



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 18 February 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)
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Daily Overview

- The New York Times reports New York City police officials are focusing more on protecting the subways: securing and monitoring a system that covers 656 miles of track and 468 stations and carries 4.8 million people a day. (See item [19](#))
- The National Infrastructure Protection Center announced the expansion of the public and private partnerships between the NIPC, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Response Center, and the nation's private and publicly owned ports through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Wednesday, February 13, 2003. (See item [26](#))
- The White House has announced plans for the new Terrorist Threat Integration Center which will have unfettered access to all terrorist threat intelligence information from raw reports to finished analytic assessments available to the U.S. Government. (See item [32](#))
- Government Computer News reports the White House has unveiled its National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace, which calls for exercises to evaluate the impact of cyberattacks and pinpoint weaknesses for correction. (See item [40](#))
- CNN reports officials declared states of emergency Sunday in the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia as a heavy storm system moved across the eastern United States bringing heavy snow, sleet, freezing rain and shutting down airports and rail lines. (See item [45](#))

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 16, San Francisco Chronicle* — **PUC proposal to tax solar power could chill climate for fuel savings.** Modesto resident Bob DeMont took the California energy crisis real seriously. During the worst of the shortages, he cut power consumption at his home by 40 percent and has since gone on to install a \$115,000 solar system on his roof. DeMont, a Gallo Winery director, figured his reduced PG&E bills meant the solar system would pay for itself within 17 years. Now he isn't sure how long it would take **if regulators approve a plan to impose fees on all solar generation statewide. The proposed fees, which the state Public Utilities Commission is expected to vote on later this month, are intended to help cover the billions of dollars California spent trying to avoid rolling blackouts during the past few years. But critics say the fees would in fact cost more to collect than the amount they'd raise, and would ultimately deter Californians from pursuing solar power as an alternative energy source.** The use of solar power is clearly something that needs to be encouraged as part of long-term efforts to increase energy independence and break the nation's dangerous addiction to fossil fuels. California is so serious about this as a policy goal that the state already says it will subsidize about half the cost of installing most residential solar systems. The question state regulators are looking at is whether monthly exit fees should be charged for people who avoid utility charges by producing their own electricity. Solar power represents just a small portion of off-the-grid systems. The bigger concern for the state is if factories and other large-scale utility customers install diesel generators and produce much of their own juice. **That's why state regulators are looking at imposing between 2 cents and 5 cents per kilowatt hour in fees for anyone with an off-grid system, which makes sense for big, industrial diesel setups but would cast a dark cloud over solar. Solar advocates are pushing for a total exemption from any exit fees regulators impose. But PUC sources tell me that users of solar, wind and other renewable energy sources will probably end up paying at least something each month.** The compromise, regulators hope, will lie in charging solar users less than the amount levied on others with off-grid systems. Final sums have yet to be determined.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2003/02/16/BU103485.DTL>

2. *February 15, Associated Press* — **Even more security for key Saudi oil industry as war threatens in Iraq .** With war threatening in Iraq, Saudi authorities have increased security at the already heavily guarded oil installations that are the kingdom's economic lifeblood and a crucial supplier to the world. **But the government is not worried so much about spillover from fighting in Iraq. It is looking to the threat from the followers of Osama bin Laden, the exiled Saudi terrorist leader who exhorts his followers to create economic chaos and destabilize the kingdom.** Last summer, Saudi officials arrested al Qaeda sympathizers who tried to blow up the Ras Tanura oil terminal and refinery and the pipelines that serve them. U.S. officials who reported the arrests in October said documents recovered during the war in Afghanistan suggested al Qaeda was planning strikes on oil interests here. **"There is concern that there will be similar attempts in the next couple of months," said Vincent Cannistraro, a former CIA counterterrorism chief. "There's a lot of buzz about the possibility of attacks against Saudi infrastructure by al Qaeda."** Saboteurs could also try to get at Ras Tanura by sea, if they could get past U.S. warships and others patrolling the Gulf. Or they could try to stage attacks on tankers or other ships like those carried out in Yemen by what is believed to be al Qaeda operatives. Analysts say it is unlikely danger

would come from Iraq since its troops would have to be on the ground to wreak the kind of damage they did to Kuwait's fields. It would take a lucky shot for an Iraqi missile to strike a wellhead, a refinery or a pipeline, and even a single hit likely would not be devastating, the analysts say. The Dhahran headquarters of Saudi Aramco, the state oil company that manages all oil operations in the kingdom, also is under tight security. Office buildings inside the fenced compound have security gates with X-ray scanners for bags and packages. Employees have to show photo ID cards at the gate — and high-security cards must be handed in when employees go on vacation. **Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest oil producer at about 8 million barrels a day and a significant disruption in operations could send world prices soaring. It is home to the world's largest oil field, Ghawar, 60 miles southwest of Dhahran, and Safaniya, the biggest offshore oil field, 160 miles north of Dhahran.**

Source: http://www.nj.com/newsflash/international/index.ssf?/cgi-bin/getstory.ssf.cgi?a0509_BC_Saudi-Oilinternational

- 3. February 15, Associated Press — Port won't let SoCal Edison move nuclear reactor through dock.** Southern California Edison will not be allowed to transport a defunct nuclear reactor through a South Carolina port. **Citing heightened terrorism concerns, officials in Charleston said Friday it was too dangerous to move the reactor, which was scheduled to be shipped next month from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California to a nuclear waste site in Barnwell County, S.C.** The decision was the latest obstacle to transporting the 950-ton reactor to the only place in the nation where the utility can dispose of the massive chunk of radioactive steel and concrete. The development follows the Panama Canal Authority's decision to deny passage through the 50-mile waterway. In South Carolina, there is a concern that terrorists could somehow gain control of the radioactive material, said Anne Moise, vice president of the Charleston port. She said Edison "would have to find other facilities." The series of obstacles creates a major problem for Edison, which is required under terms of its federal license to dispose of the decommissioned reactor at a nuclear waste facility. The company is faced with a decreasing number of expensive options. **If canal officials don't change their mind, Edison will either have to ship the reactor on a barge 11,000 miles around the tip of South America or transport it around Asia and Africa. If it cannot find a port to accept the cargo, Edison might be compelled to ship the reactor by train, somehow overcoming the objections of railroads and countless communities through which the load would travel.**

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/5190869.htm>

- 4. February 15, Dow Jones — Kuwait moving oil rigs to the south.** Major oil producer Kuwait is starting to move rigs out of its northern oil fields to minimize damage caused by potential Iraqi retaliation to any U.S.-led strike, Dow Jones Newswires has learned. **The precautionary move comes ahead of the emirate's decision to turn 60% of the country into a military zone from Feb. 15 as the prospect of war on its northern border with Iraq looms, sources at an oil company operating in Kuwait said. It is unclear how much of the country's oil production of around 2 million barrels a day could be lost through the decision to shift rigs to the south of the country, but Kuwaiti officials have always insisted that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries member would try to maintain its oil exports through any war on Iraq. Oil ministry officials were unavailable for comment Friday.** The precautionary measure of moving rigs, the sources said, is part of the country's oil sector contingency plans that deal with a possible war with Iraq. Fearing a dramatic loss of

production due to possible Iraqi attacks, Kuwait also has 10 tankers loaded with oil floating in the Far East so it can maintain its supply contracts to its customers, another source in the company said.

Source: <http://sg.biz.yahoo.com/030214/15/37prx.html>

5. *February 15, The Kansas City Star (Missouri)* — **Secrecy of utility security costs at issue in Kansas, Missouri.** Missouri and Kansas utilities would be able to recover their security costs in confidential proceedings under legislation that has been filed in both states. In some instances, the utilities wouldn't even have to tell consumers how much they were being charged to cover the expenses, which are rising rapidly as utilities beef up their defenses against terrorism. **The Missouri bill states that the request for recovery of security expenses would be confidential. The Kansas legislation goes into greater detail, including a provision that would allow utilities to keep the costs confidential and the security charge on customer bills "unidentifiable."** The bill goes on to state that the threat of terrorism calls for extraordinary measures to provide for the security of citizens and protect the public welfare. Utilities have traditionally sought to keep some matters confidential, such as business dealings that, if disclosed, would put them at a competitive disadvantage. But the confidentiality being sought for security costs is going too far, say critics of the measures. **John Coffman, head of the Missouri Office of Public Counsel, said he understood the need to keep utilities' security methods confidential. But revealing the costs shouldn't compromise security, he said. "I don't think this is consistent with good public policy," he said.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3647023

6. *February 14, New York Times* — **Nuclear Agency to test defenses of Indian Point with assault drill . For the first time since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will resume mock armed assaults on nuclear plants, including an invasion of the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Westchester County this spring or summer. The commission had suspended the drills after the 9/11 attacks to develop new exercises that better reflected terrorist threats.** But commission members told Congress yesterday that revamped drills would resume this year, starting at four plants, including an exercise in June or July, or possibly earlier, at Indian Point, 35 miles north of Midtown Manhattan, in Buchanan. The so-called force-on-force drills will also be conducted more frequently, every three years instead of every eight years. The last such drill at Indian Point was in March 1994. Word of the drills came as the commission weathered controversy over remarks by its chairman, Richard A. Meserve, who a day earlier criticized a state-commissioned report on emergency plans for apparently giving "undue weight" to the impact of a terrorist attack on the plant. **Antinuclear activists and other critics have questioned, particularly after Sept. 11, how well the nation's 103 active reactors are guarded, pointing to reports of fatigued and unprepared security officers.** In past drills, a small team of intruders would enter a plant's premises and, with simulated weapons, try to outmaneuver the security guards to get to vulnerable areas. **Critics have derided the drills for involving only a handful of intruders and for the fact that the nuclear commission tells the plant in advance when the drill will take place. Commission officials have said the mock intruders in half of the cases reached vulnerable areas, potentially causing a release of radiation.** Diane Screnci, a spokeswoman for the commission, said it would have new regulations governing the exercises in place next month. But she said the commission still planned to notify the plants in advance because they must assign certain guards for the exercise while the others continue guarding the plant.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/14/nyregion/14NUKE.html?ex=1045803600bf6GOOGLE>

7. *February 14, Platts Global Energy News* — **Russia wants greater cooperation with OPEC: Yusufov. The situation on the world's oil market makes it necessary for Russia, the world's second largest exporter, to boost its cooperation with OPEC, Russian energy minister Igor Yusufov said Friday.** "The significant surplus of oil supply over demand in 2002, combined with the decrease in world oil prices to between \$18– 19/bbl," were factors contributing to Russia's need to have a more "vigorous" relationship with OPEC, Yusufov said, quoted by Itar–Tass in a BBC–monitored report. He said action taken last year by the cartel, backed by Russia and other independent producers, helped curb oversupply in the market and maintained prices within OPEC's \$22–28/bbl price band. "Oil prices rose by the end of the year to \$30/bbl and more because of the Venezuelan oil industry strike and expectations that the US will go to war against Iraq," Yusufov said.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/oil2.html>

8. *February 14, New York Times* — **Oil barge spills thousands of gallons in Sound. An oil barge carrying two million gallons of home heating fuel ran aground early this morning in Long Island Sound, puncturing at least four of its dozen compartments and spilling some 2,500 gallons of light–grade oil, the Coast Guard said.** Officials said the spill, which created a slick 50 yards wide by 2,000 yards long, posed little risk to the environment and would probably not wash up on either side of the sound. "We would consider it a relatively minor spill," said Lt. Cmdr. Dan Allman of the Coast Guard in New Haven. By late afternoon, the commander said the spill had been contained and no additional oil appeared to be leaking. "Twenty five hundred gallons were spilled, and of that, we estimate 200 gallons remain out there," said Petty Officer John Olsen. The barge, owned by Hornbeck Offshore Transportation of Mandeville, La., had loaded in New York Harbor near Linden, N.J., with 52,000 barrels of No. 2 home heating oil. It was scheduled to dock in Port Jefferson, N.Y.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/15/nyregion/15SPIL.html?ex=1045976400fc2GOOGLE>

9. *February 13, Associated Press* — **Russian company signs contract to supply India with nuclear fuel. A Russian company has signed a US\$400 million contract with the Indian authorities for nuclear fuel deliveries for an atomic power plant that Russia is building in India, officials said Thursday.** "Supplies of Russian nuclear fuel will fully service the needs of the Kudankulam nuclear plant," the Russian nuclear fuel company TVEL said in a press statement. **Russia is helping India construct two nuclear reactors for the Kudankulam plant in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The first reactor is due to be completed by 2007.** Under the contract signed Wednesday by TVEL and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL), part of the fuel will be supplied on a Russian government credit, TVEL said. The agreement covers fuel deliveries until 2010. **According to an earlier agreement on the plant's construction, India will not be required to return the spent nuclear fuel to Russia, TVEL said.** The Indian government will work with the International Atomic Energy Agency to implement the necessary control mechanisms for the Kudankulam operation, TVEL chief Alexander Nyago said in the statement.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3644053

10. *February 13, The Monitor (McAllen, Texas)* — **Energy company petitions to raise electricity rates in South Texas.** CPL Retail Energy has filed a request with the Public Utilities Commission of Texas to raise electricity prices for South Texas homes and businesses, prompting area lawmakers and consumers groups to voice concerns about the state's new deregulated electric utility industry. **If approved, it would increase homeowners' monthly bills by an average of \$14 to \$17. That's higher than the increases requested by utilities serving other parts of the state. Darci Sinclair, a spokeswoman for the utility company, said a 32 percent increase since May in the price of natural gas — which powers many electric generators — is forcing the company to pass on those costs to its customers.** "Customers could expect to see the increase on their April or May bill if it's approved," she said. "What we're seeing across Texas is that a number of our competitors— have put in the same request for rate increases." CPL Retail Energy serves more than 600,000 customers in McAllen, Corpus Christi, Laredo, Victoria and Harlingen. It was recently acquired by Centrica U.S. Holdings Inc. from American Electric Power Co. Although electric utility rates are frozen until 2006 under the state's new deregulation law, companies can recoup losses on the fuel portion of customers' bills twice a year. **"This demonstrates why Texas needs to move faster and farther into renewable energy," Tom "Smitty" Smith, director of the Texas office of Public Citizen, said. "As more and more of the nation switches to natural gas, the price spikes are likely to increase."**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3643553

11. *February 13, Daily News (New York)* — **Protesters criticize evacuation plan for New York–Area nuclear plant.** A coalition of politicians and activists descended on Federal Plaza in lower Manhattan yesterday to demand the feds force the Indian Point nuclear plant to revise its emergency plan or shut it down. **Flanked by a line of demonstrators holding signs denouncing the plant as unsafe, Assemblyman Richard Brodsky (D–Westchester) and nearly a dozen others insisted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) not recertify the plant's emergency plan, which they called flawed and unworkable. They charged that the plan fails to account for contamination of drinking water and food, as well as the traffic they say would make evacuation impossible. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for licensing all nuclear plants pending FEMA certification of their emergency plans. The plant's opponents contend that a radiation release would be catastrophic for the 20 million people who live within a 50–mile radius of the Westchester County site, which is just 35 miles from midtown. The current plan only considers a 10–mile radius that includes Westchester, Orange, Putnam and Rockland counties.** The key weapon in the coalition's arsenal was a 500–page report prepared by former FEMA director James Lee Witt last month that found the emergency plan inadequate for a post–9/11 world. The report, which was commissioned by Gov. Pataki, concluded that plans "do not consider the possible additional ramifications of a terrorist–caused release." Since the 2001 attacks, many Indian Point critics have cited the risk of future terrorist attacks against nuclear facilities in their quest to shut the 30–year–old plant down.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3643631

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Chemical Sector

12. *February 16, The Salt Lake Tribune* — **Some Utah chemical facilities lacking expected security after 9–11. Beefed up security at Utah military facilities is unmistakable in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but it is harder to see the safeguards for dangerous chemical and nuclear facilities that are in private hands. It may be that government has largely opted to let companies decide for themselves what safeguards are needed.** Verdi White, Utah's new homeland security deputy, said the state has an inventory of plants with "potential vulnerabilities" and assists companies that ask for help. However, the state has no post–9–11 security regulations for them. In December, for the third time, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rejected a request by the state's lawyers for a full–blown review of the terrorist threat that might be posed by a spent–fuel storage facility proposed by the Skull Valley Goshute Indians and the nuclear–plant consortium Private Fuel Storage (PFS). **Containers of depleted nuclear–plant fuel, set on a 100–acre slab on the desert floor like giant pop cans on a picnic table, have long struck state decision–makers as a terrorist risk. The NRC, which relies on mathematical probability for its regulatory standards, refused to examine the "worst case" for a catastrophe that had so minuscule a probability.** "It exaggerates a project's risks," said the NRC ruling, "and might unduly alarm the public." **On the other hand, the U.S. Magnesium plant on the western edge of the Great Salt Lake is among the Utah companies that have taken the threat seriously. As part of its day–to–day process, the company has on site millions of gallons of hazardous chlorine. "Before 9–11, I don't think the issue of chemical terrorism was widely discussed," said U.S. Magnesium's Tom Tripp. "Now it's routine." Aided by detailed directives from chemical–industry trade groups, the magnesium plant has implemented added security measures, including tougher shipping controls and driver checks. "What's been done with this," said Tripp, "is common sense."**

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Feb/02162003/utah/30066.asp>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *February 17, Washington Post* — **Specialized Marine unit readies to respond to the unthinkable.** Marines assigned to Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) (pronounced sea–berf) said they expect that one of these days, their pagers will signal a real–world emergency in the Washington area. "Unfortunately, I do," said Staff Sgt. James Sirmones, 29, speaking from behind a gas mask after he emerged from a pitch–black, smoke–filled building at the unit's training facility, dragging a child–size mannequin. "Probably the number–one target for this type of attack would be Washington," Hammes said. "The thing we have to provide is being ready for whatever they throw at us." **The unit's uniqueness lies in its ability to detect agents, extract and decontaminate victims and provide emergency medical services in response to a chemical, biological or radiological attack. Other military units are capable of carrying out various aspects of that mission, but only CBIRF combines them in one unit.** "Do we answer the mail for everything?" asked Maj. Ron Dahart, the unit's operations officer. "We won't know until we have a real–world, no–kidding situation." **The Marine Corps created the response force in 1996 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in response to growing concern about the threat of chemical or biological terrorism. The unit had its first test that year, responding to a pipe–bomb explosion at Atlanta's**

Centennial Park during the Summer Olympics. In January 2000, Gen. James Jones, then the commandant of the Marine Corps, ordered the force moved to Indian Head so that it would be closer to the nation's capital. At the time, little attention was paid. That changed after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. CBIRF responded to the anthrax letters that terrorized Capitol Hill that fall, conducting chemical sampling, removing 12 tons of contaminated mail and helping to demolish unusable areas. During President Bush's State of the Union address at the Capitol in January, the response force was standing by in case of attack. **The high terrorism alert level in recent days has not changed the unit's readiness, which already was able to launch a 130-person response force from its base within one hour of receiving a call, as it is required to do.** The unit also is required to be able to send a second response force within several hours to support the first unit, or to respond to a second attack at another location.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A18606-2003Feb 16.html>

14. *February 14, Washington Times* — War cargo loaded on two ships headed to Mideast.

Military officials here scrambled on Thursday to load helicopters and other war equipment belonging to the nation's premier airborne unit onto two massive Navy ships, which will deliver the cargo to the Middle East by early March. **The Army's 101st Airborne Division, about 20,000 soldiers based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., got orders from the Pentagon last week to begin a full-scale deployment to the Middle East, where about 100,000 U.S. troops are gathering for a likely invasion of Iraq.** While 16 of the 101st's helicopters are still in Afghanistan, where the division played an integral role in defeating the hard-line Taliban regime after the September 11 attacks, the majority of its gear is being hustled by train from Fort Campbell to Jacksonville. **Once there, about 270 Blackhawk, Apache, Kiowa and Chinook helicopters and a variety of wheeled vehicles, including a large convoy of Humvees and tactical camouflage transport trucks, are being tightly packed onto the USNS Bob Hope and the USNS Dahl. One military official involved in the ship packing, being orchestrated by the U.S. Military Sealift Command, said that it is "like moving a small town to another part of the world."** While the Bob Hope and the Dahl are owned by the Navy, they're operated by private companies under contract to the Military Sealift Command. Each ship has a crew of about 30 civilian mariners, skilled in quick ways to move equipment over long distances for the Army.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030214-89145592.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

- 15. *February 17, Washington Post* — Banks go after money-transfer market.** Wire-transfer companies such as Western Union Financial Services Inc. and Travelers Express/Moneygram dominate the remittance business, which brings in \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion a year in transfer and currency conversion fees. **But the business is changing. Banks, which transmit only a tiny fraction of that torrent of cash, want more of the money-sending market. They see it as a gateway to a group whose interactions with financial institutions are often fleeting or nonexistent.** Only half of Latino immigrants in the United States have bank accounts, according to the Inter-American Development Bank. Some are afraid to open an account because of their immigration status; others are turned off by recurring fees or minimum

monthly balances. **Major commercial banks in the United States are developing ties with Latin American banks, especially banks in Mexico. The U.S. banks are trying to lure customers from wire-transfer services with new, and often cheaper, remittance services.**
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14549-2003Feb 15.html>

16. *February 14, New York Times* — **Insurance price rate determined for cities at risk of terrorism.** The Insurance Services Office, which sets guidelines for insurance pricing across the country, said on thursday that it had agreed on benchmark rates for terrorism coverage in New York and Washington, regarded by the agency as cities at the greatest risk of an attack, along with Chicago and San Francisco. **The company said the rate agreed upon for Manhattan below 59th Street, would be \$30 for \$100,000 of coverage for nonresidential commercial buildings, less than half the cost of basic fire insurance. Elsewhere in New York City, the benchmark was set at \$18 per \$100,000 of coverage. For the rest of the state, it was set at \$1, the same as for 95 percent of the country. David Dasgupta, a spokesman for the office, said the agreed-upon rate for downtown Washington was the same as for Manhattan below 59th Street and that the rate for the rest of Washington had been put at \$18. Rates have not yet been set for Chicago and San Francisco, Dasgupta said, but the rate for a second tier of cities – Houston, Philadelphia, Boston and Seattle – has been set at \$18. The regulators said the office had initially proposed a rate of more than \$100 per \$100,000. The benchmarks are not binding on insurers, but are used as guidance. Under a new federal law, the government will pay for most of the losses in a major terrorist attack. But insurance companies are required to offer the coverage to all customers and pay losses in proportion to their market share. Most of the coverage on skyscrapers in New York is individually negotiated by the insurers and not covered by the benchmarks. But regulators said the benchmarks provide a useful reference point for the negotiated prices.**
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/14/business/14COVE.html>

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Transportation Sector

17. *February 18, Washington Post* — **Death Toll Mounts in S. Korea Arson Attack on Subway Car Leaves at Least 130 Dead, Dozens Hurt.** More than 130 people are dead and 99 missing after fire and smoke engulfed a packed subway train in a suspected arson attack in South Korea, officials said. As many as 600 passengers were aboard the train when the fire started at around 10 a.m., YTN television said. "A man in his 40s dressed in a tracksuit set fire to a plastic milk carton containing a flammable liquid and threw it inside the subway train," Yonhap news agency quoted a witness as saying. There were no further details on the suspect or his motives, although doctors said he was to undergo psychiatric tests. One man whose wife was in the subway told South Korean television he had talked to her by mobile phone. Yonhap quoted another witness as saying passengers had tried in vain to stop the suspect from starting the fire. If they have not been rescued so far, they could be in a critical condition," an official at Kyungpook National University Hospital's emergency room said by telephone. "They were seriously injured," chief nurse Shin Kyung-in at the nearby Kwak hospital told Reuters, referring to the 19 people admitted to her emergency unit so far.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23771-2003Feb 18.html>

18. *February 15, Miami Herald* — **Inspection of vehicles entering Port of Miami–Dade begins. Miami–Dade County police began random inspections of vehicles approaching cruise line terminals Friday** — one of several heightened security measures enacted in the county since the Bush administration raised the nation's terrorism warning level Feb. 7 to Code Orange, or "high risk" of attack. Stepped–up security measures in the county implemented this week include: **increased police presence on Metrorail cars and following public buses; more frequent patrols on waterways by the Coast Guard and municipal marine patrols; heightened security at Miami International Airport, particularly near fuel tanks; increased surveillance of well fields, pumping stations and water plants; and police drive–bys at synagogues, temples and mosques.** The random vehicle searches Friday at the Port of Miami–Dade were a first for the police department. On Friday, as vehicles were headed to terminals on South America Way at the Port of Miami–Dade, about one in 10 was diverted. Drivers were asked to produce their licenses while officers inspected the trunks, using a Geiger counter to test for radiation. "Everyone should have bags if they're going to travel," said Officer Tony Rojas, pulling up trunk lining. "If there are boxes with greasy stains, that's suspicious." Passengers and drivers submitted to the inspections — which will continue indefinitely — with no protests and occasionally a smile.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/5187200.htm>

19. *February 14, New York Times* — **Police are focusing more on protecting the subways.** In all the intelligence that led to the latest terrorism alert, New York City police officials have focused on the threats suggested to them by one word gleaned from communications among suspected terrorists: "Underground." And so, **over the last seven days, they have stepped up efforts toward an ambitious goal – securing and monitoring a system that covers 656 miles of track and 468 stations and carries 4.8 million people a day.** Since the most recent threat was made public on February 7, the police have increased patrols and checkpoints and taken a wide range of other measures throughout the city. At the same time, **while officials stress that there has been no specific threat to the subway system, more undercover officers are riding the trains and the Police Department has increased patrols by its "Hercules teams."** That is the department's name for the heavily armed and specially trained groups of officers, usually accompanied by trained dogs, who in recent months have been visiting landmarks and other possible targets. **The Police Department has also posted officers at the entrances to each of the 16 underwater subway tunnels. More officers will sweep through stations and tunnels, stop trains and walk through the cars. And state officials said they would assign 100 National Guard soldiers to help the police patrol in the subways.** Nearly a dozen teams of officers and firefighters **will test the air underground for chemical, biological and radiological agents,** officials said, along with an elite National Guard unit that is doing the same work on the streets and in the subways. **New York City Transit has also begun testing shoebox–size detectors in several stations.** Police officials declined to give specific numbers about the increased efforts in the subways, citing security concerns.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/14/nyregion/14SUBW.html?ntem=ai1>

20. *February 14, Straits Times (Singapore)* — **Singapore bomb shelter network revealed.** Hidden away in Singapore's new North–East Line's underground stations are **decontamination chambers equipped with showers and air–blowers to clean up victims of chemical attacks.**

These fixtures are found in 13 of the 16 stations on the new line. These stations can also be used as bomb shelters, like those in the older Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) stations. Each of the 13 has room for about 7,000 people. It will be open house at four of these 13 stations the weekend of February 15 & 16, as the annual Total Defense campaign begins February 14 with a special focus on homeland security. **Like shelters at the older MRT stations, these are equipped with blast-proof doors, dry toilets and flexible ventilation ducts to feed air into trains. But the new ones also have up to three built-in decontamination chambers each, while the older stations have to improvise with portable equipment.** Since 1982, Singapore has been building shelters to provide protection and psychological assurance in a crisis. It has built enough to hold about 945,000 people, or nearly a quarter of the four million people here. Of the North-East Line's stations, only the Punggol and Sengkang stations have no shelters because they are not underground. Each of the decontamination chambers has only six showers so they are not expected to handle huge crowds. Most people will be directed to seek protection in their own homes.

Source: http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/singapore/story/0,4386,1715_69,00.html?

21. *February 14, Middle East Online* — **Two Saudi pilots barred from flying in U.S. The U.S. government has quietly barred two Saudi Arabian Airlines pilots from flying in the United States on the grounds that they "pose a security threat,"** The Wall Street Journal reported Friday. The report said the case was the first test of a new rule that allows U.S. authorities to take away flying licenses without disclosing any evidence. **The cases against Maan Hassan Zarie and Tarek Hassan Jifry stem from the Transportation Security Administration's new responsibility to conduct threat assessments of all pilots, mechanics and flight instructors authorized to work or fly in the United States,** the Journal said. The Saudi "airmen's certificates" were revoked last month without public notice, the paper said.
Source: <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=4330>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *February 16, Associated Press* — **Anthrax scare closes NJ post office.** Authorities in New Jersey, where at least five anthrax-laden letters were mailed in 2001, closed another post office after brown powder fell from a package containing a threatening letter. **An initial test was negative for anthrax, but a secondary test was inconclusive, Postal Service spokesman Tony Esposito said Sunday.** One employee came in contact with the powder but didn't appear to have symptoms, and five workers in the building were given prescriptions for the antibiotic Cipro, Esposito said. He said the post office was closed, pending tests results expected Tuesday from the state health department. The substance was discovered Friday night when a postmark machine stamped a padded envelope addressed to an eastern Pennsylvania residence and the powder spilled out, Esposito said.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-02-16-anthrax_x.htm

23. *February 15, Associated Press* — **Port won't let SoCal Edison move nuclear reactor through dock.** Southern California Edison will not be allowed to transport a defunct nuclear reactor through a South Carolina port. **Citing heightened terrorism concerns, officials in Charleston said Friday it was too dangerous to move the reactor, which was scheduled to**

be shipped next month from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California to a nuclear waste site in Barnwell County, S.C. The decision was the latest obstacle to transporting the 950-ton reactor to the only place in the nation where the utility can dispose of the massive chunk of radioactive steel and concrete. The development follows the Panama Canal Authority's decision to deny passage through the 50-mile waterway. **In South Carolina, there is a concern that terrorists could somehow gain control of the radioactive material, said Anne Moise, vice president of the Charleston port.** She said Edison "would have to find other facilities." **"We are concerned about recent reports that this cargo has been refused by the Panama Canal Commission," authority Chairman Whitemarsh Smith said. "This raises significant issues of security and safety, particularly in these times of heightened national security concerns."**

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/5190869.htm>

24. February 13, Government Executive — Coast Guard must ramp up security, acquisition efforts, senators say. The Coast Guard should accelerate efforts to protect U.S. seaports from terrorism and move ahead on its \$11 billion Deepwater acquisition project, senators from coastal states said Wednesday. Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, called on the Coast Guard to speed up security assessments of seaports and said she would try to increase funding for Deepwater, the service's 30-year upgrade of its offshore fleet, so the project could be finished in 10 years. **Coast Guard Commandant Thomas Collins sought to assure senators that recent Coast Guard deployments to the Persian Gulf have not hurt the service's ability to protect the nation's 361 domestic seaports.** Eight 110-foot patrol boats and four port security units have been sent to the Gulf as part of the U.S. military buildup in the Middle East. But the service can tap 11 Navy ships to help with port security and increase the missions of other Coast Guard fleets to replace ships sent overseas, according to Collins. **Nevertheless, several senators expressed concern that the Coast Guard lacks the resources to adequately protect U.S. seaports. Just last week, four armed members of the Cuban border patrol docked in Key West, Fla., and walked into town before they were stopped.** The four men, who were attempting to defect to the United States, evaded a Coast Guard patrol, Collins said. **Senators also worried that the Coast Guard's pace for grading the vulnerability of U.S. seaports is too slow, given heightened terrorism concerns.** The service plans to evaluate 55 ports within five years and has finished 15 vulnerability assessments so far, Collins said.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/021303p1.htm>

25. February 13, U.S. Customs Service — Customs issues "no-load" directives on the 24-hour rule. U.S. Customs Commissioner Robert C. Bonner announced on Thursday that the U.S. Customs Service, for the first time, has issued 13 "No-Load" directives for violations of cargo description requirements of the 24-hour advance manifest regulation during the first week of enforcement. **A "No-Load" directive means that U.S. Customs has instructed an ocean shipping line not to load a container at a foreign port for delivery to the U.S.** The 24-hour rule requires sea carriers and NVOCCs (Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers) to provide U.S. Customs with detailed descriptions of the contents of sea containers bound for the United States 24 hours before a container is loaded on board a vessel. The rule allows U.S. Customs officers to analyze the container content information and identify potential terrorist threats before the U.S.-bound container is loaded at the foreign seaport, not after it arrives in a U.S. port. U.S. Customs reviewed more than 142,000 bills of lading for the period

between February 2 through 9, 2003. **The review revealed 13 bills destined for 15 U.S. ports, including the Ports of Los Angeles and New York, as having inadequate cargo descriptions. Those 13 bills were denied loading for violation of the 24-hour rule.** There were several other violations on those bills in the area of timeliness and consignee. Customs has posted a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs) section on its Web site (www.customs.gov) to assist carriers, NVOCCs, and others in understanding the expectations of the U.S Customs Service concerning the 24-hour rule. Customs will also host a series of conference calls to discuss implementation issues and provide technical guidance to the trade. During these calls, Headquarters staffers will be available to answer questions that are not covered in the FAQs. **The dates of the next conference calls are February 18 and 25 from 11:30am to 12:30pm EST.**

Source: http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press_releases/02132_003.xml

26. February 13, National Infrastructure Protection Center — The National Infrastructure Protection Center signs MOU with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the National Response Center. The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) announces the expansion of the public and private partnerships between the NIPC, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Response Center, and the nation's private and publicly owned ports through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. **The maritime community is a unique example of this public-private sector partnership through cooperative and mutually supporting Port Security Committees (PSCs) in over 360 commercial U.S. ports. Chaired locally by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port, these vetted members of the local shipping industry, intermodal transportation, petrochemical, energy, and manufacturing industries, along with local, regional, and state security agencies, come together to support each others security efforts, and to join together as the port's first line of defense.** This blending of all levels of public and private interests in a national cooperative effort is supported by the voluntary two-way flow of threat and warning information between NIPC and the Coast Guard that may indicate a developing regional or national threat. **The U.S. Coast Guard is the maritime threat response coordinator, the National Response Center will support as the communication hub, and the NIPC will receive and analyze local incident reports from the ports that may have domestic terrorism ramifications.** The top intelligence analysts from the DHS/NIPC and the Coast Guard will now work even more closely together to watch for vulnerabilities, and patterns and indicators of a developing terrorist threat. In turn, threat assessments and warnings will be passed via the NRC to the PSCs and national maritime associations using sanitized intelligence that will provide comprehensive and actionable guidance for the maritime community.

Source: <http://www.nipc.gov/pressroom/pressrel/ap21403.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

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Food Sector

27. *February 14, British Medical Journal* — **Mortality from food-borne bacteria underestimated. Bacterial gastrointestinal infections continue to present an increased short-term risk of death as well as increased long-term mortality, warn Danish researchers. Overall, mortality rates were three times higher among patients infected with either Salmonella, Campylobacter, Yersinia enterocolitica, and Shigella spp, found Dr Kare Molbak and colleagues at the Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen.** Although food-borne bacterial infections have a major effect on the public health and economy of industrialised countries, the researchers note, it is difficult to determine the exact mortality associated with the bacterial infections. The problems for clinicians and treatment are further complicated because bacterial food-borne infections interact with chronic underlying diseases and associated conditions. In their matched cohort study, the researchers enrolled 48,857 people with gastrointestinal infections and 487,138 controls from the general population. They assessed 1-year mortality among patients with gastrointestinal infections compared with controls after adjustment for comorbidity. The researchers found that 1,071 people (2.2%) with gastrointestinal infections died within one year compared with 3,636 of the controls (0.7%). The relative mortality within 30 days of infection was high among people infected by any of the four bacterial groups.

Source: http://www.docguide.com/news/content.nsf/news/8525697700573E1885256CCC00627D22?OpenDocument969852568880_078C249fectionsnt

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Water Sector

28. *February 13, Dayton-Beach News Journal* — **Another municipality runs afoul of state water rules. A Bonita Springs, Florida utility will be the first to be prosecuted for a violation of Florida's new emergency rule requiring utilities to call a state hotline when vandalism or suspicious incidents are discovered at a water facility.** Damaged fencing was discovered at 2 a.m. Sunday at a drinking water holding tower in Bonita Springs in Southwest Florida, state officials say. **Thirty hours elapsed before anyone notified the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The new rule, adopted Jan. 22, requires utilities to call a state hotline within two hours after any suspicious incident.** The rule was adopted when Volusia County failed to notify the state within 24 hours after vandalism was found at a DeBary water plant in January. **The DEP plans to seek a \$5,000 or \$10,000 fine against Bonita Springs.** DEP officials say utilities statewide were told about the new rule.

Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Environment/floridaENV1021403.htm>

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Public Health Sector

29. *February 14, New York Times* — **Antidotes at the ready, New York City hospitals go through the drill.** In a scene repeated at hospitals throughout New York City, about 60 emergency room doctors from St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center filed into a first-floor conference room Thursday to think once more about the unthinkable. **Antidote kits for**

treating the victims of cyanide poisoning and nerve gas attacks had just been delivered to all the city's hospitals as security preparations continued to be tightened in response to the heightened alert that the city has been on since last week. St. Luke's–Roosevelt received 150 Mark 1 auto–injector kits from the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on Wednesday. The kits contain two medicines that would be used to treat victims of a nerve gas attack. The medical center also received 90 vials of sodium thiosulfate, which would be given intravenously to anyone exposed to cyanide. A system has been set up within the city for additional supplies of antidote to be rushed to individual hospitals that receive large numbers of victims. **Dr. Dan E. Wiener, chairman of emergency medicine at the hospital, told the doctors that they had to be prepared to handle the most deadly possibilities, like those that follow an attack by cyanide.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/14/nyregion/14HOSP.html>

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Government Sector

30. *February 17, New York Times* — Ridge says warning levels might be lowered in days.

"Today, as we speak, because we review the information and our intelligence on a day–to–day basis, **we maintain it at the orange level, but that could change within 24 to 48 hours,"** Tom Ridge, secretary of homeland security, said on the CNN program "Late Edition." Ridge added, "Although some may have faded in terms of accuracy or relevance, there is still enough out there for today for us to remain on an orange level." The threat level was raised on Feb. 7 to the second–highest category in response to what senior officials described as a pattern of intelligence reports suggesting that al Qaeda might be plotting attacks in the United States or overseas for the middle of February. The exact place and nature of the threatened attacks was never certain, but officials said the reports were credible. **Officials said they were concerned about possible threats to New York and the Washington area, where terrorists struck in September 2001. Officials expressed concern about the possibility that terrorists might use chemical, radiological or biological weapons, although they said there was no evidence that al Qaeda had obtained such weapons.** Ridge's comments suggested that the fear of imminent attack may have subsided as the weekend drew to a close without incident. Several officials said discussions were under way to lower the alert level, possibly in a few days if the analysis of intelligence warranted it. **Some officials have said that lowering the alert level would help calm people who have been frightened by the repeated warnings from top officials in the Bush administration. Others have suggested that it might be better to lower the alert level soon to enable the administration to raise it again if the United States commenced hostilities against Iraq.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/17/politics/17TERR.html>

31. *February 16, Associated Press* — Government extends deadline for foreign students to register.

The Justice Department extended by one month the deadlines for thousands of visitors from seven mainly Muslim countries to register with immigration authorities. About 15,000 men ages 16 and older from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have until March 21 to be fingerprinted, photographed and present required documents at offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The deadline had been Feb. 21. **A group of 19,000 men from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Kuwait will have from Feb. 24 to April 25 to**

register, four weeks beyond the original March 28 date. The extensions were issued after a wave of protests over the program has largely subsided.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/15/politics/15INS.html>

32. *February 14, The White House* — **Strengthening intelligence to better protect America.** The President spoke on Friday at FBI Headquarters to federal, state, and local employees about **plans for the Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC). As directed by the President in his State of the Union address, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Director of the FBI, working with the Attorney General, and the Secretaries of Homeland Security, Defense, and State have developed plans for the TTIC, which will have unfettered access to all terrorist threat intelligence information from raw reports to finished analytic assessments available to the U.S. Government.** TTIC will be headed by a senior U.S. Government official, who will report to the Director of Central Intelligence. This individual will be appointed by the Director of Central Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the FBI and the Attorney General, and the Secretaries of Homeland Security and Defense. TTIC will play a lead role in overseeing a national counterterrorism tasking and requirements system and in maintaining an up-to-date database of known and suspected terrorists accessible to appropriate officials at all levels of government. **As an important next step in this effort, the President also announced that the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, the Director of Central Intelligence's Counterterrorist Center, and TTIC will relocate, as soon as possible, to a single new facility in order to improve collaboration and enhance the government's ability to thwart terrorist attacks.** Co-location will afford greater opportunity for the FBI and the Intelligence Community to enhance the coordination of operations against terrorist targets inside and outside the United States. The Department of Homeland Security will add critical new capabilities in the area of information analysis and infrastructure protection. **The Department -- a key participant in TTIC -- will receive and analyze terrorism-related information; map the threats against our vulnerabilities; take and facilitate action to protect against identified threats and remedy vulnerabilities; and set national priorities for infrastructure protection.**

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030214-1.html>

33. *February 14, New York Times* — **State GOP legislators think the unthinkable.** Faced with rising costs in health care and education, new domestic security programs and a slow economy, **at least 24 states – 13 with Republican governors – are now considering ways to raise taxes. And much of the talk around the states is coming from Republicans, for whom raising taxes is anathema to their political souls. Not that Democratic-led states have it any easier. In California, where the projected deficit is \$35 billion, the highest of any state, lawmakers are considering higher income taxes.** "We're all in the same boat," Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio, vice chairman of the Republican Governors Association, said of states like his, where tax increases are all but certain. "It's not part of what we want to do, and we take these steps very reluctantly, only as a last resort. We've cut as deeply as we can and we'll cut some more. We're pretty much at the end of the line, but we don't want to jeopardize public health and safety." **Nearly every state is careening toward high deficits as the 2004 fiscal year approaches, in June for most states. By then, the National Conference of State Legislatures predicts, the cumulative gap of the states will reach \$70 billion or more.** All states have been cutting spending. Some are reducing benefits for the poor, elderly and disabled. Some are releasing prisoners early. Some are shortening the school year. **With much**

wrangling ahead, it remains uncertain whether any of the states will actually take the fateful step of raising taxes. But it seems inevitable in many, especially with the rising costs of federal programs and little federal money to help pay for them.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/14/national/14TAX.html>

34. *February 14, Government Executive* — **Homeland Security unveils strategy to protect physical infrastructure.** The Department of Homeland Security on Friday unveiled a national strategy for protecting the vast network of roads, industrial plants and energy systems that make up the country's critical infrastructure from possible terrorist attack. "[The strategy] provides a unifying structure, defines rules and responsibilities, and identifies major initiatives that will drive our near-term protection priorities," said President Bush in a foreword to the document. **The first-of-its-kind document outlines what government and the private sector should do to safeguard the country's 5,800 hospitals, 2 million miles of pipeline and 80,000 dams, among other vital assets. It calls on business sectors to form centers for sharing information on threats and promises federal guidance to help state and local governments assess the vulnerability of key infrastructure components. Where possible, the strategy pledges to use public-private partnerships, and not regulation, to tighten security at privately owned parts of the infrastructure.** "Many of the critical infrastructure sectors are currently highly regulated, and additional regulatory directives or mandates should only be necessary in instances where market forces are insufficient to prompt the investments necessary to assure critical infrastructure...protection," the strategy stated. The Treasury Department will also work to create financial incentives for companies that voluntarily adopt tighter security measures. **To help companies protect their workplaces, the government will set standards for protecting critical employees and develop a certification process for companies that perform background checks. The government will also share research on building security with the private sector.** The 96-page plan outlines how government will protect federal buildings and federal offices located in facilities owned by firms. The Homeland Security Department and General Services Administration will work with real estate associations to create screening procedures for buildings with federal and private offices. These departments will also create a standard methodology to determine the vulnerability of federal buildings, according to the strategy. report:

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interweb/assetlibrary/Physical_Strategy.pdf

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/021403p1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *February 17, Washington Post* — **HazMat smart strip may protect lives.** A \$15 strip of vinyl and paper that changes colors when exposed to nerve agents, cyanide and other chemicals may protect police, firefighters and others who rush unprotected into the heart of a disaster. **The HazMat Smart Strip, inspired by decades-old military technology, will go into production at a West Virginia print shop within weeks. Fire departments in New York and Florida already have ordered hundreds of the strips.** "It's not cool to use your nose to detect chemical spills," said Lt. Cris Aguirre, a hazardous materials technician for one customer, the Miami-Dade Fire Department in south Florida. Some chemicals are not detectable with the nose anyway, and the respirators that firefighters often wear would allow them to smell only the

purified air. Outdoors, a fire producing acrid smoke could overwhelm other odors. **The baseball card–sized Smart Strip can detect chlorine, pH, fluoride, nerve agents, oxidizers, arsenic, sulfides and cyanide in liquid or aerosol form at minute levels. A change in color in any of the eight categories alerts emergency crews to get additional gear, decontaminate or evacuate. How long they have to act depends on the chemical.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20001-2003Feb 17.html>

36. *February 14, USA Today* — **Government training citizens in civil defense.** Spurred by the threat of terrorism and the prospect of war, the federal government is embarking on the most ambitious effort to train and prepare its citizens for the worst since the civil–defense programs of the 1950s and '60s. **The Department of Homeland Security is urging people to prepare home disaster kits. Emergency preparedness officials are loading private and government Web sites with instructions for surviving chemical and biological attacks. Schools are being encouraged to develop emergency plans. Corporate CEOs are being forewarned about protecting workers and buildings.** And next week, the new department will launch a massive new public–education campaign to try to further educate citizens about preparing for a possible terrorist attack. It's all part of an effort to answer people's questions "in a way that educates and does not alarm," says Tom Ridge, secretary of Homeland Security. **The department is also promoting citizen training. In response to President Bush's call for volunteers to help fight terrorism, citizens groups are multiplying across the country. Citizen Corps councils, which train volunteers, have been established in 335 communities. The government says more than 200,000 volunteers have been trained in first aid, fire suppression and search–and–rescue operations so they can help their neighbors before firefighters and medical teams arrive. Officials aim to have 400,000 more trained by the end of this year.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-02-13-citizen-usat_x.htm

37. *February 14, Associated Press* — **Montana agencies told to stay alert.** Montana's long, remote border with Canada remains worrisome, especially to people in northern Montana, said Kim Falcon of Democratic Sen. Max Baucus' office. She will accompany the Border Patrol on an inspection next week. **"All the commissioners of counties along the border are feeling a little insecure," Falcon said. Marv Eicholtz, of the Department of Administration, said "nothing special" has been done at the state Capitol since the terror alert was elevated last week.** Mark Peck of the Corrections Department explained why: "The state has no chain of command to tell Marv what we should be doing. We're not doing any of these things (in the guidelines), as far as I know." At Montana's Homeland Security Task Force Chairman Jim Greene's suggestion, a subcommittee was appointed to help the Department of Administration develop recommendations for all state departments. **Concerns about communications in the event of a terrorist attack — civilian and government telephone systems, and law enforcement radio systems — were the task force's major concern. Jenny Hansen, of the state Public Safety Services Office, said state agencies need to be arranging alternative methods of communication.** She said she expects to buy five repeaters within the next week and have them placed strategically around the state. They will allow all law enforcement agencies in the state to talk with each other over hand–held radios, even if their systems are not compatible, she said.

Source:

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1s/2003/02/14/build/local/montana-agencies-alert.inc>

38. *February 13, Federal Computer Week* — **First responders in 'dire need'**. Reps. Ike Skelton (D–Mo.) and Jane Harman (D–Calif.) want to double first responder funding – to \$7.1 billion – in fiscal 2003. **Late on Feb. 13, Congress approved an omnibus appropriations bill that allocates \$3.5 billion to local communities. The pair had sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee to include an additional \$3.5 billion, but said they would settle for including the additional funds in the fiscal 2003 supplemental bill. They also want to nearly triple – to \$10.6 billion – what President Bush has proposed for the fiscal 2004 budget, which also is \$3.5 billion.** "There's a threat to the American heartland," said Skelton, the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, at a press conference with Harman Feb. 13. The two Democrats plan to introduce a House resolution for the additional funding. The pair also sent a letter dated Feb. 10 to Reps. Bill Young (R–Fla.) and David Obey (D–Wis.) – the chairman and ranking minority member, respectively, of the House Appropriations Committee – regarding increasing first responder funding in the fiscal 2003 omnibus appropriations bill and for a more rapid disbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Office of Domestic Preparedness.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0210/web-home-02-13-03.asp>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

39. *February 14, SC Infosecurity News* — **Taiwanese telco virtual operator system hacked. Chungwa Telecom of Taiwan has issued warnings about its virtual telephone operator service, which allows the company's staff to act as PBX operators for those Taiwanese companies without their own operator staff.** Hackers have been taking advantage of companies that had not changed their control PIN from the default settings of 0000, 9999 or 1234. The result has been that **hackers have been able to intercept calls originally destined to be handled by Chungwa's operators, routing to their prepaid (and anonymous) mobile phones. The hackers are said to have taken card details from callers and used the information to swindle them.** Taiwan's Morning Post newspaper says that Chungwa Telecom has not revealed the scale of the problem, or the names of the companies affected, although the paper says the firms are known to be in the courier and allied business markets. The paper adds that affected customers' claims have been settled, while police are investigating the scam. The firms affected by the scam are said to have suspended their use of the virtual operator facility, switching back to using their own staff to answer calls.
Source: http://www.infosecnews.com/sgold/news/2003/02/14_02.htm

40. *February 14, Government Computer News* — **Industry will work with government on cyberspace plan . The White House unveiled its National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace on Friday.** The plan's five priorities are: **1) A national cyberspace security response system; 2) A threat and vulnerability reduction program; 3) A security awareness and training program; 4) A plan to secure governments' cyberspace; 5) An approach to intelligence agency and international cybersecurity.** The plan called for exercises to evaluate the impact of cyberattacks and pinpoint weaknesses for correction. The plan put the Justice Department and other agencies in charge of improving information sharing, investigative tools and cybercrime research. It said **the General Services Administration and Department of Homeland Security will continue to cooperate on a federal software patch clearinghouse**

and work with the private sector on a similar clearinghouse. Federal agencies were told to tighten security measures, expand their use of security assessment tools and install applications to check continuously for unauthorized network connections. The plan said **the government will also review the National Information Assurance Partnership to assess whether it is properly dealing with security flaws in commercial software.** It further said the government will consider licensing or certifying private security service providers for minimum capabilities, "including the extent to which they are adequately independent." In the international arena, the plan noted that **the U.S. government will not necessarily limit its response to cyberattacks to criminal prosecution and it "reserves the right to respond in an appropriate manner."** That mirrors the government's pursuit of al-Qaeda, which has been carried out partly by legal prosecution and partly by warfare. **It called for building North America into a "cyber safe zone" with the cooperation of Canadian and Mexican public and private sectors.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21156-1.html

41. February 10, Chicago Tribune — FBI to open crime lab in Chicago. Six Chicago-area agencies, including the police force of the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Illinois attorney general's office, will help the FBI staff a new \$2.3 million crime lab dedicated to computer forensics. When it opens on March 1, the 15,000-square-foot facility at 610 S. Canal St. will **investigate the technology behind an array of criminal activities, including global terrorism, identity theft, Internet attacks and trafficking of child pornography.** It will be one of three labs to open this year. Two are operating in Dallas and San Diego. **Computer crime rates are soaring, and some of the nation's most important online operations, including banks and emergency call centers, remain surprisingly vulnerable.** The Federal Trade Commission recently reported that about **43 percent of the 380,000 complaints received last year regarded identity theft—much of it fueled by information surreptitiously gleaned from computers—and that about half of all other types of fraud complaints had some connection to the Internet.** The Chicago lab's twelve initial examiners are trained in how to navigate most computer operating systems and how to recover data from damaged, deleted or encrypted files. They will also collect and preserve digital information from crime scenes and examine evidence submitted by Illinois authorities in police investigations.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-0302100164feb10.1.3785997.story>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 <p>AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net</p>	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 www.securityfocus.com</p>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	

Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_KLEZ.H 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	[fetch Target Ports (auto)]

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General Sector

42. *February 18, CNN* — SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korean President Kim Dae-jung says there is no danger of war on the Korean Peninsula despite a North Korean threat to pull out of the 1953 armistice. On Tuesday, Pyongyang ratcheted up tensions in its four-month nuclear dispute with the U.S. by warning it would quit the armistice, which ended the Korean War. The standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program began in October when the U.S. said Pyongyang admitted to secretly pursuing plans to enrich uranium, violating a 1994 agreement. **In the latest episode on Tuesday, North Korea's army accused the United States of violating the 1953 agreement and vowed to "immediately take all steps to cope with it". "If the U.S. side continues violating and misusing the armistice agreement as it pleases, there will be no need for the DPRK (North Korea) to remain bound to the AA (Armistice Agreement) uncomfortably," an army spokesman was quoted as saying in the state-run Korean Central News Agency. The North accuses the United States of bolstering its forces by putting "aircraft carriers and strategic bombers in and around the Korean Peninsula in violation" of the armistice.**

Source: <http://asia.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/asiapcf/east/02/18/nkorea.nuc.lear/>

43. *February 17, New York Times* — **Journals to consider U.S. security in publishing.** More than 20 leading scientific journals have made a pact to censor articles that they believe could compromise national security, regardless of their scientific merit. **The policy, announced on Saturday at a scientific meeting in Denver, is one of the first concrete steps to emerge from a fierce debate over how to balance the ethic of openness that has long been the foundation of American science with calls from some government officials for greater secrecy after the anthrax attacks in 2001.** "We recognize that on occasion an editor may conclude that the potential harm of publication outweighs the potential societal benefits," reads a statement endorsed by the journals' editors, as well as some scientists and Bush administration officials. "Under such circumstances, the paper should be modified or not be published." The journals Science, Nature, The Proceedings of the National Academy of Science and several others — which together constitute a primary vehicle for spreading scientific research around the world — plan to publish editorials supporting and explaining the policy this week. **The journal editors say it is tricky to determine what kind of research should be shielded from the second category at the expense of adding to the collective scientific knowledge. "I believe when that paper comes along we'll recognize it," said Nicholas Cozarrelli, editor of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science** Participants said part of the motivation to act even in the absence of a solid example was encouragement from Bush administration officials who attended a Jan. 9 meeting convened by the National Academy of Science and the Center for Strategic and International Studies to discuss "Scientific Openness and National Security."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/16/science/16SECR.html>

44. *February 17, New York Times* — **Al Qaeda informant helps trace group's trail.** American and European intelligence officials described Shadi Abdullah, a 26-year-old Jordanian, in recent interviews as one of the most credible and useful al Qaeda informers in Europe. They said that in addition to providing counterterrorism officials with details like the meanings of code words used in taped conversations, he had laid out a road map of the network's capabilities and intentions and explained how the hierarchy was rebuilt after the death or capture of al Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan. Abdullah provided names and descriptions of dozens of al Qaeda members, helping authorities to disrupt terrorist plots in Germany, Italy, Britain and the United States, the intelligence officials said. "There are few al Qaeda members in Europe or anywhere who have been as useful as he has been to us," a senior American government official said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/17/international/europe/17QAE D.html>

45. *February 17, CNN* — **Winter storm system hits East Coast.** Officials declared states of emergency Sunday in the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia as a heavy storm system moved across the eastern United States brought heavy snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain. **Heavy accumulations of snow shut down airports and rail lines, and flood watches were issued from northern Arkansas and Alabama through Tennessee and eastern Kentucky, according to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Baltimore–Washington International Airport closed early Sunday. Both were expected to reopen at 12 p.m. Monday, the Federal Aviation Administration said, though a spokeswoman for the airports said they were shut indefinitely.** "We're just hanging out here," said a frustrated passenger at Reagan National. "I just hope the airport is not going to get too cold at night." Dulles International Airport was operating with one runway. Monday's federal holiday of Presidents Day will dull the impact of the city's biggest winter storm of the season because government offices will be closed, a city agency spokesperson predicted. **The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted the slow-moving system could continue to bring winter precipitation to some areas for two or three days.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WEATHER/02/17/winter.storm/index.htm>

46. *February 14, Washington Post* — **Impact of terror alert fades as distance from DC grows.** Although the government's new warnings were addressed to the nation as a whole, reaction outside the Northeast corridor has been muted, with many Americans expressing less worry than the jittery residents of Washington and New York. **That's reminiscent of the sharp difference in mood right after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when East Coast residents experienced anxiety that was not felt elsewhere. There's also a geographic factor at work; generally, the farther people are from Ground Zero and the Pentagon, the less worried they seem to be about future attacks. While federal officials are spreading national alerts, some local authorities have taken steps to allay public fears on the home front.** Airports and government installations have stepped up security in response to the higher alert. But among individuals, the rush to safeguard the home and stock up on emergency supplies seems largely restricted to the East Coast.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5317-2003Feb13.html>

47. *February 14, New York Times* — **Terror cases rise, but most are small-scale, study says.** In the most detailed examination to date of how the Sept. 11 attacks are changing the face of law enforcement, **a study found today that federal officials have sharply increased their prosecution of terrorism-related crimes, but often by bringing minor charges that have resulted in jail sentences of only a few months.** In the year after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, federal prosecutions of crimes connected with terrorism and domestic security grew tenfold, to 1,208 cases from 115 the previous year, according to researchers at Syracuse University. **But the sentences shrank markedly, from a median of nearly two years in 2001 to just two months last year, as prosecutors brought cases for smaller-scale crimes like document fraud, identification theft, threats and immigration violations, the data showed. Most of the cases were far removed from the headlines generated by terrorism defendants like John Walker Lindh and Zacarias Moussaoui.** The Justice Department, which has questioned the methodology used by the Syracuse researchers in the past, refused to comment on today's findings. The department, officials said, "has been fully cooperative with Congress" in providing information about terrorism prosecutions.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/14/national/14CRIM.html>

48. *February 14, Washington Post* — **Schools boost preparations for attack.** School administrators in the Washington, DC area stepped up preparations Thursday for possible terrorism, and most school districts told parents that they would be prevented, or strongly discouraged, from picking up their children in the event of a biological or chemical attack. **In Fairfax County, VA, Superintendent of Schools Daniel A. Domenech told the School Board Thursday night that he would deploy more security forces around schools, limit parking near buildings and cancel outdoor activities and field trips if the nation's terrorist alert were raised to its highest level, Code Red.** He said he also would consider closing schools. On Thursday, Loudoun County, VA school officials added a "shelter-in-place" plan against chemical attacks to their usual emergency procedures. Schools would be locked down and signs posted on the doors in Spanish and English saying that nobody would be allowed to enter or exit. All week, school administrators have met with public safety and public health officials and sent memos and e-mail to parents urging calm and explaining emergency plans. **Most of the communications said children would be kept inside in the event of a chemical or biological threat, but the letters varied in the strength of their warning that parents should not try to pick up their children during a lockdown. District school officials said that children would be kept inside in an emergency but that parents could come get them.** "It's parents' prerogative to take care of their kids any way they want," Chief Operating Officer Louis J. Erste said. In Fairfax, Loudoun and Howard counties, parents are being told not to try to collect their children at school if terrorists strike with chemical or biological weapons. In Montgomery and elsewhere, officials said the kind of emergency will determine what they advise parents to do. **Some districts said regular lockdown drills are planned to prepare for possible chemical attacks -- reminiscent of the "duck-and-cover" Cold War exercises of the 1950s and '60s.**
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5447-2003Feb13.html>

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