well after Ottawa banned feed practices thought to spread the disease. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) said no part of the animal's carcass entered the human food or animal feed supply. The cow was discovered on a farm in the Pacific province of British Columbia. "The age and location of the infected animal are consistent with previous cases detected in Canada," said the CFIA, which has blamed infected feed for most of the earlier cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. Canada has been deemed a "controlled risk" country for mad cow disease by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) because of its surveillance and control measures. The CFIA said the new case should not affect that classification. The initial case of BSE in 2003 caused havoc in the beef industry after major buyers, including the United States, banned Canadian beef and cattle. In August, Mexico imposed a two-month ban on live cattle imports from Canada after the CFIA revealed the 14th case of mad cow disease.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081117/wl_canada_nm/canada_us_madcow_2

15. *November 17, WaterandWastewater.com* – (National) **Manure: EPA finalizes CAFO rule.** EPA has finalized a rule helping to protect the nation's water quality by requiring concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to safely manage manure. This is the first time the EPA has required a nutrient management plan (NMP) for manure to be submitted as part of a CAFO's Clean Water Act permit application. Previous rules required a CAFO operator to use an NMP for controlling manure, but the regulation builds on that by requiring the NMP to be submitted with the permit application. The plan will be reviewed by the permitting authority and conditions based on it will be incorporated as enforceable terms of the permit. The proposed NMP and permit will be available for public review and comment before going final. EPA worked closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the development of the rule and will work closely with states during implementation. The rule deadline for newly defined facilities to apply for permits is February 27, 2009.

Source:

http://www.waterandwastewater.com/www_services/news_center/publish/article_001561.shtml

16. *November 17, Daily Green* – (National) **‘Microwave safe’ plastics leach suspect chemical.** In the latest revelation about the chemical industry and its lax federal watchdogs, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel has found that plastic containers marked “microwave safe” are anything but. These containers, marketed to parents as being safe for infants, release “toxic doses” of Bisphenol-A when heated, the paper found. The investigation also found Bisphenol-A in additional products — not just hard, clear plastics and the lining of cans. BPA “is present in frozen food trays, microwaveable soup containers and plastic baby food packaging” — and not only in plastics marked No. 7, but in Nos. 1, 2 and 5 as well, according to the report. The report reminds us that “microwave safe” — like so many packaging claims — is pure marketing. The phrase is not regulated by the government, and its use is not subject to any independently verifiable guidelines.

Source: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/bisphenol-a-microwave-safe-47111702>

See also: <http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/34532034.html>

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Water Sector

17. *November 18, Journal News* – (West Virginia) **Water not meeting standards.** The Charles Town Water Department distributed a notice November 17 reporting that test results showed the city’s water system failed to meet federal standards. The public notice is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Water is routinely monitored for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The test results for July 1 to Sept. 30 show that Charles Town’s water system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level for haloacetic acids. The acids are a byproduct of water chlorination. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of developing cancer. In an effort to remedy the situation, the Charles Town Utility Board has initiated the process of converting its residual disinfectant to another chemical, chloramine, as recommended by the city’s consulting engineer.

Source: <http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/512504.html?nav=5006>

18. *November 17, Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **Raw sewage spills into Labish Ditch.** Warning signs have been posted at Labish Ditch, where about 500 gallons of raw sewage spilled the evening of November 15. The raw sewage was overflowing from a pipeline blocked by grease and construction debris. Salem Public Works employees were dispatched that night, removing the debris immediately, the department said the afternoon of November 16. High levels of bacteria that entered the site should be flushed out of the water within the next few days and the warning signs taken down.

Source: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20081117/NEWS/811170337/1001>

19. *November 16, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Water failure sparks call for reforms.**

Despite state regulations designed to ensure that small public and private utilities continue to provide water and sewer service to customers — even in the event of power outages — hundreds failed to do so, a Houston Chronicle analysis found. Up to 20 percent of the water systems that serve a combined 7 million people in the region hit by Hurricane Ike in mid-September were out of service for periods of time. Among the 85 percent that had generators, as state rules require, about 25 percent failed to function or ran out of gas. Even nine days after the storm, nearly 250,000 people lacked running water. For about 625,000 others, the state could not determine whether they had it or not. Although weeks-long power outages after the hurricane drew much of the public’s attention and ire, many elected officials and emergency management professionals are beginning to focus on the water and sewage breakdown as the most serious failure laid bare in the wake of such an enormous natural disaster. On November 17, Harris County commissioners are scheduled to vote on a proposal to pay \$1 million to an engineering firm that will develop a database and mapping project of public and private utility districts in unincorporated areas of the county “to aid in responding to disaster situations” and to prepare for post-Ike restoration projects.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6116360.html>

20. *November 16, Gazette Online* – (Iowa) **Dundee sewage leaking into Maquoketa.**

Damage from summer flooding may have caused a leak in Dundee’s sewage system into the Maquoketa River, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said. The leak in a main sewage pipeline crossing could take a week or more to repair, and downstream river users should take precautions when entering the Maquoketa between Dundee and Manchester. The DNR urges local officials to check both drinking water and sewer main river crossings for flood damage.

Source:

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081116/NEWS/711169923/1006>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *November 17, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. hospital probes power failure in wildfire.** Authorities are investigating why an emergency generator failed at the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center campus early Saturday after a wildfire had burned through power lines to the facility. The facility, which housed 200 patients at the time, was left without power for several hours “All of our systems failed,” a hospital spokeswoman said Monday. “Staff stepped up and did a miraculous job. There was no compromise to our patients.” During the 3 1/2-hour outage, nurses tried to calm scared patients, security guards patrolled the pitch-black halls with flashlights, and emergency room staffers used hand-cranked ventilators to keep critical patients breathing. About two dozen patients on ventilators, including 10 newborns, were transferred by ambulance to neighboring hospitals. The hospital did not suffer damage and did not evacuate.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11006575

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Government Facilities Sector

22. *November 17, WISH 8 West Lafayette* – (Indiana) **Bomb squad checking package at Purdue.** A suspicious package on Purdue’s campus has led to the evacuation of 150 people from the Purdue Armory located at 3rd Street and North University Street in West Lafayette. A Purdue groundskeeper discovered the box at 8:45 a.m. outside the Armory. He said it was an ammunitions box on top of a plastic tool box. A Police Department Captain said a bomb squad is currently investigating the package. Emergency crews have set up a command center near the Armory.

Source:

http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/region_3/news_wlfi_wlaf_bomb_squad_checking_package_at_purdue_200811171025

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *November 18, WRNO 99.5 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Jefferson firefighters sue parish over posting of SS numbers.** The Jefferson Parish Firefighters Association has filed suit against the parish over the posting of the social security numbers of some firefighters on a website. An attorney for the association says that the parish has exposed 190 firefighters to a serious threat of identify theft and that he wants the parish to provide credit theft insurance and credit monitoring for those whose numbers were posted. The numbers appeared for several hours on the website “jpfirefacts.com.” It is not clear how the social security numbers ended up on the website, but the firefighters allege it was no accident. The firefighters and the parish are involved in a dispute over proposed pay changes.

Source: [http://995fm.com/cc-](http://995fm.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=135361&article=4599435)

[common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=135361&article=4599435](http://995fm.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=135361&article=4599435)

24. *November 17, WDEF 12 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Ringgold Catoosa volunteer firefighters call it quits.** Around 25 Ringgold Catoosa County Volunteer firefighters turned in their gear Monday night rather than join the newly organized Catoosa County Fire Department. The County Manager describes the county’s request as simply the first step in unifying the county’s fire departments, a contentious effort that has been going on for a year and a half. With around 25 fewer volunteers, the firefighters charge some citizens won’t get the response time they expect. Eighteen of the 45 volunteer firefighters decided to join the Catoosa county fire department.

Source:

http://wdef.com/news/ringgold_catoosa_volunteer_firefighters_call_it_quits/11/2008

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Information Technology

25. *November 18, Techworld* – (International) **Srizbi botnet flounders after McColo shutdown.** Large numbers of infected computers have been searching in vain for the Srizbi botnet disrupted by the disconnection of ISP McColo a week ago, a security vendor has found. According to FireEye Security, the company has detected a total of 450,000 compromised IP addresses have been trying to connect to Sribzi-controlled command and control computers that would have been hosted by McColo until it disappeared. The company identifies Srizbi by monitoring computers that attempt to connect to IP addresses 75.127.68.122 or 64.22.92.154 from November 12 onwards, and recommends that administrators check firewall logs to trace http traffic opening ports to these locations. FireEye explains its traffic-analysis system in more detail on its website, and has also published a list of tools for cleaning up PCs affected by Srizbi.

Source:

<http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?newsid=107278&pagtype=all>

26. *November 17, Dark Reading* – (International) **Phishing attacks reach record highs.** Phishing attacks have hit new records for volume and frequency during the past two months, a Cyveillance researcher said today. In the first quarter of 2008, Cyveillance typically saw a daily average number of phishing attacks in the low-400 range, the company said. In the past month, however, that average has increased to more than 1,750, with record peaks as high as 13,209 in a single day. During the first half of this year, the quantities and frequency of the attacks have steadily increased, averaging 400 to 500 per day, with spikes occasionally reaching nearly 1,000 per day, Cyveillance said. While the summer of 2008 brought an overall slowdown in attacks, there has been a significant increase in attack volumes and frequency of spikes since September. Cyveillance analysts and outside observers attribute the increased volumes to many influences, most notably the worldwide financial crisis and the relentless efforts by phishers to elude detection. The Anti-Phishing Working Group reported earlier this month that crimeware-spreading URLs infecting PCs with password-stealing code rose 93 percent in the first quarter to 6,500 sites, nearly double the previous high of November 2007 — and an increase of 337 percent from the number detected end of Q1, 2007.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=ZFSKMMAYUZASQAQSNLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=212100340>

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

Commercial Facilities Sector

27. *November 18, Log Cabin Democrat* – (Arkansas) **‘Geocache’ found by bomb squad.** The Conway Fire Department Bomb Squad responded to a report of a suspicious object alongside Prince Street Saturday morning. The object was determined to be a “geocache,” and not dangerous. The Conway Police Department was notified of the suspicious device by a local business owner who was opening his gas station at 2820 Prince St. at about 8 a.m. when he saw a car parked near Prince Street and a person walking around a roadside bush for no apparent reason. The owner investigated the area after the vehicle left and found a cylindrical object wrapped in brown tape that he feared may have been constructed and placed with malicious intent. The Conway Fire Department and CPD secured the area and closed Prince Street. Some surrounding businesses were also shut down until the object was determined to pose no threat. The bomb squad used its remote-controlled robotic vehicle to make initial contact with the object and a bomb squad member wearing a protective suit used a hand-held X-ray device to determine that the cylindrical object did not contain explosive or incendiary materials before disassembling it. The object contained a piece of paper presumably used by geocachers to log when they had found the “cache.”
Source: http://www.thecabin.net/stories/111608/loc_1116080012.shtml
28. *November 17, Lower Hudson Journal* – (New York) **19 sickened, Tarrytown Y reopened after acid spill; pool closed.** Nineteen people were treated for medical problems after a chemical spill at the YMCA led authorities to evacuate the Main Street building. Authorities said nine people were sent to local hospitals for breathing problems and another 10 were treated on the scene for throat and eye irritation or nausea after they were exposed to muriatic (hydrochloric) acid. Police responded to a report of a chemical spill shortly after 3 p.m. near the Y’s swimming pool. They said a 5-gallon container of the acid, used to lower the pH in swimming pools, was accidentally knocked over. The Westchester County hazardous materials team and Health Department officials were at the scene, while OSHA, the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Red Cross were sending representatives, police said. Fire officials said the building was reopened, but the pool will remain closed until tomorrow.
Source: <http://lohud.com/article/20081117/NEWS02/811170380/-1/SPORTS>
29. *November 17, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Student accused of hacking into university’s computer system.** Just why e-mails of University of the Cumberland’s students were intercepted and My Space accounts targeted remains under investigation. “There’s not a clear motive at this time,” said an officer of the Williamsburg Police. But police say a student hacked into computers used by dozens, perhaps hundreds of students, and got a hold of their personal information from email accounts. University officials have no comment but students say they have been told to change their passwords on a frequent basis, for security purposes. The student is in jail on a \$100,000 cash bond. Police are not worried he will hurt anyone, but because he is an international student, they say he is a flight risk.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/34608969.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

30. *November 18, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Van Horn dam to be repaired.** The city hopes to begin a dam repair project at the lower Van Horn Pond within six months to a year in response to the dam’s classification by the state as a “high hazard.” Local and state officials have earmarked funds for the dam project in recent months, citing its current condition as a threat to public safety and property. The earthen dam was cited in non-compliance by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation a year ago, listing it as “structurally deficient and in poor condition.” The city owns and bears responsibility for the dam, located within Van Horn Park.
Source: <http://www.masslive.com/springfield/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-17/122700014669710.xml&coll=1>

31. *November 18, Chico Enterprise Record* – (California) **All fixed: Stony Gorge Dam retrofit project finishes year ahead of schedule.** A major earthquake-safety project to strengthen Stony Gorge Dam near Elk Creek was completed recently — nearly a year early and costing close to \$1 million more than estimated. Stony Gorge Dam, located about 25 miles west of Willows, was built in 1928 with a slab-and-buttress design. Earthquake faults in the nearby Coast Range were discovered in 2001. In a study done the same year, engineers for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation found the vertical buttresses could move with the lateral, or sideways, motion in a 6.0-magnitude earthquake. A strong quake could cause the slabs between the buttresses to crack or collapse, causing the dam to fail. To strengthen the dam, work crews built and placed concrete struts and concrete diaphragm walls between the buttresses. The job was originally estimated to cost \$23.9 million to complete, but with some adjustments during construction, it will likely finish at around \$25 million, said a construction representative for the federal bureau. Orland Unit Water Users Association will maintain and operate the dam. The bureau will annually inspect the dam and conduct more in-depth inspections at three- and six-year intervals.
Source: http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_11010526

32. *November 17, Jefferson Post* – (North Carolina) **Ore Knob dam draws EPA attention.** Potential failure of the dam at Ore Knob Mine in Laurel Springs has brought action from representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency. In March of this year, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was assigned by EPA to do an inspection of the tailings dam and sediment pond below the dam to determine the severity of erosion, the likelihood of dam failure and overtopping of the sediment pond. An eminent risk of

dam failure was determined due to a potentially collapsed or blocked drainage pipe within the dam. According to their fact sheet, proposed actions by the EPA include: perform a geotechnical investigation and stability analysis of the dam in order to determine the stability of the dam, thereby determining the proper method of minimizing erosion of the dam face; capping and abandoning the decant pipe that runs throughout the dam; construct diversion channels around the tailings dam in order to eliminate surface water run-on; and take adequate steps to obtain freeboard in the downstream sediment pond including excavation and treatment of contaminated soils, sediments and tailings or elimination of the sediment pond by solidifying the tailings in place.

Source: <http://www.jeffersonpost.com/articles/2008/11/18/news/local01.txt>

33. *November 17, St. George Spectrum* – (Utah) **Crews finish Enterprise Reservoir work.** The work on the upper Enterprise Reservoir has been completed about 10 months behind schedule. The president of the Enterprise Reservoir and Canal Company said unforeseen circumstances including bad weather and a problem with the drain tunnel set the project behind. Work done at the reservoir included building a new earthen filled dam behind the old masonry arch dam, a new hydraulic gate and gate house and rebuilding the primary spillway. The cost of the project came to \$3.75 million with 95 percent paid by the Utah Division of Water Resources and the balance by the Enterprise Reservoir and Canal Company. The dam was rate as “high hazard.” An assistant state engineer with the Division of Water Rights explained that high hazard is not based on the safety of the dam but the consequences if the dam failed. In Utah, there are appropriately 200 high hazard dams, 200 moderate hazard dams and 350 low hazard dams. The assistant state engineer said there are approximately 1,500 dams in the state although those less than 20 acre feet are not actively regulated.

Source: <http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20081117/NEWS01/811170301>

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