



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 April 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports a brief power–line failure knocked out electricity to the Los Angeles International Airport control tower and disrupted air traffic causing 80 to 100 flights to hold in the air, circle, or stay on the ground at other airports. (See item [11](#))
- The Associated Press reports bags of undelivered mail, found in a motel trash bin, led to the discovery of metal traps apparently mass manufactured to fit perfectly inside street–corner postal collection boxes, as part of an identity theft scheme involving stolen mail. (See item [13](#))
- The Financial Times reports a senior French counter–terrorism official has warned that groups of terrorists, plotting to use chemical weapons in Europe, have more advanced plans than security services previously suspected. (See item [27](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *April 12, The Boston Globe* — **Line failure spurs brief power loss in region. About half a million residents in Eastern Massachusetts briefly lost electricity Sunday, April 11, after an underground transmission line in South Boston experienced a power failure, said officials at NStar, the region's largest electricity provider. The power outage, which occurred**

around 7:30 p.m., set off fire and burglar alarms throughout the region, erased documents from countless computers, and left three people briefly stranded in an elevator at Massachusetts General Hospital. No injuries were reported. It was not clear what caused the 115-kilovolt line running from NStar's K Street station to fail, but electric company officials said the loss of power occurred as a result of the utility's protective relay system transferring power to other lines. Officials at NStar said it may be a few days before they know what caused the line in South Boston to fail.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2004/04/12/line_failure_spurs_brief_power_loss_in_region/

2. *April 12, Reuters* — **Farley nuke fails to exit refuel twice. Southern Co. Inc. tried but failed to return its 888 megawatt Farley 2 nuclear unit in Alabama to service two times over the weekend, the company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission** in an event report on Monday, April 12. On Sunday, April 11, the company said the unit automatically tripped when a breaker opened "for an unknown reason." After investigating the cause of the April 11 trip, the company tried to start the unit again early on April 12. However, the unit tripped again during a power physics test due to an "invalid source range trip signal," the company said. The unit had been shut for a refueling and maintenance outage begun on about March 15. The Farley station is located in Dothan, AL, about 95 miles northwest of Tallahassee, FL.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2004_04_12_eng-reuters_pma_SOUTHERNS-ALA-FARLEY-NUKE-FAILS-TO-EXIT-REFUEL-TWICE&SMContentSet=0

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Chemical Sector

3. *April 12, Madison Daily Leader (WI)* — **Meth is everyone's problem, says local prevention team.** The toxic byproduct left behind when methamphetamine is manufactured makes the drug everyone's problem, say members of a newly formed drug prevention coalition in Madison, WI. **Coalition members Marcie Johnson and Cam Corey told community members at a recent meth awareness workshop that methamphetamine not only has ill effects on those who use it, but because it uses a variety of ingredients (ranging from pseudoephedrine to anhydrous ammonia) in its manufacture, it leaves behind an environmental hazard in its wake.** Corey said that community members should also be concerned about those who may simply be transporting meth ingredients through the county. **"We have, in a sense, chemical bombs on our highways," he said. "If someone that has a mobile meth lab within their vehicle is involved in an accident, we could very easily have an explosion."** Because of the dangers that meth labs pose, the two ask community members to help law enforcement by looking for possible signs that meth is brewing. Those signs could include an unusual amount of household gas grill propane tanks, boxes of Red Devil lye and an unusual amount of lithium batteries.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=11297615&BRD=1302&PAG=461&dept_id=181979&rft=6

4. *April 12, Associated Press* — **DuPont to cut 3,500 jobs.** DuPont will eliminate 3,500 jobs, or about six percent of its global work force, by the end of this year as part of previously plans to

cut costs, the company said Monday, April 12. In addition to trimming its existing work force of about 77,000 employees, the company will eliminate 450 contractor positions, most of them in the United States. **The cuts do not include the roughly 18,000 employees of DuPont's INVISTA textiles subsidiary, which is being sold to Koch Industries in a deal scheduled to close by the end of this month.** Employees of the Wilmington-based chemical giant were informed of the job cuts Monday morning in an e-mail from Chairman and CEO Charles O. Holliday Jr. Spokesperson Clif Webb said about 650 job cuts will be in Delaware, where the company employs about 8,700 workers, not including INVISTA. "Increased foreign competition, along with continued high energy costs here at Belle, continue to affect our business," said Rick Hodge, manager of the Belle, WV, plant. "The actions we announced today will help us be more cost competitive and remain a strong contributor to West Virginia's economy."

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/section/APNews/News/ap0113r>

5. *April 12, Honolulu Star-Bulletin* — **Fumes force evacuation of hotel. Muriatic acid leaked through a floor and into a stairwell at a Sheraton Waikiki Hotel wing yesterday afternoon, April 11, releasing noxious fumes that sent four people to Straub Clinic & Hospital complaining of throat and eye irritation, nausea and chest congestion.** Those four — two Mid-Pacific Institute students who live at the hotel, a Sheraton employee and a security guard — were treated and released. The fumes also caused an evacuation of the building, which has seven floors and 58 rooms. The Sheraton's Manor wing has been used since November as a dormitory for about 30 Mid-Pacific students. The wing was reopened at 4 p.m., three hours after being shut down. Tourists with rooms in the building returned.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2004/04/12/news/story3.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *April 12, Navy News Stand* — **Navy takes another measure to prevent identity theft.** Navy officials have taken another step to prevent Sailors from becoming victims of identity theft, by omitting certain information from fitness reports and evaluations. **A recent Navy Administrative Message, released by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. G.L. Hoewing, outlines the change. It states that in order to minimize the potential for identity theft, reporting seniors may now prepare the member's copy of a fitness report or evaluation with "000-00-0000" in block 27.** Prior to this, block 27 contained the reporting senior's social security number. According to Lt. j.g. Tony Pabon, Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, admin officer, **the change took place as a precautionary measure to safeguard all reporting seniors' social security numbers. "We are seeing the Navy take a closer look at information availability and taking these types of measures to protect this sensitive information," Pabon said.** Pabon also explained that supervisors should take responsibility for all information in their possession. "Safeguard all of your administrative and personal materials. Keep it locked up, if you can. If you are going to get rid of anything that has sensitive information on it, such as SSNs, account numbers, etc., make sure you completely destroy it," Pabon said.

Source: http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=12764

7. *April 11, Reuters* — **U.S. fighter jet could die to help fund war.** The Pentagon may have to scrap its premier fighter jet program to help pay for the war in Iraq, Senator John McCain said on Sunday, April 11. McCain said both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps must be expanded overall, a position at odds with President George W. Bush's administration. **The United States has about 135,000 troops in Iraq, a number that McCain said must rise. As part of a broad overhaul of U.S. priorities, he said, the Pentagon may have to scrap the \$71 billion Air Force program to buy F/A-22 air-to-air fighters.** "We may have to cancel this airplane that's going to cost between \$250 million and \$300 million a copy," said McCain, floating what could become a major new legislative hurdle to a top Air Force priority. The Air Force hopes to buy at least 277 F/A-22 fighters, which it describes as key to dominating the skies in future combat. It is about to enter operational testing en route to replacing the F-15C.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040411/iraq_usa_mccain_3.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

8. *April 12, CNN* — **Four charged with immigrant smuggling. Four people were arrested and charged with immigrant smuggling Sunday, April 11, at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, according to a spokesperson for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.** Customs agents also detained 42 illegal immigrants on two flights from Los Angeles, California, spokesperson Janet Rapaport said. It was the second time in four days that large numbers of illegal immigrants were discovered at the airport. In all, 130 people have been detained. Those detained Sunday included 35 men, five women and a girl of toddler age, Rapaport said. One is from Chile and the rest are from Mexico. The illegal immigrants traveled from Los Angeles on two flights that arrived at 5:45 a.m. and 7 a.m. Rapaport said how the illegal immigrants managed to board the two flights has not been determined. A passenger needs only photo identification, not proof of citizenship, to board a domestic flight. American Airlines spokesman Tim Wagner said customs agents were waiting in the terminal to make the arrests.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/Northeast/04/11/immigrant.smuggling/index.html>

9. *April 12, Associated Press* — **Defibrillators now required on airliners.** Most commercial airplanes now must have cardiac equipment on board to help passengers who suffer heart attacks. The new Federal Aviation Administration rule, which affects about 2,600 airliners, went into effect Monday, April 12. **Airliners staffed with at least one flight attendant must have the device, known as an automated external defibrillator. Some already carry the equipment. In 1998, a Boston man became the first person on a domestic flight to have his life saved by a defibrillator.** Defibrillators have already become standard equipment, like fire extinguishers, in many airports, convention centers and health clubs. The equipment can monitor a victim's heartbeat and shock the heart back to a normal beat. Chances of survival are

90 percent if defibrillation is provided within one minute of the attack. The FAA found that there were 119 cardiac-related events aboard aircraft resulting in 64 deaths between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 1999, said FAA spokesperson Laura Brown. During that period, automatic defibrillators were provided 17 times, saving four lives, she said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/04/12/airlines.defibrillators.ap/index.html>

10. *April 12, CNN* — **Airline's disclosure of passenger data probed. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) chief privacy officer has launched an investigation into a disclosure by American Airlines that it turned over 1.2 million passenger records to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in June 2002 without the passengers' knowledge or permission.** American is the third airline to acknowledge that it turned over passenger information to the government. The airline said it acted out of a desire to help in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The DHS inspector general also is looking into the matter.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/04/12/airline.disclosure.probe/>

11. *April 12, Associated Press* — **LAX airport hit by brief blackout.** A brief power-line failure knocked out electricity to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) control tower and disrupted air traffic Monday morning, April 12. Eighty to 100 flights had to hold in the air, circle or stay on the ground at other airports, Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson Donn Walker said. Some departures from Los Angeles were also held, but that was relatively quickly resolved, he said. A 34.5-kilovolt supply line went out for 10 seconds at 9:38 a.m., city Department of Water and Power spokesperson Carol Tucker said. "The cause is blamed on equipment failure," Tucker said. She said there was no reason to suspect sabotage. Despite the immediate restoration of the power supply, the effect on the tower lasted longer. **All radar, radios and telephones — essentially everything that controllers use to communicate with aircraft and other control facilities — were hit by the outage, Walker said.** Shortly after 11 a.m., Walker reported that most power was back on but too much equipment remained out of service to allow instrument landings. Good weather made instrument approaches unnecessary, he said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-04-12-lax-blackout_x.htm

12. *April 09, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA takes another step to protect at-risk air cargo.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) implemented another important element of its Air Cargo Strategic Plan by moving to enhance the agency's Known Shipper database. The agency is issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to industry experts so that TSA can evaluate the latest techniques and technologies available for identifying at-risk cargo. "We must be smarter than our enemies to win the war on terror," said TSA's Acting Administrator, Rear Adm. David M. Stone. "By developing new methods to target high-risk cargo we can focus our resources where they are needed most. This threat-based risk-managed approach will allow TSA to bring air cargo security to a new level." **The RFI will seek input from experts in cargo logistics, security assessment, cargo transport, and others who can provide insight into improving the identification and isolation of high-risk cargo.** These targeting tools will then allow agencies within the Department of Homeland Security to provide a higher level of scrutiny to cargo it identifies as high-risk.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_00994a4

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *April 09, Associated Press* — **Mail traps found in Indiana. Bags of undelivered mail found in a motel trash bin led to the discovery of metal traps apparently mass manufactured to fit perfectly inside street–corner postal collection boxes.** Three people were arrested in what federal investigators say was an identity theft scheme that involved more than 180 pieces of mail intercepted from people in seven Indiana cities. Mark Shaw, a U.S. postal inspector, said the three opened stolen mail and took checks and billing–account data. The information was used to manufacture counterfeit driver's licenses and blank checks. The operation financed drug use and the group's travels across the country, Shaw said. **Postal inspectors nationwide have been notified because the mail trap devices appear to be mass–manufactured, fit perfectly into postal box openings, and are even postal blue.**

Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/ap/ap_story.html/National/AP.V3844.AP-Snared-Mail.html

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Agriculture Sector

14. *April 11, Associated Press* — **Mad cow ban could prompt more cow composts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) ban on the sale of downer cows is hard financially on farmers, not only do they lose money on the sale, they have to pay rendering companies to dispose of the body. Officials at Iowa State University (ISU) are urging farmers to look at the results of an ongoing study that gives farmers information on how to compost dead downer cows on their own property.** Officials at ISU said the cost is minimal, since composting materials like porous bedding and feed supplies are usually available on farms. Downer cows are cows that are unable to stand. After a single case of mad cow disease was discovered in a downer cow in Washington state last December, the USDA implemented its ban to restore faith in the beef industry. Prior to the ban, cattle brokers specializing in downer cows would buy them for human consumption. The payment was typically around \$200, compared to \$2,000 for a healthy Holstein. The ban also prevents farmers from taking downers to a locker to be butchered for themselves.

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/8409247.htm>

15. *April 10, Agence France Presse* — **Bird flu hits two new farms in Canada.** Bird flu has infected two more farms in western Canada's British Columbia province, taking the total of commercial poultry operations affected to 22, officials said. **"We have identified 22 commercial premises that have been infected and six backyard flocks," said Cornelius Kiley of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.** Agricultural authorities have embarked on a cull of 19 million turkeys, ducks, and geese to stem the spread of avian influenza. Affected farms are all in the Fraser Valley, a band of farmland contained by mountain ranges that extends inland from the western Canadian coast. The European Union has lifted a blanket ban on poultry imports from Canada and the U.S., leaving restrictions only on fowl from affected

areas, but Canadian poultry is still banned in a host of other countries.

Source: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/americas/view/79603/1/.html>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

16. *April 12, Associated Press* — Drought still ravages western U.S. From the brittle hillsides of Southern California to the drying fields of Idaho, from Montana to New Mexico, a relentless drought is worsening across most of the West, water supplies are dwindling and the threat of wildfires is rising. **"Most of the West is headed into six years of drought and some areas are looking at seven years of drought,"** said Rick Ochoa, weather program manager at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. Arizona is facing its worst drought on record. Two enormous reservoirs on the Colorado River are only half full. Some farmers in southern Idaho might not get any irrigation water this summer, and irrigators in western Nevada are threatening war with a country club that wants green grass for a national golf tournament. **The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service says there's a potential for water restrictions and widespread crop and pasture losses in central Nevada, southern Idaho, most of south-central Montana, and eastern and southwestern Utah.** Most of southern Idaho and parts of southwest Montana are in "exceptional drought," the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) says. That's a step worse than "extreme drought," which the USDA says best describes other parts of Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, and Colorado.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040412_381.html

17. *April 10, Boston Globe* — Towns eye desalting plants. To relieve chronic water shortages, several Massachusetts communities are considering plans to draw their drinking water from a vast but long off-limits source: the Atlantic Ocean. Construction of a \$40 million plant to purify salt water and deliver it to the city of Brockton could start as early as September. Hull residents will be asked this month for \$280,000 to determine whether a desalting plant would lower the town's soaring water rates, and Braintree has set aside \$75,000 for a similar study this year. Seabrook, NH, and several North Shore communities and groups also are interested in desalination plants. "We are out of water; we are looking east," said Robert Marquis, water superintendent for the town of Swansea, which recently notified the state that it wants to build a \$16 million plant to desalinate water from the tidal Palmer River. Long impractical and prohibitively expensive, desalting seawater has become cheaper as technology has improved in the past decade. .

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/04/10/thirsty_towns_eye_desalting_plants/

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Public Health Sector

18. *April 11, Associated Press* — **Air passengers may have been exposed to measles. Passengers on four flights from Hong Kong to San Francisco, CA, and Seattle, WA, late last month may have been exposed to toddlers from China with measles, federal officials warned.**

Health officials determined Friday, April 9, that a total of four children, three in Washington and one in Maryland, who recently were adopted from China were confirmed to have measles, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said. Three of the children likely were infectious during their March 26 airplane trip to the U.S., the CDC said. Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can cause pneumonia, diarrhea, encephalitis, and death. Five others, from the same group of a dozen kids recently adopted from China, also were found to have a measles-like rash illness.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-04-12-measles-air_x.htm

19. *April 11, Medical News Today* — **Measles epidemic likely in Japan. Japan faces an epidemic of German measles for the first time in a decade, the Japanese Health, Labor, and Welfare Ministry has warned.** In a rare move, the ministry instructed prefectural and municipal governments across the country to prepare for a possible outbreak of the disease, including launching campaigns to persuade the public to get vaccinations. German measles is most frequently caught by children, but a recent survey by the ministry found many adults are now contracting it, too. The ministry said the incidence of German measles was on the rise this year in Gunma, Kagoshima, Miyagi, Oita, and Saitama prefectures, and likely would spread to other areas. **According to the survey, usually only 10 percent of people who catch the disease are aged 10 or over, but this year the figure is 20 percent.** The real number may be even higher since the ministry only has tallied the number of German measles cases being treated by pediatricians, meaning there may be more adult cases that were not covered by the survey.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/index.php?newsid=7171>

20. *April 10, BBC News* — **Breathalyzer detects tuberculosis. The portable device, would be quicker and easier to use than the current screening method, the Heaf test, when testing for TB.** The Heaf test involves an injection of tuberculin into the skin. The patient has to wait one week to see if a reaction develops, which would indicate exposure to infection. Tuberculin is a fluid containing the products formed by the growth of the bacterium which causes TB. **The creators of the device say they can deliver 90 percent accurate results in under 10 minutes. The breathalyzer is also disposable, cheap, and has the potential to screen for other diseases, although it cannot be used as a diagnostic tool.** It can also be used by someone with no formal medical training. The breathalyzer works through an optic sensor which sits inside the tube. This sensor has a coating designed to attract bacteria. When the patient coughs into the tube. If TB is present in the lungs, it will stick to this optical sensor, giving a positive reading.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3497900.stm>

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Government Sector

21. *April 12, Government Executive Magazine* — **Homeland security inspectors analyze grant spending delays.** The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) process for distributing grants to first responders can be improved, but is not the main barrier to state and local governments receiving and spending the money, according to a new report. **State and local governments have spent less than two-thirds of \$2.4 billion in grants that were made available to support homeland security first responders from 2002 to 2003, the DHS inspector general reported in a March audit. The audit concluded that numerous reasons contributed to the slow spending of funds; some are unavoidable, but others could be eliminated.** The audit reviewed the overall award, distribution and spending of first responder grants made under the fiscal 2002 State Domestic Preparedness Program, the fiscal 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program and the fiscal 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Part II. According to DHS' Office of Domestic Programs, state and local governments had drawn down 36 percent, 13 percent and 10 percent of money in those programs respectively. State and local governments cited federal requirements and guidelines, state and local planning processes, and procurement issues as the main reasons for delays in spending.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0404/040904c1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *April 12, The Idaho Statesman (Lewiston, ID)* — **Emergency crews trained to use toxins detector. A new five-pound device is the final step in helping Idaho's emergency responders identify a potential bioterrorism threat. Representatives from the seven hazardous materials response teams across the state received training on the new device Friday in Lewiston. The device tests for anthrax, ricin, botulin toxin and smallpox.** The state bought seven devices with a state Department of Homeland Security grant. Jeff Rylee, operations officer for the Bureau of Homeland Security in Idaho, said out of the nearly 600 white powder scares the state has reported since September 11, 2001, none has tested positive. Now that the state is able to identify suspicious substances, Rylee said, Homeland Security will focus on preparation for potential mass casualties and improving communications equipment
Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/Story.asp?ID=65177>
23. *April 12, The Journal News (NY)* — **Train derailment drill.** Puffs of purple and white smoke billowed from beneath a derailed freight train yesterday and drifted high over the Hudson River and the U.S. Military Academy. Police, fire and other emergency services went to the scene and quickly went about discussing and setting out their plan of action. Portions of the reservation were roadblocked by military police; a command post was set up; and Hazmat units were deployed to the CSX rail line to investigate the matter. **The drill was part of an all-day emergency operations exercise that simulated a train derailment and a hazardous chemical spill conducted by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The simulation was put together to provide realistic training to West Point and local emergency teams and to test incident management, mutual-aid systems and communications.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state Emergency Management Office and support

organizations from Rockland, Orange and Dutchess counties participated. "A train wreck is plausible," said Lt. Col. James Whaley, director of public relations at the academy. "They carry hazardous cargo. We want to have a sense of realism, or there's no point in doing this."

Source: <http://www.nyjournalnews.com/newsroom/041104/b0111westpoint.html>

24. *April 09, Government Technology* — Kentucky Wireless Interoperability legislation passes.

Kentucky House Bill 226 has been signed into law by the governor. **The bill requires the chief information officer to establish and implement a statewide public safety interoperability plan. The plan must include the development of required architecture and standards to ensure that new or upgraded public safety systems will interoperate.** In addition, the legislation establishes the role of the Kentucky Wireless Interoperability Executive Committee as an advisory body for all state and local agency wireless communications strategies. The impact on state and local government is: State agencies: All state agencies will present plans to the committee for review and recommendation. The committee will then forward the plans to the chief information officer for final approval. Local agencies: Local government entities will present plans to the committee for review and recommendation. However, final approval of the chief information officer is not required.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=89913>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *April 12, Washington Post* — A need for greater cybersecurity. Chief executives of U.S. corporations and their boards of directors should assume direct responsibility for securing their computer networks from worms, viruses and other attacks, an industry task force working with the federal government said in a report released Monday, April 12. The group stopped short of urging legislation to require chief executives to certify their companies' cybersecurity measures, as they are now required to do for financial statements after numerous accounting scandals. But the group said that cybersecurity should be taken just as seriously by top management. **The report is the latest in a series produced as part of an industry partnership with the Department of Homeland Security to address computer breaches that have cost businesses and consumers billions of dollars over the past several years.**

The Corporate Governance Report is available online: <http://www.cyberpartnership.org/init-governance.html>

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/aA Need for Greater Cybersecurityarticles/A4410-2004Apr11.html>

26. *April 11, Reuters* — Top microchip makers suffer minor damage in blackout. A power blackout struck parts of Taiwan's silicon valley and caused minor damage at the world's top two microchip foundries, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC) and United Microelectronics Corp (UMC), company executives said on Saturday, April 10. **Back-up generators helped to mitigate losses, which were estimated at up to a few million U.S. dollars by UMC, the world's second-largest contract chipmaker.** TSMC said it was still evaluating its damage. "The damage caused by today's power outage will be no more than tens of million of (Taiwan) dollars," said Sandy Yen, a spokesman for UMC. The blackout at the Hsinchu Science Park in northern Taiwan, home to the island's most prominent semiconductor and electronics companies, started at 7:35 a.m. (2335 GMT), the state-run Taiwan Power

Company said. Power supply was fully restored in about one and a half hours, it said. The cause of the blackout was not known.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/techinvestor/2004-04-11-taiwan-blackout_x.htm

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	21 (ftp), 53 (domain), 25 (smtp), 57 (priv-term), 22 (ssh), 23 (telnet), 33 (dsp), 20 (ftp-data), 79 (finger), 1 (tcpmux) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

27. *April 12, Financial Times* — Terrorist chemical threat. Terrorists plotting to use chemical weapons in Europe have more advanced plans than security services previously suspected, a senior French counter-terrorism official has warned. Small groups of chemicals experts have been detected in several European countries and have developed ways of communicating with each other that allowed them to avoid being exposed. The groups appear to operate separately from other cells planning attacks using ordinary explosives. In January French anti-terrorist police arrested five people in Venisseux on suspicion of involvement in planning terrorist attacks. Nicolas Sarkozy, then interior minister, said that one of the detainees, Menad Benchallali, "was trained to produce chemical substances". Two of the detainees admitted a plan had been devised to attack Russian targets in France using ricin poison and botulinum bacteria. French officials say Benchellali received chemical weapons training in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge, a haven for Chechen fighters. On April 6, British anti-terrorist officers uncovered a possible plot to use osmium tetroxide in an attack.

Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1079420269340&p=1012571727088>

28. *April 12, The Boston Globe* — Power out thirteen hours at large Vegas resort. The Bellagio, one of Las Vegas' largest resorts, went dark for more than 13 hours on Easter Sunday, April 11, leaving at least 5,000 guests unable to use most of the property's amenities. While the cause remained unclear, a spokesperson acknowledged that the problem was

with the failure of the property's generators. No injuries were reported. Normal operations were largely halted on the 116,000–square–foot casino floor. All slot machines were shut off, and, without power to operate surveillance cameras, extra security was called in to watch over a handful of table games still operating. "This is a big deal," said Jenn Michaels, vice president for public relations for MGM Mirage, which owns Bellagio. "We don't know yet what the exact cause is. Our main goal right now is making sure all the guests are comfortable." Michaels said technicians were working with the Nevada Power Co. to get the generators back up. The only power on the main property was coming from an emergency generator able to operate elevators, some hallway lighting, and the mechanisms for the electronic room keys.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/04/12/power_out_13_hours_at_large_vegas_resort/

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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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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.

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