



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 March 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports new restrictions on open records access in South Dakota courts and state health department are directly related to the rapidly spreading crime of identity theft. (See item [8](#))
- Reuters reports a cluster of human bird flu cases among relatives and possibly health workers in Vietnam may show the H5N1 bird flu virus is changing into a form that can be passed on by humans. (See item [21](#))
- Government Technology reports Maine Governor John Baldacci has announced the launching of a statewide emergency alert notification system for deaf and hard of hearing people. (See item [22](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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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://esisac.com>]

1. *March 14, Associated Press* — **Russia to give China oil supply priority.** Russia will give priority to China in supplying oil through a planned Siberian pipeline as the two countries build up energy cooperation, the Chinese prime minister said Monday, March 14. Premier Wen Jiabao appeared to be trying to put a positive spin on Russia's choice of a competing Japanese plan that would have the pipeline run to the Pacific, bypassing China. Moscow later agreed to

add a branch line to carry crude to China's northeast. "The Russian government and President Putin have made it very clear that first consideration will be given to China when they build the Siberian oil-gas pipeline," Wen said. Beijing is looking to Russia to meet the growing energy demands of its booming economy. China already is the world's third-largest oil importer, after the United States and Japan, and imports soared 35 percent last year. The pipeline, due to be completed by 2010, is expected to cost \$10.75 billion and carry 1.6 million barrels of oil a day. Beijing expects to import 70 million barrels of Russian crude oil this year by rail and 105 million barrels next year, Wen said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A33462-2005Mar 14.html>

- 2. *March 14, Agence France-Press* — U.S. nuclear power safer than ever from terror attack, according to official.** U.S. nuclear power plants have hardened their defenses against potential terrorist attacks and do not face a significant risk from suicide aircraft attacks, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) chairman said. NRC chairman Nils Diaz said the nation's nuclear industry is safer than ever nearly four years after the September 11, 2001, hijacked airplane strikes on New York and Washington. "Both nuclear security and safety are better than they have ever been and both are getting better," Diaz said. "What we have done in the last three and a half years is to make it very difficult for anyone to find ways to attempt acts of radiological sabotage, even more difficult to succeed in doing real harm, and to be very prepared to protect our people in the very unlikely event of radiological release," he said. Protective barriers have been moved further away from nuclear reactors, the number of guards has increased and towers have been installed to shoot potential intruders, Diaz added.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20050314/pl_afp/usattacksnuclear_050314181259

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

- 3. *March 12, Cape Cod Times (MA)* — Chemical leak sickens water plant employees in Massachusetts.** Three Provincetown, MA, department of public works employees were taken to Cape Cod Hospital Friday, March 11, after a failed coupling released potassium hydroxide into the air at the town's water treatment plant in Truro. David Guertin, director of public works, said the caustic chemical, used to treat water at the plant, was released in the form of a fine mist. He said the three workers were not seriously injured and were slated to be released after an eye-flushing procedure. Guertin said reports from the scene indicated that one to five gallons of the substance was spilled inside the facility, and one to two gallons spilled outside. He said the spill had been reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection, and that a contracted hazardous materials cleanup company was examining the spill site.

Source: <http://www.capecodonline.com/cctimes/chemicalleak12.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

Banking and Finance Sector

4. *March 14, Mail on Sunday (UK)* — **Crooks targeting Internet shoppers.** Supermarkets and stores selling goods online in the United Kingdom (UK) have been warned their customers are the next targets for phishing. The UK National Criminal Intelligence Service's High Tech Crime Unit has told online retailers such as Sainsbury, Ocado and Tesco that they need a massive upgrade in security to counter the growing threat. Tony Neate, the unit's industry liaison officer, said, "We have warned all the big retailers that we consider them to be the next targets and are helping them to secure their sites against the attacks we think are coming. We are working with the online retailers, but are also working to educate their customers and make them aware of the problems." Peter Warren, co-author of Internet crime book "Cyber Alert," said, "The conmen will send e-mails offering a bottle or two of champagne as an inducement to check out the site and register to shop. But anyone falling for it will have handed their details to scam merchants."

Source: http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/pages/dmstandard/frame.html?in_bottom=http:%2F%2Fwww.thisismoney.co.uk%2Fnews%2Findex.html%3Fin_page_id%3D2&in_page_id=1804

5. *March 14, eWeek* — **War against phishing continues.** Phishers and other online scammers are well ahead of law enforcement officials and security experts right now in terms of techniques and tactics, but the good guys are closing the gap and may be able to claim victory within as little as two or three years, people involved in the fight against phishing say. Experts say that there is no one answer to the question of how to stop phishing. Consumer education efforts have begun to show results, but three to five percent of recipients still fall for phishing scams. Some technology vendors have introduced tools that help uncover fraudulent Websites, but scammers always seem to be one step ahead with new tricks. Law enforcement officials have made a few high-profile arrests recently, but successful prosecutions of phishers remain rare. In the end, it will likely be a combination of education, technology, legislation and law enforcement that ends up making a serious dent in the phishing industry.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1759.1774759.00.asp>

6. *March 14, The Courier-Mail (Australia)* — **Internet banking not safe according to information technology professor.** Personal home computers were never designed to act as secure ATMs and could not be trusted for Internet banking or any other online transaction, a leading Internet security researcher has warned. Associate dean of IT at Queensland (Australia) University of Technology Bill Caelli said hacking tools such as trojans and spyware — which lured users to sites where software was secretly downloaded allowing criminals to log every keystroke — had rendered the personal computer obsolete for secure financial transactions. By contrast, a pinpad, such as that used in ATM transactions, was tamper-proof and encrypted banking details from the moment they were entered to the time they reached the bank. "A personal computer at home was never designed for secure transactions like banking," Professor Caelli said. The Australian Computer Emergency Response Team (AusCERT), which tracks computer fraud, believes trojan attacks are shaping up as the biggest threat not just to online banking but to the entire online economy. AusCERT general manager Graham Ingram said online bankers and shoppers were already a common target, but hacking tools were getting

more sophisticated.

Source: http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,12534966%255E462,00.html

7. *March 14, El Pais (Spain)* — **Officials from seven countries to investigate Spanish money laundering scheme.** Prosecutors in at least seven countries confirmed this weekend that they are opening investigations into a money–laundering network cracked open by Spanish police in the Costa del Sol recently that is believed to have links to criminal gangs operating across Europe and North America. Investigators from France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Russia are expected to arrive in Spain over the coming days to begin collaborating with Spanish police, while prosecutors in the United States, Canada and Germany are also opening investigations into the network, which allegedly funneled up to US\$800 million from drugs and arms trafficking, prostitution, theft and fraud through the Del Valle Abogados law firm in Marbella, Spain. At least nine known criminal gangs are believed to have used Del Valle Abogados to create front companies through which to launder money by investing it in real estate along the Costa del Sol and moving the gains to tax havens such as the British colony of Gibraltar.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/getina/files/232180.html>

8. *March 13, Associated Press* — **Identity theft concerns limit open records.** New open–records restrictions this year in South Dakota courts and the state Health Department are directly related to the rapidly spreading crime of identity theft. South Dakota legislators passed several bills this year to deal with identity theft, including one that would bar the general public from getting certified copies of birth and death records from the Health Department and marriage licenses from county registers of deeds. Another new state law that goes on into effect July 1 will bar state officials from listing Social Security numbers on drivers' licenses. Also, the state Supreme Court adopted a rule February 25 that forbade the release of sensitive personal information such as Social Security numbers and financial documents in criminal cases and civil lawsuits, says Lynn Sudbeck, general legal counsel in the state Court Administrator's Office. She says personal financial information, including income tax returns, will be struck from court files available to the public.

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/11127044.htm>

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Transportation Sector

9. *March 14, The Morning News (AR)* — **Intermodal terminals are needed.** Terry Matthews, senior vice president of sales at J.B. Hunt Transport Services of Lowell, AR, says the country can ease the burden on interstate highways, slow the growing shortage truck drivers, and improve the delivery of freight from major ocean ports with more intermodal terminals. The United States needs a national transportation policy and government investment or backing to build more intermodal terminals, Matthews said. Intermodal funding may get an increase through a six–year transportation bill the U.S. House of Representatives passed Thursday, March 10. At least one version of a considered bill included as much as \$250 million per year for intermodal facilities from 2005 through 2009. Union Pacific Railroad is building a 360–acre intermodal terminal in Dallas County, TX, to help long–haul trucking companies meet shipping

needs. Union Pacific has an intermodal agreement with J.B. Hunt Transport. Intermodal terminals would allow trucks and train cars to move freight inland from California container ports at Long Beach and Los Angeles. There is also a movement to build intermodal facilities at major ports, to move freight from ship to port to rail to truck. Arkansas' Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority discussed at a February 17 meeting the building of a port to move freight by railway, roads and water.

Source: http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2005/03/13/business/01futu_re.txt

10. *March 14, Associated Press* — **Officials investigate apparent planes hoax.** The Transportation Security Administration is trying to determine what was behind reports of three planes in trouble over Long Island Sound, according to the Coast Guard. The reports, all called in around 5 p.m. Sunday, March 13, said the planes had electrical and engine trouble. The callers offered tail numbers but no further information. At 6:30 p.m., the Coast Guard in New Haven, CT, received a call from a state agency inquiring about reports of a plane hijacked by terrorists. "We didn't know anything about it, and thought maybe it had something to do with the planes in distress," Petty Officer Dwain McCullough said. The tail numbers did not check out, said Lt. Melanie Burnham of the U.S. Coast Guard Command Center. Burnham said that the Coast Guard had been on alert because all three planes had reportedly been traveling over water, one close to New York, one close to Long Island Sound, and one en route to Martha's Vineyard. Aviation centers in Boston, New York and Washington, DC, were unable to confirm the existence of the planes that were in trouble, Burnham added.

Source: <http://www.nbc30.com/news/4281700/detail.html>

11. *March 14, KAIT TV (AR)* — **FBI, Coast Guard investigate bomb hoax on barge.** Deputies with the Mississippi County Sheriff's Department were called to the marine terminal at Barfield Landing on the Mississippi River near Armorel, AR, Sunday, March 13, concerning a suspected bomb attached to a barge. At approximately 8:20 a.m., the sheriff's office received a call from the general manager of Marine Terminals of Arkansas, who told authorities that an object had been strapped to the side of one of the barges at the landing. The barge in question had been moved to the middle of the river and away from the docking area. Upon arrival at the scene, officers found the device to be a box containing several wires leading to a battery. Both the Arkansas State Police and Shelby County, TN, bomb squad units were immediately notified for assistance, and the U.S. Coast Guard was also contacted. At approximately 1:36 p.m., members of the bomb squads determined the device was a "hoax mechanism." The incident is now being investigated by the Coast Guard, the FBI and the Sheriff's Department.

Source: <http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?S=3073842&nav=0jshXSNw>

12. *March 14, WFSB (CT)* — **Connecticut governor recruiting other governors to fight rise in Amtrak fees.** Governor Jodi Rell has written a letter to 10 other governors in the Northeast corridor, warning that Connecticut Amtrak fees are going up and theirs may go up soon as well. The governor says Amtrak wants to hike Connecticut fees to access its rail lines by a staggering 626 percent. Rell is also asking for help from Connecticut congressman Rob Simmons who is on the committee responsible for Amtrak funding.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/Global/story.asp?S=3071754>

13. *March 11, Associated Press* — **Northwest launches another fare increase.** The second fare increase in as many weeks was initiated Thursday, March 10, by Northwest Airlines Corp., and

broadly matched by many of its competitors, including AMR Corp., America West Holdings Corp., Continental Airlines Inc., Delta Air Lines Inc. and Air Canada. Northwest raised most fares in the United States and Canada by \$5 each way for flights shorter than 1,000 miles, and by \$10 each way for longer flights. The Eagan, MN–based carrier boosted ticket prices by the same amount two weeks ago, and its competitors followed that move, too. The financial difficulty caused by the high cost of oil has been magnified by fierce competition from budget carriers such as Southwest Airlines Co. and JetBlue Airways Corp., whose growth has helped drive down the price of already unprofitably low fares. Northwest spokesperson Kurt Ebenhoch said Friday, March 11, that the fare hikes are an attempt to offset the high price of jet fuel, now averaging \$1.56 a gallon the spot market in New York, compared with 97 cents a gallon a year earlier.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/050311/air_fares_10.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *March 14, Associated Press* — **Signs of anthrax at two military mailrooms.** Sensors at two military mail facilities detected signs of anthrax on two pieces of mail Monday, March 14, but Pentagon officials said the mail had already been irradiated, rendering any anthrax inert. Additional tests and other sensors at the two facilities, one of them at the Pentagon and the other nearby, found no presence of the bacteria. The Pentagon's mail delivery site, which is separate from the main Pentagon building, was evacuated and shut down Monday, March 14, after sensors triggered an alarm around 10:30 a.m., spokesperson Glenn Flood said. It was expected to remain closed until at least Tuesday, March 15, while the investigation continued. It was not clear when sensors at the second Defense Department mailroom were triggered, and Pentagon officials only said a nearby satellite mail facility was closed. Follow-up tests were being conducted at the U.S. Army Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, MD, officials said. The tests will take two to three days to complete.

Source: http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/breaking_news/11135542.htm

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Agriculture Sector

15. *March 14, Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **Agriculture inspections decline.** Agricultural inspections at ports of entry fell markedly between 2002 and 2004, federal investigators note. The eight percent decrease occurred even as imports kept rising. Total agricultural inspections at U.S. ports of entry fell to 37.5 million in 2004 from 40.9 million in 2002. Sniffing dogs are being used less frequently, investigators added. And the number of seizures of prohibited plants and animals fell from 1.8 million in 2002 to 1.6 million in 2004. Department of Homeland Security officials attributed some of the inspection fall-off to their shortage of trained inspectors. The department plans to hire an additional 500 inspectors this year, and says it is improving training. When Congress created the Department of Homeland Security, lawmakers transferred about 1,500 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors into the new agency. The USDA retained about 6,000 employees in what is still called the Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/content/business/story/12561248p-13416312c.html>

16. *March 14, Canadian Press* — **Hong Kong wants chicken population cut by half as precaution against bird flu.** Hong Kong's government said Monday, March 14, it plans to step up precautions against bird flu and cut the local chicken population by half to 1.8 million, sparking outrage from the poultry industry. The reduced chicken supply of 1.8 million birds would allow officials to better control the birds if a bird flu outbreak occurs, Hong Kong's Health, Welfare and Food Bureau said in briefing paper for lawmakers. The government paper said it hopes to reduce chicken numbers by enticing chicken farmers and wholesalers to quit with \$34 million in compensation and retraining funding. A similar program is already in place for live poultry retailers. The Hong Kong government also wants to centralize chicken slaughtering by region -- a move Hong Kong Poultry Wholesalers and Retailers Association Chairman, Steven Wong, says will cripple the industry.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/health/story.html?id=485c2e59-177e-48c1-91d6-c006fa706864>

17. *March 11, Purdue University* — **Certain plants use metal for defense.** A group of plants that uses metal to defend against infection may do so because the normal defense mechanism used by most other plants is blocked. Purdue University researchers found that this group of plants produces, but does not respond to, the molecule that triggers the infection response used by nearly all other plants. The molecule does, however, allow this group of plants, called metal hyperaccumulators, to store high levels of metal in their tissues, rendering them pathogen resistant. These findings shed new light on the evolution of these plants and may have implications for the development of crops that may one day remove metal and other contaminants from the environment. "Our goal is to find the high-level regulator -- the one gene or group of genes that turns a plant into a hyperaccumulator," said David Salt, associate professor of plant molecular physiology. "But we have no way to know what that gene is, so we need to deconstruct the process, starting with things we can measure, which are these visible traits, and then we work backwards."

Source: <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/UNS/html4ever/2005/050311.Salt.pa.thogens.html>

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Food Sector

18. *March 13, Agence France Presse* — **Pesticide mistaken for flour may have caused poisoning.** Pesticide mistaken for flour may have been responsible for the deaths of 27 schoolchildren in the Philippines last week, according to a report in the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper. Philippine National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco was quoted saying that a can of pesticide resembling a flour container was found in the house of a vendor suspected of selling cassava sweets to the victims, who died of food poisoning. Twenty-seven children aged seven to 13 died and more than 100 others fell ill after eating the sweets sold at the gates of San Jose Elementary School in Mabini, in the central island of Bohol.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1507&ncid=1507&e=9&u=/afp/20050313/hl_afp/philippinespoisoning_050313192_149

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Water Sector

19. *March 14, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-240: Storm Water Pollution: Information Needed on the Implications of Permitting Oil and Gas Construction Activities (Report)**. To prevent pollutants from entering storm water runoff, the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Program requires controls for construction activities that disturb land. Phase I of this program requires permitting for construction activities that disturb five acres or more, while Phase II requires permitting for activities disturbing between one and five acres. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extended the Phase II compliance date for discharges associated with oil and gas construction activities until March 2005 to analyze the impact of Phase II on the oil and gas industry. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to provide information about oil and gas construction activities — such as well drilling and pipeline construction — affected by Phase I and likely to be affected by Phase II, as well as Phase II's financial and environmental implications. GAO recommends that EPA's Administrator complete the agency's analysis of the Phase II program before making a final decision on its implementation. In reviewing our draft report, EPA officials agreed with the recommendation. EPA subsequently proposed an extension for the Phase II deadline for small oil and gas activities until June 2006 to allow time to complete its analysis. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05240high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05240.pdf>

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Public Health Sector

20. *March 14, Tampa Tribune (FL)* — **Dust particle research**. U.S. Geological Survey microbiologist Dale Griffin will each week for months check the skies above the Tampa Bay, FL, area for bacteria, viruses, and chemicals hitching intercontinental rides on specks of African dust. There's no doubt about the presence of the dust, or that the phenomenon has intensified in recent years because of events in faraway lands: overgrazing, drought, diversion of water, and clearing of forests. Now researchers working with state health officials want to know whether the tiny particles' passengers affect plant, animal, or human health in the Bay area. A steady stream of research in recent years has established that ever-bigger plumes of particles ferry fragments of herbicides, pesticides, and microorganisms vast distances. Scientists say that on a typical spring or summer day in the Bay area at least half the particles contained in the average person's breath of air originated in Africa. The same winds that launch hurricanes westward propel dust from the Sahara and the increasingly parched Sahel to the Caribbean and southeastern U.S.
Source: <http://www.tampatrib.com/MGB1M9X6A6E.html>
21. *March 14, Reuters* — **Bird flu clusters may signal virus change**. A cluster of human bird flu cases among relatives and possibly health workers in Vietnam may show the virus is changing into a form that can be passed on by humans, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

"Such cases can provide the first signal that the virus is altering its behavior in human populations and thus alert authorities to the need to intervene quickly," the WHO said in a statement on Monday, March 14. The main concern of the WHO was a series of cases of the H5N1 bird flu virus in a family in the northern Vietnam province of Thai Binh and the possible infection of two nurses who cared for one of the patients. It also said it had received confirmation of an additional 10 cases of human infections from Vietnam's Health Ministry. The new cases were detected in early March or through re-examination of older cases, some of which dated back to late January and three of which had been fatal, the WHO said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=7887919>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *March 14, Government Technology* — Emergency alert notification system unveiled in Maine. At a ceremony on Friday, March 11, Maine Governor John Baldacci announced the launching of a statewide emergency alert notification system for deaf and hard of hearing people. "The unique partnership between Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Division of Deafness and the Maine Center on Deafness has made this important service a reality," said Baldacci. The need for such a service was first identified during the Ice Storm of 1998, when widespread power outages trapped many Mainers in their homes. Hearing individuals were able to obtain information about the storm through their battery-powered radios. Deaf people, however, were isolated in their homes with no way to learn about the seriousness of the storm. Depending on where deaf and hard of hearing people are located, either one-way pagers, two-way pagers, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather alert radios with digital or amplified messages are now being distributed through the Telecommunications Equipment Program. Art Cleaves, director of MEMA noted, "This service is part of Maine's seamless, integrated and robust communications, enabling rapid contact with first responders to ensure emergency alert notification and enhance homeland security to all affected persons in the state, including at-risk populations."

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=93363>

23. *March 13, WOWT News (NE)* — Disaster drill for local agencies in Omaha. A massive disaster drill was held across Omaha, NE, Saturday, March 12, giving police, fire, government agencies, and hospitals the opportunity to practice in the event of the real thing. "It's a simulated terrorist event that's actually taking place in about 20 different locations in the metropolitan area," said Jim Rogers with Douglas Emergency Management. The scenario at Seymour Smith Park had one terrorist dead with three others having kidnapped a police officer and exploding a tanker releasing some sort of gas. As the "cloud" spread, people nearby dropped to the ground. It will take 45 days for a full report to determine how the city fared in the drill.

Source: <http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/1359922.html>

24. *March 13, The Lompoc Record (CA)* — Volunteer trainees prepare for real disasters. Shriill screams of agony pierced downtown Lompoc, CA, Saturday, March 12, as high school students played victims in a mock earthquake simulation—the final drill for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainees. Residents in the Lompoc Fire Department's annual CERT training learn how they can help fire and rescue personnel in the event of a catastrophic disaster. CERT training involves 20 hours of classroom and hands–on training, including fire prevention, fire suppression, utility shut down and basic first aid. In the event of a disaster, such as a major earthquake, CERT trainees could save lives by putting out small fires and applying first aid and triage for trauma victims, fire officials said. Cabrillo High School drama students, and some from Youth Leadership Lompoc Valley, wore makeup to simulate earthquake trauma victims. In addition to wearing the mock leg and arm bone fractures, rubber head lacerations, painted–on chest burns, and fake blood, the students supplied visceral cries of pain and real tears.

Source: <http://www.lompocrecord.com/articles/2005/03/12/news/news11.txt>

25. *March 11, The Ukiah Daily Journal (CA)* — Medical center stages "code black" disaster drill. The chaotic scene that played out at the Ukiah Valley Medical Center in Ukiah, CA, Thursday, March 10, wasn't real, but the stagecraft served a purpose. Hospital personnel created a "code black" situation, which puts everyone on site in disaster mode. Thursday's imaginary drama envisioned an earthquake at a home–improvement store in Ukiah. Emergency first–responders pretended falling shelves had dumped chemicals and pesticides on shoppers, and then the wave of faux injured descended on the hospital. Medical staff hustled patients to the triage tent or the decontamination chamber, or to whatever place had been designated for treatment of specific injuries. To add to the real–life atmosphere, the set included a makeshift morgue. Workers in the command center choreographed responders' movements and gave orders. Meanwhile, printed instructions — white paper set off by sheets of brilliant orange — spelled out the duties attendant to each assigned role. After an hour's worth of practice, some 30 hospital staffers convened to rate and analyze the performance. They reported what had gone well, what hadn't, and how the real thing would differ from what happened Thursday.

Source: <http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/Stories/0.1413.91~3089~2757.528.00.html>

26. *March 10, KOMO 1000 News (WA)* — Terrorism drill staged at high school. A terrorism drill Thursday, March 10, was centered around Edmonds Woodway High School in Edmonds, WA. This time, instead of just federal, state and local emergency crews, students helped to stage the mock disaster — each of them a victim of a terrorist's dirty bomb. Organizers tried to make the drill as real and chaotic as possible. One fake dirty bomb detonated, another was found in a car. Snipers pretended to kill two officers and a unknown chemical agent was released. Thursday's drill is in response to a mandate from the Department of Homeland Security calling on all emergency agencies to be prepared for any disaster — including a terrorist attack.

Source: http://www.komotv.com/news/story_m.asp?ID=35655

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

27. *March 14, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-267: Information Technology: Customs Automated Commercial Environment Program Progressing, but Need for Management Improvements Continues (Report)**. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is conducting a multiyear, multibillion-dollar acquisition of a new trade processing system, planned to support the movement of legitimate imports and exports and strengthen border security. By congressional mandate, plans for expenditure of appropriated funds on this system, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), must meet certain conditions, including Government Accountability Office (GAO) review. This study addresses whether the fiscal year 2005 plan satisfies these conditions, describes the status of DHS's efforts to implement prior GAO recommendations for improving ACE management, and provides observations about the plan and DHS's management of the program. To help ensure the success of ACE, GAO recommends, among other things, that DHS define and implement an ACE accountability framework that provides for establishment of explicit program commitments for expected system capabilities and benefits as well as cost and schedule, and ensures that progress against these commitments is measured and reported. DHS agreed with GAO's recommendations and described actions that it plans to take to respond to them. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05267high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05267.pdf>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis	
Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.	
US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: Several vulnerabilities were identified in MySQL, which may be exploited by local attackers to execute arbitrary commands or obtain elevated privileges. For more information, please visit the following link: http://www.k-tik.com/english/advisories/2005/0252	
Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft-ds), 20525 (----), 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 1026 (----), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1027 (icq), 53 (domain), 1025 (----), 6346 (gnutella-svc) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/ .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

28. *March 14, EiTB24 (Spain)* — **Europe-wide alert system to warn when weapons or explosives are stolen.** Interior ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain recently met at a hotel near Granada's Alhambra Moorish palace to discuss sharing information on terror suspects and setting up a Europe-wide alert system to warn each other when weapons or explosives are stolen. The two-day gathering of top security officials from the European Union's (EU) five most populous nations will also consider a proposal for a common national identity card system and exchanging data on airline passengers. The talks are part of European efforts to strengthen security and reform the continent-wide crime-fighting body Europol to better fight terrorism and organized crime, Spanish Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said. The ministers have issued a declaration on fighting terrorism that drew a clear distinction between violence from Islamic extremists and Islam as a religion. The ministers have been also expected to focus on ways to avoid legal loopholes in future decisions on the exchange of information between countries on terror suspects and their expulsion from the 25-nation European Union. Spain, in particular, is pushing for a system under which countries would immediately alert all EU members if explosives or arms were stolen in their territory.

Source: http://www.eitb24.com/noticia_en.php?id=46020

29. *March 14, Associated Press* — **Alleged gang members arrested in sweep.** The government on Monday, March 14, announced the arrests of 103 alleged members of Mara Salvatrucha-13 (MS-13), a street gang rooted in Central America where members have been known to behead enemies and attack with grenades and machetes. The arrests, in seven cities since early January, are the first of a nationwide crackdown on MS-13, which is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the United States. Federal officials estimate between 8,000 and 10,000 MS-13 members live in 31 states the majority of them in the country illegally. Agents with the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement used information from state and local law enforcement authorities to target MS-13 activities in the New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Newark, Miami and Dallas metropolitan areas. Half of the suspects charged in the sting, nicknamed "Operation Community Shield," have prior arrests or convictions for violent crimes, including murder, sodomy, assault and arson. All of them can be deported for violating immigration laws, said Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia. MS-13 began in El Salvador and now includes members from Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=579583>

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