



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 2 August 2012

Top Stories

- A suspicious item prompted the crew of a United Airlines flight to Switzerland to divert it to Boston, as two F-15 fighters shadowed the plane July 31. – *CNN* (See item [18](#))
- Air Canada said a passenger found what appeared to be a sewing needle in a catered sandwich on board a flight July 30 from Victoria, British Columbia, to Toronto. – *Associated Press* (See item [22](#))
- A man was held without bail July 31 after prosecutors said they found evidence he plotted to kill students and administrators at a high school in Irvine, California, where his son was disciplined before committing suicide. – *Associated Press* (See item [36](#))
- Dropbox said July 31 that one of its employee's accounts was compromised, leading to a raft of spam in July that irritated users of the cloud-storage service. – *IDG News Service* (See item [42](#))
- In Colorado alone, insurers estimated that wildfires have caused some \$450 million in damage to personal property. Nationally, the U.S. Forest Service is on track for another possible record with nearly \$28 million spent so far on burned-area recovery work. – *Associated Press* (See item [56](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *July 31, Reuters* – (Wisconsin) **U.S. regulator blocks restart of Enbridge Line 14.** The U.S. government blocked Enbridge from restarting a key Midwestern oil pipeline July 31, saying the spill the week of July 23 on the line was “absolutely unacceptable.” The U.S. Transportation secretary blasted Enbridge over the leak of more than 1,000 barrels of crude oil in a field in Wisconsin, which shut down its 318,000 barrel per day pipeline July 27. “I will soon meet with Enbridge’s leadership team, and they will need to demonstrate why they should be allowed to continue to operate this Wisconsin pipeline without either a significant overhaul or a complete replacement,” the secretary said in a statement. Federal regulator Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) delivered a corrective order to Enbridge July 31, prohibiting it from restarting Line 14 until it can show regulators it has met safety standards. In a statement, Enbridge said it plans to complete repairs to Line 14 by August 1, and will submit plans to PHMSA to restart the line. The secretary said there was no guarantee that permission would be granted to restart the line anytime soon. Corrective orders can delay resumption of pipeline operations, sometimes for weeks or months.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/31/us-enbridge-pipeline-regulator-idUSBRE86U1DK20120731>
2. *July 31, Reuters* – (California) **Climate change threatens California power supply: Report.** California’s electricity sector is more vulnerable to climate change than previously thought, as higher temperatures will impede the State’s ability to generate and transmit power while demand for air conditioning rises, a report said July 31. The data is part of the latest report released by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Energy Commission. Wildlife, agriculture, and coastal communities are also at serious risk from climate change, the report said. Sea levels could rise by more than a foot by 2050, and more intense storms combined with less overall precipitation will present a host of challenges. The warmer climate will decrease hydropower generation in the summer months when it is needed most, the report said. High-elevation hydropower plants, which supply about 75 percent of the State’s hydropower, are especially at risk, since the small size of their reservoirs allows little flexibility to cope with reduced snowpack. At the same time, higher temperatures alone will require the state to increase its electricity generating capacity 38 percent over current levels by 2100. The report notes that renewable energy facilities, like wind and solar, are less threatened by climate change conditions, use less water, and produce none of the heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions that come from natural gas-fired plants.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/01/us-usa-california-climate-idINBRE87001Q20120801>
3. *July 31, Associated Press* – (National) **MSHA issues 177 citations in mine inspection blitz.** Federal regulators issued 177 citations, 22 orders, and 1 safeguard during the latest round of monthly impact inspections. The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration said July 31 that a coal mine in Kentucky was effectively shut down for

8 days while problems found during a June 21 inspection were corrected. Inspectors issued 19 citations and 12 withdrawal orders to Bledsoe Coal Corp.'s Abner Branch Rider Mine in Leslie County, Kentucky. Inspectors found accumulations of coal dust and hydraulic oil, an improperly working methane monitor and other violations. Tunnel LLC's Tunnel Ridge Mine in Ohio County, West Virginia, received 29 citations and 5 unwarrantable failure orders. Violations included failure to conduct methane tests. The inspections began in 2010 after the Upper Big Branch mine explosion killed 29 coal miners in West Virginia.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-07-31/msha-issues-177-citations-in-mine-inspection-blitz>

4. *July 31, WIAT 42 Birmingham* – (Alabama) **Thousands without power after overnight storms.** A line of thunderstorms knocked out power across Alabama July 31. According to an Alabama Power spokesperson, 46,000 homes in the State were without electricity. In the Birmingham area, the number was at 27,000 homes, while 14,000 homes were without electricity in western Alabama. Alabama Power officials said crews were out working to restore the lights to customers. The same storms also did heavy damages to buildings, cars, and homes.

Source: <http://www.cbs42.com/content/localnews/story/Thousands-without-power-after-overnight-storms/QM9eEZWxGkudy6bRLbnolA.csp>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *August 1, WHAS 11 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Zeon plant stabilized after chemical reaction prompts evacuation.** A chemical plant in the Rubbertown area of Louisville, Kentucky, had to be evacuated August 1 after a chemical reaction occurred. Zeon Chemical officials said 11 gallons of peroxide and mercaptan were mistakenly mixed together and caused the reaction. Around 30 employees were evacuated because the gases released by the reaction were harmful to respiratory system, however the reaction was stabilized. It is unclear if a machine or person put together these ingredients. Two employees working to contain the reaction were transported to the hospital due to heat-related illnesses. Officials said the employees were wearing HAZMAT suits.

MetroSafe sent a Code Red alert via email, text, and phone.

Source: <http://www.whas11.com/home/Chemical-plant-evacuated-in-Rubbertown-164571266.html>

6. *August 1, Milford Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Team responds to chemical spill in Franklin.** Three people working at a chemical distribution company in Franklin, Massachusetts, had to be taken to the hospital July 31 after mercury leaked from a package they had handled. A State hazardous materials team at Milford Regional Medical Center tested the three people to determine whether they had been exposed to the mercury at VWR International, according to a hospital spokeswoman. They were kept quarantined in the ambulance until the HAZMAT team had completed testing. "The individuals were all checked, and they were all clear," she said. "The package

they (the workers) received had an appliance in it that contained mercury, and there was an apparent leak in the device,” the fire chief said. “A small amount of mercury leaked inside a lab.” The HAZMAT team swept through the building and found a small trace of mercury inside. He said initial estimates indicate that about a pound of mercury leaked out from the instrument. VWR International employs a State-certified hazardous disposal company, which had begun working at the building as officials left.

Source: <http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/x866119046/Team-responds-to-chemical-spill-in-Franklin>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *August 1, Global Security Newswire* – (International) **Nuclear smuggling shows terrorist WMD threat persists: State Department.** The U.S. Department of State July 31 said that the attempted smuggling of nuclear arms-grade uranium in recent years illustrates a continued risk that terrorists could acquire the ingredients for a weapon of mass destruction. The department’s Country Reports on Terrorism 2011 touted as “largely successful” multilateral programs aimed at locking down chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials around the globe. However, “the illicit trafficking of these materials persists, including instances involving highly enriched uranium in 2010 and 2011,” the report stated.
Source: <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/state-report/>

8. *July 31, Associated Press* – (California) **Bill for damaged San Onofre nuclear power plant in California hits \$165 million, and counting.** The tab for the long-running crisis at the San Onofre nuclear power plant in San Diego County, California, has hit at least \$165 million, and it would cost \$25 million more to get one of the damaged reactors running at reduced power, officials said July 31. The plant has not produced power since January due to excessive wear in water-carrying tubes. In a conference call with Wall Street analysts, Edison International’s chairman left open the possibility that the heavily damaged generators in the Unit 3 reactor might be scrapped. It is also possible the plant will never return to its full output of electricity, unless the four generators are replaced. The company estimated it would cost \$25 million to begin a restart at the Unit 2 reactor, which likely would run at reduced power in hopes of slowing damage from tube vibration and friction.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/bill-for-damaged-san-onofre-nuclear-power-plant-in-california-hits-165-million-and-counting/2012/07/31/gJQATqisNX_story.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *July 31, Abilene Reporter-News* – (Texas) **OSHA reduces fines for Smith Pipe of Abilene.** Smith Pipe of Abilene, Texas, will not have to pay a fine of \$129,800 levied

by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Abilene Reporter-News reported July 31. The agency adjusted the proposed fine to \$42,520, a 67-percent reduction. It also withdrew 4 of the 14 alleged violations and changed 5 others from being "repeat violations" to "serious." When it cited the company in early July, OSHA said Smith Pipe exposed workers to electrical, compressed gasses, and amputation hazards among other things. The charges followed an investigation by the agency's El Paso Area Office that began in January. Smith Pipe protested several of the alleged violations and an informal conference took place between OSHA and the company in Lubbock July 18. Two days later, an informal settlement, which contained the updated charges and fines was issued. According to OSHA documents obtained by the Reporter-News, the agency withdrew allegations pertaining to compressed gas cylinders not being secured; employees being exposed to fire and explosion hazards; propane tanks not properly labeled, and others pertaining to other safety and hazardous issues. Smith Pipe, according to the settlement, agreed to correct "the hazards identified in the citations," and permit OSHA to inspect the plant anytime until the end of August.

Source: <http://www.reporternews.com/news/2012/jul/31/osha-reduces-fines-for-smith-pipe-of-abilene/>

10. *July 31, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Wisconsin) **U.S. Labor Department's OSHA cites Parker Hannifin for exposing workers to amputation, electrical hazards at Wisconsin plant.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) July 31 cited Parker Hannifin Corp. with nine safety violations at the company's metal fabricating plant in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, including two repeat violations for failing to protect workers from amputation and electrical hazards by ensuring the use of machine guards on mills and conducting periodic inspections of energy control procedures. An inspection was initiated after OSHA received a complaint. Proposed penalties totaled \$123,300. Seven serious safety violations were also cited for forcing employees to work over unprotected acid vats and dip tanks, failing to inspect the ventilation system for the acid vats thoroughly and often, failing to provide sufficient lockout procedures, failing to properly mark electrical equipment, failing to cover numerous unused openings in energized electrical panels, failing to train workers on electrical safety, de-energize electrical equipment prior to allowing maintenance, and failing to provide workers with personal protective equipment while working near exposed energized parts.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22767

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *July 31, Military Times* – (International) **F-22 oxygen fix expected by end of the year.** A faulty valve on the pressurized vests worn by F-22 pilots will be replaced by the end of 2012, a move aimed at solving pilots' complaints of nausea and dizziness

while flying the stealth fighter, the Military Times reported July 31. The valve connects the plane's onboard oxygen supply to a tube that inflates the vest, protecting pilots from high-G forces. However, a flaw in the valve caused the vests to be constantly inflated, even at lower altitudes when they were not needed, said the director of operations for Air Combat Command. The continuous pressure on the pilots' chests caused symptoms of oxygen deficiency, or hypoxia. Within a month, the Air Force will begin testing a new valve that will provide more tension and will restrict the airflow to the pressure vest until needed, he said.

Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2012/07/air-force-f22-oxygen-valve-fix-073112/>

12. *July 31, Global Security Newswire* – (Tennessee) **Y-12 plant infiltration bore little resemblance to drills: Report.** Situations routinely considered in defensive drills at the Y-12 National Security Complex appeared to have little in common with details from a July 29 infiltration of the Tennessee nuclear arms site by three antiwar advocates, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported July 31. The facility's perimeter intrusion detection and assessment system indicated a breach of the nuclear-weapon handling area, prompting a reaction by security personnel. Upon arrival, a security officer encountered the three activists alongside a structure that contains large amounts of nuclear weapon-usable uranium. The three posted placards, poured blood, and added painted wording to the uranium storage facility. The incident was unprecedented for Y-12's "Protected Area," a site previously described as invulnerable and potentially lethal to any individual who might attempt to intrude. Weaponry and other measures in place at the Y-12 plant for fending off attackers are the subject of routine boasting by Wackenhut Services, which has provided protection at the site for the last 10 years.
Source: <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/y-12-plant-infiltration-bore-little-resemblance-drills-report/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *August 1, Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Lupas stole \$6M, feds now allege.** Aided by co-conspirators, a Plains Township, Pennsylvania attorney defrauded investors of more than \$6 million over an 18-year period, federal prosecutors alleged in a new indictment filed July 31. The man convinced clients to invest in a purported trust account with the promise they would earn 5 to 7 percent interest. There was no trust account and he diverted the money for his personal use, according to the indictment. The attorney was originally indicted in March on one count of mail fraud. The new indictment listed eight victims, and charged him with 29 counts of mail fraud and one count each of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering. The indictment also revealed that he had help in perpetrating the alleged scheme, which prosecutors said began as early as November 1993. The attorney and unidentified co-conspirators created false documents that depicted checks he mailed to clients as being "interest" on their trust account as part of a Ponzi scheme.
Source: <http://www.timesleader.com/stories/Lupas-stole-6M-feds-now-allege.184338>

14. *August 1, NBC News; Reuters* – (International) **2 poker sites agree to forfeit \$731 million after prosecutors allege ‘global Ponzi scheme’**. The world’s largest poker company and its rival have settled federal money laundering and fraud charges, agreeing to pay \$731 million, most of which will be used to reimburse online gamblers, NBC News reported August 1. PokerStars, which is based on the Isle of Man in the United Kingdom, agreed to forfeit the money, including \$547 million that will be available to reimburse U.S. customers of the rival, Full Tilt Poker. Full Tilt also agreed to settle and will cease independent operations. Prosecutors said both companies had used false billing codes to deceive banks that would not process gambling transactions, and they said Full Tilt had devolved into a “global Ponzi scheme,” with the big-name players and other owners pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars that were owed to players. Prosecutors accused Full Tilt of lying when it told customers that their accounts were “segregated and held separately” from the company’s operating funds. In the end, it owed more than it could repay without a sale.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/48433962/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts/#.UBIB3GGe6NA

15. *July 31, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Elizabeth man charged in string of 6 armed bank robberies**. Federal authorities arrested and charged a man with committing a string of six armed bank robberies during the last nine months, including three in Middlesex County and two in Somerset County, New Jersey, during which he stole more than \$105,000, according to officials and a criminal complaint filed July 30. In several of the robberies, the man also sent an accomplice into the bank to case it just moments before he walked in, authorities said. Two accomplices who allegedly worked with the suspect were also arrested and charged.
Source:
http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/elizabeth_man_charged_in_strin_1.html

16. *July 31, U.S. Department of the Treasury* – (International) **Treasury sanctions Kunlun Bank in China and Elaf Bank in Iraq for business with designated Iranian banks**. The U.S. Department of the Treasury July 31 announced the imposition of sanctions under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (CISADA), against two financial institutions for knowingly facilitating significant transactions and providing significant financial services for designated Iranian banks. The financial institutions sanctioned were Bank of Kunlun in China and Elaf Islamic Bank in Iraq. Bank of Kunlun and Elaf Islamic Bank provided financial services to designated Iranian banks and facilitated the movement of millions of dollars worth of international transactions, the statement read. The action against Bank of Kunlun and Elaf Islamic Bank effectively bars them from directly accessing the U.S. financial system. As a result of the sanctions imposed under CISADA, financial institutions may not open correspondent or payable-through accounts for Bank of Kunlun or Elaf Islamic Bank in the United States and any financial institutions that currently hold such accounts must close them within 10 days.
Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1661.aspx>

17. *August 1, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Last defendant admits guilt in central Ohio mortgage fraud scheme.** The last of 12 defendants pleaded guilty to participating in a \$9 million central Ohio mortgage-fraud scheme, the Associated Press reported August 1. The Columbus Dispatch reported that the man pleaded guilty to one count of theft. Prosecutors said the 12 defendants were part of a wide-ranging plot to fraudulently obtain mortgages for homes with inflated values. Most of the loans ended in foreclosure. At the time the indictments came out in 2009, prosecutors estimated that \$9 million in loans had been obtained with fraudulent documents for about 24 properties.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/21e23ba29c78403688187bde050a6011/OH--Mortgage-Fraud-Scheme>

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Transportation Sector

18. *August 1, CNN* – (New Jersey; Massachusetts) **Suspicious object that forces plane to divert is unclaimed camera.** A suspicious item prompted the crew of a United Airlines flight to Switzerland to divert it to Boston, as two F-15 fighters shadowed the plane July 31, CNN reported August 1. The item, found inside an airsickness bag, turned out to be an unclaimed camera, officials said. United Airlines flight 956 took off from Newark, New Jersey, and was headed to Geneva, Switzerland, when it was diverted to Boston's Logan International Airport "out of an abundance of caution," according to a Transportation Security Administration statement. Two fighter jets intercepted and shadowed the plane "as a prudent precaution" after its diversion from Newark, said a spokeswoman at North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2012/08/01/travel/united-flight-diverted/index.html?hpt=hp_t2

19. *July 31, NBC News* – (Colorado) **United flight lands safely after bird strikes plane.** A United Airlines flight landed safely July 31 after being struck by a bird during its descent into Denver International Airport. United Flight 1475 was inbound from Dallas with 151 passengers on board when the collision happened. The strike occurred about 25 miles outside the Denver airport's property, according to an airport spokeswoman. The plane landed without incident, though an image on KMGH 7 Denver showed a large hole and dent in the jet's nose under the cockpit windows. The Boeing 737 aircraft was being inspected, said a United spokesperson. The National Transportation and Safety Board was called to investigate this case.

Source: <http://overheadbin.nbcnews.com/news/2012/07/31/13055656-united-flight-lands-safely-after-bird-strikes-plane?lite>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *August 1, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Kan. launches program to help livestock producers.** Kansas launched a cost-sharing program to help farmers and ranchers increase water supplies for livestock as the State remains in severe drought, the Associated Press reported August 1. The State Conservation Commission voted the week of July 30 to spend \$500,000 from existing funds for water projects, mainly in pastures that have little or no water supplies. The State will provide up to \$2,000 per project and up to \$4,000 to each landowner. The Kansas Department of Agriculture was asking applicants to focus on restoring existing ponds, developing wells and springs, or completing water storage projects.
Source: <http://www.nebraska.tv/story/19164862/kan-launches-program-to-help-livestock-producers>

21. *August 1, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **NJ cheesemaker sentenced in Pa. for buying tainted milk.** A New Jersey cheesemaker that made ricotta cheese from tainted milk was fined \$200,000 and put on 4 years of probation. The president of Lebanon Cheese Co. pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor shipping charge July 31. The president will pay a \$10,000 fine and also serve 4 years of probation. Federal authorities said the company bought tainted milk destined for a landfill from Landis Trucking Inc. The trucking company also pleaded guilty.
Source: http://cumberlink.com/news/state-and-regional/nj-cheesemaker-sentenced-in-pa-for-buying-tainted-milk/article_f90da4a2-dbca-11e1-b4ef-0019bb2963f4.html

22. *August 1, Associated Press* – (International) **Air Canada passenger finds needle in sandwich on flight.** Air Canada said a passenger found what appeared to be a sewing needle in a catered sandwich on board a flight July 30 from Victoria, British Columbia, to Toronto. A spokesman for the airline said that the airline was “working closely with our caterers to ensure heightened security measures have been put in place.” He said the airline contacted the caterers immediately after the discovery July 30. He said a police investigation was under way. A spokesman for Dutch police investigating how needles got into six turkey sandwiches on Delta Air Lines flights from Amsterdam to U.S. cities last July said it was too early to say whether there was any connection with the new incident on Air Canada. A Dutch police officer said Dutch investigators have been interrogating witnesses in the chain of people who had access to the Delta sandwiches, and were examining the actual sandwiches August 1. He said it was too early to rule out a copycat or link with the Air Canada incident, which was also being investigated.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/08/01/air-canada-passenger-finds-needle-in-sandwich-on-flight/>

23. *August 1, CNN* – (National) **Historic drought puts over half of U.S. counties in disaster zones, USDA says.** More than half of all U.S. counties have been designated disaster zones, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported, blaming excessive heat and a devastating drought that has spread across the Corn Belt and contributed to rising food prices. The Agriculture Secretary August 1 declared disaster zone designations for an additional 218 counties in 12 States because of damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat. The States are Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming. Nearly three-quarters of the nation’s cattle acreage is inside a region hit by drought, as is about two-thirds of the country’s hay acreage, the agency reported. USDA researchers added that an average of 37 percent of the nation’s soybeans the week of July 23 were ranked from very poor to poor, the lowest quality recorded since a massive drought in 1988. Nearly half of America’s corn crop was also rated very poor to poor, while 57 percent of its pastures and range land were similarly graded.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2012/08/01/us/us-usda-disaster-zones/index.html?hpt=hp_t1
24. *July 31, Food Safety News* – (National) **USDA, EPA launch tool to better assess pathogen risk.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced July 31 that they have jointly developed a new tool to help “improve the quality of data collected and used to protect consumers from pathogen-related risks in food and water.” The Microbial Risk Assessment (MRA) Guideline will help the government better assess the risks these pathogens pose to the public. An EPA Science Adviser said the project “contributes significantly” to improving the way federal agencies conduct microbial risk assessments and increases the transparency of the process so that stakeholders can better understand federal risk assessments. As USDA noted in their announcement, pathogens in food, water, and the environment can result in acute gastrointestinal-related illnesses and some can have long-term and permanent health effects as well as fatalities. Oftentimes, the source of pathogens is the same for water and food. The MRA Guideline outlines procedures that follow a “user-friendly, question-and-answer format that assists risk assessors in developing microbial risk assessments to meet agency-specific needs,” according to FSIS.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/07/usda-epa-launch-tool-to-better-assess-pathogen-risks/>
25. *July 31, Food Safety News* – (National) **Chopped onions with possible Listeria contamination trigger more recalls.** Chopped yellow and white onions distributed by Gills Onions have triggered more recalls, as more food makers announced they were using the onions, which were first recalled July 18 for possible Listeria contamination, Food Safety News reported July 31. Garden Fresh Foods, Inc. recalled various ready-to-eat salads, slaw, salsa, bean, and dip products under various brands and code dates. Products were distributed in Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. Stop & Shop Supermarket Company LLC recalled its Calico Bean Salad sold in stores between July 18-26. Spartan Stores, Inc. recalled its Three Bean Salad and 10 ounce

Broccoli Stir Fry sold between July 13-26. Publix Super Markets issued a recall of custom-made sub sandwiches that may have contained chopped onions connected to the recall, sold from July 7-26.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/07/chopped-onions-with-possible-listeria-contamination-trigger-more-recalls/>

26. *July 31, Food Safety News* – (National) **Cases of Salmonella Montevideo from live poultry rise to 76.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention counted an additional 10 cases of Salmonella Montevideo linked to live poultry since June, bringing the new case count to 76 people across 22 States. Of those ill, 17 have been hospitalized, Food Safety News reported July 31. The live birds originated at Estes Hatchery, a mail-order hatchery in Springfield, Missouri. The number ill by State is as follows: Alaska (1), California (2), Colorado (1), Florida (1), Georgia (1), Illinois (2), Indiana (9), Iowa (2), Kansas (10), Kentucky (1), Massachusetts (2), Missouri (24), Nebraska (8), Nevada (1), New York (1), North Carolina (1), Ohio (1), Oklahoma (4), South Dakota (1), Texas (1), Vermont (1), and Wyoming (1). Illnesses that occurred after July 3 may not be reported yet.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/07/cases-of-salmonella-montevideo-from-live-poultry-rise-to-76/>

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Water Sector

27. *August 1, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Crews remove broken segment from Scotch Plains water main break that affected thousands.** Utility crews removed the 18-foot long broken segment July 31 of the water main that burst earlier that day in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, a major step in repairs which will last at least 48 hours, a New Jersey American Water spokesman said August 1. The 48-inch transmission pipe, dating back to the 1970s, ruptured and flooded Portland Avenue in the area of Watchung View Place. Residents still had water but thousands were experiencing low pressure. Customers in 13 Union County and 4 Somerset County towns were asked to curtail outdoor water use and limit indoor use as repairs continued. The Township mayor said two homes were evacuated and nearby St. Bartholomew Academy's gymnasium flooded.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/08/crews_remove_broken_segment_fr.html

28. *August 1, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Large water main break closes streets in N. Philly.** A water main break in north Philadelphia, the third in 11 days, caused havoc August 1, flooding streets around Front and Tioga Streets. Officials closed the area to traffic. A spokesman for the Philadelphia Water Department said it appeared a 48-inch main broke under the street. Crews turned off water service to neighboring residents and businesses. Officials believed water service would be

restored later August 1. Two previous water main breaks sent millions of gallons of water gushing into city streets and the water department into overdrive. Crews were still working to repair damage from one of the breaks August 1.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20120801_Water_main_break_closes_Front_and_Tioga_Streets_in_N_Philly.html

29. *July 31, Oregon Health Authority* – (Oregon) **State: Toxic algae in nearby reservoir.** A health advisory was issued July 31 due to high levels of blue-green algae in Dorena Reservoir, 6 miles east of Cottage Grove in Lane County, Oregon. Water monitoring confirmed the presence of blue-green algae that can produce toxins. Swallowing or inhaling water droplets should be avoided, as well as skin contact with water. Drinking water from the reservoir is especially dangerous and Oregon Public Health officials advised campers and other reservoir visitors that toxins cannot be removed by boiling, filtering, or treating the water with camping-style filters. People who draw in-home water directly from Dorena Reservoir were advised to use an alternative water source because private treatment systems are not proven effective in removing algae toxins. Oregon health officials also recommended that people who choose to eat fish from waters where algae blooms are present should remove all fat, skin, and organs before cooking because toxins are more likely to collect in these tissues. The public will be advised when the concern no longer exists.
Source: <http://www.kval.com/news/local/State-Toxic-algae-in-nearby-reservoir-164514036.html>
30. *July 31, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Raw sewage spill closes part of Kings River.** The Tulare County Public Health Department in California warned residents to avoid a portion of the Kings River that was contaminated July 30. The department said about 63,000 gallons of untreated sewage from the Reedley Wastewater Treatment Plant was spilled into the river. Health and safety warnings were posted, alerting residents to avoid contact with the river including playing, drinking, irrigating, or fishing. Samples of the contaminated water were taken July 31. The department will reopen recreational areas along the river once tests indicate that the water is safe.
Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/07/31/2931138/reedley-raw-sewage-spill-prompts.html>
31. *July 30, WCAU 10 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Manholes set on fire in northeast Philly: Police.** Multiple manholes were set on fire in northeast Philadelphia July 30 after someone poured gasoline down a sewer drain, according to authorities. Investigators said it happened at Academy Road and Nanton Drive in the Byberry section of the city. Residents told NBC 10 they saw teenagers pouring gasoline inside a sewer drain.
Source: <http://www.myfoxphilly.com/story/19143838/sewer-arson-under-investigation>

For more stories, see items [24](#) and [56](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

32. *August 1, New Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Jersey City chiropractor charged with insurance fraud scheme that faked patients’ records.** Officials said a Jersey City, New Jersey chiropractor was charged with stealing more than \$89,000 by filing 125 fraudulent documents in order to receive insurance payments. He was charged July 27 with theft, attempted theft, and 125 counts of health claims fraud. The Attorney General said that he “allegedly kept the patients coming for months and months of chiropractic care by falsifying the results of examinations so that they always supported continued treatment and continued billing.” Prosecutors alleged he directed his office workers to complete periodic re-evaluation forms for 37 patients using predetermined information unrelated to an actual assessment of the patient. He then directed his staff to submit the documents to health insurance companies. Through the fraud, he sought \$196,055 in payments or reimbursements that he was not entitled to and received \$89,283.
Source: http://www.nj.com/jjournal-news/index.ssf/2012/08/jersey_city_chiropractor_charg.html
33. *August 1, Macon Telegraph* – (New Hampshire; Texas) **Hepatitis C investigation leads Houston Healthcare to notify patients.** Houston Healthcare in Houston, Texas, was sending certified letters to patients who had contact with a former contract employee now accused of intentionally spreading hepatitis C. According to a July 21 release from Houston Healthcare, fewer than 100 patients were notified that they may need to be tested. The patients would have received care from the contract employee at Houston Medical Center from October 25, 2010, to March 17, 2011. The patients had contact with him while undergoing heart catheterizations in the Heart Catheterization Lab. The hospital was working with investigators in New Hampshire, where the former employee was accused of infecting patients at a hospital there, and some reports stated he could have infected thousands in jobs at different hospitals in different States.
Source: <http://www.macon.com/2012/07/31/2116284/hepatitis-c-investigation-leads.html>
34. *July 31, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Stolen thumb drive contained sensitive records from 702 patients at Oregon Health & Science University.** After a security lapse, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) said it was notifying 702 families that a storage device that contained sensitive personal information that could be used to cause harm was stolen, the Oregonian reported July 31. The drive contained names, dates of birth, phone numbers, addresses, OHSU medical record numbers, and short descriptions of patient medical conditions or family medical histories for about 14,300 premature infant patients. OHSU said most of the data was password-protected. A burglar broke into the home of an OHSU employee July 4 or 5 and stole a briefcase containing a USB thumb drive routinely used to back up data. OHSU said the drive should have been locked in a secure work location and that the employee took it home by mistake. OHSU learned of the theft on July 5 but held off notifications until the week of July 30 because the content of the drive was not clear and took time to decipher. OHSU also informed 195 employees that the stolen drive contained their names, social security

numbers, and addresses.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2012/07/stolen_thumb_drive_contained_s.html

For another story, see item [6](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

35. *August 1, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **FAA says fire at Hughes Technical Center caused \$2.2M in damage.** A June fire at the William J. Hughes Technical Center in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, caused at least \$2.2 million in damage, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said July 31. That estimate includes the cost for emergency response, cleanup, some demolition, and installation of a temporary roof. However, costs will continue to mount as it is not yet clear how much reconstruction work will cost, an FAA spokeswoman said. The tech center is the national scientific test base for the FAA. The June 22 fire caused extensive smoke and water damage on the second and third floors of Building 300, the center’s main administration building. Witnesses reported there were three explosions, possibly from propane tanks, before the fire began. Severe thunderstorms were moving into the area at the time. Some systems that manage the flow of traffic across the country were temporarily unavailable and moved to backup systems, but those functions were later restored to the technical center. Access to the Atlantic City International Airport was shut down for about an hour and half while emergency responders worked to control the blaze.

Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/communities/eht/faa-says-fire-at-hughes-technical-center-caused-m-in/article_5f9d4cec-db60-11e1-a8f6-001a4bcf887a.html

36. *July 31, Associated Press* – (California) **No bail for UC Irvine professor charged with arson.** A University of California professor was held without bail July 31 after prosecutors said they found evidence he plotted to kill students and administrators at a high school in Irvine, California, where his son was disciplined before committing suicide. He is charged with arson for a series of five fires set in early July at University High School, a school administrator’s house, and a nearby park, where his son killed himself in the spring. After his arrest July 24, authorities found emails on his cellphone describing a plot to burn down the high school, commit sexual assaults, and purchase weapons to murder school officials and students there before killing himself, said an Orange County district attorney spokesperson. “I can only at this point tell you, he laid out in sufficient detail plans to purchase guns and murder lots of people,” the deputy district attorney said. Prosecutors believe the suspect was acting alone but it was not clear if he was targeting anyone specifically. After the emails were discovered, the Orange County district attorney spokesperson said the suspect, who was free on bail, was arrested again. “[The emails] support our argument that he should be denied bail because he’s dangerous,” she said.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jC5P2_Y49QBHXucDBGMy5BGWHQgg?docId=e5926ecf1f304440aed04dc59dfb6a8f

37. *July 31, Federal Times* – (National) **Data breaches up 19 percent, GAO reports.** Federal data breaches jumped 19 percent in 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said July 31. There were roughly 13,000 incidents reported by agencies in 2010 involving unauthorized disclosures of personally identifiable information — in 2011, that figure increased to 15,500, GAO’s director of information security issues told the Senate subcommittee on government management oversight at a hearing. The subcommittee chairman questioned the head of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board about a breach in 2011 that involved personally identifiable information of about 123,000 Thrift Savings Plan participants. Participants were not notified of the July 2011 breach until May 2012. The thrift board followed federal guidance in responding to the attack, but it lacked a notification plan for lack of funding, the board’s executive director said. The agency will address data protection issues as part of its next record-keeping contract, to be awarded in fiscal 2013, he said. Source: <http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20120731/IT01/307310003/Data-breaches-up-19-percent-GAO-reports?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>
38. *July 31, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) **Boise bomb squad removes hazardous chemical from BSU campus laboratory.** Boise State University officials worked with firefighters July 31 to remove a potentially hazardous chemical from a laboratory chemical closet in the Science and Nursing building on campus. University personnel doing an inventory of chemicals in a storage closet discovered a chemical that crystallized and became dangerous. They notified Boise firefighters at about 1:30 p.m., said the Boise Fire Battalion chief. About 35 Boise police, firefighters, EMS, and university officials were involved in the removal of the chemical. The Science and Nursing building was evacuated and West Cesar Chavez Lane was shut down. At about 5:15 p.m., one member of the bomb squad was sent in to retrieve the glass bottle containing the chemical. He placed it in a special protective container, then carried it outside to the “bomb pot” — a giant steel vessel. Bomb squad members transported the chemical to a quarry, where it was detonated. Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2012/07/31/2210946/boise-bomb-squad-removes-hazardous.html>
39. *July 30, Kansas City Star* – (Kansas) **White powder sent in mail to KCK federal courthouse.** The FBI is investigating after an envelope containing a “white powdery substance” was received in the mail July 30 at the Federal courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas. A hazardous materials crew was called to the building after a courthouse worker opened the envelope, according to the U.S. Marshals Service. There were no evacuations as a result of the incident, officials said. Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/07/30/3732558/white-powder-sent-in-mail-to-kck.html>

For more stories, see items [12](#) and [51](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

40. *July 31, WTVW 7 Evansville* – (Indiana) **Lightning hits Warrick Co. dispatch tower.** The Warrick County Dispatch Center in Indiana was down after its tower was struck by lightning, WTVW 7 Evansville reported July 31. No dispatch employees were hurt when the building was struck, but the lightning did damage some of the building's equipment and wiped-out all radio communication. By July 31, the Warrick County sheriff told WTVW that all 9-1-1 calls are being diverted to Vanderburgh County while the problem is fixed. He said although the radios and telephones are down, the 9-1-1 service will not be interrupted.

Source: http://tristatehomepage.com/fulltext-news?nxd_id=532402

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Information Technology Sector

41. *July 31, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft warns of critical Oracle code bugs in Exchange.** The week of July 23, Microsoft warned IT administrators that critical vulnerabilities in code licensed from Oracle could give attackers access to Exchange Server 2007 and Exchange Server 2010 systems. Oracle patched the vulnerabilities in its "Oracle Outside In" code libraries as part of an update July 17 that fixed nearly 90 flaws in its database software. Exchange, as well as Microsoft's FAST Search Server 2010 for SharePoint, use the Oracle Outside In libraries to display file attachments in a browser rather than to open them in a locally-stored application, like Microsoft Word. The vulnerabilities are within the code that parses those attachments. "An attacker who successfully exploited these vulnerabilities could run arbitrary code under the process that is performing the parsing of the specially crafted files," said Microsoft in the security advisory it issued the week of July 23. A successful exploit of an Exchange server would let hackers "install programs; view, change, or delete data; or take any other action that the server process has access to do." In the absence of an immediate patch — Microsoft said it is working on an update, but gave no release timetable — the company's Security Research and Defense blog and the advisory recommended IT administrators temporarily disable those Exchange Server and FAST Search Server features that relied on the Oracle Outside In libraries.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9229816/Microsoft_warns_of_critical_Oracle_code_bugs_in_Exchange

42. *July 31, IDG News Service* – (International) **Dropbox blames employee account breach for spam attack.** Dropbox said July 31 that one of its employee's accounts was compromised, leading to a raft of spam in July that irritated users of the cloud-storage service. A stolen password was used to access the employee's account, which contained "a project document with user email addresses," a Dropbox engineer said.

The company also found that usernames and passwords that were stolen from other Web sites were used to access “a small number of Dropbox accounts,” he said. In response to the breach, Dropbox said it in a few weeks, it plans to introduce two-factor authentication, such as a system that would send a temporary code to a user’s phone.
Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9229856/Dropbox_blames_employee_account_breach_for_spam_attack

43. *July 31, Threatpost* – (International) **Google Chrome 21 fixes six high-risk vulnerabilities.** Google released Chrome 21, the most recent stable version of its browser. The new release includes more than two dozen security fixes, among them patches for six high-priority flaws. Chrome 21 is the rare release from Google that includes fixes for mainly low and medium-severity vulnerabilities. There is only one critical flaw fixed in this release, and that one is present only on Linux.
Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/google-chrome-21-fixes-six-high-risk-vulnerabilities-073112

44. *July 31, Threatpost* – (International) **Cross-platform flaws a boon for attackers.** Microsoft researchers came across a series of malware samples and exploits that show some attackers are beginning to target the same vulnerability across multiple platforms as a way to make the most out of their efforts. Even though Windows and Mac are still separated as platforms, there are a number of applications that run on both operating systems, including Adobe Flash, Reader, and Java. Attackers, not wanting to waste time on small target bases and looking to maximize their profits, are focusing their efforts on vulnerabilities in these applications. Microsoft’s investigation of the way attackers are using cross-platform vulnerabilities began about a year ago when the company’s researchers discovered a backdoor aimed at Mac users. The malware disguised itself as a Google app on the infected machine and then initiated a remote connection to a command-and-control server.
Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/cross-platform-flaws-boon-attackers-073112

45. *July 30, Dark Reading* – (International) **‘Luckycat’ APT campaign building Android malware.** Windows has been the favorite target of cyberespionage actors for a long time, but newly discovered evidence shows they are also targeting mobile platforms, namely the Android. The attackers behind the recent Luckycat advanced persistent threat (APT)-type attack campaign are in the process of developing malware aimed at the Android, a researcher with Trend Micro said in a presentation at the Black Hat conference the week of July 23. Luckycat, an attack campaign with ties to Chinese hackers that targets Indian and Japanese military research institutions and the Tibetan community, also began targeting Mac OS X users in 2011. Trend Micro researchers found two Android applications in the early phase of development that can communicate with Luckycat’s command and control (C&C) server. The malware is currently capable of gathering information on the mobile device and uploading and downloading files as directed by the C&C server.
Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/mobile-security/167901113/security/attacks-breaches/240004623/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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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

46. *August 1, Shawnee News-Star* – (Oklahoma) **Internet disruption: Severed cables disconnect many from World Wide Web.** Internet service was down for hundreds, if not thousands, of Allegiance Communications customers in Shawnee, Oklahoma, for most of July 31. A buried fiber optic cable was severed in McLoud, disrupting communication services for most of the day, while crews worked to get the service returned for the greater Shawnee area. The outage affected businesses and residents in Shawnee, including City Hall, as well as customers in Prague, McLoud, and Tecumseh. The Shawnee/Pottawatomie County Emergency Management offices were without email communications, but were still able to conduct business. However, the Shawnee city Web site was down. Allegiance crews completed the work by the evening of July 31 by locating the severed cable and working to run an aerial line in order to return services quickly, and then replacing the buried line later, the Allegiance general manager said.
Source: <http://www.news-star.com/newsnow/x1814084256/Internet-disruption-Severed-cables-disconnect-many-from-World-Wide-Web>
47. *July 31, Northland's NewsCenter* – (Wisconsin) **Lightning storm forces Northland College's radio station off-air.** Due to a lightning storm July 29, the Northland College radio station in Wisconsin — WRNC 97.7 FM Ashland — is temporarily off the air, Northland's NewsCenter reported July 31. The lightning storm is believed to have caused a power surge that resulted in the failure of the station's radio transmitter, according to the radio station's manager. She said the station may be back on the air by the end of the week of July 30.
Source: <http://www.northlandsnewscenter.com/news/nw-wisconsin/Northland-College-Radio-Station-Temporarily-off-air-164510506.html>
48. *July 31, Threatpost* – (International) **Firm sees more DDoS attacks aimed at telecom systems.** Attackers are now using distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) services that offer attacks on telecommunication systems as part of larger attack schemes. These attacks, known as TDoS attacks, can be a relatively cheap option for cyber criminals seeking to diversify their attack vectors. Researchers have seen a series of advertisements and forum posts promoting services that can “flood” both mobile and stationary telephone lines. Often these attacks are used as a distraction while attackers launch simultaneous attacks on their victims, according to a member of Arbor Networks' Security Engineering and Response Team.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/firm-sees-more-ddos-attacks-aimed-telecom-systems-073112

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Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *August 1, Gaston Gazette* – (North Carolina) **Bomb threat temporarily closes Walmart.** A Walmart in Shelby, North Carolina, reopened July 31 after police responded to a bomb threat at the store. A spokesman from the Shelby Police said law enforcement officials had a man in custody who they believe was responsible for calling the store, saying a bomb was inside. Police swept the facility and found no suspicious devices. The store was closed for about an hour and reopened later that evening.
Source: <http://www.gastongazette.com/news/shelby-73914-bomb-threat.html>
50. *August 1, Ravenna Record-Courier* – (Ohio) **Brimfield fire alarm uncovers alleged meth lab.** A fire alarm at a hotel in Brimfield, Ohio, July 30 resulted in the arrest of a suspect with a history of methamphetamine-related convictions for allegedly ‘cooking’ the drug inside her hotel room. Brimfield officers responded to the fire alarm at the Econo Lodge July 30 and found the suspect allegedly manufacturing methamphetamine. The police chief said Brimfield firefighters and police immediately recognized a methamphetamine operation once inside the room. It was at least the third time in the past year Brimfield officers uncovered a meth lab at one of the hotels in the area. The suspect’s teenage son was with her and taken into custody by Portage County Job and Family Services officials, the police chief said. Chemicals for making methamphetamine were seized, along with finished methamphetamine.
Source: <http://www.recordpub.com/news/article/5206717>
51. *August 1, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (Missouri) **Multiple bomb threats in Fredericktown.** The FBI began an investigation into multiple bomb threats in the Fredericktown, Missouri, area, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau reported August 1. Nine Missouri Walmarts received threats July 27, the Fredericktown location among them. A Madison County sheriff spokesman said there was another threat at the Walmart July 30. He added someone called in bomb threats to Walmart, McDonalds, and City Hall July 31. He said each building was evacuated and investigated, but authorities did not find anything.
Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/19163612/multiple-bomb-threats-in-fredericktown>
52. *July 31, WPTA 21 Fort Wayne* – (Indiana) **Fort Wayne bomb squad called to Columbia City business.** A bomb scare at a hardware store in Columbia City, Indiana, caused businesses to be evacuated for several hours July 31. Police did not find a bomb, however officers said they did find materials that would allow someone to make a bomb. Columbia City Police were called to the Ace Hardware for a possible drug investigation concerning a one-pot meth lab. Police found two suspects. They arrested

one for possession of meth, and the other managed to escape the scene. In a search of the suspects' car, police found what appeared to be 'bomb-making materials,' along with materials to make meth in the trunk. The hardware store and surrounding businesses were evacuated, and police called the Fort Wayne Bomb Squad for assistance.

Source: <http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/gallery/Fort-Wayne-Bomb-Squad-Called-To-Columbia-City-Business-164508226.html>

53. *July 30, WTVT 13 Tampa Bay* – (Florida) **Ritz Ybor theater evacuated after gun scare.** Concerns about someone with a possible gun led authorities to evacuate The Ritz Theater in Tampa, Florida, July 30. Seventh Avenue was shut down as hundreds of people streamed out of the venue. The Tampa Police Department stated a customer overheard two people talking about a plan to start shooting during the concert. Management called police, and the theater was evacuated. For nearly two hours, almost 1,000 people waited while police searched the building. No guns or weapons were found. Officers patted everyone down before they were allowed back in, and the event resumed.

Source: <http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/story/19151847/2012/07/30/ritz-theater-evacuated-after-gun-scare>

54. *July 30, ABC News; Associated Press* – (International) **Police lose security keys at Olympic venue.** London police lost a set of keys at an Olympic venue the week of July 23, but security was not compromised by the incident, officials said July 29. Officers securing Wembley Stadium, an Olympic soccer venue in west London, reported July 31 that a set of internal keys used on searches at the venue were missing. Scotland Yard said that detectives failed to find the keys, but found no evidence of criminal offenses, suggesting that police probably misplaced the keys. Organizers of the London Olympics stressed that relevant locks have been changed and there was no security breach. The key incident appeared harmless, but it was embarrassing for officials who are already on edge defending security arrangements for the London Games.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/wireStory/police-lost-security-keys-olympic-venue-16883776#.UBf_OaAbamh

55. *July 30, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colo. theater lacked security, unlike some peers.** The Colorado movie theater complex that was the scene of a gunman's massacre July 20 did not have any uniformed security guards on duty the night of the shooting, Associated Press reported July 30. The Aurora Police chief has said that the Cinemark in Aurora normally uses off-duty officers to provide security on weekend nights but did not have any working for the July 19 showings that went into the next morning. The theater does not have an unusually high record of complaints or crimes, a police sergeant said.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jjNg_10-XCZljntrx4bLfSVKeuw?docId=4bb86aa40e07409aab2c336364acc14f

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

56. *July 31, Associated Press* – (Colorado; National) **Western wildfire recovery likely to take years.** In Colorado alone, insurers estimated that wildfires have caused some \$450 million in damage to personal property, and that number is expected to grow, the Associated Press reported August 1. Nationally, the U.S. Forest Service is on track for another possible record with nearly \$28 million spent so far on burned-area recovery work. The U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary said the Federal Government tries to get into burned areas as quickly as possible to predict what some of the fallout might be. The number of fires and total acreage burned in the West this summer was roughly within range of the past decade's average. But the fires were bigger, they were burning with greater severity, and they were burning areas where the potential impacts were greater. Burned-area response specialists were working in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming to finalize contracts for seeding and mulching, stabilize roads and trails, prep culverts for higher flows of water, and put up warning signs. Charred hillsides are vulnerable to erosion during downpours because they have less vegetation to soak up rain, increasing the likelihood of flooding. In July, a wall of water rushed down New Mexico's Santa Clara Canyon, washing away months of restoration work done by Santa Clara Pueblo and government contractors. National forests and grasslands provide about 20 percent of the nation's water supply, according to the Forest Service, and the cost of treating drinking water increases by about 20 percent for every loss of 10 percent of forest land in a watershed.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hLHmJrYRzyBBYdr5RbNs3e3FvtRw?docId=60d00504d9f44b7bbd6a7732ddc56074>

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Dams Sector

57. *August 1, Batavia Daily News* – (New York) **State will drain canal section to fix Albion leak.** After 100 workers spent all night July 30 filling a 60-foot wide sinkhole on the Erie Canal near Albion, New York, with 200 tons of stone, Canal Corp. officials deemed the site stable July 31. Canal Corp. officials did not know what caused soil and road to give way, a phenomenon that nearly caused a blowout of a canal wall. Had the canal been breached, the gushing water would have headed directly towards the two state prisons across the road. Officials plan to drain 12 feet of water from the canal on 10-mile section between Albion and Holley, as well as 15 miles west to Middleport. It should speed up the process of emptying the section so crews can make any repairs and learn the reason for the sinkhole, said the Canal Corporation Director. The sinkhole could have turned tragic, and nearly did as the road gave way as a canal maintenance supervisor was checking the extended culvert under the road. He saw the road collapse just as a car was about to clear the other side and managed to stop two more cars that were coming by waving a flashlight. Canal officials called the sinkhole a rare event.

Source: http://thedailynewsonline.com/news/article_d830e1c2-dad5-11e1-8232-001a4bcf887a.html

58. *August 1, Fort Wayne Daily News* – (Indiana) **Levee project ahead of schedule.** Fort Wayne, Indiana, reported August 1 that flood control work along 1,200 feet of Edgewater Avenue is ahead of schedule. The project involves clearing tree stumps along the St. Joe river to add 3 feet of compacted clay to the slope, a rip-rap base, and erosion-control matting called Scour Stop on the lower portion of the levee. The Rivergreenway trail will also be removed and replaced. The river's water level was lowered July 23 to accommodate the mandated work, however river levels are now anticipated to come up sooner than expected, the city said in a press release. Parts of the project requiring a change in river levels was originally expected to be complete by the end of September.

Source:

http://www.fwdailynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18020

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