



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 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 blizzard conditions across Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas are causing major travel difficulties, with United Airlines, the busiest carrier at Denver International Airport, canceling more than 630 flights. (See item [11](#))
- The Dayton Daily News reports the FBI has taken over the investigation of unaddressed letters containing a suspicious white powder that a number of residents in the Washington Township/Centerville, Ohio–area reported finding in their curbside mailboxes on Tuesday, December 19. (See item [16](#))
- San Angelo, Texas, is scrambling to meet water needs after a break on Friday, December 15, in a main water line that has caused shortages and closures; a boil water notice remains in effect until further notice. (See item [21](#))

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: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

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

1. *December 21, Dow Jones* — **Westinghouse Chinese nuclear power deal could benefit U.S. utilities.** China’s decision to build nuclear power plants next year with next–generation reactors built by Westinghouse could be a positive for U.S. utilities. Electric utility companies like Duke

Energy Corp. and Southern Co. are considering Westinghouse AP1000 reactors for their own nuclear projects in the U.S. “If construction (in China) starts in 2007 and goes well, that would hardly bode badly for the prospects of orders in the U.S.,” Stanford Group analyst Christine Tezak said. Duke Energy spokesperson Tim Pettit said Duke intends to use the same technology for its power plants once it receives the green light from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). U.S. utilities expect to benefit from Chinese experience while installing the reactors. The standardized design of the AP1000 should make it easier to share engineering information. Previous generations of reactors have unique designs, making it difficult to share operational experience, said Duke Energy’s chief nuclear officer, Brew Barron. Currently, the Westinghouse AP1000 and General Electric's advanced boiling water reactor are the only next-generation technologies certified by the NRC. U.S. nuclear power plant operators are expected to begin applying with the NRC next year for construction and operating licenses for a slew of new nuclear plants.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=92034>

2. *December 19, Dow Jones* — **Appeals court rules against FERC in gas pipeline case.** A U.S. appeals court Tuesday, December 19, ruled against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), vacating two 2005 orders related to a proceeding in which the commission asserted authority over a natural gas pipeline off of Louisiana's coast. In 2001, FERC had disclaimed jurisdiction over a 12-mile pipeline off the coast of Louisiana that's part of Williams Cos.' Transco natural gas pipeline system. But after losing a case in the courts, FERC in 2005 reversed its prior determination and held that the pipeline served a transportation function, which falls under FERC oversight. Under the Natural Gas Act, FERC has jurisdiction over pipelines that ship natural gas. However, it doesn't have authority over smaller "gathering" pipelines. The problem, which the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit noted in its opinion Tuesday, December 19, is there's no clear legal test to distinguish between the two types of pipelines. Meanwhile, companies that ship natural gas in pipelines have argued that they are often gouged by operators of some so-called gathering lines because the rates they charge fall outside of the commission's jurisdiction.

Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/aspxcontent/NewsStory.aspx?cpath=20061219%5cACQDJON200612191205DOWJONESDJONLINE000489.htm>

3. *December 19, Scotsman (Scotland)* — **Virtual power station ready for June launch.** FLEXITRICITY, a "virtual power station" service developed to make better use of idle emergency generators, will launch next June with enough capacity to power up to 5,000 homes. Run by Edinburgh, Scotland-based Martin Energy, the service will use the electricity capacity of hundreds of diesel generators at factories and depots across the UK, at times when the national grid is not able to satisfy the UK's energy demand. The company would go live with enough generators on line to add more than three megawatts to the national grid at times of extraordinary demand or production loss. The national grid is obliged to have contingencies for underestimating energy consumption or the loss of a major generator. The spare generators could be remotely started within minutes, selling the emergency capacity to the grid at premium price. The company estimates the capacity could be called online 70– 80 times a year, for as little as a few minutes at a time. As well as improving the efficiency of under-utilized assets, by using the generators more they would be less likely to fail in the event of an emergency.

Source: <http://powermarketers.netcontentinc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8knpq%5F%5BkmlililTTnkw11rbfel%5Dv>

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

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *December 19, Springfield News Sun (OH)* — **Residents allowed to return home following chemical spill.** An anhydrous ammonia tank leak forced evacuations of people in Madison Township, OH, Tuesday afternoon, December 19. Four men were transferring corn fertilizing chemical from a larger tank to a nurse wagon that holds about 1,000 gallons, when the tube between the tanks dislodged, spilling the chemical, which turns to a vapor once it hits air. A large cloud was seen coming from the Southwest Landmark plant and about 15,000 gallons reportedly leaked from a tank. More than 100 residences within one mile southeast of Huntington Road and state Route 41 were contacted by phone to evacuate the area.
Source: <http://www.springfieldnewssun.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2006/12/19/sns121906leakweb.html>

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *December 18, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-145: Military Operations: High-Level DoD Action Needed to Address Long-standing Problems with Management and Oversight of Contractors Supporting Deployed Forces (Report).** Prior Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports have identified problems with the Department of Defense's (DoD) management and oversight of contractors supporting deployed forces. GAO issued its first comprehensive report examining these problems in June 2003. Because of the broad congressional interest in U.S. military operations in Iraq and DoD's increasing use of contractors to support U.S. forces in Iraq, GAO initiated this follow-on review under the Comptroller General's statutory authority. Specifically, GAO's objective was to determine the extent to which DoD has improved its management and oversight of contractors supporting deployed forces since our 2003 report. GAO reviewed DoD policies and interviewed military and contractor officials both at deployed locations and in the United States. GAO is recommending that the Secretary of Defense appoint a focal point within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, at a sufficiently senior level and with the appropriate resources, dedicated to leading DoD efforts to improve the management and oversight of contractors supporting deployed forces. DoD agreed with GAO's recommendation.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07145high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-145>

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

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *December 20, Stars and Stripes* — **DoD warns of scam targeting Bank of America cardholders.** Another e-mail intended to scam Department of Defense (DoD) personnel is

making the rounds. Some Bank of America cardholders have received e-mail messages of an urgent nature stating that they must reply immediately to avoid some adverse consequence, according to a warning sent out by the DoD. The scammers use the Bank of America letterhead and logo. Some scams include links that connect to a site that looks like the Bank of America Website.

Source: http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=4229_5

7. *December 19, Associated Press* — **China uncovers money laundering.** Chinese authorities have found seven big underground banks involved in money laundering cases worth more than US\$1.75 billion, the Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday, December 19. Police arrested 44 people suspected of involvement in the underground banks, found in Shanghai, Guangdong, Inner Mongolia, Liaoning and Heilongjiang, Xinhua cited Han Hao, an economic crime investigator with the Ministry of Public Security, as saying. China has sought to crack down on illicit financial activities, seeking to reinforce the stability of its developing financial systems and to prevent possible involvement in terrorist financing. Suspected links between China and international drug trafficking syndicates have added urgency to the issue. The national legislature recently enacted the country's first anti-money laundering law, giving the central bank greater investigative power. The law takes effect January 1. The government's China Anti-Money Laundering Monitoring and Analysis Center reported 683 suspicious cases involving the equivalent of U.S. \$18.6 billion had been handed to police by the end of 2005. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061219/china_money_laundering.html?.v=2

8. *December 19, Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury designates individual supporting al Qaeda, other terrorist organizations.** The Department of the Treasury Tuesday, December 19, designated Mohammed Al Ghabra, a naturalized British citizen who provides material and logistical support to al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. Al Ghabra has organized travel to Pakistan for individuals seeking to meet with senior al Qaeda individuals and to undertake jihad training. Additionally, Al Ghabra has provided material support and facilitated the travel of UK-based individuals to Iraq to support the insurgents fight against coalition forces. In addition, Al Ghabra has also provided material and logistical support to other terrorist organizations based in Pakistan, such as Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HUJI). Mohammed Al Ghabra was designated pursuant to Executive Order 13224, which is aimed at financially isolating terrorists, terrorist facilitators, and financiers. This designation freezes any assets Al Ghabra may have under U.S. jurisdiction and prohibits all financial and commercial transactions by any U.S. person and Al Ghabra.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp206.htm>

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

Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *December 20, Los Angeles Times* — **Baby is sent through X-ray machine at LAX.** A woman going through security at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) put her month-old grandson into a plastic bin intended for carry-on items and slid it into an X-ray machine. The early Saturday accident on December 16 — bizarre but not unprecedented — caught airport workers by surprise, even though the security line was not busy at the time, officials said. A screener watching the machine's monitor immediately noticed the outline of a baby and pulled the bin

backward on the conveyor belt. The infant was taken to Centinela Hospital, where doctors determined that he had not received a dangerous dose of radiation. Officials said the 56-year-old woman spoke Spanish and apparently did not understand English. The grandmother and the child were subsequently allowed to board an Alaska Airlines flight to Mexico City. The rare incident drew attention to whether officials are staffing often-busy security checkpoints enough to prevent such an accident. And it raised questions about the danger of X-rays. Nico Melendez, a spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration, which manages LAX screeners, said the agency doesn't have enough workers to constantly stand at tables in front of the screeners to coach passengers on what should or should not be sent through X-ray machines.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-baby20dec20.0.6460373.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

10. *December 20, Associated Press* — **EU adding airlines to emissions program.** Airlines that fly within the European Union (EU) will have to trade pollution allowances beginning in 2011, the European Commission said Wednesday, December 20, which could see travelers pay more for popular short-break trips. Expanded rules covering all airlines that fly into the EU will take effect the next year, a move that would hit U.S. airlines on their lucrative trans-Atlantic routes. All airlines -- based in the EU or elsewhere -- will have to trade emissions beginning in 2012 for all flights to and from European airports, the Commission said. The emissions trading program gives airlines a financial incentive to reduce emissions because they can sell allowances that they don't use. But if they fail to convert to low-carbon technology or simply increase their flights, they will be punished by being forced to buy additional allowances to release more carbon dioxide. Airlines are generally in favor of the plan, since EU officials had warned them that refusing to back a carbon emissions trading program would result in an aviation tax. The EU said aircraft emissions currently make up three percent of total greenhouse gas emissions, but are increasing fast as cheap flights multiply and would likely double by 2020.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061220/eu_airlines_emissions_trading.html?.v=2

11. *December 20, Associated Press* — **Blizzard conditions causing travel problems.** Heavy snow blew across Colorado on Wednesday, December 20, canceling hundreds of airline flights and shutting down a major highway, as a winter storm plowed onto the Plains after pummeling New Mexico. The National Weather Service posted blizzard warnings for most of eastern Colorado and adjoining sections of Nebraska and Kansas. Up to five inches of snow had fallen by the morning rush hour in the Denver area. United Airlines, the busiest carrier at Denver International Airport, canceled more than 630 flights for the rest of the day, and Frontier Airlines planned to cancel up to 40 afternoon flights, representatives said. Eastbound Interstate 70 was closed for 90 miles from Limon, CO, to the Kansas line and police shut down about 60 miles of westbound I-70 from Colby, KS, to Burlington, CO. Dozens of schools were closed in eastern Colorado and northwest Kansas, along with many courthouses in eastern Colorado. The broad storm also spread rain across parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska on Wednesday, with snow in western Kansas and Nebraska, where police reported vehicles sliding off I-80 in the Nebraska Panhandle

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WEATHER/12/20/snowstorm.ap/index.htm> 1

12.

December 20, Associated Press — **Miami commuter train derails.** An elevated train partially derailed on Wednesday, December 20, halting commuters' ride, but causing no injuries. Miami-Dade Police Department spokesperson Robert Williams said roughly 32 people were aboard when it derailed about noon and all were forced to walk along the track to evacuate. Officials said an antenna fell off the fifth car of the six-car northbound train, dislodging a set of wheels and springing it from the track. This was the first major derailment for Metrorail since it was launched 22 years ago.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061220/BREAKINGNEWS/61220036/1086>

13. *December 19, Department of Transportation* — **DOT tentatively approves antitrust immunity for expanded Star Alliance.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) on Tuesday, December 19, proposed to allow United Airlines and a number of its international Star Alliance partners to add three carriers to their immunized alliance and to permit expanded cooperation between United and alliance member Air Canada. This action, if made final, will provide the carriers with immunity from U.S. antitrust laws to the extent necessary to enable them to plan and coordinate services over their entire international route systems, as well as pave the way for implementation of the U.S.–Canada Open–Skies agreement. The Department tentatively decided to allow Swiss International Air Lines, LOT Polish Airlines and TAP Air Portugal to join the alliance with antitrust immunity. It also would expand the current grant of immunity between United and Air Canada to all their international operations. In addition to United and Air Canada, the European members of the Star Alliance with immunity are Austrian Airlines, Lufthansa German Airlines, and Scandinavian Airlines. All of the airlines will continue to be independent companies and retain their separate corporate and national identities. The show-cause order, alliance application and public comments are available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> docket number OST–2005–22922. Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot12006.htm>

14. *December 18, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey* — **Recommendations to secure the port of New York/New Jersey.** A task force established by Port Authority Chairman Anthony R. Coscia on Monday, December 18, announced recommendations to greatly enhance security at the nation's 361 seaports, including the Port of New York and New Jersey, highlighting the need for mandatory cargo security standards, the appointment of a national official in charge of port security issues, and a port user fee to help offset escalating port security expenses. The task force, a nonpartisan group of government and business officials, was formed to generate public discussion of port and cargo security matters and to provide recommendations that address current gaps in port and supply-chain security. Among the task force's recommendations are: (1) The adoption of federal legislation sanctioning minimum mandatory cargo security standards that use innovative technology and business practices to monitor every cargo shipment; and (2) Establish response and recovery plans that are unique to the regional environment of each port, allowing individual ports to return to normal as efficiently as possible after a disaster. The task force will continue to draw attention to port security in the future to ensure that solutions to some of the critical issues are developed in a timely manner. Source: <http://www.panynj.com/AboutthePortAuthority/PressCenter/PressReleases/PressRelease/index.php?id=895>

15.

December 18, Journal Gazette (IN) — **Bomb scare at Fort Wayne International Airport causes evacuation.** A hand-written note inside a magazine onboard a Chautauqua Airlines commuter plane forced the evacuation of about 25 passengers and three crewmembers at Fort Wayne International Airport Monday evening, December 18. Fort Wayne police, using a bomb-sniffing dog and a robot, searched the aircraft, but no bomb was found on board the plane, said Fort Wayne police deputy chief Marty Bender. According to Bender, the plane was preparing to take off when a passenger found a magazine in which someone had written that a bomb was on board. Airport officials and police referred additional questions to the FBI. Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/16269009.htm>

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *December 20, Dayton Daily News (OH)* — Probe of tainted letters expands, FBI takes charge. The FBI has taken over the investigation of unaddressed letters containing a suspicious white powder that a number of residents in the Washington Twp./Centerville, OH-area reported finding in their curbside mailboxes on Tuesday, December 19. Centerville Crime Prevention Officer Matt Dunn said he asked the FBI to take charge of the investigation because it has become multi-jurisdictional with letters found in many places.. Major John DiPietro, deputy chief of police for Miami Twp. said they've had three calls, two yesterday and one today, from residents along the Mad River Road area who received such letters. Michael E. Brooks, spokesperson for the FBI in Cincinnati, said FBI agents are in the Dayton, OH, area talking to police agencies and area residents. He would not say whether there are any suspects at the present time. Both a field test and an initial test by a state laboratory came back negative for biohazardous materials, he said. Additional tests of the powder will take about a week for results, he said. Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/localnews/content/oh/story/news/local/2006/12/20/ddn122006fbiweb.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=16>

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

Agriculture Sector

17. *December 20, Dow Jones* — Eighth Canadian bovine spongiform encephalopathy case tied to feed. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has concluded its investigation into Canada's eighth case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), found in a commercial beef cow on a farm in northern Alberta on August 9, and an official said the source of the BSE was most likely caused by feed ingredients. Dr. George Luterbach, a CFIA official, said, "Worldwide, the most common route of the BSE agent is believed to be orally, or through the consumption of contaminated feed. While the CFIA cannot determine the farm of birth, and therefore can not speak about the feed, nevertheless, the most common assumption is that the animal in question was exposed to the BSE agent before the feed ban was introduced or during the implementation of the feed ban in Canada." No part of the carcass entered the human food supply or animal feed chain, a separate CFIA release said. Report: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/bs>

[eesb/ab2006/8investe.shtml](http://eesb.ab2006/8investe.shtml)

Source: <http://www.dtnag.com/index.cfm?show=803&product=/ag/home/dtnagnews&id=07027F5B>

18. *December 20, The Horse* — **Florida state veterinarian investigating EHV cases in Ocala and Jupiter.** Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson says the department's Division of Animal Industry is continuing the investigation into the presence of equine herpesvirus type-1 (EHV-1) in several areas of the state including Wellington, Jupiter and the Ocala, Florida area. EHV-1 can be a serious disease of horses. The virus can spread through the air from the respiratory route of affected horses. Transmission can also occur through contaminated equipment, clothing and hands. There is no record of a human health threat from the virus. So far, seven horses have tested positive for the virus through lab tests. All confirmed cases are under quarantine. The Division of Animal Industry is working closely with veterinarians and equine facilities in the impacted locations to monitor the animals and assist with testing. Owners with sick horses should contact their private veterinarian to examine and treat their horses. Veterinarians suspecting EHV-1 with neurologic signs are advised to contact state officials and follow protocols for collecting and submitting appropriate samples for laboratory diagnosis.

Source: <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=8466>

19. *December 19, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture* — **Pennsylvania warns about Emerald Ash Borer beetle.** The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Tuesday, December 19, warned property owners about Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle that damages ash trees and has caused quarantines to be imposed in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland and Michigan. "Emerald Ash Borer poses a major threat to ash trees, and resulting quarantines could affect all hardwood firewood in the state, including oak, maple and hickory," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "Pennsylvania landowners who own marketable ash timber should consider the risks presented by Emerald Ash Borer in determining when to harvest their trees. Once this pest is discovered, movement of ash products will be severely restricted." Some processed wood will be marketable even if a quarantine order is eventually imposed, so individual businesses will need to assess the potential impact on their operation. On December 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA's) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service expanded the federal quarantine to include the entire states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The federal order restricts the interstate movement of regulated articles that originate within the quarantine area. There is no known practical control for this wood-boring pest other than destroying infested trees.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=44662

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

Food Sector

20. *December 19, FoodProductionDaily* — **Researchers study electrolyzed water as pathogen killer.** Electrolyzed water can be used to destroy pathogens like E. coli in foods such as vegetables, according to new research into the process. Electrolyzed water has been promoted in the past as a way of reducing the amount of chemicals needed for cleaning in plants. It may also provide an option to vegetable producers and processors, who were hit this year by the

public reaction to an E. coli outbreak due to contaminated spinach in the U.S. Joellen Feirtag, a University of Minnesota food scientist, has been experimenting with electrolyzed water since April. He is using a water-based electrochemical activation system that disinfects, cleans food and wipes out E. coli, he said in a press release issued by the university. "This system could be used from the farm to the retail market—for irrigation in fields, washing in processing plants and misting in grocery stores," he said. "The results we're seeing are phenomenal. It's killing all bacteria and viruses. It even kills avian flu and anthrax spores." A few Minnesota companies are already using the system as a test. The solution can be sprayed directly onto foods such as vegetables, destroying bacteria like E. coli.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=72903-eau-electrolyzed-vegetable-spinach>

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

Water Sector

21. *December 20, Associated Press* — San Angelo, Texas, scrambles to meet water needs after main break. Crews worked to repair one of the city's main water lines and volunteers delivered bottled water door-to-door as a major water leak stretched across a fourth day. A critical plug that utility officials hope will enable the repair of the city's principal southwest water main arrived late Tuesday night, December 19, officials said. The break, which was first reported Friday, has disrupted water service for thousands of customers, forcing the closure of some businesses and schools in southwest San Angelo. "It's better than yesterday," Water Utilities Director Will Wilde said Tuesday. "We feel the system has stabilized." Crews restored water to some dry areas Monday night by rerouting water from functioning pipes, but that caused about 30 smaller city pipes to burst from the additional pressure, Wilde said. A boil notice remained in effect until further notice for customers with low or no water pressure. At its peak, the leak disrupted water service for 22,000, or about 60 percent, of the city's water customers.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/4414996.htm>

22. *December 20, Associated Press* — Chino Valley well pumping arsenic-tainted water to homes. Arizona state regulators have warned hundreds of Chino Valley, AZ, residents not to drink or cook with their tap water after they found arsenic levels more than 30 times the federal limit in a local well. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality sent letters to customers of the private Wilhoit Water Co.-Yavapai Estates warning them that water from the company's well had arsenic levels of 316 parts per billion. The federal threshold for the suspected carcinogen is 10 parts per billion. Residents were told to immediately switch to bottled water for drinking and cooking but that showering, bathing and washing clothes was not a health hazard.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1220taintedwell20-ON.html>

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

Public Health Sector

23.

December 20, Connecticut Post — **Chickenpox hits 26 in Monroe, Connecticut, schools.**

Twenty-six children in four Monroe, CT, schools have been infected with chickenpox since the Thanksgiving holiday, officials said Tuesday, December 19. Most of the children are in the earlier grades at Fawn Hollow, Chalk Hill, and Jockey Hollow schools. Two cases were reported at Masuk High School. Typically, 26 students might come down with chickenpox during an entire season, said Judy Wrenn, director of the Trumbull–Monroe Health District. The season usually ends in the deep cold of winter. To record 26 cases in only a few weeks is out of the ordinary, she said.

Source: http://www.connpost.com/localnews/ci_4870137

24. *December 20, St. Louis Post–Dispatch (MO)* — **Mystery illness strikes soccer tournament.**

St. Louis, MO, health department officials are trying to crack the case of the sick soccer players. The culprit remains at large. Players, coaches, trainers, support staff and media people who attended the men's national soccer championship at St. Louis University (SLU) earlier this month fell prey to an intestinal ailment. The games were played December 2–3 at SLU's Robert R. Hermann Stadium. On that Sunday evening, just a few hours after the University of California at Santa Barbara defeated UCLA in the championship game, players began vomiting and had diarrhea and nausea. Three of the 10 Santa Barbara players who got ill had to go to a local emergency room for intravenous fluids. The illness knocked some people out for several days, though most of the intestinal symptoms were over within 24 hours. In total, 33 people told the St. Louis Health Department that they got sick after the tournament. That included some players and staff from the University of Virginia and Wake Forest University teams who played on Saturday, and members of the media who covered the games. Health officials suspect something in box lunches was the culprit.

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/sciencemedicine/story/EE1C149C78F922E18625724A00103E6D?OpenDocument>

25. *December 19, World Health Organization* — **Yellow fever reported in Togo.** As of Monday, December 18, the Togo Ministry of Health reported three cases of yellow fever in two adjacent districts, Dankpen district, Kara region and Oti district, Savanes region in the northern part of the country. Yellow fever has been laboratory confirmed in the three cases (males: age 9, 15 and 20) by Institut Pasteur, Dakar, Senegal. A team from the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization country office are currently carrying out a field investigation. Since the most recent mass vaccination campaign in this area was conducted in 1987, there are concerns for a highly susceptible population.

Source: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_12_19/en/index.html

26. *December 19, Thanh Nien News (Vietnam)* — **Bird flu recurrence triggers red alert in Vietnam.**

Bird flu has reared its head again in two Mekong Delta provinces, Bac Lieu and Ca Mau, after over one year during which Vietnam managed to keep the epidemic out. At a conference held Tuesday, December 19, by the National Steering Committee on Bird Flu Control, Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the committee's head, slammed the two provincial administrations for negligence and delay in discovering the outbreaks which had occurred at the start of December. On December 6 the disease broke out in Ca Mau's Tran Van Thoi district, killing 2,520 chicks and ducklings, all of which later tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu virus. The next day five duck flocks took ill in Hoa Binh district in Bac Lieu. Some 3,500 ducklings died, all of which too tested positive for

H5N1. The committee claimed the dead birds had not been vaccinated because they had been hatched illegally. Now, there is a real threat of the disease spreading to other places since the farmers threw away the birds' carcasses before the outbreak came to light.

Source: <http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/?catid=3&newsid=23375>

27. *December 19, Globe and Mail (Canada)* — **Calgary aims to vaccinate 2,000 homeless to staunch potentially deadly outbreak.** Attempting to staunch a potentially deadly outbreak of invasive pneumococcal disease, Calgary health officials plan to vaccinate 2,000 homeless people this week as part of an outreach program that is already proving effective in Edmonton and Vancouver. A strain of the bacterial infection caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, known as serotype 5, which was once little seen in Western Canada, has emerged in startling numbers in the three cities and the consequences are serious. Health officials do not know whether the outbreaks are connected, but say those with compromised immune systems and the homeless, who are transient, are at the highest risk. Three people have died of pneumococcal disease in Vancouver's rough Downtown Eastside and another 128 have been infected, according to health officials, who counted just 52 cases of the illness in 2005. Edmonton has reported 170 cases (the city normally sees 120 cases in a year) and 40 percent of those have been serotype 5. Calgary has reported 12 cases of serotype 5 among the homeless population in the past three weeks.

Source: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20061219.IL_LNESS19/TPStory/National

28. *December 18, National Institutes of Health* — **Malaria vaccine primes victims' blood to eliminate parasite from mosquitoes.** Researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have developed an experimental vaccine that could, theoretically, eliminate malaria from entire geographic regions, by eradicating the malaria parasite from an area's mosquitoes. The vaccine, so far tested only in mice, would prompt the immune system of a person who receives it to eliminate the parasite from the digestive tract of a malaria-carrying mosquito, after the mosquito has fed upon the blood of the vaccinated individual. The vaccine would not prevent or limit malarial disease in the person who received it. An article describing this work was published on the Website of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The vaccine was developed with conjugate technology, which joins or "conjugates" molecules the immune system has great difficulty recognizing to molecules the immune system can recognize easily. Primed by the conjugate vaccine, the immune system begins making antibodies — immune proteins that target specific molecules. The antibodies then eliminate molecules the immune system would fail to detect. "With conjugate technology, NIH researchers have developed effective vaccines against such scourges as *Haemophilus influenzae* type B meningitis and typhoid fever," said Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., Director of the NIH.

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/dec2006/nichd-18.htm>

29. *November 17, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-49: New Drug Development: Science, Business, Regulatory, and Intellectual Property Issues Cited as Hampering Drug Development Efforts (Report).** Drug development is complex and costly, requiring the testing of numerous chemical compounds for their potential to treat disease. Before a new drug can be marketed in the U.S., a new drug application (NDA) must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Recent scientific advances have raised expectations that an increasing number of new and innovative drugs would soon be developed to more effectively prevent,

treat, and cure serious illnesses. However, industry analysts and the FDA have reported that new drug development, and in particular, development of new molecular entities has become stagnant. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to provide information on (1) trends in the pharmaceutical industry's reported research and development expenses as well as trends in the number of NDAs submitted to, and approved by, FDA; and (2) experts' views on factors accounting for these trends and their suggestions for expediting and enhancing drug development. GAO analyzed data from FDA on all 1,264 NDAs submitted to the agency from 1993 through 2004. GAO also convened a panel of experts and interviewed other drug development experts and analysts to identify factors affecting, and suggestions for enhancing, drug development.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0749high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-49>

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

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Emergency Services Sector

30. *December 19, Government Executive* — Telecom panel calls for more emergency preparedness funding. A presidentially appointed advisory group representing the telecommunications industry on Tuesday, December 19, told White House and Homeland Security Department officials that more funding is needed to improve disaster response. The National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee approved a report calling on the federal government to increase spending for analysis, research and development of enhancements to existing electric grids to help handle long-term power outages. A separate draft report—which the advisory committee will discuss further and consider for approval next month—stated that federal, state and local agencies and industry should join together to improve communications systems for first responders in the event of a major disaster. Neither report offered an estimate of how much federal agencies would have to spend to meet the recommendations. DHS Undersecretary for Preparedness George Foresman told industry officials that he wanted the committee to vote sooner rather than later on the draft report. The vote originally would have taken place in late January, but the panel agreed to vote by the middle of the month.

NSTAC Website: http://www.ncs.gov/nstac/nstac_publications.html

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35728&dcn=to_daysnews

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

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. *December 20, VNUNet* — Ericsson acquires Redback for \$2.1 billion. IP edge routing firm Redback Networks on Wednesday, December 20, announced that it has reached definitive

agreement to be acquired by Ericsson for \$2.1 billion. Redback will retain its management team after the acquisition and operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ericsson.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2171344/ericsson-snaps-red-back-2bn>

- 32. December 20, VNUNet — Experts downgrade Skype worm threat.** Security firm Websense has downgraded a security threat to Internet telephony application Skype that it warned about earlier this week. Websense Security Labs reported on its blog on December 18, that there was a potential worm propagating via Skype. On closer inspection the firm has discovered that this is not a self-propagating worm at all and is actually a Trojan horse. Websense confirmed Wednesday, December 20, that the Websites that were used to download the Skype API code and the site that is used to download new copies of the Trojan were both down.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2171323/experts-downgrade-skype-worm>
- 33. December 19, IDG News Service — Two hackers plan to disclose bugs in Apple's products.** Apple Computer will soon be a member of the "month of bugs" club. On January 1, two security researchers will begin publishing details of a flood of security vulnerabilities in Apple's products. Their plan is to disclose one bug per day for the entire month, they said Tuesday, December 19. The project is being launched by an independent security researcher, Kevin Finisterre, and a hacker known as LMH, who declined to reveal his identity.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/19/HNapplebugs_1.html
- 34. December 19, IDG News Service — Mozilla's first Firefox 2.0 update fixes bugs.** Mozilla has released the first update for the Firefox 2.0 browser to fix eight security vulnerabilities. According to the company, the release 2.0.0.1 of Firefox fixes flaws in memory corruption as well as the way the browser executes RSS, Javascript and CSS code, among other vulnerabilities. Mozilla also patched similar flaws in its Firefox 1.5 browser.
Firefox 2.0.0.1: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/2.0.0.1/releasenotes/>
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/19/HNfirefox2.0fix_1.html
- 35. December 19, IDG News Service — Check Point buys NFR Security for \$20 million.** Check Point Software Technologies is making its second acquisition in as many months, scooping up NFR Security for about \$20 million. Check Point plans to incorporate NFR's intrusion detection and prevention technologies into its own security portfolio of firewall, VPN and security management products. The resulting product will offer a high level of intelligence, adaptability and manageability, Check Point said.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/19/HNcheckpointbuysnfr_1.html?source=rss&url=http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/19/HNcheckpointbuysnfr_1.html
- 36. December 19, ComputerWorld — Microsoft releases first draft of PatchGuard APIs.** Microsoft Corp. on Tuesday, December 19, released draft application programming interfaces (API) designed to allow third-party security products to get around a contentious kernel protection technology in the Vista operating system called PatchGuard. The draft APIs will be available to security vendors for testing and comment through the end of January. A final version of the APIs will then become available when Microsoft releases Service Pack 1 for Vista sometime in mid-2007, according to Ben Fathi, vice president of development for the Windows Core Operating System. Microsoft on Tuesday also released a separate criteria

evaluation document that details the processes Microsoft used in evaluating vendor requests for APIs to the Vista kernel. As with the draft APIs, Microsoft is seeking third-party security vendor feedback on its criteria evaluation processes.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9006251&intsrc=hm_ts_head

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 4672 (eMule), 1027 (icq), 1028 (----), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 18389 (----), 6883 (DeltaSourceDarkStar), 42625 (----) 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/ .	

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

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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

General Sector

Nothing to report.

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

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

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

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.