



# National Infrastructure Protection Center

## NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 03 March 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

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

### Daily Overview

- WUSA News reports all travelers arriving in the United States will be screened by federal border inspectors for radiological materials, beginning this weekend. (See item [16](#))
- The Associated Press reports Internet job board Monster.com has sent an e-mail to all active users warning that occasionally false job postings are listed online and used illegally to collect personal information from unsuspecting job seekers. (See item [33](#))
- The New York Times reports Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, suspected of planning the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington and one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists, was detained by Pakistani authorities Saturday morning and is now in American custody. (See item [37](#))
- The National Infrastructure Protection Center has signed an information sharing agreement to establish a partnership with the Real Estate Roundtable for the establishment of a Real Estate Information Sharing and Analysis Center. (See item [40](#))

### NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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

**IT and Cyber:** [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [General](#); [NIPC Web Information](#)

## Energy Sector

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

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

1. *March 02, New York Times* — **Oil price jump adds to jitters over economy. The most common cause of recessions, a surge in oil prices, is again afflicting the global economy.** Just as they have before every American downturn over the last 40 years, energy costs have risen significantly in the last year, capped by a sharp spike since December. With more money

being spent on gasoline and heating fuel, economic growth has slowed in both the United States and Europe, and the uneven recovery that began in late 2001 is facing perhaps its biggest threat yet. **Energy costs began rising more than a year ago, when the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries cut production in response to the weak global economy. The potential war in the Persian Gulf, political chaos in Venezuela and a cold winter in the United States caused the price of a barrel of oil to soar to almost \$40 on Thursday, the highest since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, before it retreated to \$36.60 on Friday in New York. That is up about 69 percent from a year ago.** Higher energy costs reduce economic growth by effectively forcing families and businesses to send more money to a small number of oil-producing countries, leaving less to be spent on goods and services that create jobs at home. "The single best cyclical indicator for the world economy is the price of oil," said Andrew J. Oswald, an economist at the University of Warwick outside Coventry, England. "Nothing moves in the world economy without oil in there somewhere."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/02/business/02ECON.html>

2. *March 02, Associated Press* — **California to show evidence on energy crisis. California officials will submit evidence that many public and private energy companies systematically withheld electricity during the state's energy crisis, driving up prices.** The evidence that California is submitting to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Monday will remain confidential, but a summary will be made public. Names of the companies won't be released unless FERC decides to overturn a protective order. California wants FERC to order \$8.9 billion in refunds for 2000 and 2001, when power prices soared in the state's newly deregulated market and the state faced energy shortages and rolling blackouts. A draft of the summary says the generating companies engaged in systematic withholding, according to a source who had seen the document. **It says the evidence shows that manipulating the California power market and withholding electricity was the rule, not the exception, in 2000 and 2001, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.**  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A27378-2003Mar 2.html>
3. *February 28, CNN* — **Nearly 380,000 remain without power after ice storm. Nearly 380,000 customers in North Carolina and Virginia remained without power Friday, the day after a winter storm mowed down hundreds of trees and left a glaze of ice blamed in at least three traffic deaths. Crews in North Carolina found power lines cradling trees and reported damage comparable to the ravages caused by a December ice storm that left more than two million customers without electricity.** Duke Power spokeswoman Guynn Savage estimated the company would need until early or the middle of next week to finish restoring power. North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley met Friday with Winston-Salem officials to survey damage in the city that included 500 fallen trees. **Duke Power reported 343,000 customers without power Friday afternoon, most in Winston-Salem and Greensboro. Progress Energy reported 16,800 customers without electricity, most in counties along the Virginia line. North Carolina's electric cooperatives reported 9,500 outages.** About 8,400 were without power in southern Virginia.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WEATHER/02/28/winter.stormpm.ap/index.html>
4. *February 28, CNN* — **Venezuela loses time – literally. In a bizarre mass-malfunction, Venezuela's clocks are ticking too slowly due to a power shortage weakening the electric current nationwide. By the end of each day, the sluggish time pieces still have another 150**

seconds to tick before they catch up to midnight. "Everything that has to do with time—keeping has slowed down. If it's an electric clock, it's running slow," said Miguel Lara, general manager of the national power grid. "Your computer isn't affected. Your television isn't affected. No other devices ... just clocks," he added. **The meltdown has taken a total 14 hours and 36 minutes from Venezuela's clocks over 12 of the past 13 months, he said.** It appears to be Mother Nature that lashed out against Father Time. The river powering a major hydroelectric plant in southeast Venezuela lost force due to a severe drought in February 2001. To prevent blackouts, the country slightly lowered the frequency of the current. **"It's the most bizarre thing I've ever heard of," said Dan Nied, head of the U.S.–based School of Horology, or the science of time measurement. "But yes, clocks would slow down."** For common quartz clocks, the slight drop in frequency slows the vibration of the crystal that regulates time keeping, he said, adding, "People must be going nuts."

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/ptech/02/28/offbeat.venezuela.time.reut/index.html>

5. *February 27, Reuters* — **California approves small power plants, grid upgrades. California energy regulators, in a move that could change the map of the modern power grid, on Thursday adopted a plan to encourage placing small power plants closer to commercial and residential customers.** At the same time, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved \$55.4 million of upgrades to San Diego Gas & Electric Co.'s electric transmission system to reduce congestion on the Southern California grid and improve access for future power supplies from new generating stations in Mexico. **The small power plants reflect a growing interest in "distributed generation" among state and federal energy regulators to put small, fuel–efficient customer–owned power plants in the same neighborhoods where the energy is used.** Pat Wood, chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has endorsed distributed generation as part of the agency's proposed standard market design rules to connect and streamline the nation's patchwork of regional power grids. **Potential benefits include reducing peak power demand on the grid, extending the life of existing power distribution gear, reducing capital risk for utilities, improving service reliability and developing new power technologies, the CPUC said.**

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3677757](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3677757)

6. *February 27, Associated Press* — **Pollution–free power plant plans revealed. The government will participate with private industry in a 10–year program to build a coal–based, pollution–free power plant, the Energy Department announced Thursday. The plan is to design a power plant that will turn coal into a hydrogen–rich gas that, in turn, will produce electricity.** Air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and smog–causing nitrogen oxides, now common in smokestack emissions from coal–burning power plants, would be captured and converted to usable byproducts such as fertilizer, said the department. **The project, dubbed "FutureGen," is expected to cost \$1 billion over 10 years. It was not clear how much of that would come from the government and how much from private sources, although private industry is expected to finance most of it.** The plant is part of a broader government effort to boost research into ways to capture carbon from the burning of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion is a primary greenhouse gas linked to global warming.

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3677943](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3677943)

7.

*February 27, Associated Press* — **Clogged drains may have caused nuke leak. A leak of radioactive water from a southern New Jersey nuclear plant was apparently caused by clogged drains beneath its spent-fuel pools, according to federal regulators.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Wednesday it believes the problem at the Salem I plant caused radioactive water to back up and leak into groundwater outside the plant. The water leaked through the stainless-steel liner in the pools and was caught in a series of 17 drains that run underneath. The water caught in these drains is supposed to be treated, said Neil Sheehan, a commission spokesman. **However, at least three drains became clogged when boric acid – which is added to the pool water to absorb radiation given off by spent fuel rods – crystallized in the water.** Sheehan said the exact size of the leak has not been determined, but it is not believed to be significant or pose an immediate health risk. The leak was first detected last year and made public earlier this month.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12365-2003Feb 27.html>

8. *February 27, Reuters* — **Power plants to burn olives, straw for cash . Britain's cash-strapped coal power stations are gearing up to burn olives, straw and woodchips to earn valuable green certificates, which they hope will provide a cushion against low power prices.** The certificates, which generators can trade, are worth more than twice as much as the power they sell. "In the depressed power market, the margins from green power are very significant," Chris Moore, head of renewables trading at U.S.-based AEP, which owns two power stations in the UK, said. Fourteen coal power stations have registered to use biomass including AEP's Ferrybridge and Fiddler's Ferry plants which have been burning olive residues commercially since September. AEP says using olives, which it imports from Italy, Spain and Greece, is economic and produces low sulfur emissions. **The company is looking to expand the range of biomass it burns, said Moore. Britain's electricity suppliers have to provide three percent of their power from green sources this year, a figure which rises to just over 10 percent in 2010.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/science/02/27/britain.environment.reut/index.html>

9. *February 27, South Bend Tribune* — **Cook Nuclear Plant's Unit 2 shut down.** Shortly after Unit 1 was put back into service at the D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant (in Benton Harbor, MI) this week, the plug was pulled on Unit 2, a company official said Friday. Bill Schalk, communications manager for American Electric Power, the owner of the Cook Nuclear Plant, said the automatic shutdown of Unit 2 was prompted by the failure of the power supply that runs instruments that control the water flow to a steam generator. **He said the power supply failed about 9 p.m. Wednesday, less than 20 hours after plant officials had put Unit 1 back in service. Unit 1 had been shut down for 21 days after a fire in the main transformer that was caused by an electrical fault.** Damage to the transformer was severe enough that the entire 1- million-pound unit needed to be replaced. **Because AEP has energy reserves it can put into service on its 11- state transmission and distribution grid, the shutdown of either unit at the Cook plant doesn't leave any of the company's 5 million customers without electricity.**

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3677939](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3677939)

10. *February 27, Las Vegas Review – Journal* — **Energy secretary warns cuts harming Yucca project.** Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said Tuesday that budget cuts threaten to delay the Yucca Mountain Project. **Abraham said the latest cutback by Congress puts the**

Department of Energy at "a high risk" of failing to complete a license application for the Nevada nuclear waste repository by December 2004. "It would put us in an extremely difficult position to meet the goal if we don't get the money we request," Abraham said after testifying before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on his department's budget. **Beyond the license application, budget problems could delay government plans to start accepting radioactive spent nuclear fuel and government nuclear waste by 2010 at the site, 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Other federal managers have criticized Yucca Mountain budget reductions, but Abraham's comments were the strongest and most direct to date.** Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3677865](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3677865)

11. *February 26, The Record, (Hackensack, NJ)* — **New Jersey National Guard remains on duty at nuclear plants.** In the days following the Sept. 11 attacks, more than 1,700 members of the 9,000-member New Jersey National Guard were assigned to key anti-terror posts. In addition to guarding the state's four nuclear reactors, they also patrolled airports and stood guard at the Hudson River crossings. But the assignments at the airports and crossings lasted less than a year. **The guard's assignments at the power plants will continue indefinitely. Governor McGreevey's proposed 2003-04 budget includes \$2.4 million to keep the guard posted at the plants, said Ralph Siegel, spokesman for the state Department of Treasury. An additional \$1.6 million is budgeted for the state police to assist in patrolling the sites. "We think it's another prudent security measure to provide an added layer of protection at the nuclear power plants," said Roger Shatzkin, spokesman for the state Office of Counterterrorism.** In New Jersey the guard supplements private security patrols already employed at Oyster Creek and at the Salem I and Salem II and Hope Creek stations in Lower Alloways Creek Township, said Lt. Al Della Fave, a state police spokesman. Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3677055](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3677055)

12. *February 26, Portland Press Herald (Maine)* — **'Green power' nonprofit reports robust first month.** Maine Interfaith Power & Light (MEIPL), a Brunswick-based nonprofit organization, had a good first month for its environmentally friendly electric program. **The electricity available through Maine Interfaith Power is generated from renewable sources: wind, solar, biomass and low-impact hydroelectric facilities. The standard offer, which almost all Mainers use because it is the default program, is generated mostly from fossil fuel and out-of-state nuclear sources.** Both types of power are delivered through the same distribution companies, including Central Maine Power and Bangor Hydroelectric. "In our first month, our Green Tag customers have ordered more than 275,000 kilowatt hours of electricity generated by wind and solar facilities. **In addition, our Green Supply customers have switched more than 300 accounts to Maine Renewable Energy, which offers electricity from 100 percent renewable sources right here in Maine,"** said Fred Horch, project coordinator for the organization. Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3677831](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3677831)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

13. *February 28, Los Angeles Times* — **Five held in cases involving shipping of missile, fighter parts.** A federal grand jury in Los Angeles has indicted four individuals and three corporations on charges of attempting illegally to export parts for fighter jets and missiles to China, authorities said Thursday. Another person and a corporation were accused of trying to smuggle missile parts into the United States from Israel. **Assistant U.S. Atty. Mary Carter Andruess said all of the contraband parts were intercepted before they could reach their destinations. They included components for the F-4 Phantom and F-14 Tomcat jet fighters and for the Hawk, AIM-9 Sidewinder and TOW missiles.** In one indictment, Ahmad Nahardani, 55, of Encino and Gabriela De Brea, 62, of Alta Loma, along with their jointly owned companies, Mexpar International and Pasadena Aerospace in Azusa, were charged with violating the Arms Export Control Act and International Traffic in Arms regulations. In a separate case involving the same undercover operative, Maytone International of Thousand Oaks and company owners Jinghua Zhuang, 33, and Xiuwen Liang, 32, were accused of trying to ship parts for antitank missiles and jet fighters to China. In the third case, David Menashe, 52, of Tel Aviv and his company, Kam-Tech Systems Ltd., were charged with four counts of making false statements to the Customs Service.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-sting28feb28.1.2527131.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dcalifornia>

14. *February 27, InsideDefense.com* — **New intel office to improve flow of information to commanders, policymakers.** The Pentagon's new intelligence directorate is being organized to ensure combatant commanders and national policymakers get the most timely and useful information possible, the Senate Armed Services Committee was told on Thursday. **"There's an awful lot of information that we collect as an ordinary part of our everyday activity that doesn't seem to find its way back into the collective intelligence community," said Steve Cambone, who has been selected to head the intelligence directorate. "And one of the things we need to do is to assure that that takes place, because there is a great deal of valuable information there for the national community that they don't oftentimes have access to."**

Source: <http://ebird.dtic.mil/Feb2003/s20030228157754.html>

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

15. *March 02, New York Times* — **Disaster centers: it's location, location.** Ten tiered trading pits – for crude oil, heating oil, unleaded gasoline, natural gas, gold, silver, copper and other commodities – stretch more than three-quarters of an acre across a windowless room. Snaking among the pits are clusters of traders' booths, nearly 700 of them, linked to the outside by 2,000 telephones. **This is the New York Mercantile Exchange. But it is not in Battery Park City. It is not even in New York City. The \$12 million trading floor sits anonymously on Long Island, ready for an event its builders hope will never come; a disaster great enough to**

**close Lower Manhattan again.** "It's a pretty big insurance policy, but we felt we needed it," said Gary Rizzi, a member of the executive committee at the exchange, which was forced to suspend trading for four days after Sept. 11.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/02/realestate/02COV.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

**16. *March 01, WUSA News* — Travelers screened for Nukes.** All travelers arriving in the United States will be screened by federal border inspectors for radiological materials beginning this weekend, according to Saturday's edition of The New York Times. **The newspaper quotes senior Bush administration officials as saying the plan is designed to stop terrorists from bringing nuclear material across the border. The Times describes it as the most important in a series of counter-terrorism measures that are being put into place as the Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and 18 other federal agencies formally merge into the new Department of Homeland Security on Saturday.** Some people entering the United States are already screened for radioactive materials when they walk or drive past border checkpoints where customs agents are carrying portable radiation detectors. That program was begun by the Customs Service after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. But beginning this weekend, officials told the Times, the detectors will be distributed and used far more widely, which should guarantee that all people entering the United States at the nation's airports, seaports and land borders — an estimated 500,000 people a day — will be screened for radioactive materials.

Source: [http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news\\_article.asp?storyid=15289](http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.asp?storyid=15289)

**17. *February 28, Reuters* — Airlines running into fuel hedging turbulence.** Spiraling jet fuel prices ahead of a possible war in Iraq threaten another dent in the revenues of U.S. and European airlines which have annual fuel hedging strategies about to unwind, industry analysts say. Most airlines sign hedge contracts on their fuel purchases to guard against price rises, a policy that will have protected them against a recent surge in fuel costs. **But many of the hedges, contracted early last year, expire in coming weeks and airlines may be reluctant to renew them at the oil market's peak for fear of missing out on a fall in prices later in the year.** Every one U.S. cent rise in the price of a gallon of jet fuel is estimated to cost airlines US\$600 million globally. Jet fuel prices are now about US\$365 a tonne, up from US\$190 a year ago. And with prices expected to remain high in the first half of the year, that could mean trouble for some airlines. **In the U.S., the sector is facing a relentless downward spiral. Airlines have asked the government to release oil from strategic reserves to bring fuel prices down, and several carriers have hiked fares to counter fuel price rises.**

Source: [http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0\\_4574.73933.00.html?](http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0_4574.73933.00.html?)

**18. *February 27, Associated Press* — Random vehicle checks at airports stopped.** **Random vehicle checks on airport roadways are being discontinued now that the terror alert has been downgraded,** Transportation Security Administration officials said Thursday. There will no longer be a requirement for random vehicle searches," said TSA chief James Loy, who was speaking at a conference on homeland security. **It's possible some airports may still conduct the searches if intelligence indicates some parts of the country could be more at risk of an**

attack, he said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A11927-2003Feb 27.html>

19. *February 26, Detroit News* — **Detroit to get \$29 million for border protection. The city of Detroit is set to receive about \$29 million in federal grants, a significant portion of which will go to increase border protection at the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit–Windsor Tunnel.** The funding for border protection is a part of the 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill that was signed by President Bush last week. **The Detroit Police Department and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department will be reimbursed a total of \$5 million for overtime costs occurred while guarding Metro Detroit's border crossings** after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. New York was the only other jurisdiction that received reimbursement.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/2003/metro/0302/26/a05-94840.htm>

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## Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *February 28, PR Newswire* — **Study shows commercial shipping critical to military transport. The United States military would be unable to deploy and sustain its forces worldwide without using privately owned, U.S – flagged commercial vessels,** according to a report issued today. The study by the Maritime Policy Working Group of the National Defense Transportation Association's (NDTA) Military Sealift Committee demonstrates that since signed into law in 1996, the Maritime Security Program (MSP) has become a pillar of the nation's strategic sealift and global response capability, providing vessels, intermodal systems, and seafarers to support the military in such missions as Afghanistan and now, Iraq. The study also indicates that MSP is the most economically practical solution for transporting military equipment and supplies. MSP ships sail under the U.S. flag, are crewed by U.S. mariners, are operated by U.S. companies and are subject to U.S. laws. The ongoing war on terrorism may push the demand for commercial sealift even higher as the U.S. Military engages simultaneously in operations in several theaters. **If reauthorization of MSP fails or if the provisions of program participation are unattractive to commercial shippers, the U.S.–flagged liner fleet in foreign trades would disappear and force increased reliance on ships of foreign registry, entrusting precious military cargo to non–U.S. crews in times of great crisis.** The NDTA report is available on the NDTA website at <http://www.ndtahq.com>

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/030228/dcf005\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/030228/dcf005_1.html)

21. *February 26, Federal Computer Week* — **Customs primed to launch ACE.** The U.S. Customs Service intends to launch this spring the first phase of its long–awaited Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), which will include online accounts and a data warehouse, officials said this week. **Although ACE will not be fully implemented until 2007, Customs officials are moving ahead swiftly with plans for a Web–based system to track imports and exports. It will give Customs officials at any port the ability to call up information from other border crossings.** ACE will replace the aging Automated Commercial System (ACS), an 18–year–old paper–based system. ACS has been subject to brownouts, blackouts and other headaches for importers, slowing trade and costing manufacturers time and money at the border. **Although it will be phased out in the next five years, it is being used with greater frequency to keep track of passenger and cargo manifests that are becoming a requirement for entry into**

the United States.

Source: <http://www.few.com/few/articles/2003/0224/web-customs-02-26-03.asp>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

22. *February 28, Reuters* — **Brazil experts help California battle wine plague.** California wine growers are a step closer to tackling a deadly pest that is ravaging the state's vineyards, and they have Brazilian scientists to thank for it. **At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a team of 30-odd researchers, in Brazil, has mapped the DNA code of Xylella fastidiosa, the bacteria that causes Pierce's disease and is threatening the livelihood of California's \$2.7 billion wine and grape industry.** While the discovery isn't enough in itself to save the industry from the threat of Pierce's disease just yet, it offers a complete blueprint of the bacteria's genetic make-up. That could provide new clues on how to stop its spread and, ultimately, find a cure.

Source: <http://asia.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=ourWorldNews&storyID=2305974>

23. *February 28, Ag Web* — **Managing invasive species a priority for cattlemen. The U.S. needs to develop a national effort to direct resources to, and focus attention on invasive species issues, say participants in a meeting of the Weed Science Society of America.** The meeting hosted by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) brought scientists, industry groups, and environmentalists together to discuss strategies aimed at addressing invasive species issues. "While the cattle industry supports efforts to manage all invasive species, of primary concern are threats posed by invasive weeds," says Myra Hyde, NCBA's director of environmental issues. **"Grasslands and shrublands, often called rangelands, occupy about 35 percent of the land area of the lower 48 states, 861 million acres. These are the lands that cattle producers rely on to feed their cattle, and the health of these lands is critical to ensuring economic viability."**

Source: [http://www.agweb.com/news\\_show\\_news\\_article.asp?file=AgNewsArticle\\_20032281237\\_4512newscat=GN](http://www.agweb.com/news_show_news_article.asp?file=AgNewsArticle_20032281237_4512newscat=GN)

24. *February 28, Associated Press* — **Ozone could fight grain-eating insects. Purdue University scientists have discovered that ozone gas can kill insect pests in grain bins without damaging the grain or causing the environmental harm linked to chemical fumigants.** But the process won't add to the ground-level ozone that is a component of smog, they said. The finding could lead to portable, ozone-generating equipment that grain elevator operators or farmers could rent to rid their storage bins of insects, the researchers said. **Such a development could be part of an environmentally friendly approach to controlling insects that devour an estimated 5 percent to 10 percent of global food production each year.**

Source: [http://www.springfieldnewssun.com/biz/content/business/ap\\_story.html/Financial/AP.V3748.AP-Farm-Scene.html](http://www.springfieldnewssun.com/biz/content/business/ap_story.html/Financial/AP.V3748.AP-Farm-Scene.html)

25. *February 28, Virginian-Pilot* — **Shellfish harvesting banned in Virginia rivers. Virginia health officials have closed 44 miles of the James and Rappahannock rivers to shellfish harvesting as a precaution against suspected high levels of bacteria in the water. The**

closures, effective late Wednesday, will continue until bacteria counts show safe levels for two consecutive days of sampling, said Rob Whittman, director of field operations for the state Department of Health. Heavy snow and rain from winter storms are to blame for the state action, Whittman said. The storm waters cause sewage overflows and animal wastes to wash off the land and flow into streams and creeks that feed the rivers. Such wastes contain fecal bacteria, which can make people ill if consumed in affected oysters or clams.

Source: <http://www.pilotonline.com/news/nw0228clo.html>

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## **Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Water Sector**

26. *February 28, Water Tech Online* — **Wastewater security bill moves through U.S. Congressional panel.** The Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2003 (HR 866), which provides funding for security upgrades for treatment plants that meet federal qualifications, moved closer to reality when it was approved Wednesday by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The legislation authorizes \$220 million to improve security efforts at wastewater plants. **If the bill is passed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would receive \$200 million in grants for utilities to conduct vulnerability assessments and improve security measures at wastewater plants, federal officials said. The measure would also provide \$15 million for technical assistance to small wastewater plants and \$5 million to improve wastewater vulnerability self-assessments tools and methodologies.**

Source: <http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4font>>

27. *February 27, Associated Press* — **Interior secretary working to avoid water fights. Interior Secretary Gale Norton has begun developing ways to ease some of the perennial conflicts over water in the West before another potentially fierce wildfire season and more drought-related fights. The department plans an \$11 million program to see how to avoid future water fights.** It will examine long-term problems and include research efforts on turning salt water into drinking water a process called desalinization so existing reservoirs can be used more effectively, Norton said. "We hope that by enhancing the efficiency of agricultural water use, and overcoming institutional obstacles, we can improve the availability of water," Norton said. But she said no national approach can solve every regional problem. **"It may take some new laws, it probably requires more agreements and resolution of outstanding disputes. In a lot of states, you have litigation that has been going on for decades to determine who owns what water,"** Norton said. "By resolving those disputes, you can move forward a lot more effectively."

Source: [http://hoovnews.hoovers.com/fp.asp?layout=query\\_displaynews&q=WATERsd=ATER=NR20030227140.6\\_4877001073d59f90](http://hoovnews.hoovers.com/fp.asp?layout=query_displaynews&q=WATERsd=ATER=NR20030227140.6_4877001073d59f90)

## **Public Health Sector**

28. *February 27, Associated Press* — **Scientists cut mad cow epidemic estimate. Scientists have dramatically lowered their estimates of how many people are likely to die from the human form of mad cow disease, though experts say much uncertainty remains.** Part of the reason the estimate has dropped is because early predictions of worse–case scenarios did not materialize, forcing a shift in calculations. Experts previously estimated that anywhere between a few hundred to 100,000 people in Great Britain could eventually get the fatal brain–wasting illness, variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease. **Now, new research published by the Royal Society, Britain's academy of scientists, forecasts that as few as 10 additional people and as many as 7,000 could get the illness by 2080.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13511–2003Feb 27.html>

## **Government Sector**

29. *February 27, Government Executive* — **Success of Homeland Security ad campaign won't be easy to measure.** The government's new media campaign urging Americans to prepare for possible terrorist attacks is well–funded and has already received considerable public attention. But gauging the effectiveness of such an ad campaign is often a complex and difficult task, as other federal efforts to modify social behavior—including the anti–drug campaign—have illustrated. The "Ready Campaign" media blitz includes a series of television, radio, print and Internet ads aimed at "educating people that there are things they can do to prepare for an attack and to motivate them to take some of those actions," said Peggy Conlon, president and CEO of the Advertising Council, one of the major co–sponsors of the initiative. **But similar public service media campaigns, including those aimed at preventing drug use among young adults and encouraging Americans to eat more fruits and vegetables, have demonstrated that evaluating the success of a program aimed at influencing people's behavior is a complicated and often multi–layered process, said Stephanie Shipman, assistant director of the Center for Evaluation Methods and Issues at the General Accounting Office.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/022703m1.htm>

30. *February 27, Government Executive* — **INS faces tech challenges in Homeland Security transition.** The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will face some daunting technological challenges as it becomes part of the Homeland Security Department and dramatically reorganizes its internal structure, a senior INS official said Thursday. "To fully realize success in the Department of Homeland Security, we need to exploit technologies that we have only dabbled in up to this point," Mike Becraft, the INS' acting deputy commissioner, said during a conference sponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. **Becraft noted that for much of the past decade, the INS lacked an "enterprise architecture," or a blueprint to guide its efforts to integrate information systems, reduce paperwork and improve efficiency.** When the INS moves into Homeland Security next week, its service and enforcement functions will be reorganized into separate entities. The Bureau of

Citizenship and Immigration Services will report to Deputy Homeland Security Secretary Gordon England and will handle matters such as naturalization petitions and visa adjudications. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement will be part of the department's directorate on border and transportation security.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/0120203td1.htm>

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## Emergency Services Sector

31. *February 28, New York Times* — **New York remains at Level Orange.** While the rest of the country is downshifting from orange to yellow, New York City's level of vigilance against terrorist attacks will not change, police officials said yesterday. **"Nothing has changed," said Michael O'Looney, the Police Department's chief spokesman. "We have been at level orange since the beginning of the color-coded system, and we are keeping our status the same."** The city will also retain the security measures it added this month when reports of a possible attack against United States targets led national security officials to raise the country's status from yellow to orange, the police said. Those included additional police officers at major hotels, bridges, landmarks and transportation hubs, and vehicle inspection checkpoints.

Source: New York Remains at Level Orange

32. *February 24, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Radiological emergency preparedness program.** FEMA established the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program to (1) ensure that the public health and safety of citizens living around commercial nuclear power plants would be adequately protected in the event of a nuclear power station accident and (2) inform and educate the public about radiological emergency preparedness. FEMA's REP Program responsibilities encompass only "offsite" activities, that is State and local government emergency preparedness activities that take place beyond the nuclear power plant boundaries. Onsite activities continue to be the responsibility of the NRC. **FEMA has opened a 30-day public comment period on REP Program Strategic Review Implementation Product Recommended Initiative 1.13, Develop a REP Program Planning Guidance. Comments from the public on Recommended Initiative 1.13 are encouraged and invited on or before October 7, 2002.**

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/rrr/rep/>

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## Information and Telecommunications Sector

33. *February 28, Associated Press* — **Monster.com warns job seekers of ID theft.** An e-mail labeled a "critical service message" is being sent from Internet job board Monster.com to all active users of Monster's main site. It cautions that **"from time to time, false job postings are listed online and used to illegally collect personal information from unsuspecting job seekers."** Pam Dixon, a research fellow with the Denver-based Privacy Foundation, said the e-mail confirms a growing hazard for online job seekers. **"It's not just on Monster. I've**

heard of this on all the major sites." Dixon said most of the cases she's familiar with involve job seekers who have provided credit card numbers, social security numbers or agreed to ship overseas materials that are prohibited from being sold outside U.S. borders. Company spokesman Kevin Mullins said he did not know exactly how many people would receive the e-mail, but that it is "definitely well into the millions." **Monster, the nation's largest Internet job board, says it has 24.5 million resumes posted on its main site.** Mullins said the warning was not precipitated by any specific incident. Instead, the company is merely trying to protect its users, he said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A15161-2003Feb 28.html>

**34. February 28, Government Computer News — Wireless security on DHS agenda. Four groups in the Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) for the information and communications sectors, a public-private security forum, are meeting to evaluate commercial wireless security.** The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA), Telecommunications Industry Association, Information Technology Association of America, and United States Telecom Association, have begun meeting with the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center and other Energy organizations, said Kathryn Condello, vice president of operations for CTIA. **The ISAC currently has no industrywide way to review security gaps in the networks and services of wireless carriers. But that's just what the Department of Homeland Security will likely need to know to toughen security as more government employees adopt mobile devices and agencies integrate wireless platforms into their programs.** Individual companies "know what their problems are," said Condello, who spoke yesterday on a panel about asset security at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's homeland security conference. But expanding individual assessments to a competitive telecom market with a half-dozen major carriers, each operating its own distinct network elements, is "really tough," Condello said. "That's a lot of data points."



Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/21273-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21273-1.html)

**35. February 27, Government Computer News — DoD releases second half of security policy. Directive 8500.2, an information assurance policy that sets specific controls and standards for how users should secure Department of Defense (DoD) networks, was released by the Pentagon on Thursday.** While 8500.1, which was released last October, supplied a framework for DoD to follow to protect its information systems, 8500.2 tells users how to secure their networks, said Robert F. Lentz, director of information assurance for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence. **The 8500.2 policy instructs Defense agency leaders to provide security training to all military and civilian personnel, including contractors, that meets an employee's job level of responsibility for working with DoD information systems.** The policy establishes information assurance (IA) managers and officers to ensure that DoD systems meet IA specifications. According to 8500.2, **information transmitted on Defense networks is shared across the Global Information Grid and is becoming more vulnerable to attacks and denial of service.** The vulnerabilities stem from "increased reliance on commercial information technology and services; increased complexity and risk propagation through interconnection; the extremely rapid pace of technological change; a distributed and nonstandard management structure; and the relatively low cost of entry for adversaries."

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/21267-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21267-1.html)

36. *February 27, Government Computer News* — **New Mexico police use new satellite system.** New Mexico state police have joined federal civilian and military users of a two-way satellite data radio with **Global Positioning System tracking**. The PDT-100, a 6- by 8-inch transceiver and 12-channel GPS terminal, mounts on the hood of a vehicle and **lets a trooper send license queries, check the FBI's National Crime Information Center for wanted persons, or push a button to talk to a dispatcher by satellite**. A trooper can broadcast to all radios within a group or talk directly with other PDT-equipped mobile police by double-hopping signals from L-Band MSat geostationary satellites.  
Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/21268-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21268-1.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a>	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>PE_FUNLOVE.4099</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 80 (www), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 65067 (---), 135 (epmap), 65008 (---), 1900 (ssdp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 25 (smtp) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

37. *March 02, New York Times* — **Pakistanis arrest al Qaeda figure seen as planner of 9/11.** **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, suspected of planning the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington and one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists, was detained by Pakistani authorities Saturday morning and is now in American custody, officials said.** The arrest represented a major victory in the American-led global search for pivotal leaders of al Qaeda – the men who planned the suicide hijacking attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, as well as other terrorist acts. It is also the most prominent arrest yet in Pakistan, where more than 400 al Qaeda suspects have been detained and many have been sent on to American custody, in a cooperative effort that has opened President Pervez Musharraf to criticism from Islamic political forces at home. **In Washington today, the White House issued a statement praising Pakistani and American officials for what it called a joint operation in capturing Mohammed. "Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is one of Osama bin**

Laden's most senior and significant lieutenants, a key al Qaeda planner and the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks," said the statement, issued by Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary. Officials suspect that Mohammed was also involved in the simultaneous bombings of the American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, as well as the bombing of the United States destroyer Cole in Yemen in October 2000.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/02/international/asia/02STAN.html>

38. *March 02, Reuters* — **Bomb in Lebanon kills suspected al Qaeda figure.** A car bomb exploded on Saturday inside Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, killing an Egyptian whom Israel has accused of leading operations for al Qaeda in Lebanon, camp security officials said. **The officials said the man, Abu Muhammad al-Masri, an Afghan war veteran who moved to Ain el-Hilweh six years ago, was killed as he left his bean shop to walk to a mosque to pray. The mosque has been frequented by members of Osbat al-Ansar, a militant group on the United States' list of terrorist organizations and suspected of links to al Qaeda.** A previously unknown group calling itself Youth of the Armed Struggle took responsibility for the attack in a statement faxed to Reuters, saying Masri was a member of Jamaat an-Nour, thought to be an offshoot of Osbat al-Ansar. The fax blamed Jamaat an-Nour for a string of bomb attacks in Ain el-Hilweh and for threats against prominent Palestinians in the camp.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/02/international/middleeast/02LEBA.html>

39. *February 28, Associated Press* — **Gunmen fire upon U.S. consulate in Pakistan.** Gunmen opened fire on a police post guarding the U.S. Consulate in Karachi on Friday, **killing two Pakistani policemen and injuring at least five others, police and hospital officials said. Police caught one of the assailants and confiscated a pistol after chasing the man through a nearby park in the southern port city. The man was identified as an Afghan national, officers said.** U.S. Consul-General John Bauman said a camera mounted on the outside of the heavily fortified U.S. mission recorded the shooting, according to police who spoke to him. "The consulate is very well protected and all the Americans were inside," Police Chief Kamal Shah told reporters outside the building. **The United States and other countries have already evacuated family members from their missions in Pakistan because of attacks on foreigners. A U.S. Embassy worker and her daughter were killed last March in an attack on a church in the Pakistani capital.**

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-02-28-pakistan-shooting\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-02-28-pakistan-shooting_x.htm)

40. *February 26, National Infrastructure Protection Center* — **National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) and the Real Estate Roundtable sign an information sharing agreement.** On Wednesday, the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) signed an information sharing agreement to establish a partnership between the NIPC and the Real Estate Roundtable (RER) acting on behalf of the real estate industry, for the establishment by RER of a Real Estate Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC). Through the Real Estate ISAC, the voluntary two-way flow of local incident information, that may indicate a developing regional or even national threat, will be combined with the best available intelligence to give the most timely and complete warnings possible. The NIPC's goal is to support this key infrastructure with advanced warnings that will allow them to prepare against future possible terrorist attacks against the real estate infrastructure and all the vital interests and infrastructures that they support daily. When fully operational, **the Real Estate Information Sharing and**

**Analysis Center will act as an around the clock coordination center by sending incident reports to the NIPC that may have domestic terrorism ramifications, while working with NIPC staff to identify patterns and indicators of a developing terrorist threat.**

Source: <http://www.nipc.gov/pressroom/pressrel/nipcRoundtable.htm>

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## **NIPC Products & Contact Information**

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

[NIPC Warnings](#) – NIPC Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: The NIPC produces three levels of infrastructure warnings which are developed and distributed consistent with the FBI's National Threat Warning System. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[NIPC Publications](#) – NIPC Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[NIPC Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past NIPC Daily Reports

### **NIPC Daily Open Source Report Contact Information**

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Distribution Information Send mail to [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) for more information.

### **Contact NIPC**

To report any incidents or to request information from NIPC, contact the NIPC Watch at [nipc.watch@fbi.gov](mailto:nipc.watch@fbi.gov) or call 202-323-3204.

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