



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 December 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Food Safety News reports that an E. coli outbreak tied to a nationwide recall of mechanically tenderized steaks is now linked to 21 illnesses in 16 states, according to public health officials. Oklahoma-based National Steak and Poultry announced last week it was initiating the recall. (See item [29](#))
- Foster’s Daily Democrat reports that about 80 people will be offered antibiotics and the anthrax vaccine after tests confirmed the presence of the disease at the drumming room of the United Campus Ministry’s Waysmeet Center in Durham, New Hampshire. A young woman who attended a December 4 event has tested positive for gastrointestinal anthrax — the first such case in U.S. history. (See item [51](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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 30, WFSB 3 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **Clean up begins after winds tear through state.** Reports of power outages skyrocketed to more than 26,000 on the

afternoon of December 29 as strong winds blew through Connecticut. On the afternoon of December 29, the governor issued a statement after coordinating a state response to the massive power outages, overnight cold and wind chill temperatures. He said, “We have seen steady winds of 20 - 30 miles per hour with gusts of more than 50 miles per hour. That has taken a toll on the power delivery infrastructure. Both Connecticut Light & Power (CL & P) and United Illuminating are working to get service restored as quickly as possible, but thousands of people have been without power at one point or another and some outages may last into the evening or beyond. Add to that the bitter cold and predicted wind chills tonight as low as 15 degrees below zero and there is a real danger.” He held a conference call on December 29 with state social service and emergency management officials to ensure there are sufficient warm shelters as frigid temperatures are expected overnight. He directed the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to use its Internet-based communications system and the states InfoLine, 211, to coordinate information among emergency management officials. According to the Connecticut Light & Power Web site, at 1 p.m. there were 26,635 residents without power. There has been a steady increase in winds as the day continued. At 9.a.m., CL & P reported 1,585 customers without power. That number rose to 3,587 an hour later. At noon, 4,588 residents had no power. United Illuminating reported sharp increases in power outages as well. At 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, 62 of its customers had no power. By 12:30 p.m., that number rose to more than 700. Officials at CL & P said 14,000 of the 26,000 without power were in Bristol and Plainville because a transmission line that feeds a substation came down in the fierce winds. Every crew that CL & P employs is currently working to help repair downed power lines, according to officials.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/weather/22080055/detail.html>

2. *December 30, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Fuel spill prompts hazmat response.** In Clay Township, fire crews responded to Interstate 70 westbound at mile marker 24 on a fuel spill the evening of December 29. Fire crews said a grill was in the middle of the roadway and the fuel tanker had no choice and had to run over it. That is when it punctured one of the fuel lines, causing a lot of fuel to leak out on the road. Hazmat was called to the scene, and traffic around the area is heavy because fire crews had to shut down one lane. Fire crews said it took two hours to clean up the fuel. Fire crews said there were no injuries.
Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/22085478/detail.html>
3. *December 30, El Dorado News-Times* – (Louisiana) **OSHA cites Murphy Oil U.S.A. for alleged safety, health violations.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Murphy Oil U.S.A. Inc. with alleged serious violations of federal health and safety regulations following an inspection at the company’s facility on East St. Bernard Highway in Meraux, Louisiana. Proposed penalties total \$85,500, a news release said. OSHA’s Baton Rouge area office began its investigation July 7 as part of OSHA’s National Emphasis Program for Petroleum Refineries. The investigation resulted in 18 serious violations, including failing to provide an adequate relief system.

Source: <http://www.eldoradonews.com/news/localnews/2009/12/30/osha-cites-murphy-oil-u-s-a-for-alleged--76.php>

4. *December 28, Seattle-Tacoma News Tribune* – (National) **Less oil may spell problems for pipeline.** The declining flow of oil from Alaska’s North Slope is creating anxiety among executives who run the trans-Alaska pipeline. Within a matter of years, they say, they will need to take costly steps to preserve the life of the 800-mile-long line. If they are not successful, ice and wax could become a serious problem for the pipeline, increasing the risk of corrosion and spills. Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.’s sense of urgency is not because the North Slope is running out of oil. The Slope’s producing oil fields still contain enough oil to supply the pipeline for at least several more decades. Many other oil prospects on land and in the ocean remain unexplored. The slower flow causes the temperature of the hot oil to cool faster. At some point, the oil temperature will dip below the freezing point of water along certain segments, unless Alyeska reheats the oil inside the pipe. As it gets colder, ice and wax may coat the insides of the pipeline. The colder oil might also increase the risk of buried segments of the pipeline jacking up in the ground, company officials said. The problems have been building for decades and will only become more pressing as oil production declines further. For example, Alyeska, owned by BP, Conoco Phillips, Exxon Mobil and two smaller companies, used to launch devices to scrape wax — a component of the oil — out of the pipe’s interior every several weeks. Now it is every four to seven days. While ice formation is not yet a problem in the trans-Alaska pipeline, it was the alleged cause of Prudhoe Bay’s second-largest oil spill from a smaller pipeline a month ago. Alyeska officials said they do not know yet how soon they will need to make major upgrades to the trans-Alaska pipeline to deal with the colder oil temperature and how much it will cost. They hope to have some answers by the end of next year, when they conclude a \$10 million study of the problem. However, new oil production from undeveloped oil prospects in the Arctic will not come on line soon enough to sidestep the problem. U.S. Department of Energy officials say that there could be enough oil on the Slope and in offshore prospects to require a oil pipeline — a refurbished line or a brand-new one — to operate in Alaska beyond 2050.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/northwest/story/1007672.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *December 29, KFDM 6 Beaumont* – (Texas) **Fiery accident shuts down West Port Arthur road.** A fiery crash involving a dump truck and an 18-wheeler forced DPS Troopers to shut down West Port Arthur Road for several hours this morning. Authorities say shortly before seven this morning, an 18-wheeler carrying muriatic acid stopped at a railroad crossing. Troopers say a dump truck collided with the 18 wheeler, causing the dump truck to skid 100 yards and burst into flames. The dump truck driver was taken to Christus Hospital Saint Elizabeth where doctors say he suffers from a dissecting aorta which could have caused him to black out while driving. The dump truck driver is being air lifted to a Houston hospital. The driver of the 18-wheeler was

not injured.

Source: <http://www.kfdm.com/news/accident-35930-west-hwy.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *December 30, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Davis-Besse should have issued alert, NRC says.** FirstEnergy Corp. faces disciplinary action because its Davis-Besse operators “failed to recognize the hazard to the station’s operations” caused by a June 25 explosion inside the electrical transmission switchyard, according to a letter the Nuclear Regulatory Commission sent to the utility. The NRC’s letter, dated Monday, said operators should have immediately recognized the explosion met federal emergency action level conditions for declaring an alert. The agency said it will allow FirstEnergy to explain in greater detail what happened before deciding whether to proceed with enforcement. The explosion occurred as repairs were being made to electrical equipment. There were no injuries or radiation releases and the nuclear reactor never stopped operating.
Source: <http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091230/NEWS16/912309997>
7. *December 30, Augusta Chronicle* – (National) **Nuclear commission upgrades safety regulations.** Commercial nuclear power plants — including Plant Vogtle — might be asked to tighten security for spent nuclear fuel stored onsite, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In a notice published December 16 in the Federal Register, the commission said it is in the early stages of updating the methods used to protect such wastes from theft or terrorist attack. “The objectives of this action, as stated in the Federal Register Notice, are to update current security requirements to improve consistency and clarity and use a risk-informed and performance-based structure,” said an NRC spokeswoman in Washington. “Exactly how the final rulemaking will compare with existing regulations won’t be known until some time in the future.” Spent fuel from commercial reactors is typically stored onsite — either in pools or specially designed “dry cask” containers. According to a Congressional Research Report prepared by the National Council on Science and the Environment, there are at least 83 such locations in the U.S., where 104 commercial reactors generate about 2,000 metric tons of spent fuel each year.
Source: http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2009/12/30/met_561296.shtml
8. *December 30, Reuters India* – (International) **Areva seeking to build EPRs in California.** French nuclear group Areva said on December 29 it had signed a letter of intent to build one or two European Pressurized Reactors (EPRs) in California, together with the Fresno Nuclear Energy Group. It said the two companies would begin studies next year to identify the most feasible site for a new nuclear power plant in California’s Central Valley. Areva said certification of the EPR reactor was currently under way in the United States and that six power companies had already chosen the EPR for a total

of eight potential reactor construction projects.

Source: <http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-45047920091229>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *December 30, WLUK 11 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **Factory explosion kills firefighter.** One firefighter from the Saint Anna Fire Department is dead and six others are injured after an explosion at a factory. Crews were called to the scene of a dumpster fire at Bremer Manufacturing in St. Anna after a patrol man noticed a fire around 7:20 Tuesday night. Something in the dumpster exploded while firefighters were working to put out the fire. The cause of the explosion is unknown at this time. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, State Marshals and the Calumet Co. Sheriff's department are investigating. Representatives from Theda Clark say the Theda Star helicopter transported one firefighter to Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah, where he is listed in critical condition. Five others were taken to the hospital in Chilton with non-life threatening injuries. The Calumet County Sheriff described the scene Tuesday night as "A routine fire call, I guess you could call it, which turned deadly." About twenty minutes after seven o'clock Tuesday night, a Calumet County patrol officer saw a dumpster fire near Bremer Manufacturing. He contacted the St. Anna volunteer Fire Department. "We do not know what caused the fire in the first place," the sheriff said. "It was in some 55 gallon barrels which were near the dumpster or inside the dumpster and as the firemen were trying to extinguish the fire the explosion occurred...One fireman from the St. Anna fire department was killed and six others were injured." Source: http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/fox_cities/Dumpster-explosion-kills-firefighter
10. *December 30, CNN* – (National) **GM recalls 22,000 Corvettes.** General Motors is recalling some 22,000 Chevrolet Corvettes, because of potentially leaky roofs, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said December 30. The recall includes 2005-2007 model year Corvettes with removable roofs and 2006-2007 Corvette Z06s. GM's recall includes 2005-2007 model year Corvettes with removable roofs and 2006-2007 Corvette Z06s. A problem with the adhesive between the roof panel and the frame could cause them to pull apart, the agency said. "If there is a complete separation, the roof panel may detach from the vehicle," according to the NHTSA. "If this were to occur while the vehicle was being driven, it could strike a following vehicle and cause injury and/or property damage." Dealers will install a new design roof panel free of charge to correct the problem, NHTSA said in its recall notice. The safety recall is expected to begin next month. Source: http://money.cnn.com/2009/12/30/autos/GM_Corvette_recall.cnnw/index.htm
11. *December 28, Southeast Texas Record* – (National) **Class action filed against gun manufacturer for defective trigger.** Texas lawyers are seeking class action status for a lawsuit recently filed in Arkansas which alleges some Remington rifles contain defective triggers. Seeking more than \$5 million in damages, attorneys from Dallas and

Houston filed a suit against Remington Arms Co. on December 10 in the El Dorado Division of the Western District of Arkansas. On behalf of the proposed class, the plaintiff alleges that Model 700 Remingtons contain a “dangerously defective ‘Walker’ fire control system that may (and often does) fire without a trigger pull upon release of the safety, movement of the bolt, or when jarred or bumped.” The class will include those individuals who have purchased a new Remington model 700 bolt action rifle that contains a Walker control fire system within the last five years or who currently own the gun. The lawsuit will not include any claims of personal injury. The lawsuit alleges that Remington negligently continues to place the Walker fire control design in guns, although it has designed a new trigger mechanism that is installed into some of its other rifles.

Source: <http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/223875-class-action-filed-against-gun-manufacturer-for-defective-trigger>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *December 29, Defense News* – (National) **USAF seeks to replace UH-1N helicopter.** The U.S. Air Force has started its effort to replace 62 Vietnam War-vintage UH-1N Huey helicopters with a commercially available helicopter by 2015, according to a Dec. 17 service document. The Air Force expects to award a contract for the UH-1N helicopters as soon as fiscal year 2012 and wants to have at least six aircraft by 2015, the target date for initial operational capability. The sources-sought notice seeks contractors who can provide the Air Force with up to 93 helicopters - dubbed the Common Vertical Lift Support Platform (CVLSP) - that can carry at least nine passengers and that have proved themselves in commercial or government service. The service wants to put the new helicopters into service quickly: “We will consider some performance trade offs to meet schedule at an affordable cost.” The Air Force expects to award a contract for the helicopters as soon as fiscal year 2012 and wants to have at least six aircraft by 2015, the target date for initial operational capability. Another 10 choppers are due no later than Sept. 30, 2017. One way the service hopes to do this is by purchasing an aircraft that is currently in production, according to the document.
Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4437267&c=AME&s=AIR>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

13. *December 30, IT Business Edge* – (International) **Laptop theft puts MBNA customers at risk.** MBNA has confirmed that customer data has been compromised following the theft of a laptop from the offices of credit and finance firm NCO Europe. According to SC Magazine, the laptop contained some personal details, but no PIN numbers. An MBNA spokesman said they believe that none of the details had been used fraudulently. Still, the company is offering affected customers free access to CreditExpert from Experian for the next 12 months.

Source: <http://www.itbusinessedge.com/cm/community/news/sec/blog/laptop-theft-puts-mbna-customers-at-risk/?cs=38435>

14. *December 30, KYW 3 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Suspect robs Delaware County bank using a bomb threat.** The bomb squad was called to the scene after reports of a bank robbery in Delaware County Wednesday morning. Police said a suspect entered an M&T Bank on Hinkley Avenue in Ridley Park at about 9:30 a.m. and told the teller he had a bomb. After receiving an undisclosed amount of cash, the suspect fled the scene. Following the robbery, police shut down the area surrounding the bank and called the Delaware County Bomb Squad as a precaution. No explosives were located. No arrests have been made. The incident remains under investigation.
Source: <http://cbs3.com/topstories/bomb.bank.robbery.2.1397204.html>

15. *December 30, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Suspicious package was bag of trash, officials say.** Authorities determined a suspicious package found at a North Side bank Wednesday morning was a paper bag full of trash, said a San Antonio Fire Department spokeswoman. Employees arriving to work at Chase Bank in the 12500 block of Northwest Military Highway and Wurzbach Parkway called 911 around 7 a.m. after they found a small bag in the bank's drive-through automated teller machine lane. San Antonio Fire Department officials said the bag appeared to be from Las Palapas and had a note attached to it that says, "Open if you want a surprise." The department's hazardous materials crew, along with San Antonio Police Department's bomb squad, investigated the package.
Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/80340842.html>

16. *December 29, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Source of stolen credit card information was a restaurant.** The source of the debit and credit card data stolen from hundreds of Anchorage residents in a sophisticated hacking attack was Little Italy, a family-owned restaurant in South Anchorage, its owner said Tuesday. Police say anywhere from 150 to 1,000 card numbers were stolen and used in the attack, which started generating reports of fraudulent purchases about a month ago. The scammers, in what appears to be a nationwide, organized effort, have spent thousands of dollars on the East Coast with the stolen data, according to police. According to the owners, the hack was actually perpetrated against a third-party network run by a nationwide corporation they would not name. The chief technology officer for Digital Securus, a local firm that has been helping examine the network at Little Italy, said his group found hacker programs on the point-of-sale terminals at the restaurant. "So what the bad guys did was, instead of trying to intercept that encrypted transmission, which they knew was futile, they came in and they installed a hacker program on the point-of-sale machines that actually intercepted that card number as it was being swiped," he said. Both the restaurant and police say the breach has been fixed and the system is again secure. Police, however, are continuing to work with federal authorities to figure out who is behind the attack. Investigators suspect the stolen numbers were sold to third parties, who made fake cards with the information, an APD cyber crimes detective said last week.
Source: <http://www.adn.com/front/story/1073062.html>

17. *December 29, Reuters* – (Florida; Texas) **SEC alleges broker churned government accounts.** U.S. securities regulators charged a Houston-based broker on Tuesday with defrauding two Florida government bodies while collecting \$14 million in commissions. The Securities and Exchange Commission alleged the broker, while employed by First Allied Securities Inc, churned the accounts of the city of Kissimmee, Florida, and the Tohopekaliga Water Authority, and lied about what he was doing. The SEC’s civil complaint, filed in federal court in Orlando, Florida, accused him of engaging in risky, short-term trading strategies involving zero-coupon U.S. Treasury bonds, sometimes buying and selling them within days or on the same day. The watchdog agency said that he knew the municipalities’ ordinances prohibited his trading strategy. Neither municipality lost money, the SEC said, but only because the bond market swung in his favor. They could have lost \$60 million over a two-year period, the SEC alleged.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BS3YP20091229>
18. *December 29, WTVC 9 Chattanooga* – (Georgia) **Bank scam hits Chickamauga hard.** A bank account draining scam unfolded in Chickamauga the day after Christmas. It was a calculated “phishing” scam. A man’s recorded message claiming to be from the Bank of Chickamauga informed customers their ATM cards were restricted and gave them a number to call. After an unknown number of actual Bank of Chickamauga customers have been ripped off, the Federal Trade Commission has now taken over that number: 1-888-557-7512. A message on that number informs callers they have fallen victim to a scam. A bank executive says the number could be more than one hundred people. The bank’s vice president said, “Do not give information to anyone.” He added that if a customer did not initiate the phone call, then the customer must not divulge any information. From what WTVC-TV found out, this was a very widespread, random call. It appears they just used the prefix “375” and called all kinds of numbers in Chickamauga. This scam is not protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The bank’s executive vice president explains why. “Because it is fraud originated by a third party,” he said. The vice president of the bank says each case will be dealt with individually. But in all likelihood, customers lost whatever was in their account. Chickamauga police and the FBI are also aware of this scam. Investigators suspect this is a scam originating from another country. The bank would not reveal how much money was stolen, but it was all withdrawn electronically.
Source: <http://www.newschannel9.com/news/bank-987486-chickamauga-hard.html>
19. *December 29, WCAU 10 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Smoke halts trading on Phila. Stock Exchange.** The Philadelphia Stock Exchange was evacuated after smoke was reported on the trading floor late Tuesday morning. Smoke was first sighted on the first floor of the exchange at 1900 Market Street in Center City just after 11 a.m., officials said. The smoke was sucked into the building from a burning pile of leaves which caught fire outside, fire officials said. Trading was halted and the building evacuated. The fire was extinguished at 11:37 a.m. Exchange employees were allowed back into the building just before noon, though trading did not resume until after 12:30 p.m.

Source: <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local-beat/Smoke-Halts-Trading-on-Phila-Stock-Exchange-80272867.html>

20. *December 29, SCMagazine* – (National) **Parties agree to settlement over Countrywide data breach.** A federal judge in Kentucky has granted preliminary approval to settle a class-action lawsuit relating to a data breach that pinned millions of Countrywide Financial customers against the mortgage company. Last week's settlement, which still must undergo a final approval hearing, would provide free credit monitoring for up to 17 million people whose personal data was exposed, according to published reports. To be eligible, victims must have used Countrywide before July 1, 2008. In addition, participants are eligible to receive up to \$50,000 per incident of identity theft, though Countrywide representatives have denied that anyone fell victim to fraud. A spokeswoman for Bank of America, which now owns Countrywide, did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday. Some 35 lawsuits resulted from the breach before class-action status was granted, according to reports.
Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/parties-agree-to-settlement-over-countrywide-data-breach/article/160332/>

21. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Thieves make off with ATM machines from AL stores.** Mobile, Alabama police are looking for three men who smashed a stolen car through the windows of 2 gas stations and made off with automated teller machines. A spokesman officer said the two robberies early Monday bring the number of smash & grab ATM thefts around the area to five since December 8. He said the men were masked and completely covered in clothing. The first robbery was at a Chevron station around 3:10 a.m. and another Chevron was robbed about two hours later. They smashed the car through the stations' glass windows, then went in and removed the ATM machines. The car was later found burned and 1 of the ATMs was still inside. No one has been arrested in any of the incidents, and no one has been injured.
Source: <http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=11743883>

22. *December 29, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Major international hacker pleads guilty for massive attack on U.S. retail and banking networks.** A man from Miami pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiring to hack into computer networks supporting major American retail and financial organizations, and to steal data relating to tens of millions of credit and debit cards. The man, aka "segvec," "soupnazi" and "j4guar17," pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to gain unauthorized access to the payment card networks operated by, among others, Heartland Payment Systems, a New Jersey-based card processor; 7-Eleven, a Texas-based nationwide convenience store chain; and Hannaford Brothers Co. Inc., a Maine-based supermarket chain. The plea was entered in federal court in Boston. The case is one of the largest data breaches ever investigated and prosecuted in the United States. According to information contained in the plea agreement, he leased or otherwise controlled several servers, or "hacking platforms," and gave access to these servers to other hackers, knowing that they would use them to store malicious software and launch attacks against corporate victims. Malware used against several of the corporate victims was also found on a server controlled by the

man. He tested malware by running multiple anti-virus programs in an attempt to ascertain if the programs detected the malware. According to information in the plea agreement, it was foreseeable to the man that his co-conspirators would use malware to steal tens of millions of credit and debit card numbers, affecting more than 250 financial institutions.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2009/December/09-crm-1389.html>

For another story, see item [52](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

23. *December 30, Associated Press* – (International) **Dutch to use full body scanners for US flights.** The Netherlands will immediately begin using full body scanners for flights heading to the United States to prevent future terrorist attacks like the foiled Christmas Day attempt. In a preliminary report on Wednesday, the Dutch government said the plan to blow up the Detroit-bound aircraft was professional but called its execution “amateurish.” A Dutch official said the terrorist apparently assembled the explosive device, including 80 grams of PETN, in the aircraft toilet, then planned to detonate it with a syringe of chemicals. Amsterdam’s Schiphol has 15 body scanners, but their use has been limited because of privacy objections that they display the contours of the passenger’s body. Neither the European Union nor the U.S. have approved the routine use of the scanners. New software, however, eliminates that problem by projecting a stylized image onto a computer screen, highlighting the area of the body where objects are concealed in pockets or under the clothing and alerting security guards. Two scanners have been experimentally using that software since late November and the Dutch said those will be put into use immediately. All scanners will be upgraded within three weeks so they can be used on flights to the United States.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/12/30/general-us-airliner-attack_7242706.html

24. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Maine airport to snowmobilers: Stay off our runways.** Officials at Central Maine Regional Airport say the snowmobiling across and near runways must stop. The airport put up plastic fences and signs warning snowmobilers to stay away several years ago, but the signs have been ripped up and the fences cut. The airport operator says if snowmobilers continue to ride in the area, the airport could lose \$1.2 million in federal funding for a new runway. She told the Morning Sentinel that a single piece of ice tracked across a runway could damage a plane. And she says riding on the runway is just plain dangerous for snowmobilers and pilots, who would have to pull up if a snowmobile crossed a runway as a plane was touching down.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-12-30-maine-airport-snowmobilers_N.htm

25. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Damaged Indiana highway bridge to be demolished.** A 1 and 1/4 mile bridge along a northwestern Indiana expressway that was closed for safety reasons last month will be torn down and transportation officials are considering whether the structure will be replaced. Officials decided against trying to repair the span on Indiana 912 after reviewing additional inspection reports about the damage, including significant corrosion where the 70-foot-tall concrete and steel piers meet the bridge deck over the Indiana Harbor Canal in East Chicago. The highway, known locally as Cline Avenue, carries about 30,000 vehicles a day and runs near the ArcelorMittal steel mill and is a route to the Ameristar and Majestic Star casinos on Lake Michigan. State officials closed a 4-mile stretch of the highway on November 13. The bridge, which opened in 1986, was built for 80,000 vehicles of daily traffic and to accommodate ships passing underneath. “We don’t need that kind of structure any longer. That structure is bigger than is necessary,” an official said. “So we will be looking at: do we put in a smaller structure, do we put a draw bridge in?” The agency has not yet planned or scheduled the bridge’s demolition and says the current detour routes using nearby streets in East Chicago and Hammond will remain in place.
Source: http://www.theheraldbulletin.com/statenews/local_story_364000145.html
26. *December 29, WSVN 7 Miami* – (Florida) **Fire breaks out on cargo ship.** A cargo ship suffered damage after a fire erupted in the engine room of the vessel. The incident occurred on the El Rama ship near Northwest 31st Avenue and South River Drive. The 290-foot ship was docked on the Miami River when the fire broke out shortly after 3:30 p.m. Officials said electrical problems may be to blame. The ship’s crew shut down the vessel’s generators to keep the fire from spreading. No one was hurt and the exact cause of the blaze is still under investigation.
Source: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI139828/>
27. *December 29, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Glue residue the source of Port Authority rail operators’ irritation.** Hazmat officials say the substance that sickened two Port Authority light-rail operators and a supervisor on Christmas Eve was a bonding agent used during routine vehicle maintenance that had settled in the vehicle’s ventilation system. Around 7:30 p.m. Thursday, emergency crews were called to two separate light-rail vehicles on Port Authority’s Allentown line, which runs along Arlington and Warrington avenues from the South Side to South Hills Junction. The operator of one vehicle, which was not in regular service and had no passengers aboard, was complaining of irritation in his eyes, throat and chest, said the chief of the city’s Hazardous Materials Response Team. An investigation found that the operator had been sickened by the powdery residue of a bonding agent apparently used during routine maintenance work that the train had recently received at South Hills Junction, the Hazmat chief said. The dust had settled in the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system and was stirred up when the operator turned it on, he said. “You could see the fine dust all over the vehicle,” he said. The operator of another light-rail vehicle, who had been aboard the first train but had transferred to another one carrying passengers, complained of different symptoms including chest pain and anxiety. After evaluating him, emergency responders determined his symptoms were not directly

related to the bonding agent.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_659868.html

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [5](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

28. *December 30, WNCT 9 Jacksonville* – (North Carolina) **Woman in good condition after exposure to suspicious package.** Several emergency agencies were called to the scene of a suspicious package delivered to a mailbox in Pink Hill on Tuesday. Detectives with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office arrived at a home in Pink Hill around 1 p.m. Authorities say a woman received a package from a well known online company containing powder and was treated for exposure. The Sheriff's Office will not identify the company at this time. The padded package was severely damaged during shipping. When she went to open it, the padded material used in packing spilled out. She attempted to clean it up with bleach and became ill. Emergency crews determined the material was not hazardous and the home has since been returned to the family. Officers with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, Lenoir County Emergency Management, North Carolina Emergency Management, the S.B.I. and the U.S. Postal Inspectors all responded to the incident. They left the home late Wednesday night. Authorities say the incident is not a threat to public safety.

Source:

http://www2.wnct.com/nct/news/local/article/woman_treated_after_exposed_to_suspicious_package/90532/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

29. *December 30, Food Safety News* – (National) **E. coli outbreak expands to 16 states.** An E. coli O157:H7 outbreak tied to a nationwide recall of mechanically tenderized steaks is now linked to 21 illnesses in 16 states, according to public health officials. Oklahoma-based National Steak and Poultry (NSP) announced last week it was initiating a recall of processed steak products after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) identified a cluster of E. coli O157:H7 illnesses. According to the FSIS release, the outbreak is linked to illness in 6 states: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, South Dakota, and Washington, but a CDC spokeswoman confirmed this morning that 16 states are reporting E. coli cases tied to the outbreak. FSIS's initial release also indicates that the product was distributed to restaurants across the country. According to NSP the product was distributed to Moe's Southwest Grill, Carino's Italian Grill, and KRM restaurants located primarily in the 6 states initially connected to the outbreak. Neither the CDC nor FSIS has released a complete list of states involved in the outbreak. There are 10 states with illnesses connected to

the outbreak that have yet to be named.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2009/12/thechristmas-eve-recall-of-almost/>

30. *December 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Pressure rises to stop antibiotics in agriculture.** More and more Americans — many of them living far from barns and pastures — are at risk from the widespread practice of feeding livestock antibiotics. These animals grow faster, but they can also develop drug-resistant infections that are passed on to people. The issue is now gaining attention because of interest from a new White House administration and a flurry of new research tying antibiotic use in animals to drug resistance in people. Researchers say the overuse of antibiotics in humans and animals has led to a plague of drug-resistant infections that killed more than 65,000 people in the U.S. last year — more than prostate and breast cancer combined. And in a nation that used about 35 million pounds of antibiotics last year, 70 percent of the drugs went to pigs, chickens and cows. Worldwide, it is 50 percent.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/29/us/AP-When-Drugs-Stop-Working-The-Meat-We-Eat.html?_r=1

For another story, see item [43](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

31. *December 30, Associated Press* – (California) **Pipeline project for delta canals gets approval.** A plan to connect state and federal canals to improve the reliability of water deliveries across the San Joaquin Valley and beyond has received environmental approval. The \$34 million Intertie Project would connect the Delta Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct using a 500-foot underground pipe and pumps. The Bureau of Reclamation says the tie-in approved December 22 would give the federal water system more capacity to fill the San Luis Reservoir near Los Banos. It also would allow officials to deliver more water than they currently can when pumps that draw water south from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are in operation.
Source: <http://www.modbee.com/ag/story/989654.html>
32. *December 29, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Western NC power outage sends 374,000 gallons of untreated sewage into French Broad River.** A power outage at a western North Carolina sewage treatment plant sent 374,000 gallons of untreated sewage into the French Broad River. The Asheville Citizen-Times reported Tuesday that the outage on Christmas morning at the Buncombe County Metropolitan Sewerage District treatment plant led to the spill. Maintenance Division Assistant Director said the treatment plant lost power around 2 a.m. The plant's backup generator was running but not producing electricity. The generator has since been repaired. Workers saw sewage pouring out of manholes. Power was restored around 3 a.m., but it took until late Friday night before the manhole stopped discharging sewage. He said because the French Broad River was running much higher than normal because of recent snow and

rains, any possible effects of the spill were diluted.

Source: <http://www.wtkr.com/news/sns-ap-nc--sewagespill-river,0,7048162.story>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *December 29, KFOR 4 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Oklahoma faces severe blood supply shortage.** A shortage in the state’s blood supply is yet another consequence of the Christmas blizzard. The Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) says the snow and ice kept hundreds from donating over the weekend. This is normally a critical time of year for blood donations because people are usually too busy to donate around the holidays. Bad weather has only compounded the problem. OBI’s director says with inventory down and increased usage of blood over the weekend, they are now down to a two-day supply. That’s half their normal supply levels. He says if donors do not start showing up, “We’re going to be in trouble on a couple of donor types, like o-negative, a-negative and platelets. Those are really the things that go the fastest.” Oklahomans typically donate at a rate that is twice the national average. So the OBI is hoping for another public surge to continue helping hospitals.
Source: <http://www.kfor.com/news/local/kfor-blood-supply-shortage-story,0,150016.story>

34. *December 29, Reuters* – (National) **J&J expands recall of Tylenol arthritis caplets.** A voluntary recall of Tylenol Arthritis Pain Caplets is being expanded because of consumer reports of an unusual moldy odor with the 100-count bottles, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said late on Monday. The FDA said it and Johnson & Johnson were expanding the recall to all available product lots of the pain caplets with the distinctive red EZ-open cap. The initial recall involved five lots of the product in November after reports of an unusual musty or mildew-like odor that was associated with nausea, stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhea, the FDA said. The agency said the odor was believed to have been caused by the breakdown of a chemical used to treat wooden pallets that transport and store packaging materials. It said the health effects of the compound have not been well studied, but the events reported to the company have been temporary and not serious.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BS2L820091229>

35. *December 29, Wichita Eagle* – (Kansas) **Medical clinic reopens after bomb threat.** The Kansas Joint and Spine Institute in Wichita has re-opened after a Tuesday morning bomb threat caused the building to be evacuated. The office received a call around 10:30 a.m. saying there was a bomb in the building, the CEO said. The building was evacuated about 15 minutes later. Police swept the area and determined there was not a threat, and people were allowed back into the building.
Source: http://www.kansas.com/197/story/1115918.html?storylink=omni_popular

36. *December 29, Gov Monitor* – (Colorado) **Colorado medical device manufacturer to pay \$5 million in civil damages.** Spectranetics Corporation, a Colorado medical

device manufacturer, has agreed to pay the United States \$4.9 million in civil damages plus a \$100,000 forfeiture to resolve claims against the company, the Justice Department announced today. The claims arise from allegations that the company illegally imported unapproved medical devices and provided them to physicians for use in patients, conducted a clinical study in a manner that failed to comply with federal regulations and promoted certain products for procedures for which the company had not received Food and Drug Administration approval or clearance. The company manufactures, distributes and sells certain medical lasers and peripheral devices for those lasers, such as lead wires that guide the lasers through vascular tissue and catheters that carry and contain the lasers inside the veins, including, specifically, the CVX-300 Medical Laser and the CliRpath Turbo Laser Catheter, the TURBO Elite Laser Ablation Catheter, and the TURBO-Booster Laser Guide Catheter. In resolving this matter, Spectranetics has entered into a civil settlement agreement and a non-prosecution agreement with the United States. The company also entered into a corporate integrity agreement with the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Source: http://thegovmonitor.com/world_news/united_states/colorado-medical-device-manufacturer-to-pay-5-million-in-civil-damages-19933.html

37. *December 29, Foster's Daily Democrat* – (New Hampshire) **In wake of privacy breach, fed agency finds WDH records are currently protected.** Spurred by complaints over Wentworth-Douglass Hospital's in Dover, New Hampshire, handling of a privacy breach, a federal agency's investigation found the hospital has a system in place that protects patients' information and ensures accurate record-keeping. A spokeswoman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which authorized state health investigators to conduct an unannounced survey of hospital operations on December 10, said "the hospital was found to be currently in compliance with the federal standards of patients' rights and medical records." The spokeswoman said investigators focused on whether patients' records could be improperly accessed and "that situation no longer exists."

Source:

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091229/GJNEWS_01/712299929

38. *December 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Studies: FDA lacking in heart device approval process.** Two new studies find shortfalls in the Food and Drug Administration's approval process for heart devices such as pacemakers and stents. Safety targets often were not clearly spelled out in the research submitted by device makers and important patient information was missing, according to one study conducted by researchers from the FDA and Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. A separate analysis by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, found heart devices frequently got the FDA's blessing based on research done outside the United States in small groups of patients. Many device studies lacked standards most scientists expect: randomization and a clear goal. The FDA's acting device center director, said the agency is taking a close look at its device program and making changes. It wants manufacturers to adhere to tougher research guidelines that

will be out in 2010.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-12-29-fda-heart-devices_N.htm

For more stories, see items [30](#) and [51](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

39. *December 30, New York Times* – (National) **Obama curbs secrecy of classified documents.** The President declared on Tuesday that “no information may remain classified indefinitely” as part of a sweeping overhaul of the executive branch’s system for protecting classified national security information. In an executive order and an accompanying presidential memorandum to agency heads, the President signaled that the government should try harder to make information public if possible, including by requiring agencies to regularly review what kinds of information they classify and to eliminate any obsolete secrecy requirements. “Agency heads shall complete on a periodic basis a comprehensive review of the agency’s classification guidance, particularly classification guides, to ensure the guidance reflects current circumstances and to identify classified information that no longer requires protection and can be declassified,” the President wrote in the order, released while he was vacationing in Hawaii.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/us/politics/30secrets.html?ref=us>

40. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Penn State warning 30,000 of privacy breach.** Pennsylvania State University says the Social Security numbers of nearly 30,000 individuals may have been exposed because of a privacy breach caused by infected university computers. A school spokeswoman said yesterday that there was no evidence the information had been accessed by unauthorized parties, but that the university was being cautious in notifying people their information was on an infected computer. The school announced December 23 that the computers had been hit by “malware,” or malicious software
Source: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/80324417.html>

41. *December 30, Associated Press* – (New York) **Security costs will top \$75M in NYC terror trial.** The New York police commissioner says security for the upcoming trial of the September 11 terror attack suspects will cost much more than the initial estimate of \$75 million. The commissioner drafted a security plan December 18 for the upcoming trials of a high level Al-Qaeda terrorist and four others in New York federal court. The men have been charged with war crimes. The commissioner says the costs will considerably exceed \$75 million, but he would not say how much more. The initial estimate was given November 18. The NYPD says there are not enough officers to handle trial security, so much of the cost will come from overtime and it will be impossible to accomplish without federal funds. There is no trial date yet. No decision has been made on how the cost will be paid.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/30/us/AP-US-Sept-11-Trial.html?_r=1

42. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **75 computers stolen at Purdue; 29 more were packed to go.** Purdue University is beefing up security at the campus' computer labs following the theft of 75 computers from two buildings. Officials said 60 computers were taken Saturday from Stanley Coulter Hall and 15 computers were taken December 18 from the Civil Engineering Building. After Saturday's thefts, police discovered that 29 computers had been placed in bubble wrap but had not been removed from another building, Heavilon Hall. A Purdue spokesman says campus police are stepping up patrols and working with officials from the school's information technology department to prevent more thefts. A University spokeswoman says the computer labs are locked unless someone is staffing the location. She says the buildings that house the labs are sometimes left open.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20091229/NEWS07/912299963/1006/NEWS>

43. *December 29, WMTV 15 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **State capitol evacuated: situation "all clear"**. A bomb threat at the Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin and a suspicious package found right across the street shut down the Capitol Square for three and a half hours. While both turned out to be false alarms, the threats disrupted the area for much of the night. Around three o'clock Capitol Police began turning people away. Someone called Dane County Dispatch and said there was a bomb at the capitol. The building was immediately evacuated and one by one police pushed everyone to a safe distance. An hour and a half later they gave the all clear. The Capitol had only been cleared for a few minutes when the drama began unfolding right across the street. A Madison police spokesman says, "One of the Capitol Officers got information from a patron of Starbucks that there was possibly something suspicious inside Starbucks." Madison Police then evacuated the area and closed down half of Capitol Square. Police still do not have an explanation for either situation and do not know and would not speculate if the bomb threat and suspicious package are related. Either way it was quite a disruption and one that even forced the Red Cross to shut down a blood drive in the Capitol, right in the middle of their operation.

Source: <http://www.nbc15.com/news/headlines/80291067.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

44. *December 29, KTUU 2 Anchorage* – (National) **Officials plan nationwide emergency alert test in Alaska.** Officials say Alaska's unique location has put it on the forefront of emergency alerts. The state will be the first to test a live National Emergency Message Code. In any emergency situation the goal is to alert the public as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Recent public service announcements warn viewers and listeners of an emergency code test that will hit airwaves at 10 a.m. on January 6. It's an exercise to see if, during a real national emergency, the word will reach the public.

“This particular test is going to use the real code if there was a national-level emergency and the president needed to talk to the American public. It’s going to use the actual code that would be used during a national emergency,” said the Chief of Operations at the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The Emergency Action Notification Code can only be activated by the president. It has never been tested before and officials say Alaska is the ideal location. Several FEMA and national homeland security officials will come to Alaska to monitor the exercise that will operate out of Alaska’s homeland security center.

Source: <http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=11745960>

45. *December 29, Lowell Sun* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. FFs worry about station’s floor.** A crumbling concrete floor at Center Fire Station in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, has engineers warning firefighters to park trucks with caution. After an inspection December 10 of the building on North Road, Methuen-based Daigle Engineers Inc. reports that several large sections of delaminated concrete, corroded steel beams and shrunk timber shores pose a safety hazard at the town’s fire-station headquarters. To ensure that the floor is structurally acceptable for continued short-term use, the engineers said several key issues need to be addressed, including limiting the number of times that firefighters back vehicles into the building. “This is critical for Engine 1 at the southern most bay of the station as the slab is not structurally adequate to support the wheel loads,” engineers state in their recommendations. The safety inspection also revealed that several wooden shoring towers helping to hoist the floor up have shrunk, “creating a slight gap between the tops of the towers and the underside of the floor slab.” “If a large enough piece breaks off, the netting that’s there to catch the debris won’t help,” the fire chief said. “Every time a truck rolls in, the floor bounces. Over the years, it’s gotten weaker and weaker. When a big slab of concrete comes down, it will take the net down with it.”

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/mass-ffs-worry-about-stations-floor>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

46. *December 27, PC World* – (International) **Good guys bring down the Mega-D botnet.** For two years, a researcher with security company FireEye worked to keep Mega-D bot malware from infecting clients’ networks. In the process, he learned how its controllers operated it. Last June, he began publishing his findings online. In November, he suddenly switched from defense to offense. And Mega-D — a powerful, resilient botnet that had forced 250,000 PCs to do its bidding — went down. He and two FireEye colleagues went after Mega-D’s command infrastructure. His team first contacted Internet service providers that unwittingly hosted Mega-D control servers; his research showed that most of the servers were based in the United States, with one in Turkey and another in Israel. The FireEye group received positive responses except from the overseas ISPs. The domestic C&C servers went down. Next, the researchers contacted domain-name registrars holding records for the domain names that Mega-D used for its control servers. The registrars collaborated with

FireEye to point Mega-D's existing domain names to nowhere. By cutting off the botnet's pool of domain names, the antibotnet operatives ensured that bots could not reach Mega-D-affiliated servers that the overseas ISPs had declined to take down. Finally, FireEye and the registrars worked to claim spare domain names that Mega-D's controllers listed in the bots' programming. The controllers intended to register and use one or more of the spare domains if the existing domains went down — so FireEye picked them up and pointed them to “sinkholes” (servers it had set up to sit quietly and log efforts by Mega-D bots to check in for orders). Using those logs, FireEye estimated that the botnet consisted of about 250,000 Mega-D-infected computers. MessageLabs, a Symantec e-mail security subsidiary, reports that Mega-D had “consistently been in the top 10 spam bots” for the previous year. The botnet's output fluctuated from day to day, but on November 1 Mega-D accounted for 11.8 percent of all spam that MessageLabs saw. Three days later, FireEye's action had reduced Mega-D's market share of Internet spam to less than 0.1 percent, MessageLabs says.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/185122/good_guys_bring_down_the_megad_botnet.html

For another story, see item [16](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

47. *December 30, WYFF 4 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Greenville radio station ransacked.** A Greenville County radio station was ransacked and thieves took everything, including the microphone for the DJ. The trailer that houses WCSZ 1070 AM on White Horse Road is in shambles. The station's former general manager told News 4 someone broke into the radio station on December 16, and then again this week. He thinks someone broke into the building looking for copper, but then saw a golden opportunity. There was very expensive equipment still at the radio station, including a transmitter worth \$150,000, he said. It was picked apart. He said there is no way to broadcast out of the station until everything is replaced. A forensic investigator was at the radio station Wednesday morning collecting evidence. A Greenville County sheriff's office spokesman said an investigator has been assigned to this case, and it is being looked at as a grand larceny.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/22089937/detail.html>

48. *December 30, Landmark News Service* – (Kentucky) **Internet company expansion encounters extended outage.** An Internet service outage expected to last about four hours has stretched into a week for some customers of U.S. Digital Online. In the process of relocating a server December 22, unexpected issues were encountered that have had staff members, including the company president, working around the clock through the holiday period. The company acquired approximately 800 KV Net accounts from Nolin RECC in July. Previously, U.S. Digital provided dial-up and wireless service to about 300 customers throughout Grayson County from its office in Leitchfield. The company president said the acquisition came with little documentation regarding software. Some customer connections that relied upon outdated technology contributed to the transfer. “It’s been a struggle for us to find out who’s hooked up how,” he said. During the switch over, U.S. Digital found some customers relied on static IP addresses and it had no record of the information necessary to enable the service. The company also encountered more than 5,000 lines of code that had to be rebuilt as part of the configuration. U.S. Digital is a wholesaler of DSL service through Windstream, which also sells Internet connectivity in the area as well as telephone and digital television.

Source: <http://www.thenewsenprise.com/cgi-bin/c2.cgi?053+article+News+20091229053000895>

49. *December 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Wireless phone companies pushing to use federal, defense frequencies.** As mobile phones become more sophisticated, they transmit and receive more data over the airwaves. But the spectrum of wireless frequencies is finite — and devices like the iPhone are allowed to use only so much of it. TV and radio broadcasts, Wi-Fi networks, and other communications services also use the airwaves. Each transmits on certain frequencies to avoid interference with others. Now wireless phone companies fear they are in danger of running out of room, leaving congested networks that frustrate users and slow innovation. So the wireless companies want the government to give them bigger slices of airwaves — even if other users have to give up rights to theirs. Wireless companies are eyeing some frequencies used by TV broadcasters, satellite-communications companies, and federal agencies such as the Pentagon. Already, some of those groups are pushing back. That means tough choices are ahead. But one way or another, Washington will keep up with the exploding growth of the wireless market, insists a U.S. Representative from Virginia. He is sponsoring a bill that would mandate a government inventory of the airwaves to identify unused or underused bands that could be reallocated. The head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the arm of the Commerce Department that manages the federal government’s use of the airwaves, says the agency is also hunting for more frequencies the wireless industry can use. The Pentagon has vacated some frequencies and is developing technology that can make more efficient use of airwaves. It also says it is committed to finding compromises that work for the government and commercial sector, so long as those do not jeopardize military capabilities.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20091228_6508.php

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *December 30, New York Times* – (Arizona) **New details about deaths in sweat lodge are revealed.** As would-be rescuers struggled to drag three unconscious victims from an Arizona sweat lodge ceremony on October 8, the leader of the event sat outside in the shade, according to police reports released Monday by judicial order. The newly released documents, which had been sought by the Phoenix television station KPNX, provide eyewitness accounts of the chaotic events during and after the ceremony conducted by the leader at the Angel Valley Spiritual Retreat Center near Sedona, Arizona. The three unconscious people were pronounced dead a short time later. About 20 other participants were hospitalized with heat-related injuries. One woman who survived suffered scorched lungs. According to the documents, interviews with participants and members of the leader's staff indicate that there was not a safety plan for the October 8 ceremony although serious medical problems had occurred after at least two previous sweat lodge ceremonies led by him at Angel Valley. A participant told the authorities that medical personnel should have been summoned to the two earlier ceremonies but were not. A nurse was there, the documents say, but did little to help participants. The leader, who has made millions of dollars leading self-help seminars across the country, is the focus of a homicide investigation resulting from the October ceremony.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/us/30sweatlodge.html>

51. *December 30, Foster's Daily Democrat* – (New Hampshire) **About 80 offered antibiotics after anthrax scare in Durham.** About 80 people will be offered antibiotics and the anthrax vaccine after tests confirmed the presence of the disease at the drumming room of the Waysmeet Center. The medicine is being offered to people who took part in an West African drumming event at the center on December 4 and another 20 who had access to the building, along with two lab workers at risk of exposure. Meanwhile, the young Strafford County woman who attended the event and has tested positive for gastrointestinal anthrax — the first such case in U.S. history — remains in critical condition at an undisclosed out-of-state hospital. An adviser to New Hampshire's division of public health services, said the state is contacting those 80 people and is merely offering the medicine, which is typically taken for 60 days, out of precaution because "this is a very low-risk situation." So far, health officials believe "vigorous" drumming may have dispersed an anthrax spore into the air, where it was "briefly suspended" before the woman swallowed or inhaled it, causing it to end up in her digestive tract, the advisor said. The center is home to United Campus Ministry that is independent of the University of New Hampshire but offers a residential community for students. It remains closed per an order of the state Department of Health and Human Services. The advisor said environmental samples taken from electrical outlets in the drumming room came back positive for anthrax late Monday.

Source:

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091230/GJNEWS_01/712309957/-1/FOSNEWS

52. *December 30, Associated Press* – (New York) **No bomb in Times Square; Nasdaq workers return.** New York City’s Times Square has been reopened to traffic — and employees, including those at Nasdaq headquarters, returned to their offices — after a bomb squad found no explosive devices in an abandoned van parked in the area. The squad used a robot-based camera to approach the vehicle and open it Wednesday. Police say they found clothing inside. The area around 42d Street between Seventh Avenue and Broadway was briefly blocked off as a precaution, and two high-rise buildings home to Nasdaq and Conde Nast were partially evacuated. “In regard to events at the Nasdaq Market Site, trading at Nasdaq is unaffected. All Nasdaq systems are operating normally,” said an announcement posted on the Nasdaq Web site at 1:10 Wednesday afternoon. The van has tinted windows, and a placard from a nonexistent law enforcement agency is on the dashboard. It has no license plates, but a temporary registration was found inside the van and officers are trying to locate the owner. Police officers on patrol noticed the van around mid-morning Wednesday. Security is tight as the New Year approaches.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/breaking/business_breaking/20091230_No_bomb_in_Times_Square_Nasdaq_workers_return.html

53. *December 29, Associated Press* – (California) **Gunman, other man dead after California casino standoff.** A California sheriff says a man who was fired from his job at an Indian casino last month shot and killed a man in the gaming commission’s security office, then fatally turned the gun on himself. The sheriff says the bodies were discovered Tuesday afternoon when deputies sent two robots inside the office at the Barona Resort and Casino after an hours-long standoff. The shooting did not take place in the casino section of the popular resort, which is 30 miles northeast of downtown San Diego. The gaming floor stayed open during the ordeal. Officials say it began when the 38-year-old man burst into the office with a gun and ordered three secretaries to leave. A sheriff’s spokeswoman says witnesses heard three shots. Officials have not released any details about the victim.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/dec/29/gunman-other-man-dead-after-calif-casino-standoff/>

54. *December 29, WABC 7 New York* – (New York) **NYC plans tight security for New Year’s Eve.** The New Year’s Eve celebration has brought out a sea of security since 9/11 and you can certainly count on a huge police presence Thursday night as millions come out to ring in the 2010. While there is no direct threat against New York City, in light of the terror incident on Christmas day, many are wondering if security will be bigger than we have seen in the past. “Terrorists are looking to kill as many people as possible in a condensed area. This would be an ideal place,” said a security expert. The NYPD’s Counter Terrorism unit will be present along with many of the 250 new officers who graduated today. Canine units with bomb sniffing dogs will also move through the crowds. The New York Police Department will control all access points to Times Square. No bags or backpacks are permitted. Emergency Service squads, drug and bomb sniffing canine units and counter-terrorism personnel will be present in Times Square on New Year’s Eve. Thousands of police officers will be out in force on

New Year's Eve. The whole area will be locked down around 3:00 p.m.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local&id=7191844>

For more stories, see items [43](#) and [47](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

55. *December 30, Concord Monitor* – (New Hampshire) **Dam has leak.** Authorities found a leak yesterday morning in a dam enclosing Sanborn Pond in Loudon, New Hampshire. The leak in the dam, made of dirt and rocks, was reported just before 8 a.m. by an employee at the nearby Sanborn Mills Farm, Loudon's fire chief said. The state administrator of dam safety and inspection, said three 10-wheeler truckloads of rocks were added to the dam to control the leak. "The section that had the leak should not unravel, that was our concern," he said. The pond was also drained into a brook to lower the water level.

Source:

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091230/NEWS01/912300351/1001>

56. *December 30, New York Times* – (North Dakota; Minnesota) **Red River flooding solution is a problem to some.** Although the Red River's swollen waters have long tormented this city and the region straddling North Dakota and Minnesota, the severity of flooding last spring galvanized leaders here to come up with a solution in a \$1 billion water diversion project. But as memories of the floods of 2009 — the images of farmhouses surrounded by miles of water — begin to fade, there are signs that the consensus may be tested. A Red River diversion plan is seen as benefiting cities. The project would create a large-scale diversion channel, essentially sending some part of the water off on a man-made path, around the neighbor cities of Fargo and Moorhead, Minnesota. The sensitive question, though, is where the water should go. Residents of the small, sugar beet farm towns near Fargo fear that any diversion would, in sparing the larger cities, send extra floodwaters straight for them. "There's only one place for it to go — our way — and we can't take anymore, believe me," said mayor of Perley, Minnesota, population 111, one of the towns sprinkled along the river, some of which found themselves isolated for nearly two months last spring because of floodwaters. "Fargo and Moorhead are the big guns," she said. "We don't have the people. We don't have the money. But this is going to affect all the little towns." Leaders here say there is little time for disagreement. The United States Army Corps of Engineers expects to complete an analysis of the alternatives by February, and there is hope that federal

approval — and 65 percent of the cost, in federal money — can be secured in 2010.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/us/30flood.html?_r=1&ref=us

57. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Damaged dam, old flood-protection levees a menacing brew.** The rows of giant sandbags now lining the Green River in Seattle, Washington, may calm residents who feared water could swamp its banks. But the new barrier only masks risks still hidden below: aging levees in serious decay. The right mix of storms could wipe them out and flood the valley before the river even hits its crest. About a half-dozen stretches between Auburn and Tukwila are so porous or unstable that they are considered a failure risk — even if the damaged Howard Hanson Dam is operating normally. If problems with the dam force operators to release enough water to reach the sandbags, odds are that the levees will not hold the increase. Storms last winter damaged an abutment to the dam, and the Army Corps of Engineers concluded this year it might have to release more water than usual and cause flooding to prevent a catastrophic collapse. After months of panic and millions of dollars in preparations, the corps said its temporary repairs this fall dropped the possibility of a significant flood from 1 in 3 to 1 in 33. But permanent repairs that would lessen the threat further may be five years away.

Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/12/damaged_dam_old_flood-protecti.html

58. *December 29, MissouriNet* – (National) **Dam owners urged to get emergency plans in place.** Nationally, about 40 percent of High-Hazard Potential Dams do not have emergency action plans. In Missouri, that percentage is much higher. Supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a new dam safety outreach program will assist the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in working with dam owners to get emergency plans in place. The project spokesman says the goal is to create emergency action plans for all dams in Missouri — and nationwide — to protection lives and property in the event of a breach.

Source: <http://www.missourinet.com/2009/12/29/dam-owners-urged-to-get-emergency-plans-in-place/>

For another story, see item [31](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the 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 Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to NICCCReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List:

Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List:

Send mail to support@govdelivery.com.

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.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.