



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 October 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to Reuters, a United Airlines pilot was arrested on a passenger plane Sunday at Heathrow Airport on suspicion of being above the legal alcohol limit. (See item [11](#))
- Reuters reports that at least five branches of Chase bank in Colorado and Oklahoma received threatening letters on Monday, some containing an unidentified white powder. (See item [13](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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

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

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

Energy Sector

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

1. *October 21, Bakersfield Californian* – (California) **County declares chemical use safe, will support refinery expansion.** Kern County, California, planners have recommended approving the Big West of California refinery expansion after a last-minute analysis showed the use of a controversial chemical there is safe. After consulting with refining experts, planners said the occasional use of a low concentration of hydrofluoric (HF) acid at the facility should be allowed to continue. However, they suggested any other use of the chemical at the facility be prohibited. The \$700 million expansion will go before the Board of Supervisors Tuesday for final approval. Big West’s support for the project hung in the balance last week after it was revealed that a solution containing 1 to 5 percent HF is used to service the facility’s injection wells. Big West had initially proposed to use pure HF in the expansion but faced major opposition from community

groups and politicians due to its hazards. In recent weeks, the company agreed to an alternative expansion plan that does not use the chemical. Big West officials said the HF solution is used by a contractor that services wells at the refinery a few times a year. Unlike pure HF, the diluted form cannot vaporize and form a toxic cloud. The Kern County Environmental Health director confirmed that the risks of aqueous HF were not as serious as pure HF.

Source: <http://www.bakersfield.com/102/story/585510.html>

2. *October 20, New York Times* – (National) **Exelon’s \$6.2 billion bid for NRG would create largest power utility in U.S.** The Exelon Corporation’s unsolicited bid to buy NRG Energy, a power generator based in Princeton, New Jersey, would create the largest power company in the country, in terms of assets, market capitalization, and generation capacity, Exelon said on Monday. NRG had no immediate comment except to say that it was evaluating the offer with its advisers. According to the Edison Electric Institute, Exelon ranks sixth nationally in generating capacity and fourth in megawatt-hours produced; the merger would make it No. 1 in both categories. Exelon’s operations focus heavily on nuclear- and coal-fired plants. NRG has several coal-powered plants assets in Texas, a major share of a twin-unit nuclear plant there, and plants fired by natural gas and oil. Exelon said the combination would produce an enormous combined entity with investment-grade credit ratings and the financial strength to build new power plants. NRG ranks well for creditworthiness among independent power producers, but many experts say they think that its plan to build two new nuclear reactors adjacent to its South Texas reactors faces challenges. Another looming uncertainty is regulation of carbon emissions. Exelon, anticipating such regulation, has begun a project to lower emissions substantially within its service territory by 2020, and said it would devise a similar program for NRG. NRG is part of a coalition of companies seeking such regulation. If a schedule of emission limits is imposed, that could help Exelon, which has a huge fleet of zero-carbon nuclear plants.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/21/business/21nuclear.html?ref=science>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

3. *October 21, Reuters* – (Pennsylvania) **Exelon Pa. Peach Bottom 2 reactor exits outage.** Exelon Corp.’s Unit 2 at the Peach Bottom nuclear power station in Pennsylvania exited an outage and ramped up to 20 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. On Monday, the unit exited a refueling outage but shut after the main generator tripped. The unit shut by September 14 for the refuel.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2127479820081021>

4. *October 20, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Florida) **24 hour fitness for duty report.** At the Turkey Point nuclear power plant in Florida, a non-licensed employee supervisor had a confirmed positive for alcohol during a for-cause fitness-for-duty test. The employee's access to the plant has been terminated. The licensee has notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector.
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20081021en.html#en44582>
5. *October 20, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Carraway files for bankruptcy.** Physicians Medical Center Carraway in Birmingham, Alabama, filed for bankruptcy Monday morning to liquidate the assets of the hospital. The hospital's leaders told employees and doctors earlier Monday morning that the facility would begin the process of shutting down immediately, with all patients gone by October 31. The bankruptcy petition alerts the court that Physicians Carraway has property that needs to be protected because of the potential harm to the public if left unsecured — prescription drugs, syringes, medical waste, and radioactive isotopes for nuclear medicine. The hospital has those items secured now.
Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2008/10/carraway_files_for_bankruptcy.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Bollinger suing Northrop over cutter contract.** Bollinger Shipyards Inc. has filed a \$12 million lawsuit against the shipbuilding arm of defense giant Northrop Grumman Corp. in a dispute involving the renovation of Coast Guard cutters that were later taken out of service. Lockport, La.-based Bollinger had a joint venture with Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Inc. to extend the length of 49 Coast Guard cutters from 110 feet to 123 feet. But the first eight boats produced under that contract were taken out of service when the frames cracked on their maiden voyages. The renovations also were performed by Halter Marine Inc. of Gulfport, Miss. The \$200 million contract that covered the work was canceled by the Coast Guard in July 2005. The vessels, called Island Class cutters, were originally built between 1984 and 1991 by Bollinger. The federal court complaint, which asks for arbitration, claims that Bollinger was ordered by Northrop Grumman to stop work on the contract after Bollinger had delivered six boats and had begun work on six others. To terminate the joint venture, Bollinger said it demanded that Northrop Grumman pay it \$12.1 million in damages, but the company refused in October 2007. In the lawsuit, Bollinger said Northrop Grumman “through its sole negligence, delivered late, ill-defined specifications and drawings to Bollinger. Bollinger needed this information in a timely manner to efficiently perform its subcontract.”
Source: http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/10/ap_bollinger_northrop_102008/
7. *October 20, Associated Press* – (National) **Helicopter-plane Osprey wins praise in**

Iraq. After a troubled history, the half helicopter, half plane V-22 has been ferrying troops and equipment across Iraq for just over a year without a major incident. Critics say the Osprey, which was designed to replace transport helicopters, lacks firepower for defense in heavy combat. But pilots say the Osprey makes up for that in speed, which can quickly take the plane to altitudes safe from small-arms fire. The Osprey also avoids day flights into Baghdad or other tasks that entail excessive risk. The aircraft, which took over two decades to develop, has been plagued by a series of technical failures and deadly crashes, including a pair in quick succession in 2000 that killed 23 Marines and nearly scuttled the entire project. Some skeptics have attacked the design of the plane because they feel it is too slow in descent, lacks maneuverability, kicks up too much dust, and should have been delayed until designers mastered the idea of “autorotation” — which would keep the rotors spinning even if both engines are taken out. Another issue has been the lack of firepower on the Osprey, which does not include a mounted gun on the front as once envisaged, although the Marines have placed a machine gun at the rear. Still, it has won wide support from the Marines flying the machine in Iraq since September 2007. They say problems experienced so far have been caused by desert dust and heat, mostly related to avionics and nothing that has overly confounded technicians. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27282502/>

8. *October 20, Air Force Times* – (National) **Depot efforts continue to keep T-38s flying.** Members of the 573rd Commodities Maintenance Squadron at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia continue to put in long hours to make sure Air Force pilot training does not come to a halt. Many members of the squadron have been working 10-hour days, seven days a week to make a new aileron actuator lever for the T-38 Talon used to train pilots. A T-38 crashed in April, killing the instructor and student. A faulty aileron lever was declared a contributing factor in the crash. The problem threatened to ground all T-38s, but officials at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and at Air Force Materiel Command’s two other depots, Hill AFB, Utah, and Tinker AFB, Okla., took on the task of developing a replacement lever. The project is expected to be completed on November 14, well ahead of the original completion date of December 26. Due to the age of the T-38, the original aluminum forgings used to make the levers are no longer available, which is why the parts had to be manufactured from scratch. Air Force officials currently operate 546 T-38s, a twin-engine jet that serves as the primary trainer for Air Force pilots. Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123120348>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *October 21, Internet News* – (National) **Can CFOs help prevent cyber attacks?** On Tuesday, 2,000 chief financial officers (CFOs) at corporations around the country will get a copy of an action guide that will help them deal with cyber attacks. Despite the highly publicized losses due to a data breach at TJX, where 94 million records were compromised, plus several other breaches since, hackers continue to penetrate defenses at organizations. The booklet contains 50 questions CFOs must ask and sample charts to help them calculate the probability and severity of financial losses from both risk actions

and the actions taken to mitigate them. It also contains a list of standards and reference documents to help CFOs develop comprehensive risk management frameworks.

Source: <http://www.internetnews.com/security/article.php/3779346>

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Transportation Sector

10. *October 21, Associated Press* – (New York) **Soldier pleads not guilty to airport gun rap.** A soldier has pleaded not guilty to a weapon charge following her arrest at a Long Island airport for allegedly carrying a loaded revolver in her checked luggage. The Army Specialist was arraigned Monday in New York state court on a charge of criminal possession of a weapon. She was ordered held on \$5,000 bail or \$25,000 bond. The 38-year-old from San Antonio, Texas, was arrested Sunday at MacArthur Airport. She was scheduled to take a Southwest Airlines flight to Texas. Last week, a Las Vegas man was arrested at the same airport after a knife, pipe bomb, and other suspicious items were found in his luggage.
Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/10/ap_gunarrest_102008/
11. *October 20, Reuters* – (International) **Pilot arrested after failing breath test.** An airline pilot has been arrested on a passenger plane at Heathrow Airport on suspicion of being above the legal alcohol limit, police said on Monday. Officers boarded a United Airlines plane at terminal one before it was due to take off on Sunday and arrested the 44-year-old under transport safety laws. The pilot, who has not been named, was given police bail to January 16 next year, pending further inquiries. A United Airlines spokeswoman said the pilot has been suspended from duties, but declined to name the flight or give further details of the incident.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSLK21280520081020>
12. *October 20, U.S. Coast Guard* – (National) **Deadline approaching for enforcement of new security measures at Great Lakes port facilities.** The Coast Guard is set to enforce new security measures at port facilities located on the Great Lakes Oct. 31, 2008, as mandated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) and the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act. Regulations require that all personnel needing unescorted access to secure areas of MTSA regulated facilities carry Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) as an additional means of security in America's ports. To obtain a TWIC, an individual must provide biographic and biometric information such as fingerprints, sit for a digital photograph, and successfully pass a TSA security threat assessment. They will be required to present the credentials for unescorted access to secure areas of facilities. Owners and operators of the facilities in the Coast Guard Captain of the Port of Buffalo, Detroit, Lake Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie, and Duluth zones must comply by Oct. 31, 2008. The Coast Guard will conduct routine announced and unannounced spot checks to ensure that owners and operators of MTSA regulated facilities are complying with the applicable TWIC regulations. Owners and operators of facilities may provide escorts to secure areas for

individuals who do not yet have a TWIC.

Source: <http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/443/233088/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *October 20, Reuters* – (Colorado; Oklahoma) **At least five Chase banks hit with letter threats.** At least five branches of Chase bank in Colorado and Oklahoma received threatening letters on Monday, some containing an unidentified white powder. A spokeswoman for Chase said the letters were delivered to three branches in the Denver, Colorado, area and locations in Oklahoma City and Norman, Oklahoma. Some of the envelopes contained the white powder, a Chase spokeswoman said, and one employee was treated for a rash as a precaution, but it was not clear if the skin irritation was caused by the powder. She identified the Colorado branches as being in Lakewood and Arvada. A fire marshal of the Cunningham Fire Protection District near Denver said the powder in one package was found to be harmless, though the substance had yet to be identified. That branch was inside a supermarket in the Denver suburb of Centennial. The supermarket was evacuated as a precaution. Several bank employees who had close contact with the package were sent to a local hospital for evaluation, he said. A police department spokesman in nearby Lakewood said a white substance found on a parcel there appeared not to be dangerous and resembled talcum powder. The Chase spokeswoman said Chase would not release the total number of banks affected until they were sure all the letters had been found. “We immediately called the FBI and Postal Inspection Service to handle the matter and ensure the safety of our customers and employees,” she said. She did not know the contents of the letters or if they contained return addresses.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE49J8F620081020?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

14. *October 20, Buffalo News* – (New York) **No health problems found after haz-mat scare at Amherst firm.** Emergency responders say there are no signs of health problems among workers at an Amherst collection agency where mailroom employees found an unknown substance inside a package Monday morning. Police and Erie County Haz-Mat officials responded to National Action Financial Services about 10:40 a.m., Amherst Police said. The initial report was that a white powder had been found in a letter. Investigators are still working to identify the substance, police said.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/258/story/468957.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *October 21, USAg Net* – (New York) **New York to impose restrictions on ‘bug bombs.’** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner announced that the state will be taking action to address the risks posed

by total release foggers, also known as “bug bombs,” in the wake of a new federal report detailing hazards and injuries related to the product. DEC will move to classify foggers as a restricted-use product in New York State, meaning that only certified pesticide applicators will be able to obtain them. Simultaneously, DEC will explore the need to further limit fogger use and encourage the adoption of better pest management strategies. DEC categorizes pesticides and regulates their use through its pesticide registry program.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2462&yr=2008>

16. *October 21, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Snohomish County health officials investigating 14 unconfirmed E. coli cases.** Fourteen unconfirmed cases of E. coli O157: H7 contamination are being investigated by the Snohomish Health District. By noon Monday, medical professionals in the county had reported a total 14 cases, none of which have yet been confirmed by additional testing, which can take several days. The source of the contamination is unknown. On Monday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said cattle fed an ethanol byproduct called distiller’s grain, a cheap and common feed, have a higher concentration of acid in their digestive tracts and are more likely to have E. coli than cornfed cattle.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008290958_ecoli21m0.html

17. *October 20, Business World* – (National) **Health authorities clear meat products of contamination.** The Department of Health, Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) and National Meat Inspection Service have cleared 18 canned products, including those initially inspected by independent firm QualiBet Testing Services, Inc., which found traces of melamine. The Health Secretary was unsure which of the products cleared for melamine were also tested by QualiBet. He said it is possible that QualiBet’s findings of contamination came from the tin cans. Results of melamine tests done on other processed meat products will be released later this week.

Source: <http://www.bworldonline.com/BW102108/content.php?id=072>

18. *October 20, USAg Net* – (National) **Bush signs bill to suspend 10 acre rule for one year.** The President signed into law H.R. 6849, which suspends the 10-acre rule for one year and makes technical corrections to the SURE disaster program. The legislation was approved by both chambers of Congress in late September. The law also contains clarifications on how minor acreages and grazing land will be treated under SURE and establishes a minimum loss threshold for the program, requiring that there be a physical loss of at least 10 percent of one crop on a farm to qualify for payments. Because the 10-acre dispute put into question whether thousands of farmers were eligible for 2008 Farm Bill programs, the new law also extends the sign-up period for direct, counter-cyclical and ACRE payments until November 14 or 45 days after enactment.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2444&yr=2008>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

19. *October 21, Daily Times* – (Maryland) **Beware rabies threat.** Rabies is an ongoing threat to Lower Shore residents and their pets. A shortage in post-exposure vaccine has health officials warning people to be extra careful around their pets and other animals.
Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081021/OPINION01/810210346/-1/newsfront2>
20. *October 20, USA Today* – (National) **Experts predict next epidemic will start in animals.** A report by the non-profit Trust for America's Health entitled "Germs Go Global: Why Emerging Infectious Diseases Are a Threat to America," is to be released next week. It cites National Intelligence Estimates that conclude outbreaks of new and resurgent infectious diseases, many of which "originate overseas," kill more than 170,000 people in the U.S. each year. The death toll would climb much higher in the event of a new global pandemic or bioterror attack. The report concludes that infectious diseases have become a matter of "national security." More than 60 percent of the 335 epidemics between 1940 and 2004 examined, including HIV and SARS, began when a germ leapt from wildlife into humans.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-10-21-next-epidemic_N.htm

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Government Facilities Sector

21. *October 21, CNET News* – (Ohio) **Ohio secretary of state site's possibly hacked.** The Ohio secretary of state's office has limited the access to its Web site after discovering it may have been hacked. "Due to security concerns experienced by the Secretary of State's website, full functionality of the website has been suspended to protect the integrity of state records and data," a message on the site reads. "Full functionality will be restored when we are assured that all data has been protected and restored to acceptable levels of security." The secretary of state's office offered few details about the breach. "What we know is our IT department detected a situation with our Web site where there was somehow suspicious activity where someone could have gotten into our site and tried to move things around," said the communications director for the secretary of state. The secretary of state, who recently won a dispute with the Ohio Republican Party over new voter registrations, has been the target of other malicious acts recently. Her office has reportedly fielded menacing e-mails and phone calls and received a suspicious package which was turned over to police.
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-10071139-38.html?tag=newsEditorsPicksArea.0
22. *October 19, Great Falls Tribune* – (Montana) **Encroachment concerns sparked runway bond proposal.** Supporters of Malmstrom Air Force Base say the military's

increasing concern about air and ground encroachment at military airfields is the reason they are trying to buy development rights beneath the flight path of Malmstrom's runway. Keeping the Accident Potential Zones protected will keep Malmstrom in the running to have the Pentagon reopen the runway that has been closed for a dozen years, say a county commissioner and the Great Falls airport director. That is because the Pentagon is increasingly concerned about conflicts between too many planes flying overhead and too many homes and businesses close to and underneath the flight paths of military runways. "Encroachment at military bases is a pretty serious issue that recent Base Realignment and Closure Commissions have used as one of the criteria as they decide whether to retain or move a flying mission," said an expert in airfield planning with HB & A, a Colorado Springs consulting firm that did a recent study for Cascade County.

Source:

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081019/NEWS01/810190307>

See also:

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081019/NEWS01/810190306>

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *October 21, WCAX 8 Burlington* – (Vermont) **Bomb threat made against St. Albans Police Dept.** A bomb threat was made against the St. Albans Police Department Monday night. The building, which also houses the city fire department, was evacuated. Neighbors near the police department were put on alert. "A male caller called the station and advised that a bomb had been placed at the facility, the fire and police facility, and we had 30 minutes," said the police chief. No bomb was found. Police are working to trace the call to see who made the threat.

Source: http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=9210983&nav=menu183_2

24. *October 21, Coloradoan* – (Colorado) **Outbreak may stop training at firefighter academy.** Area fire chiefs considered Tuesday whether to halt training at a Fort Collins-based firefighter academy following an outbreak of the antibiotic-resistant MRSA bacteria among recruits. State health officials have confirmed five infections at Front Range Fire Consortium Recruit Academy, with another recruit possibly infected. Two recruits were hospitalized but have been released, state officials said. State officials said they could not definitively pinpoint the source of the outbreak and recommended a series of operational changes intended to reduce its spread.

Source:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081021/NEWS01/810210332/1002/CUSTOMERSERVICE02>

25. *October 20, Marin Independent Journal* – (Idaho) **Voters asked to fund enhanced 911 system.** Boundary County voters will be asked to decide whether they want to impose a \$1-per-month fee on their phone bills to help fund the installation of an enhanced 911

system officials say will vastly improve public safety. A 60 percent majority vote is needed to approve imposing the monthly surcharge, which would be billed to every Boundary County resident with a land, cell, or Voice Over Internet Protocol line. Currently Boundary County is one of only four counties in Idaho that does not have an enhanced 911 system. Instead it has been using a Caller ID system, which only provides a dispatcher with a caller's name and phone number. An enhanced 911 system automatically displays every caller's name, phone number, street address, apartment, or space numbers on a dispatcher's computer screen, along with the type of phone, additional phone numbers at that location, and a recommendation for police, fire, or paramedic response. It also keeps phone numbers from being blocked, even if they are unlisted.

Source: http://www.ruralnorthwest.com/artman/publish/article_9106.shtml

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Information Technology

26. *October 21, Computerworld* – (International) **Pirates prefer Windows XP over Vista, says Microsoft.** While explaining the “Global Anti-Piracy Day” educational and enforcement effort Microsoft launched today, a senior attorney with the company acknowledged that pirates prefer Windows XP over Vista. Counterfeiters currently copy Office 2003 rather than the newer Office 2007 for the same reasons, she said. The attorney also touted the day's announcements of new initiatives and lawsuit filings scheduled to take place in 49 countries, ranging from Argentina to the U.S. In the U.S., Microsoft filed 20 new lawsuits in federal court against software resellers that, according to the company's allegations, either sold pirated copies of Microsoft Windows XP Professional and Office or installed the counterfeit software on new PCs. Nine of the lawsuits were filed in California; two each were filed in Ohio, Oregon and Texas; and others were filed in Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota and New York.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/10/21/Pirates_prefer_Windows_XP_over_Vista_says_Microsoft_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

27. *October 21, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Return of Santa Ana winds raises fire risk.** Santa Ana winds are expected to return to the Southland tonight, raising the risk of more wildfires, according to forecasters. The National Weather Service issued a fire weather watch for mountain, forest and valley areas from 10 tonight until 10 p.m. Thursday. Forecasters do not expect the wind event to be as strong as the winds that fanned the Sesnon and Marek fires in the northern San Fernando Valley last week. The fire weather watch applies to the mountains of Los Angeles County, including the Santa Monica range, the Angeles National Forest, and the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys. It is also in force in the mountains, forests and valleys of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. A fire weather watch means that “there is the potential for critical fire weather conditions to occur.”

Source: http://www.ktla.com/landing_topstories/?Return-of-Santa-Ana-Winds-Raises-Fire-Ri=1&blockID=112562&feedID=1198

28. *October 20, Monterey County Herald* – (California) **Chalk Fire flares anew.** Reinforcements were summoned to Los Padres National Forest in Southern Monterey County on Friday after hot weather and dry vegetation fueled a flare-up of the Chalk Fire, which has been burning 22 miles west of King City since Sept. 27. While additional personnel helped battle the blaze, the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (UAPCD) issued an advisory after satellite imagery revealed that smoke and ash from the fire, combined with smoke from backfiring operations, was moving in a plume over populated areas around the Monterey Bay. People with heart or lung disease, the elderly, children and pregnant women are urged to limit prolonged exertion and stay indoors when possible. Northwestern winds are anticipated for Sunday, which should blow the smoke out to sea, the UAPCD report stated. Through Friday evening, the fire had burned 12,010 acres of Los Padres National Forest and was 93 percent contained.

Source: http://www.montereyherald.com/local/ci_10767705

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Dams Sector

29. *October 21, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Tampa Bay Water votes to sue three companies over reservoir cracks.** Tampa Bay Water voted Monday to sue the three companies responsible for building its \$146-million reservoir over cracks that are limiting the capacity of the reservoir during the ongoing drought. The reservoir problems could lead to tighter water restrictions, officials said. If it were not for the cracks, said the utility’s senior manager, “I could’ve filled that reservoir up” with

another 3-billion gallons of water at the end of the summer. The reservoir's walls consist of an earthen embankment as wide as a football field at its base, averaging about 50 feet high, with an impermeable membrane buried in the embankment to prevent leaks. The top layer of the embankment is a mixture of soil and cement to prevent erosion, and that is what cracked in December 2006. Some cracks were up to 400 feet long and up to 15 1/2 inches deep. Water officials say that the residents living around the reservoir should not worry about the walls failing and inundating their homes.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/article863844.ece>

30. *October 21, Daily News* – (Arizona) **Davis Dam security on city's plate.** Heightened security at Davis Dam will be discussed at Tuesday's Bullhead City council meeting. The council will consider ratifying an intergovernmental agreement between Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Bullhead City Police Department. The PD would receive a \$115,000 grant for a "terrorism liaison officer program," allowing it to purchase a vehicle, computer, camera equipment, and surveillance items for a buffer zone protection plan for Davis Dam.
Source: <http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2008/10/21/news/local/local1.txt>
31. *October 21, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Big source of drinking water may have leak.** The Central Canal is Indianapolis' biggest water cooler – and it might have a leak, officials say. "There's an immediate danger that a hole could develop in the canal wall that could affect the water supply for 600,000 customers," said a spokesman of Veolia Water Indianapolis, which runs the city's water services. The 7-mile canal is Veolia's largest reservoir and provides drinking water to 60 percent of the company's customers. A section of the canal that runs parallel to White River appears to be developing a rupture that would divert millions of gallons of water into the river. "If that happens, it could drain the canal," the spokesman said. In 1992, a puncture in almost the identical spot dumped 50 million gallons into the river, causing severe water shortages. Bowen workers are driving 100 steel pilings, each 30 feet tall, into the ground across 250 feet near the canal bank to build an underground levee.
Source:
<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081021/LOCAL18/810210380>
32. *October 20, Puget Sound Business Journal* – (Washington) **PSE gets 50-year license for massive Baker River dam.** Puget Sound Energy said it has received a 50-year federal operating license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate its largest dam project, the 190-megawatt Baker River project. Officials at the Bellevue utility, a subsidiary of Puget Energy, said it will spend about \$360 million to comply with the dam's license provisions and operate the dam. There are two concrete dams in the Northwest Washington project: the 83-year-old Lower Baker Dam that generates 85 megawatts of capacity and the 49-year-old Upper Baker Dam that generates 105 megawatts.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/stories/2008/10/20/daily2.html>
33. *October 20, Upper Rogue Independent* – (Oregon) **Corps complete notching of Elk Creek Dam.** The long-awaited disposition of the state of Elk Creek Dam has finally

been completed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has nearly completed work on the project, with just minor clean-up work remaining by the two major contractors. Elk Creek Dam has been controversial since construction began more than 20 years ago. A court injunction halted progress on the structure when it has been completed to approximately 80 feet of the proposed 240 feet height. The Corps, which normally build projects, have been prepared to tear down the dam for the past several years. Without further opposition, the Corps proceeded to notch and move the streambed back to its original position prior to the start of construction. Contractors blasted the dam in several sections, carefully placing charges to make certain that materials removed would be small enough to handle.

Source:

http://urindependent.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1250&Itemid=1

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