Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 19 December 2006

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports passengers on a commuter train on the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, crossing the Delaware River between Philadelphia and New Jersey, were evacuated to a catwalk on the bridge Monday, December 18, after smoke was detected in one of the cars. (See item 15)

- The Toledo Blade reports thirty−five passengers boarding a noontime Delta Connection flight at Toledo Express Airport were evacuated, and the plane was removed to a remote area of the airfield for inspection, after a passenger found a bomb threat scrawled on an aircraft information card in a seat pocket. (See item 18)

- Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich has announced a new guide −− School Guidance During an Influenza Pandemic −− for Illinois schools that provides the tools they need to proactively plan and prepare for a pandemic flu outbreak. (See item 35)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: **Energy**; **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials**; **Defense Industrial Base**

Service Industries: **Banking and Finance**; **Transportation and Border Security**; **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 Daily Report Contact Information**

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: ELEVATED, <u>Cyber</u>: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. *December 18, Seattle Times* — **Thousands in region still without power.** At least 225,000 customers were still without electricity Monday morning, December 18, in King and

Snohomish counties in Washington state. Officials predicted it might be days before power is restored in some of the hardest–hit areas, including Cougar Mountain in Bellevue, rural Woodinville, outlying parts of North Bend, Snoqualmie, Duvall, Carnation and Skykomish in East King County and some South King County neighborhoods. Puget Sound Energy said that as of 4 a.m. PST Monday, December 18, 198,000 customers were still without electricity, though crews were making good progress since dawn and expected to cull that number by tens of thousands of customers throughout the day. Even so, it still had more than a dozen major feeder lines to repair. Seattle City Light reported that about 18,000 customers were still without electricity in its service area, but it expected that number to drop to about 5,000 by midnight Monday, as crews restored power in localized pockets. The Snohomish County PUD said about 8,700 customers were still without power, mostly in the southeast corner of the county.
Source: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2003482933_s tormmainbar18m.html

2. *December 16, Reuters* — **Gulf Coast fog delays ships, threatens U.S. fuel.** Prolonged fog delays in crude oil shipments along waterways in Texas and Louisiana could force some Gulf Coast refineries to slow down fuel production, experts said on Friday, December 15. It was the second full day of fog making navigation unsafe in the region. The 53–mile Houston waterway is the busiest U.S. petrochemical port, and Lake Charles, Beaumont and Port Arthur are refining centers. "It is a possibility that refiners along the waterway will have to cut production if this is prolonged for five days," said Phil Flynn of Alaron Research. "I would suspect at that point, however, that they would ask the government for a loan from the emergency stockpile." The U.S. government has frequently loaned oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to refineries that have been cut off from their shipments as a way of ensuring continuous fuel production. Tankers running through the Houston Ship Channel supply crude oil to refineries in Houston and Texas City, which account for nearly 12 percent of U.S. refining capacity. They also supply crude oil to pipeline systems for refineries in other parts of the country.
Source: http://za.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=busin essNews&storyID=2006–12–16T084240Z_01_BAN631348_RTRIDST_0_OZ ABS–USA–REFINERIES–FOG–20061216.XML&archived=False

3. *December 15, Associated Press* — **Three Nigerian hostages taken from Shell.** Armed men attacked a Royal Dutch Shell PLC oil complex, taking at least three Nigerian hostages and forcing the oil giant to halt 12,000 barrels of production per day, officials said Friday, December 15. The attack occurred in Oporoma in the southern state of Bayelsa. The previously unknown group called itself the Niger Delta Freedom Fighters. The attackers also overran an adjacent flow station –– a facility where oil pipelines converge. Shell spokesperson Bisi Ojediran said the flow station had been shut down as a precaution, cutting production by 12,000 barrels of oil per day. Attacks on pipelines and oil facilities have cut Nigeria's usual daily output of 2.5 million barrels by about a quarter this year. Nigeria is the fifth–largest supplier of oil to the U.S. Assailants have ranged from militants saying they are fighting for the freedom of their imprisoned leaders and a greater share of oil wealth, to criminal gangs looking for a quick ransom. This latest incident occurred as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) concluded a meeting in Nigeria's capital, Abuja. On Thursday, OPEC said it planned to output cut in early 2007, pushing oil prices above $62 a barrel.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/content/article/2006/12 /15/AR2006121500180.html

4. *December 13, Houston Chronicle* — **Exxon Mobil forecasts ever–growing oil demand.**
World energy demand is likely to climb an average 1.6 percent per year to reach about 325
million barrels of oil equivalent a day by 2030, Exxon Mobil predicts. Much of that growth will
be spurred by heightened demand for cars and light trucks in the developing world. The world
holds at least 2.2 trillion barrels worth of oil that can be recovered through conventional
techniques, Exxon Mobil estimates. And new technologies, which enable producers to tap
reserves from more difficult deposits such as heavy oil and oil shale, add another 800 billion
barrels.
Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/4398272. html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.
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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *December 17, Washington Post* — **Talk of satellite defense raises fears of space war.** For a
U.S. military increasingly dependent on sophisticated satellites for communicating, gathering
intelligence and guiding missiles, the possibility that those space–based systems could come
under attack has become a growing worry –– and the perceived need to defend them ever more
urgent. And that, in turn, is reviving fears in some quarters that humanity's conflicts could soon
spread beyond Earth's boundaries. In a speech last week, a senior Bush administration official
warned that other nations, and possibly terrorist groups, are "acquiring capabilities to counter,
attack and defeat U.S. space systems." As a result, he said, the United States must increase its
ability to protect vital space equipment with new technologies and policies. Elaborating
publicly for the first time since the October release of a new national space policy,
Undersecretary of State Robert G. Joseph made clear that the administration would react
forcefully to any attempt to interfere with U.S. space technology.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/content/article/2006/12
/16/AR2006121600791.html

6. *December 15, Wichita Business Journal (KS)* — **Air Force releases updated request for
tanker proposal.** The battle between the Boeing Co. and Airbus over which company will
build aerial refueling tankers for the U.S. Air Force took a step forward Friday, December 15.
The Air Force released an updated draft request for proposals (RFP) to companies interested in
bidding on the program. The Air Force has given the program a designation of KC–X for the
aircraft that will replace the aging KC–135 Stratotanker. "The tanker is the number one
procurement priority for us right now. In this global Air Force business, the single point failure
of an air bridge, the single point failure for global intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance
or the single point failure for global strike is the tanker," said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air
Force chief of staff, in a statement. Additionally, service officials expect the KC–X to have the
capability to carry cargo as well as airlifting personnel. Release of the final RFP document is
expected in January.

Source: http://wichita.bizjournals.com/wichita/stories/2006/12/11/da ily36.html?surround=lfn

7. *December 15, Aviation Week* — **Army experiencing 'momentum' for new equipment, Schoomaker says.** U.S. Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker told reporters Thursday, December 14, that he believes the Army is experiencing "momentum" that mandates buying new equipment for its reset and recapitalization, particularly Future Combat Systems spinout technology in coming years, and that the United States should boost its overall defense spending to pay for a "long war" buildup. "This isn't an either or," the chief of staff said. "You don't want to buy old stuff. What you want to do is when you replace equipment you've worn out, you want to buy the new stuff." Testifying in front of the independent Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, Schoomaker likewise reiterated congressional testimony and said that at the beginning of Iraq military operations in March 2003, the Army was "underfunded" about $100 billion, resulting in nearly $56 billion worth of equipment "shortages" across the active, Army National Guard and Reserve components. He suggested dedicating 5.5–6 percent of the nation's gross domestic product to defense spending, particularly because the Air Force and Navy also have unmet needs and Schoomaker does not want the Army to rob other services for its needs.
Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily _story.jsp?id=news/SCHOO12156.xml

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *December 18, Associated Press* — **Guilt by association on eBay.** Carnegie Mellon University researchers are relying on an old adage to develop anti–fraud software for Internet auction sites: It's not what you know, it's who you know. At sites like eBay, users warn each other if they have a bad experience with a seller by rating their transactions. But the Carnegie Mellon researchers said savvy scammers get around that by conducting transactions with friends or themselves, using alternate user names to give themselves high satisfaction ratings so unsuspecting customers still will try to buy from them. The Carnegie Mellon software looks for patterns of users who have repeated dealings with one another, and alerts other users that there is a higher probability of having a fraudulent transaction with them. The researchers analyzed about one million transactions involving 66,000 eBay users to develop graphs, known in statistical circles as bipartite cores, that identify users interacting with unusual frequency. Online auction fraud –– when a seller doesn't deliver goods or sells a defective product –– accounted for 12 percent of the 431,000 computer fraud complaints received last year by Consumer Sentinel, the Federal Trade Commission's consumer fraud and identity–theft database. Auction fraud was the most commonly reported computer–related fraud in the database.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/technology/chi–0612180180dec18 .0,4279085.story?coll=chi–business–hed

9. *December 18, Independent Online (South Africa)* — **Thieves blow up ATM in South Africa.** A Standard Bank ATM was blown open at a Durban, South Africa petrol station early on Monday, December 18. While Senior Superintendent Phindile Radebe said commercial explosives were used in the blast, she could not reveal the type. Ammonium nitrate has been used in previous attacks. Thousands of dollars were taken from the ATM. The blast brings to 46

the number of ATMs targeted in the past two years −− reportedly at the hands of an organized gang.
Source: http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?from=rss_South%20Africa&set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=iol1166436461757B265

10. *December 18, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Birmingham Midshires.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Birmingham Midshires, which is based in the UK. Users receive a spoofed e−mail message, which claims that they need to confirm their e−mail address. The e−mail provides a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect personal and account information.
Source: http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com

11. *December 15, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO−07−212: Bank Secrecy Act: FinCEN and IRS Need to Improve and Better Coordinate Compliance and Data Management Efforts.** In 2005, over 16 million Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) reports were filed by more than 200,000 U.S. financial institutions. BSA is the centerpiece of the nation's efforts to detect and deter criminal financial activities. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) play key roles in BSA compliance, enforcement, and data management. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) describes FinCEN's and IRS's roles and assesses their effectiveness at ensuring BSA compliance and efforts to reengineer BSA data management. To strengthen BSA compliance, GAO recommends the Secretary of Treasury direct FinCEN and IRS to develop a documented and coordinated strategy that includes priorities, time frames, and resource needs. The strategy should cover implementing specific GAO recommendations, such as clarifying regulations and measuring the compliance rate. To strengthen BSA data management reengineering, GAO is recommending FinCEN develop a long−term plan that includes coordination with IRS.
Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07212high.pdf
Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi−bin/getrpt?GAO−07−212

12. *December 15, CNET News* — **Report: Net users picking safer passwords.** A sample of login information from 34,000 MySpace.com members seems to indicate that Internet users are getting better at picking more secure passwords, according to Bruce Schneier of Counterpane Internet Security. The average password is eight characters long and 81 percent of those in the sampling consist of both letters and numbers, said Schneier. One problem, though, is that all the passwords Schneier inspected were obtained through a phishing scam. Attackers created a fake MySpace login page and tricked users into thinking they had to enter their credentials to access their account on the social−networking site. The five most common passwords are: password1, abc123, myspace1, password, and blink182 (a band), according to Schneier. Only 3.8 percent of passwords are a single word found in a dictionary, and another 12 percent are a word plus a final digit, two−thirds of the time that digit is 1, he wrote. "We used to quip that 'password' is the most common password. Now it's 'password1'... Seriously, passwords are getting better. I'm impressed that less than four percent were dictionary words and that the great majority were at least alphanumeric."
Source: http://news.com.com/Report+Net+users+picking+safer+passwords/2100−1029_3−6144312.html?tag=cd.top

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *December 18, Department of Transportation* — **DOT approves agreement to fund tunnel network to give Long Island commuters direct access to Grand Central Station.** The federal government will provide $2.6 billion to help build a new network of train tunnels under New York City designed to connect trains from Long Island to Grand Central terminal, Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Mary Peters announced on Monday, December 18. She added that the largest−ever federal investment in a single transit project, known as East Side Access, would help keep New York's crowded transportation network moving for decades to come. The Secretary said the project will give Long Island Railroad commuter trains direct access into the lower level of Grand Central, shaving more than 40 minutes off the daily commutes for tens of thousands of passengers once it is completed in 2013. She added that the project will include the construction of new tunnels under Manhattan and Queens that will connect to the existing 63rd Street Tunnel below the East River.
Source: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot11706.htm

14. *December 18, Associated Press* — **Regional airlines may suffer in mergers.** As more of the nation's big network airlines inch toward a possible consolidation spree, it could mean tougher times for their regional airline partners. Regional carriers have already been under pressure in recent years to cut costs, as hub−and−spoke carriers seek better terms in their contracts. But consolidation could mean limited growth opportunities for the regionals that funnel passengers from smaller cities to the network carriers' hubs, analysts say. For example, US Airways Group Inc. has launched a bid for Delta Air Lines Inc., United Airlines' parent is in early stage talks with Continental Airlines Inc. and speculation is bubbling over every other name in the network carrier industry. If any come to fruition, it would likely allow carriers to shut down some of their hubs around the country, particularly smaller ones that have proportionally higher levels of regional service, analysts say. Calyon Securities analyst Ray Neidl said in a recent research report he expects the regional sector to consolidate. He said he sees four or five carriers dominating the industry, down from the seven who control about 80 percent of the market today.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061215/market_spotlight_regional_air lines.html?.v=1

15. *December 18, Associated Press* — **Commuters evacuated from train over Delaware River.** Passengers on a commuter train crossing the Delaware River were evacuated to a catwalk on the bridge Monday, December 18, after smoke was detected in one of the cars. The smoke in the first car of the westbound PATCO train from New Jersey caused the evacuation at the midspan of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge between Philadelphia and New Jersey shortly after 6 a.m. EST. Passengers spent a few minutes on the catwalk before they were allowed to board other cars and wait out the shutdown inside, said Danelle Hunter, a spokesperson for the Delaware River Port Authority, which operates the bridge and the rail line. The smoke apparently stemmed from a minor electrical problem.
Source: http://www.thnt.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061218/NEWS /61218005

16. *December 18, WNBC (NJ)* — **New Jersey airport sets new passenger record.** More people traveled through Newark Liberty International Airport in 2006 than in any year since the September 11 terror attacks, officials said Monday, December 18. Officials with the Port

Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the three metropolitan New York airports, said more growth is expected. The authority projects more than 36 million passengers next year and more than 40 million annual passengers by 2010. The Port Authority recently approved a 10−year plan that earmarks $1 billion for improvements at Newark, including a new perimeter security system, road improvements, and upgrades and expansions at terminals.
Source: http://www.wnbc.com/news/10561473/detail.html

17. *December 15, Gannett News Service* — **FAA may underestimate controller retirements.** The number of air traffic controllers choosing to retire has exceeded government projections three years in a row, putting more of the workload on less seasoned controllers and trainees. About 70 percent of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) controllers will become eligible to retire through 2015. In more than 40 percent of FAA air traffic control facilities, at least a quarter of controllers will be eligible to retire by the end of September 2007, according to an analysis of data the National Air Traffic Controllers Association provided to Gannett News Service. The FAA plans to hire 11,851 controllers through fiscal 2015 to offset the retirements and meet an expected 25 percent increase in air traffic. The agency says it's hiring controllers two to three years before expected retirements to allow time for training and stay ahead of the curve. But that hiring strategy only began in fiscal 2006, too late to immediately replace the larger−than−expected number of controllers retiring now with people who are fully trained, according to the controllers' union. The FAA also may waive the mandatory controller retirement age of 56.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006−12−17−controllers−retire_x.htm

18. *December 15, Toledo Blade (OH)* — **Toledo Express flight evacuated after bomb threat is found in seat pocket.** Thirty−five passengers boarding a noontime Delta Connection flight at Toledo Express Airport on Friday, December 15, were evacuated, and the plane was removed to a remote area of the airfield for inspection, after a passenger found a bomb threat scrawled on an aircraft information card in a seat pocket, the Toledo−Lucas County Port Authority reported. Written on the card, which shows an aircraft's basic layout and provides emergency instructions for travelers, was an obscenity about America and an arrow leading toward the back of the plane to the word "bomb," said Kelly Rivera Nye, a port authority spokesperson. The card was found aboard the plane to be used for Flight 6241 to Cincinnati, operated by Chautauqua Airlines. A team of three bomb technicians and a bomb−sniffing dog found no devices aboard the plane, Nye said.
Source: http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/200612 15/NEWS08/61215035/−1/NEWS

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *December 18, Business First* — **FedEx buys UK company.** FedEx Corp. said Monday, December 18, it has purchased ANC Holdings Ltd., an express transportation company in the United Kingdom, for $234 million. The acquisition will allow FedEx Express, a unit of Memphis, Tenn.−based FedEx Corp. to offer a broader range of shipping options in the UK market, according to a news release. ANC employs about 4,500 people and operates a fleet of 2,200 vehicles from 80 locations.

20. *December 14, El Paso Times* — **Officials identify substance found at post office.** El Paso Fire Department officials identified a substance found inside the United States Post Office facility on Boeing Drive Thursday, December 14. The discovery of the vial prompted officials to evacuate several dozen workers from the facility. The substance, a powdery liquid known as trypanosomiasis, was detected as it passed through a mail sorter at the facility according to El Paso Fire Department spokesperson Lt. Mario Hernandez. Two El Paso Fire Department Hazmat units were dispatched to scene. Information found on an Internet Website says the substance is related to East African sleeping sickness. The disease itself can only be transmitted to humans by the tsetse fly, which is found in some parts of Africa, according to the site. It is not known why anyone would be sending this type of substance through the mail service.
Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/breakingnews/ci_4838718

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Agriculture Sector

21. *December 15, Delta Farm Press* — **Lifting vegetable restrictions could affect producers .** If participants in U.S. farm programs are allowed to plant and harvest fruit and vegetables, the effects on individual producers could be significant, according to a recent USDA report. "Although eliminating restrictions would not lead to substantial market impacts for most fruit or vegetables, the effects on individual producers could be significant. Some producers who are already producing fruit and vegetables could find it is no longer profitable, while others could profitably move into producing these crops. Producers with base acreage are the most likely to benefit because they would no longer face payment reductions," according to the report. Participants in U.S. farm programs currently are restricted from planting and harvesting fruits, most vegetables, and wild rice on acreage historically used for program crops. In March 2005, the World Trade Organization (WTO) found that direct U.S. payments for cotton, and by extension all program commodities, do not meet the definition of decoupled payments because eligibility for payments restricts production of fruit and vegetables. This development draws into question whether the United States can continue to claim that program payments for any program commodity are "green box" supports –– exempt from WTO regulations –– without eliminating the planting restriction.
Source: http://deltafarmpress.com/news/061215–vegetable–restrictions /

22. *December 15, Horse* — **Florida equine neurologic outbreak.** The source of the current outbreak of equine neurologic illness in Wellington, FL, has been traced back to a shipment of 15 horses imported from Europe the last week of November. The horses were housed together at a quarantine facility in New York. One of the 15 died after being shipped to California and was diagnosed with equine herpesvirus–1, or EHV–1. Five of the horses were shipped to Florida, two of which now have neurologic signs. The whereabouts of the other nine horses are unknown at this time, but they are being tracked down by federal officials. Three other horses in Florida have died in association with the outbreak. Starting from the announcement that a high–performance horse show in Wellington was cancelled and one of its stars euthanized from what appeared to be a contagious virus, the local equestrian community has scrambled to impose voluntary quarantines and deal with mandatory stop–movement orders. Veterinarians

also are vaccinating or boostering many horses against equine herpesvirus.
Source: http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=8435

23. *December 15, Reuters* — **Wyoming mountain lions die of plague.** Two mountain lions have died of bubonic plague in northwest Wyoming, posing a risk of possible infection to humans, a local scientist said on Friday, December 15. In a little more than a year, four area mountain lions have died from the disease and several domestic cats have tested positive, said Ken Mills, a professor of veterinary sciences who diagnosed the cats' disease in his University of Wyoming laboratory. Bubonic plague is often spread by fleas but if it reaches an animal's lungs, it can be spread through coughing or sneezing, he warned. "Plague is cycling in that area, and the potential is there to infect (domestic) cats. That really would be where exposure to humans would take place," said Mills.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006−12−15T201307Z_01_N15314430_RTRUKOC_0_US−USA−MOUNTAINLION.xml&WTmodLoc=NewsHome−C3−scienceNews−3

24. *December 14, Missouri Ag Connection* — **USDA to count cattle inventory.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is gearing up to count cattle inventory nationwide, with plans to contact nearly 50,000 U.S. cattle operations during the first two weeks in January. "The January Cattle Survey is one of the largest livestock surveys we conduct each year," said Gene Danekas, Director of the Missouri Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). "In Missouri alone, we'll be contacting about 2,000 operations in order to measure trends in beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop, and cattle operations." The information is a critical decision−making tool for the cattle industry, he explained, because it helps producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction.
Source: http://www.missouriagconnection.com/story−state.php?Id=914&y r=2006

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Food Sector

25. *December 15, Dow Jones* — **Canada proposes new regulations for U.S. cattle and beef imports.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing regulatory amendments to create a more responsive, adaptable, and uniform import system for bovine animals and products from the U.S., the agency announced in a press release Friday, December 15. Under proposed amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations, U.S. animals and their products would be imported into Canada under CFIA permits, said the release. Because permits can be readily adjusted, this system would allow the CFIA to more effectively respond to new science and evolving international standards. Permits also provide an effective means to track imported animals −− a critical component in responding to foreign animal disease outbreaks, the CFIA said.
Source: http://www.agriculture.com/ag/futuresource/FutureSourceStoryIndex.jhtml?storyId=75901026

26. *December 14, Food Navigator USA* — **Nestlé rejects FDA doubts on infant formula.** Infant formula made by food and nutrition giant Nestlé will not be recalled in the U.S., the group has

said, despite warnings from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA told Nestlé it may have to recall the group's Good Start Infant Formula with Iron because tests showed it did not contain the minimum levels of calcium and phosphorus required under U.S. law. The news threatened to land a fresh blow on the food multinational, which has faced criticism over its infant formula for years, but also highlighted a new dispute over testing procedures. Nestlé rejected the FDA's test results, stating that they have had two independent tests done by different laboratories, both of which were unable to confirm the findings of the FDA.
Source: http://www.foodnavigator−usa.com/news/printNewsBis.asp?id=72 811

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Water Sector

27. *December 17, KATU−TV (OR)* — **Sewage spills caused by power outages.** A Pacific Gas and Electric substation fire that knocked out power to more than 50,000 customers Saturday night, December 16, also temporarily shut down a Washington County, OR, wastewater facility, causing sewage to overflow from manholes, officials reported Sunday. Though power was restored to the Rock Creek wastewater treatment plant by 10:15 p.m. PST Saturday, officials suspect sewage may have overflowed at low−lying manholes along Rock Creek near Tualatin Valley Highway. Clean Water Services, which runs the plant, urged residents to avoid contact with floodwaters that may contain raw sewage. The agency also asked the public to lower water usage for the next several days. The Rock Creek Plant serves more than 220,000 residents. It remained unclear Sunday morning what started the fire.
Source: http://www.katu.com/news/local/4939767.html

28. *December 16, Associated Press* — **Shrinking supply of water spurs three risky wells in Yale, Oklahoma.** The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) wants the Yale, OK, community to chlorinate water from three shallow wells it drilled and to issue an order for residents to boil their water before drinking it or using it to cook. The community drilled the 18−foot wells last week in an effort to cope with a water−supply crisis. It cost the town about $200,000 to drill the wells, which produce water not considered drinkable under current health standards and could be useless by spring. Yale, OK, is one of eight communities that get water from drought−parched Lone Chimney Lake, which continues to drop about an inch every day without the aid of rain. If it dries up entirely, about 16,000 people in north−central Oklahoma will be without drinking water. Wells as shallow as those in Yale are directly influenced by water on the ground, which can carry harmful bacteria and pollutants from runoff, said Monty Elder, spokesperson for DEQ. Elder said her agency will work with Yale officials to make sure the water is safe for use before the wells are brought online.
Source: http://www.kotv.com/news/local/story/?id=116505

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Public Health Sector

29.

December 18, Reuters — **Drug resistant TB cases higher than once estimated.** Cases of drug resistant tuberculosis are higher than previously estimated and three nations −− China, India and Russia −− account for more than half of all cases worldwide, according to new research. Multi−drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR−TB) are strains of the airborne disease that are resistant to at least two of the most important first−line drugs. Researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, who conducted surveys in 79 countries, estimate there were 424,000 cases of MDR−TB in 2004. "There is increasing drug resistance in some parts of the world, namely the former Soviet Union and China," Dr. Mario Raviglione, of the WHO, said in an interview. TB affects about 9 million people each year and kills 2 million. Earlier estimates of MDR−TB were about 300,000 new cases annually.
Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/170070;_ylt=Aoq3WUt4KucAcNrrO0C NTEamxbAB

30. *December 18, My Fox Los Angeles* — **Deadly superbug outbreak at UK hospital.** Two people have died after catching a superbug Methicillin−Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus strain that has never caused deaths in hospitals before. A healthcare worker at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, UK, died in September after catching the infection called Panton−Valentine Leukocidin, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) said. An investigation found a patient also contracted the same strain and later died. Six other people were also infected, but recovered. The HPA said in a statement, "This outbreak is the first time transmission and deaths due to this strain are known to have occurred in a healthcare setting in England and Wales."
Source: http://www.myfoxla.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=180 3452&version=1&locale=EN−US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.4.1

31. *December 17, ABC 7 (CA)* — **Many prescription drugs failing in the battle against strep throat.** Strep throat is the second−most−common reason children get antibiotics. Now experts say many prescription drugs are failing because patients are becoming resistant to them. Infectious disease specialist Dr. Michael Pichichero says the standard strep drugs −− amoxicillin and penicillin −− fail in about 25 percent of kids. "Strep is not actually resistant to penicillin or amoxicillin so that cannot explain the failures that we're seeing," Pichichero said. Instead, other bacteria are the problem. More than half of kids have bacteria in their throats that protect strep germs. "This is very much different from 20 or 30 years ago where almost all children treated with penicillin and amoxicillin would be cured," he said. One in four kids fails treatment with penicillin. One in six fails newer drugs called cephalosporins. But only one in 20 fail the newer versions of those drugs.
Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=edell&id=4860022

32. *December 16, Buffalo News (NY)* — **Twelve at New York high school test positive for tuberculosis.** Twelve people at Grover Cleveland High School tested positive for tuberculosis last week, two months after a student there was diagnosed with the disease. None of the 12 is showing any signs of tuberculosis. Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Anthony J. Billittier IV emphasized that the test results do not mean these people have tuberculosis, or even that they were exposed as a result of the student who was diagnosed in October. Billittier said the student who had been diagnosed with tuberculosis two months ago most likely was exposed to it overseas.
Source: http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20061216/1053996.asp

33. *December 14, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **IOM says community measures may help in a pandemic.** The Institute of Medicine (IOM) weighed in with a clear "maybe" last week on whether community interventions such as school closures, quarantine, and respiratory etiquette could help blunt the impact of an influenza pandemic. After looking at mathematical models and historical evidence, an IOM committee said that a wide range of community interventions may be helpful, but there is no conclusive evidence for their effectiveness. "It is almost impossible to say that any of the community interventions have been proven ineffective," says the committee's report. "However, it is also almost impossible to say that the interventions, either individually or in combination, will be effective in mitigating an influenza pandemic." "There is simply a dearth of strong evidence concerning the efficacy of community containment strategies, which is particularly troublesome given the fact that many of the interventions will carry significant economic, social, ethical, and logistical consequences," adds the report, titled "Modeling Community Containment for Pandemic Influenza: A Letter Report." Containment measures endorsed by the panel include home isolation of patients plus social support, voluntary sheltering at home, quarantine, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, preventive antiviral treatment, and community restrictions such as school closures.
Report: http://fermat.nap.edu/books/0309104114/html
Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/ne ws/dec1406iom.html

34. *December 13, Government Health IT* — **States, health IT belong together, health association says.** State governments should be more involved in health information exchanges in their states and in federal programs to foster health information technology, leaders of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) told a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) advisory commission. AHIMA, which has been studying the role of states under contract to HHS, also advised the American Health Information Community that quality and transparency programs at the state level should be linked with health information exchanges, which could provide much of the required data for measuring quality. "Otherwise, we have absolutely redundant data collection processes," said Linda Kloss, AHIMA's chief executive officer. In addition, she said, fees they could earn for providing data for quality−measurement programs could help make state and regional health information exchanges more self−sustaining. Using the data for more than one purpose also could help ensure it is complete and error−free, Kloss said.
Source: http://www.govhealthit.com/article97091−12−13−06−Web

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Government Sector

35. *December 14, Government Technology* — **Guide outlines flu preparedness for Illinois schools.** Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich on Thursday, December 14, announced a new guide for Illinois schools that provides the tools they need to proactively plan and prepare for a pandemic flu outbreak. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) jointly prepared the School Guidance During an Influenza Pandemic document. The School Guidance During an Influenza Pandemic includes school action steps, a pandemic planning checklist, public health instructions, fact sheets about

pandemic flu versus seasonal flu, and sample letters schools can send to parents to keep them informed during a pandemic. In the case of a pandemic, any decision for an emergency school closing should be made by the local district with consultation, or at the direction, of the local health department, emergency management agency and Regional Office of Education.
Guide: http://www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/schoolguide.htm
Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/102876

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Emergency Services Sector

36. *December 16, Union (CA)* — **California town's emergency equipment vandalized.** Vandals broke into a vault on a mountaintop near the Washington, CA, and stole a radio repeater, severely diminishing emergency communications for the entire town, public safety officials said Friday, December 15. It will take at least two weeks and $4,000 to replace the equipment. Meanwhile, sick people in the area may not get the emergency care they need. The radio equipment is an integral part of the town's radio repeater system, providing communication between the Grass Valley CDF Command Center and Washington−area firefighters and volunteers. Without it, Stewart said, emergency personnel may not be alerted when someone in the remote area has a medical or fire emergency.
Source: http://www.theunion.com/article/20061216/NEWS/61216007

37. *December 15, Press−Enterprise (CA)* — **California sheriff expands first−responders force.** San Bernadino, CA, Sheriff Gary Penrod says that the unpredictable local terrain requires just about anyone with medical skills to be on permanent notice. "We never know what's going to happen next," Penrod said. "To a terrorist attack, to earthquakes, to fires, to floods." But to everyone except a credentialed police or fire responder, aiding disaster victims can be nearly impossible −− even for someone with the knowledge and desire. In response to all the red tape required of medical volunteers at large emergencies, the Sheriff's Department has embarked on what officials call a "first of its kind" partnership with the medical community. The Medical Reserve Corps, a group of more than 50 doctors, nurses, medics, and students, recently was sworn in as part of the sheriff's volunteer forces. The move gives members unhindered access to help people at car wrecks, search−and−rescue missions, shootings or natural disasters.
Source: http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_B_b medical16.5e40b7.html#

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. *December 18, eWeek* — **Free Software Foundation launches BadVista.org.** The Website's name tells it all. BadVista.org, a Website run by the Free Software Foundation (FSF), is devoted to the mission of exposing the harms inflicted on computer users by Microsoft's Windows Vista operating system and promoting free software alternatives that respect users' security and privacy rights. BadVista.org, launched by the FSF Monday, December 18, is a blog that expresses both the FSF's opinions and links to Vista−related selected news stories and

reviews.
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2074193,00.asp

39. *December 18, IDG News Service* — **NEC desktops have caught fire in Japan.** Two NEC desktop computers in Japan have caught fire since late last year and NEC is now offering to replace faulty power units at the root of the problem, the electronics giant said on Monday, December 18. The first Valuestar computer caught fire in October 2005 and the second in November this year, said Akiko Shikimori, an NEC spokesperson. The culprit is a component within the power unit inside the computer. The component and the power unit are not manufactured by NEC.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/18/HNnecdesktopscatch fire_1.html

40. *December 18, NewsFactor* — **New worm attacks through Symantec antivirus application.** The software vulnerability through which the Big Yellow worm is able to penetrate Windows PCs was patched by Symantec in May 2006. But according to eEye Digital Security, many IT departments have not yet rolled out the fix, leaving these computers vulnerable to attack. A new worm is making the rounds, attacking some business computers through a known –– and already patched –– flaw in a popular antivirus software suite from security firm Symantec. The worm, called "Big Yellow" and discovered initially by eEye Digital Security, zaps vulnerable computers with malicious code and turns them into remote–controlled zombie machines. Big Yellow exploits a vulnerability in the remote–management interface for Symantec AntiVirus and Symantec Client Security software packages. Marc Maiffret, eEye's founder and CTO, said that the threat appears to be widespread.
Source: http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_id=102003ILKSHI

41. *December 15, eWeek* — **Hackers selling Vista zero–day exploit.** Underground hackers are hawking zero–day exploits for Microsoft's new Windows Vista operating system at $50,000 a pop, according to computer security researchers at Trend Micro. The Windows Vista exploit –– which has not been independently verified –– was just one of many zero–days available for sale at an auction–style marketplace infiltrated by the Tokyo–based anti–virus vendor. In an interview with eWEEK, Trend Micro's chief technology officer, Raimund Genes, said prices for exploits for unpatched code execution flaws are in the $20,000 to $30,000 range, depending on the popularity of the software and the reliability of the attack code. Bots and Trojan downloaders that typically hijack Windows machines for use in spam–spewing botnets were being sold for about $5,000, Genes said. The Trend Micro discovery highlights the true financial value of software vulnerability information and serves as further confirmation that a lucrative underground market exists for exploit code targeting unpatched flaws.
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2073611,00.asp

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win–rpc), 25 (smtp), 4672 (eMule), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 1434 (ms–sql–m), 445 (microsoft–ds), 139 (netbios–ssn), 113 (auth), 1433 (ms–sql–s), 6346

	(gnutella−svc)
	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 or visit their Website: 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/.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

Nothing to report.
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General Sector

Nothing to report.
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