



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 September 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Toronto Star reports two Bank of Montreal computers containing customer files narrowly escaped being sold on eBay late last week. (See item [4](#))
- Federal Computer Week reports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to spend \$100 million to develop technologies that would protect commercial jetliners against shoulder-fired missiles. (See item [5](#))
- The New York Times reports the East Coast girded for the worst as Hurricane Isabel, its maximum sustained winds easing slightly to a still-powerful 120 miles per hour, churned up the Atlantic. (See item [15](#))
- Internet Security Systems has raised AlertCon to Level 2 citing a need for increased alertness.

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 15, Nuclear News Flashes* — U.S., South Korea to conduct research on proliferation resistant. The U.S. and South Korea will conduct joint research and development on advanced proliferation-resistant fuel cycle technologies under a bilateral agreement signed September 15 by U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham and

Republic of Korea Science & Technology Minister Park Ho-Koon. "Under this agreement, both countries will cooperate on development of these advanced technologies that enhance our energy security and are safer, less waste intensive, and more proliferation resistant," Abraham said. **The Department of Energy (DOE) said the agreement paves the way for the two countries to work together on key aspects of DOE's Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative.**

"Under this initiative, the department is working with select international partners to develop proliferation-resistant technologies that can provide for a better, safer, more sustainable energy future," DOE said September 15. "With this new agreement, the two nations will engage in joint projects and experiments in both countries, including fuels and materials irradiations in the U.S."

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear1.html>

2. *September 15, Nuclear News Flashes* — **Prairie Island-2 sets record for continuous operation. Prairie Island-2 set a station record of 559 consecutive days of operation before being taken off line to begin a refueling outage September 12.** Operator Nuclear Management Co. (NMC) said plant workers and 600 contractors are scheduled to perform 1,600 maintenance jobs and replace one-third of the fuel in the core. NMC said the maintenance activities include an inspection of the unit's reactor vessel head and bottom. The two-unit Prairie Island station is owned by Xcel Energy.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear2.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

3. *September 16, Reuters* — **Fed holds rates steady. Federal Reserve officials opted on Tuesday to keep U.S. interest rates at 45-year lows and said official borrowing costs could remain low for "a considerable period."** The central bank's policy setting Federal Open Market Committee said it had left the benchmark federal funds rate at 1 percent, a 1958 low hit after the Fed cut rates 13 times since early 2001 in an effort to foster a vigorous expansion. **In announcing their decision, policy-makers repeated a warning they first issued in May over what they termed a small risk that inflation could move undesirably low.** "The Committee judges that on balance the risk of inflation becoming undesirably low remains the predominant concern for the foreseeable future. In these circumstances, the Committee believes that policy accommodation can be maintained for a considerable period," the Fed said in its post-meeting announcement. **The decision was widely expected by financial markets and**

the dollar slipped briefly after the announcement but then regained its earlier level. Stocks were little changed and bond prices were firmer.

Source: <http://reuters.com/financeNewsArticle.jhtml?type=businessNews&storyID=3454875>

4. *September 15, Toronto Star* — **Error sends bank files to eBay. Two Bank of Montreal computers containing customer files narrowly escaped being sold on eBay.com late last week. Information in one of the computers included the names, addresses, and phone numbers of several hundred bank clients, along with their bank account information, including account type and number, balances and, in some cases, balances on lines of credit, credit cards, and insurance.** Many of the files were dated as recently as late 2002, while some went back to 2000. In the wrong hands, the data could be used to steal someone else's identity for the purposes of fraud. The bank swiftly seized the computers' hard drives on Saturday afternoon within 24 hours of learning their whereabouts. A student purchased the computers last week from Ecosys Canada Inc., a computer asset-management firm. Ellis buys, fixes up and then resells used computer equipment on eBay.com. He had posted the two machines on the popular online auction site for six hours before he noticed, after turning one of them on, that it contained an operating system that let him access file folders from the bank without needing a password. He removed the items from the Web site.

Source: http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1063577414565&call_pageid=968332188492&col=968793972154

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Transportation Sector

5. *September 16, Federal Computer Week* — **DHS to spend \$100M on air defense. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to spend \$100 million to develop technologies that would protect commercial jetliners against shoulder-fired missiles, DHS officials disclosed today.** The department announced an aggressive two-year plan to tap existing military technologies and adapt them for commercial use. DHS officials plan to hold a briefing for contractors the week of October 6 to outline the kinds of systems they are looking for to provide protection against man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS). **The move comes as military experts continue to express grave concerns about the potential for surface-to-air missiles shooting down passenger jets. Evidence is mounting that terrorist groups might use such weapons against U.S. airlines.** The DHS budget for fiscal 2004 moving through Congress includes money to study the feasibility of equipping passenger jets with anti-missile shields, a proposal that developed from concerns that terrorists could target an aircraft with a shoulder-held weapon.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0915/web-dhs-09-16-03.a.sp>

6. *September 16, Associated Press* — **Airlines ease reservation policies as hurricane nears. Travelers scheduled to fly to and from parts of the East Coast later this week will be allowed to alter their plans without penalties as several airlines eased reservation policies ahead of Hurricane Isabel. By Tuesday afternoon, no carriers had announced flight cancellations. Forecasters said Isabel appeared to be on a course to hit Thursday on the North Carolina coast and move northward through eastern Virginia.** American Airlines

said customers flying in and out of six states, as well as the nation's capital, through September 23 will be allowed to change the date or time of their flights at no extra charge. The states covered are Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Virginia. US Airways announced a similar policy change for customers who will be traveling to and from North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland and Virginia. The Arlington, Virginia–based carrier's waiver applies to travel scheduled through Friday. JetBlue Airways, meanwhile, said customers scheduled to fly before Friday will be allowed to change their itinerary with no fee or fare increase, as long as they fly by the end of Saturday. Beyond that, the change fee will be waived, but any fare increase will apply.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/09/16/hurricane.travel.ap/ind_ex.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

- 7. *September 16, Associated Press* — Caterpillars tied to MRLS. Foal loss in pregnant mares, already linked to the eastern tent caterpillar, also is related to the presence of a type of bacteria, new research shows.** The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture last week released the results of an experiment involving pregnant pigs. It found the presence of hairlike parts of caterpillars in digestive tracts of pregnant pigs coincided with the presence of streptococcus bacteria found in aborted fetuses. In the experiment, five pigs were fed meals mixed with caterpillars. Two of the five aborted their entire litters. Numerous streptococcus bacteria were found in the fetuses, aborted or not, of all five pigs. All the pigs were found to have the caterpillars' hairlike parts in their digestive tracts. Researchers aren't sure if the hairs contributed to the bacteria or to the abortions. A 2001 outbreak of mare loss reproductive syndrome (MRLS) heavily damaged Kentucky's horse industry.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/mld/heraldleader/sports/6782140.htm>

- 8. *September 16, Associated Press* — Domestic elk making comeback. Five years after chronic wasting disease (CWD) turned up in farm–raised elk in South Dakota, the outlook is better for elk herds in the state. But farmers still are waiting for a rebound in prices.** It has been about a year since any domestic elk have been destroyed due to CWD, said Sam Holland, the state veterinarian. "That gives us a degree of comfort," Holland said. CWD is an incurable disease that causes elk, deer, moose, and caribou to grow thin and die. To keep the disease from spreading, entire elk herds on South Dakota farms were killed and the carcasses destroyed after CWD was diagnosed. Holland said the number of farm–raised elk has remained steady at 3,000, the same as before CWD was found in South Dakota. Yet despite efforts to eliminate the disease and provide assurance that South Dakota herds don't have it, elk farmers are having a tough go of it, said Holland. **Part of the problem is that other states have been slow to enact CWD control programs similar to ones in South Dakota, said Holland. Along with mandatory surveillance and mandatory elimination of herds where CWD has been**

diagnosed, the state also places tough restrictions on bringing captive elk into the state.

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/6786077.htm>

9. *September 16, Crop Decisions* — Assessment concludes antibiotics safe. Findings from a risk assessment of two antibiotic compounds, tylosin and tilmicosin, have determined that their use in U.S. food animal production is safe. According to the assessment, the probability of someone in the U.S. experiencing treatment failure due to the acquisition of resistant food-borne bacteria from eating meat or poultry from animals that have been treated with either tylosin or tilmicosin is very low: less than one case in 10 million for resistant *Campylobacter* and less than one case in 3 billion per year for resistant *Enterococcus faecium*. The experts reviewed the uses of these antibiotics in food animal production in the U.S., analyzed the potential risk for a person to either acquire resistant *Campylobacter*, a food-borne bacterium, or resistant *E. faecium*. Then, they determined the potential for ineffective human antibiotic treatment as a result. **"Tylosin and tilmicosin are beneficial in keeping animals healthy and provide us with a safer food supply as a result,"** said Stephanie Doores, a food safety expert at Pennsylvania State University. "People would be more likely to die from a bee sting than for their antibiotic treatment to fail because of macrolide-resistant bacteria in meat or poultry."

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=21299

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Food Sector

10. *September 16, Newhouse News Service* — Testing seafood. European countries seized tons of farmed salmon from Chile contaminated with malachite green, a dye suspected of causing cancer. But the U.S. imports thousands of tons of salmon from Chile without testing for malachite green and other chemicals used at foreign fish farms. Canadian inspectors found malachite green in smoked salmon they believe was first imported to the U.S. **Seafood imports have nearly doubled in the past 20 years, and more than 75 percent of seafood eaten in the U.S. is imported. The number of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors assigned to screen the nearly 10 billion pounds of imported and domestic fish each year, fewer than 200, has not kept pace.** The FDA does not test salmon for oxytetracycline, an antibiotic, although Japan recently seized Chilean salmon with excessively high levels of it. And it conducts no testing for ivermectin, a pesticide designed for terrestrial livestock but detected in 2001 in salmon farmed in the United Kingdom. **Marine farms use antibiotics, fungicides, and other drugs. The FDA has identified more than 30 drugs used in foreign aquaculture. Federal law bars seafood containing the drugs from entering the country. But the FDA tests for only five of them, some in only certain products.**

Source: <http://www.newhousenews.com/archive/milstein091603.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

11. *September 16, Rocky Mountain News* — **Mock illness puts doctors to test.** Hundreds of patients poured into hospital emergency rooms and physicians' offices across Colorado Monday, complaining of fever, chills, and other flulike symptoms rarely seen in September. That was the first day of a weeklong federally funded bioterrorism drill that will be played out entirely through e-mail messages, faxes, and phone calls. **The drill, called a virtual tabletop exercise, will involve more than 400 people in all 64 Colorado counties.** County health officials, hospital workers, private physicians, paramedics, emergency response agencies, law enforcement officers, veterinarians, and coroners' offices will participate. **Two major goals are to test county emergency response plans and recent upgrades to the statewide Health Alert Network. The network enables state health officials to quickly contact about 8,000 agencies and individuals in Colorado by fax, e-mail, and restricted Web sites.** Participants knew the starting date but not the scenario. They will receive a series of e-mail messages throughout the week describing a bioterrorism event that infects thousands of Coloradans statewide. The exercise ends Friday. **Colorado health officials and the contractor will evaluate each county's performance in a follow-up report.**

Source: http://rockymountainnews.com/drmn/state/article/0,1299,DRMN_21_2263126,00.html

12. *September 16, United Press International* — **SARS scare averted in Hong Kong. Health officials said Tuesday a 34-year-old woman at the center of a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) alert in Hong Kong is not infected with the disease, ChannelNewsAsia reported.** Lam Ping-yam, Director of Health in Hong Kong's Health Department, said officials had confirmed the woman did not have SARS after repeated tests. Earlier, the female patient was admitted to the Princess Margaret Hospital in an isolation ward for observation, tests and treatment, after doctors said they did not rule out the possibility of SARS. The woman has no travel history and her daughter and parents, whom she visited recently, are in good health and show no symptoms of the pneumonia-like illness.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20030916-102103-3913 r.htm>

13. *September 16, Associated Press* — **Newly-found virus blamed for common colds. Something called the metapneumovirus, discovered just two years ago, is turning out to be an exceedingly common cause of human illness, responsible for colds in adults and more severe coughing, wheezing and congestion in children. Researchers are beginning to piece together the scope of this virus, which now appears to afflict just about everybody, probably over and over.** Even though the virus seems to be rarely serious, its vast presence intrigues microbiologists. Experts say the metapneumovirus is almost certainly not a new bug but something that has been around for eons. Although new microbes, such as the ones that cause AIDS and SARS, are occasionally recognized, it is unusual to discover a virus as omnipresent as this. "Thousands of hospitalizations occur every year due to this virus in infants," said James Crowe of Vanderbilt University. **Crowe's team looked at nasal specimens taken from 2,000 children after they were treated for lower respiratory infections since 1976. The newly discovered virus turned out to cause about 12 percent of these severe illnesses. They also caused 15 percent of common colds in children, including**

one-third of the colds complicated by middle-ear infections.

Source: http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/breaking_news/67_85984.htm

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Government Sector

14. *September 16, Department of Homeland Security* — **New Terrorist Screening Center established.** Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, Secretary of State Colin Powell, FBI Director Robert Mueller and Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet today announced the **establishment of the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) to consolidate terrorist watchlists and provide 24/7 operational support for thousands of federal screeners across the country and around the world.** The Center will ensure that government investigators, screeners and agents are working off the same unified, comprehensive set of anti-terrorist information – and that they have access to information and expertise that will allow them to act quickly when a suspected terrorist is screened or stopped. **"The creation of the TSC is one of several new critical initiatives taken by this Administration to increase the sharing of information at all levels of government. The Department's new Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IA/IP) unit allows DHS to analyze information and take specific action to protect critical infrastructure,"** said Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/09/20030916-8.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

15. *September 16, New York Times* — **As Hurricane Isabel bears down, disaster plans are put into effect.** The East Coast girded for the worst today as Hurricane Isabel, its maximum sustained winds easing slightly to a still-powerful 120 miles per hour, churned up the Atlantic. Forecasters said that if the storm stayed on track, it would slam into the fragile Outer Banks of North Carolina in three days and grind on up Chesapeake Bay. **As emergency-management officials from South Carolina to Massachusetts activated disaster plans, the Navy ordered 40 warships and submarines in Norfolk to put to sea, the Air Force ordered fighter jets at coastal bases to fly inland as far as Oklahoma and the governor of Virginia declared a state of emergency.** For longtime residents of coastal communities, who know to monitor weather reports and Web sites come September, preparations for Isabel were already well under way over the weekend, **a result of a new government effort to provide five-day forecasts of hurricane movements. Federal officials said their five-day hurricane forecasts were now just as reliable as a three-day forecast was 15 years ago.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/16/national/16STOR.html>

16. *September 16, NEPA News (PA)* — **FEMA moving resources to meet hurricane threat.** Emergency medical teams, search and rescue squads and disaster materials ranging from bottled water to blankets to medicine are being positioned in areas threatened by Hurricane Isabel – with fresh reminders that many hurricane deaths occur inland. **Edison, NJ, Ford**

Bragg, NC, and Fort A.P. Hill, VA, are staging points for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as it awaits arrival of the storm. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge warned the public to take no comfort in any downgrading of Hurricane Isabel to a lower category. "This storm packs a wallop," Ridge told a teleconference of state and local emergency managers at the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday. While traditional storm warnings have concentrated on coastal communities, in recent years the largest number of hurricane fatalities have occurred inland. Eric Tolbert, FEMA's director of emergency response, told the meeting that inland flooding is now the major cause of death in hurricanes, often occurring when "people make a conscious decision to drive into water." The National Weather Service's forecast track for Hurricane Isabel had it making landfall near Cape Hatteras, NC, and traveling northwest into Virginia Thursday and Friday.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=10173590&BRD=2212&PAG=461&dept_id=465812&rfi=6

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

Nothing to report.

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html ; Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 139 (netbios-ssn), 27374 (SubSeven), 4444 (CrackDown), 21 (ftp) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

17. *September 16, Reuters* — **Weakened Isabel heads for East Coast. Hurricane Isabel weakened on Tuesday but tens of thousands of people on the North Carolina coast were urged to evacuate as the storm threatened a large swath of the heavily populated U.S.**

eastern seaboard. The hurricane was still hundreds of miles out in the Atlantic Ocean but moving steadily on a path that would bring its center ashore on Thursday on North Carolina's fragile Outer Banks island chain, then north through Virginia and close to Washington. By 5 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, Isabel's top winds were 105 mph. It had weakened from a Category 3 to a Category 2 storm on the Saffir–Simpson scale of 1 to 5 that measures hurricanes' destructive power, the National Hurricane Center said. **The U.S. Census Bureau said nearly 50 million people could be affected by Isabel's large reach as hurricane–force winds extended up to 160 miles from its center.**

Source: http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&story_ID=3456241

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

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

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

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

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