



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 January 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- WBOY 12 Clarksburg reports that Monongalia County, West Virginia emergency crews were on the scene of an explosion at Mylan Pharmaceuticals for several hours Thursday morning. (See item [23](#))
- According to Reuters, one suspect was arrested on Wednesday after the federal building in Oklahoma City was evacuated because of a bomb threat. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

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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. *January 22, Seeking Alpha* – (Northeast) **EnerNoc branches out in New England to regulate power consumption.** EnerNoc (ENOC), one of the largest demand response companies in the United States, on Wednesday announced that the city of Boston has joined its network of power providers. Under the deal, the city will allow EnerNoc to regulate power consumption at public buildings like police headquarters and the public library. The company's growth in the region, however, now arguably makes it something of a regional utility. It also has deals with the states of Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. In all, it ended 2008 with more than 750 megawatts in the New England area under its management. The Boston deal will add to that total. EnerNoc recently estimated that it managed around 2 to 2.2 gigawatts nationwide, or about the size of two good-sized nuclear power plants, at the end of 2008. It started 2008 with 1.1

gigawatts under its control. Thus, it doubled the power it manages in 2008 or, put another way, added the equivalent of a nuclear power plant to its portfolio. More deals in the region could be likely. Connecticut, for instance, now recognizes demand response servicers as a class of renewable energy.

Source: <http://seekingalpha.com/article/115906-enernoc-branches-out-in-new-england-to-regulate-power-consumption>

2. *January 21, University of Delaware* – (Delaware) **City of Newark first in nation using cars to power grid.** This month, the City of Newark, Delaware became the first electric utility in the United States to use a car to store and provide power for the local electric grid. The vehicle, which runs on electricity alone, is specifically designed to store energy and improve grid reliability. University of Delaware (UD) researchers helped develop the concept, called Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G). With the City of Newark's approval, the UD team is now conducting V2G testing at two outlets within the City's service territory. A UD associate professor of marine policy plugs his car in at his Newark home, and while it sits, he says, it stores enough energy to power seven to eight homes on his block for approximately 30 minutes. His team plans to have a fleet of six vehicles by the end of 2009, two at UD and four operated by the State of Delaware. The test fleet will be used to demonstrate multiple V2G vehicles working together and supplying energy as a single power plant. The City of Newark's approval paves the way for larger-scale adoption of V2G electric vehicles nationwide, helping to advance the nation's electric grid infrastructure and reduce oil consumption. The City of Newark is responsible for ensuring the energy source will not feed power back to the grid when power lines are down. This approval process for V2G electric vehicles is similar to the process used to certify solar photovoltaic systems. It is critical to maintaining the safety of line workers during a power outage.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-01/uod-con012109.php

3. *January 21, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Henry Hub natgas operator declares force majeure.** The operator of the Henry Hub, the benchmark trading point for U.S. NYMEX natural gas futures, said Wednesday it declared force majeure due to a compressor outage its north booster station. For the duration of the force majeure, compression capabilities will be reduced by 20 percent, Sabine Pipe Line LLC said in a Web site posting. Repairs were expected to be completed within 24 hours and the company did not expect firm transportation services to be affected.
4. *January 21, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Williams Partners offshore Discovery gas line back.** Williams Partners LP said on January 21 that the 30-inch mainline of the Discovery offshore Louisiana natural gas gathering system was repaired and back in service following damage sustained in September from Hurricane Ike. In a statement the company said Discovery's 18-inch lateral was severed from its connection to the 30-inch mainline in 250 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico. The system had not been accepting gas from producers since being shut in prior to Ike. The 30-inch mainline was delivering 150 million cubic feet per day of production, its approximate volume prior to the hurricane. The damaged 18-inch lateral remained offline while repairs continued,

shutting in approximately 30 mmcf per day of production. It is expected back in service by mid-February, the company said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2147306720090121>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *January 21, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Ind. 11 shut down during cleanup of acid spill.** Police shut down part of Indiana 11 in southern Indiana for seven hours after a truck spilled 175 gallons of hydrochloric acid. No injuries were reported and nearby residents were not evacuated. The Heth Township Volunteer Fire Department assistant chief says a strap holding a container snapped and it tumbled off a flatbed truck and broke open as the vehicle went through an S-curve near Mauckport about 9 a.m. on January 21. The acid's fumes are hazardous, but the assistant chief said much of the acid froze due to below-freezing temperatures and water in the acid mixture. Authorities shut down about a mile of the road during the cleanup by teams from Louisville, Kentucky, Metro Fire Department, Evergreen Environmental Inc. and Magnum Solvent Inc. of Kalkaska, Michigan, which had been delivering the chemical to a natural gas well.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-acidspill,0,6337428.story>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *January 21, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **17 safety problems found at Indian Pt.** Federal regulators want Indian Point to address 17 safety issues before considering whether the plant's two nuclear reactors can operate for an extra 20 years. Entergy Nuclear, the owner of Indian Point, has applied to generate electricity through 2035, and is now going through a three-year review to determine how an extension will affect the environment and overall plant safety. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff are scrutinizing the underground radioactive water leaks at the Buchanan site, and examining the wear and tear inside the concrete containment buildings that cover the huge reactors. Company officials say they believe the radioactive water leak is already stopped and are using a well-monitoring system to verify that. They say the containment building concrete is being maintained properly and remains well within safety margins. A final safety report is expected in late July. The next step in the relicensing process is a public meeting on environmental issues, to be held February 12 in Westchester County.
Source: <http://lohud.com/article/2008901220424>
7. *January 22, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **Work progresses at Vermont Yankee.** Contractors worked on January 21 to seal a leak through a valve gasket and cleared ice from a ventilation system on a back-up generator at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. The plant has been running at 100 percent power for 73 days since its recent refueling, a spokesman said. The previously reported leak was in a 4-inch reactor water cleanup pipe, he said. The ice buildup was cleared and avoided a

potential regulatory issue, he said. He also said work is nearly finished on additional warning sirens at the plant.

Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20090122/NEWS02/90122010>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *January 21, Nextgov* – (National) **Air Force scales back ambitious satellite system, delays first launch.** The Air Force announced on January 16 that it had dramatically scaled back an ambitious satellite system that would give the military the ability to transmit larger amounts of surveillance and intelligence information to soldiers on the battlefield more quickly. The \$16 billion Transformational Communication Satellite system is not dead, the undersecretary of the Air Force for space programs, told reporters in a conference call last week. To make it more affordable, the Air Force dropped some capabilities, such as the requirement the system include Ka-band satellite transponders that can transmit high-speed data to terminals with an antenna about 1.5 feet in diameter. The Air Force also dropped plans for laser cross-links that would have allowed satellites to communicate with each other and with unmanned aerial vehicles, the undersecretary said. The laser cross-links and Ka-band transponders will be added back to future satellites. Despite the cutbacks, TSAT still will be able to transmit data at 5 gigabits per second, or roughly double the throughput of Wideband Global SATCOM system. The Army needs a broadband satellite system to provide the links for the 14 manned and unmanned battlefield platforms it plans to deploy in its \$160 billion Future Combat Systems program.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20090121_2390.php

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *January 21, WSAV 3 Savannah* – (Georgia) **Warning against text message scam.** The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is warning all citizens to be aware of a potential scam that could be used to steal important financial information. A complainant reported to Sheriff's deputies on January 20 that he had received a text message on his cell phone from an unknown sender. The message stated: "This is an automated message from Health Facilities FCU. Your ATM card has been suspended. To reactivate, call urgent at 877-526-9331." The complainant contacted the provided phone number, where he was prompted to enter his account number, pin number, and expiration date. The complainant did not enter the requested information, as he was suspicious of it being a scam.

Source:

http://www.wsav.com/sav/news/local/article/warning_against_text_message_scam/8656/

10. *January 21, Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel* – (Texas) **Local text message scam targets debit card owners.** Individuals across the State of Texas began receiving unauthorized

text messages and e-mails on January 20 from an anonymous source, according to a spokesman for Commercial Bank of Texas. Commercial Bank of Texas in Nacogdoches began receiving phone calls on January 20 from the targeted individuals, some of whom had called the phone number within the text message. The CBTx security department was notified, and an investigation began. The origin of the texts and e-mails was unknown; however, the messages did not come from Commercial Bank of Texas, according to bank officials. The Nacogdoches Police Department and the FBI have been alerted and are conducting an investigation.

Source:

http://www.dailysentinel.com/news/content/news/stories/2009/01/21/xx_copy_debit_card_scam_0122.html?imw=Y

11. *January 21, Bloomberg* – (Florida; Texas) **Hedge fund run by ex-car salesman is scam, SEC says.** U.S. regulators sued a used-car salesman from West Texas for touting a \$45 million hedge fund that they said was actually a Ponzi scheme. The defendant misappropriated millions of dollars from investors since 2001, the Securities and Exchange Commission said in a federal lawsuit filed in Lubbock, Texas. The man said he generated annual profits as high as 61 percent, according to the suit. “The defendant’s claims regarding the hedge fund and the high rates of return are completely bogus,” the regulator said in the suit. Besides running the fund, the agency said the 43-year-old worked as a bail bondsman, a tow-truck driver and a crop-dusting pilot. The SEC on January 21 also sued a Florida hedge-fund adviser claiming he overstated investments by \$300 million. Less than \$1 million in assets remain after the defendant went missing last week, the SEC said in a federal lawsuit filed in Tampa, Florida.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a19JJSPLP2A5M&refer=home>

See also: <http://www.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2009/01/19/daily31.html>

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Transportation Sector

12. *January 22, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Police: Helicopter crashes in Southern NC.** A helicopter crashed Thursday in a field in southern North Carolina, jarring nearby residents who heard an explosion. A Monroe police information clerk said crews were responding to the crash on the western side of town but had no more information including if there were casualties. A resident said she heard an explosion that jarred her home shortly before 11 a.m. She said she went outside and saw a large cloud of smoke coming from the field across the street. Her husband called 911. Television footage from WSOC-TV in Charlotte showed the mangled helicopter on its side as emergency crews assessed the scene in the community about 20 miles southeast of Charlotte. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said she did not have any information about the crash she could release.

Source: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20090122/helicopter-crash/>

13. *January 21, Associated Press* – (New York) **Possible bird remains found in downed**

jet's engine. Investigators say they have found the remains of what may be a bird in the engine of the US Airways jet that made a dramatic landing in New York's Hudson River. The National Transportation Safety Board said an examination of the Airbus 320's right engine Wednesday revealed evidence of "soft body damage" and that "organic material" was found in the engine and on the wings and fuselage. Samples of the material have gone to the Agriculture Department for a complete DNA analysis, the board said. A single feather was found attached to a flap track on the wing and will be examined by experts at the Smithsonian Institution. The board also reported Wednesday that divers located the airliner's left engine in about 50 feet of water near the area of the river where the aircraft ditched. The board predicted the engine would be recovered Thursday.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090121/ap_on_re_us/plane_splashdown

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *January 22, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) **Suspicious package raises hairs at state mailroom.** A package delivered to an Idaho legislator caused a bomb scare at the state office mailroom Wednesday in Boise. The mailroom, a parking garage, and nearby offices were evacuated while police investigated. Police were alerted to the suspicious package at about 10:55 a.m. in the mailroom under the state parking garage. The Boise Bomb Squad was dispatched to assist Idaho State Police, according to an Idaho State Police spokesman. The state police official said that an X-ray appeared to show an aerosol can with curly wires coming out of it and a circuit board. When police contacted the state senator who had been targeted, he told them he was expecting a package. He described the contents, which matched what police saw on the X-ray. The Idaho State Police official was not sure what the package contained, but he said it sounded like it could have been hair-care products.
Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/1306/story/641891.html>
15. *January 22, Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Mailing of suspicious substance to Rockland town hall leads to evacuation.** A probable hoax involving a suspicious substance mailed to the Rockland selectmen's office forced the evacuation of the town hall and resulted in the town administrator leaving in a protective suit. The town administrator said six envelopes containing a lumpy substance were mailed to the town hall, addressed to each of the five selectmen and himself. Initial indications were that the substance was not hazardous, but a sample was sent out for testing, the local fire chief said Wednesday night. "I think they've made a determination that it's not a hazardous substance or they wouldn't be opening town hall tomorrow," the town administrator said. The police and fire departments were called at about 10:55 a.m. Wednesday. The caller said people at town hall were ill, but when police officers and firefighters arrived, they found nobody ill.
Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/homepage/x799538735/Mailing-of-suspicious-substance-to-Rockland-Town-Hall-leads-to-evacuation>
16. *January 21, Boston Herald* – (Massachusetts) **Card containing powder sent to**

Dershowitz office. A letter containing a thank you card and powder was sent to the office of a Harvard Law School faculty member on Wednesday, prompting an evacuation. Cambridge firefighters responded to 520 Hauser Hall at Harvard at about 11:30 a.m. Wednesday after the professor's assistant opened an envelope, addressed to the professor, which contained an unknown powder. The Cambridge Fire Chief of Operations said he was not aware that anything was written on the card, which he described as a thank you card. The powder was tested and determined to be harmless, the fire official said, but it was sent to a state lab for further testing.

Source:

http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/2009_01_21_Hazmat_incident_forces_Rockland_Town_Hall_evacuation/srvc=home&position=recent

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *January 21, New Scientist* – (International) **U.S. prepares to block influx of GM food.**

After a decade of exporting its genetically modified crops all over the world, the United States is preparing to block foreign GM foods from entering the country — if they are deemed to threaten its agriculture, environment or citizens' health, that is. The warning was given to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which polices agricultural imports, by its own auditor, the Office of Inspector General (OIG): “Unless international developments in transgenic plants and animals are closely monitored, USDA could be unaware of potential threats that particular new transgenic plants or animals might pose to the nation's food supply.” The OIG expects the number of GM crops and traits, and the number of countries producing them, to double by 2015, raising the risks of imports of GM crops unknown to the USDA. The report urges the USDA to strengthen its links with countries where research is exploding, such as China, India and Brazil. China, for example, is ready to launch the world's first commercial GM rice, but it has yet to be approved by the USDA. Problems will arise, says the OIG, when new GM products enter the United States undeclared — the USDA would be unprepared to test or even identify them.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20126923.300-us-prepares-to-block-influx-of-gm-food.html>

18. *January 21, Finding Dulcinea* – (International) **U.S. beekeepers fear influx of Australian bees.** Beekeepers say that American bees, already disappearing at a rapid rate, might suffer from competition and foreign diseases brought by their Aussie counterparts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has decided to continue imports of Australian bees, which had been stopped by the Australian government six weeks ago. The Australian bees are being used to replace American bees decimated by Colony Collapse Disorder, a mysterious disease that has ravaged bee colonies across America. But some scientists say that the foreign bees could introduce a dangerous new parasite previously unknown to the continent. “We have got enough problems with our own bee diseases that we do not know how to treat, and they open the border to a whole new species that could carry God knows what,” said North Dakota beekeeper, also a vice president of the American Honey Producers Association, to the Associated Press.

According to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australian bees produced in north Queensland, which has suffered from an infestation of the Asian Honey Bee for the past few years, will still be banned.

Source: <http://www.findingdulcinea.com/news/environment/2009/jan/US-Beekeepers-Fear-Influx-of-Australian-Bees-.html>

19. *January 21, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **NutriSystem announces nationwide voluntary recall of peanut butter granola bar due to possible Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) contamination and potential health risk.**

NutriSystem Inc., a leading provider of weight management products and services, on January 21 announced a voluntary recall of its NutriSystem-branded Peanut Butter Granola Bar 1.41 ounces or 40 grams packaged in flexible film because the product contains peanut butter which was manufactured by Peanut Corporation of America (PCA), which is the focus of an ongoing Salmonella investigation by the United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA). Blanton's Candies of Sweetwater, Tennessee is also recalling approximately 1,400 pounds of Blanton's Peanut Butter Sticks packaged in eight ounce cellophane bags because the peanut butter in the candy was supplied by the Peanut Corporation of America and it has the potential to be contaminated with salmonella. Additionally, Landies Candies on January 21 announced a voluntary recall of select chocolate products containing peanut butter because the products have the potential to be contaminated with salmonella.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>

20. *January 21, Reuters* – (National) **Scientists develop test for melamine in milk.** U.S. researchers have developed a quick way to test milk for the presence of melamine, an industrial chemical found last year in milk in China that killed at least six children and made thousands sick. Researchers at Purdue University in Indiana said on January 21 the method can detect tiny traces of the chemical in liquid and powdered milk in about 25 seconds. The analysis method uses a simplified version of a mass spectrometer, a tool that can be used to separate and identify molecules in compounds. The team developed the tool specifically to detect melamine. "We took it as a challenge to use simpler instrumentation and to develop a faster method that allows the testing to be done on site," said the researcher who led the team and whose findings were published in the journal Chemical Communications.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN21495243>

21. *January 20, Packer* – (California) **California sets rules to resolve bee dispute.** In an attempt to end a dispute between California's beekeepers and citrus growers, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is coming out with rules to help both industries decide where bees should be located. Exeter-based California Citrus Mutual, which represents about 2,000 citrus growers throughout the state, claims lucrative seedless clementine tangerines and mandarin oranges are being ruined by bees that cross pollinate the seedless fruit with seeded citrus varieties. The California Citrus Mutual president said seeds are present in 35 percent of the seedless crop, which means growers are either getting lower prices or having to dump their fruit altogether. There are about 28,000 acres of the seedless citrus in California, he said. CDFA plans to

release a proposal in February that would serve as a framework for dialogue and planning for citrus growers and beekeepers on where hives should be located, said the department of agriculture director of public affairs. Currently, beekeepers are required to register the location of their hives with county agricultural commissioners.

Source: [http://www.thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2009-132659-154.asp&sttype=crops\\$markets&fb](http://www.thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2009-132659-154.asp&sttype=crops$markets&fb)

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Water Sector

22. *January 22, South Coast Today* – (Massachusetts) **Wareham Fire District chlorinates water after bacteria detected.** The Wareham Fire District Water Department began voluntary chlorination of the water system Wednesday after four samples taken Tuesday tested positive for total coliform bacteria, according to a public notice. Water Department officials said they consulted the state Department of Environmental Protection before beginning the chlorination. Although many water systems use chlorine to prevent the occurrence of coliform, Wareham does not normally add chlorine to its water. The chlorination will last until further notice and does not affect residents of Onset, officials said. The presence of coliform could signal a problem with the distribution pipes or water tanks, according to the Water Department said.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090122/NEWS/901220366>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *January 22, WBOY 12 Clarksburg* – (West Virginia) **Explosion at Mylan lab sends two to hospital.** Monongalia County, West Virginia emergency crews were on the scene of an explosion at Mylan Pharmaceuticals for several hours early Thursday morning, they said. Around 12:12 a.m., an explosion in one of the processing rooms was reported, according to a press release from the Monongalia Office of Emergency Management. Two patients were transported to a nearby hospital as a precaution, the incident commander said. Investigators are trying to figure out what caused the explosion.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28788759/>

24. *January 22, USAgNet* – (International) **China issues bird flu alert after woman dies.** China issued a bird flu alert Wednesday after a woman died of the virus, the first such death in the country in almost a year, and closed poultry markets for disinfecting in a province surrounding Beijing. The 19-year-old woman died of the H5N1 virus after coming into contact with poultry in Hebei province, bringing the total death toll in China to date to 21. In Hebei's Yanjiao, where the dead woman had bought ducks, poultry markets were closed and the sale of live birds stopped as workers in masks and white coats sprayed disinfectant, reports Reuters. The World Health Organization said it appeared to be an isolated case.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=168&yr=2009>

25. *January 22, eFluxMedia* – (New York) **Firefighters confine fire at Mount Sinai Hospital.** A fire ignited Wednesday night at Mount Sinai Hospital on the Upper East Side, resulting in six firefighters getting injured and about 600 people being evacuated from the east wing to the west wing of the building. Patients on the third through 11th floors in the east wing of the 12-story hospital were moved to the west wing, as firefighters searched the building. Hours later, however, they were allowed back to their floors, a hospital spokesman said in a statement released at 10:55 p.m. The cause of the blaze is currently under investigation.

Source:

http://www.efluxmedia.com/news_Firefighters_Confine_Fire_at_Mount_Sinai_Hospital_33774.html

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *January 22, Reuters* – (Oklahoma) **Oklahoma fed building area to reopen after bomb threat.** One suspect was arrested on Wednesday after the federal building in Oklahoma City was evacuated because of a bomb threat, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said. Several city blocks had also been closed off, but local media reported that the area was to be reopened to the public late on Wednesday night. The FBI said in a statement the suspect, of Oklahoma City, entered the federal building and was told he could not proceed further without going through a security check. He then left two notes with security personnel along with the backpack he was carrying, and left the building. “The notes stated there was a bomb in the backpack and in a car parked next to the building,” the FBI said. Experts had checked the bag and car for explosives, and the local KOCO TV news reported that a car believed to belong to the suspect had been towed away late Wednesday evening.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE50K6CR20090122>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *January 22, Greenville Sun* – (South Carolina) **County OKs match for Homeland Security funding.** The Greene County Commission worked quickly through a short agenda Tuesday evening, approving a local match for a Homeland Security grant and several other budget matters. The commission voted unanimously to authorize funds for the county’s match to a federal grant for communications equipment for the 15 volunteer fire departments that serve the county outside Greenville. According to the resolution, the 80/20 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide \$342,714, and the county government will provide the \$68,542 match for county VFDs outside Greenville. The grant will fund 15 base communication stations for fire halls, 70 mobile radios for vehicles owned by the VFDs, 207 portable radios for firefighters, and 405 pagers.

Source: <http://www.greenevillesun.com/story/300830>

28. *January 21, WJZ 13 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **O’Malley wants aging Medevac fleet replaced.** After a state medical helicopter crashed, killing four people, there are now plans to replace the entire fleet. State police believe new and better equipped medevacs will help prevent fatal crashes. The governor’s newest budget proposal includes plans for up to 12 new helicopters. Forty million dollars is set aside to buy the first two new replacements in 2010. The request comes less than four months after a bad weather medevac crash in Prince George’s County claimed the lives of four people, including the pilot. The investigation raised questions about flight practices and the absence of state of the art equipment like the terrain awareness warning system.

Source: <http://wjz.com/local/medevac.2.914551.html>

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Information Technology

29. *January 21, DarkReading* – (International) **Legitimate sites carry increasing portion of malware.** According to Websense Security Labs’ newly published “State of Internet Security” report for the second half of 2008, 77 percent of Web sites that carry malicious code are legitimate sites that have been compromised. This figure rose by almost 3 percent over the first six months of the year. The number of sites carrying malicious code grew by 46 percent over the course of 2008, Websense says. Seventy percent of the top 100 sites on the Web, most of them social networking or search engine sites, either hosted malicious content or contained a masked redirect to lure unsuspecting victims from legitimate sites to malicious sites, according to the report. This figure represents a 16 percent increase over the first six months of 2008, Websense says. “The most prevalent trend was the continued use of Web 2.0 content to exploit weaknesses within the Web infrastructure to attract the greatest number of victims,” the report states. “Search engines and social networking sites were the biggest targets over the last six months, as hackers continued to get creative and leverage user-created content to compromise sites with good reputations.” And the Web is becoming attackers’ favorite vehicle for launch, the report states. In the second half of 2008, 57 percent of data-stealing attacks were conducted over the Web.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=WKY4NVJAT55K0QSNDLRSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=212901777>

30. *January 21, Computerworld* – (International) **Downadup worm now infects 1 in every 16 PCs, says Panda Security.** The computer worm responsible for the biggest attack in years has infected at least one out of every 16 PCs worldwide, a security company said on January 21, and it may have managed to compromise as many as nearly one in three. According to Panda Security, almost 6 percent of the Windows systems scanned with its antivirus technology were found to be infected with “Downadup,” a worm that began aggressive attacks just over a week ago. Panda was one of the first security firms to sound an alarm over Downadup when it raised its security threat level on January 12 as reports of attacks mounted. Using data from antivirus scans performed by its consumer-

grade security software and by a free online scanning tool that it makes available on its Web site, Panda found 111,379 PCs infected with the worm out of a pool of two million machines. “I am pretty confident in this number,” said the chief corporate evangelist at Panda Security, as he cautioned it was just a snapshot. “Conficker is still infecting high volumes of machines and is a fast-propagating worm.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9126482&intsrc=hm_list

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: <http://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

31. *January 21, Bradenton Herald* – (Florida) **Verizon service restored for 17,000 customers.** Verizon officials said on January 21 that 17,000 customers lost telephone service after a Manatee County construction contractor cut a fiber optic line January 20. Workers restored phone service for 15,000 of those customers by 9:30 p.m., and the final 2,000 got service back at 3 a.m. Wednesday morning, a Verizon spokeswoman said. She said workers had to repair 1,000 feet of fiber optic line after the contractor severed it. Verizon officials are currently conducting a study to assess how much the repairs cost the company, she said.

Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/737/story/1169262.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *January 21, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Chemical irritant temporarily closes Union Station.** Authorities say thousands of people have returned to Union Station after the station was briefly evacuated after a chemical was released. A Washington, D.C. Fire Department spokesman says a respiratory irritant was released from an automatic fire extinguisher when a fryer became overheated at the McDonald’s restaurant inside the station. He says the station was “jam-packed with people” who had to be relocated outside the station while the fire department cleared the chemical out of the air. Amtrak says the station has been bustling with many inaugural revelers heading home.

Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1806966~Chemical_irritant_temporarily_closes_Union_Station.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

33. *January 22, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **DEP to inspect coal-ash dams in W.Va.** State dam safety engineers will begin a “comprehensive review” of seldom-inspected coal-ash impoundments across West Virginia, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officials said Wednesday. The DEP Secretary announced the move a month after a similar impoundment in Tennessee broke, sending more than a billion gallons of wet coal ash pouring over homes, fields, and streams. “In light of what happened in Tennessee, we have put together a plan to review and inspect each of the fly-ash impoundments in the state,” he said. “We want to assure the public that these structures are being looked at to ensure that they meet current dam safety standards for protection of the public.” Under the plan, DEP will require dam owners to provide updated inspection reports from company engineers, including evaluations of structural stability. DEP officials said they would also require dam owners to provide “verification of any risk for reservoir break-through into operating, inactive, or abandoned underground mines.” State dam-safety inspectors haven’t examined most of the coal-ash dams in West Virginia for more than five years, according to agency records. Six of the state’s 16 coal-ash impoundments are classified by DEP as “high hazard.” DEP classifies the state’s other 10 coal-ash impoundments as “significant hazard.”
Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/200901210702>
34. *January 22, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Board wrestles with reservoirs.** For the more than 35 years since the Chestnut Hill Reservoir was closed, it has been a landmark. But since 2003, when the town hired an engineering firm to inspect both the Chestnut Hill and Pleasant Valley dams, the Brattleboro Selectboard has been wrestling with what to do with this piece of property that the town has owned since 1925. The Department of Public Works (DPW) is working up a proposal and hopes to start decommissioning the dam in the spring. “The intention is to decommission the dam to remove it as a hazard, then stabilize it and investigate alternatives for the site,” said director of Brattleboro’s Department of Public Works. Chestnut Hill is called a high-hazard dam. The options for the dam include leaving it as it is, emptying it completely and filling it in and capping it, or repairing the drainage system that keeps it from overflowing. The reservoir was disconnected from the town’s water system in the early 1970s.
Source: http://www.reformer.com/ci_11525058?source=most_emailed
35. *January 21, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Leaking delta levee causes concern.** Four and a half years after a huge levee break in the delta, the repaired levee is leaking again. Repairs took place on Upper Jones Tract, three miles west of Stockton. But that is where water can be heard gurgling under the heavy rock that went into the repairs.

While state flood officials insist the levee is not at risk of failure, people who work on that delta island are nervous. Heavy equipment is in place to make the levee repairs, but the machinery is silent because of wildlife concerns. Delta work is not allowed during certain times of the year because of possible damage to fish. State officials said once the various permits are secured by the area's reclamation district, levee repairs could begin within 60 days.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/story.aspx?storyid=53622&catid=2>

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