



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 September 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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Daily Overview

- Reuters reports the Energy Information Administration has said in its monthly energy forecast that gasoline prices are not expected to drop below \$1.50 per gallon until November. (See item [3](#))
- The Associated Press reports the National Transportation Safety Board wants more thorough inspections of planes that have suddenly changed speeds because of weather, pilot error or mechanical problems. (See item [7](#))
- eSecurity Planet reports security research firm Secunia has recommended that users of Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser disable ActiveX controls and plugins to protect against a variant of the "Object Data" vulnerability. (See item [23](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

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. *September 08, Reuters* — FERC plans October natural gas, power traders survey. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said it wants to survey 300 natural gas and electricity traders to determine if they have adopted FERC's guidelines for reporting more detailed information about trades to industry publications. FERC said in a Federal Register notice published on Friday, September 5, that it wants to see if "further steps" are

needed to increase the accuracy, reliability and transparency of price indices. In late July, FERC approved voluntary guidelines for companies to report trades of natural gas and electricity to private publishers such as Platts and Energy Intelligence Inc. The publishers collect price and volume data to calculate indices at different U.S. hubs that are used to price billions of dollars worth of supply contracts. **The guidelines recommend that companies adopt a code of conduct and have all price reporting handled by a non-trading employee, such as a chief risk officer.** The survey consists of 20 questions, including what elements of trades are reported to publishers, whether the participant has adopted a voluntary code of conduct, and whether some or all trades were reported, FERC said. The first survey would be due on October 1, 2003 with a second survey due March 1, 2004, the agency said.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030908/utilities_natgas_indices_1.html

- 2. *September 08, KMBC-TV (MO)* — Power problems hit parts of Kansas City. Power went out to parts of the Kansas City metropolitan area on Monday, September 8, because of two apparently isolated events.** Some 3,600 customers in Kansas City, KS, were without power for a short time because the Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) Nearman Plant shut down. BPU officials said that the shutdown happened when workers replacing fiber-optic cable at the Turner substation cut the wrong cable, and are hoping to have power restored by the end of the day. About the same time, several buildings went dark for a time in downtown Kansas City, MO, including City Hall which switched to a backup source of power. Apparently the problem centers around a Kansas City Power & Light switch that failed on top of a building at 11th Street and Walnut. **There is no estimate as to when the power will be restored to the downtown area.**

Source: <http://www.thekansascitychannel.com/news/2463188/detail.html>

- 3. *September 08, Reuters* — Gas not dropping below \$1.50 until November.** Gasoline costs, which hit a record high of almost \$1.75 a gallon two weeks ago, should fall to a monthly average of \$1.67 in September, \$1.55 in October, and then finally drop below \$1.50 in November, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its monthly energy forecast. Pump prices jumped in August because of strong demand, and at the same time the power blackout closed several refineries and there was the shutdown of a major gasoline pipeline in the Southwest. **"This month, pump prices should begin to recede because many of the local supply problems have been alleviated and the driving season winds down following the Labor Day weekend" the Energy Department's analytical arm said. Meanwhile, demand this winter for heating oil, electricity and natural gas should be lower, but consumers will be paying more overall to heat their homes with natural gas, EIA said.** The agency said it expects this winter to be normal, which should reduce demand for heating fuels compared to last year's much colder weather.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=businessNews&storyID=3406773>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

- 4. *September 08, WFTV News (Florida)* — Chemical leak sends dozens of workers to hospital. Dozens of people are being decontaminated after a chemical leak at a local plant. They are being treated for exposure to sodium hydroxide. All of the patients work at Central**

Florida Extruders, a utilities plant in Sanford, FL. They have 10 people from the plant, but expect about 30 more. Before the workers can get into the hospital to see a doctor they have to strip down, get into a hospital gown and have hospital staff spray them off with water. Those who have already been seen are doing well. **Emergency workers say somehow the chemical sodium hydroxide made it into the ventilation system and sickened the people inside.**

Source: <http://www.wftv.com/news/2463313/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *September 08, The Honolulu Advertiser (HI)* — **Marines to replace aging helicopters. Sometime after fiscal 2008, Ospreys are slated to replace the Kaneohe Bay, HI, fleet of CH-53D Sea Stallions, helicopters that are over 30 years old and among the oldest in the Marine Corps. The Corps' V-22 Osprey aircraft, with big, windmill-like propellers, or rotors, deliver troops faster and farther than helicopters but with a similar ability to hover and land.** Production of the Osprey – which can tilt its rotors up for vertical takeoff, and forward for fixed-wing flight – is back on track after being troubled by development and flight problems, including two crashes in 2000 that killed 23 Marines and put the program in jeopardy. The Pentagon has approved production of 152 of the aircraft through 2009. An Osprey training squadron was stood up at Marine Corps Air Station New River in North Carolina last week. The first operational Ospreys will replace older CH-46E Sea Hawk helicopters on the East and West coasts before any arrive in Hawaii.

Source: http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Sep/08/mn/mn0_1a.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *September 08, Associated Press* — **Businesses shrug off new terror fears. An improving economy and the passage of two years have helped mask nagging worries for businesses about the chances of another large scale terrorist attack. Economists and companies alike say the risk of terrorism no longer is perceptibly scaring off spending.** "We are continuing to see terrorism around the world, and that clearly is a concern on the part of many businesses," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist for Wells Fargo & Co. "But I don't think businesses are holding back spending simply because they are afraid of another terrorist attack." Few, if any businesses, will openly acknowledge still restraining their spending because of fear of another attack. "It's more the economy than the threat of another terrorist attack that has influenced our spending," said Sally Davenport, spokesperson for a large package carrier company, in a response typical of numerous corporations contacted. "We're looking at things in terms of how our customers have fared in this economy." Part of that reticence could be because, after two years of consolidating or otherwise adjusting to the seismic business consequences of September 11, companies have made all the contingency plans for another catastrophe they can make.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/030908/sept_11_business_concerns_1.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

7. *September 08, Associated Press* — **NTSB wants tougher plane inspections.** Airplanes that have flown through extreme turbulence may not be inspected closely enough afterward for hidden structural damage, according to federal safety investigators. **The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) wants more thorough inspections of planes that have suddenly changed speeds because of weather, pilot error or mechanical problems. The safety board sent a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration last week saying current procedures may be inadequate. The board recommended that the FAA require closer inspections of planes after they've been maneuvered violently and that such incidents be reported.** The potential problem came to the safety board's attention during its investigation of American Airlines Flight 587, which crashed in Queens, NY, on Nov. 12, 2001, killing all 265 aboard. The Airbus A300–600's rudder suddenly began swerving violently, causing the tail fin to break off. As a result of that investigation, the tail fin of another American A–300 that had been severely buffeted in 1997 was reinspected. Cracks were found and it was replaced.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Politics/ap20030908_1189.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

8. *September 07, Wall Street Journal* — **Shippers deliver hidden fee increases. In a drive to restore some of the revenue lost amid economic downturn, delivery companies have introduced or increased more than a dozen fees over the last few years, for everything from proof of delivery to a missing account number.** The latest twist is that carriers are slapping on a surcharge for off–the–beaten–track deliveries. The surcharges are supposed to be for places that are difficult to get to. But the number of ZIP codes the carriers consider remote is swelling, even as America is growing more urban. **Overall, the big three delivery companies, UPS, FedEx and Airborne, which control 80 percent of the market, now impose such fees on at least some shipments to more than 60 percent of all U.S. ZIP codes. The various delivery surcharges individually do not amount to a lot of money. But they are rising faster than basic shipping rates and all told can end up doubling the cost of sending a package.** The higher fees are partly a response to the economic slump, which has badly bruised delivery companies.

Source: http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascitystar/business/personal_finance/6651552.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

9. *September 08, Scripps Howard News Service* — **Faster test for mad cow disease.** California researchers reported Sunday on a faster test for detecting mad cow disease. **Despite**

widespread concern about the disease in herds worldwide, current tests can only detect the infectious prion proteins that cause mad cow disease after the cow dies. Even then it can take a week to yield results, which can include false positives. The new test, called the conformation–dependent immunoassay, can detect prions with 100 percent accuracy at much smaller levels than conventional tests and takes only about five hours to yield results. The new test is designed to detect prions in the brain tissue of cows after slaughtered. However, it shows promise for finding the proteins in muscle tissue and even blood samples from live animals. If the test lives up to that promise, it could allow vets to identify infected animals before they show symptoms and could help end the practice of slaughtering entire herds suspected of harboring mad cow. So far, the new assay has been able to detect prions in the muscles of living mice. In cattle, the test has been used to check for signs of the disease in the brains of about 11,000 slaughtered cattle. Results were compared to those of standard tests done on the same animals, and there were no discrepancies.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/138452_madcow08.html

10. *September 08, Agricultural Research Service* — Glassy–winged sharpshooter research.

Glassy–winged sharpshooters can transmit a deadly plant bacterium, *Xylella fastidiosa*, into plants during feeding. When *Xylella* moves from a sharpshooter's gut into a plant, the bacterium can form colonies, or clusters, that may eventually shut off the flow of water in the grapevines. Severely infected vines usually die within a year or two after they're attacked. Agricultural Research Service research entomologist Elaine A. Backus is attaching thin, gold wires to the backs of glassy–winged sharpshooters. She's also wiring grapevines, growing in pots in her laboratory. The little leafhopping insects complete the circuit for the low–level current when they puncture the grapevines with their tube–like mouth parts, to suck the plants' sap. **Backus is analyzing the patterns of electrical waves, somewhat like electrocardiograms, that her instruments record as the sharpshooters feed. From these charts, Backus intends to piece together new clues about exactly when, how, and how quickly the *Xylella* microbes in the insect's gut get dislodged and shuttled into the vine. She also plans to use her electrical system to develop a method for easily pinpointing superior grapevines that are resistant to the insect and bacterium.**

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/030908.htm>

- 11. *September 08, Associated Press* — States to test for CWD. Biologists in 49 states will test hunter–killed deer and elk for chronic wasting disease (CWD) this fall.** The neurologic disease, which makes its victims grow thin and die, was found in deer in Wisconsin, Illinois, Utah, and New Mexico last fall. The Wisconsin outbreak prompted 19 states to undertake CWD testing for the first time. This year, only Hawaii, which has no deer, will forgo testing. Infection rates are the highest along the borderlands of Colorado and Wyoming, where scientists are pursuing research aimed at uncovering the basic secrets about the disease. **A team of researchers at the University of Wyoming is trying to develop a test to identify the prion protein thought to cause the disease.** The three–phase study, funded by a \$2.4 million Department of Defense grant, will try to confirm theories that infected deer and elk shed prions in saliva, urine, and feces. **The study also hopes to demonstrate how prions are taken up by other animals. "We think prions are probably present in the environment at extremely low levels," University of Wyoming veterinary pathologist Elizabeth Williams said. "They're not like bacteria or virus or fungus where you can grow them up and identify them. You have to look for individual molecules in dirt, soil, water and whatever."**

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?tl=1&display=rednews/2003/09/08/build/local/32-cwd.inc>

12. *September 07, Associated Press* — **Pumpkin growers at critical point.** The next week or two is likely to make a difference in whether Ohio produces plenty of pumpkins. This year's rainy summer weather has brought much disease to the crop, but it's expected to stay mostly dry for the next several days. ``We'll know better (about the crop) in another week or so," said Ohio State University plant pathologist Mac Riedel. **Riedel said Ohio pumpkins are being affected by a variety of rain-related fungal diseases, including powdery mildew, downy mildew and Microdochium blight. Ohio is one of the nation's top pumpkin producers with an average harvest of 3,600 acres a year.**

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/beaconjournal/news/local/6712766.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

13. *September 07, Newsday* — **Food firms question security plan.** The federal government's effort to improve security for the nation's food supply is drawing a broad attack from the food industry, which says it would be disruptive and costly. **Food manufacturers and importers have filed hundreds of protests seeking to scale back regulations proposed under the Bioterrorism Act of 2002 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) aimed at strengthening its ability to prevent and contain a foodborne terrorist attack.** Although deliberate food contamination has seldom occurred in the United States, experts say it could be done fairly easily with devastating economic consequences but likely few fatalities. The regulations also would apply to food contamination that is unrelated to terrorism and would give the FDA new powers. **Industry groups say the regulations would be the FDA's most expansive power increase and go beyond what Congress and the administration intended in the Bioterrorism Act.** "In some cases companies would be forced into changing the way they manufacture or process food," said Rick Jarman, vice president of regulatory and environmental policy for the National Food Processors Association, an industry trade group. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-usfood283444611sep07.0.673668.story?coll=ny-health-headlines>

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

14. *September 06, Associated Press* — **Water boards reach a deal.** After years of intense fights, the heads of four Southern California water agencies pledged Friday to state lawmakers that they're ready to implement what they call a historic Colorado River water-sharing deal. Top officials of four Southern California water agencies told members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee they're committed to a 75-year agreement that helps farmers conserve water, provides more water to cities, and launches an ambitious plan to restore the Salton Sea to health. Though the deal could still falter, as earlier versions have at the doorstep of agreement, participants told lawmakers that it's the

closest the agencies, with their histories of acrimony, have ever come to settling longtime water feuds. **The U.S. Interior Department cut the amount of water that California can draw from the river by 15 percent this year when the state failed to meet a December 31 deadline to reach an accord.** The deal also would ease concerns that Southern California would have to look to the north to meet its water needs. The heart of the pact involves the transfer to San Diego County of up to 65 million gallons a year from farmers in the Imperial Valley, the state's biggest user of river water.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/7402325p-8321694c.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

15. *September 08, Oakland Tribune* — **Health care system unprepared for bioterror.** About \$100 million in federal funds have flowed into California for training, communications upgrades, smallpox vaccinations, and lab readiness against a bioterror event or conventional terrorist attack. **While many improvements have been made, health workers said an overburdened public health system, a state fiscal crisis, and government bureaucracy could hamper their ability to react during a terrorist event.** "There's not a lot of excess resources in our health care system," said Dr. Kristi Koenig, director of emergency management for the Veteran's Health Administration. By excess resources, Koenig means hospital beds, physicians, nurses, lab technicians, pharmaceuticals, and key supplies such as ventilators and decontamination materials. Getting public health workers to report suspicious cases to local health departments also remains difficult. The attending physician must fill out a triplicate paper form and mail or fax it to the local health department. **The state's labs are looking at a possible 16 to 20 percent funding cut this fiscal year.** "Our general capacity to provide support for public health related illnesses is going to be severely impacted," said Dr. Mike Janda, chief of the state's microbial laboratory program. **Budget cuts are hurting some of the 39 local laboratories in the state, too.**

Source: <http://www.oaklandtribune.com/Stories/0.1413.82~1865~1618257.00.html>

16. *September 08, Associated Press* — **Singapore man tests positive for SARS. A man in Singapore has tested positive for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), health officials said Monday. It was the first reported new case of the disease in more than five months and came after health officials had warned the flu-like illness could return.** The man, a Singapore citizen, tested positive for SARS when he tried to enter Singapore General Hospital, Ministry of Health spokeswoman Bey Mui Leng said. Bey said testing would be repeated to make sure the man had SARS. The man was tested using a method approved by the World Health Organization. Singapore has been on alert against a possible second outbreak of SARS. **Officials are trying to track down anyone who might have come into contact with the man and will issue them quarantine orders, Bey said.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2003-09-08-singapore-sar s_x.htm

17. *September 08, Associated Press* — **La Crosse encephalitis cases. Two children in Virginia have been diagnosed with La Crosse encephalitis, a rare mosquito-borne disease similar to West Nile virus.** Unlike West Nile virus, which is more common in older people, La Crosse cases are seen predominantly in children under 16. The diseases share similar symptoms:

headaches, fever, neck stiffness, and confusion. But West Nile, in the elderly, spreads to the nervous system and bloodstream, making it potentially fatal. **Compared to West Nile, the fatality rate is far less. Fewer than one percent of those infected by La Crosse die from it.** In contrast, to date this year, 2,267 people nationwide have been diagnosed with the West Nile virus; 44 have died. Doug Larsen, health director for Central Shenandoah Health District, said one of the victims contracted the disease while in West Virginia. Since 1974, when the disease first began getting tracked, only about 3,000 cases, or 79 a year, have been reported nationwide. West Virginia has felt the brunt of it with about 435 cases. Sixteen cases have been documented in Virginia in that period. "We were relieved to know he contracted the disease from where La Crosse encephalitis is known to be," Larsen said. "We don't feel there's any risk in this area." Source: http://www.boston.com/yourlife/health/diseases/articles/2003/09/07/va_reports_la_crosse_encephalitis_cases/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

18. *September 08, Government Computer News* — **Homeland research agency gets its first director. David Bolka, a scientist, technology manager and Navy veteran, has been named to be the first director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA). Congress created HSARPA in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to function as the external research funding arm of the Homeland Security Department.** The House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee boosted the budget for the Science and Technology Directorate, which includes HSARPA, to \$900 million in preliminary action this summer, but the final budget has not been approved. He will report to Charles McQueary, undersecretary for science and technology at DHS. Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23441-1.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

19. *September 08, Local London* — **Mass evacuation plan for London. Government experts have drafted a proposal that would relocate Londoners to rest and reception areas in nearby counties in the event of the capital suffering from a chemical or biological terrorist attack.** Transport Secretary Alistair Darling confirmed the evacuation plan, following a report in the Sunday Times. Darling said the Government was looking at various scenarios, involving moving people out of London and areas around major airports. **The plans would involve Londoners being ferried out of the city to safe areas using special rail, tube, and road transport.** The confirmation of Government plans to evacuate London in response to a major terrorist attack comes after emergency services held a massive exercise in the center of the city, to test their response to such an incident. Source: http://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/topstories/display.v ar.410718.0.mass_evacuation_plan_for_london.php

20.

September 08, Associated Press — **Layoffs have weakened homeland security in Massachusetts.** Budget cuts have left Massachusetts' cities and towns with fewer tools to combat terrorism than they had when the September 11 attacks occurred nearly two years ago, according to city leaders testifying at a legislative hearing Monday. "Rather than being more prepared for terrorist acts, the city of Revere is less prepared," said Mayor Thomas Ambrosino, who has laid off 20 police officers and 13 firefighters over the past two years. "This causes me to be very concerned about our state of preparedness." At the opening of a three-day hearing on the state of anti-terrorism preparedness in Massachusetts, Senate leaders heard from U.S. Rep. Barney Frank and municipal leaders, with further testimony expected from leaders of the Massachusetts Port Authority and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. **"Two years later, it's a fair question to ask?" said state Sen. Jarrett Barrios, D-Cambridge. "Are we safer today than we were two years ago? It's hard to have homeland security without any hometown security." However, in a homeland security "report card" issued over the weekend, Republican Gov. Mitt Romney said that budget cuts haven't hurt cities' and towns' ability to respond to terrorist threats.**

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailynews/251/region/Layoffs_have_weakened_homeland:.shtml

21. *September 08, Newsday.com* — **New York's tight security has leaks.** Two years after 9/11, security in New York City has been tight enough that an Ohio truck driver was arrested for plotting to blow up the Brooklyn Bridge, yet loose enough that three young fishermen were able to wander around the tarmac at Kennedy Airport. A fingerprint match is required to enter Police Headquarters, yet two young men were mistakenly able to gain access to the New York Police Department's (NYPD) emergency operations nerve center. **Still, this much is certain: despite a few breaches, New York's police, the FBI, and Port Authority police seem better prepared today than they were a year ago to track terrorists, share intelligence information and respond to acts of terror.** "I think we're moving in the right direction," says James Kallstrom, the former head of the FBI's New York office and currently Gov. George Pataki's senior adviser for counterterrorism. "I think we understand the threat and we have a good understanding of the things we have to do." **On any given day, NYPD counterterrorism teams are out monitoring sensitive locations, such as Wall Street and the United Nations, while cops in the Aviation Unit are crisscrossing the city about a half-dozen times, flying past nearly 20 sensitive locations. The Port Authority, meanwhile, is embarking on the monumental task of fortifying its bridges, tunnels, airports and marine terminals.**

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-nysecu083445881sep08.0.2708890.story?coll=ny-li-vertical-headlines>

22. *September 08, Wave 3 (Louisville)* — **Louisville Metro closer to getting emergency radio equipment.** The \$8 million earmarked for emergency communications comes from bond revenue, and Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson said it is an important step towards putting the city in position to buy essential radio equipment. **Including the \$8 million raised from bond revenue, the city now has \$18 million saved up for the new radio system. The project will cost between \$50 and \$60 million, and Abramson says the city is asking the state and federal government to help with funding.** The mayor should hear back in the next couple weeks about a \$6 million grant from the Department of Justice. City officials are also trying to get a larger share of money from the federal Homeland Security allocated to state government. By next year, city officials hope to have a plan in place, and be online with

the new equipment a year after that.

Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=1433184&nav=0RZFHruu>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information and Telecommunications Sector

23. September 08, eSecurity Planet — Researcher: IE cumulative patch inadequate. Security research firm Secunia has recommended that users of Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser disable ActiveX controls and plugins to protect against a variant of the "Object Data" vulnerability. The warning comes just one week after Microsoft issued a cumulative patch for the IE browser that carried a 'critical' rating. However, **Secunia said Microsoft's cumulative patch was not adequate and warned that exploitation of the most serious security hole was already discovered in the wild.** "Analysis shows that the exploit installs a program called ADPlus module or SurferBar, which is added to a users Internet Explorer and contains links to various porn sites," the company cautioned. "The "Object Data" vulnerability is straightforward to exploit. In many ways, this vulnerability is similar to [a previous flaw] which was exploited by notorious viruses like Nimda, Badtrans and Klez," the company said. **The "Object Data" hole can be targeted via e-mail or specially-crafted Websites to allow execution of arbitrary code on the client system.** The flaw affects Microsoft IE versions 5.01, 5.5 and 6.0. Additional information is available on the Secunia Website:

<http://www.secunia.com/advisories/9580/>.

Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/article.php/3073791>

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_SOBIG.F 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), 80 (www), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 139 (netbios-ssn), 27374 (SubSeven), 12345 (NetBus), 4899 (radmin) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

24. *September 08, Middle East Online* — **Missile attack at Baghdad airport downs air travel hopes. Two missiles fired at a U.S. military transport plane Saturday provided a new reminder of the hazards plaguing air travel in post-war Iraq which have kept the country's two main airports shut to commercial traffic.** The two surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) were fired at a U.S. C-141 transport plane as it was taking off from Baghdad airport, but missed. The SAMs were launched just hours before U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld departed from the airport at the end of a three-day visit and his aide, Lawrence DiRita, said the missiles detonated before reaching the plane. U.S. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel George Krivo said the distance from where the missiles were fired and the height of the plane at that time meant the aircraft was never in danger. **Six international airlines -- Emirates, Gulf Air, Qatar Airways, Royal Jordanian, LOT Polish Airlines and Scandinavian airline SAS -- have been given the all-clear to operate out of Basra airport. But reopening the airport in the southern port town has faced constant delays due to continued security risks.**

Source: <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=6945>

[[Return to top](#)]

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:

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