



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 December 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The Vail Daily reported that a train carrying quicklime, a chemical used in fertilizer, derailed and spilled its load in a remote part of Eagle County, Colorado. When mixed with water, quicklime turns to a vapor that can irritate skin and eyes. There were no reports of injuries and the spill will not harm the water supply. (See items [3](#))
- According to Reuters, U.S. regulators have issued a public health alert for about 14,800 pounds of missing ground beef products that may be contaminated with the potentially deadly E. coli bacteria. The USDA issued the alert after a trailer containing the ground beef was reported stolen by Texas American Food Service Corporation. (See item [14](#))

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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://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 28, Reuters* – (Alaska) **Alaska judge backs rejection of Point Thomson plan.** The state of Alaska acted properly when it rejected as inadequate a development plan for the long-languishing Point Thomson oil and gas field on the North Slope, a state judge ruled on Thursday. A Superior Court Judge said the Alaska Department of Natural Resources had the right to reject a plan proposed by operator Exxon Mobil Corp and its Point Thomson partners. That 2005 rejection led to the state's December 2006 revocation of the Point Thomson unit's leases. But the justice also ordered the

department to hold another hearing on how the state should handle Point Thomson leases, giving Exxon Mobil another opportunity to hold onto its acreage. Point Thomson, on the eastern North Slope, holds 8 to 9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and hundreds of millions of barrels of liquids, both crude oil and natural gas liquids. It has never produced oil or gas, however, even though some leases in the now-dissolved unit date back to the 1960s.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071228/bs_nm/energy_alaska_exxon_dc;_ylt=AsLayon1xxu8OXRJEFKRXXRwWIr0F

2. *December 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Power mostly restored in S. California.** Power has been restored to all but several hundred Southern California residents who lost electricity when strong winds knocked down power lines and blew blinding dust across desert roadways. About 400 customers of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power were without electricity late Thursday. A spokeswoman said crews had restored power to more than 20,000 customers since Wednesday night. Winds blew at 20-35 mph in many areas Thursday morning, with gusts possibly as high as 65 mph in deserts, mountains, and canyons. The winds subsided by the afternoon.

Source: <http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/ap/nation/5407984.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *December 27, Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Train derails in Bond, spills chemical.** A train carrying a chemical used in fertilizer derailed and spilled its load about 17 miles north of Wolcott in a remote part of Eagle County, Colorado. Quicklime was spilled onto the ground and onto ice covering the Colorado River at about 6 a.m. Monday, the Eagle County Sheriff's Office said. When mixed with water, quicklime turns to a vapor that can irritate skin and eyes. There were no reports of injuries and the spill will not harm the water supply, said a spokeswoman for the Sheriff's Office. Hazardous materials workers were removing the quicklime and sheriff's deputies were there to make sure no one got near the spill.

Source: <http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20071227/NEWS/100053648/-1/rss02>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *December 27, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (New York) **NRC to continue enhanced oversight of Indian Point in 2008.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will continue to conduct additional inspections at the Indian Point nuclear power plant throughout 2008 to ensure issues associated with on-site groundwater contamination and the facility's new siren system are being properly addressed. Entergy Nuclear operates Indian Point, which is located in Buchanan (Westchester County), New York. Overall, the NRC considers Entergy's operation of Indian Point to be acceptable, with both operating units currently in the category of oversight that would typically result in a

baseline, or routine, level of inspections. However, the NRC Region I Administrator, in a request to the agency's Executive Director for Operations, wrote that ongoing issues involving groundwater contamination at the site and the performance of the new Alert and Notification System (ANS) present "unique challenges" to the NRC's regulatory oversight of the plant.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2007/07-070.i.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *December 28, Washington Business Journal* – (National) **SGIS wins contract worth up to \$1B.** SGIS has won a contract worth up to \$1 billion as a subcontractor under SRA International to do intelligence analysis for defense agencies. San Diego-based SGIS said the contract is for five years. SGIS said it will assign contractors, including intelligence analysts, operations research analysts, security analysts, and scientific analysts to work in the U.S. and internationally for the military including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force as well as Combatant Commands.
Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/071228/1569730.html?.v=1>

6. *December 28, Mass High Tech* – (National) **Marines give Kollsman \$26.5M for laser imagers.** Kollsman Inc. has won a \$26.5 million U.S. Marine Corps contract for laser imagers, reports the U.S. Department of Defense. The new delivery order under an existing contract calls for Kollsman to provide 503 Laser Spot Imager with Protective Optic Covers, along with appropriate cables, batteries, cases, manuals, and training materials. Laser spot imagers are used to identify a laser spot that has been placed on a target as a guidance aid, and allows the spot to be seen in day or night and in adverse weather. Work on the new delivery order is expected to be completed by May 2010.
Source:
http://www.bizjournals.com/masshightech/stories/2007/12/24/daily19.html?ana=from_rss

7. *December 27, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. watchdog faults Air Force on Boeing contract.** The U.S. Government Accountability Office on Thursday faulted the Air Force again for its handling of a contract with Boeing Co., upholding in part a protest by rival Pemco Aviation Group Inc. At issue is a potential \$1.2 billion contract for depot maintenance of KC-135 mid-air refueling aircraft awarded to Boeing over Pemco on September 10. Pemco, based in Birmingham, Alabama, said it was "extremely pleased" by the GAO ruling. The company maintains and modifies aircraft for the U.S. government and other customers. It also develops and manufactures rocket vehicles and control systems. The GAO decision was the latest setback of an Air Force deal with Boeing, scarred by a corruption scandal that landed two company officials in prison in 2005. The service is likely to undergo more scrutiny as it awards a contract for 179 refueling tankers worth about \$40 billion, described by the Air Force Secretary as his top acquisition priority. Boeing is competing against a team made up of Northrop Grumman and Airbus parent EADS for the contract, due to be awarded no sooner than late February. Recent GAO rulings have upheld protests from other bidders and

prompted the Air Force to rerun a contest for a potential \$15 billion combat rescue helicopter fleet that was originally given to Boeing. Pemco claimed the Air Force's evaluation of the KC-135 deal was flawed in several ways, including its tally of the rivals' past performance, mission capability, and cost and price data.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/27/AR2007122701543.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *December 27, CBS 2 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Wendy's worker charged in credit card scam.** A woman who worked at a suburban Illinois Wendy's fast food restaurant has been charged in a credit card scam and now faces seven counts of identity theft. A spokesman for the Plainfield Police Department says it was a "sophisticated theft operation the likes of which he's never seen in his 17 years on the force." The woman kept a credit card reader in her pocket and swiped customer credit cards through it so that she could hook the reader up to her laptop and create fake credit cards. Credit card readers are "available on the Internet for less than \$100 in many cases." Police say the woman would take orders and swipe cards through the restaurant's credit card reader. Then she would swipe it through her own credit card reader. The woman has admitted to swiping and stealing the numbers of between 40 and 50 Wendy's customers.

Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/westsuburbanbureau/wendys.credit.card.2.619062.html>

9. *December 27, WFSA 12 Montgomery* – (Alabama; Louisiana; Mississippi) **New tax scam targeting Alabamians.** The Internal Revenue Service is warning Alabama taxpayers about reports of yet another tax scheme in the state. The newly reported scheme appears to target the elderly and is related to the Telephone Excise Tax Refund, which most individuals were allowed to request on their 2006 tax returns. About ten days ago, the IRS alerted taxpayers in Louisiana and Mississippi of the same scheme, in which unscrupulous tax-return preparers are advising their clients to file tax returns requesting much more in Telephone Excise Refunds than they are entitled to. The problem with erroneous filings has been on the increase as other well-meaning individuals have perpetuated the problem by passing on this bad advice to friends and neighbors. Some of the erroneous refund requests appear to be for the entire amount of the phone bill, rather than just the three-percent tax charged on long-distance services. The IRS reminds tax filers that, while the IRS aggressively pursues dishonest tax preparers, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for making sure that the information on the tax return is complete and correct. Taxpayers who request more of a refund than they are entitled to receive will likely have their refunds held and they may be subject to an audit.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=7548715&nav=0RdE>

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Transportation Sector

10. *December 28, Bloomberg News* – (National) **Mexican trucks remain in U.S.** Mexican trucks may continue to operate widely in the U.S., under President George W. Bush’s interpretation of a new transportation spending law. The Bush administration contends the law allows as many as 100 companies to go beyond a 25-mile zone inside the U.S. border in a test program opposed by Congress and organized labor. Members of Congress and labor unions including the Teamsters have been fighting efforts to open U.S. highways to Mexican trucks since the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, citing potential job losses and safety hazards. NAFTA required the U.S., Mexico and Canada to open their roads to trucks from all three countries. Canadian trucks have had full access to U.S. roads, while Mexican trucks have been forced to offload goods to U.S. truckers in the border zone. U.S. companies face similar limits in Mexico. In February, the Bush administration and Mexican officials agreed to allow as many as 100 companies on either side of the border to exceed the zone under a one-year test. Ten companies and 55 trucks from Mexico gained wider access to the U.S., while four companies and 41 trucks from the U.S. won expanded entry into Mexico, according to the motor carrier safety agency.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-fri_trucksdec28,0,1914436.story
11. *December 28, Jamaica Gleaner* – (National) **Congress postpones passport requirement.** Congress has passed a Federal budget that pushes back by a year passport requirements for Americans on the borders of Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. A provision of the major end-of-year budget bill pushes back the plan by the Department of Homeland Security that required passports from border crossers from Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean as a way of strengthening national security. The State Department and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have also reminded American travelers that, as of January 31, 2008, all adult travelers will be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and proof of identity, such as a driver’s license, when entering the United States through land and seaports. Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers may accept oral declarations of citizenship from U.S. and Canadian citizens seeking entry into the United States through a land or sea border. However, the departments warned that, as of January 31, 2008, “oral declarations of citizenship alone will no longer be accepted.”
Source: <http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20071228/lead/lead5.html>
12. *December 28, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **FAA says Provo must raise \$2M to match for radar funding.** The manager of Provo Municipal Airport says the airport needs a radar system to track aircraft around Utah Valley. Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration have agreed to the city’s requests but are requiring Provo to find about \$2 million to pay for the local share of the project that could cost as much as \$5 million. The airport manager says there is a need for a permanent radar system “because the airport is getting busier. It is home of Utah Valley State College’s aviation program and has served as a diversion point for Salt Lake City International Airport. The airport averages 175,000 flight operations a year and can accommodate commercial airliners.” “Any aircraft below 8,500 feet cannot be detected on the Salt Lake City-based radar, creating problems for lower-level air operations in Provo,” the manager said.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_7827177

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

13. *December 28, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Two people die after drinking tainted milk.** State health officials warned consumers not to drink milk products from Whittier Farms, a central Massachusetts dairy, after the deaths of two elderly men who consumed products contaminated with listeria bacteria. The dairy has suspended operations and distribution until a source of contamination is identified, said the state director of communicable disease control. The Department of Public Health identified a total of four cases of listeriosis during the past six months. Two of the victims, a 78-year-old man and a 75-year-old man, died from the infection in Worcester County in June and October. The state director of communicable disease control said DNA fingerprinting showed that the bacteria causing the infections came from a common source. Samples collected showed product contamination. The bulk of the firm's distribution is home delivery to customers in the greater Worcester-area. Whittier Farms' milk products are sold under several brand names, including Whittier, Schultz, Balance Rock, Spring Brook, and Maple, state health officials said.
Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/health/14933557/detail.html>
14. *December 28, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. issues alert for stolen beef due to possible E. coli.** U.S. regulators have issued a public health alert for about 14,800 pounds of missing ground beef products that may be contaminated with the potentially deadly E. coli bacteria, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said on Thursday. The alert came after a trailer containing the ground beef was reported stolen by Texas American Food Service Corporation, the USDA said in a statement. The firm, based in Fort Worth, Texas, does business as American Fresh Foods. The alert covers ground beef products packaged for consumer use carrying the establishment number "EST. 13116" on the package labels. Bulk products carry labels bearing the establishment number "EST. 13116." The ground beef was produced on December 19.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN2844104720071228?rpc=401&feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews&rpc=401>

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Water Sector

15. *December 27, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Low lake means 11 cities in Texas to get less water.** West Texas officials are cutting the 2008 water allotments to 11 cities because Lake Meredith is dangerously low. The record-low lake level at one of the

region's major water sources was brought on by brutal drought conditions in two of the past three years as well as an invasive plant sucking up water. And the shortage is forcing cities to look at other options. The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority provides water from the Panhandle lake as well as groundwater wells in Roberts County. For the third straight year, the cities will get 5,000 fewer acre feet of water, down to 80,000 acre feet. One acre foot equals about 325,800 gallons. Cutbacks have come because of drought conditions in 2005 and 2006. Authority officials also point to water being sucked from the lake by salt cedar trees, an ornamental yet invasive plant brought to the U.S. decades ago to help diminish wind erosion.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5407851.html>

16. *December 26, WSOC 9 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Durham lost 600 million gallons of water to leaks, other problems.** Durham officials can not account for nearly 600 million gallons of water -- enough to supply residents for nearly a month -- pumped to customers in June, July, August, and September. The water lost to leaks and other problems was about 14 percent of all water shipped from the city's treatment plants during the state's dry summer, according to data provided by the city to The Herald-Sun of Durham. If the city had lost just that 10 percent of its water to leaks, it would have an extra eight days of water on hand. Durham's latest estimate said the city's water supply stands at 128 days.

Source: <http://www.wsoc9.com/news/14924741/detail.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

17. *December 28, Reuters* – (International) **WHO confirms human-to-human bird flu case.** The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on Thursday a single case of human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 bird flu virus in a family in Pakistan, but said there was no apparent risk of it spreading wider. A statement from the U.N. agency said tests in its special laboratories in Cairo and London had established the "human infection" through presence of the virus "collected from one case in an affected family." The WHO team invited to Pakistan to look into an outbreak involving up to nine people, from late October to December 6 found no evidence of sustained or community human-to-human transmission. The outbreak followed a culling of infected chickens in the Peshawar region, in which a veterinary doctor was involved. Subsequently he and three of his brothers developed proven or suspected pneumonia. The brothers cared for one another and had close personal contact both at home and in the hospital, a WHO spokesman in Geneva said. One of them, who was not involved in the culling, died on November 23. "All the evidence suggests that the outbreak within this family does not pose a broader risk," the WHO spokesman told Reuters. "But there is already heightened surveillance and there is a need for ongoing vigilance."

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22410007/>

18. *December 27, KTVU 2 San Francisco and Associated Press* – (California) **TB patient's trip to Bay Area causes alarm.** In California, a Santa Clara County woman was hospitalized in isolation after becoming infected with a dangerous strain of tuberculosis

and then taking a plane flight to return to the Bay Area. Health officials said the 30-year-old woman was being treated for a form of TB at Stanford Hospital that is considered a public health problem because it is difficult to treat and has a higher mortality rate than conventional TB. The woman was overseas when she flew back to the United States earlier this month. Santa Clara County's public health officer did not know how the woman could have ended up on an international flight given she was diagnosed with TB while overseas and told her strain was probably resistant to multiple drugs. Health officials also contacted the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which will contact and do a follow-up investigation with passengers on the woman's flight. Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/14930942/detail.html>

Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

19. *December 27, Washington Technology* – (National) **Governors: Only half of states use DHS info-sharing networks.** Only 52 percent of the states' homeland security directors regularly participated in information-sharing networks run by the Homeland Security Department in 2007, according to a new survey. The other 48 percent said they had little participation in the Homeland Security Information Network, the DHS alert system, and the Disaster Management Information System, according to a report published by the National Governors Association December 18. The annual survey queries state homeland security directors, who are typically appointed by governors. States were generally critical of DHS' information-sharing initiatives in 2007, according to the report. The department's inspector general has noted the low participation in HSIN and other networks and criticized the lack of input from state and local officials in their design. On the other hand, state officials reported higher levels of satisfaction with federal participation in the states' intelligence fusion centers. More than half -- 56 percent -- said they were satisfied with the timeliness of the intelligence they are receiving, 47 percent said they were satisfied with the specificity of the intelligence, and 50 percent said they were satisfied that the intelligence was detailed enough to be acted on, according to the report. However, two-thirds of the state directors said they would be unable to continue funding the fusion centers without federal aid. Furthermore, under current DHS rules, states can only use federal grants to pay intelligence analysts' salaries for two years. Therefore, states must replace and retrain their analysts every two years, the report said. The survey also covered topics such as the status of state governments' homeland security structures, state and local coordination, and critical infrastructure protection.

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/online/1_1/32016-1.html

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Information Technology

20. *December 28, Security Products Online* – (National) **ITRC reports on ID theft in ‘07, predictions for ‘08.** At the end of each year, the Identity Theft Resource Center reviews identity theft trends and patterns throughout the year. It examines the new directions this crime appears to be taking. The basis of this information includes: victims and their experiences, ITRC’s expertise, and data from law enforcement on the ways criminals are stealing and using personal identifying information and financial records. Among the issues the ITRC found in reviewing 2007: check schemes are increasing as credit issuers make it more difficult to get credit without authentication, identity thieves continue to exploit Web sites that promote online auctions and want ads, job hunting, dating and social networking to find victims, and the failure to believe someone could steal your identity generates apathy, therefore, individuals fail to take proactive steps to minimize risk. The ITRC also predicted that in 2008 identity theft will continue to grow more international in scope. Scams will become more sophisticated and will be harder to detect, as thieves become more industrious and skilled at designing viruses, Trojans, and ways to trick you into divulging personal identifying information. On the positive side, ITRC believes that businesses will develop and implement better ways to authenticate the identity of applicants including Internet and telephone applications, and that there will be a higher recognition of identity theft as a crime by law enforcement.
Source: <http://www.secprodonline.com/articles/57005/>
21. *December 27, SC Magazine U.S.* – (National) **NIST may urge federal agencies to conduct penetration attacks.** In the final draft of its upcoming security guidelines for protecting federal information systems, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is recommending that federal agencies conduct regular penetration tests to determine whether their networks can be breached. The NIST draft guidelines, which will be published next March, suggest that federal agencies “should consider adding controlled penetration testing to their arsenal of tools and techniques used to assess the security controls” in their information systems. NIST recommends that government agencies train selected personnel in penetration testing tools and techniques, which should be updated on a regular basis to address newly-discovered exploitable vulnerabilities. The guidelines also express a preference for the use of automated penetration tools and say that special consideration should be given to penetration tests on newly developed information systems before it is authorized for operation, on any legacy system undergoing a major upgrade, or “when a new type of attack is discovered that may impact the system,” according to the draft of the NIST guidelines. The guidelines, which will be finalized at the end of January and published in March 2008 as the Guide for Assessing Security Controls in Federal Information Systems, detail comprehensive security control assessment procedures federal agencies should follow to protect their information systems. The draft was produced at the Computer Security Division of NIST’s Information Technology Laboratory.
Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/NIST-may-urge-federal-agencies-to-conduct-penetration-attacks/article/100210/>
22. *December 27, San Jose Mercury News* – (National) **Experts fail government on**

cybersecurity. Since the outbreak of a cybercrime epidemic that has cost the American economy billions of dollars, the federal government has failed to respond with enough resources, attention, and determination to combat the cyberthreat, a San Jose Mercury News investigation reveals. “The U.S. government has not devoted the leadership and energy that this issue needs,” said a former administration homeland and cybersecurity adviser. Even as the White House asked in November for \$154 million toward a new cybersecurity initiative expected to reach billions of dollars over the next several years, security experts complain the administration remains too focused on the risks of online espionage and information warfare, overlooking international criminals who are stealing a fortune through the Internet. The difficulties are systemic and widespread, and include limited resources, fractured responsibility, and an unfamiliar threat.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/business/12844007.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

23. *December 27, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Tunnels ready for cellphones.**

Passengers riding the T in tunnels underneath downtown Boston will now be able to chat on their cellphones, text-message their friends, or use hand-held devices to e-mail their bosses from platforms and underground tunnels in and around four of the MBTA’s busiest stations. Yesterday, AT&T became the third cellphone provider to offer a signal underground. T-Mobile and Verizon both connected their networks earlier this month, but without any announcement from the T, many customers were not aware they could use their phones. The service is currently being offered in Downtown Crossing, Government Center, State, and Park Street stations, and all the tunnels in between. Expansion to other stations and tunnels is expected as cellphone service providers see demand and are willing to pay for the connection. The nation’s subways have been slow to introduce cellphone service, in large part because carriers have not wanted to spend the money to wire tunnels. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has tried to get cellphone service into the system for most of this decade; an earlier deal fell through when companies balked at the high cost of wiring the entire T.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/12/27/i_m_on_the_t_tunnels_ready_for_cellphones/

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Commercial Facilities Sector

24. *December 28, Times Tribune* – (Pennsylvania) **Bomb squad detonates military anti-tank mine.** In Pennsylvania, Scranton’s bomb unit was called to a West Scranton storage-unit business Thursday after the discovery of what was identified as a military-issue anti-tank mine on the ground in front of a commercial trash bin. A technician later removed and detonated the device. Officers blocked off Seventh Avenue, while waiting for the police Hazardous Device Unit to arrive. The street reopened about 2:15 p.m.
Source: http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19151134&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept_id=415898&rfi=6
25. *December 27, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Southwest Idaho plant evacuated after ammonia leak.** An ammonia leak forced the evacuation of about 90 workers at a food processing plant in the southwest Idaho town of Wilder on Thursday morning and sent at least 18 to area hospitals. Officials at CTI-SSI Food Service said an employee accidentally turned on the wrong valve releasing liquid ammonia into the attic of the plant. Emergency responders said workers suffered nausea, headaches, and stinging eyes. A spokesman for West Valley Medical Center said there are no serious injuries.
Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/531/story/248871.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

26. *December 27, Billings Gazette*– (Wyoming) **Species, visitor effects still key issues at park.** On Wednesday, Yellowstone officials released a nine-page draft report intended to address key areas of concern identified by the U.N. World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Committee in 1995 placed Yellowstone on an international “in danger” list. The chief threat at that time was the New World Mine, proposed just outside Yellowstone near Cooke City. In 1996, the federal government bought out the interest of Crown Butte Mines, essentially eliminating the chance that the mine would reopen. Since then, much of the land has been the subject of an intensive cleanup and reclamation project. With that issue being dealt with, the World Heritage Committee lifted Yellowstone’s “in danger” designation in 2003. Committee members, though, said other significant threats to Yellowstone remained. For the first time in removing a site from the danger list, the committee required the United States to report back on progress with issues at Yellowstone. Specifically, they wanted updates on threats to bison, threats to Yellowstone cutthroat trout, roads, water quality, and visitor issues, including the controversy over snowmobiling in the park.
Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/12/27/news/state/22-unpark.txt>
27. *December 27, Casper Star-Tribune*– (Wyoming) **Group opposes Bighorn grazing.** A conservation group claims the U.S. Forest Service failed to consider all of the effects of livestock grazing in its adoption of a management plan for the 1.1 million-acre Bighorn National Forest, according to a petition filed last week in federal court in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The Boise, Idaho-based Western Watersheds Project also wants the Wyoming U.S. District Court to review the Forest Service’s implementation of the management plans for 32,000 acres of grazing allotments in Piney Creek, Little Piney,

and Willow Park, according to the petition for review of the agency's action. The Western Watersheds Project filed the petition asking the federal court to reverse and set aside the Bighorn forest plan and the Piney Creek Allotment decision notice, claiming the Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act. Environmental organizations have protested other aspects of the forest plan, including the amount of logging allowed and roadless protection. The district ranger for the Tongue River District of the Bighorn National Forest wrote that allowing grazing in those allotments will not hurt conditions of rangeland vegetation and the watershed, nor will it hurt water quality, soils, public health or wildlife habitat. It also complies with the National Forest Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/12/27/news/wyoming/20-grazing.txt>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report.

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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