



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 October 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The Sacramento Bee reports that bolts were missing Tuesday from a high-voltage electricity tower in Sacramento, CA, bringing to at least six the number of transmission towers partly disabled since October 20. (See item [3](#))
- Federal Computer Week reports that the Bureau of Customs and Border Control in the next year plans to more than double the number of foreign ports where high-risk containers are screened before departing for the United States. (See item [9](#))
- The New York Times reports that the wildfires in Southern California have consumed more than 718,000 acres, an area about one-third the size of Yellowstone National Park. (See item [18](#))

### 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. *October 30, TechNewsWorld* — **Network vulnerability and the electrical grid.** The power blackout that struck the northern United States and Canada in August shocked industry executives into acknowledging the need to upgrade outdated circuitry and power-generating equipment. However, **analysts and security experts now are warning that the outmoded, intrusion-prone computers used to control the grid pose a greater risk than the aging grid**

**infrastructure.** The patchwork system of computers loosely linking the electricity producers in the United States and Canada makes an Internet attack that could shut down the power grid again very simple. **The computer systems that run the maze of electrical power grids are largely vulnerable because of poor oversight, for no government regulators oversee this equipment, which controls the connections to the power grid.** Also, analysts have described the companies' equipment as a ragtag mixture of networked Windows and Unix machines. It is primarily this lack of controls within the industry that has led analysts and security experts to worry about Internet-based attacks on the grid.

Source: <http://www.technewsworld.com/perl/story/31987.html>

2. *October 30, Reuters* — **French watchdog orders probe into country's nukes. The French government's nuclear safety authority ASN said on Thursday, October 30, it has asked state-owned Electricite de France (EdF) to investigate a potential fault in the country's 58 nuclear reactors by the end of the year. The ASN also warned that not only the units run by EdF, but all pressurized water reactors were possibly at risk from the clogging of a filter that helps cool the reactor in case of an accident.** Pressurized water reactors are by far the most commonly installed nuclear reactor and account for nearly-two thirds of total nuclear capacity among developed countries of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), according to the International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog. The seriousness of the potential fault was not yet clear, but it would not entail any immediate shutdown on any of EdF's plants, according to an ASN spokesperson. **Any repairs to remedy the fault were most likely to be carried out during planned maintenance of the reactors,** the ASN spokesperson said. The potential fault was discovered through international studies and research by the French nuclear institute for radiological protection and nuclear safety, but has been known for the last decade, the ASN spokesperson said.

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters\\_pma\\_2003\\_10\\_30\\_eng-reuters\\_pma\\_FRENCH-WATCHDOG-ORDERS-PROBE-INTO-COUNTRYS-NUKES&SMContentSet=0](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_10_30_eng-reuters_pma_FRENCH-WATCHDOG-ORDERS-PROBE-INTO-COUNTRYS-NUKES&SMContentSet=0)

3. *October 29, The Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **More missing bolts. Bolts were missing Tuesday, October 28, from a high-voltage electricity tower in Sacramento, CA, after an "odd-looking" person was seen nearby, according to Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) officials.** The episode brings to at least six the number of transmission towers partly disabled since October 20, when witnesses chased a man from the base of a tower near Redding, CA, according to electric utility officials. "We're aware of other incidents, but have not made any determination that they're all connected," said FBI Special Agent Karen Ernst. Susan Patterson, president of the SMUD board, confirmed that **SMUD workers fielded a call from a customer about an "odd-looking guy" around a high-voltage tower near where Howe Avenue changes to Power Inn Road. Although the tower belongs to Pacific Gas and Electric Co., SMUD workers investigated, discovered bolts were missing and contacted Sacramento police,** she said. Removing bolts could cause a tower that supports high-voltage lines to fall, temporarily disabling the lines; however, that would not necessarily trigger a blackout because electricity often can be rerouted.

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_krt.htm?SMDOCID=knightridder\\_2003\\_10\\_29\\_krtbn\\_0000-0552-SA-TOWER&SMContentSet=0](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_krt.htm?SMDOCID=knightridder_2003_10_29_krtbn_0000-0552-SA-TOWER&SMContentSet=0)

## Chemical Sector

4. *October 30, Los Angeles Times* — **EU commission OKs bold chemical policy. The European Union's (EU) executive branch on Wednesday approved a far-reaching new policy that would fundamentally alter the way that tens of thousands of chemical compounds are regulated by government and tested by industry.** If adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) policy will be the world's most comprehensive regulation governing the use of chemicals. **It would have major effects on U.S. industries that sell a variety of products in Europe, from computers to pesticides. Under the draft law, companies would have to register basic scientific data for about 30,000 chemicals with a newly created European agency.** Of those, chemicals used in the largest volumes and those already linked to health or environmental hazards would be subjected to additional testing and possible bans. **Under current laws, only chemicals that were first used after 1981 in Europe and 1976 in the United States must undergo testing for environmental effects.**

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-euchem30oct30.1.7646136.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

5. *October 30, Tribune Star* — **Plant to destroy VX by hydrolysis. Neutralization of VX, a deadly nerve agent, is a unique experience for the Army, which originally planned to incinerate more than 1,200 tons stockpiled at the Newport Chemical Depot in Indiana. The Newport Chemical Demilitarization Plant is the first of its kind built for the sole purpose of destroying the nerve agent by a form of hydrolysis, the decomposition of a chemical compound by reaction with water.** The VX will be mixed with sodium hydroxide in special reactors to reduce its toxicity. Hydrolysate is 5,000 to 20,000 times less toxic than VX. Hydrolysate is a caustic hazardous waste that requires additional treatment before disposal. Alternatives to convert the caustic VX hydrolysate include treatment with chemicals, converting it by biodegradation to a substance that can be treated at a city's wastewater treatment plant or injecting it deep into the earth.

Source: <http://www.tribstar.com/articles/2003/10/30/news/news05.txt>

## Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 30, Government Computer News* — **DoD developing new strategies. The Defense Department (DoD) is developing four or five pilot programs to change the way acquisition officials buy services.** Dominic Cipicchio, deputy director for Defense procurement, said **the test programs are part of a two-pronged approach laid out last February to receive better discounts from vendors for volume purchases as well as to improve coordination among the military services.** Cipicchio said DoD will create acquisition strategies for each of the pilots, which may include IT support, administrative and management services. "We are very decentralized in our approach, and we needed a more strategic look at this," said Cipicchio. DoD officials will spend the next year developing the plans. Cipicchio said department brass

hopes to get the pilots started in early fiscal 2005.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/24017-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24017-1.html)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *October 29, Daily Times (Nigeria)* — **Nigeria to increase efforts against 419. In response to Nigeria's low rating by the global anti-corruption watchdog, Transparency International, the Nigerian government has said it was renewing its war against advance fee fraud, money laundering and trafficking in narcotics and humans.** The disclosure was made by Vice-President Atiku Abubakar at the opening of a two-day conference on money laundering and the Nigerian economy in Lagos on Tuesday, October 28. Atiku, who was represented by the Attorney-General of the Federation, Akilolu Olujimi, said the present administration had started improving the country's image dented by money laundering, adding that war has been declared on trafficking of narcotics and people, advance fee fraud, and money laundering. **Olujimi stated that the laws of the country had been revised to show the seriousness and commitment of the threat and tackle the effects of the crimes.** The Minister of Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, called on banks to imbibe the spirit of transparency and accountability to help in the war against money laundering, adding that it will be done in such a way to avoid ruining the customer-bank relationship.

Source: <http://www.dailytimesofnigeria.com/DailyTimes/2003/October/29/FGtostep.asp>

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *October 30, Toronto Star (Canada)* — **Money needed to help Canadian coastal security. A Canadian Senate committee warns that without a major increase in money, personnel and senior government resources devoted to national security, Canada is vulnerable to all kinds of terrorist threats on its coastlines and waterways.** Entitled "The Longest Under-defended Borders in the World," the committee's report is the fourth in a series looking at elements of Canada's national security system. **It says despite billions in spending since the September 11, 2001, attacks, Ottawa's over-all approach to national security – especially to maritime security along the coasts, the St. Lawrence River and Seaway – remains dangerously unfocused and ad-hoc.** In defending the Canadian government's approach, Transport Minister David Collenette said, "There's always more that can be done and more is being done, but I reject the notion that somehow there's a dark hold, both in the U.S. and in Canada, where marine security is not being delivered. It's been improved since 9/11 and it continues to be improved." Still, in a major speech he delivered at a New York conference on maritime security, Collenette called for more money and a clearer focus for the coast guard.

Source: [http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article\\_Type1&c=Article&cid=1067469009860&call\\_pageid=968332188774&col=968350116467](http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1067469009860&call_pageid=968332188774&col=968350116467)

9.

*October 30, Federal Computer Week* — **Customs to expand foreign port screening. The Bureau of Customs and Border Control in the next year plans to more than double the number of foreign ports where high-risk containers are screened before departing for the United States.** The Container Security Initiative was created in January 2002 to prevent weapons of mass destruction from getting into the supply chain. **As part of the U.S. initiative to increase maritime security worldwide, the top 19 mega-ports outside the United States have agreed to inspect U.S.-bound containers before they're shipped out. A total of 47 ports will be taking part in the program by this time next year,** said Douglas Browning, the deputy commissioner for Customs and Border Control, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, under another maritime program -- C-TPAT, or the Customs-Trade Partnership against Terrorism -- more than 4,000 companies have agreed to take steps to improve the security of their shipments and supply chain, Browning said. C-TPAT participants get a fast lane for their products through land and sea borders. "Our mission is to improve security at as many points in the global supply chain as possible," he said. Source: [http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1027/web-ports-10-30-03 .asp](http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1027/web-ports-10-30-03.asp)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

10. *October 30, Washington Times* — **Postal Service retracts notice to identify senders. The U.S. Postal Service is withdrawing a notice in the Federal Register because its wording suggests that a plan to identify senders of bulk mail is the first step to identifying the senders of all mail. Stephen M. Kearney, vice president of pricing and classification for the Postal Service, said the notice "has caused misunderstanding in some quarters."** "Sender-Identified Mail: Enhanced Requirement for Discount Rate Mailings, a notice intended to clarify business customer information, will be reissued," Kearney said in a statement. Privacy advocates criticized the notice, which directly quoted a presidential commission report calling for the Postal Service to develop technology to identify all individual senders. The notice also cited two congressional committee recommendations urging the Postal Service to explore the concept of sender identification. Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/national/20031029-105105-4585r.htm>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

11. *October 30, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **CWD-positive buck found in Portage County. A third deer from a Portage County, WI, hunting preserve has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD), State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt announced this week.** The National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa, reported Monday, that a three-year-old buck shot at Buckhorn Flats Game Farm was infected with the disease. **The animal was routinely sampled for CWD on October 1 after being shot in a paid hunt.** Wisconsin Department of Agriculture rules require that all farm-raised deer and elk 16 months or older must be tested when they die, go to slaughter, or are killed. **According to farm owner Stan Hall, the animal was born on the premises. Two previous CWD-positive animals on his**

**preserve, reported in September 2002 and earlier this month, had been purchased from other farms.** The Hall farm has been under quarantine since September 2002, when the first CWD–positive animal found on a Wisconsin farm was shot there. In all, 14 herds in Wisconsin are under quarantine for CWD. To date, 11 farm–raised animals in Wisconsin have tested positive for CWD on four farms. One of the infected animals was an elk; the rest have been whitetail deer.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story–state.cfm?Id=1305 &yr=2003>

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## **Food Sector**

12. *October 30, Minnesota Daily* — **MRI food research.** Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering professor Roger Ruan can virtually dissect a bean, layer by layer, while it is safely sealed in a small gray box on his desk. The box, known as a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) device, is what Ruan said makes most of his research on food properties possible. **Ruan uses the machine to research increasing shelf life, maintaining food's nutritional value when it is cooked and measuring bacteria levels to determine when food becomes unsafe to eat. Ruan said looking at the movement of water in a food product and graphing changes in temperature and chemical composition during food preparation are essential services he can do with the MRI that will not disturb or skew results.** General Mills spokesperson Kirstie Foster said the company is interested in Ruan's research because it wants to understand water in food products. Ruan said his research has become more feasible since MRI was developed in the 1970s. Five years ago, he said, a new MRI device cost more than \$1 million. "MRIs were difficult to access because they were so expensive," Ruan said. "In the next 10 years we will see a lot of faculties start to use this technology now that the price has dropped." Source: <http://www.daily.umn.edu/articles/2003/10/30/7210>

13. *October 30, Ascribe Newswire* — **NIAID awards funds for food safety research. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has awarded nearly \$10 million to an eight–member team of Washington State University (WSU) researchers who are seeking ways to protect the safety of the nation's food and water supply.** The long–standing interdisciplinary group of researchers will conduct research and develop products to rapidly identify, prevent, and treat food and water disease agents, such as E. coli, listeria, and salmonella. The animal and human disease research group at WSU is part of the new NIAID national Food and Waterborne Diseases Integrated Research Network. The network will integrate research and product development activities of multiple medical and veterinary units around the country. In the event of a national or regional public health threat, the new WSU unit can be re–directed by the NIAID project officer to respond and direct its research efforts toward specific disease agents. Nationally, all of the funded units will develop coordinated work groups increasing the nation's capacity to better prevent, treat, and control food and waterborne diseases. **From a national perspective, the enhanced capabilities of local, state, and federal public health and regulatory agencies is viewed as an essential part of the nation's biodefense system.**

Source: <http://www.ascribe.org/cgi–bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20031029.110541&time=12%2015%20PST&year=2003&public=>

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

14. *October 30, Washington Post* — **Cats, ferrets can carry SARS. Cats and ferrets can carry the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus, raising the possibility that the pets could play a role in any new outbreaks of the disease, researchers reported Wednesday.** Scientists infected both species in laboratory experiments and showed that animals could pass the virus to others. While the findings suggest that the animals could play a role in spreading the virus, **there is no evidence to date that the animals can pass the virus to people**, the researchers stressed. "You cannot completely exclude that possibility. If you have close contact, it theoretically could be transmitted," Albert Osterhaus of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, who led the research, said. "But it is unlikely from an epidemiological point of view." Cats and ferrets appear to excrete the virus for only a relatively short time, he said. "It's much more likely you would get infected from other people," Osterhaus said. Nevertheless, because of the pets' large numbers and close contact with humans in many places, the findings indicate that cats and ferrets "could serve as an ideal bridge between the unknown reservoir for the virus in the wild," said Klaus Stohr, a SARS expert at the World Health Organization.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37730-2003Oct 29.html>
  
15. *October 30, Massachusetts Daily Collegian* — **Anthrax research. R. John Collier, a researcher at Harvard Medical School, and his colleagues have found a way to prevent anthrax from contaminating human cells.** Collier has identified an area in domain two of the anthrax toxin, one of the four domains in which the toxin is biologically broken down, that can be mutated and used to inhibit anthrax from polluting the bloodstream. When anthrax enters the body, it seeks to latch on to a cell by a method that Collier says is a "cleverly designed recognition process." Once anthrax attaches to a cell, it forms a cylindrical tube and diffuses its toxin into the cell. **The solution to fighting anthrax, as Collier has found, lies in disrupting this chemical self-assembly of the anthrax molecule.** Collier began to examine domain two. His conclusion, that the cylindrical shape anthrax made is created when different parts of the molecule recognize each other and interlock, was vital in creating a vaccine. "This new information gave us a method using what we call a dominant negative inhibitor (DNI). The DNI, which is a mutated form of part of domain two of the anthrax toxin, prohibits formation of a pore from pre-pore such that the toxin cannot be plunged into the attacked cell," he said. Essentially the DNI does not allow the anthrax molecule to interlock, even after it has latched on to a cell.  
Source: <http://www.dailycollegian.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2003/10/30 /3fa0b102b4721>

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## Government Sector

16. *October 30, USA Today* — **Toy gun led to Congressional office lockdown. A toy gun carried by a young congressional employee triggered the lockdown of a congressional office building Thursday, October 30. The House of Representatives was also shut down.** The staffer told police the plastic gun went with a Halloween costume, police said. The Cannon House Office Building is located across the street from the Capitol on Independence Avenue. Videotapes showed a young man placing his backpack on the x-ray machine, followed by two young women, Gainer said. **The police officer manning the station was speaking briefly to someone as the items were x-rayed. When the officer noticed the outline of the weapon, an alert was triggered.** The office building itself was swiftly sealed while police mounted a room-by-room search for suspects. Officers were stationed at the underground entrances to the Capitol from each of several House office buildings. Outdoors, security barriers were raised to prevent vehicles from approaching buildings in the Capitol complex, while police, many of them with dogs, surrounded the office building believed to have been invaded. Initially, Capitol police advised people to stay in their offices. A few minutes later, the building was evacuated. Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-10-30-congress-man\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-10-30-congress-man_x.htm)

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## Emergency Services Sector

17. *October 30, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Under Secretary Brown returns to California as FEMA ramps up response capabilities.** Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, returned to California late Wednesday, October 29, to continue to oversee federal assistance to the state following President Bush's disaster declaration on Monday. **The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) distributed the first assistance checks to wildfire victims** who had registered for assistance on Wednesday. FEMA coordinated several federal response and recovery activities on Thursday. **The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has aircraft and helicopters on standby to support FEMA, state authorities, and respond to rescue cases.** Earlier this week USCG aircraft delivered an emergency communications van and team of technicians to support the interagency coordination and response effort. In addition to FEMA's Disaster Field Office and coordination facilities set up in California, **FEMA has activated its Emergency Support Team in Washington, DC, to supplement planning and coordination efforts of housing and mass care requirements if the fires impact significantly populated areas.** The following Emergency Support Functions (ESF)/agencies have been activated: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, American Red Cross, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2115>

18. *October 30, New York Times* — **Firefighters in California hope that rain is on the way.** Fire officials in California are hoping that cooler weather and rain in the next few days could turn the tide in their fight against raging wildfires that have grown exponentially every day for more than a week and claimed the life of a firefighter on Wednesday, October 29. So far, **the dozen or so fires stretching from communities north of Los Angeles south into Mexico have**

**claimed 18 lives and destroyed 2,400 homes**, fire officials said Thursday morning. **The National Weather Service is forecasting rain for the weekend, and there could be snow in the higher elevations east of Los Angeles.** Combined with cooler temperatures, the precipitation could help the firefighting efforts in the more rural areas, said Ron DeHart, an information officer for the United States Forest Service, who was working out of the Southern Operations Emergency Command Center in Riverside, where federal and state officials are coordinating rescue and information efforts. **The wildfires, now in their tenth day, have consumed more than 718,000 acres, an area about one-third the size of Yellowstone National Park.** Damage estimates exceed \$2 billion, but that figure is expected to rise substantially as an inventory of firefighting costs and lost property is completed. **At least 13,000 firefighters from several states have been deployed to battle the wildfires**, DeHart said.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/30/national/30CND-FIRE.html?h\\_p](http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/30/national/30CND-FIRE.html?h_p)

**19. *October 30, Associated Press* — Weather dampens Colorado fires; evacuation order ends.**

Authorities lifted evacuation orders Thursday, October 30, after rain and sleet dampened two wildfires that had threatened hundreds of Colorado homes and forced thousands to flee.

**"There's very little concern that [the fire is] going to spread," said Andy Lyon a fire information officer on a 1,200-acre blaze that had threatened 300 to 400 homes in the suburbs south of Denver.** The two blazes erupted Wednesday and were believed to have been started by damaged power lines. **The second, in the foothills northwest of Boulder, raced across 4,000 acres and threatened the historic mining village of Jamestown before the sleet began Thursday morning.** Residents of about 300 homes in the area had been ordered to evacuate. Temperatures had dropped 20 to 40 degrees overnight, and winds that at one point had whipped up 100-foot flames had calmed. Outside Jamestown, firefighters set up a defensive line about five miles from the village while others stood watch over houses in the foothills. **Eight or nine homes were destroyed by the blaze.** South of Denver, five subdivisions had been ordered evacuated, creating chaos as drivers moved their SUVs and cars onto a handful of streets leading out. No homes burned there, authorities said. **The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a request from Gov. Bill Owens for federal resources to fight the fires.**

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-10-29-colorado-fires\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-10-29-colorado-fires_x.htm)

**20. *October 29, Associated Press* — American Indian tribes forgotten link in emergency**

**planning. States don't always include American Indian tribes when planning for terrorist attacks and other emergencies, according to a New Mexico health official researching tribes' roles in emergency preparation. Most tribal governments are left out when federal money for homeland security planning is distributed, said Michael Sisneros, a New Mexico Health Department consultant. He said the money typically goes to states, which are encouraged but not mandated to include tribal governments in the planning process.** "Most states just haven't done anything" to get tribes involved, Sisneros said. **New Mexico is one of just a few states actively working to include tribes in emergency response planning, he said.** Sisneros heads the Native American Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment project, aimed at developing a statewide plan to respond to bioterrorism. "New Mexico took a step to say, Well, if we're going to go out and do assessments of rural communities, let's also do a formal assessment of tribal government to find out what really exists, Sisneros said. **Sisneros said 19 New Mexico tribes have been surveyed for the**

project about their emergency plans and cooperation with non-tribal law enforcement agencies. Eleven of those surveyed did not have emergency plans in place, he said.

Source: <http://www.abqjournal.com/health/aptribes10-29-03.htm>

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## Information and Telecommunications Sector

21. *October 29, ZDNet Australia* — **Three flaws discovered in Mac OS X.** Security-research company @Stake has warned of three vulnerabilities affecting the Mac OS X operating system. The first details "systemic" flaws in the way OS X handles file and directory permissions, while the second details a kernel level vulnerability that does not affect default installations of the operating system. The third involves a buffer overflow condition that may be remotely exploitable. **Apple has not yet released patches for the security issues. Mac users are advised to upgrade to the latest Apple operating system,** which is not vulnerable to the flaws, for a fee. The full advisories are available online:

<http://www.atstake.com/research/advisories/2003/>

Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/mac/0.39020393.39117455.00.htm>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a>	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>WORM_LOVGATE.G</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	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: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

22. *October 30, Washington Post* — **Red Cross and U.N. to reduce Iraq staffs.** The United Nations and the Red Cross will scale back their presence in Iraq, officials said Wednesday, October 29, responding to the threat of new terrorist attacks after a suicide car bombing at Red Cross headquarters. U.S. officials expressed concern that the U.N.

departure could increase pressure on private aid agencies to reconsider their roles in Iraq. The organization will pull out all 15 remaining international staff members from Baghdad and withdraw all but ten representatives in the northern city of Irbil. The International Committee of the Red Cross announced it would withdraw some of its 30 foreign staff members in Iraq. The organization said, however, that it would continue operations in Iraq. **The relief organization Doctors Without Borders said Wednesday that it also would reduce its foreign staff and move to Amman, Jordan.** The United Nations and several humanitarian groups had already reduced their presence in Iraq after a car bombing August 19 at the U.N. headquarters killed 22 people. Secretary General Kofi Annan initially resisted pressure to order an evacuation, but after a second attack against the U.N. compound on September 22, he decided to reduce the U.N. presence in Iraq from a total of 800 to 900 foreign staff members before August 19 to a largely symbolic presence of about 50 U.N. officials.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38077-2003Oct 29.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

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

### **DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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