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Scope: Provide the private sector, our partner agencies, and local jurisdictions with current open source information relating to terrorism, homeland security, critical incident response and public safety. Re-distribution is encouraged.

NTSB’s Metro Recommendation

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) today issued an urgent safety recommendation to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) calling for enhanced safety redundancy of its train control system. A recent accident on the Metrorail's Red Line between the Fort Totten and Takoma stations has shown that WMATA's train control system is susceptible to a single point failure because it did not fail safe and stop a train when detection of a preceding train was lost. The urgent safety recommendation issued today calls for WMATA to evaluate track occupancy data on a real-time basis in order to detect losses in track occupancy and automatically generate alerts to prompt such actions as immediately stopping train movements or implementing appropriate speed restrictions to prevent collisions. The Safety Board made a second urgent recommendation to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) urging the agency to advise all rail transit operators with train control systems capable of monitoring train movements to evaluate their systems for adequate safety redundancy. Source: NTSB

Immigrant sentenced in VA for Prostitution Ring

An illegal immigrant from Mexico has been sentenced to more than two years in federal prison for her role in a prostitution ring in Hampton Roads, VA. Emma Tlacoxolal-Perez was sentenced Monday in U.S. District court. Following her 33 month-sentence, she will be deported. The 37-year–old previously pleaded guilty to two charges related to running a prostitution network with brothels since 2004 and one charge for being in the country illegally. The operation largely catered to Hispanics in the illegal immigrant community. The prostitutes were brought to Virginia from New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Court documents show Tlacoxolal-Perez was deported in August 2006, but she returned to the country illegally and re-established the enterprise.

Affordable College Education for Veterans
A college education has just become more affordable for the nation's veterans. The new Yellow Ribbon Program will fund tuition, housing and supplies. Eleven DC colleges and universities have agreed to welcome the vets on their campuses this fall. At George Washington University, the new yellow ribbon program means a free ride for undergraduate vets. "We're giving veterans $18,000; the VA will match it, and the rest is covered by the GI bill. For graduates, they'll receive a 60 percent discount," Michael Akin, Director of Government Affairs at George Washington University says. That's a $2.5 million dollar commitment from GW. Veterans who've served at least 36 months, or at least 30 continuous days and were discharged due to a service related injury are eligible for the yellow ribbon program. Catholic University, Gallaudet, Georgetown and American University are just a few of the local colleges participating. American University's program goes into effect this fall. They're supporting 18 veterans the first year. That number will climb to 40 in four years. http://www.wusa9.com/rss/local_article.aspx?storyid=88428

Many Firehouses Lack Basic Amenities
The Baltimore City Council has launched a new initiative to help improve the living arrangements of city firefighters who have to stay at the firehouses. The initiative, called Be A Genie will help city fire houses pick up need amenities that they lack. Rawlings-The initiative will help make the firehouses homes away from home for the many firefighters who spend lots of time there. The campaign has a web site that will help solicit donations of basic household items for the firehouses. Some items that firefighters have requested include air conditioners, blinds, dish sets, coffee makers and filing cabinets. http://www.wbaltv.com/news/20039633/detail.html Analyst Comment: The campaign website can be accessed at: http://cityservices.baltimorecity.gov/FDDonate/

MD: Number of Rabid Bats on the Rise
The Anne Arundel county Health Department is warning residents of an increasing number of rabid bats in the area. Since May, bats infected with rabies have been detected in six communities. Health officials issued notices to residents in those communities, advising them how to take precautions against rabies. Rabies fact sheets also have been issued at county libraries and community health fairs. Residents who come in contact with bats should call county Animal Control, which handles such reports 24 hours a day. The agency will attempt to capture the bat and get it tested. "This time of year, bats are actively coming to the area after hibernation. If a person has holes in their soffits or roofs, (bats) can get in. (With the area being the way it is), there's a much higher population of humans in the area. There's much less habitat for the bats and they've basically made houses and buildings their place to roost." In situations where bats are located in a home, the resident should try to trap it with a coffee can or bucket if that can be done with limited exposure to the bat. The most important thing is to contact Animal Control instead of releasing a possibly infected animal back into the environment, Shannon said. To report a bat to Animal Control, call 410-222-8900. WRTAC Public Health Intelligence Analyst comments: Since May, bats infected with rabies have been detected in six communities. Health officials issued notices to residents in communities on precautions against rabies. From May 13 to June 11, seven rabid bats were found in Annapolis, Crofton, Glen Burnie, Millersville, Pasadena and Severna Park. Health officials said they are concerned because their active season isn't over yet and these levels already are exceeding previous years. DC Department of Health will continue to monitor the situation. http://www.hometownannapolis.com/news/top/2009/07/13-11/Number-of-rabid-bats-on-the-rise.html
UW-Madison: Study Suggests H1N1 Virus More Dangerous than Suspected

A new, highly detailed study of the H1N1 flu virus shows that the pathogen is more virulent than previously thought. An international team of researchers led by a University of Wisconsin-Madison virologist provides a detailed portrait of the pandemic virus and its pathogenic qualities. In contrast with run-of-the-mill seasonal flu viruses, the H1N1 virus exhibits an ability to infect cells deep in the lungs, where it can cause pneumonia and, in severe cases, death. Seasonal viruses typically infect only cells in the upper respiratory system. There is a misunderstanding about this virus. People think this pathogen may be similar to seasonal influenza. This study shows that is not the case. The ability to infect the lungs is a quality frighteningly similar to those of other pandemic viruses, notably the 1918 virus, which killed tens of millions of people at the tail end of World War I. There are likely other similarities to the 1918 virus, says the lead researcher, as the study also showed that people born before 1918 harbor antibodies that protect against the new H1N1 virus. **WRTAC Public Health Intelligence Analyst comments:** CDC has not acknowledged the veracity of this study. Until they do, this is unreplicated research. [http://www.wisbusiness.com/index.iml?Article=164263](http://www.wisbusiness.com/index.iml?Article=164263)

Medtronic Recalls Insulin Devices

Medtronic Inc. is recalling three million insulin-infusion sets, estimating that 60,000 of them could cause improper insulin delivery and lead to serious injury or death. Nearly 2% of the "Lot 8" Quick-set infusion sets in question could have a problem properly venting air pressure. The sets are used with the company's MiniMed insulin pump and include the thin plastic tubes used to deliver the drug. Medtronic said it has mailed notifications to customers, as well as more than one million replacement sets. Patients should stop using the "Lot 8" sets, which are the only ones affected. The company is unaware of any known injuries associated with this recall. [http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/705745](http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/705745)

Ethanol Emergency Response Training Released

The Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) has compiled and released the Complete Training Guide for Ethanol Emergency Response, to help prepare ethanol producers, transporters and first responders who may experience or come in contact with an ethanol-related emergency. This complete training package includes two videos, an instructor's guide, interactive workshops and seven modules and PowerPoint presentations, each focusing on a specific and important aspect of ethanol response. Guidelines are also given for fire departments and first responders that have ethanol production facilities in their communities. The Complete Training Guide to Ethanol Emergency Response is now available at the EERC website. [http://www.biofuels-news.com/industry_news.php?item_id=1016](http://www.biofuels-news.com/industry_news.php?item_id=1016)

**Analyst Note:** Information about this resource can be accessed at [http://www.ethanolresponse.com/](http://www.ethanolresponse.com/)
Functional Exercise to Assess Public Health Agency Response to Foodborne Bioterrorism

Abstract: Agroterrorism and food terrorism have been identified as important homeland security issues by officials in the public health, government, and food industry sectors of the U.S. Intentional contamination of food has already occurred both abroad and in North America. Outbreak investigation and control measures in response to intentional contamination differ from those employed in cases of naturally occurring contamination. Operations-based exercise efforts specific to bioterrorism events are essential to train public health personnel and first responders to consider the possibility of deliberate contamination during an outbreak investigation. A recent search of the Rand Corporation's Public Health Preparedness database identified no operations-based (functional or full-scale) exercises involving foodborne contamination with a biological or chemical agent. This manuscript describes a functional exercise developed and conducted by the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine, Section of Community Health and Preventive Medicine. The functional exercise simulated a food-borne terrorism event and was designed to evaluate the efficacy of the Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP) of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies (DFDD). The exercise was held on November 18th and 19th, 2008 at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. Based on this and previous exercises and training programs developed and conducted by CHPM, it is apparent that the more exercise designers, evaluators and public health and support agency participants move away from discussion based exercises and towards operations based exercises, the more strengths and deficiencies in preparation and response of participating agencies are revealed. Although public health agencies have begun training personnel and partner agencies to consider intentional contamination of food during an outbreak investigation, the relative lack of widespread operations-based exercises to assess preparedness in response to an intentional incident of food-borne contamination seems to be an important deficiency in homeland security. Additional funding to create opportunities for public health and first responder personnel to participate in operations-based bioterrorism response exercises is needed. **Analyst Note:** This report, "Development and Implementation of a Functional Exercise to Assess Public Health Agency Response to Foodborne Bioterrorism" can be accessed at: [http://www.bepress.com/jhsem/vol6/iss1/49](http://www.bepress.com/jhsem/vol6/iss1/49)

DOE Employee attempted to sell classified materials, fuel rods

In January 2007, the FBI's Knoxville office learned that Roy Lynn Oakley—an employee of the East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge—was trying to sell restricted U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) materials. The East Tennessee Technology Park was formerly known as the K-25 building, a facility which produced highly enriched uranium used in the manufacture of atomic weapons in 1940. DOE later shut down the facility and contracted with a company—Bechtel Jacobs—to dismantle and demolish the plant. Oakley was an employee of Bechtel Jacobs. To catch Oakley in the act, the FBI began an undercover operation. Their agent contacted Oakley and told him he was representing a foreign government and had heard that Oakley was offering to sell some classified materials. During recorded phone calls, Oakley said he had stolen parts of the uranium enrichment fuel rods and other related hardware items from his place of employment that he was willing to sell for $200,000. The undercover agent eventually agreed to the deal, and a face-to-face meeting was set up for January 26, 2007. Both parties showed up at the meeting place, money and classified components were exchanged, and Oakley was ultimately arrested and charged with violating the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. So why did he do it? Not because of any anti-U.S. ideology. Not because he was angry at his employer. No, he did it purely for the money. Oakley wanted to retire from Bechtel during 2007 but was deep in debt and needed cash. [http://www.fbi.gov/page2/july09/oakley_071309.html](http://www.fbi.gov/page2/july09/oakley_071309.html)
2 Indicted in Case of Missing Somalis (Homeland Security Update)
Two men are accused of supporting terrorism in a grand jury indictment unsealed Monday, the first charges in an investigation into the disappearances of several young Somali men who activists believe were recruited from the Minneapolis area by radical elements in Somalia. At least one of the men, Salah Osman Ahmed, traveled to Somalia to fight with Islamic militants. Ahmed and Abdifatah Yusuf Issa both are charged with providing material support to terrorists and conspiracy to kill, kidnap, maim and injure. Ahmed also is charged with lying to investigators. In Minneapolis, home to the nation's largest concentration of Somali immigrants, as many as 20 young men are believed to have gone in the last 18 months to take part in the fighting in Somalia. Family members say at least three young men from Minneapolis have died in Somalia. Shirwa Ahmed committed a suicide bombing in October, officials said. The family of Burhan Hassan, 18, learned last month that he was killed. Family members of another missing man, Jamal Bana, 20, said during the weekend that they found an online picture showing their son's body in Somalia. http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/31897893/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts/

Review Planned for U.S. Terror Alert System (Homeland Security)
The multicolored terror alert system that was created after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks could be getting an overhaul -- or could be eliminated entirely. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is expected to appoint a panel Tuesday to reevaluate the system. The five-tiered system that goes from green, which signals a low danger of attack, to red, which signals a severe threat of attack, has proven to be confusing at times, and critics say the different colors are too vague to deliver enough information to be useful. In 2007 Congress required Homeland Security to improve the system and "provide greater specificity in its threat advisories and warnings," and include countermeasures as part of the program. Those requirements have not all been met, and the calls for change have been bipartisan. "Rather than rely solely on a color-coded designation, we wanted to make more information available to citizens, first responders and the private sector, so that appropriate steps could be taken by local officials and the general public," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, explaining Congress' reasoning behind the requirements added in 2007. http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/07/14/review-planned-terror-alert/

Disaster Recovery Outline Plotted (Planning Initiative)
Brunswick County, NC, government took the initial step Monday toward writing what could be the state's first official disaster recovery plan for an individual county. The plan, which will be months in the making, will seek to establish a hierarchy and set procedures for the county and its 19 municipalities to work as one unit on a host of possible problems that likely will be left in the wake of a major hurricane. Things such as the continuity of government in a time of great stress will be particularly important to residents who will need assistance, but equally important could be a sudden need for substantial temporary housing, help for those who need to file insurance claims, implementation of publicly-funded assistance projects and a restoration of infrastructure so businesses can reopen. "We all need to be reading from the same book and the same page," Holden Beach Mayor Alan Holden said after a meeting at Brunswick Community College to get the process started. The plan, which officials hope will be completed by December, could help to alleviate confusion about what's needed and who's responsible. http://www.thesunnews.com/news/local/story/979587.html
**Legislation: Create Inventories to Help Manage Radio Frequency Spectrum** (Officer Safety)

Bills in both houses of Congress would require detailed inventories of federally managed radio frequency (RF) spectrum and create Web portals to make that information available to the public. H.R. 3125 was introduced July 8 by the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. A similar bill, S. 649, was introduced in the Senate in March and was voted out of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee July 8. Both measures are titled the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act and, with minor differences, would require that the Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to create inventories of radio spectrum under their management in 180 days after the measures became law. The inventories would list the authorized services for, and the users of, each band of frequency in the geographical areas in which they are licensed to operate, and include maps showing the usage of spectrum in each area. The NTIA and the FCC also would submit annual reports to Congress updating the status of the inventory, identifying the least used blocks of spectrum and recommending whether spectrum should be reallocated. The bills differ slightly in the spectrum to be covered. The House bill covers bands from 225 MHz to 10 GHz, while the Senate version covers bands from 300 MHz to 3.5 GHz. Both bills would exempt sensitive information from published inventories for national security and proprietary business reasons.


**Company Uses Test Preps to Scam Parents** (Situational Awareness)

While most parents want their children to do well on standardized tests like the SAT and ACT, some parents are accusing one company of taking advantage of that desire. When a telemarketer called Sylvana Tucker and promised to increase her son's SAT score, she said she bit. "I consider myself a pretty savvy consumer, but as soon as she mentioned my son and education, that was the key right there to get me to purchase the CD," Tucker said. The company on the phone was the SAT and ACT Prep Center out of Texas. Tucker said the salesperson implied that the company was affiliated with her son's school, so she bought a CD tutorial for $119 that included a subscription to a scholarship Web site. The Better Business Bureau said it is all too familiar with the SAT and ACT Prep Center. It has received complaints from parents across the country. Some parents claimed the company misled them, saying their children asked for the software through their high schools when they hadn't. An I-Team investigation revealed that the company's owner, 32-year-old John Stuart, has other problems. The Texas comptroller's office said the company was not paying sales tax, and the I-Team found out that Stuart was recently arrested. According to the Texas attorney general's office, he's a registered child sex offender who did not report his employment address as required. It's still not clear how the company gets student information. The SAT and ACT Prep Center appears to be reselling software manufactured for Kaplan, a well-known test prep company.

http://www.wbaltv.com/11investigates/20041587/detail.html
Researcher Says IE Bug Could Spread Quickly
A critical ActiveX vulnerability used by hackers to exploit Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer browser is a prime candidate for another Conficker-scale attack. On July 6, Microsoft acknowledged the flaw in the ActiveX control that can be accessed using IE. The bug has been used by hackers since at least June 9. **Microsoft said it will issue a patch for the flaw on July 14.** The vulnerability "exposes the whole world and can be exploited through the firewall." "That's better than Conficker, which mostly did its damage once it got inside a network." Conficker exploited a Windows flaw that Microsoft had thought dire enough to fix outside its usual update schedule in October 2008. The worm exploded into prominence in January, when a variant infected millions of machines that remained unpatched. Microsoft confirmed the latest flaw shortly after security researchers at Danish firms CSIS Security Group AS and Secunia said that thousands of hacks of legitimate Web sites over the July 4 weekend had exploited the bug. The hackers took advantage of the bug to reroute users to a malicious site, which in turn downloads and launches a multiexploit hacker tool kit.


**Resources**

**GlobalIncidentMap.com**
A Global Display of Terrorism And Other Suspicious Events

**Washington DC Links**

Live Traffic Reports [http://www.ddot.dc.gov/traffic](http://www.ddot.dc.gov/traffic)

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
[http://hsema.dc.gov/dcema/site/default.asp](http://hsema.dc.gov/dcema/site/default.asp)


It’s A Disaster (Disaster Preparedness, Prevention and First Aid Manual)
[http://hsema.dc.gov/dcema/cwp/view,a,1226,Q,609437,dcemaNav|31810|.asp](http://hsema.dc.gov/dcema/cwp/view,a,1226,Q,609437,dcemaNav|31810|.asp)

DC Community Preparedness Exercise [http://www.dccommunitypreparedness.org](http://www.dccommunitypreparedness.org)

To request a DC Government Service, call 311 or 202-727-1000, also online at [http://src.dc.gov](http://src.dc.gov)

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