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NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY ANTI-TERRORISM SUMMARY



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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NORTH DAKOTA

Damages halt Amtrak. Amtrak's "Empire Builder" goes through Minot, North Dakota, but the train does not stop at the depot here for passengers since the depot and boarding platform were damaged when the Souris River flooded. A spokesman for Amtrak in Chicago, said Amtrak will try to use the baggage area as a temporary ticketing area and waiting room. However, before that they need a temporary platform to safely board and discharge passengers, he said. He said power has been restored to the depot, and contractors are hired and working to get the building back in shape. The depot had 2 feet of water on the main floor and also water in the basement. He stressed that restoring passenger service to Minot is very important to Amtrak. "We're not able to offer a date to restore services but definitely working toward that end," he added. In the meantime, passengers can use the stations in Williston, Rugby, or Stanley, he said. Source: <http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/557970/Damages-halt-Amtrak.html?nav=5010>

Oil companies charged in ND migratory bird deaths. Seven oil companies have been charged in federal court with killing migratory birds that died after allegedly landing in oil waste pits in western North Dakota. The charges involve 28 dead birds that were discovered in oil waste pits between May 6 and June 20. The maximum penalty for each charge under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is 6 months in prison and a \$15,000 fine. The U.S. Attorney for North Dakota said in a statement August 25 that the allegations "should be troubling to those interested in preserving North Dakota's rich heritage of hunting and fishing and to the many oil companies to work hard to follow the laws protecting our wildlife." Court documents show all seven companies have been previously cited for similar violations. The so-called reserve pits are used during oil and gas drilling operations. Once a well is completed, companies are required to clean up the pit, and it must be covered with netting if it is open for more than 90 days. None of the pits referenced in the charges were netted, but it is unclear how many of them were open beyond 3 months, documents show. Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/oil-companies-charged-nd-migratory-bird-deaths-213924170.html>

Fire destroys fertilizer plant near Litchville. A fire at a fertilizer plant in Litchville, North Dakota, destroyed about \$300,000 in material, officials said August 24. No one was injured in the fire which started in the early hours of August 23, according to the Litchville fire chief. The fire chief is also the plant's manager in the town of about 170 people, which is located about 45 miles southeast of Jamestown. The cause of the fire is under investigation, the Dakota Plains Cooperative president said. Insurance investigators were expected to inspect the damages August 24. Fire marshals did not have plans to investigate, said the chief deputy for the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office. A storm makes it difficult to determine what happened, he said. The plant was built in the 1960s and housed six types of fertilizer, totaling 500 tons. Dakota Plains has 190 employees and had about \$100 million in sales in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The fire chief said the 20 or so firefighters from the Litchville and Marion fire departments could not save the fertilizer plant, but they were able to prevent damage at an office complex north of it. The office complex suffered heat damage, minor discoloration and some of the

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barrier panels melted. The firefighters were on scene for about four hours. Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/142788/>

1 in 4 trucks in ND oil country unfit for road. The Associated Press reported August 23 that as many as one in four trucks driving in North Dakota's booming oil country are unsafe enough to be put out of service, according to an inspection effort. The state highway patrol and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration recently conducted a 3-day inspection effort in Mountrail and Williams counties, and 57 of the 224 vehicles inspected had equipment problems that deemed them unfit for the road. Violations ranged from cracked vehicle frames to improperly working brakes, a patrol lieutenant said. Most of the vehicles were oil field-related traffic and not farm vehicles. In addition to the equipment violations, there were 26 vehicles found to be exceeding legal weight limits, as well as 5 drivers who were removed from behind the wheel for driving violations. Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/1-in-4-trucks-in-ND-oil-country-unfit-for-road-2137023.php>

Clay dike removal progress. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers removed about 20 percent of the dikes in Minot, North Dakota, including those of Perkett and Sunny Side Schools. August 22 was the third day for crews working on removing clay from 5th Avenue. The Corps said the dikes must come down because the clay has been saturated making the levees unstable. A Lieutenant with the Army Corps of Engineers said, "we do have the road on 5th Avenue Northwest open. Hopefully, we will be done in this area within about 2 weeks." The crews are removing about 100-110 loads of clay a day, and expect to be finished by the end of September. Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=51801

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) After turkey recall, Cargill convenes food safety panel. Meat giant Cargill said August 25 that it has asked a panel of food safety, microbiology, and epidemiology experts to review the company's ground turkey food safety program after an August 3 recall of 36 million pounds of ground turkey. Cargill of Minnesota initiated the recall after learning that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had detected an outbreak of Salmonella-related illnesses, which were linked to 76 illnesses and one death in 26 states. It was the biggest meat recall in history. The recall led to the temporary closing of the ground turkey production line at Cargill's operation in Springdale, Arkansas. Production resumed 14 days after the recall. The Springdale plant employs about 1,200 workers. About 50 work the turkey line. Cargill said that since the recall, it has made several enhancements to its food safety program, adding two additional antibacterial washes, "intensifying" an existing antibacterial system, disassembling and steam cleaning equipment before resuming ground turkey production, and requiring suppliers of turkey meat to add a new antibacterial wash. The company has said it implemented "the most aggressive Salmonella monitoring and testing program in the poultry industry." Source: <http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article.aspx?aID=128167.54928.140309>

(Minnesota) Police investigating computer tampering in office of University of Minnesota president. Police at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis are investigating computer

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tampering in the office of the university's president. Police said someone tampered with three computers belonging to the new university president's staff the weekend of August 20. His suite was not entered. According to a police report, someone deleted virtual profiles off the computers, then renamed them with profanity. No files were deleted or damaged. The deputy chief told the Minneapolis Star Tribune, there was no forced entry, so whoever did it likely had access to the building. He said police have "several leads." Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/cf6ec5e9f5054268b13dc7a22b5ebb91/MN--UMinn-Computer-Tampering/>

(South Dakota) Army Corps of Engineers to fix unusual problem at Oahe Dam on Missouri River in South Dakota. The Army Corps of Engineers plans to further reduce water releases from Oahe Dam on the Missouri River in South Dakota on August 22 so it can fix what officials call an unusual problem. KCCR radio reported that a gate on one of six emergency outlet tunnels underneath the dam has become stuck halfway closed. The problem was reported August 23 when the gate was being lowered. Officials said something became lodged underneath the gate's roller. Corps officials reported that the problem is unusual but fixable and it does not affect the stability of the dam. Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/279a3c42ae314d9c8409de2c6354582c/SD--SD-Flooding-Dam-Problem/>

(South Dakota) Receding waters make levee patrol by boat harder. Lower water levels on the Missouri River made safety patrols by boat to check the levees more difficult, KCAU 9 Sioux City reported August 23. The river dropped 2 feet in a few days on the southern levee in the Dakota Dunes, South Dakota. "Now it limits where we can go around the levees or dictates what path we have to take to do levee inspections," the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department said. Source: <http://www.kcautv.com/story/15311467/receding-waters-making-levee-patrol-by-boat-harder>

(Wyoming) Blaze close to 3,600 acres. The Red Rock Fire in the Gros Ventre Mountains in Wyoming grew to an estimated 3,600 acres the night of August 23 as firefighters protected several cabins in the path of the blaze. During an overflight the night of August 22, fire personnel mapped the fire at 2,835 acres, with another 800 to 1,000 acres expected to burn by early August 24. Officials warned of possible road closures as the fire progresses through the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The fire has sent columns of smoke skyward. A map shows it covering an area 4.5 miles long, and up to 2 miles wide. Pushed by winds from the west gusting up to 27 miles-per-hour, the fire burned its way east along the boundary of the Gros Ventre Wilderness in the hills above Gros Ventre Road. The lightning-caused fire was discovered August 20. As the fire approached the Goosewing Guard Station, fire officials directed an engine crew from Teton County Fire/EMS to protect the building, a fire information officer for the forest said. Fire managers have taken precautions in case the fire approaches any area ranches. About 60 personnel, including support staff, were working the fire. The resources include one light helicopter, with another light helicopter at Jackson Hole Airport if needed. A larger helicopter was expected to arrive August 23. Elsewhere in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, fire managers on the Shoshone National Forest were working on the Hole in the Wall Fire about

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8 miles east of Clark. The fire grew to about 1,000 acres August 23. Source:
http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=7653

NATIONAL

Irene's flooding 'could be a hundred-year event'. Four governors declared states of emergency August 25 as Hurricane Irene threatened to wreak havoc along the United States' Eastern Seaboard. The governors of Virginia, New Jersey, and Maryland declared emergencies for their states, while the North Carolina governor declared a state of emergency in counties east of Interstate 95. If Irene continues along its current track, —from a flooding perspective, this could be a hundred-year event, The New Jersey governor said. He encouraged voluntary evacuations to begin immediately. In parts of North Carolina, mandatory evacuations were under way August 25. As of 2 p.m. ET, the Category 3 storm was pounding the Bahamas, with its eye over Abaco Island, the National Hurricane Center said. —The core of the hurricane will continue to move over the northwestern Bahamas (August 25), and pass well offshore of the east coast of central and north Florida tonight and early (August 26). The hurricane is forecast to approach the coast of North Carolina on (August 27), the center's advisory said. Source:
http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/americas/08/25/tropical.weather/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

INTERNATIONAL

West anxious over Libya's chemical weapons caches. As the world watches the deposed Libyan ruler's forces take their last stand in Tripoli, western intelligence officials are trying to follow the trail of Libya's chemical weapons, and especially its mustard gas caches, Ynetnews reported August 23. The U.S. envoy to the United Nations told CNN the United States was taking steps to prevent the weapons from falling into the wrong hands. The British foreign secretary told the BBC regime loyalists "have a great deal of weapons" Most of Libya's chemical weapons are at a facility located in Rabta, south of Tripoli. Western analysts believe the country's WMD (weapons of mass destruction) arsenal alone contains 10 tons of chemical agents. It is also believed the Libyan leader was in possession of Scud-B missiles, more than 1,000 tons of uranium powder, and mass quantities of conventional weapons. Over the last few weeks, U.S., British and French diplomats have been holding talks with senior members of the Libyan Interim National Council (NTC) over ways to secure the chemical weapons immediately after the fall of the current Libyan regime. The United States and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization partners are observing Libya via satellite, drones and other aircraft. The United States and other countries also have intelligence personnel on the ground tasked with aiding Libyan rebels to secure the chemical weapons' sites. Libya previously signed a historic agreement with the United States requiring it to destroy WMDs in exchange for normalization of relations. The Libyan leader provided the blueprints of the infrastructure for his nuclear plan, and destroyed all long range missiles. He also destroyed 3,300 aircraft designed to disperse chemical weapons. In 2004, Tripoli joined the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), yet U.S. sources claim Libyan plans to halt production of chemical weapons and destroy chemical weapons arsenals were held up due to disputes between Libya and the

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United States over funding and logistics. Source: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4113076,00.html>

ConocoPhillips finds 9 new leaks in China oil spill. ConocoPhillips, already facing legal action and mounting public anger over a huge oil spill off China's northeast coast, has found nine new leaks in the same area, authorities said. The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said August 20, ConocoPhillips reported the leakages near a platform in Bohai Bay jointly owned by the American company and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation. ConocoPhillips said more than 2,100 barrels of oil and oil-based mud — a substance used as a lubricant in undersea drilling — leaked from two platforms, reportedly polluting beaches and killing marine life in the area. The SOA — which supervises and manages China's seas — said the week of August 15 it planned to sue ConocoPhillips over the spill which was first detected in early June. The SOA asked the U.S. company to carry out a thorough investigation of the cause of the latest oil leaks to prevent similar cases, according to a statement. Fishermen in the Shandong, Hebei, and Liaoning provinces that border Bohai Bay, east of Beijing, allege that oil from the leaks has killed a large part of their harvest of seafood such as scallops. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iGl4MNB4eKXtpD5bn0WNjcC2-ATA?docId=CNG.fc716f621500fa9728940041d00ec538.201>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

New zeus spin-off threatens users. Security researchers from Kaspersky Lab warn about a new crimeware pack called Ice IX which was built using the zeus source code leaked earlier in 2011. Ice X is sold on the underground market and can be used to generate custom trojans that join infected computers into botnets. According to a Kaspersky Lab expert, Ice X has been in the wild for some time already and the builder is available for \$1,800, a fairly high price considering the entire zeus source code was once advertised for \$10,000. ZeuS remains the most popular banking trojan among cyber fraudsters, its infection count currently exceeding that of its closest competitor, SpyEye, four to one. The Ice X trojan is similar to ZBot (zeus bot) and its main purpose is to steal financial information. It does this by hooking into the browser process. However, some variants analyzed by Kaspersky experts also steal Amazon AWS credentials. This aspect might be related to the recent increase in quantity of AWS-hosted malware. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/ZeuS-Spin-Off-Threatens-Users-218418.shtml>

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

NRC: No damage at nuclear plants from earthquake. The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said no major damage has been found at the 12 nuclear power plant sites that were inspected but not shut down following an earthquake August 23. A spokeswoman for the NRC Northeast region said the "unusual event" status has been canceled at the sites in an area that spans from North Carolina to Michigan. She said their operators and NRC inspectors did not find problems during walk-downs of the plants, and that it appeared there was no threat to public safety. Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/08/24/general-us-east-coast-earthquake-infrastructure_8639656.html

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(Texas) Radioactive camera still missing; San Antonio FBI now assisting Austin P.D. The FBI is searching for a stolen radioactive camera that is a threat to public safety. KENS 5 San Antonio reported August 22 that the hand-held x-ray machine was stolen at a city construction site in Austin, Texas. Inside the camera is the radioactive material: Iridium 192. Authorities said anyone who spots the camera should call 9-1-1 immediately because it could lead to radioactive exposure or contamination. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, exposure to IR 192 can increase the risk for cancer, cause burns, or even death. Authorities think the thief plans to sell the \$11,000 camera to a client looking for Texas crude oil — the camera can be used to check the soundness of petroleum piping. The FBI is also working with the Austin Police Department to track down the device. Source:

<http://www.kens5.com/news/Radioactive-camera-still-missing-San-Antonio-FBI-now-assisting-Austin-PD-128219163.html>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(Pennsylvania) Police remove suspicious package for detonation at Stone Mill Plaza. A suspicious package prompted the evacuation of numerous businesses at Stone Mill Plaza in Lancaster Township, Pennsylvania the afternoon of August 24. A witness called police around 12:15 p.m. to report seeing a man who was —acting suspiciously place a package in a mailbox outside a UPS store, according to a Manheim Township police official. Further investigation led police to believe there might be a credible threat to the public, he said, adding that police removed the package from the mailbox so they could examine it. Businesses on the west side of the shopping center, where the mailbox is located, were closed, and a state police bomb squad was called in. An X-ray of the package, which appeared to be a Manila envelope, indicated a —safety issue, and onlookers were at one point moved farther from the scene, the police official said. The man who mailed the package was found inside the nearby grocery store, which remained open during the incident. He was taken into custody. Members of the bomb squad detonated the package, scattering paper debris on the sidewalk and the parking lot. The police official said he could not comment on the contents of the package. Source:

http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/445128_Police-remove-suspicious-package-for-detonation-at-Stone-Mill-Plaza.html

(New York) Police arrest naked NY man in fatal stabbing spree. Police said a naked man went on a stabbing spree in his New York City apartment building, killing one person and injuring four others August 23. Police identified the suspect as a 23-year-old. They charged him with second-degree murder and robbery. Police said he was arrested after he knocked on several doors of his apartment building in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan and then stabbed the people who answered. Police said an 81-year-old was killed. Police said three women, ages 60 to 85, were stabbed and a 22-year-old woman was punched. They were all taken to area hospitals; one was in critical condition while the other three were stable. Source:

<http://news.yahoo.com/police-arrest-naked-ny-man-fatal-stabbing-spreed-105342797.html>

(Texas) Bomb squad removes suspicious package found outside civic center. The Amarillo, Texas, Police Department Bomb Squad removed a suspicious package from a loading dock on

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the northwest corner of the Amarillo Civic Center in the evening August 22. A civilian found the shoebox-size package on the dock of the center about 5:40 p.m. and notified police. An officer inspected the device, agreed it was suspicious, and called in the bomb squad, officials said. Police officers blocked off Southeast Fourth Avenue and Buchanan Street for about an hour and a half to move traffic away from the northwest dock. The official would not elaborate on what made the package look suspicious. The bomb squad used a remote-controlled robot to load the package into an explosion-proof container on a trailer and whisked it away from the scene. The device was to be taken to an undisclosed remote location where the bomb squad could examine it safely and dispose of it. Police reopened roads as soon as officers removed the package from the scene. Police evacuated the North Exhibit Hall while the device remained on the scene, the civic center manager said. Source: <http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2011-08-22/bomb-squad-removes-suspicious-package-found-outside-civic-center#.TlORx11QhDg>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

FCC to examine wireless 911 problems following quake. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman has asked commission staff to examine reports that some wireless calls to 9-1-1 centers could not get through because of congestion on cell phone networks after the August 23 earthquake on the East Coast. He said the August 23 events underscored the need for continued progress on next-generation 9-1-1 services that would allow users to send text messages, photos, and video to 9-1-1 centers. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said August 24 the FCC has deployed two Roll Call Spectrum Scanning teams to the FEMA regional offices in Atlanta and Boston to see which critical communications systems might be affected by Hurricane Irene, which potentially could hit the East Coast the weekend of August 26. Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110824_6562.php

Genachowski announces elimination of 83 outdated media rules. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman August 22 announced the elimination of 83 outdated and obsolete media-related rules, including Fairness Doctrine regulations. The August 22 action is part of the FCC's reform agenda, which includes retrospective review of rules, elimination of rules that are no longer needed, and revision of rules to reflect changes in technology, thereby clearing the path for greater competition, investment, and job creation. The Fairness Doctrine is not currently enforced by the FCC and has not been applied for more than 20 years. In addition, the FCC also announced the deletion of obsolete "broadcast flag," cable programming service tier rate, and broadcast applications and proceedings rules. The elimination of these rules adds to the over 50 outdated regulations that have already been deleted as part of the regulatory review process. Moreover, the FCC has reduced Commission backlogs, including an 89 percent reduction in satellite licensing applications, and a 30 percent reduction in broadcast licensing applications. The FCC is currently in the process of moving to eliminate 25 sets of data collections from industry that are no longer necessary. Source: <http://www.fcc.gov/document/genachowski-announces-elimination-83-outdated-media-rules>

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CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Nothing Significant to Report

DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

DoD employee arrested on bribery charge. A high-ranking Department of Defense employee was charged August 25 with taking a bribe at an international conference in Atlanta, Georgia, to steer lucrative federal contracts for work in Afghanistan to a contractor. The department's Chief of Fire and Emergency Services in Afghanistan was arrested August 24 at the Fire-Rescue International Conference in downtown Atlanta after he took \$95,000 in cash from a contractor, a U.S. attorney said. The man's attorney said at an initial hearing August 25 that her client intended to plead not guilty. Afghanistan-based investigators received a tip in July that the man received a \$4,000 bribe to award a maintenance contract to a company and quickly began to monitor him, according to federal documents. He later proposed steering a much larger contract to the same company for a percentage of a deal that amounted to about \$100,000, prosecutors said. He said he would feed the company quotes from rivals to ensure that it would be the lowest bidder to land the contract, they said. Source:

<http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/08/ap-dod-employee-arrested-on-bribery-charge-082511/>

US battery firms reportedly targeted in online attack. The FBI is investigating denial-of-service attacks targeting several U.S. battery retail Web sites in 2010 that were traced to computers at Russian domains in what looks like a corporate-sabotage campaign, according to documents published August 22. The October 2010 distributed denial-of-service attacks on Batteriesplus.com and Batteries4less.com also targeted other battery-related Web sites and have been used to attack a "wide range" of U.S.-based businesses, causing combined estimated financial losses of more than \$600,000, according an FBI analysis of attack logs provided to the agency by an unnamed network security services firm, and an unidentified nonprofit security research firm. Although the attackers appear to have links to Russia, it is likely they were paid by a U.S. competitor who wanted to affect the victims financially by interfering with sales, said Batteries4less.com's chief executive. "We speculated at the time that it might be a competitor because we are in a very competitive online market. We specialize in cell phone batteries, but there are many companies of similar size to ours that are out there," he told CNET. "None of the (rivals) are going to be in Russia. There's a growing trend for criminals in Russia to offer services such as being able to take down a Web site. The competitor is going to be U.S.-based and contracting out with a bad guy in Russia." The Batteries4less.com site was down sporadically over a period of 3 days to a week, causing about \$50,000 in lost sales and expenses incurred to defend against the attack, Batteries4less.com's chief executive estimated. Source:

<http://www.zdnetasia.com/us-battery-firms-reportedly-targeted-in-online-attack-62301765.htm>

(California) New details emerge about U.S. nuclear missile test failure. The U.S. Air Force is beginning to narrow down possible explanations for a rare flight test failure of one of its

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Minuteman 3 ICBMs, but it appears the precise cause has not yet been determined, Global Security Newswire reported August 22. An "anomaly" occurred during the final powered stage of the July 27 launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, when the missile was being propelled by its post-boost motor, according to Air Force Global Strike Command (GSC) officials. This was the first flight test failure in 2 years and only the second such incident since 1998, when the current Minuteman 3 configuration was fielded, said a GSC spokeswoman. GSC has not described the anomaly, saying only that the shot was "terminated due to potential safety concerns along the predicted flight path." The command officials also would not say whether initial findings appear to indicate a guidance problem, a faulty propulsion system, or some other glitch. After observing the abnormality, military controllers aborted the flight with a self-destruct mechanism 5 minutes after the missile launched. Command officials confirmed the Propulsion System Rocket Engine used in the failed ICBM test in July was refurbished in 2005. An ongoing service-life extension effort is being conducted to ensure all the liquid-fuel motors installed in Minuteman 3 missiles can remain in service through 2020, according to Aerojet, the motor manufacturer. A malfunctioning guidance system on the Minuteman 3 might be a more likely cause of the test failure, according to defense experts. Source:

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110822_1563.php

EMERGENCY SERVICES

East coast quake highlights need for public safety wireless network. The earthquake that struck Virginia August 23, and was felt from New York City to the Carolinas, was followed by cellular network congestion — thus spurring officials to call for a national broadband network dedicated to public safety. People seeking information flooded 911 call centers and cellular networks following the magnitude 5.8 earthquake that damaged buildings, but did not cause any serious injuries. Cellular networks appeared to be intact, but congested due to higher than normal call volume, said CTIA-The Wireless Association, an industry group representing wireless carriers, in a statement. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a statement asking members of the public to use text messages and e-mail for communications, except in emergencies, so first responders could continue to respond to 911 calls. Public safety answering points were jammed with callers seeking information about friends or relatives, according to the Washington Post. Charlottesville, Virginia's 911 call center experienced an outage that lasted as long as an hour. Administrative and command staff at the District of Columbia Fire Department had difficulty communicating via cell phones but were able to communicate using land lines and land mobile radios, said a department spokesman. A Capitol Police spokesperson said a number of organizations, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs and FCC, planned surveys of emergency communications following the quake. Source:

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/East-Coast-Quake-Public-Safety-Wireless-Network.html>

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ENERGY

(Texas) Texas grid declares power emergency due to heatwave. The Texas power grid agency initiated an electric emergency August 24 for the second day in a row as available power supplies strained to meet air conditioning load during a statewide heat wave. No rolling outages were reported, and afternoon demand was not expected to break the record demand August 3 of 68,294 megawatts. The Texas grid operator urged residents and businesses to reduce electric use daily from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., power demand exceeded 65,000 MW. The grid agency declares the first step of its emergency plan when power reserves needed to avoid a widespread blackout fall below 2,300 MW. Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/texas-grid-declares-power-emergency-due-heatwave-195309852.html>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(Texas) Venezuelan equine encephalitis confirmed in Mexico. Due to recent confirmed cases of Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) in horses in Southern Mexico, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is encouraging area horse owners and veterinarians to be alert to clinical signs of illness that could indicate an animal has contracted VEE. Although the disease is typically only found in Central and South America, the recent equine fatality that resulted from a VEE infection in the Southern Mexican state of Tabasco prompted the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue an import alert affecting horses in four Mexican states. Effective immediately, and until further notice, horses and other equids originating from the states of Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Tabasco, and Chiapas or that have transited through these states are required to undergo a 7-day quarantine and observation for VEE in a vector-proof (double-screened) quarantine facility, rather than the standard 3-day quarantine, prior to entry. The import alert is a precautionary measure due to the one horse in Tabasco that has died from the virus. The particular VEE strain being reported by Mexico is considered an endemic strain that does not typically cause disease in equids. A severe VEE outbreak that occurred in Texas in 1971 was caused by a different, more virulent strain of the virus. People also can be infected with VEE by mosquitos, but horse-to-horse and horse-to-human transmission is uncommon. Source: <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=18712>

(New Jersey) USDA confirms fruit pest in New Jersey. A spotted wing drosophila has been found in a trap on a blueberry farm in Atlantic County, New Jersey, according to a news release from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. The finding was confirmed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Systematic Entomology Laboratory. So far this season, growers of blueberries and peaches in the Garden State have not reported damage from spotted wing drosophila, which are more commonly known as vinegar flies or fruit flies. Scientists at Rutgers University in New Jersey are tracking drosophila populations and advising growers on crop protection measures. A native of Southeast Asia, drosophila was first confirmed in the United States in 2008 in California. Since then, the pest has been found in Florida, Washington, and six other U.S. fruit-producing states, and in five Canadian provinces. Drosophilae pierce the skin of soft fruits and lay eggs in them. Tiny holes on the skin of fruits and maggots in their flesh are

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telltale signs of the pest. Source: <http://www.thepacker.com/fruit-vegetable-news/USDA-confirms-fruit-pest-in-New-Jersey-128239398.html>

(North Carolina) Horse euthanized in N.C. after virus confirmed. A horse in Halifax County, North Carolina, was euthanized after a diagnosis of the state's first case of Eastern equine encephalitis in 2011. August and September are the peak months for mosquito-borne diseases such as EEE and West Nile virus, said the director of the livestock program for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The 4-year-old horse had received one shot as a foal, but may not have received a needed booster shot afterward, he said. Horses require a booster shot 30 days after the initial vaccination. Following the initial vaccinations, horses east of Raleigh, where mosquito populations are greatest, should get booster shots every 6 months, he said. North Carolina had six reported cases of EEE in 2010 and 23 in 2009, he said. There was one case of West Nile virus last year. For every case reported, there are likely four unreported cases, the director said. Mosquitoes carry the disease after biting an infected bird. Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2011/08/horse-euthanized-nc-after-virus-confirmed>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

Cyber-attacker dumps log-ins for 20,000 customers, U.S. employees. A solo attacker has hacked into an events management company and obtained sensitive information belonging to 20,000 individuals, many of whom were United States government employees or contractors. The cyber-attacker posted an Excel spreadsheet containing log-in credentials and personal information for 20,000 people obtained from allianceforbiz.com, according to a blog post signed by —Thehacker12 on August 22. Allianceforbiz.com is a professional trade show management company that manages conferences, meetings, and trade shows for customers, according to the company Web site. The list has been made public on Pastebin and Mediafire and a message posted on Twitter: —20,000 email-passwords had been leaked consisting mostly of US Mill Army, Govern. & corporate giants. Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/CyberAttacker-Dumps-Logins-for-20000-Customers-US-Employees-340799/>

(Virginia) Earthquake rattles Washington area. A 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck the Washington D.C. area August 23, shaking buildings and prompting office workers to pour into the streets of the U.S. Capitol. The earthquake's epicenter was 9 miles south of Mineral, Virginia, and 87 miles southwest of Washington, D.C., according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). At 2.8 magnitude aftershock was reported at 2:46 p.m. Employees fled the U.S. Capitol, and the House and Senate office buildings were evacuated. Most members of Congress were back in their home districts for the August recess. The Union Station complex of train and bus terminals and shops and restaurants was also evacuated. All buildings of the Smithsonian Institution, including Washington's major museums, closed for the day. The quake caused major transportation tie-ups, with trains running slowly because of track inspections and

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massive traffic jams reported in parts of the region. All Fairfax County Public Schools activities were canceled for the evening, although those schools that house polling places for the Virginia primary elections will remain open until the polls close, officials said. The quake shook the foundations of the Pentagon, which was temporarily evacuated. A Congressional staffer reported that a portion of a building collapsed on the 300 block of Pennsylvania Avenue in Southeast. At the National Cathedral, the tip of a spire crashed down onto the steps on Pilgrim Road. A U.S. Park Police helicopter did a "preliminary survey" of Washington's monuments by air and did not find any "obvious damage," a spokesman said. D.C. Fire officials were investigating reports of significant cracks in buildings at the Ecuadoran Embassy and Bell Multicultural School, a spokesman said. According to federal officials, two nuclear reactors were taken offline near the quake epicenter, but there were no initial reports of damage. In New York City, buildings shook briefly. Government buildings in the city, including city hall, were evacuated. Early reports on the USGS Web site indicated the quake was felt from New York City to Charlotte, North Carolina, and as far west as Cleveland, Ohio. Source:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/earthquake-rattles-washington-area/2011/08/23/gIATMOGZJ_story.html

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Zeus offspring distributed from compromised osCommerce sites. Security researchers warn that variants of a zeus spin-off trojan called Ice-IX are being distributed from osCommerce Web sites compromised during a recent mass injection attack. The attack targeting osCommerce installations vulnerable to a flaw that dates from November 2010 began at the end of July 2011. The code injection campaign escalated quickly and the number of infected pages jumped from 90,000 to over 3.8 million within a week and 8 million 2 weeks later. The code injected into the pages leads to externally-hosted drive-by download exploits that target vulnerabilities in unpatched versions of Java, Adobe Reader, Internet Explorer, and Windows XP. If exploitation is successful, a trojan is installed on the victim's computers. According to the Malware Domain List, a non-commercial community project that tracks malicious URLs, that trojan is now Ice-IX. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/ZeuS-Offspring-Distributed-from-Compromised-osCommerce-Sites-218839.shtml>

Twitter turns on SSL encryption for some users. Twitter is slowly turning on automatic encryption on its Web site, a move following other major providers of Web-based services to thwart account hijacking over wireless networks. Twitter has offered an option for users to turn on Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption, but said August 23 it will turn the feature on by default for some users. It did not indicate when the option would be turned on by default for all users. SSL encryption, indicated by "https" in the URL bar and sometimes a padlock in the browser window, is an encryption protocol used to protect communication between a client and a server. It is important to use because unencrypted information passed over wireless networks can be intercepted. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219453/Twitter_turns_on_SSL_encryption_for_some_users

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Skype bug may expose users to malicious code. The latest version of Skype for Windows contains a security vulnerability that allows attackers to inject potentially dangerous code into a user's phone session, a German security researcher reported. The XSS, or cross-site scripting, vulnerability in Skype 5.5.0.113 is the result of the voice-over-IP client failing to inspect user-supplied phone numbers for malicious code, the researcher said. As a result, attackers might be able to exploit the bug to inject commands or scripts that hijack the machine running the program. "An attacker could for example inject HTML/JavaScript code," the researcher wrote in an advisory published August 23. "It has not been verified though, if it's possible to hijack cookies or to attack the underlying operating system." An attacker might also exploit the vulnerability to remotely execute malicious JavaScript files on external Web sites, he said. A Skype spokeswoman disputed the researcher's account: "We have had this reported to us by various media outlets and have confirmed that the person is mistaken, this is not a Web window and while it does cause a phone number to be underlined, it does nothing other than this." Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/08/22/skype_security_bug/

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

(District of Columbia) Most National Mall landmarks reopen after quake. The National Park Service said August 24 that most of the monuments and memorials on the National Mall in Washington D.C. have reopened after being closed following the East Coast earthquake August 23. The Washington Monument will be closed indefinitely after engineers found cracks near the top. The park service said all monuments and memorials were initially evacuated and closed, including the new Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. The King memorial and several others that do not include large buildings were reopened within an hour of the 5.8-magnitude earthquake, which struck at 1:51 p.m. The Lincoln and Jefferson memorials were closed for several hours, but reopened the evening of August 23. The Old Post Office tower was set to reopen the morning of August 24. Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/08/23/3856142/national-mall-monuments-closed.html>

(District of Columbia; Maryland) Police: Man planned fireworks protest on Mall. A 27-year-old Stuart, Florida man found with a large amount of fireworks in his SUV, and a homemade turret to launch them, planned to set off the devices on the National Mall to protest the banking industry, police said. The suspect was arrested about 8:30 p.m. August 22 after an officer discovered his Jeep Cherokee during a routine patrol of Cabin John Park in Bethesda, Maryland, a spokeswoman for the Maryland-National Capital Park Police said. The suspect had stopped at the park on his way to the Mall to detonate the fireworks, the spokeswoman said. The suspect told police he did not plan to harm anyone, but a Montgomery County assistant fire chief said the man had enough fireworks to cause "significant bodily harm." The improvised turret was atop the man's vehicle but concealed by a tarp, the assistant fire chief said. The device made of PVC pipes could be swiveled to shoot fireworks in different directions. The suspect could control it by reaching out the driver's side window. The suspect told officers he was specifically in the Washington D.C. area to carry out the protest, but it was unclear where he planned to set off the fireworks. The Joint Terrorism Task Force was also notified of the incident. Source:

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/crime-scene/post/police-man-planned-fireworks-protest-on-mall/2011/08/23/gIQAYghQYJ_blog.html

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

Nothing Significant to Report

PUBLIC HEALTH

Half of hospitals buy back-door drugs. Amid growing reports of price-gouging for life-saving drugs, 52 percent of hospital purchasing agents and pharmacists reported they have bought drugs from so-called “gray market” vendors during the previous 2 years, according to a just-released survey of 549 hospitals by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), an advocacy group. Gray-market suppliers are those that operate outside official channels, often buying drugs from uncertain sources and reselling them at a steep profit. A report issued the week of August 15 by one hospital association found their average mark-up was 650 percent. Pressures from demanding doctors and desperate patients helped fuel the transactions, making hospital staffers feel like they had no choice but to buy drugs in short supply at steep prices. More than half of respondents to the ISMP survey, some 56 percent, said they were bombarded daily with solicitations from up to 10 gray market vendors, with requests coming by phone, e-mail and fax. About a third of respondents from critical access and community hospitals who had purchased drugs from gray-market sources said they paid at least 10 times the contract price for the medications. Source:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44280296/ns/health-health_care/#.TlfCEF0g1kA

(Indiana) West Nile Virus prompts second night of mosquito spraying. The Health Department in Vanderburgh County, Indiana, will continue spraying for mosquitoes August 25 now that West Nile Virus has been detected in the local mosquito population. The spraying will take place between 8 p.m. and midnight around the Bee Slough area along Interstate 164 and in an area bounded by Main Street, the Lloyd Expressway, Harmony Way, and Diamond Avenue. Health officials say August and September are peak months for mosquito activity and the spread of the West Nile Virus. People who plan to be outdoors should take precautions. Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/aug/25/west-nile-virus-prompts-second-night-mosquito-spra/>

TRANSPORTATION

(California) BART protests: Police arrest demonstrators, multiple stations closed. More than three dozen protesters were arrested August 22 during a chaotic run through downtown San Francisco that snarled traffic and train service during the evening commute. The demonstrations started small at about 5 p.m. in the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) agency's Civic Center platform, where two dozen protesters gathered to vent their frustration over BART's shutting wireless service in its downtown stations August 11 to quell a brewing protest.

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On August 22, BART police arrested four demonstrators on the platform for trespassing on transit property, closed the station, and forced the remaining protesters above ground onto Market Street. The Civic Center and nearby Powell Street stations remained closed during most of the 3-hour protest, angering commuters who were unable to catch trains and had to compete for scarce cabs stuck in a massive traffic jam caused by demonstrators blocking streets. From the Civic Center station, the protesters grew to more than 100 and marched up and down Market Street, with occasional splinter groups breaking off down side streets. Along the way, they tipped over trash cans, threw firecrackers, and shouted at police. Police asked an upscale mall to briefly close as the demonstration passed by and one man was arrested for attempting to start a fire on a corner. Source:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/22/bart-protests-police-arrest-demonstrators_n_933691.html#s336156

WATER AND DAMS

(Michigan) 3 million in metro Detroit served by water system that could close by end of year.

Water treatment plant operators, Macomb and St. Clair county health department officials, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality met August 23 to discuss ways to maintain the real-time water monitoring system that stretches from Port Huron to Wyandotte before a lack of funding shuts down the system by the end of the year. The system, running at a reduced level because of a lack of funds, looks for chemicals and oil products from undetected spills or purposeful contamination at 13 intakes at water treatment plants. If it is shut down, the water for 3 million people in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties will be monitored, but not as many times per day, and for not as many chemicals. Source:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110823/NEWS04/108230347/3-million-metro-Detroit-served-by-water-system-could-close-by-end-year>

(New York) Drugs found in New York tap water: Cause for alarm. Trace levels of medicines and personal care products were detected in New York City's drinking water. Samples from three upstate watersheds between March and December last year detected 14 drugs and personal care products at least once, the department of environmental protection reported. None were found at levels that would pose a risk to the city's 9 million residents, although, a scientist with a Washington D.C.-based watchdog organization told CBS News in an e-mail, "we cannot be assured that the final mix is safe." The study followed one done in 2009 that also detected tiny amounts of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in water. The initial study was prompted in part by an Associated Press investigation that found pharmaceuticals in drinking water of dozens of the country's major water providers, serving 41 million people. Human health risks from trace pharmaceuticals are unclear, and the federal government does not regulate their levels in drinking water. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20095389-10391704.html

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NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center: 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov; Fax: 701-328-8175 State Radio: 800-472-2121; Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI): 701-328-5500; North Dakota Highway Patrol: 701-328-2455; US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400; Bismarck FBI: 701-223-4875; Fargo FBI: 701-232-7241.**

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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