



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 August 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports a failure to contain problems with three transmission lines in northern Ohio, just south of Cleveland, was the likely trigger of the nation's biggest power blackout. (See item [2](#))
- CNN Money reports major airlines struggled Friday to recover from the effects of the nation's largest blackout, but officials said it would be some time before they can resume normal operations in the affected area stretching from Michigan to New York. (See item [12](#))
- The Wisconsin Ag Connection reports Georgia's Agriculture Commissioner has announced that the Georgia Department of Agriculture food scientists have found two samples of South Mill Gourmet Slices mushrooms to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, a potentially dangerous bacteria. (See item [17](#))
- Water Tech Online reports the largest power blackout in U.S. history impacted water systems from Cleveland to Detroit to the Northeast and Southern Canada last week. (See item [19](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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

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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://esisac.com>]

August 17, The New York Times — **The problem with power.** Despite claims in the wake of last week's blackout that the nation has a "third world" power grid, the regional networks that feed its annual 710,000–megawatt appetite are first–world. But **in one critical aspect, the system has become increasingly vulnerable: in the interconnections among the different regions. Both the number and size of the wires on the borders between regions are inadequate for the rising flow of electricity. This missing part creates the worst bottlenecks in the system.** Moreover, the deficiency also includes inadequate coordination among the regions in managing the flow of electricity. These interregional weaknesses are so far the most plausible explanation for the blackout on Thursday, August 14. The transmission networks were built to serve a utility system based on regulated monopolies. In the old days, there was no competition for customers. Today, the mission is to connect buyers and sellers seeking the best deal, irrespective of political boundaries and local jurisdictions. Large industrial customers in the East routinely shop for power in the Midwest. Over all, for more than a decade, the power industry has been struggling with how to move from the old regulation to the new marketplace.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/17/weekinreview/17YERG.html>

- August 17, Associated Press* — **Ohio alarms failed ahead of blackout. A failure to contain problems with three transmission lines in northern Ohio just south of Cleveland was the likely trigger of the nation's biggest power blackout, a leading investigator says.** Alarm systems that might have alerted engineers to the failed lines were broken, according to FirstEnergy Corp., the Akron, OH–based utility that officials said owned at least two of the three lines. FirstEnergy was aware the alarm system was broken, said company spokesman Ralph DiNicola. A functioning backup alarm at the Midwest Independent System Operator, a nonprofit power pool that oversees the region's electrical grid, was in place, DiNicola said. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, co–chair of a U.S.–Canadian task force that will look into the cause of the blackout, said the group is putting together investigative teams that will include experts from the government's research laboratories as well as private resources. In addition to determining the cause, the task force will recommend actions to prevent a repeat. **Among the things yet to be determined is the relationship between lines tripping in Ohio and the unusual power swings that were observed in lines leaving Michigan and going into Canada and then back again, according to investigators.**

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20030817_223.html

- August 16, North American Electric Reliability Council* — **Power outage update from NERC. As of Saturday, August 16, the bulk electric transmission system in the United States and Canada has been restored and is operating reliably.** Virtually all customers have been returned to electric service, although some customers will continue to experience rotating outages due to generating capacity availability. **Some rotating outages may also be necessary on Monday, August 18,** depending on the status of the generating units returning to service and the electrical demand. "NERC is conducting a thorough investigation into this event in conjunction with the regional reliability councils and their member utilities, and in coordination with federal, state, and provincial agencies," stated Michehl R Gent, NERC president and CEO. **A number of key transmission lines and generators tripped out of service in the ECAR, PJM, and NPCC NERC Regions during this event.** NERC will continue to evaluate and analyze the situation over the next several days as utilities continue to work to assess and restore their systems.

Source: http://www.nerc.com/pub_doc/8-15-03-outage-announcement-update.pdf

4. *August 15, Reuters* — **Refiners say downed Ohio plants to return quickly. Two refineries in Toledo, OH, downed by the massive U.S. and Canadian power blackout, said on Friday, August 15, that power had returned to their refineries and they were ready to start production as soon as the power grid stabilized.** BP and Sunoco Inc.'s 140,000 bpd Toledo refinery were two of the three refineries shut in the United States by the blackout. The other was Marathon Oil Corp.'s Detroit refinery. Three refineries were also shut down in Canada. The outages in both countries totaled nearly 700,000 bpd of refining capacity.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_08_15_eng-reuters_pma_REFINE_RS-SAY-DOWNED-OHIO-PLANTS-TO-RETURN-QUICKLY&SMContentSet=0

5. *August 15, The Associated Press* — **Residents near Michigan refinery evacuated after explosion. An explosion on Thursday, August 14, blamed on the widespread power outage, rocked the Marathon Ashland oil refinery in Melvindale, MI, and forced the evacuation of hundreds of people living nearby.** The power outage, which spread across the Northeast and through parts of Canada, Ohio and Michigan, affected a pump at the complex, which produces gasoline as well as jet and other fuels. That caused a buildup of pressure which ultimately triggered an explosion in one of the plant's smoke stacks. Unsure if another explosion was possible or if the gasses were toxic, officials evacuated one square-mile around the plant and closed Interstate 75 where it runs beside the facility. Melvindale is about ten miles southwest of Detroit, MI.

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0815BlackoutExplosion_15-ON.html

6. *August 15, Reuters* — **Gas stations shut in blackout areas. Gasoline stations in parts of the United States hit by a massive blackout were unable to open Friday, August 15, due to the fact that pumps run on electricity.** Millions of drivers were left without fuel, the American Automobile Association said. While the lack of retail gasoline is an inconvenience to drivers, it could serve to stabilize prices once the power comes back on, following fears over production shortfalls from downed refineries in Ohio and Michigan. The motorist group was on the lookout for price gouging at retail outlets elsewhere in the country.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62522-2003Aug_15.html

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *August 15, U.S. Northern Command* — **Exercise to evaluate Northern Command's capabilities. Beginning Monday, August 18, the United States Northern Command will conduct Exercise Determined Promise 03, a major exercise designed to evaluate the**

command's ability to command and control multiple homeland defense and military assistance to civil authorities missions simultaneously. The exercise will take place in Nevada and Colorado, and will include a simulated hurricane, multiple simulated homeland defense events, wild land fires, and a simulated pneumonic plague outbreak. During DP-03, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) will conduct a one-day, live-fly exercise in Alaska as part of a continuous exercise program to test NORAD's ability to deal with potential airborne terrorist threats and interface with USNORTHCOM.

Source: <http://www.northcom.mil/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.showstory&storyid=FBA45092-F8A6-DBBD-6EA27A2CD9E7EF91>

- 8. August 15, *The Washington Post* — Navy orders six nuclear submarines. The Navy announced on Thursday, August 15, that it will buy six nuclear-powered attack submarines for \$8.7 billion from two defense contractors.** The five-year contract is the most expensive submarine order in Navy history, and is part of a long-term program to acquire 30 submarines. **The submarines, known as Virginia class, were designed to be smaller, cheaper and capable of getting closer to shore than the current fleet.** They will be built in Groton, CT, and Newport News, VA.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60271-2003Aug 14.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

- 9. August 15, *Reuters* — Banks strain to open branches, ATMs after blackout. Banks hurried to open branches and put the "automatic" back into automatic teller machines affected by the northeast U.S. power outage, but New York banking was slow to recover on Friday, August 15, a day many workers get paid. Detroit, MI, was also a major problem area.** Hundreds of bank branches were closed in that city after officials urged workers sweltering from a lack of power and water to stay home. There was no indication that any of the banks lost data or records because of the blackout. "We had some close moments," said Al Coppolo, who oversees data processing and network operations at Cleveland, OH-based KeyCorp, which has data centers in that city and Albany, NY. "All of our plans are probably better because of the preparation we made for Y2K," he said, referring to computer systems upgrades made in preparation for the transition to the year 2000.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rf/030815/power_blackout_banks_1.html

- 10. August 15, *finextra.com* — 'Ghost' website returns to haunt Westpac.** On Friday, August 15, 2003, **Westpac Banking Corporation of Australia advised customers to ignore emails requesting confidential information** such as user ids and passwords following the detection of a 'ghost' Internet banking site located overseas which has already been shut down. It is the latest in a series of bogus web scams to hit the Australian banking community. However, **unlike earlier confidence tricks in which the fake URL could be viewed in the task bar, this one displayed Westpac's real website address.**

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=9751>

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Transportation Sector

11. *August 17, Cape Cod Times* — **Ferries under federal pressure to add stricter, costly security. While no specific terrorist threat toward ferries in the U.S. has been identified, the government sees boat lines as a weak link in homeland security.** "Where a lot of people congregate, it's a target," said Jim Swindler, director of operations for the Steamship Authority. Although individualized plans must still be drafted, measures to increase public safety on the high seas will carry a hefty pricetag, with most of the cost falling on the maritime industry. For the 10,370 vessels nationwide impacted by the changes, the stepped-up security measures are expected to cost \$1.37 billion through the year 2012, or \$218 million in the first year alone. Temporary new security regulations were rolled out for the maritime industry July 1. The government hopes to polish the rules and have finalized versions in place in October. **But for the ferry industry, where little or no security is common and passengers routinely mingle with well-wishers just feet from a vessel's hull, the measures represent a major change in thinking.** "Many of our ferry companies have very tight turnaround times," said John Groundwater, executive director of the Virginia-based Passenger Vessel Association, which has objected to the new rules. "If they're held to the security measures of airlines, it could cause them a lot of operational difficulties."
Source: <http://www.capecodonline.com/cctimes/ferriesunder17.htm>

12. *August 15, CNN Money* — **Airlines struggle to recover from blackout. Major airlines struggled Friday to recover from the effects of the nation's largest blackout, but they said it would be some time before they can resume normal operations in the affected area stretching from Michigan to New York.** Virtually all major airlines saw some impact in cancelled flights, as three major hub airports — New York's La Guardia and Kennedy airports, as well as Detroit International Airport — had only sporadic power and flights through midday Friday. About 400 flights were expected to be cancelled Friday. Airlines were saying they hoped to be able to resume normal operations at the affected airports by later Friday, but that it would take some time to accommodate all the affected passengers. **The outage hit during a busy summer travel season when the major airlines have all been reporting either record or near record percentage of their seats filled.** Many of the carriers had also made cuts in their schedules and grounded aircraft in an attempt to stem losses, something that will make finding seats for affected passengers even more difficult.
Source: http://money.cnn.com/2003/08/15/news/companies/airlines_blackout/index.htm?cnn=yes

13. *August 15, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* — **Bomb detector project to begin. Construction should start in the next three months on two large underground rooms that will house bomb-detecting machines at Hartsfield International Airport,** General Manager Ben DeCosta says. Two warehouse-sized rooms will be built under the roads that run in front of both the North and South terminals. The work will take 12 to 14 months, and construction will disrupt traffic, DeCosta said Thursday. DeCosta got a \$39.8 million check from U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta on Thursday to start work on the full-scale system, designed to screen every piece of checked luggage by machine. The grant will provide part of the \$215 million needed for the rooms to house the bomb-detecting machines. **Hartsfield has had no place to put machines to do full-scale screening. To process luggage, the airport needs to line up the machines in an automated system.** Because they don't have automated

systems, airlines and airports rely on hand searches, explosive trace detection swabbing and bomb-sniffing dogs to screen bags. They also match bags to passengers, which could prevent a terrorist from checking a bag and not taking the flight but would not deter a suicide bomber.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/business/content/business/0803/15hartsfie ld.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Airborne sale approved. Airborne Inc. shareholders have overwhelmingly approved selling the company's ground express-delivery operations to DHL Express, a unit of German postal service Deutsche Post.** About 88 percent of votes cast favored the acquisition, the company announced Thursday. The \$1.05 billion-dollar deal is expected to close Friday. It's unclear what the sale's effect will be on the more than 1,100 workers in Airborne's operations. **The deal is still under review by the U.S. Department of Transportation.** To satisfy federal rules prohibiting more than a 25 percent stake in U.S. airlines by foreign owners, Airborne and DHL plan to spin off Airborne's airline-delivery unit as a separate company, ABX Air.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/business/sns-ap-airborne-dhl.0.364600.9.story?coll=ny-business-headlines>

15. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Mail is likely slowed in blackout areas. The blackout disrupted mail delivery Friday in three metropolitan areas, postal officials said. Postal Service spokesman Mark Saunders said deliveries were disrupted in the Cleveland, OH, and Detroit and Royal Oak, MI, areas as well as New York City, except for Staten Island where deliveries were planned.** The Postal Service activated its national command center Thursday night, he said, with staffers organizing alternate forms of transportation to move mail to and from the affected regions. The Washington-based center was continuing in operation Friday. But delays are likely until power is restored, Saunders said.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/ap/ap_story.html/National/AP.V6218.AP-Blackout-Mail.html

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Agriculture Sector

16. *August 15, Crop Decisions* — **Last Texas Newcastle disease quarantine lifted. State and federal quarantines restricting bird and poultry movement have been released in Socorro, in El Paso County, Texas, officially bringing to a close the state's Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) outbreak that was first detected in April.** Bob Hillman, executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission, said that even though END is officially wiped out in Texas, it could still affect the state's ability to trade internationally, at least for a while. "END is a foreign animal disease, and although it struck only backyard birds in Texas and no commercial operations, some 13 countries either placed additional restrictions on our poultry products or banned the products until we could prove Texas was disease-free," he said. **"Our trading partners have the prerogative to decide when they'll again accept Texas products. Some**

countries may accept poultry within a few weeks; others may enforce a longer waiting period."

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=20810

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Food Sector

17. *August 15, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Contaminated mushrooms. Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin announced that Georgia Department of Agriculture food scientists have found two samples of a brand of sliced fresh mushrooms to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, a species of potentially dangerous bacteria.** The mushrooms are South Mill Gourmet Slices and are sold in the produce section of grocery stores. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, a potentially serious disease. The most common manifestation of listeriosis is meningitis. Listeriosis can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as serious and sometimes fatal infections to infants, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. "Our inspectors will be checking stores to make sure the affected mushrooms are removed from shelves," said Commissioner Irvin.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=877&yr=2003>

18. *August 15, USAg Net* — **Food irradiation center established at Texas A&M. Recognizing the public's increased awareness of food safety and the need to solve the issues of food recalls due to foodborne disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will fund and establish a National Center for Electron Beam Food Research at Texas A&M University.** Based in Texas A&M's Institute of Food Science & Engineering and capitalizing on the already established Electron Beam Food Research Facility, this new center will be dedicated to: conducting research on electron beam technology for food and agricultural products; hosting industrial, academic, and government research programs, and conducting outreach, training, and education in the science & technology of electron beam irradiation.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/news-search.cfm?Id=881>

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Water Sector

19. *August 15, Water Tech Online* — **Widespread blackout affects water.** The largest power blackout in U.S. history impacted water systems from Cleveland to Detroit to the Northeast and Southern Canada last week. **Cleveland weathered its worst water crisis in history, as the blackout shut down all four major pumping stations.** The pumps, which serve more than 1 million residents in the city and 20 suburbs, began operating Friday morning, but the National Guard tanked in 7,600 gallons of drinking water to help until taps flowed again. A city spokeswoman said it could take days to get water back through the system. Meanwhile, **cities across southeastern Michigan were telling residents to boil water once it started flowing again. But that raised another dilemma, how to boil water if, because of the power outage, you don't have a working stove.** Detroit mayoral spokesman Jamaine Dickens said that two of

Detroit's three major water plants were functioning, but he didn't know how long it would take for water to travel to the outlying pumping stations. **In other areas affected by the blackout, including most of New York state, parts of Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, people have been asked to conserve water.**

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=42334

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Public Health Sector

20. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Military to conduct bioterror exercise. U.S. Northern Command, which is responsible for military operations inside the United States, said Friday it will begin an exercise next week to test its ability to respond to multiple domestic emergencies simultaneously, including a bio-terror attack in Nevada. It begins Monday with the plague outbreak in Clark County.** Clark includes 70 percent of Nevada's population, including Las Vegas. Local authorities will respond first by activating an emergency operations center, followed by action at the state level and activation of the Nevada National Guard on Wednesday. Northern Command will direct the use of active-duty forces. At the same time, Northern Command's headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., will deal with a variety of simulated natural disasters and terrorist threats elsewhere in the country.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0,1282,-3032260,00.html>

21. *August 15, Lancet* — **Rats blamed for SARS spread. A team from Columbia University School of Public Health have cast doubt on the theory that one person identified as a source of the outbreak could have infected as many as 300 people.** According to the research, which investigated an outbreak of the respiratory disorder in Hong Kong's Amoy Gardens complex, there were no communal facilities and experts were unable to identify a common source of food or water contamination. This, the researchers say, leads them to suspect that **rats may be responsible for the infection spreading.** Dr. Stephen Ng points out that a **World Health Organization team sent to investigate the outbreak say that airborne transmission is unlikely to be responsible for the outbreak. The infected rats could have spread the virus to their peers in a particular block in Amoy Gardens, which then prompted an epidemic,** say the researchers. "Epidemiological case-control studies could be undertaken to identify risk factors and possible mechanisms for rat-to-man infections," says Dr. Ng. "For example, if rat contamination occurs at night, people using kitchen and bathroom facilities early in the morning, when cooking breakfast, taking showers, and so on, will be at increased risk," he says.

Source: <http://www.pctonline.com/news/news.asp?ID=2047>

22. *August 15, Vancouver Sun* — **Canada investigating SARS-like virus.** Public health officials are investigating the outbreak of a mysterious Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) like virus at a nursing home in North Surrey, Canada. **Doctors at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), the Fraser Health Authority and Health Canada said Thursday that beginning in July, 97 of 142 residents and 46 of 160 staff at the Kinsmen Place Lodge came down with influenza-like symptoms that may be associated with SARS.** "It appears to be a SARS-like virus," deputy provincial health officer Dr. Shaun Peck told a press conference at BCCDC headquarters. "From a public health point of view, we're not

particularly worried about it because we don't seem to have had many people become seriously ill." Nevertheless, doctors say that because of the large number of residents and staff affected, and because of genetic tests completed Tuesday and Wednesday that indicated the presence of a SARS-like virus in a few patients, they are proceeding "cautiously" and will be "on the lookout for people with severe respiratory distress."

Source: <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/vancouverstory.asp?id=64C29D41-ED0F-4573-A427-B503017037D2>

23. August 14, Associated Press — West Nile enters peak. West Nile virus, now entering its peak season, appeared in Arizona for the first time as the number of human infections more than doubled to nearly 400 over the past week, federal officials said Thursday. A new experimental screening process for the virus also flagged 163 infected blood donations, showing the virus can be effectively screened, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported. **Since the virus first entered the country through New York in 1999, late August through September has been its peak season.** Earlier this week, it was detected in a mosquito pool in Arizona for the first time, leaving only Oregon, Nevada, and Utah, that have yet to detect it. Most of the 393 human West Nile cases reported so far this year, up from 153 last week, were in the high plains and Rocky Mountains, officials said. **Colorado has reported the most cases, 195, followed by South Dakota, 51, and Texas, 39. Nine deaths have been linked to West Nile, in Colorado, Texas, and Alabama.** West Nile rarely kills, and most who become infected do not develop symptoms. About one in 150 people infected will become seriously ill, with the worst cases developing potentially deadly encephalitis or meningitis.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/sns-ap-cdc-west-nile.0.4047276.story?coll=ny-health-headlines>

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Government Sector

24. August 17, Associated Press — Governors split over cost of updating power grid. Updating the nation's power system was a hot topic as governors from regions with competing interests gathered yesterday for their annual summer meeting. Although not on the formal agenda, the shape of looming disputes became clear at the news conference to kick off the National Governors Association's summer meeting. Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, the Republican vice chairman of the group, said the nation's outdated power grid threatens to affect every state and that governors would work on a solution. But the group's Democratic chairman, Gov. Paul Patton of Kentucky, said it will be difficult for governors to reach a consensus. **Patton said energy in his coal-rich state is cheap and reliable and he would oppose a plan to require Kentucky taxpayers to share the cost of solving electricity problems in other states.** "We want the people who benefit from that electricity to pay for it," he said. "There is a real danger of a stalemate." **The debate is not partisan, but regional. The Midwest and Northeast have more urgent upgrade needs, while the South enjoys cheaper electricity than other parts of the country.**

Source: <http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/1061116392205310.xml>

Emergency Services Sector

25. *August 17, Associated Press* — **Blackout triggers post-911 security plan.** Thursday's blackout almost instantly triggered a host of security plans put in place after the 2001 World Trade Center attack, police said. **Police helicopters, boats and heavily armed teams of special counterterror officers moved into place at city landmarks and other sensitive locations, New York police Commissioner Ray Kelly said. Officials swiftly realized the power outage was not an act of terror, and they used so-called Atlas teams of officers to make sure no one took advantage of the blackout to strike at a potential terror target, he said.** More than 2,000 additional officers were on the streets, bringing the head count to more than 9,000, and those working at night had their hours extended from eight-hour shifts to 12 hours. Also in effect were a set of plans designed to deal with the more common occurrence of a power outage. Police directed traffic at major intersections and deployed sets of mobile lights to illuminate them. Along with firefighters, they checked high-rise buildings for people stuck in elevators. **The city's 911 phone system briefly went down, and there was a heavy backlog of calls throughout the night, Kelly said. The city's new 311 help line worked throughout the blackout, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.**

Source: <http://www.nynews.com/newsroom/081503/B40815story2.html>

26. *August 15, WKY TV 27 (Kentucky)* — **Crews cleaning up chemical spill in Kentucky mountains. There are fumes and fear left by a major chemical spill in Kentucky's mountains. It was caused by a tanker truck that overturned early this morning on U.S. 23 in Pike County.** Roads have been shutdown and people evacuated. It started after a tanker truck overturned this morning. Pike County's emergency management director Doug Tackett calls the spill the worst chemical spill in the county's history. **About 12:30 Thursday morning, a tanker truck came loose, sending more than 6,000 gallons of the chemical xylene onto U.S. 23. The accident shut down several roads, businesses, caused evacuations and sent several people to the hospital.** Emergency officials, who have been working since the wee hours Thursday morning to clean up the spill on both the road and the part of it that went into the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, continued to work into the evening. **About ten people have been sent to the hospital. One person had stepped in the chemical and developed burns on his feet. Others were sent to the hospital because of inhaling the xylene.** All are expected to recover without any major problems.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/Global/story.asp?S=1402297&nav=4CALHT3n>

27. *August 15, CNSNews.com* — **American 'first-responders' train in Israel to handle terror attacks. Thirteen doctors, nurses, paramedics and firefighters from the western U.S. paid their own way to Israel for a course that will help prepare them for the possibility of future terror attacks in the U.S. The five-day training session was offered at Hadassah University Hospital** The group, including a politician and a veterinarian, was organized by James Crabtree, a registered nurse and a disaster-training specialist at Los Angeles County's Emergency Medical Services Agency. **Most of the Americans who enrolled in the course were from California. They are all part of disaster-response teams and some were involved in disaster relief at the World Trade Center after September 11. But they voiced**

their appreciation for the knowledge they gained in Israel.

Source: <http://www.cnsnews.com/ViewForeignBureaus.asp?Page=\ForeignBureaus\archive\200308\FOR20030815e.html>

28. *August 15, Government Computer News* — **Preparations aided response to massive outage. State and local officials across the Northeast said today that the emergency response methods they upgraded after the September 11 terrorist attacks helped them respond to yesterday' massive power outage. The preparations included computer links among state, local and federal emergency response centers.** New York Gov. George E. Pataki and Cleveland mayor Jane L. Campbell, among other state and local leaders, praised the emergency response of their public safety agencies. Campbell said her city had activated the same emergency response plans prepared for terrorist incidents. **In New York, the Federal Emergency Management Agency relocated its emergency response center to a facility with backup power, a Homeland Security Department spokeswoman said.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23153-1.html

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

29. *August 16, Associated Press* — **Microsoft says no major problems from 'Blaster' worm. Microsoft spokesman Sean Sundwall said the company had not noticed any extraordinary network congestion Saturday, August 16, from attempts by the "blaster" worm to force thousands of infected computers to target the software company's Website and network.** The virus-like infection exploits a flaw in most current versions of Microsoft's Windows operating system for personal computers, laptops and server computers. Although Microsoft posted a software patch on July 16, many users failed to download it, leaving them vulnerable. The exploiters of the Microsoft flaw made a mistake. **The worm instructed computers to call up an incorrect address for reaching the actual Microsoft Website that houses the software patch.** Although Microsoft has long redirected those who visited that incorrect address to the real site, the company disabled the automatic redirection Thursday. That has helped Microsoft's real Web site stay accessible to users, Sundwall said.

Source: <http://msnbc.com/news/952935.asp?0sl=-32&cp1=1>

30. *August 15, New York Times* — **When wireless phones failed, callers turned to land lines.** The land-line telephone network generally kept working after the power went out in parts of six states Thursday, August 14, but **wireless network operators said their networks were unable to handle the heavy traffic** as large numbers of people simultaneously tried to place calls. The lack of electricity or the failure of backup power systems at cellular transmitter stations and traffic switching centers was partly to blame. **As became evident in the hours after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the cellular network is not yet fully up to the challenges of public emergencies.** One wireless expert said a weakness of the cellular networks was that operators have not adopted software that assigns priorities to various categories of callers.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/15/technology/15PHON.html?ex=1061954925&ei=1&en=fe59edfea5bf67b>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	0 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 41170 (---), 113 (ident), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4442 (saris) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

31. *August 17, Associated Press* — **Hundreds of homes evacuated as wildfires surge. Hundreds of homes were evacuated as surging wildfires forced firefighters to shuffle crews to cover the blazes, including one they thought was under control. "The statewide situation has gotten more intense since last night,"** said fire official Scott Vail, who is giving up equipment from his fire in the Swan Valley to help out in the Missoula area. "This is a pretty desperate thing." **Mandatory evacuations were ordered Saturday for an estimated 300 homes around Missoula and another 50 homes had voluntarily evacuated, said Julena Campbell, a fire information officer.** Two dozen major fires burning in Montana on Saturday, most of them started by lightning and still uncontrolled, had covered almost 200,000 acres. Near Missoula, at least nine fires were burning. **In eastern Idaho, more than 50 homes near Salmon were evacuated Saturday for the second time in two days as strong winds began to push a wildfire fire in their direction. Park officials put together evacuation plans for 2,000 visitors and park employees at Fishing Bridge Village in case the fire, which turned away from the community Saturday evening but was still about five miles away, gets much closer.**
 Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Central/08/17/wildfires.ap/index.html>

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