



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 April 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Reuters reports an explosion and fire rocked a BP oil refinery in Texas, the third-largest in the United States, driving gasoline prices to an all-time high and unnerving currency markets worried about security threats. (See item [2](#))
- The New York Times reports freight congestion has spread across the Union Pacific railroad system, especially in Southern California and the Southwest, raising concerns about delays in agricultural shipments and international trade. (See item [13](#))
- USA Today reports a new USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll indicates that most Americans have not followed the government's advice to prepare for possible terrorism by stocking food and water, making a plan to contact family members, and identifying a "safe room" in their homes. (See item [25](#))
- SearchSecurity.com reports Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, associated with power plants and other mission-critical networks, need stronger protection. (See item [31](#))

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. *March 31, Las Vegas Review Journal* — **DOE looks at trucking nuclear waste to repository. Unsure whether they can get a railroad built in time, Department of Energy (DOE) officials are preparing a backup plan that would ship radioactive spent fuel by truck through rural Nevada for the initial years of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.** "It's possible that we won't have a rail line when we are ready to ship, and so we have to have a contingency," DOE spokesperson Allen Benson said. Shielded nuclear waste casks that are sized to be carried by trucks would be placed onto rail cars at nuclear reactors and shipped to a Nevada transfer station. There, the casks would be rolled onto specially designed tractor-trailers and hauled to the repository. **The contingency assumes nuclear waste would be shipped to the repository by truck for the first six years of repository operations, which DOE says will begin in 2010.** After six years, it assumes a railroad would be up and running to the site 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. DOE is expected soon to formalize a 319-mile corridor from Caliente to the repository as its preferred rail route. The possible route for truck shipments generally tracks the proposed rail line.
Source: http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2004/Mar-31-Wed-2004/news/23556764.html
2. *March 31, Reuters* — **Fire strikes third largest U.S. refinery. An explosion and fire rocked a BP oil refinery in Texas, the third-largest in the United States, on Tuesday, March 30, driving gasoline prices to an all-time high and unnerving currency markets worried about security threats.** BP said there was no sign of "any outside influence" in the blast and fire, which came days after the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation warned Texas oil refiners of possible terror attacks ahead of elections in November. **The cause of the fire, which began with an explosion in the gasoline-producing unit at the 447,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) refinery in Texas City, TX, was not known, but it did not appear to have been started intentionally, BP said.** "We have no indication of any outside influence on the incident," said company spokesperson Annie Smith. Some traders said security fears prompted by the explosion might have triggered the latest dollar fall and helped boost the Swiss franc, traditionally seen as a safe haven. U.S. unleaded gasoline futures hit an all-time high on Wednesday, March 31, after the fire, which also revived worries of a motor fuel supply crunch in the peak demand summer months.
Source: <http://news.myway.com/top/article/id/394528|top|03-31-2004:: 05:07|reuters.html>
3. *March 31, Reuters* — **Consortium seeks nuclear plant license. A consortium of seven companies, including the two largest U.S. operators of nuclear plants, on Wednesday, March 31, said it plans to apply for a license that would allow it to build the first new U.S. nuclear power plant in over 25 years.** The consortium intends to work with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to test a new process from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for obtaining a license for an advanced nuclear power reactor. **There is no plan at this time to actually build a new nuclear reactor, the consortium emphasized in a statement.** No company has followed through with plans to build a new nuclear plant since the worst nuclear accident in the nation's history at the Three Mile Island plant 25 years ago. However, due to a growing shortage of natural gas in the United States and concerns over emissions from older coal-fired plants, utilities are looking at the nuclear option again. The consortium plans to complete its application and submit it in 2008. The NRC is expected to make a decision on the application by late 2010, after which any of the consortium's members could build a plant under the license.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A39682-2004Mar 31.html>

4. *March 31, Bloomberg* — **OPEC to cut production as gasoline rises to record. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to reduce oil production quotas starting Thursday, April 1, by 4.1 percent, threatening to send U.S. gasoline prices higher and hurt world economic growth. OPEC ministers in Vienna said OPEC agreed to move ahead with the February 10 decision to lower quotas by one million barrels to 23.5 million barrels a day.** OPEC targets oil at \$22 to \$28 a barrel, and its benchmark has been above that range since December 1 as members sought to compensate for a falling U.S. dollar. OPEC officials defended their decision, saying the economy can absorb higher energy costs. "The high price is not damaging for the economy," said the United Arab Emirates minister, Obaid Bin Saif al-Nasseri. "If you look at growth in 2003 it was higher than 2002, but the oil price was higher." Demand for crude oil is rising, led by consumption in the U.S. and China. Oil use this year should increase 1.65 million barrels, or 2.1 percent, to 80.2 million barrels a day, the International Energy Agency forecasts. It would be the biggest gain in seven years.
Source: <http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=axEmQ7 IIVfy0&refer=us>

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

Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *March 28, Aviation Week & Space Technology* — **Congress may ease export controls on ballistic missile defense equipment.** After two years of little progress, the Pentagon is about to get some legislative help in its effort to invigorate multinational cooperation on missile defense. While administration officials are touting recent commitments by Japan and Australia to cooperate on ballistic missile defense, real progress has been slow, in large part due to obstacles on technology sharing. However, that's not the only missile defense issue the Pentagon is wrestling with. **To break the technology-transfer logjam, Senator Wayne Allard, a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, wants to introduce legislation "that sets policy goal for expediting the approval process for transfers of [ballistic missile defense] items between the U.S. and coalition security partners."** The new legislative provision, which is still being crafted, "calls for a fast-track approval process for missile defense items to be in place this year." Greater international efforts are key to building a more effective missile shield, argues USAF Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Kadish, director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), noting that "geography counts" when it comes to trying to intercept hostile missiles.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_awst_story.jsp?id=news/03294wna.xml

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

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *March 31, New York Times* — **New York jeweler pleads guilty to handling money for missiles.** A 76-year-old New York jeweler pleaded guilty on Tuesday, March 30, to operating an illegal money-transferring business in what prosecutors said was a scheme to provide terrorists with shoulder-fired missiles that could bring down commercial aircraft. Prosecutors conceded that he did not know what the transaction involved. **The jeweler, Yehuda Abraham, admitted in Federal District Court that his business handled a \$30,000 down payment in the sale of the 40-pound, Russian-made Igla-S portable missile.** Abraham acknowledged receiving a \$600 fee to transfer the \$30,000 down payment for the transaction, but denied knowing what it was for. He described a prearranged code in which the courier gave him the serial number of a dollar bill to make himself known. The case involves a sting operation last August that led to the arrest of a British citizen, Hemant Lakhani. Lakhani is charged with arranging for the sale of Russian-made missiles and the makings for a "dirty bomb" to an undercover operative who posed as a representative of a Somali terrorist cell. He was arrested in a hotel near Newark Liberty International Airport as the deal was being closed.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/31/nyregion/31plea.html>

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

Transportation Sector

7. *March 31, Department of Transportation* — **FMCSA requires minimum safety performance history for hiring commercial truck and bus drivers.** The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) today, March 31, announced a final rule to help motor carriers hire truck and bus drivers with the best possible safety records. The rule requires employers to review candidates, professional driving safety records and former employers to make that information available to prospective employers. This final rule enables prospective employers to obtain and use more complete driver safety performance information. By using this information, employers will be able to better assess the potential safety risks of prospective new driver-employees. **Prospective employers are required to advise driver applicants that they have the right to review, request correction, or refute what a previous employer provided in the driver's safety history. The rule also limits the liability of those required to provide and use driver safety performance information.**

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fmcsa504.htm>

8. *March 31, Department of Transportation* — **Transportation Secretary Mineta debuts air travel cost index.** Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta today released the new Air Travel Price Index (ATPI), showing the overall cost of airline tickets has declined over the past three years. The initial results of the index, an experimental measure being developed by the Department's Bureau of Transportation Statistics, show that ticket prices have declined by 3.2 percent from the third quarter of 2000 to the third quarter of 2003. **"The new index is another tool for tracking the health of our vital airline industry and confirms yet again that flying is more affordable today than it has been in years,"** Secretary Mineta said. **"A reliable,**

safe and affordable air transportation system is essential to keeping the American economy moving.” The new quarterly research index measures the aggregate change of ticket purchase prices. The index uses the first quarter of 1995 as the reference point — expressed as the number 100 — against which all subsequent quarterly prices are measured. Additional information about the ATPI may be found at <http://www.bts.gov>
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot4304.htm>

9. *March 31, Post–Gazette (Pittsburgh, PA)* — **Lawmakers take another look at railway safety. Riding a new wave of concern that originated in Europe with the bombing of a Madrid commuter train, a group of state legislators is reintroducing a package of laws to bolster railroad safety in Pennsylvania.** The proposed laws are being touted by Rep. Rick Geist, the Blair County Republican who chairs the House Transportation Committee, as anti–terror measures necessary to keep railway workers and passengers safe and reassure the communities through which the trains pass regularly. The measures are similar to two existing bills that, a year after their introduction, appear to be stalled. One is House Bill 173, which would appropriate \$5 million to expand the emergency system that monitors railroad crossings. The other is House Bill 1117, which toughens penalties for people trespassing on railroad property. **The bills also would create a Pennsylvania Railroad Authority, which would assist short–line and small passenger rail companies in acquiring improvement bonds and leasing locomotives.**

Source: <http://www.post–gazette.com/pg/04091/293986.stm>

10. *March 31, Washington Post* — **Airports' security level lowered. Washington's three major airports, along with a select handful of others, stepped down from "elevated yellow" alert yesterday, ending more than three months of intense security procedures put in place in December over concerns about a possible terrorist attack during the holidays.** The Department of Homeland Security elevated the nation's alert level to code orange on December 21, amid concerns that international flights bound for the United States and large public events over the holidays would be targeted by terrorists. **The department lowered the alert level to code yellow on January 9. But eight airports, including Washington's three major hubs and other unspecified facilities, were kept on an elevated alert, which many airports came to call elevated yellow.** Brian Roehrkasse, a Homeland Security spokesperson, said yesterday that the agency decided to lower the alert level for the airports because of a decline in credible threats to the aviation system.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/articles/A37344–2004Mar 30.html>

11. *March 31, Associated Press* — **North Station to be closed throughout convention, I–93 during rush hour.** North Station will be closed for the duration of the Democratic National Convention in July and Interstate 93 will be closed during the evening rush hour during the four–day presidential nominating event, a source close to the convention planning told The Associated Press. **The commuter station and the interstate, which was recently buried beneath the city as part of the Big Dig, are two of the city's major transportation hubs. Both are located close to the FleetCenter, where the convention will be held.** The closure raises the possibility of major disruptions for local citizens during the Democratic event. About 25,000 rail commuters use North Station daily, while up to 200,000 motorists use the new I–93 tunnel.

Source: <http://www.boston.com/news/politics/primaries/massachusetts/>

[articles/2004/03/30/north_station_to_be_closed_throughout_convention_in_93_during_rush_hour/](http://www.gao.gov/articles/2004/03/30/north_station_to_be_closed_throughout_convention_in_93_during_rush_hour/)

12. *March 31, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-557T: Homeland Security: Summary of Challenges Faced in Targeting Ocean Going Cargo Containers for Inspection.** After the attacks of September 11, 2001, concerns intensified that terrorists would attempt to smuggle a weapon of mass destruction into the United States. Addressing the potential threat posed by the movement of oceangoing cargo containers falls to the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Since CBP cannot inspect all arriving cargo containers, it uses a targeting strategy, including an Automated Targeting System. This system targets containers for inspection based on perceived level of risk. In this testimony, GAO summarizes its work on (1) whether the development of CBP's targeting strategy is consistent with recognized key risk management and modeling practices and (2) how well the strategy has been implemented at selected seaports. **GAO recommends that CBP incorporate all the key elements of a risk management framework and recognized modeling practices in its targeting strategy and the Automated Targeting System. GAO also recommends, among other things, that CBP improve management controls to better implement the targeting strategy at seaports.** Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04557thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-557T>

13. *March 31, New York Times* — **Freight congestion prompts worries of shipment delays.** Freight congestion has spread across the Union Pacific railroad system, especially in Southern California and the Southwest, raising concerns about delays in agricultural shipments and international trade if a solution is not found before the rail freight rush begins in late summer and fall. **In Southern California, some railroad people are calling the situation a small-scale meltdown -- similar to, though not yet as bad, as the one that spread from Houston across the Union Pacific system in 1996. Dozens of trains daily are parked on sidings because they cannot get into or out of the Los Angeles Basin.** So far, the slowdown has not affected international trade through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to railroad officials and analysts, but the analysts are keeping a wary eye on the situation. The severity of the problem can be traced partly to Union Pacific's effort to provide premium service to one of the largest U.S. carriers by rail, United Parcel Service (UPS). UPS has begun a new coast-to-coast premium service that requires high-speed train shipment to Dallas, Atlanta and New York.
Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/business/8318682.htm>

14. *March 30, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-592T: Aviation Security: Improvement Still Needed in Federal Aviation Security Efforts (Testimony).** The security of the nation's commercial aviation system has been a long-standing concern. Following the events of September 11, 2001, Congress enacted numerous aviation security improvements designed to strengthen aviation security, including the development of a passenger prescreening system and the federalization of airport screeners. Despite these changes, challenges continue to face the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) efforts to improve aviation security. **GAO was asked to summarize the results of previous and ongoing aviation security work. These include: (1) the development of CAPPS II to assist in identifying high-risk passengers, (2) the management of passenger and baggage screening programs, (3) the operations of the Federal Air Marshal Service,**

and (4) other aviations security related efforts, such as cargo, that remain a concern. In prior reports and testimonies, listed at the end of this statement, GAO has made recommendations to improve aviation security and to strengthen various security efforts underway. GAO also has several ongoing reviews assessing certain issues addressed in this testimony that will be published under separate reports at a later date. Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04592thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-592T>

15. *March 30, Daily News Bulletin (Moscow)* — Russian company may build railroads in Iran.

The Russian Railroads company (RR) may participate in the construction of railroads in Iran, in particular in railroad links to Iranian seaports on the Caspian coast, said an official in the RR company's public relations department. Senior RR officials headed by company president Gennady Fadeyev will pay a working visit to Iran for meetings with that country's government officials, businessmen and managers of Iranian Railroads, the official said. "We regard cooperation with Iran as a strategic field of our operation that may bring significant dividends to our company in the near future," Fadeyev told Interfax. **The expansion of the Iranian railroad network and its infrastructure will significantly change the existing system of oil and oil product transportation in the Middle East by utilizing railroads, he said.**

Source: http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=49201916&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Regulations&

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Agriculture Sector

16. *March 31, Indianapolis Star* — Plant quarantine. Indiana officials on Tuesday, March 30, imposed an emergency quarantine on 30 plant species from California, saying they hope to spare the state's oak trees from sudden oak death, a disease caused by a funguslike pathogen that the plants might carry. Tens of thousands of California oak trees have been killed by the pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, which appeared in the mid-1990s. It recently was discovered in nursery stock there, prompting several states to impose similar quarantines. Indiana nurseries that already have California plants in stock must quarantine them until they are inspected by the Department of Natural Resources, State Entomologist Robert D. Waltz said. No new plants may be brought in unless California officials have certified that the supplying nursery is free of the pathogen.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/articles/9/133962-6319-092.html>

17. *March 31, AgProfessional.com* — Biodiversity treaty. Twelve European countries and the European Community have ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, triggering the 90-day countdown to the Treaty's entry into force, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). **The latest ratifications bring**

to 48 the number of countries worldwide that have ratified the agreement, which will therefore enter into force on June 29, 2004. The Treaty will ensure that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which are vital for human survival, are conserved and sustainably used and that benefits from their use are equitably and fairly distributed.

"This is a legally binding treaty that will be crucial for the sustainability of agriculture," said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. "The treaty is an important contribution to the achievement of the World Food Summit's major objective of halving the number of hungry people by 2015." The system also provides for the obligatory sharing of monetary benefits arising from utilization, including from commercialization, of new varieties by the private sector.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24324

- 18. *March 31, USAgNet* — New Zealand suspends U.S. lab's accreditation. A United States laboratory testing seed imported to New Zealand has had its accreditation suspended. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry says Biogenetic Services Ltd failed an audit, which identified a number of issues that have to be resolved.** The firm was one of three international laboratories accredited by MAF to perform GM testing on corn seed. As a precaution, MAF's Quarantine service has been told to detain all consignments of seed tested by Biogenetic Services at the border. **The laboratory has provided test certificates for about 40 percent of corn consignments from the U.S. since January last year.**

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=347&yr=2004>

- 19. *March 31, USAgNet* — Hormones in veal calves. MeatNews has obtained information about the discovery of hormones in veal calves. According to Allison Wenter, a spokesperson at the American Veal Association (AVA), the hormone in question is approved for use in adult cattle but not for veal calves.** In many cases, a drug approved for a certain class of animal is not approved for a second class of animals even though the two classes are similar. The main reason is because the market does not economically justify the additional research required for the second approval of the drug for the second class. Wenter emphasized that AVA does not condone the use of illegal drugs in calves. She could not put a figure on the number of veal calves that are treated with hormones approved for adult beef cattle.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=349&yr=2004>

- 20. *March 30, Associated Press* — Scientists pinpoint genes that help wheat adapt. Researchers have identified the genes that give wheat the ability to cross climates, a discovery that could aid efforts to make the world's most popular grain more productive, faster to mature, and able to survive more extreme conditions.** A team of researchers at the University of California-Davis, has isolated and cloned the second of two genes that control vernalization, the plant's ability to flower only after exposure to a cold winter. That ability has allowed the plant to grow some in the fall but wait until after winter before flowering. By finding the gene that activates the flowering and the gene that essentially puts a brake on the process, researchers developed a clearer picture of how wheat was able to cross from areas with long, cold winters to temperate regions. "This will make us better breeders," said Jorge Dubcovsky, the head researcher. "We can now test if these mutations work better in different regions of the world." **This discovery also opened the door to manipulation of the process of vernalization, which could generate new, commercially significant varieties of wheat with**

shorter growing periods, earlier flowering, or no flowering at all, said Dubcovsky.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2004-03-30-adaptive-wheat-gene_x.htm

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

21. *March 31, just-food.com* — **EU eases restrictions on poultry imports from Canada and U.S. The European Union's (EU) Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health has approved European Commission proposals to limit the suspension of imports of live poultry, poultry meat and products, and eggs from the U.S. and Canada to the areas where the outbreaks of avian influenza occurred and a large surrounding buffer zone.** Import restrictions for the whole of the U.S. and Canada were imposed after the confirmation of high pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in the two countries. However, the Commission said the current disease situation and available information now allow a reduction of the protective measures to a confined area. For the U.S., the import restrictions are now limited to the State of Texas and for Canada to a part of the province of British Columbia.
Source: http://www.just-food.com/news_detail.asp?art=57140

22. *March 30, Government Executive Magazine* — **Food safety advocates recommend overhauling inspection system.** In a recent memo to Rep. Jo Ann Davis, R-VA, chair of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, former Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said the food safety inspection system is poorly suited to modern threats and that significant consolidation of regulatory and enforcement functions is needed. More than 30 laws administered by 12 agencies operating under 50 interagency agreements govern food safety, according to the General Accounting Office (GAO). **"While the food supply is generally safe, each year tens of millions of Americans become ill and thousands die from eating unsafe food,"** said Lawrence Dyckman, a senior auditor at GAO, who also testified at the hearing. The federal government spends about \$1.3 billion annually on programs aimed at ensuring the safety of domestic and imported foods, and Dyckman estimates the costs associated with food-borne illness are about \$7 billion. **GAO auditors recommend that Congress overhaul existing food safety legislation to establish priorities based on risk, and that responsibility for food safety be consolidated in a single agency or department, a measure auditors believe would improve both effectiveness and efficiency.**
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/033004kp1.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

23. *March 30, Water Tech Online* — **EPA awards funds for water security.** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Mike Leavitt announced a two million dollar grant to the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) at its Legislative Conference. **This grant will help support the ongoing efforts of Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC), an information system that shares up-to-date threat and incident**

information between the intelligence community and the water sector. For the second year, EPA has provided funding to the WaterISAC, which allows more water utilities throughout the U.S. to receive critical water security information.

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=46817

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

Public Health Sector

24. *March 31, Associated Press* — Experimental SARS vaccine shows promise. Scientists say mice immunized with an experimental Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) vaccine were protected against the disease that killed nearly 800 people worldwide a year ago. Results from an accelerated federal research program show the vaccine prompted an immune response in the mice and dramatically reduced the level of the virus in the lungs of some mice. But researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which developed the new gene-based vaccine, said more experiments are needed to determine if it will work in humans. Scientists not connected with the study said the results were encouraging, but should not be overstated. No DNA vaccine has yet been shown to effectively treat any viral disease and the approach is still unproven compared to conventional vaccines.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2004-03-31-sars-vaccine_x.htm

25. *March 31, USA Today* — Most aren't prepared for attack. Most Americans have not followed the government's advice to prepare for terrorism by stocking food and water, making a plan to contact family members and identifying a "safe room" in their homes, a new USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll indicates. And a year after the Department of Homeland Security launched a multimillion-dollar public relations campaign to encourage citizens to prepare for an attack, the percentage of those heeding that admonition is dropping sharply. Four in 10 people say they have a stockpile of food and water at home, down from six in 10 a little more than a year ago. Fewer than four in 10 have a designated contact person to help families coordinate their actions. And one-quarter of those polled have a designated "safe room." Americans' level of preparedness has declined since early 2003, when government officials urged them to prepare for a possible attack involving biological, chemical, or radiological weapons. **Another new poll indicates that more than three-quarters of Americans are unaware of, or unfamiliar with, their state or local government emergency plans.** That poll, commissioned by the Council for Excellence in Government, said 27 percent of those surveyed were aware of their school's emergency plans, and 37 percent were aware of plans at the office.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-03-31-terror-prep_x.htm

26. *March 31, Agence France Presse* — GlaxoSmithKline increases stake in U.S. pharmaceutical firm. British pharmaceuticals giant GlaxoSmithKline has announced it is increasing its stake in privately-held U.S. pharmaceutical company Theravance to 19 percent at a cost of more than one hundred million dollars. Theravance was to receive \$129 million dollars, "a significant part of which" relates to Glaxo's purchase of shares to increase its stake in the firm from six to 19 percent," Glaxo said in a statement. Glaxo would receive an exclusive option to license potential new medicines on a worldwide basis from all current and future programs to August, 2007.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1190&e=1&u=/afp/20040331/bs_afp/britain_us_pharma&sid=96001022

27. *March 30, Reuters* — **U.S. faults American Red Cross over tissue safety.** The American Red Cross has failed to take proper steps to ensure the safety of donated human tissue at a California facility, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned in a letter made public on Tuesday, March 30. **The Red Cross did not follow all necessary procedures to prevent infectious diseases or cross-contamination in heart valves and skin, the FDA said.** The warning comes a year after the group agreed separately to stricter FDA oversight of its blood-collection programs and recently paid nearly half a million dollars in related fines. "Our investigators documented significant violations of the requirements for human tissue intended for transplantation," the FDA said in a letter to the organization. Human tissue used for transplants, which can also include ligaments, tendons, and other non-organ parts, can carry microbes that can cause bacterial and other infections. Among the violations at the Costa Mesa, California bank were a failure to properly test disinfectants or determine the impact of shipping methods on the tissue samples, the FDA said.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=571&ncid=751&e=5&u=/nm/20040330/hl_nm/health_recross_tissue_dc

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

Government Sector

28. *March 30, Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security awards billions in grants to state and local governments.** In the coming weeks, the Department of Homeland Security will award \$2.2 billion from the State Homeland Security Grant Program and \$725 million from the Urban Area Security Initiative to state and local governments to help first responders across the nation better protect their communities. **These funds are part of over \$8 billion the Department has allocated or awarded since March 1, 2003 to help our nation's first responders and state and local governments to prevent, respond and recover from potential acts of terrorism and other potential disasters. "Funding the capabilities of local first responders requires a national strategy of shared responsibility, shared accountability and shared leadership," said Secretary Ridge.** "Successfully delivering these funds to the communities that need them is central to our mission of increasing America's preparedness. These dollars will purchase equipment and training that will help our first responders save lives by preventing acts of terrorism and responding if one occurs." Information about these grants, distributed through the Department's Office for Domestic Preparedness, is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/grants>
Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3409>

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

Emergency Services Sector

29. *March 29, Global Security Newswire* — **NATO aircraft and ships to patrol Olympics; multinational security effort continues in Greece.** NATO has pledged surveillance assistance

for the Summer Olympics in Greece, officials said Friday, March 26, increasing international support for the \$800 million security operation. **NATO would monitor the games with AWACS surveillance aircraft and participate in naval security, but would not station troops on Greek soil**, U.S. Marine Gen. James Jones, NATO's top commander, told the Washington Post. About 400 U.S. Special Operations troops last week concluded a 13-day training exercise in Greece, according to Achilles Paparsenos, a spokesperson for the Greek Embassy in Washington. Greek officials said the large-scale effort, known as "Hercules Shield 2004," was the most elaborate and intensive security exercise in Greece's history. Troops enacted and responded to various scenarios, including mock biological attacks.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/d%5Fnewsire/issues/2004/3/29/60b41702%2Df341%2D4c19%2Db783%2D2493586b08b4.html>

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

Information and Telecommunications Sector

30. *March 31, Government Computer News* — DOD set to issue policy on WiFi use. The Department of Defense (DoD) will soon issue a policy to guide the use of WiFi equipment, said Ronald Jost, director of wireless technology for the DoD. Jost spoke Wednesday, March 31, in Washington, D.C. at the National High Performance Computing Conference. **The new policy will mandate that no information—either classified or unclassified—will be allowed to travel unencrypted across a wireless network. But DoD will encourage use of wireless networks, as they reduce the amount of time it takes to set up and tear down LANs.** DoD currently has top-secret, local IEEE 802.11b networks running, Jost said. Offices can now procure military-grade secure equipment, so the remaining hurdles involve establishing policy, Jost said. The policy, DOD 8100.bb, is finished and awaiting sign-off, Jost said. DoD also will establish Websites instructing offices how to set up wireless networks for both classified and unclassified use. DoD is also developing a policy for the use of cellular phones. Jost said the department will establish relationships with selected commercial providers who will be able to provide military personnel with cellular voice and data connections. The process will involve companies certifying their equipment as secure. **"All [cellular] data traffic will go through virtual private networks,"** Jost said.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25462-1.html

31. *March 30, SearchSecurity.com* — SCADA security hearing begins today. Last summer's massive blackout in the Northeast demonstrated the vulnerability of our nation's most critical networks. It also set in motion an inquiry that today, March 30, brings together legislators and IT experts to discuss how to better secure these networks from further disaster. **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, associated with power plants and other mission-critical networks, especially need stronger protection.** "Historically, there is a false sense of security related to SCADA systems. Some administrators have been comforted by the thought that these systems are specialized and often deployed in a 'closed' network utilizing proprietary protocols," explains Andre Yee, president and CEO of a network security vendor. One problem with securing SCADA is the unique nature of the systems. Most operate in real time and can't afford to be offline for lengthy upgrades or security installations, for fear of a degradation of performance. **Another problem, Yee notes, is with newer SCADA systems incorporating more Web accessibility, which poses myriad problems when using the**

Internet, a public conduit susceptible to attack. They also leverage Unix and Windows systems, which puts networks at risk, particularly given the number of vulnerabilities that can be exploited.

Source: http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,28914,2,sid14_gci957331,00.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_NETSKY.P 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), 3127 (mydoom), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 6129 (dameware), 4899 (radmin), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1433 (ms-sql-s) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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

General Sector

32. *March 31, Sydney Morning Herald* — **Bomb explodes at Australian embassy. A bomb attack on the Australian high commission in Kuala Lumpur yesterday has raised concerns that anti-Western terrorism may have arrived in Malaysia, a country largely immune from the violent unrest that has spread across South-East Asia over the past few years.** The small home-made bomb, thrown from a speeding car shortly before dawn, exploded against the diplomatic mission's perimeter wall. The building was closed and no one was injured. A high commission spokesperson said there was no indication who was responsible for the attack or the motive, but a Malaysian Government official conceded the possible connection with regional terrorist networks. "We don't want to ring any alarm bells. It could be an isolated incident but we don't want to rule anything out at this point," a senior aide to the Prime Minister, Abdullah Badawi, told Agence France-Press.
 Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/03/30/1080544490679.html?from=storyrhs>

33. *March 31, Associated Press* — **Militants seize hostages in Uzbekistan. As many as 20 militants seized a large number of hostages Wednesday, March 31, during a standoff with authorities after a grenade blast in Uzbekistan's capital, police said.** A Russian television network said three people were wounded in the latest violence in the Central Asian nation. The

Tashkent blast came at the end of a day when police scoured the capital in pursuit of fugitive militants, and reportedly arrested at least 30. A police official said those in custody so far were adherents of the strict Wahhabi Islamic sect, which was believed to have inspired Osama bin Laden not members of an extremist group President Islam Karimov has implied were behind the attacks. A grenade that was set up as a booby trap detonated Wednesday night when a police patrol tried to enter the gate of a house in Tashkent, leading to a standoff in which militants took an unknown number of hostages, a police major at the scene said. A second officer said about 20 militants were holding "many" hostages in the house.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=518&ncid=721&e=6&u=/ap/20040331/ap_on_re_eu/uzbekistan

34. *March 30, Global Security Newswire* — **Chechen militant leader alleges Russian chemical attacks, threatens retaliation. Chechen militant leader Shamil Basayev has alleged that Russia is using chemical weapons against Chechens and threatened to retaliate in kind, the Associated Press reported today.** “We reserve the right to use chemical and toxic substances and the same poisons against Russia,” he wrote in a letter posted today on the Kavkaz Center Web site. Basayev said that Chechen militants would attack Russians outside of the country in revenge for the killing of a Chechen leader last month in Qatar, according to the Associated Press. The Russian Federal Security Service refused to comment on Basayev's letter, AP reported.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/d%5Fnewswire/issues/2004/3/30/89576bf2%2Df193%2D4225%2D9eb5%2Df0cf8d11fe32.html>

[[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:

[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

Content and Suggestions: nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644

Subscription and
Distribution Information

Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644 for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at info@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.uscert.gov.

DHS/IAIP Disclaimer

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.