



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 October 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, an oil tanker ran aground off southeastern Puerto Rico after being rerouted because of a massive fuel depot explosion, but did not spill any of its cargo, officials said on October 28. (See Item [1](#))
- The Washington Post reported that as increasing numbers of children are coming down with swine flu, more parents are facing a shortage of liquid Tamiflu for children. Spot shortages of the liquid form of the antiviral medicine are forcing mothers and fathers to drive from pharmacy to pharmacy, often late into the evening after getting a diagnosis and prescription from a pediatrician, in search of the syrup recommended for the youngest victims of the H1N1 pandemic. (See Item [28](#))

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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. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Puerto Rico) **Tanker rerouted from fuel depot runs aground in PR.** An oil tanker ran aground off southeastern Puerto Rico after being

rerouted because of a massive fuel depot explosion, but did not spill any of its cargo, officials said on October 28. The Port Stewart, a Marshall Islands-flagged vessel, got stuck in sand and mud about 3 miles from Yabucoa on Tuesday, the Port Authority director said. Crews secured the tanker and unloaded 136,000 barrels of fuel. The U.S. Coast Guard reported finding no leaks during an inspection of the ship. Arriving from the French Caribbean island of Martinique, the Port Stewart was originally scheduled to unload at the Caribbean Petroleum Corp. in Bayamon, just west of San Juan, where 21 fuel tanks caught fire early Friday and burned for three days, spewing thick toxic smoke across the region. Officials diverted the 570-foot tanker to Shell facilities in Yabucoa.

Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/33509417>

2. *October 28, Gloucester County News* – (New Jersey) **Small oil spill reported in Delaware River near Paulsboro NuStar refinery.** An estimated one to five gallons of crude oil was spilled the morning of October 28 near the NuStar asphalt refinery in Paulsboro, New Jersey, according to officials. The spill was discovered at approximately 10:35 a.m. while crude oil was being offloaded from a ship, according to a NuStar spokeswoman. The ship was surrounded by a containment boom, part of the refinery’s routine offloading process. That boom trapped the oil and prevented it from further contaminating the river, she said. “We’re still investigating to determine what the source and the cause of the spill was,” a spokeswoman said. The U.S. Coast Guard is on the scene and working to address the situation, she said.

Source: http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2009/10/small_oil_spill_reported_in_de.html

3. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Power restored to Cedar Rapids area.** Power has been restored to about 12,000 customers of Alliant Energy in the Cedar Rapids area. Customers in Cedar Rapids and parts of Palo and Vinton lost power the evening of October 27 after a circuit breaker malfunctioned about 8:45 p.m. Power was restored in Cedar Rapids by 10:15 p.m. and around midnight in the other cities. Alliant officials are looking into what caused the outage, but say a giant circuit breaker at a generating station transmission line was tripped.

Source: <http://www.kttc.com/Global/story.asp?S=11398027>

For another story, see item [20](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *October 28, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Ohio) **Sunoco fined \$400K over Ohio plant.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it has fined Sunoco Inc. \$400,000 for alleged clean-air violations at the company’s chemical plant in Haverhill, Ohio. The EPA reached the agreement last month with the Philadelphia refiner for failing to comply with federal requirements for controlling leaks of hazardous air pollutants from equipment at the plant. The EPA found the

violations in a series of 2005 inspections of the plant. EPA's regional office in Chicago cited Sunoco for reporting a number of improper seals on equipment and for failing to repair five leaking valves in less than 15 days. The Sunoco plant makes alpha-methyl styrene, bisphenol-A and phenol, which are classified as air pollutants.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/business/homepage/20091028_Sunoco_fined_400K_over_Ohio_plant.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *October 29, Washinton Post* – (National) **Nuclear regulator broke rules, says inspector general.** A former member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) violated government ethics rules by directly contacting potential employers with business before the NRC before the end of his term in mid-2007, according to a report by the commission's inspector general. The former NRC official twice cast votes on matters involving companies he had contacted about job prospects, the report says. The firms — the Shaw Group, Toshiba's Westinghouse Electric and General Electric — “could potentially have benefited financially from his votes . . . during the specific timeframes in which he was negotiating with the three companies,” the report concludes. In addition, the NRC's inspector general's report says that the former official had called a senior executive at Exelon, a Chicago-based utility, and asked the executive to call companies that were not returning phone calls to his attorney, who was trying to negotiate jobs on the former official's behalf. The former official, who served on the NRC from 1998 to 2007, is now a senior vice president of the Shaw Group, a construction firm that provides services to most nuclear reactor projects.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/28/AR2009102804764.html>

6. *October 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Feds looking Into safety goof at nuke plant.** Federal regulators are investigating a mistake at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant that could have hampered safety measures during an emergency. A spokeswoman for the Central Coast plant says two switches that allow operators to remotely open cooling water valves were improperly set. If the plant lost its water during an earthquake or terrorist attack, operators would have had to manually open the valves to restore it. A spokeswoman said the mistake was discovered late last week during a maintenance shutdown of the reactor, and the switches were reset. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is investigating.

Source: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/21452338/detail.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *October 28, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Indiana) **Jeff steel plant fined \$240,000 for violations found after worker died.** Steel Dynamics, the Jeffersonville steel processing plant, was fined \$240,000 on October 28 by the Indiana Department of Labor for safety violations found in an inspection after a worker died at the facility in August. A 21-year-old man was overcome by nitrogen while working in a confined space in the plant on August 5 and died three days later at University Hospital in Louisville. The deputy labor commissioner in charge of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) said his death was caused by “a terrible design” that required the worker to open a furnace and put his head into it in order to pull parts through. He said it is a “very, very dangerous prospect when you open this door.” “This is so high a level of nitrogen that putting your head in there and taking a good breath, you can say goodbye to consciousness immediately,” he said. “You are talking about levels of inert gases that can be nearly immediately fatal to a human being. If they were in compliance with these rules beforehand they would not have had someone in that situation breathing those gases at that level and then you’re rolling the dice on whether you’re dead or you just end up in the hospital.” A Steel Dynamics spokesman said the company would not comment because it had not seen the IOSHA report. “We’ll review the findings when we get them and if necessary further discuss with Indiana OSHA,” he said. A subsequent inspection resulted in citations against Steel Dynamics for 15 safety violations. Nine were classified as “serious” and were fined at \$5,000 each; five were “repeat” violations resulting in fines of \$25,000 each; one was a “knowing violation” assessed at \$70,000. The knowing violation said the company “did not establish and maintain conditions of work free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.”
Source: [http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20091028/NEWS02/910280426/Jeff+steel+plant+fined+\\$240+000+for+violations+found+after+worker+died](http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20091028/NEWS02/910280426/Jeff+steel+plant+fined+$240+000+for+violations+found+after+worker+died)
8. *October 28, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Sony recalls computer AC adapters due to shock hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Sony Electronics Inc. of San Diego, California, on October 28 announced a voluntary recall of about 69,000 Sony VAIO computer AC adapters. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Insulation inside the AC adapter can fail over time, posing an electrical shock hazard to consumers. Sony has received four reports of adapters short circuiting. No incidents occurred in the United States. No injuries have been reported. The recalled AC adapter model is the Sony VGP-AC19V17. Consumers should turn off their computer, unplug it and stop using the recalled AC adapters immediately and contact Sony to arrange for a free replacement of the affected AC adapter.
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10027.html>
9. *October 28, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Fire dept. suing manufacturer.** A volunteer fire department in south central Kentucky is suing two equipment makers, alleging that faulty installation caused a fire truck to crash last year. The civil suit in federal court against Ohio-based Reberland Equipment Inc. and Firovac Power Systems

Inc. was filed by the North Metcalfe Volunteer Fire Department. The Glasgow Daily Times reports that the fire department is alleging the companies did not properly install a pumper tanker system. The suit says the tanker became separated from a fire truck as it rounded a curve during a house fire run on October 1, 2008. The suit says two firefighters were ejected and the truck overturned. The fire department is asking for more than \$209,000 in damages.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/ohio-news/fire-dept-suing-manufacturer-372126.html>

10. *October 26, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Missouri) **Tests show recontamination of soils in Herculaneum, Mo., from Doe Run Resources Corporation lead smelting operation.** EPA Region 7 is considering a range of enforcement actions against the Doe Run Resources Corporation, now that recent tests have shown more than one-third of a group of properties situated within a mile of the company’s lead smelter in Herculaneum, Mo., contain lead at levels exceeding 400 parts per million (ppm), EPA’s threshold for removing and replacing such soils. Of 372 properties sampled, 129 had at least one area exceeding the 400 ppm action level for lead. A total of 104 of those 129 “action level” properties have already undergone soil remediation within the past nine years, under work previously ordered by EPA. Doe Run’s facility in Herculaneum has been in operation for more than a century and is the largest smelter of its kind in the United States. EPA’s enforcement-related involvement with the facility began three decades ago, over concerns with air emissions, children’s elevated blood lead levels, elevated lead levels in residential yard soils, and home interior dust in Herculaneum. Both EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) have taken a number of enforcement actions against Doe Run over the years, including EPA’s July 2009 unilateral administrative order, directing the company to sample and test gravel driveways and surface yard soils from all homes within one mile of the smelter. Those tests, completed by a contractor hired by Doe Run, were completed last month, after which the company sent confidential letters to property owners and residents, informing them only of the test results from their respective properties. EPA received a full report of the sampling activity on October 8, 2009.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/BB3F60BB48D3CDE38525765B00782DA7>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *October 29, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Environmental assessment released for planned Y-12 uranium processing plant.** The U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration has released a draft report on plans to build a new highly enriched uranium processing center at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement describes several possible designs for the Uranium Processing Facility; the leading option would

aim to produce a 350,000-square-foot version of the plant. “The Y-12 Draft SWEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives for ongoing and foreseeable future operations and activities at Y-12,” said an NNSA spokesman at Y-12. “Among these activities, the Y-12 Draft SWEIS evaluates issues related to the construction and operation of the proposed Uranium Processing Facility (UPF), such as its location and size.” The coordinator of the watchdog group Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance lambasted the Energy Department agency for providing just weeks to examine and comment on the draft report. “The Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance was surprised and deeply dismayed to see that the NNSA expects us to digest and comment on such a voluminous technical document in two weeks,” he said. “Last May we were told we would have 30 days to review the document before the hearing, and a 90-day comment period. If DOE is serious about meaningful public participation, they will keep their word and fix the schedule. Right now, all we know is they are ‘looking into it.’”

Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091028_8372.php

12. *October 28, Nextgov* – (National) **Federal, industry reps call for national standards to report data breaches.** The Homeland Security Department should establish a national standard to encourage companies and individuals to report data breaches to federal authorities, helping them gauge the intensity of cyberattacks and investigate cybercrime, security professionals said on October 28. Federal agencies are required to report data breaches to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, which is part of DHS. Reporting requirements for companies, however, vary by state. California was the first state to pass a law requiring companies to disclose when unencrypted personal information in their databases have been accessed by someone not authorized to view it. Most states have since passed variations of the disclosure law. A national breach notification system is needed because companies and individuals are the main targets for cyber criminals, whose goal typically is to steal credit card information and bank credentials. According to Symantec’s 2008 Internet Security Threat Report, 90 percent of all threats target confidential information that, once stolen, is sold. Consumers are particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks because one in five individuals fail to protect personal information on their computers and 40 percent do not update or patch their operating systems. Symantec also said rogue security software, which relies on scare tactics to fool users into downloading malicious code by posing as legitimate antivirus programs, is on the rise. The company identified 250 such programs and received 43 million reports from customers of installation attempts. Because most cyberattacks focus on individuals and companies, a national standard for breach notification would provide a more accurate picture for security vendors and federal law enforcement agents. Companies are reluctant to report incidents of cyberattacks, in fear that they will be held accountable for the data loss and possibly lose business or be fined.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20091028_3572.php?oref=topnews

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *October 29, Washington Post* – (National) **Credit-rating bill clears committee.** A House panel on October 28 voted to tighten controls on credit-rating firms in response to complaints that the firms misjudged the risks of many of the mortgage-related securities that sank financial markets last year. The House Financial Services Committee threw bipartisan support behind a bill that would try to reduce the conflicts of interests at rating firms and make it easier to sue them when they make flawed findings. The three big credit-rating firms — Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s and Fitch Ratings — have faced stinging criticism in the past two years for giving high marks to mortgage-related securities that were backed by subprime or otherwise risky loans, helping instill a false sense of confidence among investors in the investments being sold by banks.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/28/AR2009102804731.html>
14. *October 29, Nashville Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Nashville banks report skimming thefts at ATMs.** Metro Police believe Nashville bank ATMs have been targeted by an organized skimming operation. So far, 39 people have reported that their ATM cards have been compromised, but investigators said Wednesday that they believe there may be hundreds of victims across the city and most of them may not even realize their information has been stolen. Police say the suspects, described as three white men with European accents, may have left town. They are believed to be traveling from city to city in groups, staying for two or three days before moving on. Metro Police have contacted agencies in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina that reported similar fraud operations. In Nashville, the suspects were able to steal nearly \$30,000 by installing skimmer devices on bank ATM machines. When a customer places his or her card into the machine, the skimmer records the card number and the personal identification number.
Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20091029/NEWS03/910290328/2066/Nashville+banks+report+skimming+thefts+at+ATMs>
15. *October 28, American Banking News* – (National) **Consumer Alert: Fake credit unions ripping-off customers with advanced-fee loan scams.** It’s been reported that a new wave of fake credit unions are promising to loan people at under-market interest rates. These fake credit unions are offering consumers unusually good loans then charging them with a “processing fee” for the loan application. Once they receive the processing-fee from the customer, they take the application fee and “deny the loan”, but it turns out the supposed “credit union” probably doesn’t actually exist and there was never a possibility that the consumer would get a loan to begin with. One allegedly fraudulent operation was running ads in national newspapers around the country promising that it had money to lend. The Los Angeles Times was one of many newspapers that ended up running the ads. The fake credit union even listed a real address that turned out to be the street address of a shopping mall! Two state agencies from Michigan and Pennsylvania exposed that particular operation, but there is still the possibility that similarly minded con artists will use the same scam to get more money out of victims.

Source: <http://www.americanbankingnews.com/2009/10/28/consumer-alert-fake-credit-unions-ripping-off-customers-with-advanced-fee-loan-scams/>

16. *October 28, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **FDIC warns consumers about fraudulent bank closure emails.** The FDIC this week issued a consumer alert warning people not to click on links provided in emails alerting customers to bank closures, fraudulently said to be from the FDIC. The links lead to downloadable files containing password-stealing software. “If their bank should happen to fail, there’s absolutely nothing the consumer has to do,” an FDIC spokesman said. The FDIC so far has shut down 106 banks this year—the highest number in any single year since 1992.

Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/asp/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=200910281511dowjonesdjonline000767&title=fdic-warns-consumers-about-fraudulent-bank-closure-emails>

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Transportation Sector

17. *October 29, KCRA 3 Modesto* – (California) **Pipe bomb blows up at school bus stop.** Officials are looking for the person who exploded a pipe bomb at a school bus stop in Calaveras County. The bomb went off Monday just after midnight. A school bus stop at the corner of Highway 4 and Lilac Drive was damaged by the blast. Nobody was hurt. Neighbors said they heard the explosion, but did not see anything suspicious before the explosion. Evidence collected at the scene will be sent to the Department of Justice.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/news/21453902/detail.html>

18. *October 29, NPR* – (National) **Aviation expert: flight automation leads to boredom.** The recent instance of a Northwest airliner flying past its destination because of the pilots’ preoccupation with their computers raises new questions about how airline crews communicate — and the risks of automation. An aviation expert told NPR, it’s still very safe to fly. The problem, he says, is that pilots are now more susceptible to boredom and fatigue. “There’s so much automation in the cockpit that, literally, an aircraft taking off from Los Angeles and landing in New York can have very little attendance by the crew,” says the expert, a former chief of staff at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). “That automation has created a problem of boredom in the cockpit,” he says. He compares the pilots’ case to the dangerous phenomenon of drivers and train conductors using their cell phones to break up the monotony. “It’s ‘driven to distraction,’” he says. The Northwest flight landed safely in Minneapolis. But the expert says that in the 90 minutes the pilots were distracted, they were very likely ignoring messages from traffic control towers and other pilots. “The No. 1 rule of pilot training is to expect the unexpected,” he says. “That’s what you train against.” After the September 11, 2001, hijackings, the FAA mandated new cockpit doors on commercial airliners. Cabin crews no longer have access to the cockpit. The Northwest pilots were alerted that they had missed the airport when the crew knocked on the door to ask when they might land. “Some airlines and the manufacturers are considering

reintroducing manual controls, so that your skills don't atrophy," the expert says.
Source: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=114262744>

19. *October 29, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Odor prompts evacuation of MSP building.** An office building at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport was evacuated for about an hour Wednesday afternoon after a burning chemical odor circulated in the building. Two workers were taken to hospitals complaining of lung irritation, and two others were treated at the scene, said an airport spokesman. The injuries were not serious, he added. At about 1:30 p.m., construction workers were applying an adhesive to the roof of the building, attached to large maintenance hangars on the south side of the airport. The substance was pulled into the building by an air intake valve, the spokesman said. It took until about 2:30 p.m. to ventilate the building so the office workers could return. Delta Air Lines is renovating the building, once the Republic Airlines base, to make it part of the new Delta North headquarters.
Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/67028942.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUUsA>

20. *October 28, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **South Hayward BART station closed after explosion killed power.** Adding to an already ugly traffic situation, the South Hayward BART station was closed for at least four hours Wednesday night after an explosion in an underground electrical vault killed the power there. Trains did not lose power and were running through the station, but they did not stop. At 10 p.m. Wednesday, BART officials said they expected the station to stay closed until at least midnight. BART set up buses to shuttle passengers between the South Hayward and downtown Hayward stations. The explosion was reported to the Hayward Fire Department shortly before 6:30 p.m. Power also was out in nearby neighborhoods for a short time. A BART spokesman said the darkened station was closed at 6:40 p.m. The Fremont-Richmond line remained in service at all other stops. A PG&E spokesman said 7,095 customers in Union City and Hayward lost power from 7:10 to 7:41 p.m. Those north of Decoto Road along Mission Boulevard and east of the BART tracks to Tennyson Road were without power during that time. Power was restored everywhere except for the South Hayward BART station.
Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_13664388

21. *October 28, Associated Press* – (California) **LA commuter line reopens after power line damage.** A commuter train line shut down when high winds knocked a canopy onto power cables has fully reopened in time for the evening rush hour. A Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman says the Gold Line light rail track was reopened shortly after 4 p.m. when lines were repaired. The closure resulted from wind flipping a canopy out of a yard and onto power lines in the Mount Washington area of Los Angeles earlier Wednesday. In San Diego County, wind toppled a tree onto a car in San Marcos but the couple inside escaped serious injury. The National Weather Service says there's a chance of 50 mph gusts through Thursday morning in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Fire danger warnings are up in some areas.
Source: <http://cbs2.com/wireapnewsca/LA.commuter.rail.2.1275542.html>

Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *October 29, Reading Eagle* – (Pennsylvania) **3 arrested in attempt to blow up mailbox in Reading.** Reading police arrested three people on charges they made a bomb and put it in a U.S. Postal Service box at 13th and South streets. The first suspect, 34, of the 200 block of South 13th Street was arrested Tuesday and committed to Berks County Prison in lieu of \$1 million bail following arraignment before a District Judge. The second suspect, 23, of the 900 block of Marion Street, who is the first suspect's stepson, surrendered to police Wednesday. He also was committed to the prison in lieu of \$1 million bail after arraignment before the judge. A 17-year-old city boy who is related to the second suspect was charged as a juvenile. Police said he pleaded guilty in juvenile court and is cooperating with investigators. The boy, whose name was not released by police because of his age, was placed on probation and released to his family. Reading police charged the two adult suspects and the teen with arson, conspiracy, causing or risking a catastrophe and related offenses in the August 2 crime. The bomb, made from a thermos and other items stolen from an area store, did not go off, even after the trio set the mailbox on fire, police said. No one was injured. Source: <http://www.readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=163422>
23. *October 29, AMNews.com* – (Kentucky) **Danville man charged with firing pistol at truck driven by mail carrier.** A Danville man is in custody after shots were fired at a U.S. mail truck on Regency Road about noon Wednesday. Police arrested a suspect, 36, of Danville for allegedly firing multiple shots at the government vehicle. The police chief said a mail carrier called 911 around 12:15 p.m. to report shots had been fired. A Postal Inspector said a mail carrier, who has not been identified, was in the midst of his route when the shooting occurred. The carrier returned to the post office at the corner of Main Street and Wilderness Road after the shooting. The police chief said that the mail carrier was familiar with the suspect from seeing him during his delivery route and was able to tell police the suspect lived at 1000 Regency Road. "They spoke briefly before the incident, but there was no negative contact or argument between them," the police chief said. "The postal worker said that when he was driving away he saw Warner pull a pistol out of his pocket and begin firing." Further investigation showed that two bullets struck the vehicle. Source: <http://www.amnews.com/stories/2009/10/28/loc.756057.sto>
24. *October 28, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **White powder scare prompts partial evacuation of DMV central office in Richmond.** The customer service area of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicle's central office in Richmond was evacuated briefly Wednesday morning after a suspicious white powder spilled out of an envelope in the agency's basement mailroom. The basement remained closed early this afternoon as members of the Richmond Fire Department's hazardous materials team retrieved the envelope and monitored air quality, said a Richmond fire spokesman. Authorities were alerted about 11:30 a.m. after a mailroom employee was exposed to the white powder after opening an envelope. About 12 employees in that section were evacuated. The

affected employee was evaluated by emergency medical personnel but exhibited no signs of ill health.

Source:

http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/article/POWDGAT28_20091028-123805/302093/

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Agriculture and Food Sector

25. *October 28, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (National) **Iowa firm recalls chili with beans product due to mislabeling and an undeclared allergen.** Pinnacle Foods Group LLC, a Fort Madison, Iowa establishment is recalling approximately 91,125 pounds of a canned chili with beans product because it was inadvertently packaged with an incorrect flag on the plastic over-wrap and may contain an undeclared allergen, wheat, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service announced today. Wheat is a known potential allergen and the plastic over-wrap incorrectly bears the statement “Gluten Free,” since the product actually contains wheat. The chili products were produced on various dates ranging from August 26, 2009 to October 28, 2009, and were distributed to retail stores in Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. The problem was discovered after the company received a consumer inquiry. FSIS has received no reports of illness due to consumption of these products.

Source:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_058_2009_Release/index.asp

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Water Sector

26. *October 27, Nashville Tennessean* – (National) **Coal ash poses significant risk: EPA report says.** A new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report says that the potentially toxic pollutants in coal ash — from mercury to arsenic — are of particular concern because they can concentrate in large amounts that are discharged to waterways or seep into groundwater. The more than 230-page report, which comes about ten months after the massive coal ash spill at the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) Kingston power plant in East Tennessee, has brought accolades from the environmental community and a call for regulatory action. EPA officials have said they would decide by the end of this year whether coal ash should be regulated as a hazardous waste. Coal ash industry officials have advocated for leaving coal ash regulations up to individual states. The EPA report documents cases of fish and other aquatic wildlife kills, as well as contaminated wells and the sublethal affects to wildlife, including damage to reproductive organs and developmental problems. The cause has been coal ash wastewater released accidentally and also routinely discharged into the environment as part of normal coal-fired plant operations.

Source: [http://www.tennessean.com/article/20091027/NEWS01/91027104/Coal ash poses significant risk EPA report says](http://www.tennessean.com/article/20091027/NEWS01/91027104/Coal%20ash%20poses%20significant%20risk%20EPA%20report%20says)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *October 29, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* – (New York) **4 arrested in protest outside MVP Health.** Four people were arrested in connection with a health care reform rally mostly taking place outside MVP Health Care in Rochester, New York, on Wednesday. Rochester police said they charged the four with third-degree criminal trespass, a misdemeanor, after they allegedly went into the building to deliver a letter to MVP executives and refused requests to leave. Outside on the sidewalk, about 20 activists marched and chanted, calling for single-payer health care and accusing insurers of blocking health care reform.

Source:

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20091029/NEWS01/910290347/1002/NEWS>

28. *October 29, Washington Post* – (National) **Tamiflu shortages have parents on wild dose chase.** As increasing numbers of children are coming down with swine flu, more parents are facing a shortage of liquid Tamiflu for children. Spot shortages of the liquid form of the antiviral medicine are forcing mothers and fathers to drive from pharmacy to pharmacy, often late into the evening after getting a diagnosis and prescription from a pediatrician, in search of the syrup recommended for the youngest victims of the H1N1 pandemic. The drug can make the flu milder, go away more quickly and may cut the risk of potentially life-threatening complications. The shortages are being caused by a surge in demand because of the second wave of swine flu sweeping the country, combined with a decision by Roche, the Swiss company that makes the medication, to focus on producing it in capsule form. In response, the government has shipped to states hundreds of thousands of five-day courses from the Strategic National Stockpile, which is on standby in case there are disease outbreaks or bioterrorism attacks. Officials have also instructed doctors to suggest that pharmacists mix the powder from capsules with syrup to make a liquid for children if the company's version is unavailable.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/28/AR2009102803823.html?hpid=topnews)

[dyn/content/article/2009/10/28/AR2009102803823.html?hpid=topnews](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/28/AR2009102803823.html?hpid=topnews)

29. *October 28, Wichita Eagle* – (Kansas) **Bomb threat leads to lockdown at Wesley Medical Center.** Wesley Medical Center's emergency room went into lockdown for about 40 minutes Wednesday morning after a recent patient phoned in a bomb threat, Wichita police said. The man, who had been treated in the emergency room, said he was going to make a bomb, bring it to the hospital and detonate it. The hospital was searched, but no bomb was found, police said. Investigators were able to identify the 49-year-old who made the bomb threat. He was taken to Via Christi-St. Joseph for a

mental evaluation.

Source: <http://www.kansas.com/localnews/story/1030744.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *October 29, WPTV 5 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **City Center re-opens after suspicious powder scare.** The discovery of a suspicious white powder that prompted an evacuation of West Palm Beach City Center has turned out to be a false alarm. According to a spokesman with the city, the powder was determined to be wheat flour. Investigators with West Palm Beach Fire Rescue responded to the 400 block of Clematis Street this morning after a suspicious white powdery substance was discovered at City Hall. West Palm Beach City Center was evacuated as crews investigated the substance. As of 10:30 a.m., three additional piles of white powder were discovered in the 100 block of Rosemary Avenue. That area is now shut down as fire rescue investigates. West Palm Beach Police will pull surveillance video from the locations to determine how the powder got there.
Source: <http://www.wptv.com/content/breakingnews/story/City-Hall-evacuated-over-suspicious-powder/HOaxv1CSBEKNJGvAp8ysEg.csp>

31. *October 28, Associated Press* – (New York) **West Point employee admits \$3M fraud scheme.** A 51-year-old woman who worked in the dean's office at the United States Military Academy at West Point admits defrauding the government out of nearly \$3 million. The woman of Highland Falls pleaded guilty October 28 for her role in a scheme to divert payments from the academy to a bogus corporation she controlled. She was responsible for coordinating information technology training programs for West Point staff. A routine audit led to the discovery by Army investigators that the woman used government purchase cards to authorize \$2.9 million in payments to CWG Enterprises for training that never happened. Investigators say she transferred money to her personal account. At sentencing, scheduled for February 19, the woman faces up to 40 years in prison and a fine up to \$5.8 million.
Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/10/ap_west_point_fraud_102809/

For another story, see item [24](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *October 29, New Jersey Star Ledger* – (New Jersey) **N.J. 911 dispatcher couldn't pinpoint slain Chatham priest's call due to glitch in outdated system.** Minutes before he was killed, a Chatham, New Jersey man dialed 911 from his cell phone, but help never arrived. The State Police received the call, but the dispatcher was unable to determine the location of the emergency. An investigation into last week's murder has highlighted a glaring flaw in the state emergency response system. It is not a fault of

the police, but of the technology. State officials said dispatchers are sometimes unable to locate a distressed caller using a cell phone. While the state has spent at least \$60 million on upgrades in the past five years, outdated phone technology and lagging police equipment — and the occasional glitch — can hamper emergency efforts. Industry experts said cell phones, which are quickly replacing landlines in U.S. homes, are a double-edged sword for emergency management. On one hand, the public can contact police from virtually anywhere on a moment's notice. On the other hand, cell phones are not tethered to an address like landlines, making it more difficult for police to quickly locate the caller. This failure is critical in a state like New Jersey, where more than half of the 7.5 million 911 calls made last year came from cell phones, a state spokeswoman said.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/10/nj_911_dispatcher_unable_to_de.html

33. *October 28, NBC Los Angeles* – (California) **Bomb scare forces fire station evacuation.** Police responded to a bomb scare in Eagle Rock, California on Wednesday morning. Fire station 42 had to be evacuated and Colorado Boulevard was shut down when a concerned citizen walked into the fire station and asked firefighters to check out a device he thought was an explosive, according to police. The device was thought to possibly be a bomb or a live grenade. A bomb squad was called in and was determined the explosive was in fact a military-grade smoke bomb. The smoke bomb was secured, and firefighters are back in the station. Colorado Boulevard has been re-opened. There is no word yet as to the origin of the smoke bomb.

Source: <http://www.nbclsanangeles.com/news/local-beat/Bomb-Scare-Forces-Fire-Station-Evacuation-67006637.html>

34. *October 28, Tacoma Weekly* – (Washington) **Quake drill shakes things up across the county.** A major earthquake on the Tacoma fault line could cause some serious damage throughout Pierce County, Washington. Landslides, liquefaction and a tsunami are all possible during a major shake, such as a magnitude 7.1 quake, a scenario that Pierce County agencies recently dealt with. Pierce County Emergency Management set up a simulated earthquake scenario that 50 agencies, including hospitals, police departments, municipalities and schools, participated in, testing their response to such a disaster. The participating agencies opted into the drill on varying levels of involvement. The Puyallup Tribe used the scenario to test internal and external communication while University of Puget Sound (UPS) handled the full gamut of what it would need to do logistically during a disaster, which would reach beyond the campus walls. Pierce County Emergency Management is required to hold at least one regional exercise each year. The specific objectives of this exercise are to evaluate regional communications and to disseminate information to the public.

Source: <http://www.tacomaweekly.com/article/3684>

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Information Technology Sector

35. *October 29, Computer World* – (National) **Amazon downplays reports of vulnerabilities in its EC2 cloud service.** Amazon says it has taken steps to mitigate a security issue in its cloud computing infrastructure that was identified recently by researchers from MIT and the University of California at San Diego. The report described how attackers could search for, locate, and attack specific targets in Amazon’s Elastic Computer Cloud (EC2) because of certain underlying vulnerabilities in the infrastructure. Though the attack described in the report was conducted against Amazon’s infrastructure, the researchers concluded that similar targeted attacks could be carried out in other cloud services as well because the vulnerabilities were generic. In response, an Amazon spokeswoman said on October 28 that the report describes cloud cartography methods that could increase an attacker’s probability of launching a rogue virtual machine (VM) on the same physical server as another specific target VM. What remains unclear, however, is how exactly attackers would be able to use that presence on the same physical server to then attack the target VM, she told Computerworld via e-mail. The research paper itself described how potential attackers could use so-called “side-channel” attacks to try and steal information from a target VM. The researchers had argued that a VM sitting on the same physical server as a target VM, could monitor shared resources on the server to make highly educated inferences about the target VM. Source: <http://www.infoworld.com/d/cloud-computing/amazon-downplays-reports-vulnerabilities-in-its-cloud-service-994>
36. *October 28, IDG News Services* – (National) **Twitter warns of new phishing attack.** Twitter warned users Tuesday of a new phishing scam on the social networking site. It is the latest in a series of scams that have plagued the site over the past year, designed to trick victims into giving up their user names and passwords. The message reads, “hi. this you on here?” and includes a link to a fake Web site designed to look like a Twitter log-in page. After entering a user name and password, victims enter an empty blogspot page belonging to someone named NetMeg99. Neither of these pages appears to include any type of attack code, but both should be considered untrustworthy, according to a Sophos Technology consultant. Hacked Twitter accounts are a great launching pad for more attacks, he said. “We don’t know precisely what they’re going to do in this case, but often they will send spam messages to advertise a particular site.” Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9140071/Twitter_warns_of_new_phishing_attack?taxonomyId=17
37. *October 28, CNET* – (International) **Survey: Few companies addressing cyberterrorism.** Cyberterrorism is on the rise around the world. But only one-third of companies are tackling it in their disaster recovery plans, says a survey released October 27 by data center association AFCOM. Although the majority (60.9 percent) of companies questioned see cyberterrorism as a threat to be addressed, “AFCOM’s 2009/2010 Data Center Trends” survey found that only 24.8 percent have adopted it in their policies and procedures manuals. Further, only 19.7 percent provide cyberterrorism training to their employees. Around 82 percent do run background checks on new hires. But that still leaves almost 20 percent of all data centers that don’t

perform security checks on new employees, even those working directly with personal, financial, and even military records, noted AFCOM. AFCOM noted that over the past five years, 63 percent of all its data center members have seen a dramatic rise in the amount of information they need to store and protect. The report urges data center managers to include cyberterrorism in their disaster recovery and security plans.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10385230-83.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20

For another story, see item [12](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@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

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Commercial Facilities Sector

38. *October 28, Rochester Post-Bulletin* – (New York) **Fire forces theater evacuation.** A small fire in a projector forced the evacuation of one theater at Cinemagic Theaters in west Rochester Tuesday evening. A fire battalion Chief said there was a large amount of smoke in the projection room stemming from a fire that started inside a power supply within the projector. He said damage was limited to the machine. The fire occurred at 9:42 p.m. Employees used a portable fire extinguisher to put out the fire. The fire department confirmed that the fire was out and that it had not extended beyond the projection equipment. High-volume ventilation fans were used to push the smoke out of the building through a roof access. Damage was estimated at \$1,500. No one was injured.

Source:

http://www.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=2&a=423090

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

39. *October 29, The Columbia State* – (South Carolina) **Judge: Remove third Anderson creek dam.** A federal judge is recommending that \$3 million be spent to remove a third dam on an Anderson creek in South Carolina to help with pollution. A U.S. district judge on Tuesday recommended the third dam be removed to reduce the effects of PCB contamination in Twelve Mile Creek and Lake Hartwell. A capacitor plant on the creek dumped PCBs into the stream between 1955 and 1977. Schlumberger Technologies Corp. bought the plant and became responsible for the cleanup. It is working to remove two other dams on the stream. Officials hope sediment released by the dams' removal will cover the contamination. It is unclear whether the trustees in charge of a restoration fund will go along with the recommendation on the third dam.
Source: <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/1003999.html>
40. *October 29, Edgemont Herald Tribune* – (South Dakota) **City Council declares reservoir system an emergency may allow partial reimbursement by grant funds later.** A Special City Council meeting was held at 1 p.m. on Monday in Edgemont, South Dakota. The mayor called the meeting in order to ask the council to declare the city's water reservoir system on H Street an emergency. The one-hundred-year-old concrete reservoirs have several areas of crumbling concrete. The city has plans to rehab the huge concrete structures but had been advised by the state that in order to obtain state match money for updating the city water system they had to first install water meters and then apply for additional grant/match money. The water meter portion of the project is nearing completion. Currently, the overflow drains from the reservoirs are not keeping up with the amount of water running into the reservoirs and Well Number Two which runs into the reservoirs cannot be shut off. Both reservoirs' overflow drains run into the irrigation ditch going south of town (toward DuToit's dam). Because these drains are not carrying enough water, the reservoirs are overflowing and water is running over the hill toward Sixth Street. The overflow drains are lined with mineral deposits which limit the amount of water they can handle. By declaring the situation an emergency, the DENR has assured the City Superintendent that some of the costs for repairing the system can be reimbursed when/if money is awarded to the City in January (to be received in March). Meanwhile repairs must be done and will be funded out of the city's water repair and rehab fund.
Source:
<http://www.edgemonttribune.com/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1251>
41. *October 28, Insurance Journal* – (Texas) **Texas City dike could reopen next fall, businesses might not.** A Hurricane Ike-damaged dike in Texas City, Texas, could reopen next fall after repairs are completed. The mayor says none of the funds earmarked for the dike's repair will go to rebuilding the shrimp boat docks or bait camps. The Galveston County Daily News reports city commissioners last week approved a \$700,000 engineering contract as a step toward rebuilding the dike, which

was damaged in the 2008 hurricane. The contract with HDR Engineering is contingent on more than \$5 million in funding from the federal government to be received by Texas City and Galveston County. Reconstruction will begin at the end of the 5-mile-long pier.

Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2009/10/28/104884.htm>

42. *October 27, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Corps uses 400k gallons of grout at Hanson Dam.** The Army Corps of Engineers has pumped nearly 400,000 gallons of grout into a leaky abutment at the Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River, southeast of Seattle, Washington. That is the figure given by the program manager at the dam. The corps is hurrying to complete a grout wall within the abutment by November 1 and the start of the winter rainy season. The corps found the abutment at the flood control dam had a serious leak after record rains last January. Because of the leak, it cannot fill the dam's reservoir as much as usual, raising the danger of flooding in the heavily developed Green River Valley downstream.

Source:

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_green_river_grout.html?source=myspi

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