



Cyberattack shuts down U.S. largest pipeline network

- By Ankit Agrawal

Cyberattack Forces a Shutdown of a Top U.S. Pipeline

The operator, Colonial Pipeline, said it had halted systems for its 5,500 miles of pipeline after being hit by a ransomware attack.



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WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Top U.S. fuel pipeline operator **Colonial Pipeline** has shut its entire network,

The source of nearly half of the U.S. East Coast's fuel supply, after a cyber attack that the company said was caused by ransomware.

The shutdown has raised fears of a price spike at the gas pumps ahead of peak demand summer driving season if it persists, and has drawn attention to how critical U.S. energy infrastructure is vulnerable to hackers.





IMPORTANCE

Colonial transports **2.5 million barrels per day of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel** and other refined products through **5,500 miles (8,850 km)** of pipelines,

Linking refiners on the Gulf Coast to the eastern and southern United States.

It **carries 45% of the East Coast's fuel supplies** and has served the East Coast **since the early 1960s.**

The company said it **shut down systems to contain the threat** after learning of the attack **on Friday**.

That action **also temporarily halted operations** and affected some of its IT systems.

THE ATTACK

The **malicious software used** in the attack **was ransomware**, Colonial said on Saturday.

Ransomware is a type of malware that is **designed to lock down systems by encrypting data** and **demanding payment** to regain access.

The **malware has grown in popularity** over the **last five years**.

IMPACT OF IT

After the shutdown was first reported on Friday, gasoline futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange gained 0.6%, while diesel futures rose 1.1%.

As every day goes by, it becomes a greater and greater impact on Gulf Coast oil refining.

Gulf Coast prices could weaken further, while prices in New York Harbor could rise.



AL PIPELINE NETWORK



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Colonial had previously shut down its gasoline and distillate lines during Hurricane Harvey, which hit the Gulf Coast in 2017.

That contributed to tight supplies and gasoline price rises in the United States after the hurricane forced many Gulf refineries to shut down.

CONCLUSION

"Cybersecurity vulnerabilities have become a systemic issue."

"Unless cybersecurity measures are embedded in a technology's development phase, we are likely to see more frequent attacks on industrial systems like oil and gas pipelines or water treatment plants."

Q. HVJ (Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur) pipeline started in 1986 helps in transportation of which of the following?

A) Crude oil

B) Natural gas

C) Petroleum

D) Iron Ore in slurry form



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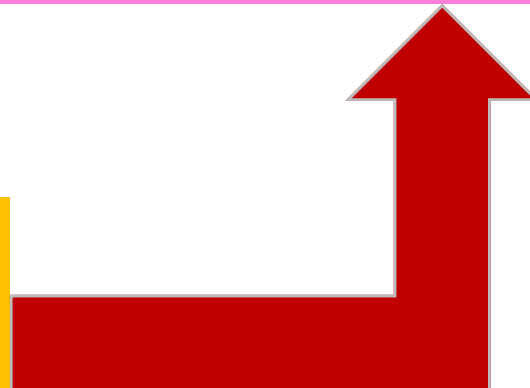
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