



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 October 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Courier–Mail reports ANZ Banking Group Ltd has reported another fraudulent Website — this time in China — attempting to fool its customers into giving personal details over the Internet. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports a commuter train derailed Sunday afternoon on Chicago's South Side, injuring as many as 100 people. (See item [10](#))
- The Associated Press reports the grocery clerk strike spread from California to West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, when union workers at 44 Kroger stores invoted Monday to strike after rejecting the company's contract offer. (See item [20](#))
- Reuters reports the United States has added Websites to its list of "foreign terrorist organizations" for the first time, under the category of aliases for conventional groups. (See item [39](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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

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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. *October 11, Washington Post* — Grid officials get crisis letter. In its first response to the August 14 Northeast blackout, the electric grid's reliability organization called for

stronger communications links and emergency procedures to protect against cascading power failures. The North American Electric Reliability Council's (NERC) trustees sent a letter on Friday, October 11, to managers of grid control centers, signed by NERC President Michehl R. Gent. **The letter spells out NERC's concerns over shortages of a critical component of transmission line flows called "reactive" power on the day of the blackout. The council's voluntary guidelines call for utilities and independent generators shipping power over the grid to feed adequate amounts of reactive power -- electricity that doesn't run equipment but is essential for balancing power flows and controlling voltage levels on transmission wires.** When demand for power is high, generators may have to cut back "real" power sales to produce more reactive power. But some generators may not do so because they can make more money selling real power. A key issue in the blackout investigation is whether some generators cut back on reactive power production or were unable to produce necessary amounts, contributing to the steep drop in voltage that caused transmission lines and power plants to shut down automatically.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10356-2003Oct 10.html>

2. *October 10, Associated Press* — **France may get plutonium from U.S. The government has asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for an export license to ship 300 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium to France for processing into reactor fuel. The plutonium shipments are part of a long-range plan to dispose of 34 tons of excess plutonium in the government's nuclear weapons program by turning it into a mixed oxide fuel for use in commercial U.S. reactors. The shipments are to occur sometime next year.** The Department of Energy (DOE) spokesperson Joe Davis rejected suggestions by critics of the program that the shipments pose a terrorist risk. "We will have safe and secure transport for any plutonium that we ship," Davis said. "Charleston, SC, and federal DOE officials are capable of making sure the shipments arrive safe and secure." Davis said the department is committed to the plutonium disposition program, which is being conducted in conjunction with a similar effort in Russia.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/978563.asp?0si=->

3. *October 09, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC seeks additional information on safety significance of Davis-Besse pump problem. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has asked for additional information from FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company to determine the safety significance of a design problem with high pressure emergency cooling system pumps at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, located near Oak Harbor, OH.** In October of last year, the utility discovered the design deficiency which could affect the high pressure injection pumps under certain accident conditions. These pumps would provide cooling water to the reactor during a loss-of-coolant accident in which the pressure in the reactor remained high. NRC inspection findings are evaluated using a four-level scale of safety significance, ranging from "green" for a finding of very low significance, through "white" and "yellow" to "red," for a finding of high safety significance. **The NRC's preliminary evaluation determined that the safety significance of the pump problem was "greater than green," meaning that the design deficiency involved more than very low safety significance.** However, the analysis varied greatly depending on the assumptions used. As a result, the NRC staff has provided the utility with the opportunity to provide additional information which would permit a more refined analysis of the safety significance.
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2003/03-0 65iii.html>

4. *October 09, Las Vegas Sun* — **Foul-up with reactor shipment.** Consumers Energy started shipping a 565,000-pound package filled with concrete and a nuclear reactor vessel on Tuesday, October 7, from the closed Big Rock Point nuclear power plant in Charlevoix, MI, to a low-level radioactive waste storage facility in Barnhill, SC, company spokesperson Tim Petrosky said. **However, the truck carrying the vessel broke an axle en route between Charlevoix and Gaylord, MI, and it pulled over to the side of a road, where it was fixed. The company then parked the truck Tuesday night near a gas station -- that also serves as a bus stop for 13 elementary and high school students -- until the waste could be transferred to a train that stops in Gaylord.** Company officials expected the transfer to take two to four days.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/archives/2003/oct/09/515720079.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *October 09, Government Computer News* — **DoD system will monitor battlefield health data.** The Defense Department is building a Web system that will collect and store health data that can help explain mysterious illnesses such as Gulf War Syndrome. **The Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS) will give military commanders access to health information, including data on disease outbreaks and injury trends, to help them make battlefield decisions.** DOEHRs will collect and hold information on potentially harmful exposures that are mostly documented on paper today. The system ultimately will capture data for transfer to computerized patient records.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23816-1.html

6. *October 09, Department of Defense* — **Navy shifts carrier maintenance schedule. After careful assessments of USS Carl Vinson's operational readiness, including the remaining useful life of the nuclear fuel, the Navy is recommending to Department of Defense officials that the ship's refueling and complex overhaul (RCOH) commence in the fall of 2005, one year later than originally planned.** The recommendation to reschedule Vinson's RCOH was driven by many factors including a technical and business case analysis that considered the ship's overall material condition, current operational capability and operational needs. Under the new fleet response plan (FRP), planners and operators are challenging all assumptions. Reevaluating maintenance schedules can provide the Navy with a more flexible and efficient way to maintain, make ready and make available fleet assets. **This decision will also allow USS Carl Vinson to remain available for operations until the fall of 2005, and enhances the Navy's flexible defense posture.**

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2003/nr20031009-0522.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *October 13, The Courier-Mail (Australia)* — **Bank hit by scam Website.** ANZ Banking Group Ltd has reported another fraudulent Website -- this time in China -- attempting to fool its customers into giving personal details over the Internet. The bank said it identified the latest imitation Website and took action to have it shut down. **It said operators of the site were sending a fraudulent spam inviting ANZ customers to click through to the imitation site. When customers clicked on the link, the imitation took customers to a fake "log on" page asking customers to submit details. "They're trying to capture people's log-on and password," an ANZ spokesperson said.** The attack is believed to be the third such incident affecting ANZ, with the latest incident just a few months ago.
Source: http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,7543685%255E462,00.html

8. *October 10, New York Times* — **South American area is cited as haven of terrorist training and financing.** The Bush administration's point man on terrorist financing, David Aufhauser, the Treasury Department's outgoing general counsel, said on Thursday, October 9, that the training and financing of terrorists remained a problem in the region of South America where the borders of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina intersect. He said that despite two years of efforts to dislodge terrorist cells there, the border region was home to a "rich marriage of drugs and terror." Aufhauser added that he expected antiterrorist operations in the area to begin to bear fruit soon. **Other Western officials have said that the region, a nexus of drug and arms trafficking, money laundering, counterfeiting and smuggling centered around the Paraguayan city of Ciudad del Este, has been a primary source of support for Hezbollah, Hamas and other Muslim extremist groups.**
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/10/national/10TERR.html>

9. *October 09, BBC News* — **Gangs preying on cash machines. People in the UK are being warned of a new threat from organized crime gangs, many of them from Romania, who are targeting cash machines and stealing millions of pounds each year.** Detective Inspector Roger Cook, head of the City of London Police's Cheque and Credit Card Unit, said cash machine fraud had cost the banks more than £30m so far this year. He said the gangs -- some of which are also involved in human trafficking and prostitution -- were becoming more and more sophisticated and were spreading out across the UK. **They began by using "Lebanese loops" -- home-made devices which make the customer think the machine has swallowed the card, only for the crooks to nab them after the victim has walked off. But they have moved on to card skimmers -- fake devices which are taped onto the doors of cash machine foyers -- and card slot readers. Now they are even using pinhole cameras stuck onto machines.** He said the gangs usually operated in groups of between two and five, and often employed asylum seekers. He added, "very often they are brought in illegally and they pay their debts off to the organized criminals by doing these scams."
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/3157214.stm

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Transportation Sector

10. *October 13, Associated Press* — **Train derails in Chicago; as many as 100 injured. A commuter train derailed Sunday afternoon on the city's South Side, injuring as many as 100 people, officials said. At least 45 people were taken to nearby hospitals, Chicago Fire Department spokesman Patrick Howe said.** Most of the injuries were minor, he said. Three people were taken to the trauma unit at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, where a 22-year-old man was in serious condition Sunday night, hospital spokesman Don Rashid said. **The derailment on Metra's Rock Island District line, running between the city and the south suburb of Joliet, involved two train engines and five coach cars carrying about 350 people, authorities said. One of the engines was on its side.** The cause of the derailment was under investigation, Metra spokesman Tom Miller said. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were expected to be on the scene Monday.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/24hour/nation/story/1026628p-7202511c.html>

11. *October 12, Mobile Register (AL)* — **Questions remain about LNG ships. Federal regulators responsible for permitting a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal near Mobile said they're not considering dangers posed by giant LNG ships when deciding where to allow such facilities to be constructed.** For months, ExxonMobil officials have insisted that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would ensure that the company's proposed LNG terminal presented no threat to nearby residents. But in a response to questions posed by the Mobile Register, FERC officials in Washington wrote that hazards posed by LNG ships would not factor into agency decisions about safety "exclusion zones" at the terminal. **Scientists and federal documents indicate it's the LNG ships -- not the onshore storage terminals -- that pose the greatest threat to the public. A serious accident or terrorist attack involving just one of the five holding tanks on an LNG ship could produce fires so intense that people caught outdoors up to a mile away would suffer severe burns within seconds,** according to calculations outlined in a 1979 U.S. Department of Transportation study provided by ExxonMobil.
Source: http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/base/news/1_065950582122250.xml

12. *October 11, Baltimore Business Journal* — **Business travelers want to fly cheap, survey says.** Business travel at Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport might soar in the near future. **A recent industry survey shows that corporate travel managers will rely more heavily on discount airlines, even if the economy improves.** While the results of the survey indicate a bleak outlook for airline travel overall, the prospect is more favorable for low-cost airlines. **Discount carriers such as Southwest Airlines and AirTran Airways with a large presence at BWI could benefit as corporate dollars shift away from higher-priced options.** Of 110 companies, nearly three-quarters said spending on air travel in 2004 would stay the same or decrease, while about two-thirds said they would increase their use of discount carriers in 2004. The survey suggests a significant shift in the competitive landscape of airline travel. In the past, the airline industry believed that "business travelers will just pay what they have to" to get to their destination, Mitchell said.
Source: <http://famulus.msnbc.com/famuluscom/bizjournal10-11-010054.a.sp?bizj=BAL>

13. *October 11, The Washington Times* — **Screeners relax rules on airline carry-ons. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is relaxing its rules on items that can be**

carried onto commercial airplanes as it refines its security system to identify potential terrorists. Nail clippers, blunt scissors and cigar cutters are back in. So are corkscrews and knitting needles. Passengers also have the option of leaving their shoes on rather than being asked to remove them as airport screeners search for bombs or weapons. **Searches of passengers begin before they arrive at the airport. Ticket purchases are matched by computer to the passengers' personal financial and traveling records to identify suspicious behavior. One-way tickets purchased with cash on short notice, for example, raise questions about whether a passenger intends an attack on an airplane from which he does not plan to return. Certain Middle Eastern cities as points of origin also raise suspicions.** X-ray machines, bomb-detection devices, thousands of air marshals and reinforced cockpit doors backstop the profiling system and screener searches. More changes to the list of prohibited items are coming as security becomes more sophisticated.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20031010-102937-5796r.htm>

14. *October 10, Congress Daily* — **TSA hires firm to evaluate private airport screeners. A Washington-based consulting firm will evaluate the performance of private screening companies working at five selected airports under a contract awarded by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA),** a spokesman said Friday. The five airports using private screeners are part of a pilot program called for in the aviation security bill that federalized screeners after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The study would help airports and others make informed decisions about the program, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1003/101003cd1.htm>

15. *October 10, Ananova (UK)* — **250,000 to watch final Concorde landing.** Industry sources say an estimated 250,000 people intend to be at Heathrow airport to witness the Concorde's final descent on October 24. The massive interest is reportedly posing major problems for Heathrow officials, who are liaising with police over security and traffic control issues. British Airways (BA) has been staging events across North America in recent weeks which have attracted large crowds of people wanting to catch a glimpse of the plane. David Noyes, BA's executive vice president in North America, said a special send-off was being planned at New York's JFK airport for the final 7 a.m. flight later this month. BA is considering a plan to keep one of its seven Concorde's flying for air shows and flypasts, and is expected to reach a decision soon. **The company is also looking at flying a Concorde to the U.S. on December 17 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first manned and powered flight.**

Source: http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_828126.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

16. *October 13, Associated Press* — **Devices diagnose disease in cattle.** A chief concern when raising cattle is that a disease wipes out the entire herd. Kansas State University researchers are working on an idea that might help prevent such disasters. Combining computer chips and engineering with veterinary medicine, the project also could be an invaluable aid against bioterrorism, said Dan Andresen, head of the project. The National Science Foundation this year awarded a five-year grant of nearly \$900,000 for the project. **The goal is to take information about a cow's vital signs and relay that to a computer system that would translate that into a diagnosis of some illness. One idea being tested has a sensor attached to a cow's ear to identify each animal and collect such information as heart rate, respiration, blood gases, temperature, and movement.** The sensor transmits that information to a small data collector hanging from the neck like a cowbell. The data is relayed to a receiver installed where cattle congregate. A farmer using a hand-held computer downloads the data for a quick analysis of whether there are early signs of disease. **David Poole, a veterinary research scientist, said that with the system a disease could be detected three days to 14 days sooner than waiting for the symptoms to become obvious.**

Source: <http://www.ljworld.com/section/stateregional/story/148427>

17. *October 13, Yahoo News* — **Final tests show no foot-and-mouth disease in U.S. cattle. Final test results were negative for foot-and-mouth disease in 40 U.S. cattle quarantined at the Mexican border, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture spokesperson. Mexico on Thursday closed its border to U.S. cattle after finding blisters, one symptom of foot-and-mouth disease, on the 40 animals.** Trade was allowed to resume on Friday after preliminary tests results were negative. The United States has not reported a case of foot-and-mouth disease since 1929. **The cattle did test positive for another disease, bovine papular stomatitis. The disease already exists in the United States and would not jeopardize U.S. trade, the USDA said.** The foot-and-mouth disease virus wastes pigs, cattle, sheep and goats, sharply reducing meat and milk production. It is easily spread by shoes, farm equipment and even the wind. American officials have said an outbreak in the United States could cause billions of dollars of losses to farmers.

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=21766

18. *October 12, Associated Press* — **U.S. considers testing cattle for mad cow infection. While no case of mad cow infection has ever been found in the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are looking at new ways to combat the disease. One proposal being discussed is to test all cows that get sick and die on the farm, even if mad cow is not suspected.** The idea is to head off any problem early, prevent the brain-wasting illness from infecting animals and, ultimately, to protect consumers. **The USDA also is proposing that farmers end the practice of sending the carcasses to rendering plants to process them for pet food and animal feed, in an effort to lower the risk for the disease. The FDA is considering a proposal to expand a ban on using cattle brain and spinal tissue, which is easily infected with mad cow disease. The ban would cover all animal feed and include pet food.** Cattle industry officials say that effectively could end the use of cows in food for pets and livestock. Renderers are reluctant to spend a lot of money removing brain and spinal cords from dead animals. Farmers usually have to pay them a fee to haul away sick and dead cattle and turn them into animal feed. Farmers would have little choice but to bury their animals on their farms.

Source: <http://www.montanaforum.com/rednews/2003/10/12/build/ag/madc>

19. *October 10, USAgNet* — **U.S., Cuba food trade working well.** U.S. food and agricultural sales to Cuba are soaring even as relations between the two countries are at their lowest point in years. **Dozens of U.S. companies have sold more than \$125 million in wheat, rice, poultry and other products to Cuba in the first six months of 2003**, according to the U.S.–Cuba Trade and Economic Council. That compares to \$138.6 million for all of 2002. Diplomats and experts said **Cuba is increasing purchases of U.S. products because shipping and other costs are less than for those from Europe, Asia and other more distant regions.** But Cuban officials also are trying to increase U.S. agricultural trade as a way to pressure the United States to further ease longstanding economic sanctions, experts said.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=1100&yr=2003>

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Food Sector

20. *October 13, Associated Press* — **Grocery clerk strike spreads. Union workers at 44 Kroger stores in West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky voted Monday to strike after rejecting the company's contract offer. They joined about 70,000 grocery workers in Southern California who began a strike over the weekend over contract talks.** More than 2,000 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 approved the strike Monday morning at a meeting in Charleston, more than the two-thirds majority required to authorize a strike, said Local 400 President Jim Lowther. The union represents about 3,300 workers for the Cincinnati-based chain in 37 stores in West Virginia, five in Ohio, and two in Kentucky. **A Kroger spokesman said the company planned to close all 44 stores at midnight Monday and keep them closed.** "Kroger will not operate those 44 stores for the duration of the work stoppage, although store pharmacies will remain open so the customers can have their prescriptions filled."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2003-10-13-grocery_x.htm

21. *October 12, Reuters* — **California grocery clerks strike. The union representing some 70,000 Southern California grocery workers called a strike against Safeway Inc.'s Vons, and two rival supermarket chains responded on Sunday by locking out union workers.** Picket lines organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union formed at stores from Los Angeles to San Diego, the first grocery strike in 25 years in the area, one of the nation's most populous and a key market for the chains. In response to the Vons strike, Albertsons Inc. and Kroger Co.'s Ralphs, which are covered by the same master contract, locked out union workers from the first shift on Sunday. **All three chains kept stores open with replacement workers who had been hired in preparation for the possible strike, said Sandra Calderon, a spokesperson for Vons.** A four-year-old contract between the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, the AFL–CIO affiliate that represents about 1.4 million workers, and the region's three dominant supermarket chains expired on October 5. **The labor dispute comes as unionized grocery workers across the United States have contracts up for a difficult renegotiation as their employers look to cut costs to offset weaker sales growth.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3600214>

22. *October 10, New York Times* — **New safety rules fail to stop tainted meat.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) phased in a new food safety system nationwide from 1998 to 2000. **Using research and new technology like the steam and acid carcass washes, the system, known as the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point program, is intended to protect against invisible scourges like salmonella and listeria, as well as E. coli O157:H7,** which can get into raw hamburger meat from cattle feces. Critics say the department's inspection arm, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, has been lax in enforcing safety procedures under the new program, even at plants with repeated violations. Government inspectors — who by law must be present when slaughterhouses operate — now look over workers' shoulders and make sometimes difficult judgments about how well the plants' safety measures are working. **Supporters of the new system say it brought a sharp decline in the frequency of illnesses caused by bacteria like Campylobacter,** which is often found in chickens. **But the rate of illnesses from E. coli O157:H7 remained roughly the same in 2002 as it was in 1996, two years before the new safety system began, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — although preliminary figures do indicate a decline this year.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/10/national/10MEAT.html?th>

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Water Sector

23. *October 12, Daily Home* — **Water board delayed notification. When two Talladega, AL, wells registered unsafe levels for contamination in their water supply in 1995, officials did not want to tell the public.** "The Talladega Water and Sewer Board is requesting to be relieved of doing public notification at this time," wrote Robert O'Neal, former board superintendent, to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). **The wells were contaminated with tetrachloroethylene, also known as PCE. Prolonged exposure to the contaminant could raise the risk of liver problems and cancer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Under state and federal laws, the board was required to notify the public that both wells violated maximum contaminant levels.** Chemical analysis reports show that both wells had a history of contamination with PCE since 1988, and both the Harmon Park and Grant Street wells had to be shut down in 1995 by ADEM because of the problems. **According to monthly usage reports, Harmon Park well was taken off line in 1995, and it doesn't appear that the well ever went back into service. The Grant Street well went back on line in 1998 and continued to pump water laced with PCE to customers off and on until May 2003, shortly before ADEM ordered the well closed again until further notice.**

Source: <http://www.dailyhome.com/news/2003/dh-localnews-1012-datchison-3j11v0936.htm>

24. *October 10, Associated Press* — **Four water agencies sign landmark Colorado River deal. The top executives of four water agencies signed a landmark water-sharing deal Friday that changes the way the Colorado River is used in California.** Officials from the San Diego County Water Authority, Imperial Irrigation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Coachella Valley Water District met in Los Angeles to make the deal official.

The boards of the four agencies had approved the pact over the past three weeks. **The deal, years in the making, is designed to reduce California's long-standing over-reliance on the river so other Western states can claim their fair share. It also is intended to meet the needs of 18 million people in Southern California without having to look to the north for additional water in the future.** The pact will supply San Diego with about a third of its future water needs. The county's water authority will pay an estimated \$50 million a year for the water that frees the region from its near total reliance on the Los Angeles-based Metropolitan Water District. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is paying \$88 million over 15 years to buy a total of 1.6 million acre-feet from Imperial Irrigation District.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/10/10/state2013EDT7974.DTL>

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Public Health Sector

25. *October 13, Baltimore Sun* — **Blood shortages. Urban regions face a serious, chronic blood shortage. Officials warn that in certain circumstances, a disaster or an unlucky spate of accidents and surgeries, a hospital could run out of blood. Among the causes: new restrictions on donors, the war in Iraq, a growing demand for blood, and anger at and suspicion of the agencies that collect it.** Officials at the Red Cross and Baltimore-Washington area hospitals say the shortage is the worst they've seen. Blood donations typically ebb and flow during the year, and spot shortages aren't unusual. But the current drought extends beyond seasonal shortfalls. "We have a half-day supply, and sometimes less than that," said Gary Ouellette, director of the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Red Cross Region, which provides blood to hospitals and clinics in Washington, DC and most of Maryland. To make up the shortfall, the Chesapeake Red Cross imports blood from other regions. This is not unusual, because urban areas use more blood and collect less, they're net importers, particularly from rural areas, which tend to use less blood and collect more. **What's different now is the size of the deficit. So far this year, the Chesapeake region has imported 65,000 units of blood, 20,000 more than it imported during all of 2002. Imports now account for 15 percent of the region's blood use.**

Source: <http://www.sunspot.net/news/bal-te.blood13oct13.0.3163938.story?coll=bal-home-headlines>

26. *October 12, Associated Press* — **New York City confronted with mystery illness. Health officials said Sunday they had found no evidence of a feared outbreak of viral encephalitis on Staten Island. On Saturday, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene said it was concerned about an outbreak of the potentially deadly illness after five people were hospitalized with symptoms consistent with encephalitis, an inflammation of brain tissue.** One of those people was released from the hospital, and two others were found to have underlying health conditions that explained their illnesses. The two remaining patients were still in critical condition Sunday with encephalitis-like symptoms. The cause of their illnesses hadn't been determined, and it was unknown if their cases were related. Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden said the health department would continue to examine the illnesses in search of an explanation, but he ruled out the possibility of an outbreak.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20031012_1583.html

27. *October 09, Energy Info Source* — **Employees may have received a small radioactive exposure. Officials of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation indicated that a small number of employees may have been exposed to an amount of radioactivity roughly equivalent to that of a dental X-ray during replacement of equipment in its coal transfer process.** During replacement of some equipment on September 25, a device containing an extremely small amount of Cesium-137 was removed without properly closing its "shutter" and placed nearby. The device was discovered at about 8:00 a.m. on Friday, October 10, and immediately shuttered and removed from the work area. **Because the device was left emitting radioactivity for a number of days, it is possible that employees working or walking through the area may have been exposed to a small amount of radioactivity.** Public Service officials are working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state health officials to ensure there is no danger to employees or others who may have been near the device. Source: <http://www.energyinfosource.com/aoi/news-details.cfm?id=20238&FLink=>

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Government Sector

28. *October 13, Associated Press* — **Unmanned Predator spy planes might patrol U.S. border.** The remote-controlled Predator spy plane might be about to get a new role patrolling the nation's border. That's according to a Las Vegas Review-Journal report Monday. **It says immigration officials like the idea of putting video and infrared cameras in the air on the border for 50 hours at a time. The federal Department of Homeland Security said October sixth that the unmanned aerial vehicles are under consideration. The paper says the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau will begin testing soon at Gila Bend, Arizona, and that other aircraft are being tested at Fort Huachuca, in Arizona.** The Air Force's Predator program is based at Nellis Air Force Base, and at a remote air field in Indian Springs. Both sites are just outside Las Vegas. Source: <http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=1479962&nav=8faOIUrl>

29. *October 11, Associated Press* — **New Nevada driver's license laws drawing ire from immigrants. Hispanic activists in Las Vegas are criticizing new state laws making it harder for people from some states to obtain a Nevada driver's license.** But several legislators and proponents defend the new laws, saying they fulfill requirements of the federal Homeland Security Act and block undocumented immigrants from cutting corners on the citizenship process. "There's nothing the state of Nevada can do about protecting the nation's borders," said Janine Hansen, president of the conservative Nevada Eagle Forum. "But we don't have to make it easier for illegals once they get here." **Hansen said driver's licenses provide "de facto citizenship."** At issue are two laws passed this year letting the Department of Motor Vehicles refuse a driver's license to people who arrive from states with less stringent standards for issuing licenses. Activists called the new Nevada laws discriminatory, noting that Nevada lawmakers approved the use of Mexican government-issued cards, known as matriculas, as identification for activities such as opening bank accounts. **Assemblywoman Vonne Chowning, D-North Las Vegas, said stricter licensing laws are not anti-immigrant. She said the state simply wasn't ready to license illegal immigrants to drive.** "Approving use of the matricula was a big step for Nevada," she said

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2003/oct/13/101310535.html>

30. *October 10, Department of Homeland Security* — **Secretary Ridge approves Initial National Response Plan.** U. S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has announced approval of the Initial National Response Plan (INRP), an interim plan designed to help develop a unified approach to domestic incident management across the Nation. **The INRP represents a significant first step towards the overall goal of integrating the current family of Federal domestic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans into a single all-hazards plan.** "I commend the many dedicated professionals from state and local governments, law enforcement, and the fire and emergency management communities, tribal associations, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations across America who all worked with the Department to develop this initial unified plan," Ridge said. "As this effort further evolves, our homeland security effort will be guided by the concept of one plan, one team, and one fight." Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *October 12, Fox 7 News (IN)* — **Warrick County prepares for emergencies.** Crews in one Tri-State community feel better prepared for a disaster. It's not that they've had threats, but they want to be prepared for anything. They held a mock emergency drill in Indiana's Warrick County to see if they have what it takes to keep residents out of danger. **On Saturday, October 12, the local Emergency Planning Commission (EPC) set up a drill for emergency responders. The scenario was an ammonia spill in Boonville, and all emergency responders answered the call. "That includes the Red Cross for sheltering, the Health Department, those agencies," EPC chairman Robert Irvin said. "We try to do something with the hospital. We involve everybody we can involve in a full-scaled drill, just in case we have something." Officials hold drills every year covering various emergencies that could happen in the community. Although Alcoa Fire Dept. chief Harold Grossman and others know what to expect, these exercises keep them sharp.** Source: <http://www.wtvw.com/Global/story.asp?S=1479081&nav=7CPEIU8Q>
32. *October 11, Associated Press* — **Mercury vials found near Washington DC stadium. Four sealed vials of mercury have been found near an RFK Stadium parking lot. Washington, DC Fire and Emergency Management Services spokesman Alan Etter says police officers made the discovery about 4:30 pm on Saturday. They found a plastic bag containing what appeared to be mercury near the entrance to the rear parking lot at RFK Stadium at Oklahoma Avenue and Benning Road. A Hazmat team from the fire department responded. Inside the sealed bag, they found four vials, and each contained about a pea-sized amount of mercury. All four vials were also sealed. The mercury has been removed from the scene and will be turned over to the Environmental Protection Agency. Etter says there were no injuries, and there was no contamination. He adds there's no indication where the mercury came from. Ballou High School in the District has been closed for more than a week after a student took mercury from an unlocked chemistry lab and spread it around the school.** Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=23505

33. *October 10, The Bellingham Herald (WA)* — **Local agencies wary of terrorism.** Emergency crews in Whatcom County, WA, are better prepared in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Local agencies have received \$800,000 to \$1 million in equipment — mostly personal protection supplies like filters, masks, gloves, boots and detection devices. The county's specialized emergency response team got four new \$6,000 hazardous-materials suits — the "moon suits" used at spill sites. **Local first responders — fire, police and medical workers — are coordinating response plans with their counterparts across the U.S.–Canada border, and health districts and hospitals have formed regional districts to coordinate how they would respond to bioterrorism and other mass-casualty incidents.** Officials are hosting new training classes on weapons of mass destruction, response to terrorist bombings and biological incidents. Although terrorism is the impetus for the new planning, equipment and training, local officials are taking the opportunity to become more prepared for all kinds of emergencies, including natural disasters and hazardous-materials spills, said Neil Clement, Whatcom County's emergency management director.
Source: <http://news.bellinghamherald.com/stories/20031012/TopStories /159252.shtml>

34. *October 09, Press Association (UK)* — **UK Schools get anti-radiation pills. Thousands of anti-radiation pills have been given out to British schools as part of measures in case of a nuclear accident. The pills have been stockpiled in Portsmouth, Hampshire, as a precaution during a visit by a Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine, HMS Torbay.** Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council distributed the potassium iodate pills to schools within a 1.25-mile radius of the navy base, as well as to the University of Portsmouth. A further 160,000 tablets are also being stored in distribution centers. A Portsmouth City Council spokeswoman explained that the tablets, which block radiation from reaching the thyroid, were previously stored in distribution centers. But, after a review of its emergency planning strategy, the city council decided it would be more efficient to store the tablets at schools during visits by nuclear submarines. A Royal Navy spokesman said the stockpiling of the pills was a normal precautionary procedure.
Source: http://uaelp.pennnet.com/news/display_news_story.cfm?Section=WIREN&Category=HOME&NewsID=88251

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

35. *October 14, IDG News Service* — **EU approves creation of cybersecurity agency. The European Parliament approved a proposal last week to set up a European cybersecurity agency.** The European Network and Information Security Agency is slated to begin on January 1, 2004, and last until December 31, 2008, with a budget of \$28.7 million. **In addition to forming a Europe-wide handling of security issues, the agency will also be charged with making sure that assistance on security issues is easily accessible to small and medium-size businesses (SMBs),** the Parliament's Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy decided Tuesday, October 6. The agency will also work on problems such as preventing network failures, computer crashes, viruses and unauthorized interception on communications, the Industry Committee said. In addition, the agency will also be charged with advising the European Commission, Parliament and other business and community bodies on information security matters.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/10/09/HNeuagency_1.html

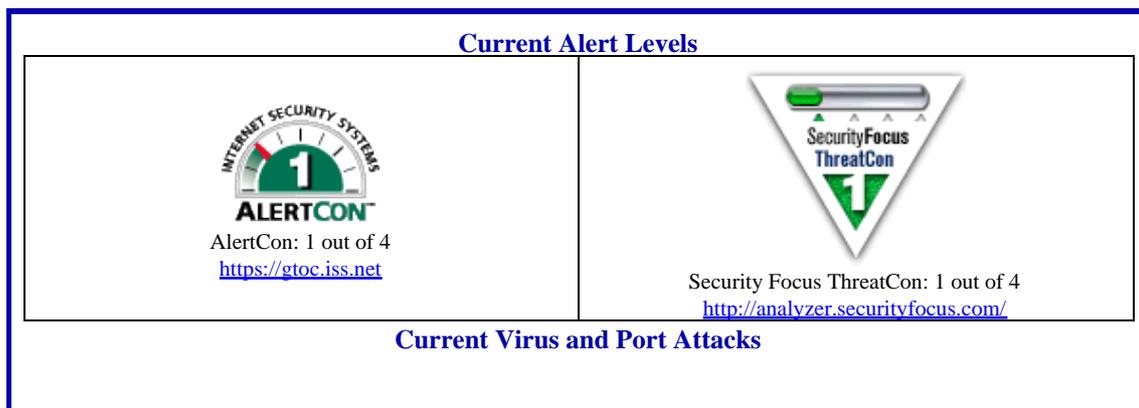
36. October 12, New York Times — **Computer viruses are frustrating insurers, too. Despite the potential losses, companies are not buying insurance against electronic sabotage, in many cases because they are not aware that their existing policies do not cover it.** Those who try to get insurance find that there are no policies being written against viruses, although they can buy limited coverage against hackers whose attacks are more local. The lack of insurance exists because insurers do not know how to provide adequately for possible losses. A hacker attack — by nature an isolated occurrence — typically is covered, Urs Baumeister of reinsurance company Swiss Re said. But **data loss and business interruptions are not covered if they are caused by a virus, because a virus has the potential to attack worldwide. The traditional way insurers protect themselves — by spreading risk — does not work in this case.** In addition to spreading their policies in a variety of areas, like life insurance as well as property insurance, companies transfer some risk to reinsurance companies. Now, though, the reinsurers are refusing to take on the risk of electronic attacks.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/12/business/yourmoney/12insu.html>

37. October 09, National Journal — **Ridge pushes public-private technology partnerships.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Tom Ridge said on Thursday, October 8, that continued federal investments in security technology and government partnerships with the technology industry, if done correctly, will mean more freedom and collateral benefits for Americans, not less. **"Homeland security is about building bridges to one another as we build barriers to terrorists," Ridge said** at the CEO Forum of the Business Software Alliance. Homeland Security makes no distinction between physical and cyber infrastructure, Ridge said, and re-emphasized the department's commitment to cybersecurity through its division on information analysis and infrastructure protection, the Terrorist Threat Integration Center, and a cyber-security tracking center to monitor threats in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon University's computer-emergency response team. **"Most cyber attacks are the work of hackers," Ridge said, but they will come from terrorists in the future. "The enemies of freedom use the same technology that we do."** Ridge said developing security technology will remain a department priority for the foreseeable future, with \$75 million to fund prototype development included in Homeland Security's fiscal 2004 budget.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1003/100903td1.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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|----------------------------|---|
| 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) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center |

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General Sector

38. *October 13, Associated Press* — **Arrests reported in Iraq car bombing.** Coalition officials said Monday, October 13, arrests had been made in a car bomb attack that shook central Baghdad Sunday, killing at least eight bystanders and wounding dozens of others. **The attack outside the Baghdad Hotel was the seventh fatal vehicle bombing in Iraq since early August.** The bombings have killed more than 140 people. The Pentagon said **gunfire from Iraqi guards and U.S. personnel aborted the plan to hit the hotel, home to officials of the U.S.-led occupation authority here and reportedly some members of Iraq's interim Governing Council.** At least one guard was reported among the bystanders dead; the two drivers also were presumed killed, but it was not clear if one or both were suicide attackers. The victims and 32 injured, reported at al-Kindi Hospital, were all Iraqis, authorities said. **The U.S. military said three Americans were slightly injured.**

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,1280,-3258820,00.html> Associated Press

39. *October 10, Reuters* — **Websites listed as 'terror' groups. The United States has added Websites to its list of "foreign terrorist organizations" for the first time, under the category of aliases for conventional groups,** a State Department official said on Friday, October 10. A list published in the Federal Register includes newkach.org, kahane.org, kahane.net, kahanetzadok.com as aliases for the Jewish group Kahane Chai or Kach, which is suspected of organizing attacks on Palestinians. Under U.S. law, **it would be illegal to provide money or other material support to the designated Websites, the people who run them could be denied U.S. visas and U.S. banks must block their funds. The State Department said it was yet clear how this would work in practice.** But the law may not enable the United States to block access to the Web sites, if only for technical reasons.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?storyID=3594588>

40. *October 10, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS enhancing enforcement of travel restrictions to Cuba.** Effective immediately, the Department of Homeland Security will step up enforcement of travel restrictions to Cuba that are already in place. **Enforcement efforts will be enhanced to curtail illegal travel and transport of goods and funds to Cuba. Also, the Department will be involved in the expansion of programs that promote the safe, legal, and orderly migration from Cuba.** Homeland Security officers assigned to U.S. Customs and Border Protection will increase inspection of all persons traveling directly to Cuba and arriving back directly from Cuba. Current U.S. law strictly limits permitted travel to Cuba to journalists, official Congressional visits, persons engaged in educational purposes, and family visits by Cuban-Americans. **In all cases, there are specific limits regarding the transport of money**

and goods, and in certain cases, the frequency of visits. Homeland Security officers assigned to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, will assist in this effort by ensuring that travelers from the U.S to Cuba, who pass through Canada, Mexico, and other countries en route, are not violating the Cuban embargo.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=1937>

41. *October 09, Associated Press* — **Liberty Bell arrives at new home. The Liberty Bell, the cracked symbol of democracy that once hung in Independence Hall, safely arrived at its newest home after a 1,000-foot journey from its previous display** at the Liberty Bell Pavilion. The bell arrived shortly after 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 9, at the Liberty Bell Center, a new facility constructed as part of a sweeping \$314 million transformation of Independence Mall. Workers then hoisted the fragile artifact into place. Phil Sheridan, spokesperson for Independence National Historical Park, said **the move to a new location was necessary to provide space for displays and exhibits around the bell.** The pavilion and the new center are located 300 feet apart.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031009_1015.html

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