



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 1 December 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- CNet News reports that the Department of Defense has commissioned the development of a simulation-based planning and training software application to help it to prepare for the next influenza pandemic. The game will allow health care professionals and the military to practice response tactics and plot "local mitigation strategies." (See item [21](#))
- According to the New York Times, the Mumbai police said that the attacks in the city had killed at least 101 people and wounded at least 250. Deccan Mujihadeen, a previously unknown group that claimed responsibility, appeared to be singling out Americans and Britons as hostages. (See item [31](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

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

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

1. *November 28, Coast Guard News* – (Alaska) **Coast Guard shuts down Shoreside Petroleum in Whittier, Alaska.** Coast Guard personnel from Sector Anchorage conducted an annual inspection on the Shoreside Petroleum Inc. mobile facility in Whittier on Wednesday. Several deficiencies were noted including the lack of a response plan. The captain of the Port Western Alaska put a temporary hold on the company's fuel transfer operations until the deficiency is corrected.
Source: <http://coastguardnews.com/video-coast-guard-shuts-down-shoreside-petroleum-in-whittier-alaska/2008/11/28/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

2. *November 28, Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **Report identifies safer processes for chemical facilities.** More than 80 million Americans live within range of a worst-case toxic gas cloud from at least one of the nation's 101 most dangerous chemical facilities, which security experts say are potential terrorist targets. Millions more are at risk along delivery routes—more than 90 percent of these facilities ship or receive their highest-hazard chemical in vulnerable railcars or trucks, according to a November 19 press release. This threat can be substantially reduced by converting facilities to safer and more secure chemicals or processes, according to a new report from the Center for American Progress, "Chemical Security 101: What You Do Not Have Cannot Leak, or be Blown Up by Terrorists." Temporary chemical security standards enacted two years ago (and set to expire in 2009) focus almost entirely on physical security measures, such as adding gates and guards. The report specifically identifies readily available alternatives for most of the 101 most dangerous chemical facilities. Adopting these alternatives, which are already used by other similar facilities, would eliminate or substantially reduce the danger to millions of Americans.
Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/69460/>

3. *November 26, KLFY 10 Acadia* – (Oregon) **Chemical scare halts traffic.** Investigators now say it was human error in a chemical mixing that released an ammonia gas and caused a traffic headache for drivers in Acadia Parish. Officials were forced to shut down two miles of Highway 90 Tuesday night as a safety precaution. Traffic was detoured around the area for about two hours. State Police say it happened in Acadia Parish at Chem Logic. State Police say workers mixed a chemical that cleans oil field pipes with another agent too quickly. Officials with the Department of Environmental Quality deemed the area safe around 10:00 pm, which is when law enforcement crews opened the roadway.
Source: <http://www.klfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=9421279>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *November 28, Pittsburg Tribune Review* – (Pennsylvania; National) **Nuclear waste piles up in state.** Pennsylvania, like 35 other states, no longer has a place to dispose of its low-level radioactive waste. That means anyone generating the material has to store it, at least temporarily, until a permanent site becomes available. Pennsylvania does not have a disposal site or plans to build one, said the state's top nuclear regulator. Officials abandoned an effort to build one here a decade ago because it would have cost too much — \$120 million to \$150 million — and because generators could send the waste out of state. Yet, with no other option, facilities in Pennsylvania and neighboring West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware — which make up the federally sanctioned Appalachian States Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact — could start to run out of

storage space by 2013, the Pennsylvania's top nuclear regulator said. With the waste scattered at sites across the United States rather than in one central depository, some critics fear it is more vulnerable to terrorism and could be used to build a "dirty" bomb, an explosive device that spreads radioactive material. Security experts and regulators said that is not likely because even small amounts of radioactive material are highly controlled and tracked.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleyindependent/teenscene/s_600513.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *November 28, Wired* – (International) **Russia unveils ‘Abrams Killer’ rocket.** Recently shown on Russian television, the RPG-30 has already been described as an “Abrams Killer.” The RPG-30 is a new twist on counter-counter-measures. Reactive armor consists of explosive tiles which detonate when struck by an enemy warhead, thus disrupting the armor-piercing jet produced by a shaped charge. The response to this was the tandem warhead, with a precursor charge that sets off the reactive armor tile followed by a main charge that does the damage. Armor designers are now moving a step ahead to from reactive armor to active defenses, with systems like the Russian Arena, the much-hyped Israeli Trophy, and the forthcoming U.S. FCLAS. These detect an incoming round and launch a projectile to meet it, destroying or disrupting the threat by impact or blast. The RPG-30 has 105mm tandem warhead reckoned to be capable of penetrating over 650mm of steel armor behind reactive armor. But its special feature is a second tube, firing a smaller-caliber decoy rocket a fraction of a second ahead of the real one. The idea is that active protection systems will engage the decoy, but will not be able to engage a second threat immediately afterwards. According to TASS news, existing active protection systems can only engage a second target after a minimum of 0.2 seconds, rendering them vulnerable to the RPG-30.
Source: <http://blog.wired.com/defense/2008/11/russia-unveils.html>
6. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania; National) **Boeing restarts aircraft production at Pa. plant.** Boeing Co. restarted two production lines November 25 that had been shut down after a foreign object was found in an aircraft fuselage at a suburban Philadelphia plant. The Ridley Township plant restarted the lines that make the V-22 Osprey aircraft and CH-47 Chinook helicopters, both used by the military. The lines had been shut down since Friday, when a plastic cap – similar to a tool cover – was found in the fuel line of an in-production Osprey, according to a spokesman. The company has not determined if it was an accident or intentional vandalism, he said. On Monday, Boeing submitted a corrective action plan to a federal agency that oversees military contractors. The Defense Contract Management Agency approved it on Wednesday, leading Boeing to restart production.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D94MU01G0.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *November 26, Bloomberg* – (National) **FDIC lets firms without charters bid for bank assets.** Investors including private-equity firms may find it easier to acquire U.S. banks after the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said it will let groups without charters bid for the deposits and assets of failing lenders. The FDIC change, announced in a press release Wednesday, will help ensure “failing institutions are resolved in a manner that will result in the least cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund” by marketing assets to “known, qualified and interested bidders.” U.S. regulators this year have seized 22 banks, the most since 1993, amid a credit crunch that fueled more than \$968 billion in financial-company losses and writedowns since 2007. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on November 21 granted a new type of national bank charter called a “shelf charter,” also designed to find buyers for failed lenders.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=acrAx7aHTPwU&refer=home>

8. *November 26, Internetnews.com* – (National) **ID thieves hit federal credit unions, consumers.** An international identity theft ring is being accused of stealing funds from the credit unions for the U.S. Senate, Navy, Pentagon and State Department, while also having separately made off with millions from consumers' home equity lines of credit. Several arrests have already been made in a case that has prompted U.S. attorneys in several states to join forces with the FBI, the Secret Service, U.S. Postal Inspectors and local police departments to hunt the crooks, according to Department of Justice (DoJ) officials. So far, four men in three states have been arrested on charges of engaging in an international conspiracy relating to the theft of money from home equity lines of credit. According to law enforcement officials, the men illegally withdrew a total of more than \$2.5 million from various victims' home equity lines of credit and were trying to withdraw at least another \$4 million. "There may be other numbers, but I am not at liberty to talk about that just now," an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey who is involved in prosecuting the men, told InternetNews.com.

Source:

<http://www.internetnews.com/security/article.php/3787526/ID+Thieves+Hit+Federal+Credit+Unions+Consumers.htm>

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Transportation Sector

9. *November 27, The Register* – (National) **NASA developing brain-monitor hats for airline pilots.** U.S. aerospace agency NASA has announced that it is developing a brain-monitoring hat for airline pilots to wear. The idea is that a headset will know when pilots become “mentally overloaded” and help them to realize this. The devices are being developed at NASA’s Glenn Research Center using “functional near infrared spectroscopy” and other imaging technology. The spectroscope hats work by measuring blood flow in the cortex and the concentration of oxygen in the blood. NASA describes

them as “non-invasive, safe, portable and inexpensive”. The kit is being tried out on guinea-pig pilots in simulators at Glenn. “No matter how much training pilots have, conditions could occur when too much is going on in the cockpit,” said a NASA biomedical engineer. “What we hope to achieve by this study is a way to sensitively - and, ultimately, unobtrusively - determine when pilots become mentally overloaded ... Flying an aircraft involves multitasking that potentially can push the limits of human performance,” she adds.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/11/27/nasa_brain_monitor_hats/

10. *November 26, U.S. Coast Guard* – (Alaska) **Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation move forward with Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment.** The management team formed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Coast Guard, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for a comprehensive assessment of the risk of vessel accidents and spills in the Aleutian Islands has been assembled and will begin its work. “This is the best approach to determine what steps can be responsibly taken to mitigate the potential for future marine incidents along the Aleutian Archipelago and protect the resources that exist there,” said the commander of Coast Guard District Seventeen. Both ADEC and the Coast Guard have had experience with maritime risk assessments, and both understand the complexity of the problem at hand, as well as the need for a well-designed process that would ensure a successful outcome. Demand for a new risk assessment grew after the December 2004 grounding and breakup of the bulk carrier Selendang Ayu during a severe storm. The accident caused the death of six crew members when a Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk rescue helicopter crashed. It also resulted in a spill of 336,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil near the shores of Unalaska Island. While this incident was particularly severe, other accidents, spills, and near misses have taken place and continue to occur in the region. A federal court settlement following the Selendang Ayu grounding specified that community service funds paid by the defendant in that case be allocated to pay for a comprehensive risk assessment of ship accidents and spills in the Aleutians and for projects to minimize those risks.

Source: <http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/780/242568/>

11. *November 26, Railfanning.org* – (California) **BNSF adds third rail line through Cajon Pass.** BNSF Railway has completed construction of a third main rail line through Cajon Pass in Southern California that will increase capacity on BNSF’s Chicago to Los Angeles Transcontinental (Transcon) route from 100 to 150 trains a day. Approximately 75 to 100 freight and passenger trains currently traverse this route on a daily basis. Each intermodal train on these tracks can take more than 250 long-haul trucks off of the region’s local highways. Additionally, freight trains are more fuel-efficient than trucks and can move one ton of freight more than 400 miles on one gallon of diesel fuel. “Cajon Pass is our only Southern California connection to the rest of the BNSF network from the San Pedro Ports,” said BNSF’s California Division general manager. “Maintaining efficient train movements through Cajon Pass is critical to supporting the growth and vitality of local, regional and the national economies.”

Source: <http://railfanning.org/news/archives/977>

Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *November 28, Pocono Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Explosion damages Saylorsburg mailbox.** A Saylorsburg mailbox was damaged in an explosion sometime late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning. Police said the mailbox was damaged by an explosive type device.
Source:
<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081128/NEWS/81128003>
13. *November 27, Lansing State Journal* – (Michigan) **Suspicious white powder investigated in Eaton County.** Authorities are investigating why a suspicious envelope containing a white powder was sent to an Eaton Township home. An analysis of the powder by state health officials found that it was harmless, said an Eaton County sheriff's Lt. At about 12:40 p.m. Wednesday, the homeowner reported receiving the envelope, the Lt. said. A HAZMAT team from the Windsor Township Fire Department as well as Michigan State Police assisted in analyzing and safely collecting the package so it could be taken to a lab for testing. The investigation is continuing.
Source: <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20081127/NEWS01/81127002>
14. *November 27, Post Journal* – (New York) **Police issue warning of mailbox bombs in county.** Chautauqua County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating several cases of criminal mischief where rural mailboxes in the town of Sheridan were rigged to explode. In each case, a plastic bottle was used to mix substances that can become volatile and cause the container to explode shortly after the cap is tightened, explained a police captain. "These are homemade and it isn't an exact science," he said. "The chemical reaction takes place over time, and if someone touches the container, it can trigger the explosion." Because of the unpredictability of the mixture, he said that if someone finds a strange container in their mailbox or on their property, they should keep distance and call the Sheriff's Department. Although all reported incidents happened in the town of Sheridan, all county residents are advised to be aware and report anything that looks suspicious to the Sheriff's Department.
Source: <http://post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/517471.html?nav=5004>
15. *November 26, Chagrin Herald Sun* – (Ohio) **Gates Mills: Post office evacuated after bomb threat.** The Gates Mills Post Office and several nearby homes and businesses were evacuated for about two hours on November 25 after someone called in a fake bomb threat. A man called the post office at 9:50 a.m. and told post office employees there was a bomb inside and it was going to go off in 30 minutes. Gates Mills police, the Hillcrest Bomb Unit and RTA police responded immediately to the scene. Nearby homes and businesses were evacuated and a bomb-sniffing dog inspected the building. Nothing was found and the area was re-opened to the public at 12:40 p.m. Gates Mills police, U.S. Postal Inspectors and the Cleveland office of the FBI are investigating. No one has been arrested.
Source:
http://blog.cleveland.com/chagrinerheraldsun/2008/11/gates_mills_post_office_evacua.ht

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *November 27, Capital Press* – (Michigan) **USDA inspectors nab fraud farmers.** A Michigan farmer, who by the age of 24 had already defaulted on more than \$315,000 in loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), in 2002 was permitted to vouch for two other "farmers," helping them to repeatedly borrow cash from the agency over the course of the next two years. The three split the money they received and used the proceeds for "personal use and enjoyment," according to a federal indictment. The government did not get the money back. Since 2006, the USDA's Office of the Inspector General has obtained 99 criminal convictions related to FSA programs. Federal auditors have criticized the FSA's loan oversight numerous times in the past. For example, between 1999 and 2004, the FSA unwittingly authorized 127 loans totaling more than \$9 million to applicants that had already defaulted on similar loans and were technically ineligible for new ones, according to an OIG audit. Problems with the FSA's farm loan programs are also detailed in multiple audit reports from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) dating back to the 1980s. With the USDA's overall workforce of roughly 100,000 people - roughly one employee for every 10 farmers - the agency should provide a higher degree of scrutiny over the money it disburses, said the vice president of policy and communications for the National Taxpayers Union.

Source:

<http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=618&ArticleID=46574&TM=41817.86>

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Water Sector

17. *November 28, Tri-Parish Times* – (Louisiana) **\$20 million project to help drinking water.** Bayou Lafourche's dredging process to improve the flow and quality of drinking water drawn from it could start April 2009, officials said Friday. Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District announced a timeline for work as they formalized their collaboration on the long-awaited project to increase the flow of the waterway. The state will give \$20 million and technical assistance to clear debris and dredge along the upper 6.2-mile stretch of Bayou Lafourche from Donaldsonville to Belle Rose. Officials say the project will improve the drinking water quality for more than 300,000 people. It was not until after Hurricane Gustav spoiled the waterway with rotting tree limbs, putrefied fish and other debris, which turned the community's drinking water brown and smelly, that the project gained steam. This marks the first time state and local officials have collaborated on a comprehensive project to restore coastal Louisiana.

Source: http://www.tri-parishtimes.com/articles/2008/11/26/news/35_51_waterpg1.txt

18. *November 27, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Charles issues warning about sewage spill.** The Charles County Department of Utilities said that more than 10,000 gallons of raw sewage were discharged last week into a stream adjacent to the Route 5 wastewater pump station in Waldorf. The pumps at the station failed for an undetermined reason sometime Thursday, and the overflow was discovered during a routine check the next morning. Agency officials said that the incident posed no environmental or health risks, but residents were advised to avoid all contact with water from the adjacent stream and Jorden Swamp this week.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/24/AR2008112403277.html>
19. *November 26, Litchfield Independent Review* – (Minnesota) **Dassel receives \$1.24 million state loan.** The Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) awarded a \$1.24 million loan to the city of Dassel Monday, November 24, to pay for improvements to its municipal drinking water infrastructure. The low-interest loan is from the PFA's Drinking Water Revolving Fund. It will pay for demolishing an existing water tower, building a new tower, connecting the water system to the new tower and modifying pumps at the water treatment plant. The loan was approved at an interest rate of 1.02 percent over 20 years, saving the city \$402,600 in interest costs compared with issuing market-rate debt for the same amount. The Dassel administrator-clerk-treasurer said the project is under way and is expected to be completed by October 2009. The PFA has financed more than \$2.5 billion in infrastructure projects since being created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1987. The PFA operates three revolving loan funds for infrastructure projects: the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, Clean Water Revolving Fund and Transportation Revolving Loan Fund.
Source: <http://www.independentreview.net/news/around-meeker-county/dassel-receives-1-24-million-state-loan-4214>
20. *November 26, Water Technology Online* – (Ohio) **OH city completes big infrastructure project.** Belpre, Ohio, announced on November 25 the completion of a two-year-long comprehensive energy conservation and facilities improvement program that included renovations to the city's aging water plant, according to an Ameresco, Inc. press release. The improvements resulted from an \$8.5 million contract the city had with Ameresco, the Framingham, MA-based energy management company which completed the program. The contract was signed in March 2006. The city said in the release that improvements made during the program, which include energy efficiency upgrades to city facilities and installation of municipal solar panels will result in yearly savings and enhanced revenues of nearly \$306,836 over the next decade. Belpre, a community of 6,600 located in southern Ohio, had deferred maintenance on facilities such as the wastewater treatment plant, water meters and the municipal swimming pool due to a declining population, stagnant economic conditions, and low water and sewer rates. As a result, the 1960s-era wastewater treatment plant fell out of compliance with US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.
Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71017

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *November 28, CNet News* – (National) **Gaming the next pandemic.** The Department of Defense (DOD) has commissioned the development of a simulation-based planning and training software application to help it to prepare for the next influenza pandemic. The game will allow health care professionals and the military to recognize early signs of an outbreak, practice response tactics and plot "local mitigation strategies" to limit the spread of disease, according to the developer SimQuest, a technology-assisted education and training company. The consequences of a worldwide pandemic are hard to predict because the biological characteristics of the virus are unknown, but the 1918 Spanish flu killed more American soldiers than WW I. A pandemic in the United States could result in 20-35 percent of the population becoming ill, according to government estimates. The role of the military will include supporting domestic infrastructure and maintaining law and order, according to the DOD Implementation Plan for Pandemic Influenza.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-13639_3-10109547-42.html

22. *November 27, KVVU 5 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **Feds: UMC transplant service can stay open.** University Medical Center has been given the opportunity to improve the Nevada's only kidney transplant program, after a reprieve from Medicare officials. The hospital won praise for addressing a report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that found the program had high death rates for transplant recipients. It currently has about 200 people awaiting kidney transplants and was facing decertification on December 3. An agreement signed Wednesday pushed the possible termination date to June 8, 2009. UMC recently signed a \$1 million contract with the University of Utah to add a team of four surgeons the one surgeon involved in the transplant program

Source: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/18159542/detail.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *November 28, International News* – (International) **Czech senators approve US radar base.** The Czech Senate on Thursday approved bilateral agreements signed with Washington on stationing a US radar base on Czech soil as part of a controversial missile defense system which has enraged Russia. "This is an important signal for the world, for Europe, but also for our nation," the Foreign Minister told reporters after the vote. Forty-nine senators out of 81 approved the deals, which have sparked a warning from Moscow that it could place missiles in the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. The U.S. wants a radar facility in the Czech Republic and 10 interceptor missiles in neighboring Poland by 2014 to complement the anti-missile shield already in place in the US, Greenland and Britain. Washington insists they are not directed against Russia but at "rogue states" such as Iran.

Source: http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=149462

24. *November 26, Government Executive* – (National) **Federal buildings go unwatched.** Within two weeks of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building 13 years ago, in Oklahoma City, one building just four blocks away - occupied by the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and other agencies - installed X-ray machines, magnetometers and glass security walls, and posted security guards in the lobby. Every person entering the building was scanned and their credentials verified. Tightened security soon became a familiar sight at federal buildings throughout the nation, with policies quickly implemented to prevent similar attacks. Now, that post-bombing ramp-up has been almost completely rolled back, says the president of the National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 45 and an employee in that Oklahoma City building. And security faded even more after the Federal Protective Service's post-September 11 transition to the Homeland Security Department's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, the president says. The 10-story, 400,000-square-foot building where the president works houses hundreds of federal employees. Nonetheless, it has almost no security. There are no guards in the lobby, no one patrols the vacant floors and the cameras work intermittently. The president's concern is echoed by federal employees across the country and by the Government Accountability Office.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41522&dcn=todaysnews

25. *November 26, Gaston Gazette* – (North Carolina) **Man accused of making bomb threat at jail brought children along.** A Gastonia man was arrested Wednesday after police say he brandished a suspicious bag outside the Gaston County Jail and threatened to blow the building up. The 27-year-old was charged with making a false bomb report at a public building and perpetrating a hoax to bomb a public building. Federal charges are also pending against the defendant, according to a detective sergeant with the Gastonia Police Department. The defendant had two young children with him sometime around 3 p.m. when he approached a rear fence at the Gaston County Jail Annex. That particular area is monitored by video and audio, the detective sergeant said. While the children stopped several feet from the gate, the defendant approached and began banging on it, screaming that he had a bomb and was going to blow up the building.

Source: http://www.gastongazette.com/news/27563_article.html/.html

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *November 28, Charlotte Sun* – (Florida) **Commission supports tougher 911 training.** The North Port City Commission has reached consensus to back efforts to expand the Denise Amber Lee Act, making the training mandatory. The act, passed in this year's session of the Florida Legislature, established criteria for a high level of training statewide for dispatchers at 911 centers, but made that training optional rather than mandatory for counties throughout the state.

Source:

<http://www.sunnewspapers.net/articles/bznews.aspx?NewsID=427305&a=newsarchive/2/112808/bz2.htm&bzpg=0>

27. *November 27, Wilmington Star* – (North Carolina) **Brunswick EMS uses virtual reality to train for disasters.** Brunswick County, North Carolina has acquired new simulator equipment, formally called an Advanced Disaster Management Simulator, will be a training tool for Brunswick County Emergency Management Services and others in the region. In a typical training session, a trainer uses a computer to create certain emergency events that are displayed on the simulator's screens, which are mounted on a wall in front of a class or group. Those being trained can only see part of the 3-D scenario, as if they were actually there, and they must use a joystick to navigate through the scene and communicate with others who are seeing the other side of the scenario on another projected screen. "It places them in a stressful environment but a controlled environment, so it turns into a learning environment," the county EMS director said. The county's EMS department got a \$112,000 grant in October to purchase the simulator. Brunswick County's EMS department is the only agency in this area of the country with this piece of equipment. Only two other agencies – one in New York and one in Florida – have it. The county's staff will serve as regional trainers and will take the portable simulator to other departments nationwide, the director said.

Source:

[http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20081127/ARTICLES/811270300?Title=Brunswick EMS uses virtual reality to train for disasters](http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20081127/ARTICLES/811270300?Title=Brunswick%20EMS%20uses%20virtual%20reality%20to%20train%20for%20disasters)

28. *November 27, Wauconda Courier* – (Illinois) **Municipalities working together for drill.** The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System command trailer served as a command center in last Thursday's first-ever Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) positioning drill. The Wauconda Village Board approved the IPWMAN agreement last week, being the second community statewide to sign on, said Wauconda's public works director. The agreement will allow, but not obligate, communities to help other communities for five days at a time. The program is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Staff involved must be certified by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The drill was intended to help public works practice pooling its resources in an emergency like the aftermath of a tornado. Teams and equipment are grouped by function, lead by a team leader and deployed, officials said. Ten communities participated in the drill making eight task forces from 25 pieces of equipment.

Source:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/wauconda/news/1301113,wk-tornadodrill-112608-s1.article>

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Information Technology

29. *November 27, VNUNet* – (International) **Spam levels to rise as Srizbi botnet returns.** The fall in global spam levels after the shutting of web hosting company McColo looks to be short-lived after researchers reported that the Srizbi botnet has been reactivated. Researchers at security consultants FireEye are warning that Srizbi, and other botnets, have been reactivated. "Srizbi has returned from the dead and began updating all its

bots with a fresh new binary just a few hours ago," FireEye reported. "In the coming days, many journalists and researchers will ask how it is possible that the largest botnet in the world was allowed to update itself, when a security firm had near complete control over it. This is an interesting angle that we'll be exploring once all the technical facts are out on the table." The Srizbi botnet command and control systems were initially put back online in Estonia, but have since been taken down. The researchers also reported that the Rustock rootkit is also back in circulation and is sending a variety of spam based on social engineering and the sale of medical products.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2231392/spam-levels-expected-rise>

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

30. *November 27, My Fox Washington DC* – (Maryland) **26 sickened after chemical leak at Md. hotel.** Emergency crews in Howard County say a total of 26 people were sickened Thursday after an apparent carbon monoxide leak at the Sheraton Hotel on Wincopin Circle in Columbia. Investigators say 26 people were overcome by some sort of chemical exposure or fumes, and authorities say it was carbon monoxide. According to rescuers, the leak was discovered in the basement laundry room. The leak has been turned off, and the building is being ventilated. A total of 11 people were transported to the hospital, and 15 others were treated at the scene. Emergency crews say the patients were treated for low-level effects from the chemical.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7960667&version=3&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

31. *November 26, New York Times* – (International) **At least 100 dead in terror attacks.** Coordinated terrorist attacks struck the heart of Mumbai, India's commercial capital, on Wednesday night, killing dozens in machine-gun and grenade assaults on at least two five-star hotels, the city's largest train station, a Jewish center, a movie theater and a hospital. The Mumbai police said Thursday that the attacks killed at least 101 people and wounded at least 250. Guests who had escaped the hotels told television stations that the attackers were taking hostages, singling out Americans and Britons. Deccan

Mujahedeen, a previously unknown group claimed responsibility, though that claim could not be confirmed. It remained unclear whether there was any link to outside terrorist groups. Hours after the assaults began, the landmark Taj Mahal Palace & Tower Hotel, next to the famed waterfront monument the Gateway of India, was in flames. Fire also raged inside the luxurious Oberoi Hotel, according to the police.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/27/world/asia/27mumbai.html?scp=8&sq=mumbai%20&st=cse>

32. *November 26, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Volatile chemical blown up at Kiowa museum.** Nearly 30 emergency personnel were called out to detonate a bottle of a volatile chemical at the Elbert County Historical Society and Museum in Kiowa Wednesday. At around noon, two volunteers for the seasonal museum called for help when they found antique bottles of chemicals donated by a local doctor 13 years ago. A chemical called picric acid was found to have crystallized solid, according to the Chief of the Kiowa Police Department. The bottles were estimated to be 50 years old. No one was hurt, and the scene was secure and rendered safe by 4 p.m., according to officials. Source: http://www.denverpost.com/ci_11082245
33. *November 26, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **After initial scare, authorities find no radioactive materials at site in Fultondale.** Employees of the Whataburger on Walkers Chapel Road alerted public safety officials to boxes that someone had tossed into the woods behind the restaurant, said a Captain of the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Department hazardous materials unit. Wording on the boxes indicated that they contained nuclear medical waste. The boxes were checked and did not contain radioactive material. Birmingham specialists were dispatched to the scene at 1100 Walkers Chapel Road around 8:30 a.m. to assist Fultondale. Part of the road was closed to traffic during the investigation. It has been reopened. The boxes were checked and did not contain radioactive material, the Captain said. Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2008/11/after_initial_scare_authoritie.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *November 28, Loveland Reporter-Herald* – (Colorado) **Wildfire contained; crews monitor on Thanksgiving.** Fifty-six firefighters spent Thanksgiving Day putting out hot spots on a wildfire 15 miles west of Fort Collins. Crews had contained the Paradise fire, burning off Buckhorn Road, by 6 p.m. Wednesday. The fire burned an estimated 90 acres of grass and ponderosa pine but no buildings. Investigators believe bullet fragments sparked the fire in dry grass Monday. Shooting is prohibited on that portion of the Roosevelt National Forest. Source: http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?ID=20094

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Dams Sector

35. *November 27, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Newport News dam repairs.** Newport News City Council has allocated \$950,000 for design work to repair a dam that breached in 2007. Council members approved the funding Tuesday night. Total cost of the Walkers Dam overhaul is expected to be between \$10 million and \$14 million. The project is expected to be completed by late 2010 or 2011. The breach in April 2007 caused water levels to drop in Chickahominy Lake by about 2 feet. The 1,230-acre lake provides 70 percent of the Newport News Waterworks' water.

Source: <http://www.wtkr.com/Global/story.asp?S=9423036&nav=ZolHbyvj>

36. *November 26, Ottumwa Courier* – (Iowa) **Engineers to help with levee repairs.** At a special meeting Monday, the Ottumwa City Council unanimously approved a cooperation agreement between federal and local officials. The agreement authorizes the Department of the Army to assist in the repair or restoration of flood-control improvements threatened or destroyed by flood. The Public Works director said the agreement is necessary and will allow for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Rock Island District) to help the city with problems such as any levee erosion, wave-wash damage, flapgate damage and pumping station damage. The city has already made more than \$200,000 worth of in-kind improvements over the years, he added. Early in 1999, the public works department started talking to the Army Corps of Engineers. Since then, the city has spent about \$650,000 in capital improvement funds and brought the levee system “close to their standards,” he said.

Source: http://www.ottumwa.com/local/local_story_331001644.html

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