



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 October 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 Newsday, a propane leak caused a blast at a drinking water pump station at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York on Monday night. Officials said a heavy ion particle accelerator at the lab, a quarter-mile from the water pump station, was never threatened by the blast. (See item [25](#))
- VNUNet.com reports that the Federal Trade Commission has shut down what it claims was the world's largest network of spammers. The network had sent out billions of messages, according to the FTC which has received over three million complaints about the activities. (See item [33](#))

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. *October 15, Bloomberg* – (Virgin Islands) **Omar strengthens in Caribbean, aims at Virgin Islands.** Hurricane Omar strengthened in the Caribbean south of Puerto Rico, causing the closure of a refinery in St. Croix as forecasters said the storm will hit the Virgin Islands by early Thursday. Hurricane warnings were in place in the U.S. Virgin Islands, site of the Hovensa oil refinery, the third-biggest in the Americas; the British Virgin Islands; and islands including St. Maarten/St. Martin, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. “Hovensa LLC is in the process of shutting down essentially all its processing and auxiliary equipment at the St. Croix refinery except those necessary to

maintain supply of power to the complex,” a spokesman for the facility said. The refinery handled 456,000 barrels a day in July, according to the latest U.S. Energy Department records. The U.S. mainland received 338,000 barrels a day of refined products from the plant. The refinery is jointly owned by Hess Corp. of New York and Petroleos de Venezuela.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aGH_zbT_B9Gk&refer=energy

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

2. *October 15, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL Fla. Turkey Point 4 reactor back at full power.** FPL Group Inc’s 693-megawatt Turkey Point 4 nuclear reactor in Florida ramped up to full power by early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its daily plant status report. On Tuesday afternoon, the unit was operating at about 10 percent of capacity as it began to exit a brief outage. FPL, of Juno Beach, Florida, owns and operates about 38,000 MW of generating capacity across the United States, markets energy commodities, and transmits and distributes electricity to more than 4.5 million customers in Florida.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1525771220081015>

3. *October 15, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont Yankee faulted for leaks.** A U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspector said Tuesday that slack engineering by Entergy Nuclear workers was to blame for two recent cooling tower leaks at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant. “Entergy’s design change process requires providing adequate engineering drawings and instructions... and also requires engineers to resolve technical issues identified during implementation,” the inspector said. “Entergy did not do that.” The leaks, in July and September, forced Entergy to temporarily reduce Vermont Yankee’s power output. He said the NRC did not view any of the leaks as threats to the safety of the plant but said the NRC would step up its monitoring of Entergy’s management of the facility as a result. The inspector made the comment during a public hearing NRC conducted in Brattleboro. Vermont Yankee’s director of safety acknowledged that plant workers had not been vigilant enough in monitoring the condition of the towers. Subsequent inspection has shown that wooden supports in the tower complexes had rotted over time and pipe joints had weakened. “We did not do all the inspection we could have been doing,” the director said. He said Entergy is in the midst of a renovation of the two tower structures.

Source:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081015/NEWS02/81014060/1007>

4. *October 13, Daily Journal* – (New Jersey) **Corzine wants state to oversee radioactive sites.** New Jersey is applying this month to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to replace it as the regulating agency for almost all sites with radioactive materials in the state. The one exception is New Jersey's nuclear power plants. The NRC would continue overseeing their operations, under the plan. But the regulatory change would affect 500 NRC-licensed facilities in New Jersey, including the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corp. facility in Newfield. State regulatory control does not bode well for a proposal from Shieldalloy to keep radioactive waste in storage at its former factory off North West Boulevard. The company wants to build a hill over the waste and manage it under a long-term license from the NRC. The idea is less costly than moving waste off-site for disposal, but the borough, residents and state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) do not like the potential for contamination. The New Jersey governor recently sent a letter to the DEP instructing it to submit a final application to the NRC for New Jersey to be named regulator of the 500 sites. The Division of Environmental Safety and Health could take over for the NRC as early as August or September of next year, ending an application process that began in May 2006. The director of the DEP's Division of Environmental Safety and Health said the NRC actually is encouraging the transfer of authority from the federal agency to states. The NRC is paying for training and travel costs for state employees.

Source:

<http://www.thedailyjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081013/NEWS01/810130314>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *October 14, Baltic Course* – (International) **Young Estonian IT experts turn criminal.** Bank and credit card fraud has apparently become the new trend crime among Estonians, as police reports suggest Estonia's IT literate younger generations are adapting their expertise to criminal ends. Estonian police say that this new illegal enterprise has now become the most common criminal activity by Estonians abroad, a status previously held by drug smuggling. The focus on foreigners has not gone unnoticed internationally with the U.S. Department of State offering travel warnings highlighting the frequency of bank fraud, and particularly credit card fraud, in Estonia. Earlier this year the U.S. and the U.K. witnessed the biggest credit card fraud operations in their respective histories; both were IT based attacks and both involved Estonians.

An Estonian man was involved in an 11 strong internet-based operation which breached over 40 million U.S. credit cards in August, while a fellow countryman was jailed in the U.K. in April after his gang of five was found to have stolen 17 million pounds (243.2 million Kroons or 21.9 million Euros) via internet infiltration.

Source: <http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/Technology/?doc=6129>

6. *October 14, Bloomberg* – (National) **FDIC lifts coverage as customers flee Sovereign, WaMu.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) expanded deposit coverage as Sovereign Bancorp Inc. became at least the fourth major lender since July to suffer sudden withdrawals amid waning confidence in the banking system. The FDIC said today it will fully protect through 2009 non-interest bearing accounts that process payments for payrolls and are used by businesses. The new FDIC measures are aimed primarily at reassuring small-business owners. The FDIC said today it will also temporarily guarantee new senior unsecured debt such as commercial paper and transfers between banks. The agency in August said 117 banks were classified as “problem” in the second quarter, a 30 percent jump from the first quarter. The agency does not name the “problem” lenders.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601213&sid=a3GGWUu48388&refer=home>
7. *October 14, KGW 8 Portland* – (Oregon) **State warns consumers of banking scam.** The Oregon Department of Consumer & Business Services (ODCBS) is warning Oregonians about a scam targeted at people looking for loans. According to ODCBS, scam artists working under the name Oregon Bankers Lending Network are offering loans that require an advance payment. However, victims who have wired money to the company found no loans existed. Ten arrests were made and ten arrest warrants issued following a raid by police officers at an apartment complex outside Toronto, Canada. Documentation of 21 fraudulent businesses was found related to the scams in Oregon.
Source: http://www.kgw.com/news-local/stories/kgw_101408_news_banking_scam.11086a01e.html
8. *October 14, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Scam targets customers of Butte Community Bank.** Customers of Butte Community Bank are among those being targeted by scammers looking for credit card information. Customers are reporting to the bank that they have received night-time automated calls, saying that their credit card has been compromised and asking for their account numbers. The president of Butte said, “We find these things are coming from foreign countries.” One customer noticed the call emanating from a San Jose area code, but the phone number listed is for a legitimate Internet provider, which has been having problems with the scammers too. A garlic.com technician, who declined to be identified, said his company filed complaints with the Federal Communication Commission and FBI over the use of its phone number by scammers.
Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_10714165

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Transportation Sector

9. *October 15, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (National) **American Airlines safety program ends amid bickering with pilots.** A lauded safety program at American Airlines has ended amid bickering between the airline and its pilots. The Aviation Safety Action Partnership was a joint program run by the airline, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Allied Pilots Association. Launched in 1994, it allowed pilots to report safety-related incidents for investigation without fear of discipline from American or the FAA. Aviation experts have praised it as an effective way to identify potentially dangerous safety lapses that otherwise might go unreported. The program expired Monday after American and the union failed to negotiate its renewal.
Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/business/story/974879.html>
10. *October 15, MarketWatch* – (National) **Airline lobbying group sues the FAA over slot auctions.** The Air Transport Association (ATA) has filed a lawsuit against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) over its attempt to auction off time slots at three major New York City airports, the commercial airlines lobbying group said Wednesday. “ATA’s law suit challenges FAA’s claim that slots are agency property that can be leased or otherwise disposed of under FAA’s general property management authority,” the group said on its Web site. “ATA will seek a stay of the auction planned for early January.” The FAA had said previously it would auction slots at Newark Liberty, LaGuardia, and John F. Kennedy airports to help encourage greater efficiency and cut back on flight delays.
Source: http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/airline-lobbying-group-sues-faa/story.aspx?guid={6E8BB6CE-D5C2-434F-A625-1E3957507EB0}&dist=msr_1
11. *October 15, KEX 1190 Portland* – (Oregon) **North Portland bridge catches fire Tuesday night.** The North Vancouver Avenue Bridge over the Columbia Slough is closed to traffic because of a fire that broke out under the bridge Tuesday night. Portland Firefighters responded around 7:30 p.m. to North Portland at Columbia Boulevard, and found the fire had damaged the wooden posts under the bridge. The cause is under investigation, but since a homeless camp under the bridge was also damaged, they will be looking at the possibility a fire at the camp got out of control. The bridge may reopen Wednesday, if inspectors find there is no structural damage. Nearby brush and a power line also burned in the fire.
Source: <http://www.1190kex.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=123543&article=4409247>
12. *October 15, Muskegon Chronicle* – (Michigan) **Suspect to fight Homeland Security charge.** A 26-year-old Muskegon man arrested last month after he allegedly entered a restricted fenced-in area near the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power’s Sims III Power Plant was arraigned Wednesday morning on felony trespassing charges in Ottawa County 58th District Court. The man was charged with trespassing a U.S. Department of Homeland Security classified “key facility,” a four-year felony. Officers said they found in the man’s car photographs of other key facilities, including the Mackinac Bridge.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/chronicle/index.ssf?/base/news-15/1224081911122230.xml&coll=8>

13. *October 14, Associated Press* – (National) **FAA probes whether planes rerouted to test trainee.** Federal aviation officials are investigating whether air traffic controllers violated federal rules by rerouting four airliners to test the skills of a controller-trainee. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in a statement Tuesday that a preliminary inquiry indicates four flights were rerouted near Savannah, Georgia, on Saturday. The government says the passengers were never in danger. The aircraft were rerouted at the direction of a supervisor at the air traffic control center in Jacksonville, Florida, said the National Air Traffic Controllers Association representative for the Jacksonville Air Route Traffic Control Center. Four airliners operated by Delta, Virgin Atlantic, and Southwest were detoured into an area between Jacksonville and Savannah, where there were reports of thunderstorms, he said. The FAA denied there were thunderstorms in the region. The controllers representative said the rerouting increased the risk to the passengers and crews. He said the four planes were traveling south en route to Orlando International Airport near Wilmington, North Carolina, when they were rerouted inland on orders from an air traffic control supervisor who wanted to test the skills of a trainee. The planes were directed at least 60-70 miles out of their way into an area of airspace known as the “Alma sector,” where there were storms Saturday, he said. The pilots would have had to “zigzag” to avoid the storms, adding more extra miles to their trip, he said. The FAA said the flights were directed only 33-50 miles out of the way.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20081015/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_planes_rerouted;_ylt=AjpVWXMaRS8SUN_1C7iSMXWs0NUE

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *October 15, Georgian Times* – (District of Columbia) **Georgian Embassy in Washington ceased functioning for several hours on October 14.** The Georgian embassy ceased functioning for several hours in Washington yesterday. Interfax news agency reported this based on the information from Georgian media sources. The embassy closure was due to an envelope with white powder delivered to the embassy; “Georgia, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia” was written on the envelope. The embassy called FGR agents to examine the powder which appeared to be just washing powder. Afterwards the embassy went on functioning. According to the news agencies the sender of the envelope is unknown.

Source: <http://www.geotimes.ge/index.php?m=home&newsid=13081>

15. *October 15, WBTW 3 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Firefighters called to investigate suspicious package.** The Charlotte Fire Department and the Haz-mat were called to investigate a suspicious package discovered at the North Carolina Air National Guard Wednesday morning. The package was in the mail delivery room and did not have a mailing address. A bomb sniffing dog did not detect any explosive materials. In

addition, officials conducted a radiation scan and found nothing unusual. The North Carolina Air National Guard will follow up with the person who sent the package.

Source: <http://www.wbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9180839>

16. *October 14, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. Obama office evacuated due to letter, powder.** Authorities are trying to find out who sent a threatening letter with a suspicious substance inside to one of the Democratic presidential candidate’s Philadelphia campaign offices. The office was evacuated for less than an hour after the discovery. Police say a volunteer brought in the mail and opened a letter that had a suspicious substance inside. Officials evacuated the office, took the letter outside, and called police. A hazardous materials crew responded, but investigators say initial tests determined it was brown sugar.
Source: <http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/news-67/1224038652288760.xml&storylist=penn>
17. *October 14, NWCN Spokane* – (Washington) **Spokane ‘anthrax’ letter contains only flour.** Investigators say bleach flour was the substance in a letter mailed to a North Spokane homeowner which claimed to contain anthrax. The Spokane Fire Department’s hazardous materials unit was called to the house late this morning. The homeowner told authorities he received a letter from Illinois, claiming it was laced with the toxin anthrax. Test later confirmed found the substance was household flour.
Source:
http://www.nwcn.com/statenews/washington/stories/NW_101408WAN_anthrax_scare_LJ.11208c13b.html
18. *October 13, Punchline Magazine* – (California) **Bill Maher gets a suspicious delivery.** A comedian received extra security this weekend after threatening letters that contained a “powdery substance” were mailed to the comedian and to the Los Angeles Times, KTLA.com reports. The letter delivered to the McCallum — where the comedian was doing stand-up — prompted a five-hour evacuation of the theater on Friday night. Several people have been treated for possible contamination. “[The letter] contained specific threats made against [the comedian],” said a Riverside County sheriff’s official. The substance found in the letter has been sent to a lab in Los Angeles for further testing, according to an FBI spokesman. The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force is continuing to investigate the incident. The Los Angeles Times received a similar letter at roughly the same time, the Times reported.
Source: <http://punchlinemagazine.com/blog/bill-maher-gets-a-suspicious-delivery>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *October 15, Natural News* – (National) **America’s food safety system on verge of break down warns report.** The United States’ food safety system is in crisis, with a confusing patchwork of regulations, authority and a dire lack of funding, according to a report released by the Trust for America’s Health. One of the biggest problems, according to the report, is that too many federal agencies are involved in food safety,

and that the rules regulating oversight authority are confusing. For example, frozen pizza is normally regulated by the FDA, but frozen pizzas that contain meat must instead be regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The major tool used by the government to keep food safe is old-fashioned inspections of cow, pig, and fowl carcasses, which could easily be replaced by cheaper, more efficient methods. The U.S. food safety system, the report notes, has not been updated in more than 100 years. The FDA has reduced its food inspection staff by 600 and cut 20 percent of its science staff in the last three years due to funding shortages.

Source: <http://www.naturalnews.com/024493.html>

20. *October 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Wal-Mart, Giant bottled water shows more contamination.** Tests on leading brands of bottled water turned up a variety of contaminants, including cancer-linked chemicals three times higher than California’s health standard, according to a study released Wednesday by an environmental advocacy group. Lab tests detected 38 chemicals in ten brands, with an average of eight contaminants found in each kind of bottled water. Tests showed coliform bacteria, caffeine, the pain reliever acetaminophen, fertilizer, solvents, plastic-making chemicals, and the radioactive element strontium. Some of those chemicals, like arsenic and the solvent toluene, have been tied to health risks. Some of the contaminants apparently came from pollutants often found in tap water, and others probably leached from plastic bottles, the researchers said. The chlorine byproducts, which studies have also linked to birth defects, presumably come from chlorine used as a disinfectant, which ends up in public water systems. Tap water is often repackaged and sold as bottled water.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2008-10-15-bottled-water_N.htm

21. *October 14, Natural News* – (International) **FDA proposal for safer imported food.** The FDA issued a proposal to design new legislation to reduce a practice known as “port shopping.” Reports are that only 1 percent to 3 percent of all imported food or ingredient goods into the U.S. are inspected by the FDA. Port shopping occurs when, after an import shipment is rejected by FDA officials, the exporter simply ships those products to another port of entry hoping to be one of the 97 percent that are not inspected. The proposed regulation would require that shipping containers of rejected food or food ingredients, along with any accompanying documents, be labeled as refused. The label would read “United States: Refused Entry.” As it is with any new legislation, the FDA will accept comment on this regulation for the next 75 days.

Source: <http://www.naturalnews.com/024482.html>

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Water Sector

22. *October 15, Daily Record* – (New Jersey) **Roxbury warning some residents about lead in water.** A routine water sampling from the Skyview/Mooney Mountain Water system contained lead concentrations which exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s recommended levels, the township water department said today. Public notices will be sent, per state requirement, to the 688 homes in the affected water

system, and this is not a township-wide situation, just one limited to Skyview, the township said. The exceeding levels require no special precaution, the township said. Roxbury conducts yearly routine water sampling tests, and the one related to this announcement occurred on July 24. The Township is continuing to sample and test the drinking water from the homes that it regularly samples. In order to provide additional precaution, the township will now sample every six months instead of yearly.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081015/UPDATES01/81015009>

23. *October 15, Victoria Advocate* – (Texas) **Rancher fears radioactive water from nuclear plant would affect his cattle.** A local man worries what the release of radioactive water into the Guadalupe River would do to his cattle that drink from it. The 72-year-old DuPont retiree owns the land adjacent to the proposed Exelon Nuclear plant and shares a portion of Linn Lake with the 11,500-acre site. Bald eagles, migratory birds, and other wildlife use the man’s land downstream of the discharge site. Landowners will not be affected by minute, periodic discharges as the releases would be monitored and in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission permit requirements, Exelon’s community outreach manager said. Exelon operates its plant to keep radioactive releases as low as reasonably achievable, well below the maximum levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Exelon will conduct water sampling at the closest home and public water source downstream of the discharge site. Vegetation, cow’s milk, and air around the station would also be monitored. Exelon developed the well monitoring system after discovering tritium leaks at its Braidwood plant in Illinois. By the time the monitoring system came online, tritium had seeped into the water table, but the leaks did not exceed federal drinking water standards.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1944892/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *October 14, New York Times* – (National) **Disappearing credit forces hospitals to delay improvements.** The hospital industry is among those struggling with the credit scarcity that the federal government’s latest financial bailout plan is meant to alleviate. And lending relief, if it comes, cannot come too soon. Hospitals “are not immune,” said the chief executive of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, a professional group for hospital finance executives. He noted that hospitals, like any other business, relied on credit for building projects and to maintain overall liquidity. Tight credit is adding to a financial challenge that some hospitals are already facing, as greater numbers of patients are unable to afford the rising out-of-pocket portions of their medical bills or lack insurance altogether. Many hospitals say they are already seeing an increase in their bad debt — money they bill patients for but cannot collect. That problem could get worse, as people worry first about paying their mortgages and credit card bills before dealing with their medical bills, said a hospital analyst at Citi Investment Research.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/15/business/15hospital.html?em>

Government Facilities Sector

25. *October 15, Newsday* – (New York) **Brookhaven lab officials: Explosion no danger to public.** Brookhaven National Lab officials stressed yesterday that there was “no risk to the general public” from a nighttime explosion at the facility. A propane leak caused a blast at a drinking water pump station at the Upton lab on Monday night. No one was hurt. Officials said the explosion was so loud it was reported by residents near the 5,000-acre government lab. The water pump station is a quarter-mile from a world-renowned heavy ion particle accelerator at the lab. Officials said the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, which is used to study the state of matter formed in the first microseconds of the universe, was never threatened by the blast that leveled the 680-square-foot concrete block pump building. In a prepared statement, officials also said local, county, and U.S. Department of Energy officials were all notified about the emergency. It is believed a leak caused propane gas to build up adding that a spark from other pumping equipment may have caused that gas to explode. The Suffolk County fire marshal was on site investigating the accident yesterday. A Brookhaven Lab spokeswoman said there was no evidence the explosion was linked to a malicious act.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/suffolk/ny-libn1155884042oct15,0,4964717.story>

26. *October 14, Daily Courier* – (Arizona) **Police arrest suspect in high school bomb threat hoax.** Prescott Valley police officers evacuated Bradshaw Mountain High School after a student pulled a bomb-threat prank on campus. “The student confessed to his actions and stated that he was acting alone in this matter,” said a Prescott Valley police spokesman. “The student stated that he really didn’t have a bomb.” The incident began when a teacher contacted school administrators and the school’s resource officer at 8:30 a.m. about a note she found on her desk that told of a bomb on school property. After securing the school’s grounds late Tuesday morning, Prescott Valley police detectives and officers conducted interviews with students who were allegedly involved in the incident before making their arrest.

Source:

<http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=60163&TM=4836.364>

27. *October 14, News 10 Syracuse* – (New York) **Suspect causes stir at justice center.** Three Onondaga County Sheriff’s Deputies were hurt in an altercation at the Onondaga County Justice Center Tuesday night. Investigators say they were conducting a strip search on a suspect when he pulled out a glass vial and smashed it on the floor. The suspect then began fighting with deputies until he was eventually restrained, however the vial had a noxious gas in it, which filled the room, causing eye irritation and coughing. Officials later determined it was phencyclidine, better known as PCP. Three officers had to be taken to the hospital after the incident. They are all expected to be okay. They also had to evacuate part of the building so that a HAZMAT team could decontaminate the area. That process only took about an hour.

Source: http://news10now.com/content/all_news/126054/suspect-causes-stir-at-justice-center/Default.aspx

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *October 15, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Federal grant to streamline radio systems.** When Mon Valley fire departments dispatched throughout the region to help with the response to widespread flooding in 2004, their radios were not capable of communicating with emergency workers in the communities they were helping. Now, an \$856,000 federal grant, announced by officials Tuesday, will provide them with radios that can communicate with other departments throughout the county. This should be the last link to get all Allegheny County fire departments on the same frequency, able to use one radio instead of two or three for responses, said the chief of the county's Department of Emergency Services. Some departments in the Mon Valley region were using a system from the first generation of radio communications, he said. In all, 39 fire departments and seven emergency medical service departments from towns throughout the valley will get radio equipment.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_593347.html

29. *October 14, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **Standards needed for first-responder ID cards, industry group says.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency should establish the federal employee identity card technical standard as the foundation for a nationwide credential for emergency response officials, according to the Smart Card Alliance. Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 201 governs the production of identification cards for millions of federal employees and contractors. The alliance suggested in a white paper that secure credentials for first responders should be based on FIPS 201. "Implementing Emergency Response Official credentials that function nationwide requires use of a common technology platform," the white paper states. "Fortunately, the FIPS 201 standard supports this requirement." FIPS 201 includes not only technical compatibility for the card but also conformance to standards for readers, and rules on how the cards are vetted and issued.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/online/news/154070-1.html>

30. *October 14, Government Technology* – (National) **GSA launches program to support state and local first responders.** State and local governments have a new way to buy supplies and services to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies under a program established by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) earlier this month. The Cooperative Purchasing Program allows state and local agencies to buy law enforcement, security, and first responder goods and services off a GSA contract known as Schedule 84. The interim rule implements the Local Preparedness Acquisition Act, signed by the President on June 26, 2008. "Access to Schedule 84 will help our state and local government partners make their communities safer today," said GSA's Acting Administrator.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/421247?topic=117680>

Information Technology

31. *October 15, Webroot Software, Inc.* – (International) **Webroot(R) threat advisory: Hackers infecting computers with phony Verizon multimedia messages.** Webroot has detected a new malicious download disguised as a legitimate multimedia message service (MMS). “We are now seeing hackers use the Verizon Wireless name to send spam e-mails to PC users who unknowingly open a fake MMS which launches a Trojan to drop infected files onto their computers,” said the director of Threat Research, Webroot. “Hackers typically use downloads like this to harvest users’ personal information -- not to mention soak up significant bandwidth from users’ computers.” PC users targeted with this fraudulent spam receive a MMS that, when opened, activates the download of a file called “VerizonMMS.4837192. “ Once downloaded, the file instantly infects the PC with malware and also establishes connections to external Web sites that infect the computer with additional malware. “While it’s no surprise hackers continue to evolve how they attack PC users, the sheer volume of Verizon Wireless customers who may be deceived by this new threat means its effect may be significant,” said Webroot’s senior vice president and general manager of Consumer Business.
Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/webrootr-threat-advisory-hackers-infecting/story.aspx?guid={006A2E51-190D-4B06-A93F-B79070311461}&dist=hppr>

32. *October 14, Computing SA* – (International) **Malicious security update spammed out, coincides with Patch Tuesday.** IT security and control firm, Sophos, is warning computer users to be on their guard following the discovery of a malicious Trojan horse spam campaign disguised as Microsoft’s monthly security bulletin. The messages were first discovered Monday and continued to cause problems October 14, coinciding with Microsoft’s monthly ‘Patch Tuesday’ cycle - when the software giant issues an update of genuine critical patches. Samples intercepted at SophosLabs have the subject line ‘Security Update for OS Microsoft Windows’ and claim to come from Steve Lipnser at securityassurance@microsoft.com. Running the attached file infects Windows computer users with the Mal/EncPk-CZ Trojan horse, and could give hackers control over your PC. “Computer users need to learn that Microsoft never sends out security updates as e-mail attachments, and that they should always visit the genuine Microsoft Web site, or use automatic updating processes, to keep their systems current,” says the CEO of regional Sophos distributor, Sophos SA. “By timing their attack to coincide with Microsoft’s genuine monthly patch cycle, the spammers are hoping to trick more unwary computer users who might be awaiting the update, keen to defend themselves against future cyber attacks,” he says. Sophos recommends that all computer users exercise caution when opening unsolicited e-mails, and ensure they are fully defending against attacks, including spam, phishing and malware.
Source: <http://www.computingsa.co.za/article.aspx?id=863027>

33. *October 14, VNUNet.com* – (International) **FTC shuts down major spam network.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has shut down what it claims was the world’s largest network of spammers. The network had sent out billions of messages, according to the FTC which has received over three million complaints about the activities. With

spammers in Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Russia, Canada, and the U.S., the group is estimated to have been responsible for up to a third of all junk email. “The defendants used spam email to sell prescription drugs. They claimed that the medications came from a bona fide US-licensed pharmacy that dispenses FDA-approved generic versions of drugs such as Levitra, Avodart, Cialis, Propecia, Viagra, Lipitor, Celebrex and Zoloft,” said the FTC. “In fact, the defendants do not operate a US-licensed pharmacy. They sell drugs that are shipped from India.” The FTC named two individuals as responsible for the spam network - a New Zealand citizen living in Australia, and a resident of Texas - and four companies they control: Inet Ventures Pty, Tango Pay, Click Fusion and TwoBucks Trading. The FTC already has a \$2.2 million judgment outstanding against Atkinson from a case in 2005 over a similar spamming incident.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2228226/ftc-shuts-world-biggest-spam>

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

34. *October 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Researchers expect hackers to prey on cell phones.** Security researchers say cell phones, and not just PCs, are the next likely conscripts into the automated armies. The mobile phone as zombie computer is one possibility envisioned by security researchers from Georgia Tech in a new report coming out Wednesday. The report identifies the growing power of cell phones to open a new avenue of attack for hackers. Of particular concern is that as cell phones get more computing power and better Internet connections, hackers can capitalize on vulnerabilities in mobile-phone operating systems or Web applications. Botnets, or networks of infected or robot PCs, are the weapons of choice when it comes to spam and so-called “denial of service attacks,” in which computer servers are overwhelmed with Internet traffic to shut them down. For example, botnets were used against Estonia’s government and financial Web sites in a devastating wave of attacks last year.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gRjgkVOGDem-xjpJ0p8nfO73bX0wD93QN32O0>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *October 14, My Fox DC* – (Maryland) **Alleged bomb threat suspect surrenders to Md. Police.** Montgomery County police say a 34-year old man suspected of making bomb threats to the immigrant advocacy group CASA de Maryland has turned himself

into authorities. “It was determined [the man] was responsible for making the calls to CASA de Maryland, one to the hotline and another to an individual or employee,” said a Montgomery County Police Department representative. Investigators say the man made bomb threats to the Latino Civil Rights Organization on May 18. The same day, a board member received a threatening call at 3:30 p.m. CASA de Maryland says they started tracking calls after someone tried to burn their day-laborer site in March 2007.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7644658&version=3&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *October 15, WCAX 3 Burlington* – (Vermont) **Forest officials say some trails may remain closed for years.** The U.S. Forest Service says some trails in the Green Mountain National Forest may stay closed for a while. They were forced to close several trails this summer after they were damaged by a series of severe storms, especially in Addison County. A number of roads leading to the trails were also washed out. Damage estimates are around \$5 million. Funding is available to repair some of the roads and trails, but not all of them. Forest officials say some may take two years to repair. The trails were used for hiking and snowmobiling.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=9180609>

37. *October 14, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Forest Service tries to salvage n. Idaho proposal.** The U.S. Forest Service is trying to salvage a proposal to log 950 acres of trees — and burn nearly 2,000 acres of vegetation — in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. A group that previously supported the proposal as a member of the Coeur d’Alene Forestry Coalition now has serious concerns about the plan. The coalition, an Idaho-based nonprofit that represents timber and environmental groups, has worked on the proposal for more than two years with the federal government. Logging and environmental groups were expected to benefit from the Forest Service proposal to remove and sell the 950 acres of timber and allow for the potential growth of ponderosa pine and western white pine trees, eventually improving habitat for sensitive species such as flammulated owls and pygmy nuthatches. The plan would also remove fire-prone trees near rural homes at the edge of the national forest in northern Idaho.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap_id_timber_sale.html

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Dams Sector

38. *October 15, Sacramento Business Journal* – (California) **West Sacramento asks for more time to assess levee risks.** West Sacramento is negotiating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for more time to finish levee improvements before the federal agency requires flood insurance and building restrictions. FEMA’s standard extension deal gives cities with uncertified levees up to two years to analyze

and improve them without imposing sanctions. But in FEMA's deal, levee owners must sign an agreement saying they believe the levees provide protection against a 100-year flood, which means a 1 percent annual flood risk. Existing FEMA maps do not mark West Sacramento as a flood-risk area. But FEMA is concerned that water seeping under levees along the Sacramento River could put the city at greater risk than previously thought. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the state Department of Water Resources, and the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency plan to complete engineering evaluations of the levees surrounding West Sacramento by September 2010. The West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency estimates levee repairs will cost \$400 million. Levee reconstruction would start in 2012. The agency hopes for \$260 million from the federal government, \$98 million in state funding, and \$42 million from local property assessments. When the projects are completed, the city would have 200-year flood protection.

Source:

<http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/10/13/story8.html?b=1223870400^1715275>

October 14, Omaha World-Herald – (Nebraska) **Construction on Lake Wanahoo dam to start this week.** Construction on the Lake Wanahoo dam north of Wahoo is expected to be underway this week. The Lower Platte North Natural Resources Board of Directors awarded the \$12.6 million contract to Commercial Contractors on Monday.

Source: http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=2798&u_sid=10460070

39. *October 14, WIBC 93.1 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Repairs to Central Canal begin Wednesday.** Veolia Water Indianapolis, LLC, the day-to-day manager and operator of Indianapolis Water, will close the Central Canal Towpath beginning at 7 a.m. Wednesday. The closure is expected to last approximately two months. Uprooted and damaged trees between the Central Canal and the White River have impacted the north side of the canal bank. The Central Canal provides a critical supply of water to nearly 60 percent of Indianapolis Water customers. Officials say immediate repairs to this portion of the canal are necessary to ensure the safety and adequacy of the Indianapolis drinking water supply and prevent a possible breach of the canal wall.

Source: <http://www.wibc.com/News/Story.aspx?ID=101108>

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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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