



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 November 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- The Associated Press reports a U.S.–Canadian task force essentially has completed its interim report and will cite a number of causes, not merely a single event, for the massive power blackout last August. (See item [2](#))
- The New Zealand Press Association reports hundreds of Westpac New Zealand customers, fooled by a Russian e–mail scam, revealed their internet banking passwords to fraudsters. (See item [5](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security has announced \$2.2 billion for state and local first responders (See item [20](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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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>]

1. *November 04, Reuters* — North America must increase spending on power sector according to IEA. North America, the world's biggest electricity market, needs to invest \$1.876 trillion over the next 30 years, of which \$1 trillion would go to transmission and distribution. The region's spending on new power stations, and revamping existing plants, would need to reach \$854 billion, the Paris–based International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday, November 4. The IEA's forecasts came as investigators continued to examine

the causes of August's blackout in America and Canada which left about 50 million people without power and crippled New York. North America and the European Union, which also suffered blackouts this summer, have unleashed competition in their power markets, triggering fierce price volatility as surplus generation capacity is shut down, putting extra strains on grids as more electricity flows across state and national borders. Uncertainty about tightening environmental regulation was also hampering future investment in electricity, said the IEA.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_11_04_eng-reuters_pma_N-AMERICA-MUST-SPEND-TRILLION-ON-POWER-SECTOR-IEA&SMContentSet=0

2. *November 04, Associated Press* — **Lone event didn't cause blackout says Abraham.** A U.S.–Canadian task force essentially has completed its interim report and will cite a number of causes, not merely a single event, for the massive power blackout last August, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said Monday, November 3. The findings of the task force could come as early as next week. In an interview, **Abraham would not give specifics because some details of the report still must be cleared up with the Canadians. He made clear, however, that no single smoking gun will be cited as the cause of the August 14 blackout that darkened all or parts of eight states from Michigan to New York and into Canada.** "I think you're going to see there are a number of factors that emerged during this investigation as being ... causes or partial causes," Abraham said. Abraham said the U.S.–Canadian task force investigating the blackout has been scrupulous in trying to be accurate in its findings, but will open its interim conclusions to a review by other parties, who might want to challenge some of the conclusions. Those suggestions would be considered before a final report and recommendations were issued this the year, he said.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60973-2003Nov_4.html

3. *November 04, Associated Press* — **Cooper Nuclear Plant back online after fire. Nebraska Public Power District said its Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownsville, NE, is back online after the cross arm of a wooden power pole caught fire last week.** The power lines associated with the structure in the station's switchyard were de-energized and operations personnel shut the plant down to investigate the cause. Crews removed the damaged pole and routed the line to a different, steel structure in the switchyard. **Preliminary findings indicate heat build-up in the wooden cross arm due to environmental conditions — combined with the age of the wooden structure.** However, a final report has not yet been issued. The plant began sending power to the electrical grid early Sunday, November 2.

Source: <http://www.theomahachannel.com/news/2610185/detail.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *November 04, Associated Press* — **Air Force warns of shipping nuclear waste to Nevada. Air Force officials are warning Congress that pilot training at Nellis Air Force base could be jeopardized if a nuclear waste repository opens in the Nevada desert.** The Air Force opposes shipping high-level radioactive waste through the Nevada Test and Training Range to Yucca Mountain, about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Nellis is just north of Las Vegas. The base has a key pilot training program, and a vast bombing range about the size of Rhode Island. **The Air Force says the nation's readiness for war could be threatened if nuclear waste shipments force pilot training to be curtailed.**

Source: <http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=1510323&nav=8faOluHp>

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 04, New Zealand Press Association* — **NZ Westpac customers duped in e-mail scam.** Hundreds of Westpac New Zealand customers fooled by a Russian e-mail scam revealed their internet banking passwords to fraudsters, the bank said Tuesday, November 4. **Westpac spokesperson Paul Gregory said 300 of the banks customers had revealed their passwords, 100 more than was earlier thought. The Westpac customers and others received an e-mail over the weekend asking them to confirm their e-mail address by following a link to a fake Westpac Website.** Once at the bogus site, they were asked to enter their passwords. About 1200 customers had changed their password details yesterday as a safety measure after receiving the e-mail. **It was too early to say if the fraudsters had acted on the information they had obtained, Gregory said.** Westpac became aware of the scam Monday, November 3, and posted a warning on its Website. But the bank was "pretty confident" it had shut the scam down in its early stages. Police Electronic Crime Laboratory (ECL) national manager Martin Kleintjes said an investigation was underway. **The fake Westpac Website had been traced to Russia and was shut down Monday night.**

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/11/04/1067708175321.html>

6. *November 04, finextra.com* — **Money laundering compliance challenges banks.** Financial services institutions face significant challenges in complying with the USA Patriot Act and other anti-money laundering requirements, with most projecting an increase in compliance costs over the next year, according to research conducted by Deloitte & Touche. **The survey of 167 U.S. executives demonstrate that financial services firms still have numerous issues to address, and will need to deploy significant resources in areas where they have anti-money laundering (AML) responsibilities.** These areas include restructuring business processes, increased staffing, employee training, purchasing or developing new technology, and enhanced monitoring of regulatory developments. Also, **with almost 40% of financial services executives reporting an increase in the number of suspicious activity reports filed within the last six months, financial firms urgently need to accelerate their AML compliance efforts,** says the consultancy.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=10432>

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Transportation Sector

7. *November 04, Government Executive Magazine* — **Security breach prompts TSA to ratchet up review process. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has altered the way it screens communications at its contact center as a result of a security breach last month, an agency spokesman said Monday.** Bags containing box cutters, bleach, matches and simulated bombs were found on two Southwest Airlines planes last month during routine maintenance checks, prompting TSA to order a search of every commercial plane in the country. TSA spokesman Darrin Kayser said the incident with Baltimore college student Nathaniel Heatwole prompted the agency to immediately change how it screens communications. **Under new procedures, employees at the TSA contact center in Arlington, VA, now flag all e-mails, faxes and voicemails that indicate any form of illegal activity.** Those communications are batched together and reviewed three times a day by TSA employees with law enforcement backgrounds, Kayser said. Kayser said the agency was reviewing emails, letters and other communications that “discuss not only threatening activity, but also discuss unlawful or potential criminal acts.”

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1103/110303c2.htm>

8. *November 04, Pantagraph.com (Chicago)* — **All aboard Amtrak. Ridership on Amtrak totaled more than 24 million passengers in fiscal 2003, which ended September 30. It was the highest annual ridership experienced by the nation's intercity passenger rail service in its 32-year history.** It topped the previous record of 23.5 million passengers set in 2001 and was 2.7 percent better than last year's result of 23.4 million, according to figures released by Amtrak. Company-wide, long-distance ridership is up by more than 5 percent, versus about 2 percent for short-distance trains. The system-wide total for fiscal 2003 is 24,028,119, an overall increase of nearly three percent. **Improvements in service introduced during the year included new menus on the long-distance trains so that passengers traveling more than one night would have more dining options.**

Source: http://www.pantagraph.com/stories/110403/bus_20031104004.sht ml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

9. *November 03, CNET News.com* — **ID tag meeting. Wal-Mart Stores and its largest 100 merchandise suppliers plan to meet this week to plot the implementation of a new high-tech inventory-tracking system.** The meeting follows the retailer's announcement in June about its foray into a technology known as radio frequency identification (RFID). At the time, Wal-Mart asked its top 100 suppliers to join the effort and, starting January 1, 2005, attach RFID tracking tags to the millions of cases and containers they ship to the company. RFID tags, which contain special microchips and antennae, are designed to automatically relay to computers precise information about the contents of product packages and containers. The technology is expected to reduce much of the manual labor and human error involved in tracking inventory via bar codes. Proctor & Gamble, which has been deeply involved in the testing and development of retail RFID systems for the last several years, said: **"We see that this technology has huge benefits, even at the case and pallet level, in helping us to track**

our product and helping us understand how long does it take to get through the supply chain."

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-1008-5101416.html?tag=nefd_hed

10. *November 03, Greenville News* — **White substance at Clemson Post Office identified. The white powder that forced the evacuation and temporary closing of the Clemson, SC, Post Office over the weekend turned out to be baby powder.** It was closed for about two hours Saturday morning after a postal worker found a white powder on the outside of a letter mailed from outside South Carolina to a local address. Lab results from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control show that the substance on the letter and envelope was baby powder, Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon said. **He said no charges would be filed against the letter's sender.** Clemson Postmaster Bill Johnson said people need to think twice before sending what ordinarily would be considered an innocent substance through the mail. Post offices have been on alert for suspicious substances since the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Source: <http://greenvilleonline.com/news/2003/11/03/2003110318185.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

11. *November 04, Reuters* — **Japan confirms ninth mad cow case. Japan said on Tuesday it had confirmed another case of mad cow disease, the ninth since the illness was discovered in the country in September 2001 and the second in less than a month.** Health Ministry officials said the disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), was found in a 21-month-old Holstein bull in Hiroshima prefecture, western Japan. In early October, officials said an atypical case of BSE had been found in a 23-month-old Holstein bull. That case was the first since January. The new case involves an animal born in January 2002 in Hyogo prefecture, western Japan, and sent to Hiroshima a month later. **They said the ninth case had a similar form to the first seven cases. Experts are puzzled as to how the infection occurred, since the latest two animals were born after Japan banned the use of meat-and-bone meal (MBM) feed in October 2001. Experts consider the feed the most likely route for the infections that occurred in Japan.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=3750145>

12. *November 04, DVM Newsmagazine* — **FDA to restrict animal feed. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) plans to expand its ban on brains and spinal tissue in cattle feed to include food for dogs, cats, pigs, and poultry.** Stephen Sundlof, director of the CVM, says the goal is to prevent animal diseases from being passed onto consumers and other animals. Under consideration, according to the agency, are new regulations, one of which could require companies that slaughter livestock that are sick or injured to dispose of the brain and spinal cord before mixing animal feed and pet food. The government already bans animal feeds made with spinal and brain tissue from being fed to sheep, goats and cattle to safeguard against diseases such as mad cow. But the tissue can be mixed into pet food and feed for pigs or poultry. **The FDA is meeting with slaughterhouses and animal feed companies to achieve a plan by 2007 to prevent high-risk materials from ending up in feed.**

Source: <http://www.dvmnewsmagazine.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=74561>

13. *November 03, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Amended inspection requirements for swine. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending regulations pertaining to the interstate movement of swine. The amended regulations limit the requirement for mandatory veterinary inspections, at intervals of 30 days or less, to swine that are or will be in the process of moving interstate within a swine production system and also to the premises on which the swine are to be housed.** With this change, swine that have arrived at a finishing house or other final destination within the system would no longer be required to undergo veterinary inspections at intervals of 30 days or less. **In order to ensure that finishing house animals will still undergo regular health monitoring, swine that have completed their movement within the system, as well as the premises on which they are housed, will have to be inspected in accordance with existing regulations for the state of destination.** This final rule will reduce the frequency of veterinary inspections for swine that have completed their movement within a single swine production system without diminishing the effectiveness of APHIS' swine disease monitoring and surveillance activities.
Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2003/11/finherds_vs.html

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

14. *October 28, U.S. Department of the Interior* — **Water 2025 science and technology workshop. The Department of the Interior is hosting a national workshop Tuesday, Nov. 4, in Denver to develop science and technology recommendations that will help carry out the goals of the Water 2025 initiative and assist western communities facing chronic water shortages.** "The workshop aims to use the scientific resources of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and water management expertise of the Bureau of Reclamation to help state, local, and private water agencies make critical water management decisions," said Interior Secretary Gail Norton. **Panel discussions will focus on desalination science and technology; invasive vegetation and water management; predicting surface water availability; data networks and monitoring science; and climate variability and its impact on water resources and habitats.** Norton launched the Water 2025 initiative earlier this year to focus public attention on the water supply crises facing many western communities.
Source: <http://www.doi.gov/news/031028a.htm>

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Public Health Sector

15.

November 04, Birmingham News — **Auburn awarded botulism contract.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have awarded a \$12.3 million contract to Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine for research intended to produce an anti-toxin for botulism. Botulism is a rare, paralytic illness found most commonly in infants. The CDC has listed botulism as a possible biological agent that terrorists could release in the United States. The project will involve injecting horses with small doses of varying strains of botulism toxin, a process similar to a vaccination. The horses' immune systems will produce an anti-toxin in response to the pathogen, which can be collected by extracting plasma from the horses' blood. The plasma will be sent to a pharmaceutical company that will purify the anti-toxin in the plasma, making it suitable for treating humans. **The goal set by the CDC is to have 250,000 doses of anti-toxin ready for use within 18 months.**

Source: <http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1067940982134130.xml>

16. *November 04, Food and Drug Administration* — **Interim rule to prevent transmission of monkeypox.** To prevent the transmission of monkeypox, on Tuesday the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an interim final rule to establish new restrictions and modify existing restrictions on the import, capture, transport, sale, barter, exchange, distribution, and release of African rodents, North American prairie dogs, and certain other animals in the United States. "This interim measure further enhances efforts to protect the public health by preventing the spread of communicable diseases," said FDA Commissioner, Mark B. McClellan. **Earlier this year, an outbreak of monkeypox linked to exotic animals caused 37 confirmed, 12 probable, and 22 suspect cases in the United States.** "Emerging infectious diseases which originate in animals, such as monkeypox, plague, and West Nile virus, continue to pose a significant threat to public health here in the United States," said CDC Director Julie Gerberding. **As outlined in the interim rule the CDC will restrict the importation of these animals, and the FDA will restrict domestic interstate and intrastate movement of these animals, with exemption procedures to accommodate special circumstances.**

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2003/NEW00970.html>

17. *November 04, BBC News* — **Viruses kill hundreds in Indian state.** More than 220 people have been killed by two mosquito-borne viruses in India's largest state in the last three months. Health officials said on Tuesday that the northern state of Uttar Pradesh had recorded 926 cases of encephalitis and 384 cases of dengue fever since August. Awdhesh Srivastava, of the state's health directorate, said at least 205 people had died of encephalitis, while 18 people had died of dengue fever. The unusually strong monsoon season, which ended several weeks ago, has been blamed for the outbreak of disease. More than 7,400 cases of dengue have been reported across India, according to the Federal Health Ministry.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3240991.stm>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

18. *November 04, Associated Press* — **Driver injured, roads closed after Alabama chemical spill.** Workers cleaned up a chemical spill from a tanker truck accident Tuesday morning that closed a major intersection and disrupted nearby schools, in Phenix, AL. The spill occurred as the truck was making a turn from U.S. 280/431 North onto U.S. 80 East, said Chance Corbett, director of the Russell County Emergency Management Agency. It was unclear how the driver lost control, but the truck turned on its side and sprung a leak, Corbett said. **The truck was carrying up to 7,000 gallons of dimethylamine, which is used in products including fungicides, herbicides, solvents and rocket fuel.** It is also used as a dehairing agent in leather tanning. **The chemical's main danger was in possibly catching fire, though several passers-by who stopped at the wreck site complained of minor problems such as shortness of breath, Corbett said.** The leak was stopped by early afternoon, Corbett said. "We don't know how much we've lost so far. It's all in an area, but we haven't been able to measure it."

Source: [http://www.al.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/newsflash/get_story.ssf?/cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?j3020_BC_AL--Chemical Spill&&news&newsflash-al](http://www.al.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/newsflash/get_story.ssf?/cgi-free/getstory_ssf.cgi?j3020_BC_AL--Chemical%20Spill&&news&newsflash-al)

19. *November 04, The Enterprise (Brockton, MA)* — **Acid spill closes highway ramp. Two gallon containers filled with muriatic acid and gluconic acid fell off a truck and broke apart Monday morning on the northbound ramp of Exit 13 on Route 3, in Hanover, MA, closing the ramp to traffic for four hours.** Hanover fire officials said it took the Hazardous Material Response Team several hours before being able to identify the substances in plastic containers that fell off an unidentified truck. **Muriatic acid, also called hydrochloric acid, is used in etching and cleaning by masons, among other applications. Gluconic acid is used to clean metals and has other applications.** The two plastic containers fell on the roadway and were reported to state police at 10:26 a.m. The plastic containers broke, and the liquid foamed and sent up clouds of vapor while it spilled on the pavement, said Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth Blanchard. **Fire Chief Stephen R. Tucker said the spill was 200 yards from Hanover's aquifer, which is why the response to the spill was fast and thorough. The location is in Zone 2, which means it is environmentally sensitive.** Blanchard said the Hazmat team neutralized the toxic substances using foam.

Source: <http://enterprise.southofboston.com/articles/2003/11/04/news/news/news07.txt>

20. *November 03, Department of Homeland Security* — **The Department of Homeland Security has announced \$2.2 billion for state and local first responders. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has announced the allocation of over \$2.2 billion dollars in grant funding from the Office for Domestic Preparedness demonstrating the Administration's commitment to enhance the abilities of first responders to prevent, respond and recover from potential acts of terrorism.** For the first time, states can apply online for their allocated grants using one form that will serve as a "one-stop-shop" application for three different programs that benefit first responders and will provide additional resources to state and local government counterterrorism efforts. In addition to the single application, DHS is launching an interagency grants and training website on the DHS website at www.dhs.gov/grants. **"No longer will our state and local partners have to go to different places within the department to apply for terrorism-related funding. It ensures that nationwide, Homeland**

Security officials have one place where they can tap into the resources as well as the information they need," said Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge. "State and local communication and coordination, after all, reflects the very nature of homeland security, the federal government working with the home towns of America to keep our country safe and free."

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

21. *November 04, GCN.com* — **Data sharing needs to begin before first response, officials say.**

For the National Guard Bureau, the ability to share data for disaster planning and first response has been hampered by a constant stream of hacker intrusions on its unclassified networks over the past two years. "We're getting hacked all over the place. I actually see it getting worse, and it's making it harder and harder for us to share information," said Maureen Lischke, CIO for the National Guard Bureau. **She and other government officials spoke about data sharing to support homeland security at an Industry Advisory Council event in Washington.**

Although **cultural barriers represent the biggest hurdle, federal groups also need to think about sharing information before a major atrocity occurs, not after**, said David Boyd, the Homeland Security Department's deputy director of R&D and director of the Safecom program to provide wireless communications to federal, state and local first responders. There's very little of such pre-disaster data sharing occurring now, beyond of the tactical warfighting level, said John Paczkowski, director of operations and emergency management for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. An open architecture is necessary to maintain some fundamental level of interoperability, Paczkowski said.

Source: http://gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24059-1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 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	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 80 (www), 17300 (Kuang2TheVirus), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 27374 (SubSeven)

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General Sector

22. *November 04, Associated Press* — Man arrested after explosion in the Hague. A man threw a homemade firebomb into the Turkish Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands, on Tuesday, November 4, causing a small fire and minor injuries to five people, including the bomber, Dutch officials said. Hague police chief Han Moraal said the 26-year-old man was arrested shortly after allegedly throwing a "bag of burning material" into the building at around 11:30 a.m. He said the man had an argument with embassy workers earlier in the day. "The motive is still unclear, but there's no indication it was either a political or a terrorist attack," Moraal said. Among the injured were three embassy workers and a visitor who jumped out of a window onto a delivery van to escape the blaze.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/international/AP-Netherlands-Explosion.html>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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