



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 29 August 2012

Top Stories

- The U.S. government said 78 percent of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico was stopped as companies prepared for Hurricane Isaac. – *Associated Press* (See item [1](#))
- Authorities arrested seven people allegedly involved in an extensive bank scam that stole as much as \$100 million from several large banks throughout the country, police reported. – *KCAL 9 Los Angeles* (See item [14](#))
- Hackers are taking advantage of a zero-day vulnerability in Java 7 that can be exploited through any browser on any system, security experts said. – *Computerworld* (See item [37](#))
- Restoration efforts for thousands of Verizon customers at homes, businesses, and government agencies in the Lawrence, Massachusetts area continued after a fire under the Central Bridge August 27 damaged Verizon cables. – *Verizon* (See item [38](#))
- Engineers closed the floodgates around the city of New Orleans, hoping to keep water from the Gulf of Mexico out as Hurricane Isaac headed toward the city and its newly reinforced 350-mile flood protection system. – *USA Today; Associated Press* (See item [47](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *August 28, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S: 78 pct. of Gulf oil production shut by storm.** The U.S. government stated 78 percent of the oil production in the Gulf of Mexico has been halted in preparation for Tropical Storm Isaac, the Associated Press reported August 27. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement reported about 1 million barrels per day of oil production has stopped as companies have evacuated 346 offshore oil and gas production platforms. That is 17 percent of daily U.S. oil production and 6 percent of consumption. The agency said 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas production is also affected. That is about 3 percent of daily U.S. production and consumption. Production was expected to quickly resume after the storm passes.
Source: http://www.dailytribune.net/news/state/article_36fae423-0724-5a5d-a580-3c0c11012d1a.html
2. *August 28, WNBC 4 New York* – (Texas) **Gas line fire snuffed out.** A ruptured gas line that caught fire and sent flames 50-feet into the air August 28 in McKinney, Texas, has been snuffed out, but not before the fire injured two people and damaged several vehicles. The gas line explosion was first reported at a digging site near state highways 121 and 5 east of US 75 in Collin County. The McKinney Fire Department stated a 6-person Atmos Energy crew was working in the area when they ruptured a 6-inch gas line with a backhoe. Several vehicles, including digging equipment, were destroyed. The fire caused a power outage in the area and the nearby Medical Center of McKinney operated on generator power for a short time until power was restored to the hospital. Three hours after the initial explosion, power remained out to about 1,000 customers. Just over an hour after the initial explosion, the supply to the gas line was shut down and the fire slowly went out as the residual gas burned off.
Source: <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/national-international/Gas-Line-Explodes-in-McKinney-167677095.html>
3. *August 28, Contra Coasta Times* – (California) **Inquiry into Chevron’s Richmond refinery fire could spark prosecution, regulatory reform.** A final report on Chevron’s massive August 6 refinery fire could potentially lead to prosecution of the energy giant and serve as an impetus for federal regulatory reform, investigators said August 27. “We want to take the lessons learned here to all refineries,” said the lead investigator for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), a federal agency at the accident site since August 7. The investigation and report may take more than a year to complete but will be a comprehensive safety and maintenance evaluation, investigators said at the August 27 meeting that included representatives from four of the five principal agencies investigating the fire. The lead investigator for CSB said safety concerns continue to keep investigators from getting to the failed pipe, which continues to leak hydrocarbons, and conducting metallurgy and other tests. He said he hopes they can get to the pipe by September 6 but may not meet that goal. The fire broke out in the No. 4 crude unit of the 240,000-barrel-per-day refinery after leaking 600-degree hydrocarbon liquid from an 8-inch pipe created a huge vapor cloud. Four workers suffered minor injuries, and more than 14,000 residents visited area hospitals in the subsequent weeks,

complaining of respiratory problems and other discomforts.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_21411719/investigators-report-chevrons-richmond-refinery-fire-could-spark

4. *August 27, San Francisco Examiner* – (California) **Pollutants still leaking after Chevron fire.** Smog-producing hydrocarbons were still leaking at unlawful levels at the Chevron oil refinery in Richmond, California, in the wake of the August 6 fire there, but pollution control officials said they expected to stop it by August 27 and Chevron could face \$25,000 daily fines. While the exact size of the hydrocarbon leak has yet to be verified, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District estimates that it is 5,000 parts per million, a low level still considered a violation of federal air quality standards. “We are going to look at all of [Chevron’s] processes and all of their equipment and set the maximum penalties,” said the district’s chief executive officer. Four separate government agencies have launched probes into the fire, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Chemical Safety Board and the air quality district.
Source: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/2012/08/pollutants-still-leaking-after-chevron-fire>
5. *August 27, WTVJ 6 Miami* – (Florida) **About 27,000 Broward and Miami-Dade customers remain without power Monday night.** About 27,000 Florida Power & Light (FPL) customers in Broward and Miami-Dade counties remained without power August 27 in the wake of Tropical Storm Isaac, after crews had restored power to about the same number. As of 10 p.m., 14,220 customers in Miami-Dade and 13,200 customers in Broward were without power. About 53,000 of FPL’s customers were without power earlier in the day. FPL said its workers were staffed round the clock to assess damage and restore power. Live wires were seen sparking in the middle of Bayshore Drive near Vista Court early August 27. Police blocked off the road as FPL crews de-energized power lines and removed debris.
Source: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Almost-50000-Broward-Miami-Dade-Customers-Without-Power-Monday-167557565.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *August 28, Plastics Today* – (Louisiana) **Chemical producers keeping an eye on Isaac.** Tropical Storm Isaac was declared a hurricane August 28 with 75 mph winds as it headed toward the Gulf Coast. In response, many chemical producers took precautions. A hurricane warning was in effect for the area east of Morgan City, Louisiana to the Alabama-Florida border, the National Weather Service stated. ExxonMobil activated hurricane preparedness plans for its Baton Rouge-area facilities, a spokesperson said. The plants, which include its chemical site, were operating at reduced rates. The company was evacuating personnel from its offshore facilities. Westlake Chemical Corp., a vertically integrated manufacturer and marketer of basic

chemicals, vinyls, polymers, and fabricated polyvinyl chloride building product, began the shutdown of its vinyls operations in Geismar and expected to complete it by mid-day August 28, with all non-essential personnel released, a company spokesperson said. It also fully implemented its emergency plan for its olefins and polyethylene facilities in Lake Charles. A Dow spokesperson said the firm implemented preparedness plans at its many plants in Louisiana. Pinnacle Polymers declared force majeure August 27 due to raw material delivery interruption into their polypropylene plant in Garyville, according to PetroChem Wire.

Source: <http://www.plasticstoday.com/articles/Chemical-producers-keeping-an-eye-on-Isaac-08272012012>

7. *August 27, Platts* – (National) **Louisiana olefins makers brace for Isaac; Williams to shut cracker.** Olefins producers in Louisiana August 27 braced for the arrival of Tropical Storm Isaac, with at least one steam cracker shutdown planned ahead of the storm's expected landfall in the central Gulf Coast, sources said. Williams planned to shut its 612,000 metric ton/year (mt/year) steam cracker in Geismar late the afternoon of August 27, a company source said. The shutdown could last as long as a week, the source said. It follows refinery shutdowns in Louisiana announced August 27 by Valero, Marathon, and Phillips 66, as well as Enterprise Products Partners' shutdown of two NGL fractionators and one gas-processing plant. Shell, which operates two crackers (capacity 1.36 million mt/year) at its Norco petrochemical complex in St. Charles Parish, said on its Web site that facilities at Norco, Convent, and Geismar, as well as Mobile, Alabama, were running at reduced rates. There are 11 olefins plants in Louisiana, with a combined production of more than 6.4 million mt/year of ethylene and other products.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Petrochemicals/6591608>

For more stories, see items [3](#), [10](#), and [26](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *August 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Ailing Calif. reactor prepares to remove fuel.** The operator of the San Onofre nuclear power plant in San Diego County, California, is preparing to empty the fuel from one of its twin reactors, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspector said August 27, which is another sign the plant would not be operating at full capacity anytime soon. Tons of fuel inside the disabled Unit 3 reactor will be moved into storage in mid-September. The plant has been shut down since January after a break in a tube that carries radioactive water. Investigators later found unusual wear on scores of tubes inside the plant's four steam generators, and Southern California Edison has been trying for months to determine how to fix it. Edison has previously said it is focusing on repairing the Unit 2 reactor, which had been taken offline earlier in January for maintenance, and that "the Unit 3 reactor will not be operating for some time."

Source:

http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2019004570_apusnuclearplantproblems.html

9. *August 27, Lawrence Journal-World* – (Kansas) **Diminishing reservoir levels raise nuclear plant and other concerns.** A new report from the Kansas Water Office (KWO) projects a key federal reservoir used in helping cool the Wolf Creek nuclear power plant near Burlington, Kansas, will be almost dry by November 1, if current weather patterns persist, the Lawrence Journal-World reported August 27. Wolf Creek officials said the dwindling water levels at John Redmond Reservoir posed no safety risk, but they could make it difficult for the plant to operate if the drought continues for many months. KWO officials estimated the reservoir was at about 75 percent of its normal capacity as of August 1. But by November 1, the office projects the 9,400-acre lake will be at only 5 percent of its capacity, barring rainfall that was not projected through the autumn. A Wolf Creek spokeswoman said Coffey County Lake still has plenty of water to maintain normal operations at the plant for the foreseeable future. Thus far, Coffey County Lake is only 2 feet below normal levels. She said that Coffey County Lake would have to drop another 11 feet before the water levels were too low for the plant to operate. Even in that scenario, though, the plant would still have plenty of water to keep the nuclear reactor cooled in a shutdown mode, she said.
Source: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2012/aug/27/diminishing-reservoir-levels-raise-nuclear-plant-a/>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *August 27, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **2 men who ran metal-plating company in Pacoima face criminal charges.** Two men who ran a metal-plating company in the Pacoima section of Los Angeles are facing criminal charges they improperly handled and disposed of dangerous chemicals, even after being given a chance to clean up their act, Contra Costa Times reported August 27. The men are the owner and manager of Jesse's Plating. They face 41 misdemeanor counts under the State Health and Safety Code. Routine sewer testing by the city department of public works found high levels of chemicals around Jesse's Plating in 2010. The company was ordered to clean up the problems, but follow-up testing in 2012 found the chemicals remained, the complaint said. It accused the men of improper handling or disposal of cyanide gas as well as liquid waste containing cadmium, cyanide, chromium, copper, nickel, and cyanide. Other counts allege failure to properly label hazardous waste containers, storage of hydrochloric acid in open containers, failure to obtain a federal Environmental Protection Agency ID number, and failure to maintain safe work areas.
Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_21411905/2-men-who-ran-metal-plating-company-pacoima
11. *August 27, Associated Press* – (Kentucky; International) **Judge stops ex-Toyota worker from leaving country.** A federal judge in Lexington, Kentucky, ordered a former computer programmer for Toyota from leaving the United States while the company investigated damage done by an alleged computer hacking incident, the

Associated Press reported August 27. The judge also ordered the man to forfeit any data he took from the computer system of Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America. In a lawsuit filed in federal court, Toyota alleged the man illegally accessed the Web site toyotasupplier.com after being dismissed from his contract position August 23. The company claims he reset the Web site and computer system to automatically crash. At that point, Toyota alleged, the man, a native of India, accessed Toyota's internal computer system without authorization and copied, downloaded, and possibly disseminated trade secrets and proprietary data. Included in that information was pricing information, quality testing data, and parts testing data, Toyota's attorney wrote in the complaint. Toyota also claimed he reprogrammed at least 13 applications the computer system to cause it to crash, and also removed critical security certifications on the company's internal server, causing the programs to become inoperable. He was unsure how long it would take for Toyota's technology department to repair the damage.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/business/article/Judge-stops-ex-Toyota-worker-from-leaving-country-3818233.php>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *August 27, Marine Log* – (National) **Gulf Coast shipyards prepare for Isaac.** As Tropical Storm Isaac became a hurricane, U.S. Gulf Coast State governors declared emergencies, while shipyards in the likely path of the storm took emergency measures and announced closings, *Marine Log* reported August 27. Among shipyards that told most workers to stay home, Huntington Ingalls Industries' Ingalls Shipbuilding closed its Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Avondale, Louisiana, shipyards August 27, beginning with the second shift, and said they would remain closed August 28-29. The shipbuilder's Gulfport Composite Center of Excellence was also closed August 27 with plans to remain closed August 28-29. The *Mobile Press-Register* reported Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama, was closing its shipyard but a skeleton crew would stay at the facility during the storm, to include a crew on board each of the two ships moored at the shipyard. The *Press-Register* reported Bayou La Batre, Alabama's Horizon Shipbuilding would stop production until Isaac passed. Other Gulf Coast shipyards had similar plans.

Source:

http://marinelog.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2849:gulf-coast-shipyards-prepare-for-isaac&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=195

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *August 27, Credit Union Times* – (National) **Credit unions, banks bilked in \$16 million Jiffy Lube scam.** Credit unions and other lenders were among those allegedly

defrauded out of \$16 million in a case involving the sale of and leaseback of several businesses in four States, Credit Union Times reported August 27. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced the indictment of a real estate broker/investment consultant. The attorney said that between 2006 and 2008, the man and a co-conspirator allegedly used a group of companies to buy Jiffy Lube stores, automotive service businesses, convenience store/gas stations, and other commercial properties and then sell them to investors in Pennsylvania and California. Financing and commercial loans were allegedly obtained from Indiana First Savings Bank, Bank of the West, California Credit Union, Travis Credit Union, and Great Lakes Credit Union for investors to purchase properties and then used other companies controlled by the co-conspirators to lease and operate the properties. The indicted man allegedly provided investors and lenders with false and fraudulent financial data on the investment properties, which induced loans and investments totaling approximately \$16 million. He would then allegedly divert funds from the sale of the properties to cover lease payments and expenses and to buy new properties and also allegedly received approximately \$1.9 million in commissions and consulting fees from the sale of properties, authorities said. The co-conspirator was previously charged and pleaded guilty in April 2011.

Source: <http://www.cutimes.com/2012/08/27/credit-unions-banks-bilked-in-16-million-jiffy-lub?ref=hp>

14. *August 27, KCAL 9 Los Angeles* – (California; National) **Secret Service, OC police nab 7 suspects in massive bank scam.** Authorities arrested seven people allegedly involved in an extensive bank scam that stole as much as \$100 million from several large banks throughout the country, police reported. More arrests would be made as the investigation continues, a Huntington Beach, California police sergeant said August 27. The case started when a woman drained \$24,000 from another person's account at a Chase bank in Huntington Beach. She was caught and pleaded guilty in July to using a counterfeit credit card. More suspects have been accused of the same "account takeovers" and police suspect they had help from bank employees. A task force, which also included Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies as well as Los Angeles, Irvine, and Huntington Beach police, served five search warrants the week of August 20. "There are 50 to 55 we have identified or are going to identify, of which seven were arrested last week," the police sergeant said. The thieves struck 300 to 500 bank branches, taking out \$5,000 to \$7,000 each time, according to the sergeant, who said the losses could be higher than what police have estimated thus far. He noted that Bank of America has lost about \$12 million. Investigators planned to meet with Citibank officials August 28.

Source: <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/08/27/secret-service-oc-police-nab-7-suspects-in-massive-bank-scam/>

15. *August 27, USA Today* – (National) **Cybercrooks fool financial advisers to steal from clients.** Cybercriminals are using falsified email messages in attempts to con financial advisers into wiring cash out of their clients' online investment accounts, USA Today reported August 26. If the adviser falls for it, a wire transfer gets legitimately executed, and cash flows into a bank account controlled by the thieves — leaving the victim in a dispute with the financial adviser over getting made whole. Anecdotal evidence of this

ruse — directed at financial planners, estate lawyers, and other advisers who rely on email and online banking to work with clients — has just begun to surface, according to tech security and online banking experts. IDentity Theft 911, a theft-recovery service, is working on a case where a faked email led to a \$35,000 transfer. In another caper, a veteran financial planner was fooled by a Gmail message appearing to arrive from an insurance company executive. The email carried instructions to wire \$15,850 into an account at PNC Bank, worded in a casual style similar to past emails the adviser had received from the executive. Luckily, the planner phoned his client to clarify which account to pull the money from and discovered the fraud. Cybercriminals have discovered investors now routinely rely on email to authorize personal advisers to execute financial transactions. “Instead of managing layers of malicious software, all the bad guys need is e-mail and phone skills”, a vice president at Authentify said. Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/story/2012-08-26/wire-transfer-fraud/57335540/1>

16. *August 27, Topeka Capital-Journal* – (Kansas; Missouri) **Man admits scheme was based on bank, wire fraud.** A man has pleaded guilty to swindling banks and investors out of more than \$5 million, a U.S. attorney said August 27. The Overland Park, Kansas man pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud, one count of aggravated identity theft, one count of money laundering, and one count of wire fraud. In his plea, he said he devised a scheme in which he defrauded Kansas City, Missouri area financial institutions including Valley View Bank, Bank of the West, and Marshall & Ilsley Bank by providing them with false financial data to obtain lines of credit and loans. He obtained loans by providing false documentation, and arranged for a person to call a loan officer at Valley View Bank to claim he had more than \$2.7 million invested with the caller. One of the loans was obtained for his company, Software4Biz Consulting using fake documents. He also co-founded a company called BlueValley Capital Management LLP. Partners in the venture invested \$50,000. When soliciting investors, he made false statements overstating the annual return of the partners’ investments. When one of the co-founders requested an audit, he provided a report with false data. He also falsely claimed to have the ability to purchase pre-initial public offering stock in Facebook. Source: <http://cjonline.com/news/2012-08-27/man-admits-scheme-was-based-bank-wire-fraud>
17. *August 27, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Maryland) **Man pleads guilty to \$163,000 credit card fraud scandal in Maryland.** A man pleaded guilty in Greenbelt, Maryland, August 27 to fraud in connection with access devices that cost merchants more than \$163,376. According to his guilty plea, from February 20, 2008 to April 2, 2010, he obtained credit cards in his own name and added fictitious names as secondary users on the accounts. He then used the credit cards to order items from merchants on payment plans. He provided multiple different addresses to which the items should be shipped, including addresses for himself, his friends and relatives, and vacant addresses. Merchants charged his credit cards in installments over a period of time. He then reported to the credit card companies that his cards had been lost or stolen. The companies closed those credit card accounts and issued new credit card account numbers. When the merchants tried to charge the man’s credit cards for the subsequent

installment payments, they were unable to do so because those accounts had been closed. The man maintained at least three eBay accounts, which he used to sell the items that he had fraudulently obtained from the merchants.

Source: <http://www.loansafe.org/man-pleads-guilty-to-163000-credit-card-fraud-scandal-in-maryland>

18. *August 27, MLive.com* – (National) **Couple accused of \$10-plus million Ponzi scheme against Detroit police and fire pension spent frivolously.** A Florida couple is accused of initiating a Ponzi scheme that stripped the Detroit Police and Fire Retirement and other creditors of \$39.5 million dollars, MLive.com reported August 27. After receiving a \$9.9 million loan in 2008 from the pension system for the purposes of investing in distressed properties for resale, a husband and wife who at the time operated South Carolina-based Paramount Land Holdings never made payments in accordance with the agreement, the federal complaint against them reads. Prior to the pension board filing a complaint in April, the couple fled to the Caribbean, during that period spending large sums on expensive works of art. The pair approached the former president of Paramount Limited with the land-purchase-business proposal, which he presented to the pension board. Although the board chose not to invest in the business, it granted a \$10 million loan with an 18 percent interest rate. While investigating the potential second loan, the board identified “numerous substantial breaches” related to the initial \$10 million and filed for default. The couple allegedly spent \$5 million of the loan they received on more than 2,500 properties in 30 States. Based on the costs of litigation, unpaid interest, and other fees, the pension fund claims the couple owes more than \$15.3 million to the pension fund. Combined with other creditors, they owe at least \$39.5 million, the Detroit News reported.

Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/08/couple_accused_of_10-plus_mill.html

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Transportation Sector

19. *August 28, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **As residents cope with major flooding, more rain threatens.** Officials across the Palm Beach County, Florida, scrambled to drain the deluge that made many roads west of US 441 impassable and threatened homes and livestock. August 26-27, heavy rain and wind flooded the western communities, spawned a Treasure Coast tornado, killed baby sea turtles by the hundreds, abruptly shuttered schools and government offices, and contributed to at least two traffic deaths in Palm Beach and Okeechobee counties, the Palm Beach Post reported August 28. Although the tail end of Isaac was expected to move out by August 27, another influx of rain and thunderstorms had piggybacked on top of the tropical storm, opening up the possibility of still more flooding in already flooded areas. Drivers were warned to proceed with caution as flood waters have made roadways and canals indistinguishable. The Port of Palm Beach closed to vessel traffic by August 27. Palm Beach County officials August 27 closed all county government offices, libraries, and parks. Isaac had already caused power outages for about 293,000 customers across Florida Power & Light’s service territory. More than 70,000 remained without power as of August 27. In

Palm Beach County alone, 96,480 homes and businesses lost service; about 18,000 remained without lights August 27.

Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/weather/isaac-leaves-a-surprisefloods-cancellations/nRLf8/>

20. *August 28, Salisbury Daily Times* – (Delaware; New Jersey) **Flooding hits Delaware.** Heavy rain and flooding dumped more than 7 inches of rain on parts of Sussex County, Delaware, the National Weather Service said. It reported flash flooding on Route 50 at Easton, with vehicles stalled along the roadway, the Salisbury Daily Times reported August 28. The weather service said close to 10 inches may have fallen in parts of Sussex. More than 2,500 Delmarva Power customers were without electric service August 26, and most of the outages were in Sussex County. River Road was closed August 26 between Chief and Oak Orchard roads, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) reported. Holly Lake Road was closed between Phillips Branch Road and Route 24, and high water also was reported at Route 5 and Beaver Dam Road. Flooding of a few streets in Rehoboth Beach was reported August 25 to the Sussex 9-1-1 call center. DelDOT reported road flooding on Route 1 in Dewey Beach August 25 and on Route 26 in Bethany Beach August 26. Firefighters in areas including Delmar, Georgetown, Millville, Milton, Millsboro, and Selbyville responded to several structure fires August 25 as storms brought lightning. In Cape May, New Jersey, cars became stuck on flooded streets and some floated, the service said. Street flooding also was reported in Wildwood Crest and Avalon in southern New Jersey. North Wildwood streets had 6-8 inches of water, the service said.
- Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20120827/DW01/208270313/Flooding-hits-Delaware>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *August 28, Food Safety News* – (National) **CDC adds 3 more deaths to toll of 2011 Listeria cantaloupe outbreak.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) raised the official death toll of the 2011 cantaloupe-linked Listeria outbreak from 30 to 33, Food Safety News reported August 28. Since the CDC issued its final outbreak report December 8, 2011, three more outbreak victims have died, but federal health officials had yet to confirm that these deaths were a direct result of Listeria infection. That confirmation came August 27 when CDC published an addendum to its final report, noting that “the number of outbreak-associated deaths has increased by three since December 8, 2011.” Not all deaths that have occurred among outbreak

victims were due to Listeria infection, noted CDC. “Ten other deaths not attributed to listeriosis occurred among persons who had been infected with an outbreak-associated subtype,” said the report. “State and local public health officials reviewed causes of death listed on death certificates to determine whether to attribute these deaths to listeriosis.” The 2011 Listeria outbreak sickened at least 147 people.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/08/cdc-adds-3-more-deaths-to-toll-of-2011-listeria-cantaloupe-outbreak/#.UDzJ9qC6TIY>

22. *August 28, Ohio State University* – (Ohio) **New herbicide-resistant weed confirmed in Ohio prompts measures to limit its spread.** A weed known to many cotton and soybean growers in the South as “pigweed on steroids” was spotted in Ohio, prompting Ohio State University Extension experts to warn Ohio growers to take measures to prevent its further spread, Ohio State University (OSU) reported August 28. Palmer amaranth, which is a glyphosate-resistant weed that has had a substantially negative impact on crop yields and profitability for cotton and soybean growers in Southern States, was spotted in a large field near Portsmouth in southern Ohio, said an OSU Extension weed specialist. The concern about glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth, which has caused entire cotton and soybean fields to be mowed down in some Southern States, is that if the weed takes hold in Ohio crop fields, it will be harder to control than the glyphosate-resistant weeds already present statewide, he said. “It’s already resistant to two of the main types of herbicides we use in soybeans, glyphosate and ALS inhibitors, and the weed has to be less than 4 inches tall when spraying in order to get control of it.” Losses for growers dealing with this aggressive weed have been in the millions in lost agricultural crops, experts estimate.
Source: http://www.ntxe-news.com/artman/publish/article_78283.shtml
23. *August 27, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (Oregon; Washington) **Cucina Fresca Gourmet Foods issues allergy alert due to undeclared milk in shelf-stable 24-ounce smoked tomato sauce.** Cucina Fresca Gourmet Foods recently conducted an audit of its packaged goods products and found an error on the labels of 58 cases of shelf-stable 24-ounce Cucina Fresca Smoked Tomato Sauce in glass jars, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported August 27. The error resulted in a need to recall the mislabeled packages from select Pacific Northwest Whole Foods and Quality Food Center locations in Oregon and Washington States. The Cucina Fresca Smoked Tomato labeled jars actually contain Cucina Fresca Tomato Vodka Sauce, which contains milk as an ingredient. Milk is not listed on the Cucina Fresca Smoked Tomato label.
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm317072.htm>
24. *August 27, Food Safety News* – (National; International) **California investigating 73 illnesses linked to Salmonella mangoes.** California health officials were investigating 73 illnesses potentially linked to Salmonella-contaminated mangoes, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) said August 27. The news came 2 days after the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced a recall of mangoes imported from Mexico after several illnesses were linked to consuming the fruit. Both California and Canada were investigating the same strain: Salmonella Braenderup. Of the patients who have been interviewed, 67 percent reported eating mangoes, according to a CDPH spokesman, but State officials said they have not yet identified specific mango brand or

source yet. The State agency said it is coordinating investigation with other States, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as well as Canadian health officials. Over the weekend of August 25, Canada recalled Daniella brand mangoes that were sold in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon between July 12 and August 14.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/08/california-investigating-73-illnesses-linked-to-salmonella-mangoes/#.UDzKBqC6TIY>

25. *August 27, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **OSHA cites Tyson for Nebraska worker's death.** Regulators have proposed more than \$104,000 in penalties for Tyson Foods Inc. because of safety violations the regulators say were found at a Nebraska beef plant where a worker was fatally injured, the Associated Press reported August 27. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Springdale, Arkansas-based Tyson was cited for seven violations at its Dakota City plant. Authorities said an employee was injured March 14 when a piece of equipment he was working on collapsed on him. The company has said the slaughter and processing plant was not in operation at the time.

Source: <http://www.ky3.com/news/ky3-osha-cites-tyson-foods-for-workers-death-20120827,0,6818162.story>

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Water Sector

26. *August 28, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Residents asked to conserve water.** The Brazos Water Authority (BWA) asked residents in Freeport, Texas, and surrounding areas to conserve water after a chemical was sprayed too close to the region's water supply, KTRK 13 Houston reported. Officials said while employees were spraying a common aquatic herbicide in the Dow freshwater canal August 27, the water authority's intake area also was accidentally sprayed. As a result, BWA officials temporarily shut down the water plant until tests can be run on the water. The authority said it was tapping into its 2 million gallons of reserve water for the time being, so it would like for residents to conserve water until further notice. Dow conducts spraying annually as a standard practice to manage water hyacinth in its canals to ensure continued water flow to Dow and BWA.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8788709>

27. *August 28, White Plains Journal-News* – (New York) **Saw Mill S/B, Cross County W/B in Yonkers still closed after water main bursts; Free water station has moved.** Yonkers, New York officials said a private contractor installing fiber-optic cable struck a 30-inch water main, flooding portions of the Saw Mill River and Cross County parkways and affecting service to as many as 70,000 city residents, the White Plains Journal News reported August 28. Repairs were expected to take until at least the afternoon. Meanwhile, the southbound Saw Mill River Parkway and westbound Cross County Parkway remained closed, and the city was offering free water at five locations. The contractor, believed to be installing cable as part of a state-funded

project, was working near Wendover Road when the break occurred. The mayor said at a news conference late August 27 that the hope was to repair the broken main within 24 to 48 hours. Crews isolated the ruptured main and were working late into the night to reroute as much water as possible to residents, city officials said. The police commissioner urged morning commuters to avoid unnecessary travel near those roads and to use alternate routes including the Bronx River Parkway, the Hutchinson River Parkway and Interstate 95.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20120828/NEWS02/308280053/Saw-Mill-S-B-Cross-County-W-B-Yonkers-still-closed-after-water-main-bursts-free-water-station-has-moved?odyssey=mod|mostview>

28. *August 27, KFYZ 5 Bismarck* – (North Dakota) **Williston sewage problem.** KFYZ 5 Bismarck reported August 27 that the Williston, North Dakota sewage plant was experiencing capacity issues. “The plant is running probably 25 percent over the design capacity,” said the Williston public work director. “What would happen is if you’re running over that you just don’t have enough storage time in those ponds to hold it long enough to meet your discharge parameters. Recently, upgrades at the plant put in brand new pumps that can process thousands of gallons of water per minute. Step two of expansion is under construction. The treatment plant gets about 2 million gallons of water every day, and it is treated in ponds with oxygen, and then shipped to lagoons. But when the temporary plant opens it can be shipped to the lagoons or the temporary plant. And the temporary plant will feed the water to the backwaters of the Missouri river. The third step is to build a permanent waste water plant that will be able to meet the city’s needs. The permanent plant is still a few years away.

Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=58944

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *August 27, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Florida) **Eight people convicted in FL in \$50M Medicare fraud scheme.** Eight individuals and a Miami-based corporation were convicted by a federal jury for their participation in a Medicare fraud scheme involving the submission of more than \$50 million in fraudulent billings to Medicare, the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Department of Health and Human Services announced August 27. Evidence at trial demonstrated the defendants and their co-conspirators caused the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare through Biscayne Milieu, a Florida corporation headquartered in Miami that purported to operate a partial hospitalization program (PHP) in that city. Biscayne Milieu claimed to provide PHP services, a form of intensive treatment for severe mental illness, for Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, however, the defendants devised a scheme in which they paid patient recruiters to refer ineligible Medicare beneficiaries to Biscayne Milieu for PHP services that were never provided. Many of the beneficiaries were not eligible because they were chronic substance abusers, suffered from severe dementia or Alzheimer’s disease and would not benefit from group therapy, or had no mental health

diagnosis at all. Some beneficiaries were seeking fraudulent mental health treatment to be declared exempt from certain requirements for their applications for U.S. citizenship.

Source: <http://www.loansafe.org/eight-people-convicted-in-fl-in-50m-medicare-fraud-scheme>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [38](#), and [40](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Bozeman school fire under investigation.** Gallatin County, Montana officials said a fire August 25 at a Bozeman Christian school is suspicious. The undersheriff told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle the fire at Heritage Christian School in Bozeman was reported at night about 15 to 20 minutes before another fire nearby. The roof of the gym collapsed before fire crews could get the flames under control the morning of August 26. Classes at Heritage Christian are scheduled to start September 10 if classroom space can be found.
Source: <http://www.kulr8.com/news/state/167613955.html>
31. *August 28, Government Security News* – (Colorado) **Former resident charged with taking down Colorado county computer net.** A former resident who allegedly crippled Larimer County, Colorado's computer network in 2010 with a denial of service attack could now face almost 30 years in federal prison if he is convicted on all charges against him, Government Security News reported August 28. The man was indicted by a federal grand jury August 21 on charges related to a denial of service attack he allegedly implemented to retaliate against the Larimer County government. Law enforcement called the overwhelming computer attack "debilitating" to the county's network. Law enforcement caught up with him at an August 23 Sonora, Texas traffic stop. The federal government wants him detained and returned to Colorado by U.S. Marshals. According to local Colorado news reports, he was allegedly angry with the Larimer County government over a drunk driving charge he received while living in the county and wanted revenge. The denial of service attack was launched against the county's computer network September 22, 2010, and lasted until September 24, 2010, affecting county employees' ability to access their e-mail and the Internet, including State computer systems. The indictment alleges he intentionally damaged a protected computer, among other charges.
Source: http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/27091?c=cyber_security
32. *August 27, Nextgov* – (National) **White House plans to regulate contractor computer security.** The Presidential Administration has drafted plans to require federal contractors to adopt specific cybersecurity safeguards for company equipment that transmits government information, Nextgov reported August 27. NASA, the Defense Department, and the General Services Administration, which purchases goods and services for agencies across government, released the draft rules August 24. Under the plan, doing business with the government would be contingent on agreeing to protect

corporate-owned devices and federal data on Web sites. The provision calls for only a few computer protections and leaves vendors substantial flexibility, which troubles some computer security experts. A research director for the SANS Institute who frequently advises the Administration said the proviso does not elaborate on the degree to which antimalware software must be “current and regularly updated” or provide a timeline for the “prompt” application of patches. And the clause is silent on limiting administrative privileges, which grant network-wide access, he added.

Source: <http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2012/08/white-house-plans-regulate-contractor-computer-security/57668/?oref=ng-channelriver>

33. *August 27, Pensacola News Journal* – (Florida) **TS Isaac: Pensacola NAS evacuates students.** As Tropical Storm Isaac threatened to bring severe weather to the Florida Panhandle August 27, military commanders moved planes and students out of harm’s way. Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) at Pensacola Naval Air Station (NAS) in Florida evacuated nearly 4,500 students August 27. NATTC began in the afternoon to transport students to the Marine Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia, for temporary lodging until the storm passes and it is determined safe to return to Pensacola NAS. Additionally, NAS was to be closed to all but essential personnel August 28 and 29. Base officials anticipated returning to normal duty and work hours August 30. The Naval Air Station Whiting Field near Milton, Florida, closed all non-essential services at the end of normal work hours August 27. All base facilities and services were also closed August 28 and 29, and expected to reopen August 30. Access to the base would be limited to mission essential personnel only.

Source: <http://www.pnj.com/viewart/20120827/HURRICANE/308270004/TS-Isaac-Pensacola-NAS-evacuates-students?odyssey=tab|mostpopular|text|FRONTPAGE>

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *August 28, Firehouse.com News* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans responders preparing for Isaac.** EMS personnel in New Orleans were busy preparing for Hurricane Isaac, Firehouse.com News reported August 28. Weather officials calculated that if Isaac stays on its current path, it will enter New Orleans as a Category 1 Hurricane. The first thing local paramedics did over the past few days was move their own offices. A spokesman for New Orleans EMS said crews were encouraged to get their personal property secured because they will be on duty for an unknown amount of time. He added that all personnel will be on the job, and strategically located throughout the city. Trailers stocked with medical supplies also have been placed in various sectors. EMS officials also have been in contact with hospitals and nursing homes to make sure they are also up to speed on plans.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10770541/new-orleans-responders-preparing-for-isaac>

35. *August 28, WNBC 4 New York* – (New York) **2 killed, including 9/11 first responder, when car slams into ambulance on Staten Island.** Two people, including a September 11th first responder and retired firefighter, were killed when a car crossed the median and slammed into a moving ambulance on Staten Island in New York City August 27, police said. A car hit the ambulance, and the driver was ejected and pronounced dead at the scene. The emergency medical technician (EMT) driving the ambulance was pinned inside the vehicle and taken to a nearby hospital in cardiac arrest, police said. The EMT was pronounced dead. A patient inside the ambulance had minor injuries, as did the other EMT, according to authorities.

Source: <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Driver-Killed-BMW-Crash-Ambulance-Staten-Island-Seacrest-Hyland-167634355.html>

For more stories, see items [18](#), [27](#), and [38](#)

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Information Technology Sector

36. *August 27, The H* – (International) **Five 0days: HP in the security dock.** In compliance with its policies, the Zero Day Initiative (ZDI) has released five security holes that HP has had more than 6 months to fix. All of the zero-day holes affect products in HP's enterprise and networking divisions: HP LeftHand Virtual SAN, HP Operations Agent for NonStop, HP Intelligent Management Center, HP iNode Management Center, and HP Diagnostics Server. In all five products, remote attackers can exploit programming flaws to inject and execute arbitrary code via specially crafted requests — sometimes even at system user level, the highest threat level. In all five cases, the ZDI informed the company of the problems at the end of 2011.
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Five-0days-HP-in-the-security-dock-1676337.html>
37. *August 27, Computerworld* – (International) **Macs at risk from 'super dangerous' Java zero-day.** Hackers are exploiting a zero-day vulnerability in Java 7, security experts said August 27. The unpatched bug can be exploited through any browser running on any operating system, from Windows and Linux to OS X, that has Java installed, said the engineering manager for Metasploit, an open-source penetration testing framework. The CTO of Errata Security confirmed the Metasploit exploit — which was published less than 24 hours after the bug was found — is effective against Java 7 installed on OS X Mountain Lion. He said he was able to trigger the vulnerability with the Metasploit code in Firefox 14 and Safari 6 on OS X 10.8. Although the exploits now circulating in the wild have been aimed only at Windows users, it is possible Macs could also be targeted. "What is more worrisome is the potential for this to be used by other malware developers in the near future," said antivirus vendor Intego. "Java applets have been part of the installation process for almost every malware attack on OS X this year." The engineering manager for Metasploit called the bug "super dangerous," noting that it was "totally a drive by," meaning that attackers could compromise computers simply by duping users into browsing to a Web site that hosts the attack code. Security experts have recommended

that users disable Java until Oracle delivers a patch.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9230656/Macs_at_risk_from_super_dangerous_Java_zero_day

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Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

38. *August 28, Verizon* – (Massachusetts) **Verizon restores service for thousands after Lawrence, Mass., fire; restoration efforts.** Service was restored for thousands of Verizon customers, and restoration efforts continued for thousands more in the Lawrence, Massachusetts area after a fire under the Central Bridge August 27 damaged Verizon cables. Verizon crews worked to splice new cables and restore service for customers who live and work primarily in the Lawrence and North Andover areas. Verizon trailers were set up at the scene, and crews will work in round-the-clock shifts until all services are restored. Some Verizon customers in Andover, Lawrence, Littleton, Methuen, North Andover, North Reading, and Tewksbury lost some Verizon services as a result of the fire. Also, voice and data services for some business and government customers may be affected. Customers in other communities may have been impacted as well. Verizon was working with its customers, local officials, and other carriers to identify and prioritize service restoration for critical services, including health care facilities, public safety, elderly housing complexes, and individual customers.

Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/update-verizon-restores-service-for-thousands-after-lawrence-mass-fire-restoration-efforts-continue-167687435.html>

39. *August 28, Falls Church Patch* – (Virginia) **Verizon restores service to some Merrifield customers.** A third of the affected Verizon landline and Internet customers in the Merrifield area of Fairfax, Virginia, had their services restored August 27, days after a construction company severed three underground communication cables. A Verizon spokesman said crews were working around the clock to restore service to the more than 1,000 affected customers. Crews were working in the intersection of Gallows Road and Lee Highway. Fairfax County officials urged people to avoid the intersection if they can while crews continue to work. August 23, a construction company working in the intersection damaged three Verizon communications cables and the underground ducts they were in. The spokesman said the restoration could take days to finish.

Source: <http://fallschurch.patch.com/articles/update-verizon-restores-service-to-some-merrifield-customers>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *August 28, CBS News* – (Illinois) **Two guests of JW Marriott in Chicago die from Legionnaires’ disease.** Two guests of the JW Marriott in downtown Chicago died from Legionnaires’ disease, WBBM 2 Chicago reported August 28. There have been five new cases of the disease on top of three reported cases the week of August 20. “We believe that there is no ongoing health threat at the hotel,” a representative from the Chicago Department of Public Health said in a press release. It urged people who stayed at the hotel experiencing flu-like symptoms to contact a healthcare provider. The week of August 20, WBBM reported that three out-of-state guests at the hotel developed the disease caused by water-borne Legionella bacteria. One of the dead included a Florida physician initially thought to have died from pneumonia until his family received a letter from the hotel notifying of the outbreak, which led to an autopsy that confirmed Legionnaires’. Victims were thought to be exposed to the bacteria between July 16 and August 15. About 8,500 people were guests of the hotel during this time.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-57501589-10391704/two-guests-of-jw-marriott-in-chicago-die-from-legionnaires-disease/

41. *August 28, KPIX 5 San Francisco* – (California) **San Mateo hotel rooms evacuated after suicide, HAZMAT situation.** Parts of a hotel in San Mateo, California, were evacuated August 27 after emergency responders found evidence of hazardous materials while investigating a possible death by suicide, police said. Police and firefighters responded to the Hilton Garden Inn in response to a reported death inside a hotel room, San Mateo police said. Officials discovered a female body in the hotel room and also found evidence of chemical exposure. A San Mateo County hazardous materials team was called in. Police said there was no public danger of exposure, but nearby rooms at the hotel were evacuated.

Source: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2012/08/28/san-mateo-hotel-rooms-evacuated-after-suicide-hazmat-situation/>

42. *August 28, WKYC 3 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Business back to normal at Key Tower.** Firefighters evacuated 3,200 workers from the first 12 floors of the 57-story Key Tower in Cleveland, August 27 after an explosion and fire in the basement electrical room knocked out power to the building. By the morning of August 28, the tower was fully operational. Thousands of workers were forced out of the building and into heavy rain when they were evacuated. The Public Square Key Branch was open August 28, however, according to a news release from KeyCorp, the cafeteria and Starbucks were slated to be closed August 28. Regular business was scheduled to resume at those locations August 29. The company asked people working at alternate sites to contact their managers for further instructions before coming back to Key Tower. The cause of the explosion was unknown, but it was clear to employees about

what to do in an emergency, because of frequent drills throughout the year.

Source: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/258131/45/Cleveland-Fire-forces-evacuation-of-Key-Tower>

43. *August 28, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Arrest in Hawaii in Auburn, Wash., storage business arson.** King County prosecutors hoped to bring back to Seattle a man arrested in Hawaii in connection with an arson fire in July at an Auburn, Washington, storage facility. Valley Regional Fire Authority said August 27 that the suspect had been arrested in Maui, Hawaii, on a warrant that accused him of second-degree arson in the July 11 fire at Auburn Way Storage. The four-alarm fire was blamed for nearly \$1 million damage to the building and contents. Conviction on the charge could mean a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/d3664953b834494b904a7ce3bc8c23ec/WA--Storage-Business-Fire-Arrest>
44. *August 27, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **Fake explosive, gun shut down Sunset for hours.** Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles was closed twice between Cherokee and Wilcox due to a shooting and a suspicious device August 27. Police received a report of a person reportedly firing a shotgun at construction workers from an apartment complex. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) closed eastbound lanes of traffic on Sunset Boulevard between Cherokee and Wilcox. Officers surrounded the neighborhood and a large perimeter was established. A male suspect surrendered willingly to police. A female suspect and a second male suspect were also arrested. Upon entering the third-floor apartment, officers found what they called an explosive device. Sawed-off shotguns were also found. An LAPD bomb squad was summoned and a police perimeter was established around the earlier area. Sunset Boulevard lanes were closed again in response to the suspicious device investigation. An LAPD spokesperson said a stick of dynamite and one gun were replicas.
Source:
http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=8788634
45. *August 27, seattlepi.com* – (Washington) **20 shots fired, one wounded outside Seattle bar.** One man was shot in the stomach and buttocks August 27 in what was likely a wild shootout outside a hookah bar in Seattle. Police said officers found more than 20 shell casings at the site of the shooting. However, the shooter was still on the loose. Two men got into an argument outside the bar and one man ended up shot. The two men may have been shooting at each other before then, police said. However, no one at the scene would give information to police. A friend took the victim to a medical center. Police said he was undergoing surgery.
Source: <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/20-shots-fired-one-wounded-outside-Seattle-bar-3817674.php>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

46. *August 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Officials work to fully contain 2 N. Calif. fires.** Firefighters said August 27 they hoped to contain two major wildfires the week of August 27 after the fires ravaged huge swaths of Northern California. The Ponderosa Fire was 89 percent contained after consuming more than 43 square miles and destroying more than 140 structures, officials said. Hundreds of evacuees were allowed to return home and road closures were lifted, but a red flag warning was issued August 26 as strong winds tested the containment lines firefighters had built over the past several days. Another warning was likely August 28 for the fire located about 25 miles east of Redding and about 150 miles north of Sacramento, a CalFire spokeswoman said. Meanwhile, a second major fire burning in the region, the Chips Fire in Plumas National Forest, was 71 percent contained after scorching more than 114 square miles. A third fire burning outside the Mendocino County community of Covelo was 34 percent contained after consuming 42 square miles. Also, in northwest Siskiyou County, the sheriff's office issued a pre-evacuation notice to residents in Seiad Valley after a series of fast-moving wildfires burned more than 20 square miles. Sheriff's deputies and search and rescue teams planned to go door-to-door notifying residents that a potential threat of fire was about 12 hours away.

Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/aug/27/northern-calif-ponderosa-wildfire-calming-down/>

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Dams Sector

47. *August 28, USA Today; Associated Press* – (Louisiana; Southeast) **Isaac barrels in as Category 1 hurricane.** Isaac strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane with 75-mph winds as it made its way toward Louisiana, USA Today reported August 28. Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Center upgraded the storm August 28 saying Isaac gained strength as it moved over the warm, open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Engineers closed the floodgates around the city of New Orleans, hoping to keep water from the Gulf from surging into the area as Isaac moved closer to shore, threatening to cause major flooding. All eyes are on the newly reinforced hurricane protection system which includes 350 miles of levees, floodwalls, and floodgates ringing the greater New Orleans area. Isaac will be the first true test of the \$14 billion system, which was bolstered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) following Katrina in 2005. By August 28, USACE closed 124 of the 127 gates in the city, said the president of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East, a quasi-State agency created after Katrina to monitor Corps projects. Engineers closed the remaining gates at a massive surge barrier east of the city and another large gate near Lake Pontchartrain, sealing the 200 miles of perimeter around the metro area, he said. Isaac was expected to push a storm surge of 6 to 12 feet and dump up to 18 inches of rain in some places. Officials expect the system to hold up fine. States of emergency were in effect in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/story/2012-08-28/storm-isaac-hurricane/57360044/1?csp=34news>

48. *August 27, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Floods displace 20,000 in Nigeria after dam opened.** Flooding in eastern Nigeria killed at least 10 people and displaced an estimated 20,000 following heavy rains and the release of water from a dam in neighboring Cameroon, an official said August 27. He said water was released from the Lagdo dam August 24 in Cameroon after officials there warned Nigeria several weeks ago. The opening of the dam led to flooding along the Benue River in Nigeria. “The people along the Benue River were advised to leave but did not heed the warning,” he said. “Thousands of hectares of crops and homes were destroyed in the flooding. We have started a situation assessment to see how best we can assist the affected people.” Flooding this rainy season in various parts of Nigeria, Africa’s most populous nation with 160 million people, had already killed dozens. Much of the country has been affected by heavy seasonal rainfall. The flooding also raises the risk of the spread of diseases such as cholera.

Source: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/world/africa/floods-displace-20000-nigeria-after-dam-opened-717>

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