



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 March 2004

Current Nationwide Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Department of Transportation reports Secretary Mineta has announced the creation of the new Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service to provide independent safety oversight of the Air Traffic Organization. (See item [17](#))
- United Press International reports there have been five CJD deaths in north New Jersey in 15 months, possibly centered around the Garden State Race Track in Cherry Hill. (See item [27](#))
- The New York Times reports the CERT Coordination Center says perpetrators are using Instant Messaging to deliver spam, unleash viruses, and create back doors into the systems of unsuspecting users. (See item [34](#))

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](#)

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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. ***March 25, Rocky Mountain News (CO)*** — **Gas pipelines approved. Two companies will spend nearly a half-billion dollars to build and expand natural gas pipelines snaking through Colorado.** El Paso Corp. won federal approval on Wednesday, March 24, for a new \$425 million pipeline, called the Cheyenne Plains Gas Pipeline, to run through Colorado to Kansas. Kinder Morgan Inc. won approval to invest \$28.6 million to expand capacity in its TransColorado pipeline that runs from Rio Blanco County, CO, to New Mexico's San Juan

County. **Proven gas reserves in the Rockies have increased 6.5 percent annually from 1990 to 2001, but new pipeline construction has lagged.** "The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has said improving infrastructure in the Rockies is a key priority for them," said Greg Schnacke of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association. El Paso's 380-mile Cheyenne Plains Pipeline will connect the Cheyenne hub to a terminal near Greensburg, KS. It will carry 730 million cubic feet of gas a day — enough to heat about 3 million average U.S. homes. Construction on the pipeline will begin in the fall, and the target date for completion is midsummer 2005.

Source: http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/business/article/0,129,9,DRMN_4_2756318,00.html

2. *March 25, Associated Press* — **FBI issues alert for plants in Texas. Security was tight Thursday, March 25, at petrochemical plants along the Gulf of Mexico following a caution issued by the FBI.** An agency official said that the Texas Coastal Regional Advisory System (TCRAS), a shared information and communication system that is part of the Houston Joint Terrorism Task Force, was notified of nonspecific threats gathered from overseas sources. **"It's really uncorroborated, but there was enough there we thought it was best to send something out across TCRAS,"** said Bob Dogium, the Houston-area spokesperson for the FBI. He said there was no indication of an immediate or direct threat against any of the facilities that dot the Texas Gulf Coast.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20040325_678.html

3. *March 25, Associated Press* — **BPA offers reward for information on power line shooters. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) officials are offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the person who shot out glass insulators on a power line near Prineville, OR.** BPA spokesperson Ed Mosey said the line shorted out and was shut down by the system when the insulators were blasted away. No customers lost power during the short-out of the line, which serves Southern California, he said. About a dozen cases of vandalism occur annually over Bonneville's four-state power grid, according to Mosey. The repairs took eight hours and cost \$10,000, according to a press release issued by the company.

Source: <http://www.kgw.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D81HFRQO1.html>

4. *March 25, Reuters* — **Shell, Libya in oil and gas partnership.** Oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell seized on warmer ties between Libya and the West to sign an industrial partnership with the oil-rich country on Thursday, March 25, 20 years after the company stopped work there. Libyan officials and the Anglo-Dutch group, whose move puts Libya back on the radar for the world's top oil firms, said it was too early to talk about specific deals. However, officials accompanying British Prime Minister Tony Blair on a landmark visit to Tripoli said Shell was on the verge of a \$200 million natural gas project there. **"We expect to sign exploration agreements in the next few weeks, or one or two months,"** Shell's new Head of Exploration and Production, Malcolm Brinded. **A group of U.S. firms, called Oasis, is also keen to renew contracts on Libyan acreage, dormant since U.S. sanctions isolated the nation in the 1980s.** These are set to expire next year.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=EQV0D0BSFYNSOCRBAE0CFFA?type=businessNews&storyID=4660625>

5.

March 24, Reuters — **U.S. taking 18 million barrels off market for oil reserve. The U.S. Interior Department on Wednesday, March 24, awarded contracts to deliver an estimated 18 million barrels of crude oil to the nation's emergency oil stockpile, a move that will keep supplies off the market at a time of high gasoline prices.** The Bush administration's decision rejects demands from Congress to delay shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and keep the oil in the market to boost supplies during the busy summer driving season and lower prices. The six-month deals would put oil into the reserve through an existing program where oil firms give the government oil in lieu of paying cash royalties for drilling on federal tracts in the Gulf of Mexico. Congress created the reserve in 1975 after the Arab oil embargo, and it holds 650 million barrels of crude at four sites in Texas and Louisiana. **The Bush administration is filling the stockpile to its capacity of 700 million barrels by next year.**
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040324/energy_oil_reserves_3.html

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Chemical Sector

- March 25, Associated Press* — **Honeywell plant to reopen soon.** A Honeywell International plant in Metropolis, IL, where a toxic chemical leak in December sparked a federal investigation, plans to resume production of the chemical this week, plant officials said. **The December 22 leak released seven pounds of uranium hexafluoride gas into the air over this Ohio River town, rising 86 feet and drifting into a residential neighborhood. Four people were hospitalized and more than two dozen others were evacuated from nearby houses. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigation blamed the release on human error at the specialty chemicals plant.** The NRC has since approved a company plan to improve safety at the facility, which converts uranium into uranium hexafluoride to make rods that power nuclear plants. Honeywell revamped its emergency-response plan and installed a dedicated phone line for emergency responders to call if another leak occurs, said plant manager Rory O'Kane. Honeywell will also teach local emergency first-responders about handling hazardous materials, he said.
Source: <http://www.journalstandard.com/articles/2004/03/24/business/bus31.txt>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

- March 25, Associated Press* — **Plan to use Ohio plant for military blimp. Government officials and a private contractor announced a \$24 million plan Thursday, March 25, to update an old blimp factory in Akron, OH, for construction of a high-flying, remote-controlled blimp prototype to monitor U.S. borders and scan the horizon for enemy missiles.** The contractor in September received a contract worth about \$40 million from the Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency to design and build the unmanned, helium-filled airship that would patrol at 65,000 feet and be able to lift about 4,000 pounds. The prototype is expected to be complete by summer 2006.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23791-2004Mar_25.html

8. *March 25, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-558T: Military Base Closures: Observations on Preparations for the Upcoming Base Realignment and Closure Round (Testimony)**. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 authorized an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round in 2005. The legislation requires the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide Congress in early 2004 with a report that addresses excess infrastructure and certifies that an additional BRAC round is needed and that annual net savings will be realized by each military department not later than fiscal year 2011. The General Accounting Office (GAO) is required to assess this information as well as the selection criteria for the 2005 round and report to Congress within 60 days of DoD's submission. The legislation also retains the requirement for GAO to assess the BRAC 2005 decision-making process and resulting recommendations. **This testimony addresses (1) the BRAC process from a historical perspective, (2) GAO's role in the process, and (3) GAO's initial observations on key issues DoD is required to address in preparation for the 2005 round.** Because DoD had not submitted its required 2004 report at the time we completed this statement, this testimony relies on our prior work that addressed issues associated with excess capacity and BRAC savings. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04558thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-558T>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 25, The Standard (China)* — **Fight urged on card crime. Chinese lawmakers on Wednesday, March 24, passed a member's motion urging the government to devote more time and effort to combating crimes relating to the use of credit cards and ATM cards.** Lau Kong-wah said that although the number of automatic teller machine fraud cases had not reached a critical level, the situation could become more serious once mainland travelers are allowed to use credit cards to make payments in Hong Kong. He urged the government to start cracking down on what he called a newly emerging crime to maintain public confidence in electronic banking services. Lau said international credit card-issuing agencies Visa and MasterCard in 2006 planned to introduce credit cards that contained a micro computer chip, which could securely store and encrypt confidential information, and approve or decline transactions for specific accounts. He said the government should co-operate with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and banks to introduce this new technology to Hong Kong so that lenders could upgrade their services to meet international standards of protection. **Independent lawmaker Audrey Eu said the security protection measures of ATM cards in Hong Kong lagged behind those in other parts of the world.**
Source: http://www.thestandard.com.hk/thestandard/news_detail_frame.cfm?articleid=46197&intcatid=1

10. *March 25, Press Association News* — **New warning over bank e-mail scam.** Bank customers were warned today to be vigilant about revealing their account details following the resurgence of an e-mail scam. The Association of Payment Clearing Services (APACS) said it had seen a substantial increase in the number of people getting e-mails allegedly from their bank in the past few days. The e-mails generally tell people the bank has updated its anti-fraud systems and needs them to re-activate their account by clicking on a link. An APACS spokesperson said "after a lull and a very quiet period, since Monday there has been a rise in attacks. **The**

numbers are increasing quite substantially and they are targeting international banks and those in the UK, Spain, France and Belgium." He added that customers of large high street banks in the UK had been targeted but would not say which banks they were.

Source: <http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=2696802>

11. *March 25, New York Times* — **Saudis aiding U.S. in cutting off terrorism funds. A panel of government terrorism experts testified Wednesday, March 24, that a deadly attack last year in the Saudi capital of Riyadh had spurred the Saudi government to work more closely with the United States in stemming the flow of money to terrorist organizations like al Qaeda and Hamas.** At the same time, the panel pointed to the closed nature of Saudi society and banking institutions to say that more efforts were needed to stop money from reaching groups that consider themselves at war with the United States, Israel and their allies. "Their performance has not been flawless, and they have a large task before them," J. Cofer Black, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, said of the Saudi government. The panel said some of the new initiatives would have been unimaginable before last May 12, when a series of bombs rocked the Saudi capital. However, Steven Simon, an analyst for the Rand Corporation, said **Osama bin Laden, a Saudi native and the leader of al Qaeda, "is revered" in Saudi Arabia, and supporters would always find a way to get him and others the financial support they need to plan future attacks.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/25/politics/25FINA.html>

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 25, Billings Gazette (Montana)* — **American CEO may bid on Hawaiian Airlines.** Donald J. Carty, the former top executive of American Airlines Inc., is joining an investment group that hopes to run bankrupt Hawaiian Airlines Inc. Carty, 57, resigned from his posts as chairman and chief executive of Fort Worth–based American last April as the carrier narrowly avoided bankruptcy. **Hawaiian filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last March after management couldn't agree with Boeing Capital Corp. on restructured airplane leases.** A bankruptcy judge will set up ground rules soon leading to the selection of which reorganization team will end up with Hawaiian.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2004/03/25/build/business/56-american-hawaiian.inc>

13. *March 25, Transport Topics News* — **House committee passes \$275 billion highway bill.** The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Wednesday, March 24, approved a six–year, \$275 billion highway and mass transit spending bill. The legislation sent to the full House was \$100 billion under what committee Chairman Don Young (R–AL) and most on the panel said was needed to deal with the nation's transit systems, the Associated Press reported. **The committee also inserted into the bill a provision allowing Congress to take another look at the bill again in two years, when a stronger economy might warrant a boost in spending.** Last month, the Senate passed a \$318 billion bill on a 76–21 vote. Young previously proposed paying for the larger bill by raising the federal gas tax, which has stayed at 18.4 cents per gallon over the past decade, by about five cents.

Source: <http://www.ttnews.com/members/topnews/0011281.html>

14. *March 25, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-419: Highways and Transit: Private Sector Sponsorship of and Investment in Major Projects Has Been Limited (Report).** GAO was asked to examine cases where state and local governments have used active private sector sponsorship and investment on major highway and transit projects where the private sector was the primary stakeholder in designing, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining such projects. Among its objectives, GAO (1) identified the extent to which states have used active private sponsorship and investment to finance and build highway and transit projects; (2) identified some advantages, from the perspective of state and local governments, resulting from private sponsorship and investment and some tradeoffs; (3) determined challenges that the private sector faced in these projects; and (4) presented legislative proposals that could help increase private sponsorship and investment in highway and transit projects. GAO provided a draft of this report to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for its review and comment. DOT generally agreed with the information in the report. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04419high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-419>

15. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Some U.S. airports want private screeners. About one-quarter of the nation's commercial airports no longer want government employees screening passengers and baggage, preferring private companies working under federal supervision, a congressman said Thursday.** Airport directors are upset with the Transportation Security Administration's inability to adjust staffing to meet demand, which results in long waits at some airports, said Rep. John Mica, R-FL, chairman of the House aviation subcommittee. Some large airports, such as those in Orlando, FL, and Los Angeles, have only 80 percent of the screeners they need, while some small airports have far too many. Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio, the ranking Democrat on the aviation subcommittee, blamed understaffing for the long lines at some airports. The TSA initially believed it needed 59,000 screeners, but Congress set the number of full-time employees at 45,000, he said. The current system could work if the TSA gave its airport security directors more authority to hire and train workers, he said.
Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/8276231.htm>

16. *March 25, Department of Transportation* — **Secretary Mineta says passengers rapidly returning to skies.** With a strong national economy spurring growth in air travel for the second consecutive year, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said the federal government is better prepared than ever to address potential aviation gridlock with passenger levels returning to pre-9/11 levels by 2005 and exceeding one billion by 2015. **In a speech at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) 29th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference, Secretary Mineta also said that a new era of government-industry cooperation is helping to prevent the chronic flight delays experienced during the summer of 2001 and earlier.** The Secretary also announced the preliminary release of an FAA capacity study that highlights the need for continued aviation infrastructure investments to keep pace with the growing passenger demand, saying the number of passengers is expected to exceed more than one billion by 2015.
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot03604.htm>

17.

March 25, Department of Transportation — **Secretary Mineta announces independent safety oversight service for air traffic organization.** Secretary of the Department of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta today, March 25, announced the establishment of an office to provide independent safety oversight of the Air Traffic Organization (ATO). The office's primary responsibility will be to ensure the safety of changes to air traffic standards and procedures. **The creation of the new Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service, based within the regulation and certification organization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), follows a recommendation of the 1997 National Civil Aviation Review Commission (NCARC) chaired by Secretary Mineta.** FAA Administrator Marion C. Blakey said, "This new organization is designed to give us independent analysis of our air traffic control operations." Secretary Mineta named Dave Canoles, the FAA's current director for emergency operations and communications, to head the new office
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot03704.htm>

18. *March 25, Associated Press* — **Amtrak among those tightening rail security.** Metro isn't the only transit agency increasing security in the wake of the train bombings in Spain. **Amtrak spokesman Dan Stessel says passengers traveling to and from Union Station are also likely to see tighter security. He says there are more police officers and canine units on patrol systemwide.** Passengers and employees also are being asked to report suspicious packages. The Department of Homeland Security also has announced plans to start a baggage screening pilot program by May — possibly somewhere between Washington and Baltimore.
Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0304/134771.html>

19. *March 25, Reuters* — **Amsterdam station reopened after bomb threat.** Dutch officials briefly evacuated Amsterdam's central railway station on Thursday, March 25, over a bomb threat but later reopened the station, saying they had found nothing. Meanwhile, a railway spokesperson said the station at Roosendaal, a town near the Belgium border, had also been closed over a bomb threat and train traffic halted. **Security services in Europe are on high alert two weeks after blasts on trains in Madrid killed 190 people and after a bomb was found half-buried on the main railway line between Paris and Switzerland on Wednesday.** Train traffic in and out of the Dutch capital was halted at around 1:30 p.m. but police allowed the public back into the station about an hour later. Police declined to comment on how police had received the threat but a railway spokesperson said the authorities were told something would explode at 2 p.m.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=574&u=/nm/20040325/wl_nm/dutch_station_alert_dc_2&printer=1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

20. *March 25, Washington Post* — **Live bird markets stir poultry industry's flu fears.**

Commercial poultry producers and agriculture officials in Maryland and Delaware are increasingly concerned that the live bird markets popular in New York and New Jersey are breeding grounds for a form of avian flu that spread to their states in the past month. The disease, while harmless to humans, can be deadly to birds and potentially devastating to the Washington region's \$1.5 billion poultry industry, they say. Both New York and New Jersey require haulers to certify that the birds they bring to the markets are virus-free. Still, representatives of commercial poultry farmers contend that the high incidence of avian flu in live bird markets proves that those regulations are insufficient. **Officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture are exploring whether it might be possible to develop a comprehensive system of tracking the origin of each bird sent to live bird markets.** That way, when avian flu is identified at a market or a farm supplying it, authorities could trace the virus to its source and ensure that it is eradicated there as well.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22491-2004Mar 24.html>

21. *March 24, New Scientist* — **Bird flu vaccination could lead to new strains. Last week China declared its bird flu outbreaks had ended. Health officials are vaccinating millions of the birds that escaped slaughter. Indonesia is also vaccinating, and other Asian countries hit by the H5N1 bird flu are considering the same strategy.** With H5N1 bird flu now affecting a huge area of Asia, vaccination could help end the outbreaks more quickly. Fewer flocks destroyed would leave fewer small-scale poultry farmers destitute. In a report that will appear in the *Journal of Virology*, a team led by David Suarez of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's poultry research lab in Georgia, reveals that "major antigenic differences" have been found in the bird flu viruses isolated from vaccinated chickens in Mexico since 1995. It is increasingly different to the vaccine strain, which means that **infected birds will shed more of the virus and spread the infection more readily.** The H5N1 virus circulating in vaccinated chickens in Asia is likely to evolve the same way.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994810>

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Food Sector

22. *March 25, Food and Drug Administration* — **FDA releases acrylamide data and final acrylamide action plan. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday, March 25, released new data on acrylamide levels in more than 750 new food samples.** These data expand the agency's ability to assess the extent to which this chemical is present in the food supply and its public health impact. In addition, the FDA has made available the final version of its action plan to evaluate the risk associated with acrylamide and examine ways to potentially reduce levels of acrylamide in food. **To date, acrylamide is known to cause cancer and reproductive problems in animals at high doses and is a neurotoxin in humans at high doses.** These new data results almost triple FDA's database of acrylamide levels in food. The new data are consistent with previous findings showing higher levels of acrylamide in potato-based and other carbohydrate-rich products processed at high temperatures and lower levels of acrylamide in dairy foods and infant formulas. FDA's final action plan for acrylamide in food and new sampling data can be found at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/pestadd.html#acrylamide>.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2004/NEW01040.html>

23. *March 25, The Business Journal (MN)* — **General Mills to sell oat fiber operation. General Mills Inc. in Golden Valley, MN, has signed a letter of intent with SunOpta Inc., based in Norval, Ontario, Canada to sell an oat fiber processing facility in Cedar Rapids, IA.** Terms of the transaction were not announced. The companies said they hope to close the deal as soon as possible. SunOpta said its SunOpta Ingredients Inc. subsidiary will operate the facility. SunOpta makes products for the natural and organic food markets. It said it is expanding its fiber processing capabilities in light of increasing demand for healthy, fiber-based food products.

Source: <http://twincities.bizjournals.com/twincities/stories/2004/03/22/daily39.html>

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Water Sector

24. *March 25, KRT Wire* — **Sparta, NJ, water wells fail new EPA test for uranium contamination.** Wells in Sparta, NJ, serving 600 customers are the state's first casualties of a new safety standard for uranium contamination in drinking water. And more wells in the Highlands of North Jersey may be at risk from natural deposits of the radioactive ore. **Uranium testing is now mandated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency for drinking water provided by utilities serving 25 or more customers.** The EPA's standards for radioactive material in drinking water became effective Dec. 8, but testing will not conclude throughout the state until Dec. 31, 2007. Besides uranium, the standards cover radionuclides radium 226 and 228 and alpha, beta, and photon emitters. Pockets of uranium are found in the rock base of the geological feature known as the Reading Prong, which undergirds much of North Jersey's Highlands.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/national/8266789.htm>

25. *March 25, San Antonio Express-News* — **Desalted water plans touted.** Making salty water fit to drink is already happening in Texas, and more is on the way, a legislative panel heard Wednesday, March 24. "The largest regional brackish groundwater desalination plant in Texas is up and running in Cameron County," John Bruciak, general manager of both the Brownsville Public Utility Board and the Southmost Regional Water Authority, told the House Natural Resources Committee. Bruciak said the project taps into the Gulf Coast Aquifer and provides 7.5 million gallons of water a day to people in five jurisdictions through more than 40,000 connections. **The cost per 1,000 gallons is coming in at \$1.60 — just under the \$1.66 per 1,000 gallons that Brownsville charges for water, he said.** The Texas Water Development Board's Jorge Arroyo told the panel that the membrane technology that filters water in the reverse osmosis process continues to get cheaper but that the cost can still run up to \$3 per 1,000 gallons. The salinity of the groundwater that Brownsville is using is about 3,000 parts per million, while seawater's salinity is 40,000 to 50,000 parts per million.

Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/metro/stories/MYSA25.05B.st ate_water0325.1c33e088.html

26. *March 25, KOBTV.com* — **Experts: New Mexico water shortage getting worse.** Many New

Mexicans concerned about water shortages met at a conference in Albuquerque Wednesday, March 24, to learn more about just how dire the water situation is. **“We’ve been in a drought for about five years and all the indicators are the drought is going to continue and probably get worse,” Anne Watkins of State Engineers Office said.** With water shortages expected to be a long-term problem in New Mexico, the state is now looking at ways to get everyone in the habit of conservation. “It means everybody just thinking more about how to use less water during the dry periods,” said Watkins. Water levels are currently 20 percent below where they were at this time last year. That means conserving water will be even more important this summer.

Source: <http://www.kobtv.com/index.cfm?viewer=storyviewer&id=9586&ca t=NMTOPSTORIES>

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Public Health Sector

27. *March 25, United Press International* — Five CJD deaths in north New Jersey in 15 months. A 62-year old man in Northern New Jersey has died from a brain disorder that appears to be Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease, which, if confirmed, would be the fifth case of the rare disease in a little over a year in a two-county area, United Press International has learned. The death last Friday, March 19, of Ronald Swartz, of Denville, also would be the second CJD case in 2004 in New Jersey, where federal and state health authorities are investigating a potential cluster of cases of the rare brain disorder in the southern region of the state. UPI also has learned that officials have reopened the case of a Philadelphia woman who died in 2000 and that case also is included among those in the possible cluster. Carrie Mahan, 29, died from a brain disorder that was never identified, but which physicians initially suspected of being the nation's first case of variant CJD, the form of the disease linked to mad cow disease. **The possible CJD cluster is associated with the Garden State Race Track in Cherry Hill, where as many as 13 CJD deaths might have occurred among employees and patrons who ate at the now defunct track.** Both variant CJD and the spontaneously occurring form of the disease -- called sporadic CJD or simply CJD -- are incurable conditions that degenerate the brain and ultimately cause death.

Source: <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20040323-051052-3359r>

28. *March 24, Washington Post* — NYC unveils health plan stressing preventive care. New York City officials announced a broad new health plan Wednesday, March 24, that will provide nicotine patches to smokers, clean syringes to drug users, nurse visits for all first-time mothers and other preventive care initiatives in an effort to focus on some leading causes of illness and death. **The plan, dubbed "Take Care New York," also establishes certain goals. Over the next eight years, city officials hope to prevent 250 drug-related deaths, avert 80,000 smoking-related deaths and increase the number of people who regularly see a doctor.** "The challenge for public health is to make the switch from addressing contagious diseases to dealing more effectively with what is killing people today," said Thomas R. Frieden, the city's health commissioner. In the plan, the health department outlines 10 health issues that it calls "winnable battles," including depression, the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus and lead poisoning in children. Under the plan, the city intends to lobby for restrictions on cigarette advertisements and to find ways to make lead-paint manufacturers pay for abatement efforts

and exposure-related health care.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22232-2004Mar 24.html>

29. *March 24, Reuters* — **U.S. drug researcher imprisoned for FDA fraud. An Alabama doctor who admitted making up research for a drug experiment was sentenced to more than four years in prison on Wednesday**, March 24, and ordered to pay fines and restitution of \$1.5 million, U.S. regulators and the Justice Department said. Ann Campbell, 46, had pleaded guilty to the charges of mail fraud last October, Alabama prosecutors and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said. She was accused of submitting data to Aventis Pharma, Inc. that falsely named several people who were supposed to have participated in her research on behalf of the company, but had not. **"The public relies on the integrity of the drug approval process in this country. The safety and effectiveness of drugs dispensed in this country is a hallmark of the excellent medical care we get,"** United States Attorney Alice Martin said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=4651813>

30. *March 22, International Herald Tribune* — **UN agency says SARS awareness may help fight TB.** The World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday, March 22, that the outbreak of SARS in Asia last year could give a boost to the campaign against tuberculosis by raising public consciousness of infectious diseases and because SARS had made more resources available to fight such diseases. **Tuberculosis kills 1,000 people in the Western Pacific every day, compared with about 800 deaths altogether from severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) since its discovery.** Tuberculosis spreads through coughing or sneezing and close personal contact with a patient. It infects 5,500 people every day in the 37 countries making up the Western Pacific region, according to the WHO. Worldwide, it infects about eight million people every year, killing two million of them. **The WHO aims to cut by half the tuberculosis incidence in the Western Pacific by 2010.** The health agency needs to achieve three targets by 2005 to accomplish this mission: regionwide access to treatment, detection of at least 70 percent of the estimated number of tuberculosis infections, and a successful treatment of at least 85 percent of patients.

Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/511370.html>

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Government Sector

31. *March 24, Government Executive Magazine* — **Regional homeland security offices will be small. A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiative to unify the field structure of its 22 agencies will not create large field bureaucracies, a top DHS official said Wednesday, March 24.** Asa Hutchinson, Homeland Security's undersecretary for border and transportation security, outlined the department's ongoing effort to create regional offices around the country in testimony before a joint hearing of two House Government Reform subcommittees. While the department plans to appoint regional directors to oversee homeland security efforts outside Washington, Hutchinson said it does not envision hiring hundreds of workers to staff the offices. Homeland Security's field organization will influence how state and local governments interact with the department, as well as how agencies inside DHS work with one another. Homeland Security inherited agencies with vastly different ways of managing operations outside Washington.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/032404p1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *March 25, Telegraph–Forum (Ohio)* — **Rail disaster drill.** What if? That was the jumping off point for emergency responders' regional training meetings conducted Wednesday, March 24, by Norfolk Southern Corporation at the Youth Building at the Crawford County (Ohio) Fairgrounds. Tom Davis, assistant manager, hazardous materials, for the railroad's environmental protection department, conducted the morning and afternoon sessions on safety and emergency response and products being shipped through Crawford County. "We went through a lot of scenarios, pretty interesting," Crawford County Emergency Management Agency director Tim Flock said as the morning class wound down. **With two major railroads, Norfolk Southern and CSX, along with hundreds of trucks rolling through the area, hazardous materials response is important in this area, Flock and Davis both said.** Based in Elkhart, IN, Davis said the railroad does the classes "on request and we do it quite a bit." Source: <http://www.bucyrustelegraphforum.com/news/stories/20040325/1ocalnews/146585.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

33. *March 25, Federal Computer Week* — **Security needs better education for programmers.** Dealing with Internet computer worms and viruses requires a long-term education effort aimed at programmers while they are still in college, a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) executive said Thursday, March 25. Lawrence Hale, deputy director of the DHS' U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, said, "the things that are costing us the most pain are preventable." Programmers can be taught to avoid creating buffer overflows and other well-known vulnerabilities found in commercial software, said Hale, speaking at the FOSE conference on government technology in Washington, DC. It could be years before the results of education show up in software that is being sold, but the effort is needed more than ever because the problem is getting worse, officials said. Hale said **an increasing number of cyberattacks are done for profit. "Worms are turning machines into mail servers," he said. "Your machines are being used to spam."** In addition to working with universities to promote secure programming practices, **DHS is working with researchers at Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs and other organizations on new tools that could detect the precursors of network attacks,** Hale said. Source: <http://fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0322/web-secure-03-25-04.as.p>

34. *March 25, New York Times* — **When instant messages come bearing malice.** Perpetrators are using Instant Messaging (IM) to deliver spam, unleash viruses, and create back doors into the systems of unsuspecting users. The CERT Coordination Center says **IM users are especially susceptible to "social engineering,"** meaning attacks that prey on human foibles by enticing people with promises of free products, pornography and interesting-sounding links. **When two**

people communicate through instant messaging, the messages are relayed as plain text through an IM service's central servers before they reach the recipient. An unscrupulous systems administrator could easily train a program to search for words, passwords or combinations of numbers to harvest critical personal information. The lack of privacy is compounded when IM messages travel over public wireless networks like those at cafes, airports and hotels where security levels are kept low to give users easy access to the network. IM users can transfer files to each other and give others access to their shared-files folder. These folders sometimes contain family photographs and documents with names, addresses and telltale financial information, "all the little pieces of information that actually might help someone assume a person's identity," said Fred Felman of Zone Labs.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/25/technology/circuits/25mess.html>

35. March 24, The Register — Dutch Internet blackmailer gets ten years. A 46-year-old Dutch chip programmer who tried to blackmail dairy company Campina has been jailed for 10 years by a Dutch court on blackmail charges and five counts of attempted murder. **The blackmailer put agricultural poison in Campina Stracciatella desserts in a bid to extort money. The man forced Campina to open a bank account and asked them to deposit \$242,750. Campina was issued with a credit card for the account which the blackmailer intended to use to withdraw the cash. But to avoid breaking cover, he asked Campina to buy a credit card reader and extract the information from the card's magnetic stripe. The output, together with the card's pin code, was sent to him electronically via steganography.** Campina received an envelope containing a floppy with a stego program and some instructions. The company then had to encode the credit card data into a picture. The blackmailer downloaded the picture, decoded the information it contained, created his own copy of the card, and finally went to withdraw the cash. To download the online picture, he used the Anonymizer.com service, believing the company's privacy policy would protect him. However, he was caught red-handed last year when he withdrew the money from a cash machine using his copy of the credit card.

Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/36485.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_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	

445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 3127 (mydoom), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 6129 (dameware), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 139 (netbios-ssn), 21 (ftp)
Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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