



# Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 September 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- Reuters reports health officials and vets say the threat of animal diseases spreading to humans is increasing, and governments need to improve coordination to prevent them from becoming pandemic. (See item [24](#))
- In anticipation of Hurricane Ivan, the Department of Homeland Security is coordinating federal response operations and readiness activities with state and local agencies through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and plans to provide immediate assistance to any community in need after the hurricane makes landfall. (See item [26](#))
- The US-CERT has released “Technical Cyber Security Alert TA04-260A: Microsoft Windows JPEG component buffer overflow.” (See item [31](#))

### 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:** [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

## Energy Sector

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

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

1. *September 16, Associated Press* — **Tight supply means another winter of increasing natural gas costs.** Utility Niagara Mohawk predicted Thursday, September 16, that natural gas prices in its service area of upstate New York will be 10 percent to 15 percent higher this coming winter. Natural gas bills went essentially unchanged during the 2003–2004 winter compared with the previous year's, said Joseph Ash Jr., Niagara Mohawk's vice president of energy supply, pricing and regulatory proceedings. However, **this year, tight supplies and growing demand have**

**worked to drive up prices. Natural gas wholesale prices have more than doubled since the early 1990s**, said Paul Wilkinson, vice president of policy analysis for the American Gas Association, an industry trade group. **The nation's supply of natural gas is just adequate to meet demand, which means there is little cushion for unforeseen circumstances — such as an unusually cold winter**, Wilkinson said. Gas exploration companies have put hundreds of new drilling rigs in the field since 2000, but have realized only modest production gains because existing natural gas fields are being depleted, Wilkinson said. In the meantime, demand continues to rise, especially from new power plants that burn natural gas to make electricity. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny--gasbills0916sep16.0.1591485.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

2. *September 15, Reuters* — **U.S. seeks help on securing nuclear material.** The United States will ask countries that possess or have produced bomb–useable nuclear material to join in a new effort to keep it out of the hands of extremists, Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said on Wednesday, September 15. **A Washington–Moscow cooperative venture called the Global Threat Reduction Initiative is already under way to retrieve from various locations around the world, and to secure, nuclear fuel produced by Russia and the United States. These efforts will now be expanded to identify, retrieve and secure bomb–useable nuclear materials located in other countries and produced by other governments besides the United States and Russia**, Abraham said. The United States has assumed responsibility for paying for the joint projects with Russia, which are estimated to cost upwards of \$450 million. However, Abraham said Washington hoped other countries would help to pay for the new program. Until now, Washington and Moscow have focused on three components of their initiative. This has included retrieving fresh and spent Russian–origin fuel distributed to research reactors in the Soviet era; retrieving U.S.–origin fuel from research reactors around the world; and working to convert these reactors from using bomb–useable highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=6248339>

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

## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

3. *September 15, DefenseTalk.Com* — **With weight issues resolved, JSF focus turns to production. Engineers have removed more than 2,700 pounds (1,225 kilograms) of unwanted estimated weight from the short–takeoff/vertical–landing (STOVL) version of the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), while increasing propulsion efficiency and reducing drag.** The result is an F–35 JSF design recommendation that is expected to meet or exceed all of its performance requirements. With first flight expected in August 2006, production becomes the program's central focus. All four of the first test aircraft's major subassemblies are now in work. Final assembly of the F–35 is planned to start next spring in Fort Worth, TX, with

completion of the first aircraft anticipated in late 2005.

Source: [http://www.defencetalk.com/news/publish/article\\_001892.shtml](http://www.defencetalk.com/news/publish/article_001892.shtml)

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

4. *September 16, Sophos* — **Trojan horse targets Australian online banking customers, Sophos reports.** Experts at Sophos have warned computer users about a Trojan horse that helps hackers break into the bank accounts of customers of an Australian bank. **The Troj/IBank—A Trojan horse is designed to steal information from internet customers of the National Australia Bank, which could allow hackers to break into accounts and steal substantial amounts of money.** "Once the Trojan has installed itself on a computer it lurks in the background waiting for the right moment to pounce. As soon as it sees the user is logging onto the National Australia Bank's Website it grabs their account ID and password and sends it to remote hackers," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. "More and more virus writers, phishers and hackers are focusing their attention on internet banking customers — users who do not take care may be risking having their accounts emptied by these criminals." Although this particular Trojan horses only targets users of an Australian bank, Sophos warns that others have been seen which affect banking customers in other parts of the world.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/virusinfo/articles/ozphish.html>

5. *September 15, Associated Press* — **Law allows electronic clearing of checks. A law allowing banks to clear checks electronically takes effect next month, designed to speed the process and lower costs for banks using the new arrangement.** The "Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act," known as "Check 21," was enacted by Congress in late 2003. It goes into effect on October 28. The law allows banks to send electronic images of checks rather than having to physically return original checks to their issuing banks. **Under the current system, banks often must physically move original checks from the financial institution in which they were deposited to the one that pays them.** Many are flown around the nation. With tens of billions of checks processed annually in the United States, the current system is prone to delays. **The 2001 attacks lent urgency to the legislation, as banks had to resort to slower ground transportation when planes were grounded.** The Federal Reserve, which oversees the national check-clearing system, estimates that banks could save \$2 billion annually in check-processing costs, including \$250 million in transportation costs. Under the new law, banks no longer will be required to have specific agreements with other banks to process checks electronically.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24280-2004Sep 15.html>

6. *September 15, The Boston Channel (MA)* — **Discover Card warns of scam. Discover Card is warning their customers about phishing. They have sent a security alert that Internet hackers illegally attempted to obtain personal and account information by sending an e-mail from supportdiscovercard.com.** When you log on, they want all your personal information. Like most major credit card companies and banks, Discover has told its cardholders to be very careful. Discover doesn't ask for personal information verification online. The company doesn't threaten to close accounts for non-compliance of anything online,

and all personal online activities are conducted at the company's official Website.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/buyerbeware/3733200/detail.html>

7. *September 15, NewsFactor* — **Google search reveals credit card numbers.** In an effort to ascertain actual theft risk associated with ordering online, NewsFactor conducted an informal test of the Web. The findings were alarming: **anybody who can use Google can get access to credit-card and personal identification information.** "Personal identity information is on computer systems everywhere," says Christian Byrnes, senior vice president of technology research services at Meta Group. The NewsFactor test was conducted using basic search engines to determine how accessible personal identity and credit card information was to a more ordinary criminal mind. Using a researcher's Visa debit card, we started with the first four numbers on the card and extended the span of possible number combinations. So we entered in the google.com search window: visa 4060000000000000..4060999999999999. The result was a long list of Visa card numbers complete with name, address, phone number, expiration dates and a list of recent purchases. **NewsFactor found no indication that the larger, more credible, retail sites were the source of credit card information leaks. It was the mom-and-pop shops, home-based businesses, and smaller companies that showed vulnerability.**

Source: [http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story\\_id=26967](http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_id=26967)

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

## **Transportation Sector**

8. *September 16, USA TODAY* — **Radio outage led to close calls for aircraft. A three-hour air traffic control outage that grounded hundreds of flights across the West on Tuesday, September 14, also led to five close calls in which planes failed to keep the recommended minimum distance between each other, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials said Wednesday, September 15.** In two incidents, planes that were not able to get information on the proximity of other planes had their collision avoidance alarm systems go off, according to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. That would require pilots to take evasive action, it said. The FAA said it doesn't know yet whether evasive action was required. It said that although radio contact failed, radar coverage remained fully operational and aircraft were safely handed off to other air traffic control facilities. According to the FAA's Paul Turk, the shutdown of radio communication in the West **was caused by failure to perform a routine maintenance check on the communication system for the region that covers California, Arizona, Nevada and parts of Utah.** The communication system shuts down if the check is not performed every 30 days. A backup system exists, but it failed, too, because it "was not configured properly," according to the FAA.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-09-15-radio-outage\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-09-15-radio-outage_x.htm)

9. *September 16, Orlando Business Journal (FL)* — **Port Canaveral receives federal security grants.** Port Canaveral recently received nearly \$800,000 in federal seaport security grants that will be used for additional closed circuit television cameras and expanded access control at the world's second busiest cruise port. "We have made significant investments in securing Port Canaveral with cameras, lighting, fencing and other measures," says Stan Payne, chief executive officer of the Canaveral Port Authority, the port's governing arm. "This funding helps

us continue our efforts." **The funding will provide access control and closed-circuit equipment installation at 14 new locations at Port Canaveral.**

Source: <http://orlando.bizjournals.com/orlando/stories/2004/09/13/day39.html>

10. *September 16, Oakland Tribune (CA)* — **Sea Marshals ride Bay ferries.** On Wednesday, September 15, local police joined forces with the Coast Guard's Sea Marshals as they patrolled commuter ferries. Police and marshals added a visible deterrent aboard the Alameda/Oakland, Larkspur and Vallejo boats. **"We are increasing the level of law enforcement presence randomly on the ferries. Our old patrols started to get predictable," said Paul Martin Jr., port security specialist for the Coast Guard. The Sea Marshals began patrolling California's Bay Area ferry boats shortly after September 11, 2001. About four million people ride those boats every year, including 800 commuters a day on the Alameda/Oakland Ferry.** Sea Marshal Lt. Dave Jenkins said there is more to the Coast Guard's latest efforts than visibility. "We're trying to convey to the public that if you see a Sea Marshal, that's great, but if you don't that doesn't mean there's no marshal on the boat," Jenkins said.

Source: <http://www.oaklandtribune.com/Stories/0,1413,82%7E1726%7E2405431,00.html>

11. *September 16, Oakland Tribune (CA)* — **Coast Guard pier to get terror shield.** The U.S. Coast Guard will put a floating security barrier around its pier in the Oakland, CA, Estuary to protect its cutters from potential terrorist attacks, military spokesmen said Wednesday, September 15. **The barrier — an 800-yard string of foam-filled reinforced plastic modules, each one capable of enduring 300 pounds of pressure — is expected to go up next summer, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr Jeff Westling.** Environmental and design studies must be approved first. Similar security barriers have been installed around the country, including at the Friant Dam in Fresno and the U.S. Navy's Mare Island. The barrier will serve as an additional layer of security for the four cutters moored at Coast Guard Island — the CGC Boutwell, the CGC Maurgthau, the CGC Sherman and the CGC Munro — and their crews of about 700 sailors, Coast Guard spokesperson said.

Source: <http://www.oaklandtribune.com/Stories/0,1413,82~1726~2405430,00.html>

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

12. *September 16, San Mateo County Times (CA)* — **Powder to be tested for anthrax. FBI investigators are taking seriously a letter with an anthrax threat and a white powder that cleared the mailroom of San Mateo, CA-based investment firm Franklin Templeton on Tuesday, September 14,** a spokesperson for the agency reported Wednesday, September 15. "We don't have any reason to believe it's anthrax, but won't know for sure until the lab results come back," said LaRae Quy of the FBI. She said it could take several days to test the contents of the letter, which prompted workers in the mailroom of Franklin Templeton Investments to call authorities around 11 a.m. Tuesday. According to company spokesperson Lisa Gallegos, 20 employees were evacuated and evaluated, but none needed to go to the hospital, and all were back at work Wednesday. "We are going to be pursuing this case whether it was anthrax or not," Quy said, because making a threat about anthrax is a crime. The post office re-opened Tuesday afternoon, after investigators, who could not find the source of the illness after a

thorough search, sounded the all-clear.

Source: [http://www.sanmateocountytimes.com/Stories/0,1413,87~11268~2\\_405411,00.html](http://www.sanmateocountytimes.com/Stories/0,1413,87~11268~2_405411,00.html)

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

## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *September 16, Elwood Bulletin (NE)* — **Cattle test positive for rabies. In the last month, two cows in the area of Elwood, NE, have died and been documented as positive rabies cases.** On August 20, a cow in Gosper County, near Bertrand, was tested positive with no exposure to humans. On September 10, in Phelps County, near Bertrand, another cow was tested positive with possible saliva exposure for human. According to Annette Bred-thauer, Nebraska Public Health Veterinarian for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska is currently experiencing an outbreak of rabies in animals after many years with few cases. **As of the first of the year, there have been 18 cases of positive rabies cases which include 10 cases involving either a cow or a calf. The last rabies outbreak in the state peaked in 1981 with nearly 200 animal cases diagnosed that year.**

Source: <http://www.arapahoe-elwoodonline.com/articles/2004/09/15/elwood/elwood1.txt>

14. *September 15, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Aid for drought-stricken farmers. U.S. farmers suffering from a prolonged drought and other natural disasters would receive a three billion dollar boost under a package the Senate approved Tuesday, September 14.** The measure would provide aid to many growers and livestock producers, who would be allowed to decide whether they want to be paid for their losses incurred in 2003 or this year. Though the aid was primarily expected to help Midwestern farmers suffering from a lengthy drought, it would also help those hurt by hurricanes, freezes, floods, and other natural disasters.

Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=27423](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=27423)

15. *September 12, St. Louis Post Dispatch (MO)* — **Nation's defenses against exotic invaders remain thin.** The forbidden Japanese seeds that slipped into the country through Georgia already had been shipped to Missouri, Illinois, and 12 other states, forcing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to put out the dragnet. Like other close relatives of corn, the millet seeds are banned because they can carry exotic diseases such as corn blight, a fungus that cost U.S. farmers one billion dollars in the 1970s. This threat was caught in time to prevent disaster, but farmers might not be so fortunate next time. **By early last year, unfilled agriculture inspector and technician positions had risen to more than 300. Since the agriculture experts were reorganized with customs and immigration inspectors into a unit of the Department of Homeland Security 18 months ago, the shortage has climbed by one-fourth, to 375 of 1,800 positions at 145 ports of entry, according to the department.** Reduced staffing, overtime cuts and the new priority on catching terrorists has meant that passengers arriving on international flights are screened less rigorously and perhaps not at all for banned produce, plants, and even raw meat that they might carry. And when items are confiscated, fewer are being analyzed to determine if there's a new threat that must be tracked back to the source.

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/nation/story/037308FD116BC2A386256F0D0038F6DD?OpenDocument&Headline=Focus+on+terror+weakens+fight+against+pests&highlight=2%2Cinva+ders>

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

## **Food Sector**

16. *September 16, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Japan to propose new conditions to end U.S. beef ban.** The Japanese government decided Wednesday, September 15, to propose to the U.S. new conditions for ending the ban on imports of beef, including scientific proof of cattle ages, The Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported. Japan recently changed its policy and decided to exempt beef cattle up to 20 months old from compulsory screening for mad cow disease, which it has been demanding as a condition for lifting its import ban. **But believing that determinations of cattle age by ranchers on a voluntary basis lack credibility, Japan has decided to ask that the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide proof the animals' ages have been determined in a scientifically valid manner and compensation be paid if problems arise.** The new conditions are expected to be proposed at a meeting of government officials to be held shortly. Source: [http://www.agprofessional.com/show\\_story.php?id=27432](http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=27432)

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

## **Water Sector**

17. *September 16, NewsNet5 (OH)* — **Two more facilities test positive for contamination.** The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency issued no-use orders on two more facilities on South Bass Island, saying that the water systems are contaminated. **Health officials said Skyway Restaurant and Lounge's raw water supply tested positive for E. Coli and the state park's raw water supply tested positive for total coliform.** There are currently 15 public water systems on the island with no-use orders. During the month of August, more than 1,000 visitors to the popular summer tourist spot reported becoming ill, although less than 20 of them were confirmed to have a viral or bacterial infection. Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/3736202/detail.html>
18. *September 16, Las Vegas Sun (NV)* — **El Nino may bring drought relief. Five consecutive winters of disappointing snowfall in the Rocky Mountains have left the Colorado River and Lake Mead high and dry, but some climatologists say the coming winter could be better.** One of the factors that climatologists believe portends an increase in precipitation in the southern Rocky Mountains is El Nino, the irregular warming of the Pacific Ocean off the South American coast. Climatologists at the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration say they have detected the start of an El Nino. "With the El Nino, you generally get more rain and snow in the Southwest," said Tim Barnett, a climatologist with Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA. Barnett said a related factor called the North Pacific Oscillation, a measure of the pool of colder water in the ocean, also seems to encourage more precipitation in the region. Over the course of the last month, **the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in connection with regional climatic observers, has seen some signs that the drought in Colorado and in particular in the mountains has eased up, although "extreme drought," the worst level, still grips much of the West.** Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/lv-other/2004/sep/16/517521302.html>

## **Public Health Sector**

19. *September 16, Washington Post* — **County seeking health crisis volunteers. Fairfax, VA, health officials are launching a major volunteer recruitment initiative this fall to identify more than 13,000 people who could assist the government in responding to a public health emergency.** The volunteers are needed for the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps, which consists of medical personnel such as retired or practicing doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and mental health specialists, as well as non-medical personnel who would assist during emergencies. **In case of a bioterrorism attack or naturally occurring epidemic, for example, county health officials said the Medical Reserve Corps would help set up vaccination clinics to inoculate the more than one million Fairfax residents within three to five days.** If that worst-case scenario happened, the county would need 96 teams of 142 people per team to staff the dispensing sites. The medical corps program is part of a broader Citizen Corps initiative spurred by a White House effort to create more opportunities for volunteers to aid in homeland security. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23479-2004Sep 15.html>

20. *September 16, St. Cloud Times (MN)* — **Grants help hospitals prepare for bioterrorism.** Area hospitals continue to work toward becoming ready to handle bioterrorist attacks. Officials acknowledge the possibility of that happening in Central Minnesota is remote. But hospitals statewide and nationwide have received federal money to become more prepared in light of the government's war on terrorism. **This week, St. Cloud Hospital got its latest piece of equipment — a decontamination tent. Inside the tent is an area where victims can strip and shower. Victims who are unable to walk can be put on a slide-like stretcher in the tent's center. Sections of the tent can be heated, and it can withstand 30 mph winds.** St. Cloud Hospital is one of four hospitals in the Central Minnesota region that received a decontamination tent. Nineteen Central Minnesota hospitals are working together on bioterrorism readiness. Hospital representatives meet monthly. The equipment area hospitals have received with the bioterrorism money includes decontamination suits and ham radios. The equipment was much needed in some of the area's smallest hospitals. **The next part of getting ready will include training, working with area clinics, and figuring out a way to get mental health services to those who need them in case of a disaster.**

Source: <http://miva.sctimes.com/miva/cgi-bin/miva?CMN/Local/read.mv+20040916051643+16+>

21. *September 16, Associated Press* — **Blood supply low in Northwest. American Red Cross supplies of two blood types commonly used for transfusions are at a critical shortage, the organization said Wednesday, September 15. The Red Cross, which supplies 80 hospitals in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, had less than one day's supply of O-positive and 36 units of O-negative. A normal reserve of O-negative is 282 units.** The Red Cross said the shortage resulted in hospitals being unable to supply blood to some patients. The O-blood types are in demand because they are universal, meaning they can be transfused into patients in an emergency room before a blood type test is conducted. The O-types are also those most often transfused into infants, according to the Red Cross. The nonprofit has issued what it calls a "Red Alert" for blood donors of these types. "A Red Alert is the strongest message that we

send to the communities we serve and is used only in situations when the blood inventory has reached its most critical level," Joan Manning, director of Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services, was quoted as saying in a news release from the Red Cross.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/newsflash/national/index.ssf?/base/national-3/1095337448175081.xml&storylist=national>

22. *September 16, Medical News Today* — **Diagnostic tests for avian flu. The United Kingdom Health Protection Agency (HPA) has announced it is developing tests to help diagnose cases of avian flu in humans as well as examining how airport screening can help restrict a possible outbreak.** Avian flu is a disease of birds. However, there has been recent cases of the disease spreading to humans, although these outbreaks have been linked to close contact with already infected poultry. Maria Zambon, Director of the Influenza laboratory at HPA said, "Over the past year we have made great strides in the development of tests for avian flu, and are confident that we could quickly identify any cases in the UK." The Agency also stressed that implementing extensive travel restrictions could only delay a worldwide outbreak and that the development of antiviral drugs and vaccines would be more effective in controlling the disease. Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=13535>
23. *September 16, Los Angeles Times* — **PacifiCare to acquire American Medical. PacifiCare Health Systems Inc. said Wednesday, September 15, that it would buy American Medical Security Group Inc. for \$502 million to expand its presence in the small-group health insurance market.** California-based PacifiCare, the largest manager of U.S. Medicare health plans, will pay shareholders of Wisconsin-based American Medical \$32.75 a share in cash. PacifiCare also will assume about \$30.2 million of American Medical's debt. PacifiCare said the deal would expand its commercial medical enrollment about 13 percent, adding 314,000 preferred provider organization members and grow its geographic presence from eight to 33 states and Washington, DC. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-pacificare16sep16.1.7015917.story?coll=la-headlines-business>
24. *September 16, Reuters* — **Animal disease threat to humans. The threat of animal diseases spreading to humans is increasing and governments must improve coordination to prevent them from becoming pandemic, health officials and vets said on Thursday, September 16.** Disease outbreaks, like the fatal form of bird flu that keeps reappearing in Asia, cause huge economic losses, increase poverty, create panic, and often provoke social and political insecurity, World Health Organization (WHO) officials said. The problem has been compounded by increased global flows of goods, foodstuffs, and people, making it easier for diseases to spread more rapidly and far further than they might have in the past, they told a conference in the Netherlands. **"Any disease crisis has the risk of pushing governments into insecurity. That is one of the reasons why they should put this as a priority," said Asamoah Baah, assistant director general of WHO.** The WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health said more investment in research and development of vaccines, as well as increased collaboration and common measures were necessary to combat diseases. Source: <http://olympics.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=6255955>
25. *September 15, United Press International* — **DHS to help craft Bioshield buys.** A new center dedicated to assessing the real-world risks of bioterrorism will exercise a major role in setting

the procurement details for the \$5.6 billion federal Project Bioshield. **The new Biodefense Knowledge Center, part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will gather and weigh information on how dire a particular threat really is. By combining real-time intelligence from other agencies with scientific research on specific pathogens, the center researchers will craft risk assessments.** They will gauge the difficulty and expense of creating such weapons and their impact on a civilian population with mixed ages and vulnerabilities. "People have lists of agents they are most concerned about," said Maureen McCarthy, director of the Office of Research and Development in DHS's Science and Technology division. The risk assessments will support many agencies and activities, including buying vaccines and treatments to be stockpiled under the Bioshield program.

Source: [http://www.menafn.com/qn\\_news\\_story.asp?StoryId=CquE:qeidyMLVD2fY1wjPB2rLzMvUC2u](http://www.menafn.com/qn_news_story.asp?StoryId=CquE:qeidyMLVD2fY1wjPB2rLzMvUC2u)

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

## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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

## **Emergency Services Sector**

**26. *September 16, Department of Homeland Security* — DHS prepares for Hurricane Ivan.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is prepared for Hurricane Ivan's landfall that is affecting multiple states including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi. **DHS is currently coordinating federal response operations and readiness activities with state and local agencies through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is providing immediate assistance to any community in need after the hurricane makes landfall.** Over the past several weeks, Homeland Security has provided rapid assistance to Florida and other states' residents and businesses during the recovery from Hurricanes Charley and Frances. Homeland Security remains fully committed to continuing these recovery activities and providing assistance to those states and local governments who may need federal support following Hurricane Ivan. Among other actions, Homeland Security officials are fully coordinating preparations and are in constant communication with our federal partners, governors, and other state and local officials in possible affected states.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4007>

**27. *September 16, The Advocate-Messenger (KY)* — Mercer County will receive two grants for homeland security.** Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher and State Senator Dan Kelly have announced that Mercer, Marion and Nelson counties will share a total of \$143,733 and that Mercer in conjunction with 12 other counties will share a total of \$777,076. "Utilization of this grant money will help upgrade the communications equipment our public safety officials use on a daily basis," Kelly said. "The equipment-computing devices that send and receive information over a wireless network will instantaneously provide our first responders with priceless information while they are out patrolling and protecting our communities." **The majority of the grant funds will go toward improving communications equipment for first**

responders and will bring the state closer to having a statewide voice and data interoperable network.

Source: [http://www.amnews.com/public\\_html/?module=displaystory&story\\_id=8930&format=html](http://www.amnews.com/public_html/?module=displaystory&story_id=8930&format=html)

28. *September 16, Siftings Herald (AR)* — **Emergency services to be on display.** To commemorate National Preparedness Month, the Diamond Valley (AR) Chapter of the American Red Cross is allowing local emergency services personnel to "toot their own horns," Mikki Hastings, assistant director of the chapter, said. **The event will be Saturday, September 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the parking lot of the store in Arkadelphia, AR. Displays of fire trucks, police cars, ambulances and other vehicles will be set up, and personnel who work throughout the county in emergency services will be on hand.** All law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, medical technicians, first responders and community emergency response technicians in the county have been invited to participate. So far, several agencies have confirmed their participation in the event. They are: Curtis, Gum Springs, Okolona, Caddo Valley, Whelen Springs Kansas and Arkadelphia Fire departments; the Clark County Sheriff's Office and Arkadelphia and Gurdon Police departments; Baptist Health Medical Center–Arkadelphia; the United Way and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Displays will range from emergency vehicles to the Mobile Command Center of the Clark County OEM. The Red Cross will distribute emergency preparedness information.  
Source: <http://www.siftingsherald.com/articles/2004/09/16/news/news4.txt>

29. *September 16, The Daily Herald (UT)* — **Emergency drill helps workers get ready for real disasters.** Emergency officials say the likelihood of a hazardous chemical leak at the Deseret Chemical Depot in Tooele, UT, is minimal. But in case it ever does happen, emergency planners and volunteers want to be prepared. **On Wednesday, September 15, a joint response team with emergency officials from Utah, Salt Lake and Tooele counties participated in an annual emergency drill, called the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. The drill was designed to improve the response of emergency personnel in the event of a chemical disaster.** Emergency planners from the area have been participating in the program since 1989. This year's drill mimicked a leak at the depot, which prompted teams to set up areas to spray down with water and decontaminate those who thought they had been exposed to the chemicals. "The best way to get rid of the chemical agent, first off, is to wash it off the body," said Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesperson Robert Norville, as medical teams set up a temporary decontamination site at the Mountain West Medical Center in Tooele Wednesday morning.  
Source: <http://www.harktheherald.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=34243&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

30. *September 16, Associated Press* — **Supercomputers aid hurricane forecasting.** Working through complex mathematical equations that describe the atmosphere's behavior across the globe, hundreds of microprocessors perform billions of calculations each second on observations collected by sensors dropped by aircraft and other monitors. **The result, after**

**more than an hour of number crunching at the U.S. Navy's Fleet Numerical weather computing center, is just one of the many predictions generated by supercomputers around the world that help frame such life-or-death decisions as whether to order evacuations and where to safely set up shelters.** The hurricane track error in the National Hurricane Center's three-day forecasts has been cut in half since 1998, and since last year the center's meteorologists have been issuing five-day forecasts with increasing confidence and accuracy. The forecasts aren't perfect, particularly when it comes to long-term tracking and intensity. Still, emergency officials were able to order two million people to evacuate for higher ground once Ivan turned toward the Gulf Coast, thanks in part to the models run by supercomputers. **In the next few years, researchers at the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration plan to unveil a new, higher resolution model that better addresses the interaction of the sea, land and atmosphere.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25677-2004Sep16.html>

31. *September 16, US-CERT* — **Technical Cyber Security Alert TA04-260A: Microsoft Windows JPEG component buffer overflow.** Microsoft's Graphic Device Interface Plus (GDI+) contains a vulnerability in the processing of JPEG images. This vulnerability may allow attackers to remotely execute arbitrary code on the affected system. **Exploitation may occur as the result of viewing a malicious Website, reading an HTML-rendered email message, or opening a crafted JPEG image in any vulnerable application.** The privileges gained by a remote attacker depend on the software component being attacked. Please note that this vulnerability affects any software that uses the Microsoft Windows operating system or Microsoft's GDI+ library to render JPEG graphics. **Apply the appropriate patches as specified in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS04-028:**

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS04-028.mspx>

Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA04-260A.html>

32. *September 15, Computerworld* — **DHS moves ahead with cybersecurity R&D efforts. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is actively planning several new pilot projects that officials hope will help solve one of the most pressing cybersecurity research problems to date: a lack of real-world attack data.** "The cybercommunity has suffered for years from the lack of good data for testing," said Douglas Maughan, security program manager at the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency, which is part of the DHS's Science and Technology Directorate. **The new program, called Protected Repository for Defense of Infrastructure Against Cyber Threats (Protect), has been under way since February and is aimed at getting large private-sector infrastructure companies to volunteer real-world incident data that researchers can use to test prototype security products.** The agency is also spearheading a new vendor-neutral cybersecurity test bed, known as DETER for Cyber Defense Technology Experimental Research, that will help develop next-generation security technologies for the nation's critical infrastructure. Along with the test bed, DHS has formed an ad hoc government/industry steering committee to study and develop security pilot projects for the Domain Name System, a critical part of the Internet infrastructure that converts text names of Websites into Internet Protocol addresses.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,95942,00.html>

33. *September 15, Computerworld* — **Wireless technology aids post-hurricane claims processing.** When Hurricane Charley roared into South Florida last month with 145-mph wind

gusts, the force of the storm snapped utility poles and knocked out communications for many residents in areas such as Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte. To help locate customers in those hard-hit areas who were stranded without power or telephone service, claims adjusters used Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies to pinpoint home addresses. Once the adjuster found the customer, information about any automobile damages was gathered and entered into a laptop computer and then transmitted to claims offices via wireless modems. The claims office could then send back an e-mail with approved coverage to the adjuster, who could then write the customer a check. **Beyond wireless, property casualty insurers are also making increased use of catastrophe modeling systems and predictive analytics to help forecast loss costs for particular regions after a disaster.**

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/mobiletopics/mobile/technology/story/0,10801,95932,00.html>

34. *September 15, Secunia* — **Apache apr-util library and environment variable expansion vulnerabilities.** Two vulnerabilities have been reported in Apache, which can be exploited by malicious people to cause a DoS (Denial of Service) or potentially compromise a system, or by malicious, local users to gain escalated privileges. Both vulnerabilities affect versions 2.0.35 through 2.0.50. Apply patches or update to version 2.0.51: <http://www.apache.org>

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/12540/>

35. *September 15, Secunia* — **GTK+ multiple image decoding vulnerabilities.** Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in GTK+ which can be exploited by malicious people to cause a DoS (Denial of Service) and potentially compromise a vulnerable system. The first vulnerability has been fixed in version 2.4.9, but the other issues currently remain unfixed: <http://www.gtk.org/download/> Updates have been issued by various Linux vendors.

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/12548/>

36. *September 15, Government Computer News* — **E-mail authentication summit planned.** The Commerce Department wants to spur development and adoption of e-mail authentication technology that could help reduce the amount of spam. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology will hold a two-day summit, November 9–10, to discuss technological challenges of existing schemes and new approaches to the problem of accurately identifying the sender of e-mail. The summit is an outgrowth of the CAN-SPAM Act, which required the FTC to study the feasibility of a no-spam list, similar to the successful do-not-call list for telemarketers. Written comments and requests to participate in the summit should be sent to the FTC by September 30 at [authenticationsummit@ftc.com](mailto:authenticationsummit@ftc.com)

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/27286-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/27286-1.html)

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** Microsoft released a new security bulletin detailing critical vulnerabilities in the way it handles JPEG graphics. More information can be found here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms04-028.msp>.

#### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	137 (netbios-ns), 135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 21 (ftp), 9898 (dabber), 5554 (sasser-ftp), 1026 (nterm), 1027 (icq), 1433 (ms-sql-s)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[[Return to top](#)]

## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

## General Sector

**37. *September 16, Berria (Spain-Basque Country)* — Bombs go off on electricity tower. Four explosive devices were detonated on an electricity tower in Irun, Spain on Wednesday, September 15.** The blast damaged the foundations of the tower but did not manage to bring the structure down or affect the electricity supply. The Interior Department of the Basque Autonomous Community disclosed that ammonal had been used in the devices, each of which contained between one and two pounds. The Interior Department stressed that the type of explosive material matched that used by the armed organization ETA in the attacks carried out during the summer in Cantabria, Asturias and Galicia.

Source: <http://www.berria.info/english/ikusi.php?id=827>

[[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 page (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

**DHS/IAIP Alerts** – Advisories and Information Bulletins: DHS/IAIP produces two levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that addresses cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – 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.

[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 [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883–3644.

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### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

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

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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