



Department of Homeland Security

IAIP Directorate

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

for 27 April 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- Reuters reports a study by the RAND Corporation notes that to meet the security challenges in the wake of the September 11 attacks, the U.S. needs to double spending for Coast Guard purchases and speed up its 20-year "Deepwater" modernization program. (See item [11](#))
- Global Security Newswire reports federal agents have interviewed hundreds of crop-duster pilots in the last year as the war in Iraq increased fears of an attack by plane releasing chemical or biological agents. (See item [26](#))
- HeraldNet reports the environmental extremist group, the Earth Liberation Front, has claimed responsibility for arsons that destroyed two new homes and attempted to destroy several others in Snohomish, WA. (See item [30](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [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 Technology 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. *April 26, Reuters* — **Refining shortage ups global oil prices. A lack of refining capacity that has plagued U.S. energy supply since the turn of the decade is now becoming a global phenomenon, threatening to drive oil price up for years to come, analysts say.** This is a dramatic shift from just two years ago when companies were exiting the refining sector due to poor profits. Now, surging U.S. and Chinese fuel demand and the failure to build or significantly upgrade plants in past decades are making the fuel supply picture extremely tight,

leaving refineries less able to respond to disruptions like strikes or fires and increasing the risk of fuel price spikes. **The West's energy watchdog, the International Energy Agency (IEA) says global refining capacity must rise by 1.3 percent a year for oil product supply to keep pace with demand growth.** It predicts demand at 114 million bpd by 2030, requiring refining capacity of 121 million bpd -- 50 percent up on current levels. However, building new plants, or even adding capacity at existing refineries takes years and costs billions of dollars. Lack of investment has actually cut capacity in the United States by two million bpd over the past 20 years to 16 million bpd.

Source: http://money.cnn.com/2004/04/26/news/international/refining_reut/

2. *April 26, PRNewswire* — **New nuclear consortium applies for DOE funding. The broad-based nuclear industry consortium presented to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Monday, April 26, an industry-federal government proposal to share the cost of development of a construction and operating license (COL) for advanced nuclear power reactors.** The new consortium, announced March 31, has adopted its name, NuStart Energy Development LLC. None of the consortium companies has committed to build a new nuclear plant. NuStart Energy's proposal seeks federal government cost sharing under DOE's Nuclear Power 2010 initiative to demonstrate the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) new licensing process for building and operating advanced nuclear power plant designs. **Nuclear Power 2010 is designed to get a new nuclear power plant under construction by that date. To encourage energy companies, the program offers to share up to 50 percent of the cost of preparing an application for COL to the NRC.** Companies in the consortium are: Duke Energy, Constellation Generation Group, EDF International North America, Entergy Nuclear, Exelon Generation, Southern Company, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and two nuclear reactor vendors, Westinghouse Electric Co., and GE Energy's nuclear operations.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040426/clm071_1.html
3. *April 26, Reuters* — **New England has enough electricity for the summer. Electric grid operator ISO New England said Monday, April 26, its six-state region would have enough power supplies for the summer air conditioning season. As in years past, however, the ISO warned transmission constraints in the heavily populated New York suburbs of southwest Connecticut could require the grid operator to take certain steps to help maintain reliability in that area.** In the past, those steps have pleas for public conservation, voltage reductions and warnings of rotating blackouts. "Southwest Connecticut has limited generating supply and often experiences transmission constraints that can make it difficult to import all the power needed," said Stephen Whitley, ISO New England's senior vice president and chief operating officer. The ISO forecast summer electricity usage could peak at 27,305 megawatts under extreme weather conditions. The current record is 25,348 MW set on August 14, 2002.
Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2004_04_26_eng-reuters_pma_NEW-ENGLAND-HAS-ENOUGH-ELECTRICITY-FOR-THE-SUMMER&SMContentSet=0
4. *April 25, Pacific Business News* — **Geothermal power plant sold on the Big Island. The Puna Geothermal Venture, a 30-megawatt power plant driven by the Big Island of Hawaii's volcanic activity, is being acquired by an Israeli company.** Baltimore, MD-based Constellation Energy Group, has reached a deal to sell the facility to Ormat Nevada Inc., a subsidiary of Tel Aviv-based Ormat Technologies Inc., for for \$71 million. The acquisition of

the plant, which uses technology bought from Ormat, is expected to be completed by the end of the spring quarter, subject to approval of U.S. regulators. Turned on for commercial operation in 1993, Puna Geothermal sells power to Hawaii Electric Light Co., which gets about a fifth of the Big Island's total electricity needs from it. That could increase, for Ormat says it intends to expand the plant.

Source: http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2004/04/26/daily8.html?jst=b_in_hl

5. *April 24, Reuters* — **Relaxed G7 happy with economy, oil a risk.** Finance chiefs from the world's rich nations agreed on Saturday, April 24, the global economic outlook had brightened significantly, but the threat of further oil price rises was one of the few clouds on the horizon. **Government ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven economic powers stopped short of recommending action on energy costs, in part because of differences on how severe an impact oil price rises would have on their economies.** "Prospects are favorable and although risks remain, such as energy prices, overall the balance of risks to the outlook has improved," G7 officials said in a communique after their Washington gathering alongside spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. European ministers appeared more anxious than their U.S. counterparts about the threat from oil. "The principal risk is the oil price risk," said French Finance Minister Nicolas Sarkozy. His German counterpart, Hans Eichel, said he hoped planned output cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would not become a reality. The countries which comprise the G7 are the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A39804-2004Apr 24.html>

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

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Chemical blast's cause still unknown.** Four workers were killed in a Friday night explosion at a plastics manufacturing plant in the central Illinois town of Illiopolis, that also critically injured two others and forced the evacuation of an entire community. **Workers in a central area of the plant were mixing vinyl chloride and vinyl acetate when "somehow, we don't know at this point how, an explosion took place and there was at least one or two subsequent explosions," Williamson said.** Eighteen workers were in the plant at the time. When vinyl chloride burns, it emits hydrochloric acid, said Rich D'Elia, a battalion chief with the Springfield Fire Department who was the incident commander on the scene. Fortunately, the winds in the region were light and blowing away from town, authorities said. Preliminary tests of the air quality performed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Public Health indicated the air was safe to breathe, D'Elia said. A 20-mile section of Interstate 72 was closed for about six hours after the explosion, said Patti Thompson, a spokesperson with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Source: <http://www.pjstar.com/news/topnews/b2r60poh049.html>

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *April 26, San Diego Union–Tribune* — **Marine, Navy strike group may become more routine.** The recent deployment of an experimental Navy and Marine Corps strike group — an amphibious flotilla bolstered by a cruiser, a destroyer, a frigate and a nuclear submarine — might become routine. **The Navy probably will decide in about six months whether to continue augmenting amphibious squadrons with Tomahawk–packing warships and nuclear submarines capable of transporting Navy SEALs.** An interim report will be sent to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark in June, said Navy spokesperson Lt. Jim Hoeft. Previously, ready groups of three lightly armed amphibious ships commanded by a Navy captain would carry 2,200 Marines in a deployment to the Persian Gulf. Under the new concept, a strike group would include three amphibious ships and the Marines — and several heavily armed warships and a submarine that could launch Tomahawk cruise missiles, lob shells at land targets or defend against air attack. The command could fall to a Navy admiral or Marine general.

Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20040426-9999-1m_26strike.html

8. *April 25, Associated Press* — **Army wants radar to detect terror attacks.** For the U.S. Army, Doppler radar isn't just about more precise weather mapping and detecting wind shear. It also holds promise as an early warning system for airborne biological and chemical attacks. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers are working with the Army to develop a detection system that would involve modifying federal radar stations in nearly three dozen cities.** Congress has so far allocated \$15 million to develop the Homeland Defense Chemical Biological Umbrella, with a handful of stations expected to be functional by year's end. Army project leader Arne Johnson said he's confident the system will work. He declined to discuss detailed results of tests, which began last year. The project will eventually use 45 Federal Aviation Administration radar sites around the country that are located near airports. The Army won't discuss how the radar will identify potential attacks, except to say that the computer programs will be able to differentiate between typical air and weather patterns around aircraft, and a chemical or biological event. **Once a release is detected, the cloud's movement can be tracked to help local emergency personnel respond and try to protect people in the vicinity.**

Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/3152868/detail.html>

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

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *April 26, Agence France–Press* — **Vietnam to curb money–laundering. Vietnam is considering introducing a decree to combat money laundering and the financing of "terrorism" in a few months.** Ngo Ba Lai, chief of the State Bank's inspection department, on Monday, April 26, said the project had been submitted to the government last week and was awaiting formal approval by Prime Minister Phan Van Khai. Lai said the decree would provide guidance for setting up systems for the reporting and investigation of suspicious transactions. It would also stipulate possible sanctions against any money laundering activities. The international community has pushed Vietnam to act on this matter, especially after the September 11 attacks. Several experts say one of the country's challenges is to deal with the large amount of money flowing into the country outside the channels of the banking system.

Last year, a U.S. Congressional intelligence delegation held talks in Hanoi with the government on measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation against terrorism. **Experts say Vietnam could become a serious destination for money laundering.**

Source: <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/81526D0C-67AA-473B-AE91-40F10A6ACE21.htm>

10. *April 26, Associated Press* — **The \$50 bill gets colorful, hi-tech makeover. The \$50 bill is getting splashes of red, white and blue, the second of the nation's paper currencies to sport new hues beyond the traditional black-ink fronts and green-ink backs. The makeover, being unveiled Monday, April 26, is part of an effort to make U.S. bills harder to counterfeit.** The extra color is subtle, similar to the look of the new \$20 bill, which went into circulation last fall with a color treatment featuring touches of peach, blue and yellow. "The new design is more secure than ever before. We believe it will be extremely effective in discouraging counterfeiters," said Secretary of Treasury John Snow. The bureau expects to print 76.8 million new \$50s this year. New bills, however, aren't likely to go into circulation and start showing up in cash registers until fall. Old \$50s will continue to be accepted and recirculated until they wear out; they average five years in use. The bureau also plans to add color to the \$100 bill, the most knocked-off note outside the United States.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040426_501.html

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

Transportation Sector

11. *April 26, Reuters* — **Study: Coast Guard modernization falling short.** An overhaul of the U.S. Coast Guard provides only half of the ships and two-thirds of the aircraft it needs to protect the 95,000 miles of U.S. shoreline, a study by the RAND Corporation said on Monday, April 26. **To meet the security challenges in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the United States should double spending for Coast Guard purchases and speed up its 20-year "Deepwater" modernization program started in 2002, the study said.** "The assets slated to be acquired through Deepwater would be inadequate to meet the USCG's (U.S. Coast Guard's) traditional missions and emerging responsibilities, regardless of the schedule the USCG uses," said the study, which was commissioned by the Coast Guard. "The Coast Guard needs the capability of twice the number of cutters and a third more air vehicles" than Deepwater foresees, lead author John Birkler said. **Experts say the Coast Guard has been understaffed and underfunded for years and cannot meet the security demands of a country fighting a "war on terror."** The RAND study also suggested that policymakers explore new technologies and tactics — such as using offshore rigs or unmanned aerial vehicles — that might improve performance and cut cost. The study is available online:

<http://www.rand.org/publications/MG/MG114/>

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=domesticNews&storyID=4940688>

12. *April 26, Reuters* — **U.S. to consider alternatives to sky marshals. The United States is ready to consider alternatives to armed sky marshals to ensure security on transatlantic flights, in the face of resistance from some EU countries,** a top U.S. official said Monday, April 26. Britain and Germany have responded positively to U.S. demands for armed officers to be put on flights to and from America that are judged to be high-risk, but Italy and other EU

states said they did not have the resources to train and employ sky marshals. "We will not make that demand when that is not workable in an EU state," Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, told reporters. **"There could be alternative security measures to be put in place," said Hutchinson,** attending EU–U.S. talks on transport security cooperation. He did not elaborate. The United States is asking countries to issue passports carrying biometric data, such as fingerprints and digital pictures, to make it more difficult to forge identity papers. Hutchinson said his department had asked the U.S. Congress to grant a two–year extension to an October 26 deadline to give countries more time to issue standardized biometric passports.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/reuters20040426_277.html

13. *April 25, CBS Marketwatch* — **U.S. turns critical eye to railway security.** Thursday's railway explosion in North Korea and the terrorist attacks in Madrid last month have officials turning a critical eye to safety and security on the U.S. rail network. Each year, there are about two million hazardous material rail shipments in the U.S., according to the Federal Railroad Administration. Each of these shipments could kill thousands of U.S. residents if there were an accident or a terrorist attack. **"Ten bombs in Madrid killed a total of 200 people," said Fred Millar, a transportation consultant. "Just one chlorine tanker car, if released over a crowded event, can produce a cloud that will kill 100,000 people in an hour."** In addition, a National Transportation Safety Board study said that more than half the 60,000 railroad tank cars carrying hazardous materials don't meet current industry safety standards and may rupture if the trains derailed. The U. S. General Accounting Office has also acknowledged the risks. A study released last month found many spots were vulnerable to terrorist attack.

Source: <http://cbs.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?guid={3E2C3F52-5C3C-449D-80C6-1F5FF60F5D93}&siteid=google&dist=google>

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Agriculture Sector

14. *April 26, just-food.com* — **Bird flu marches on in Fraser Valley. A further six commercial poultry farms in western Canada have been found within the last week to be infected with bird flu, bringing the total number of infected farms to 37 since the outbreak began.** Since the disease was discovered at a farm in Fraser Valley, British Columbia in February, officials have been struggling to contain the disease, which has spread far beyond the original hot zone in recent weeks. Earlier this month, Canadian officials decided to order the slaughter of all 19 million chickens and turkeys in the region to prevent the spread of the disease. Most of the birds will be slaughtered and sent to market, while those that are found to be infected with the disease, or have come into contact with infected birds, will be disposed of.

Source: http://www.just-food.com/news_detail.asp?art=57381

15. *April 26, Indiana Ag Connection* — **Emerald ash borer confirmed in Indiana. The emerald ash borer, an exotic species of beetle that destroys ash trees, has made its way into Indiana and officials are taking steps to contain it.** Tom Eickholtz, a Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service educator in Steuben County, found signs of the insect on Monday, April 19. On Wednesday, April 21, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and an emerald ash borer specialist from the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed that Eickholtz' find was the ash boring pest. **As a result of the confirmed discovery, the IDNR has issued a quarantine for Jamestown Township in Steuben County.** Robert Waltz, state entomologist, said the quarantine forbids transportation of ash trees and most ash tree products out of the township. This includes nursery stock, logs, or untreated lumber with the bark attached, and any composted or uncomposted ash chips or bark chips that are one inch or larger. The IDNR will spend the next few days surveying the area around the Yogi Bear Jellystone campground on Barton Lake where the infected tree was found. Barton Lake is about 40 miles north of Fort Wayne, IN.

Source: <http://www.indianaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=228&yr=2004>

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

Food Sector

16. *April 26, Reuters* — **Japan to finalize U.S. beef imports deal by summer. Japan and the United States agreed on Saturday, April 24, to aim for a solution by this summer to Japan's ban on U.S. beef imports, a Japanese official said. Japan, formerly the top foreign buyer of U.S. beef, suspended imports after the outbreak of mad cow disease in Washington state in late December. Both countries have agreed to set up a formal working group by mid-May to help resolve the dispute.** "We agreed to make efforts to come up with a conclusion by summer to decide on whether to resume U.S. beef imports," Kenichiro Sasae, director general of economic affairs at Japan's Foreign Ministry, said. Senior Japanese officials from the foreign ministry, agriculture ministry, and health ministry met with a U.S. delegation led by Agriculture Undersecretary J.B. Penn. This was the first formal meeting since January to discuss how to normalize beef trade between the two countries.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2004-04-24T114518Z_01_T11048_RTRIDST_0_MADCOW-JAPAN-USA-URGENT.html

17. *April 26, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Canada permits broader U.S. meat imports.** The Canadian government will permit a wider range of meat and meat products to be imported from the United States under changes made Friday, April 23, to import rules, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). **Effective immediately, Canadian import requirements will give U.S. exporters broader latitude to ship products from cattle younger than 30 months of age, including boneless and bone-in beef, and various processed products such as ground beef and salami, the CFIA said.** The movement of these products is facilitated through revised certification procedures agreed to by the countries. In addition, amendments to Canadian import regulations allow U.S. exporters to ship to Canada boneless and bone-in meat from bison younger than 30 months of age, as well as boneless meat from sheep and goats younger than 12 months of age.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24703

18. *April 26, AScribe Newswire* — **Only half of recalled meat, poultry is recovered. Only about half the meat and poultry recalled in the United States because of suspected health hazards between 1998 and 2002 was actually recovered by the manufacturers, according to a new study.** This and other results suggest new federal food safety regulations that took effect in the late 1990s have not done enough to ensure the safety of our food supply, said Neal Hooker, co–author of the study and assistant professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at Ohio State University. The new regulations have had some success: there has been a large increase in the number of recalls and the size of those recalls. But the bigger, faster recalls are also due to more sensitive, more rapid tests developed in recent years. The new regulations, called the Pathogen Reduction (PR)/Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program, went into effect in 1998 at large plants (those with 500 or more employees); in 1999 at small plants (with 10 to 500 employees); and in 2000 at very small plants (with less than 10 employees). The program was designed to encourage meat–plant managers to examine their operations, identify the "critical control points" where risks to the food might occur, and put safety precautions in place to prevent potential hazards.
Source: http://www.ascribe.org/cgi-bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20040423_080956&time=03%2002%20PDT&year=2004&public=1

19. *April 23, Food and Drug Administration* — **Recall of margarine products. Crystal Farms Refrigerated Distribution Company, Inc. is recalling 451 cases of two specific margarine products because it has the potential to be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes.** The precautionary recall takes effect immediately and involves retail stores in 13 states: Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. To date, there have been no reports of illness related to the products subject to this recall. The margarine products subject to the recall are made with product from Zander's Creamery Inc. of Cross Plains, Wis. The recall was initiated following notification by Zander's that its margarine products are being recalled based on possible contamination by Listeria monocytogenes in its food service line.
Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/crystalfarms04_04.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

20. *April 27, Associated Press* — **Water regulations may be imposed in Georgia. Georgia may adopt statewide rules within two months to regulate noncommercial outdoor water use, even when there is no drought.** The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is requesting comments on the proposed rules and has scheduled a public hearing in Atlanta on May 17. The Board of Natural Resources will consider adopting the rules on May 26. If they are approved, the department hopes they will take effect June 1, said EPD Communications Director Kevin Chambers. **The proposed rules limit noncommercial outdoor water use during nondrought periods for odd–numbered home addresses to Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and for even–numbered home addresses to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.** The rules identify more restrictions, depending on the severity of drought conditions. During the first phase of a drought, a time restriction for watering would be added to the daily schedule, Chambers said.
Source: http://www.athensnewspapers.com/stories/042604/new_200404260_27.shtml

Public Health Sector

21. *April 26, Associated Press* — **Lab security breach blamed in China SARS. International health officials blamed a breach in lab security Monday, April 26, for China's latest emergence of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) as Chinese authorities kept nearly 500 people quarantined in a struggle to contain the virus.** Two confirmed cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome and six suspected ones have been announced in China over the past week, with all of them linked to people who worked in a SARS laboratory in Beijing. The World Health Organization said it was dispatching a team to find out how two workers could have become infected at the Beijing lab and then pass SARS to others. **The May Day vacation beginning this weekend poses a dilemma for Chinese leaders. They fear that having so many travelers on the move could spread SARS again but also worry that canceling or curtailing the holiday could cause serious economic damage.** Authorities have quarantined people who came in contact with those cases, isolating 337 people in the capital and 133 in Anhui province, the official China Daily said. The World Health Organization said any transmissions so far have appeared to be from very close contact, and that the virus is yet not spreading through the general public as happened last year.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=541&u=/ap/20040426/ap_on_he_me/china_sars_52&printer=1
22. *April 26, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Sanofi expected to buy Aventis. France's largest drug maker, Aventis SA, Sunday, April 25, agreed to be swallowed by its smaller rival, Sanofi-Synthelabo, for \$65.34 billion in cash and stock, people familiar with the situation told The Wall Street Journal.** With Aventis succumbing to Sanofi's sweetened offer, the combination of the two will form the world's third-largest pharmaceuticals company, behind Pfizer Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline PLC.
Source: http://www.quicken.com/investments/news_center/story/?story=NewsStory/dowJones/20040425/ON200404252212000121.var&column=P0DFP
23. *April 26, USA Today* — **Diabetes is global threat. The number of people in the world with diabetes is expected to more than double by 2030, and India, China, and the U.S. will top the list of countries with the most cases, a report says today.** Researchers estimate that 366 million people, or 4.4 percent of the world's population, will be diabetic by 2030; that's up from 171 million, or 2.8 percent of the population, in 2000. The increase is attributed primarily to population changes, researchers say. The projections don't assess the effect of rising obesity rates in developed countries, so they "are almost certainly underestimates," said Sarah Wild of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, lead author of the study. **The new estimates find levels of diabetes are climbing faster than previously thought, the researchers say, underscoring "the growing public health burden of diabetes."** In the U.S. alone, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had predicted 29 million diagnosed diabetics by 2050. But the new study, which includes undiagnosed cases, projects a steeper rise to 30.3 million by 2030.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2004-04-25-diabetes-usat_x.htm

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

Government Sector

24. *April 26, Federal Computer Week* — **Homeland security with a regional flavor.** The Kansas City, MO, Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee covers two states, eight counties, more than 1.9 million people and even brings Washington, DC, into the picture because critical parts of the federal infrastructure are housed there. Local officials created the committee in 2002 because they needed a way to keep up with the influx of funding from the Department of Homeland Security, said Richard Noll, assistant city manager for Kansas City and co-chairman of the committee. **The committee includes representatives from each entity, including the legislature, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services and emergency management.** That ensures that every potential requirement or concern is raised and that everyone feels like they are part of the decision-making process. The most important factor, however, may be that the committee is part of a larger organization, the Mid-America Regional Council, which is decades old and eliminates homeland security disputes about jurisdiction, Noll said. **The committee is also developing a Web-based management system to serve the emergency operations center.** It will be combined with the Metro Emergency Information System to allow administrators to coordinate from the highest level to the front lines.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0426/feat-collab2-04-26-04.asp>

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

Emergency Services Sector

25. *April 26, Department of Homeland Security* — **Homeland Security defines interoperability requirements for first responders.** The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate today, April 26, announced the release of the first comprehensive Statement of Requirements (SoR) document outlining future technology requirements for public safety wireless communications and interoperability. The SoR can be found at <http://www.safecomprogram.gov>. **The SoR, developed under the SAFECOM Program, marks the first time the 50,000 public safety agencies have a document that defines future requirements for communicating and sharing information -- as authorized, when and where needed, and in a manner that allows for the most effective use of that information.** "On behalf of Secretary Ridge, we are pleased that the Department has undertaken this unprecedented step toward defining the nation's interoperability challenges for the future," said Dr. Charles McQueary, Under Secretary, Science and Technology. The SoR provides the public safety community with a shared vision and describes how first responders can use in-the-field information resources more efficiently when responding to a variety of emergency events.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3513>

26. *April 23, Global Security Newswire* — **Crop-duster pilots interviewed. Federal agents have interviewed hundreds of crop-duster pilots in the last year as the war in Iraq increased fears of an attack by plane releasing chemical or biological agents, the Associated Press**

reported yesterday, April 22. More than 3,000 pilots and airplane owners have been questioned since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, most of them following the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, documents state. There have been no arrests under the Agriculture Aviation Threat Project, but interviews have led to continuing terrorism investigations, a senior law enforcement official told The Associated Press. Agents asked whether pilots or owners knew of efforts by foreigners to buy crop dusters, said Andrew Moore, executive director of the National Agriculture Aviation Association. Crop dusters could be used to contaminate the U.S. food supply, but it remains unknown how successful they would be in a more immediate attack. The planes are hard to fly and are not allowed into urban areas and, Moore said. Loading a deadly agent would also require expertise and equipment, he said.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/d%5Fnewswire/issues/2004/4/23/d5264e30%2Dfe5e%2D49b2%2Daa0e%2D4d07600c86e1.html>

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

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

27. April 26, *The Christian Science Monitor* — Power lines set to carry high-speed Internet. On June 1, federal proposed rules for Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) go into effect. At that point, power companies can sell broadband services over power lines in every market in the United States. Several power companies from North Carolina to California have already launched trial programs in the past year, providing Internet service to customers through modems plugged into their electrical outlets. But **ham-radio operators argue BPL causes enough radio interference to block out radio frequencies of fire and police departments, and other emergency services.** Overseas, BPL tests were halted because of interference, they point out. **Ed Thomas, chief engineer for the Federal Communications Commission, maintains that the commission has yet to find any evidence of BPL interfering with nearby radios.** So far, ham operators have few allies — publicly, at least — to help them keep the FCC rules from going into effect. One reason is that, while police and other emergency-services could be affected, they have not tested it.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0426/p16s01-wmgn.html>

28. April 26, *Associated Press* — Bush calls for ban on broadband taxes. President Bush on Monday, April 26, urged Congress to slap a permanent ban on taxes consumers pay for high-speed Internet hookups called broadband. During a speech in Minnesota, Bush said that the government should encourage competition among providers. Bush has already signed into a law a two-year extension of the Internet Access Tax moratorium, which expired last fall. Now, he's calling on Congress to pass legislation that would extend the moratorium to broadband and make it permanent. The House has passed a moratorium on user taxes levied against consumers who subscribe to broadband; the Senate is scheduled to address the issue this week. **Bush also signed an executive memo on Monday that makes it easier for technology companies to run high-speed lines across federal lands.** Most computer users access the Internet through dial-up services, but broadband connections, through phone and cable lines and satellites, are faster. Broadband, which costs about \$40 to \$50 a month, depending on location, also features video conferencing, which, for example, allows doctors or teachers in different cities to communicate with their colleagues or students.

Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20040426/D826IKN80.html>

29. *April 24, Associated Press* — **Legislators wary of electronic voting. Computer scientists have long criticized touchscreen voting machines as not being much more reliable than home computers, which can crash, malfunction and fall prey to hackers and viruses.** Now, a series of failures in primaries across the nation has shaken confidence in the technology installed at thousands of precincts. At least 20 states have introduced legislation requiring a paper record of every vote cast. On Thursday, April 22, a California panel unanimously recommended banning a Diebold Inc. paperless touchscreen model. Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, who said Diebold glitches "jeopardized the outcome" of the March 2 primary, has until April 30 to decide whether to decertify Diebold and possibly other touchscreen terminals in California. The bipartisan U.S. Election Assistance Commission, formed in January to develop technical standards for electronic voting, will conduct a May 5 public hearing in Washington, DC. **Computer scientists say paperless systems made by Sequoia Voting Systems Inc. and other competitors also expose elections to malicious attack, software glitches and mechanical errors that could delete or alter millions of ballots.**
 Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38997-2004Apr 24.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 3 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_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	445 (microsoft-ds), 137 (netbios-ns), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 3127 (mydoom), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 443 (https), 139 (netbios-ssn), 2745 (urbisnet) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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

General Sector

30. *April 27, HeraldNet (Washington)* — **ELF activists claim fires. Arsons that destroyed two new homes, and attempts at several others this week in Snohomish, WA, were the work of the environmental extremist group the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), a statement released by the group claims.** The ELF "press office" has not received direct communication from the arsonists, but "a note found at the site of one the fires was signed ELF and reportedly contained statements condemning suburban developments," the statement reads. "In absence of

other information, this note does indicate a claim of responsibility for the fires and fire attempts by ELF activists," according to the e-mail sent to the media. **FBI agents have been investigating the possibility of ELF involvement since the note was found Tuesday, April 20, at the Cedars Crossing development, about 13 miles from Lobo Ridge, the site of the arsons, FBI spokesman Ray Lauer said Friday, April 23.** Acting in secrecy, the Earth Liberation Front is an international group that uses violent means to protest actions members deem harmful to the environment.

Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/Stories/04/4/24/18523003.cfm>

31. *April 26, Reuters* — **Identity cards go on trial. Pilot trials are starting across Great Britain with 10,000 volunteers to test technology for identity cards in a bid to clamp down on terrorism and abuse of health and welfare services. British Home Secretary David Blunkett said the cards -- which will record people's facial dimensions, iris images and fingerprints -- will help the police crack down on the use of multiple identities by potential attackers.** However, he cautioned that the scheme would by no means protect Britain against terrorism. Blunkett said 35 percent of known terrorists or those associating with them use multiple identities. The government also believes the cards will be effective in the fight against illegal immigration. Identity cards could become compulsory within seven to eight years, or sooner if parliament accelerates legislation, he said. The government hopes to bring a bill before parliament later this year. Biometric data, which will be stored in a national database, will first be introduced to passports and driving licenses before ID cards are issued.

Source: <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=499518§ion=news>

32. *April 26, CNN* — **U.S. offers aid to North Korea in train blast.** The United States will offer aid to North Korea in the wake of last week's train explosion that killed more than 160 people, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday, April 26. World Food Program official Richard Ragan said he visited a hospital that was treating 370 injured people, about 60 percent of whom were children. The hospital facilities were rudimentary, Ragan said, and doctors faced shortages of medical supplies. He added some children were lying on cabinets because the hospital didn't have enough beds. The most pressing concerns are medical issues, he said, because many of the injured would be difficult to treat under the best of circumstances. **The highly secretive North Korean government has issued a statement blaming the explosion on "carelessness." The blast occurred "due to the electrical contact caused by carelessness during the shunting of wagons loaded with ammonium nitrate fertilizer and tank wagons," the official Korean Central News Agency said in a report.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/asiapcf/04/26/nkorean.aid/index.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: Send mail to dhsdailyreport@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information: Send mail to dhsdailyreport@mail.dhs.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.