



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 17, 2019

Hunt begins for the cause of huge South American blackout

(Miami Herald) The lights were back on Monday across Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay after a huge blackout that affected tens of millions people, but authorities remained in the dark about the cause of the grid collapse and continued to calculate the economic damage.

Argentine President Mauricio Macri promised a thorough investigation into what he called an "unprecedented" outage, one that raised questions about flaws in South America's power grid, which connects many of the region's largest countries.

The blackout originated at an electricity transmission point between the power stations at Argentina's Yacretá dam and Salto Grande in the country's northeast "when the system was getting too much power" Argentine Energy Secretary Gustavo Lopetegui said.

The collapse began at about 7 a.m. Sunday, with Argentina's population of 44 million and residents of neighboring Uruguay and some parts of Paraguay waking up to Father's Day in the dark. Several Argentine provinces had elections for governor on Sunday, which proceeded with voters using their phone screens and built-in flashlights to illuminate their ballots.

Read full story: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/article231633018.html>

Cyber-strategy targets Russian power grids *U.S. said to embed codes as deterrent*

The United States is stepping up digital incursions into Russia's electric power grid in a warning to President Vladimir Putin and a demonstration of how President Donald Trump's administration is using new authorities to deploy cyber tools more aggressively, current and former government officials said.

In interviews over the past three months, the officials described the previously unreported deployment of U.S. computer code inside Russia's grid and other targets as a classified companion to more publicly discussed action directed at Moscow's disinformation and hacking units around the 2018 midterm elections.

The administration declined to describe specific actions it was taking under the new authorities, which were granted separately by the White House and Congress last year to U.S. Cyber Command, the arm of the Pentagon that runs the military's offensive and defensive operations in the online world.

But in a public appearance Tuesday, Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said the United States was now taking a broader view of potential digital targets as part of an effort "to say to Russia, or anybody else that's engaged in cyberoperations against us, 'You will pay a price.'"

Power grids have been a low-intensity battleground for years. **[See next story!]**

Read full story: <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/jun/16/cyber-strategy-targets-russian-power-gr/?latest>

Related story: Experts assess damage after first cyberattack on U.S. grid

The U.S. power sector marked a sober milestone (in May when) an anonymous Western utility became the first to report a malicious "cyber event" that disrupted grid operations.

The hack itself occurred... on March 5, when a "denial-of-service" attack disabled Cisco Adaptive Security Appliance devices ringing power grid control systems in Utah, Wyoming and California, according to multiple sources and a vague summary of a Department of Energy filing.

There were no blackouts, no harm to power generation and evidently very little effect on the Western transmission grid, according to multiple sources and officials. The most direct impact was likely a temporary loss of visibility to certain parts of the utility's supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, though all major transmission operators in the regions affected denied having been hit by the denial-of-service attack.

Learn more: <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060281821>

Nine tornadoes confirmed in Central Indiana

(WTHR) The National Weather Service has confirmed that nine tornadoes hit the state Saturday evening. Just after 7 p.m. Sunday, the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, Ohio confirmed one tornado that created damage to rural areas of northern Union County and another tornado that caused damage in Fayette County.

Details: <https://www.wthr.com/article/nws-confirms-9-tornadoes-saturday-evening>

Fire department reminds drivers to move over after engine is hit



(WAVE) - Firefighters in Hardin County are reminding drivers to move over when they see emergency vehicles.

A Central Hardin fire truck was hit early Saturday morning while blocking a scene on Interstate 65. The department posted pictures of the damaged truck on Facebook, saying a driver on the highway failed to move over when passing the scene.

Kentucky law requires drivers to change lanes when approaching emergency vehicles that are stopped on the roadways, if it is safe to do so.

Source: <https://www.wave3.com/2019/06/15/fire-department-reminds-drivers-move-over-after-engine-is-hit/>

Texas will now classify 911 dispatchers as first responders

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/15/us/texas-emergency-dispatchers-first-responders/index.html>

Do we need to watch closer internally? Nearly \$7K in merchandise recovered, dozens arrested in Lexington "shoplifting blitz"

(WKYT) An investigation into shoplifting has resulted in criminal charges against over three dozen people in Lexington. A release from the Lexington Police Department says investigators working with representatives from the Kentucky Organized Retail Crime Association (KYORCA) conducted a "shoplifting blitz" between June 10 and June 12. In all, 35 arrests were made, 5 citations issued, 18 warrants served, 32 shoplifting-related charges, 5 drug-related charges, 5 burglary-related charges, and the recovery of nearly \$7,000 dollars of stolen property.

See more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Nearly-7K-in-merchandise-recovered-dozens-arrested-in-Lexington-shoplifting-blitz-511346501.html>

Related: Employee stole \$250,000 in equipment from the Georgetown Toyota plant, grand jury charges

Story: <https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/scott-county/article231553003.html>

Travelers should get MMR vaccine in wake of "record-breaking" European measles outbreak

(CBS) A report published Monday in the American Academy of Pediatrics medical journal recommends all U.S. citizens "receive all recommended vaccinations, including measles, [before traveling abroad](#)." The study comes in the wake of what researchers are describing as a "record-breaking" measles outbreak in the World Health Organization's (WHO) European Region.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/measles-outbreak-report-urges-travelers-get-mmr-vaccine-in-wake-of-record-breaking-european-outbreak/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Potentially deadly valley fever is hitting California farmworkers hard

(NBC) Getting an accurate count of the number of people affected by valley fever is a challenge because the majority of those who are infected never know they have it. Valley fever remains dormant in his body — and it could come back at any point.

Coccidioidomycosis or cocci (pronounced "coxy"), the fungus that causes valley fever, thrives in dry, undisturbed soil. It becomes airborne when that soil is disturbed — whether it's by dirt bikes, construction crews, or farmers putting in new fruit or nut orchards. It can travel on the wind as far as

75 miles away. Years of climate change-fueled drought and a 240 percent [increase in dust storms](#) appear to have led to a swift rise in the number of people diagnosed with the illness across the Southwest.

In 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said [14,364 cases](#) of valley fever were reported nationally, but that “tens of thousands more illnesses likely occur and may be misdiagnosed because many patients are not tested for valley fever.” On average, there were approximately [200 deaths](#) associated with the illness each year in the U.S. from 1999 to 2016.

Learn more: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/potentially-deadly-valley-fever-hitting-california-farmworkers-hard-worrying-researchers-n1017806>

CDC Info for Healthcare: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/coccidioidomycosis/health-professionals.html>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts for June 17, 2019

[Study Finds That a GPS Outage Would Cost \\$1 Billion per Day](#) (*Ars Technica*) Since becoming fully operational in 1995, Global Positioning System technology has become widely adopted in the United States and abroad. The concept of satellite-based navigation has become so essential that other world powers, including China, Russia, the European Union, India, and Japan, have all started building their own regional or global systems. [Go to article](#)

[WHO: Early Flu Rise for Some Southern Hemisphere Countries](#) (*CIDRAP*) The Southern Hemisphere's temperate countries are experiencing an earlier-than-average start to the flu season, including Australia, Chile, South Africa, and New Zealand, the World Health Organization said this week in its latest global flu update. [Go to article](#)

[House Advances Three Bills to Modernize DHS](#) (*HPN*) The US House of Representatives advanced three different bills that are designed to modernize the Department of Homeland Security. [Go to article](#)

[Largest World Stock of Animal-Killing Virus Destroyed by UK Lab](#) (*BBC News*) These stocks accounted for most of the world's lab samples of rinderpest, which were held at The Pirbright Institute in Surrey. [Go to article](#)

KSHE Webinar - Most Problematic Codes, Standards and CMS Tags in 2019

June 20, 2019 | 12 Noon ET/11:00 am CST

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kwDyliuRQMeDaOT9ZfWy8Q

Physical Security Expo
Surviving Today's Threats

Wednesday, June 19th, 2019

8:45 am to 3:30 pm

Frazier History Museum

829 W. Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202

To register or for more information visit

<http://www.advancedriskservices.com>

or call 502-551-5106.

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.