



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 December 2006

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

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports a flight from Raleigh–Durham International Airport to Cincinnati was canceled Tuesday, December 19, when authorities discovered a man sleeping on the jetliner before passengers boarded it. (See item [15](#))
- The Indianapolis Star reports a norovirus has been determined to have sickened nearly 400 diners at the Castleton, Indiana, Olive Garden restaurant last week. (See item [29](#))
- The Insurance Journal reports that despite electronic ID cards, surveillance cameras, and metal detectors, security is still difficult to achieve in high–rise office buildings. (See item [37](#))

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](#)

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Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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Energy Sector

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

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

1. *December 18, Daily Item (PA)* — **Sirens mistakenly sound at nuclear power plant.**
Emergency sirens near PPL’s Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Luzerne County, PA, went off around 11 a.m. EST Monday, December 18, but PPL officials said it was part of a test and not an actual emergency. “We conduct silent tests of the siren system every two weeks,” said Lou Ramos, spokesperson for the plant. “During a scheduled test this morning, the sirens mistakenly received a signal to sound, rather than a signal for a silent test.” “The sirens that

sounded today were part of the old siren system, which PPL Susquehanna is in the process of replacing," Ramos said.

Source: <http://www.dailyitem.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061218/NEWS/61218004>

2. *December 18, Agence France–Press* — **President Bush signs U.S.–India nuclear pact.**

President George W. Bush recently signed a landmark civilian nuclear deal with India. The two nations now face tough negotiations on the nuts and bolts of the complex deal, which allows U.S. sales of civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India for the first time since Delhi tested a nuclear device in 1974. Popularly known as a "123 Agreement," the bilateral pact will be the sole binding document defining the terms of the anticipated nuclear commerce arising from the deal, which the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says could open up a whopping 100 billion dollars in opportunities for American businesses. The bilateral agreement will have to be approved again by the U.S. Congress.

Key provisions of India nuclear deal:

— Allows U.S. shipments of civilian nuclear fuel and know–how to India, providing an exemption to American law that bans nuclear trade with countries such as India that have not submitted to full international inspections.

—Requires Indian safeguards and inspections at 14 civilian nuclear plants. Eight military plants would be off–limits.

Additional information from the Associated Press:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061218/ap_on_go_pr_wh/us_india_glance_1

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061218/pl_afp/usindianuclear_0_61218164906

3. *December 18, Environment News Service* — **Italy to build world's first hydrogen–fired power plant.**

The world's first industrial scale hydrogen–fired power plant will be built near Venice, the Veneto Region and Italian energy company ENEL announced Friday, December 15. At Veneto Region headquarters in Venice on Friday, the Region and ENEL signed an agreement on the granting of funding for research and experimentation of hydrogen technologies. The funding will support development of zero–emission hydrogen combustion power generation systems; development of innovative hydrogen production technologies and coal and biomass power generation systems; as well as innovative hydrogen accumulation systems, the company said. ENEL will conduct these research programs in collaboration with numerous industrial and university partners.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/dec2006/2006-12-18-05.asp>

4. *December 18, Electric Light & Power* — **OG&E updates OCC on security plans; security model could have national impact.**

OG&E Electric Services (OG&E) filed with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) an update on its progress to improve electric system security and its future plans for protecting vital electric infrastructure against vandalism, theft, and attack. Howard Motley, vice president of regulatory affairs for OG&E, said: "Today's filing provides commissioners with an update on the security investments that we've made since the Commission approved landmark rules in 2004. It also outlines a framework for the next phase of our ongoing effort to further protect the critical infrastructure that powers our state's economy." Motley continued: "The commission spent over two years working on the process with the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and other agencies to provide a model, not only for Oklahoma, but other states regarding the protection of a state's utility infrastructure." The commission's 2004 order allows OG&E to recover its costs associated with improved

security.

Source: http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/280136/22/ARTCL/non e/none/OG&E-updates-OCC-on-security-plans;-security-model-co uld-have-national-impact/

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *December 19, Times–Picayune (LA)* — **Gas leak prompts closure of two–mile stretch of road.** A leak at a natural gas plant in St. Bernard Parish, LA, caused sheriff's deputies to shut down a two–mile stretch of Bayou Road around Toca. The plant is run by Southern Natural Gas Co., a subsidiary of El Paso Corp. A private contractor was hired by Southern Natural Gas to remove a concrete foundation inside the compressor station yard. The leak occurred when the workers hired to remove the concrete foundation at the plant struck a small, thin pipeline connected to the emergency shutdown system. That automatically shut down the plant as gas was being compressed, releasing natural gas into the air.
Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/stbernard/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1166510412287900.xml&coll=1>
6. *December 19, Star–Telegram (TX)* — **Boy ignites crude oil, dies in explosion.** A 14–year–old boy was killed in a fiery explosion after he ignited a tank of crude oil Monday afternoon, December 18, in Springtown, TX. The boy climbed on top of the tank, lifted the lid and dropped a lighted object inside, causing an explosion. The explosion destroyed the tank and spilled the oil, which continued to burn. The teenager was with a 15–year–old boy, who was treated for minor injuries at Weatherford Regional Medical Center and released. The tank, owned by Canadian oil company EnCana, is near a well that produces both oil and gas. It contained about 45,000 gallons of crude oil. The tank is about two miles west of the intersection of Texas 199 and Farm Road 51, just outside Springtown. Students were initially kept inside Springtown High School to protect them from the smoke. Officials used a Reverse 911 call to alert residents to stay indoors when possible because of the smoke until about 2.5 hours after the explosion.
Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/16272916.htm>
7. *December 19, Associated Press* — **Sixty residents evacuated after meth lab sets off sprinklers in Virginia apartment building.** Police say at least 60 elderly and disabled people were evacuated from their homes in southwest Virginia because of a methamphetamine lab was found in their apartment building. They may not be able to go home until after the holidays. Damascus Police Chief Tony Richardson says the meth lab was emitting noxious fumes and set off sprinklers Monday night, December 18, in the three–story building. Richardson says that 43–year–old David Allen Riley of the Glade Spring area of Washington County is charged on numerous counts, including manufacturing methamphetamine and drug possession. Residents of the government–subsidized complex were quickly evacuated, and no one was injured. Authorities found a body in one apartment, but Richardson said the death appeared to be from natural causes.
Source: <http://www.wric.com/Global/story.asp?S=5833918&nav=0RcxWA4C>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *December 19, Register (UK)* — **Opera adds technology to foil phishers.** Opera has added third-party fraud protection components to the latest revision of its Web browser software, Opera 9.1. By including the technology alongside its existing phishing filter, Opera claims to offer "near immediate" identification of sites designed to trick unwitting users into handing over confidential account credentials. In other browser security news, Microsoft has released an update yesterday designed to fix a performance bug with IE 7's phishing filter.
Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/12/19/opera_bolsters_phishing_filter/

9. *December 18, Associated Press* — **Regulators seek to curb money laundering.** Banking regulators on Monday, December 18, ordered the Bank of Tokyo–Mitsubishi UFJ to take steps to bolster policies aimed at detecting abuses by money launderers, terrorist financiers and other criminals. The steps are to address deficiencies related to anti-money laundering policies, regulators said in separate but coordinated enforcement action against the Bank of Tokyo–Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd. of Japan and some of its U.S. operations. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. issued an order against Tokyo–Mitsubishi UFJ Trust Co for failing to implement adequate Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering compliance programs. The company must obtain an independent consultant to review its anti-money laundering compliance efforts and come up with an improvement plan. In another action, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the New York State Banking Department said anti-money laundering improvements needed to be made at the bank's New York branch.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061218/money_laundering.html?.v=1

10. *December 18, CNET News* — **Jailed ID thieves thwart police with crypto.** Three men have been jailed in the UK for their part in a massive data theft operation. One of the accused ringleaders of the gang, Anton Dolgov — also known as Gelonkin — was sentenced for his part in the theft of millions of dollars from victims in countries including the UK and the U.S. The ID thieves used stolen credit card numbers and created false identities to buy high-end electronics and other goods, which they then resold on eBay. When the gang's premises were raided by the Serious and Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), one member was handcuffed with his hands in front of his body. He managed to leap up and flick an electrical switch that wiped databases that could have contained records of the gang's activities stretching back more than 10 years. The action also triggered intricate layers of encryption on the gang's computer systems, which experts were unable to crack. SOCA did not discuss what encryption was used or why it was unable to decrypt it, as such information would enable other criminals to use the same methods. An outstanding arrest warrant exists for another member of the gang, known as

Kaljusaar, believed to be a ringleader.

Source: http://news.com.com/Jailed+ID+thieves+thwart+cops+with+crypto/2100-7348_3-6144521.html?tag=cd.lede

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *December 19, Associated Press* — Delta files Chapter 11 plan. Delta Air Lines filed a reorganization plan with the bankruptcy court Tuesday, December 19, that calls for it to emerge from Chapter 11 in the spring of 2007 as a standalone company. It also said that its board has formally rejected US Airways' \$8.4 billion hostile bid to buy Delta and create the nation's largest airline. The Atlanta-based carrier outlined a five-year business plan, and said that its advisers have determined that a reorganized Delta will have a consolidated equity value of roughly \$9.4 billion to \$12 billion. "The board concluded that Delta's standalone plan will provide the company's creditors with superior value and greater certainty on a much faster timetable than the US Airways proposal," Delta said in a statement. Delta said US Airways continues to experience significant integration problems its prior, smaller deal with America West. It believes US Airways is not equipped to simultaneously integrate a substantially larger company like Delta. Delta filed for Chapter 11 in New York in September 2005.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-12-19-delta-bankruptcy-plan_x.htm

12. *December 19, USA TODAY* — Lawmakers: Screen airport workers. More of the nation's airport personnel are undergoing background checks, and some lawmakers want all of the nearly one million workers to be screened when they arrive on the job each day. The federal government has stepped up scrutiny amid worries that the workers could use their insider jobs to help terrorists plan attacks. Lawmakers say their concern doesn't stem from a specific plot but rather recent arrests that point to potential holes in security. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has adopted policies requiring that everyone working at airports — from taxi drivers to gift shop clerks — be checked for criminal history, terrorist ties, and immigration violations. Previously, only employees with access to secure areas faced the checks. The TSA also has started assigning teams of screeners to roam secured areas, doing random searches of airport employees, said Earl Morris, TSA general manager for field operations. "This insider threat is a critical piece" of the agency's anti-terrorism efforts, TSA chief Kip Hawley told an aviation-security conference last week.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-12-18-airport-workers-screen_x.htm

13. *December 19, Cleveland Plain Dealer* — Pressure compromises security, some airport screeners complain. When Pete Celentano worked as an airport security screener in Newark, a suitcase containing books was a huge hassle. Books could be hollowed out to hide plastic explosives, but they also regularly produced false alarms on the bomb-detection machines. So during busy times, Celentano says, some screeners chose an easy solution when a book tripped the alarm. They ignored it. Inspecting by hand took valuable minutes, and with supervisors and airline officials pressuring them to keep luggage and passengers moving, they often sidestepped the rules, Celentano said. More than five years after 9/11, and despite billions of dollars spent on improved security, the nation's aviation system remains vulnerable to terrorist attack, many security experts say. One major factor is the constant struggle to balance security and speed

during peak travel periods at major airports, according to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screeners and supervisors. Balancing the need for both speed and security may be impossible under TSA's current system, screeners say, pointing to disturbing lapses at the nation's airports in recent years.

Source: <http://www.cleveland.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news/116652955331240.xml&coll=2>

14. *December 19, Boston Globe* — **New England border stops snag drugs, no terrorists.**

Security stops of cars in rural New England near the U.S. border with Canada have yet to snare a single terrorist — but they have contributed to a huge, unexpected increase in marijuana seizures, according to homeland security authorities. The seizures have soared from 419 pounds in 2000 to more than 3,000 pounds last year. Department of Homeland Security officials in Washington said the interior checkpoints, which are set up at random or in response to a specific threat, are a crucial second line of defense to augment tighter controls at the border itself. In the interior checkpoints and at the border itself, the patrol has also snagged thousands of immigrants entering illegally from Canada, although that figure has not changed markedly since 2000. At the checkpoints, agents question motorists about their citizenship status and sometimes search cars. The Border Patrol has also confiscated more cash brought in illegally, which officials believe is usually linked to the drug trade or human trafficking.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2006/12/19/border_stops_snag_drugs_no_terrorists/

15. *December 19, Associated Press* — **Delta flight canceled when man found asleep before boarding.**

A flight to Cincinnati was canceled Tuesday, December 19, when authorities discovered a man sleeping on the Boeing 737 jetliner before passengers boarded it. Delta Air Lines Flight 717 from Raleigh–Durham International Airport was scheduled to leave about 6 a.m. EST, said airline spokesperson Anthony Black. The flight was canceled after "the aircraft was re-swept by security," Black said. Investigators haven't disclosed how the man got onto the plane.

Source: <http://www.myfoxwghp.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=1818907&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

16. *December 19, Chicago Tribune* — **CTA train derails.** Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) elevated tracks shared by the Orange and Green Lines in Chicago's South Loop were shut down Tuesday afternoon, December 19, following a train derailment that forced the evacuation of roughly two-dozen passengers, authorities said. Ten ambulances were sent to the scene of the derailed northbound Orange Line train. The rear car of the four-car train left the tracks around 11:40 a.m. CST just south of the Roosevelt Road station, authorities said. The Chicago Fire Department escorted stranded passengers from the train and transported them to the ground using a snorkel basket, fire department spokesperson Larry Langford said. One person suffered an apparent anxiety attack, and another may have had an asthma attack, Langford said. No serious injuries were reported. Power was temporarily shut off along the tracks, and the CTA was providing a shuttle bus for stranded riders, said CTA spokesperson Wanda Taylor.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-061219cta.1,219403.story?coll=chi-news-hed>

17.

December 15, Business Journal — **AirTran CEO pledges more jobs, expansion for Midwest.** The chief executive officer of AirTran Holdings Inc. pledged Thursday, December 14, that if AirTran is able to acquire Midwest Airlines it would mean more jobs and an expansion of the Milwaukee airline. Joe Leonard, chairman and chief executive officer of AirTran Holdings, was in Milwaukee Thursday to meet with political and business leaders in an effort to gain public support for a \$290 million deal that would merge AirTran Airways and Midwest Airlines. A merger of Midwest, which is operated by Oak Creek–based Midwest Air Group Inc., and Orlando, FL–based AirTran would create a single airline that would be stronger than the either of the airlines should they remain on their own, Leonard said in an interview with the Business Journal. A combined Midwest/AirTran would add about 1,000 jobs a year corporate–wide, compared with the 700 to 750 jobs per year that AirTran has been adding for the past five years, Leonard said.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/061215/1390805.html?.v=3>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *December 19, Worcester Telegram & Gazette News (MA)* — Fitchburg postal facility is quickly cleared. Officials are unsure what caused two female customers and a male security guard to become simultaneously ill about 10:30 a.m. EST on Monday, December 18, in the lobby of the Fitchburg, MA, Main Street post office. The guard had been standing in the post office foyer, which leads into the lobby. The two women had passed through the foyer seconds before being overcome with nausea. About 100 people were evacuated, and customers waited outside the building with their holiday packages for about 25 minutes while Fire Department crews searched for possible chemical causes for the sudden illnesses. Postmaster Matt W. Johnson said the lobby was full of customers who did not experience similar symptoms. He added that postal workers practice evacuating the building to prepare for these types of incidents and were able to clear the building in about three minutes. Authorities are investigating the incident

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061219/NEWS/612190384/1116>

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Agriculture Sector

19. *December 19, USAgNet* — USDA discovers anti–E. coli feed additive. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service has patented a new chlorate–based compound that when added in small amounts to cattle feed two days before slaughter significantly reduces levels of salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 in the animals' digestive tract. In some tests, levels fell from 100,000 E. coli cells per gram of fecal material to 100. The agency obtained similar results with salmonella in swine, sheep and poultry.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2655&yr=2006>

20.

December 18, Agricultural Research Service — **Wetlands curb hog hormones in wastewater.**

According to the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), constructed wetlands may help reduce hormones in wastewater from hog farms. Recently, hog–farm operators have begun incorporating constructed wetlands into their wastewater treatments to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus in the effluent so that it can be spread onto crop fields without causing environmental harm. But little, if any, research has investigated the system's potential to diminish hormones that hogs excrete into wastewater. The ARS study dovetails with increasing concern that hormones from livestock waste and other sources are accumulating in the environment and disrupting the endocrine–system function of fish and other aquatic life. First, wastewater from the test facility went into a manure pit, then into a series of lagoons for microbial degradation. Next, the effluent was pumped into one of four wetlands, then into a storage pond. The researchers took water samples over three seasons in 2004, and weekly in July 2005 to analyze them for hormones. By analyzing the effluent both before and after passing through the constructed wetlands, they determined the wetlands reduced estradiol activity by 83 to 93 percent.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061218.htm>

21. *December 18, USAgNet* — U.S., Brazilian farmers partner to build soy demand in India.

U.S. soybean farmers are partnering with Brazilian soybean farmers to promote global demand for soybeans in India. On December 15, while participating in the first–ever joint grower trade mission, U.S. soybean farmer–leaders met with Brazilian farmers in Mumbai, India, to discuss how they could work together to increase market potential and improve soybean farmer profitability by removing trade barriers and improving market access. An agreement was signed that will focus on removing barriers to trade with India.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story–national.php?Id=2643&yr=2006>

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Food Sector

22. *December 19, Agricultural Research Service* — Cool–water wash for eggs can help prevent microbial contamination.

Using cooler water to wash shell eggs during a second washing can help cool them quicker. This reduces the potential of foodborne pathogen growth both inside the eggs and on the eggshell surface, according to scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Currently, processors who choose to produce eggs that qualify for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) quality shield are required to wash them in water that is at least 90°F, or 20 degrees warmer than the warmest egg entering the processing line. Furthermore, these eggs are required to be sprayed with a sanitizing rinse at least as warm as the wash–water temperature. To prevent the growth of potential foodborne pathogens associated with eggs, these warm eggs must then be cooled quickly for storage. To ensure the eggs are safe for human consumption, USDA requires that all shell eggs be stored at 45°F or lower after processing. That's because Salmonella—the organism most often associated with foodborne disease and eggs—and other bacteria don't grow well at refrigerated temperatures. Getting to the target temperature quickly can make a big difference.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061219.htm>

23.

December 19, Dow Jones — **Korea rejects U.S. call for beef talks at trade session.** South Korea has rejected a U.S. request to discuss American beef and poultry imports this week as part of broader free trade talks, calling the forum inappropriate. Working level discussions on sanitary and quarantine issues scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, and Wednesday, December 20, in Washington, have been delayed by the U.S. request, South Korea's Agriculture and Forestry Ministry said in a statement Monday, December 18. "Recently, the U.S. asked that American beef imports and the easing of import bans on poultry products during bird flu outbreaks be discussed in this week's session," the ministry said. South Korea, however, rejected the request, saying "the issue should not be discussed within the framework of Free Trade Agreement negotiations."

Source: <http://www.agriculture.com/ag/futuresource/FutureSourceStoryIndex.jhtml?storyId=76300106>

24. *December 18, Dow Jones* — U.S. pins hope of beef trade on safety status. Despite the return of U.S. beef to some foreign markets after mad-cow disease was found in the U.S. three years ago, many borders remain closed, and the Bush administration is hoping an international beef safety status will shake loose remaining barriers. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Trade Representative negotiators are counting on the weight of the approval of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) behind them come May. They are letting foreign governments know that after May they won't just be turning away U.S. beef, they'll be spurning international sanction. Ron DeHaven, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, told Dow Jones Newswires that the OIE offers third-party authority on what beef products can or cannot be traded safely when the producer country has found mad-cow disease in its herds. "We want to have discussions based on the science and having a science-based OIE categorization of the U.S. bolsters significantly our position in having those discussions," DeHaven said. Those discussions will begin after the OIE rules in May on a U.S. status, but precursory talks have already begun with countries such as China in what some USDA officials have dubbed the "World Tour."

Source: <http://www.agriculture.com/ag/futuresource/FutureSourceStoryIndex.jhtml?storyId=76200171>

25. *December 18, Dow Jones* — Japanese restaurants to call for more U.S. beef imports. Japanese restaurants are set to urge the government to ease restrictions on U.S. beef imports, saying the stringent rules are causing a serious supply crunch, officials said Tuesday, December 19. Though Tokyo eased a two and a half year blanket ban on U.S. beef in July, lingering trade restrictions over mad cow fears has meant only a trickle of U.S. beef has made it back into the country. The Japan Food Service Association (JFSA) and three other restaurant groups say supply of the U.S. meat has lagged critically behind demand and driven prices higher. They plan to submit a petition to the country's health and farm ministries as early as Friday, December 22, demanding Japan ease import restrictions, according to JFSA official Kunio Chiba.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.com/ag/futuresource/FutureSourceStoryIndex.jhtml?storyId=76201051>

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Water Sector

26. *December 19, Washington Post* — **EPA pushes new rules for sewage treatment in Washington, DC–area.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed stringent pollution limits on the wastewater plant that processes much of the Washington, DC–area's sewage — but has not set a deadline for when the standards would have to be met. The limits apply to the amount of nitrogen, a key pollutant linked to low–oxygen "dead zones" in the Chesapeake Bay, dumped out of the Blue Plains plant in Southwest Washington. According to a draft permit issued by the EPA this month, the plant would have to cut its output of nitrogen, which ranges from six million to 8.5 million pounds annually, down to about 4.7 million pounds. The EPA acknowledges that Blue Plains cannot actually meet the nitrogen limit it is being held to. Officials at the District Water and Sewer Authority, which runs the plant, said the necessary upgrades might take years. The Blue Plains plant receives sewage from Washington as well as Montgomery, Prince George's, Loudoun, and Fairfax counties. It then dumps the treated water into the Potomac near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/18/AR2006121801040.html>
27. *December 18, San Bernardino County Sun (CA)* — **UC–Riverside scientists get grant to find cheaper, faster testing of drinking water.** Scientists at University of California (UC)–Riverside have been awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a relatively inexpensive, fast way of detecting dangerous viruses in drinking water. At the moment, water is routinely tested only for E. coli bacteria. But the method being developed could be used by water agencies, homeland–security officials and others concerned about viruses such as polio or hepatitis A. Wilfred Chen, one of four scientists spearheading the project, said he hopes to have the method ready to use in the next three years or so. Current microbiological testing takes a week or two and can cost \$1,000 or more. The procedure being developed could give scientists answers in 24 to 48 hours and cost considerably less. The work could also help water agencies meet the requirements of the EPA's Ground Water Rule, which goes into effect on December 1, 2009. The rule calls for public drinking–water supplies to be safe from disease–causing viruses and bacteria. The testing process works by tagging components of the virus with fluorescent markers.
Source: http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_4859162

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Public Health Sector

28. *December 19, Reuters* — **India says will be polio–free in three years.** India will wipe out polio in the next three years, the country's health minister said on Tuesday, December 19, despite a surge in cases this year that has raised concern abroad. In one of the biggest outbreaks of the virus in recent years, India has reported 583 polio cases in 2006 — 481 of them in the poor, populous state of Uttar Pradesh — fueling fears it could undermine global efforts to eradicate the disease. At least two dozen children died in the outbreak. The country reported just 66 cases last year. The Uttar Pradesh polio strain has spread to neighboring Nepal and Bangladesh as well as faraway Angola and Namibia. All four were polio–free. Health authorities suspect the virus was carried by a traveler who had it in his intestines where it can linger for up to six weeks.

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/reuters/indiasayswillbepoliofreinthreeyears;_ylt=AjYyIWBMOVY3cbBrXKbn7cmz5xcB

29. *December 19, Indianapolis Star* — **Norovirus determined to have sickened nearly 400 diners.** The Castleton, IN, Olive Garden, closed since Friday, December 15, after nearly 400 diners fell ill, reopened Tuesday after a thorough cleaning over the weekend, according to restaurant and health officials. The Marion County Health Department gave its permission Monday, after restaurant workers scoured the restaurant twice since Friday. Health Department officials determined that diners and some workers had been sickened by a norovirus.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061219/LOCAL/612190442/-1/ZONES04>

30. *December 19, Los Angeles Times* — **Improperly sterilized medical instrument is found to be likely cause of infectious outbreak at hospital.** A premature baby infected by a virulent bacterium at White Memorial Medical Center died Monday morning, December 18, the second death believed to be related to an outbreak that forced the Boyle Heights, CA, hospital to close its neonatal intensive care unit to new admissions, hospital officials said. Also Monday, the hospital reopened its pediatric intensive care unit after determining that two children infected with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were not related to a neonatal outbreak of the same bacterium, which sickened five. The pediatric unit was closed Friday when infections there were discovered. White Memorial closed its neonatal unit December 4 after consulting with county health officials. It remains closed to new admissions but continues to care for 12 infants. Testing results shared with the hospital Monday confirmed that an improperly sterilized medical instrument was the probable cause of the neonatal outbreak. Four of the five infected newborns have died, but doctors believe that two of those babies succumbed to underlying medical problems and not the *P. aeruginosa* infections.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-hospital19dec19.0.6259303.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

31. *December 18, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **Flu shot coverage in toddlers varied widely in 2005–06.** Influenza vaccination coverage in children between 6 and 23 months old varied widely across the country in the 2005–06 flu season, the second season in which shots were recommended for that age–group, according to federal health officials. Vaccination rates ranged all the way from less than 7 percent to more than 60 percent across six sampling areas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in the Friday, December 15, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Coverage with at least one dose ranged from 6.6 percent to 60.4 percent among the sentinel sites, the CDC reported. The rates for full vaccination (two or more doses) ranged from 2.3 percent to 43.4 percent. Compared with the 2004–05 flu season, vaccination coverage increased in four of the areas and decreased in two.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/dec1806fluvax.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *December 18, CNET News* — **A short circuit for cellular E911.** It's very likely that when you call 911 from your cell phone in an emergency, the operator on the other end won't automatically know your location. This is despite the fact that most U.S. mobile phone companies have met a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate to provide location information to 911 operators for millions of wireless subscribers. After years of work, the wireless phone industry is still a long way from full deployment of what is known as enhanced 911 service, or E911. With the exception of only a few companies, wireless carriers have met obligations set forth by the FCC to get their networks and phones ready to provide the service to 95 percent of their subscribers. But getting the carriers to support location technology only solves half the problem. The other half requires getting the nation's 6,140 emergency call centers or Public Safety Answering Points outfitted with the technology and databases to make use of this location information. So far, progress on that front is taking longer than many in the safety community had hoped.

Source: http://news.com.com/A+short+circuit+for+cellular+E911/2100-1039_3-6144331.html

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *December 19, IDG News Service* — **Worm may be spreading via Skype chat.** Computer security analysts are studying reports of a worm that may be circulating via a feature in Skype's popular Voice over Internet Protocol service. Security vendor Websense said the worm spreads through Skype's chat feature. Users receive a message asking them to download a file called "sp.exe." The executable is a Trojan horse that can steal passwords. If a user runs the Trojan it triggers another set of code to spread itself. The first infected PCs appeared in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in Korea, Websense reported on its blog on Tuesday, December 19. It said it was still investigating the issue.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/19/HNskypeworm_1.html

34. *December 19, Sophos* — **Windows Vista used as bait in aggressive image spam campaign.** Sophos has reminded computer users of the threat posed by image spam following a new campaign which purports to offer a cut-price edition of Microsoft Windows Vista. Image spam, which uses a graphic embedded in an e-mail rather than regular text, has grown in popularity amongst spammers attempting to communicate their marketing messages to Internet users. In the latest widespread campaign seen by Sophos, image spammers are offering a bargain edition of Microsoft's new operating system, Windows Vista. The spam e-mail claims that the recipient can save \$319.05 by downloading Windows Vista today. It is unclear whether acting upon the spam would furnish the computer user with a pirated edition of Windows Vista or simply steal their credit card details.

Source: http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/12/vist_aspam.html

35.

December 18, IDG News Service — **Malware: Quality drops but quantity rises.** Over the last six months, the technical creativity of malware has fallen along with the ability to cause massive damage, such as that created by the MyDoom and Sasser worms of years past, wrote Alexander Gostev, senior virus analyst for Kaspersky Lab, in a recent report. Gostev's lab intermittently sees highly technical malware, but most is "the same unending stream of Trojans, viruses and worms," he wrote. In many cases, hackers simply take existing malware and create variants, by tweaking the older code to evade anti-virus software. At times, the process is simple trial and error. Malware writers use online scanners such as Virustotal, which check to see if their new code will be detected by anti-virus software, said Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer for F-Secure. If the code is detectable, they can make a slight modification and run it through the scanner again. Because much of the code is not new, it tends to remain effective for shorter periods of time before anti-virus companies detect it. Still, the time it takes to identify and create a signature for a new virus, which can range from a few minutes to a few hours, is often long enough for hackers to infect computers.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/18/HNmalware_1.html

36. December 18, Security Focus — **PHP security under scrutiny.** Perhaps PHP should stand for Pretty Hard to Protect: A week after a prominent bug finder and developer left the PHP Group, data from the National Vulnerability Database has underscored the need for better security in PHP-based Web applications. A search of the database, maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), found that Web applications written in PHP likely account for 43 percent of the security issues found so far in 2006, up from 29 percent in 2005. While flaws in the language itself account for a very small percentage the total, the problems with PHP underscore the difficulty that developers -- many of them amateurs -- have in locking down applications written in the language, said Peter Mell, senior computer scientist for the NIST and the program manager for the National Vulnerability Database. "In the dynamic programming language [and] scripting realm, we certainly have a problem," Mell said. "Any time a third or more of the vulnerabilities in a given year are attributed to a single language, you know you have a problem."

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/print/news/11430>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	25 (smtp), 1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 4672 (eMule), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 113 (auth), 445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 139 (netbios-ssn)
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

37. *December 19, Insurance Journal* — Security in high-rise buildings remains difficult.

Electronic ID cards, surveillance cameras, and metal detectors are fixtures in high-rise office buildings, but experts say with thousands whizzing through the revolving doors each day, it's impossible to guarantee workers' safety. More than five years after September 11, security for high-rises is still a tricky balance of protecting workers without choking off commerce. Even with all the security gizmos and gadgets, a lone gunman with a grudge against an attorney marched into Chicago's Citigroup Center last week and forced a security guard to take him to the 38th floor, bypassing turnstiles that require photo-ID cards. When he reached his destination, he killed three men and shot a woman in the foot before he was shot by SWAT snipers. High-profile targets, including the Empire State Building in New York and Chicago's Sears Tower have metal detectors or walk-through X-ray scanners in their lobbies. The cost of protecting high-rises varies by property, depending on tenants, whether security is contracted out, where the building is located, and other factors, said Ron Vukas, executive vice president of the Chicago Building Owners and Management Association.

Source: http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2006/12/19/751_21.htm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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