Daily Highlights

• The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Monday, February 26, endorsed a plan to allow competitive bidding for rights to build a long-envisioned Alaska North Slope natural gas pipeline. (See item 4)

• The Los Angeles Times reports aircraft came too close to one another at Los Angeles International Airport twice last weekend, the first such incidents at the facility since September; a ground radar system alerted controllers to impending collisions in each case. (See item 12)

• The Department of Homeland Security has released $194 million to help states and local governments prepare and implement emergency management activities through the Emergency Management Performance Grant program. (See item 33)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump
Production Industries: Energy; Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials; Defense Industrial Base
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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

1. February 28, Intelligencer Journal (PA) — Peach Bottom nuclear plant has small fire. A fire Tuesday, February 27, at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania prompted officials to declare a brief emergency alert. Officials declared the "unusual event" — the least
serious of four emergency classifications established by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission — at 9:41 a.m. EST, said April Schilpp, a spokesperson for Exelon Nuclear, which owns the York County plant. One of the plant's two reactors was powered down during the emergency. "At no time (were) personnel or the public in any danger," Schilpp said. The fire started in a transformer cabinet inside a building that houses one of the plant's turbines, Schilpp said. The building is near the Unit 3 reactor. An electrical component of the cooling fan caught fire for an unknown reason, Schilpp said. Investigators are trying to determine what started the fire and how much damage it caused.


2. **February 28, Associated Press** — **State regulator faults Con Ed for Westchester blackout response.** A state regulatory agency said Consolidated Edison failed to have enough workers deployed to restore power to thousands of customers in Westchester County during outages last summer. The Public Service Commission also said Con Ed didn't adequately communicate with consumers and public officials during the crisis. A July 18 storm left about 35,000 customers in Westchester without power for days. The storm hit as 4,300 Bronx and Westchester customers were without electricity because of heat-related problems. The company also had outages in Queens. A second storm hit Westchester County on September 2, causing the loss of electric service to about 78,000 customers. The commission made 48 recommendations to Con Ed to improve its responses to outages. The company is expected to put the recommendations in place by May 15. A spokesperson for Con Ed said the company has already begun improving its operations and emergency response procedures.


3. **February 28, Government Accountability Office** — **GAO−07−550T: Advanced Energy Technologies: Key Challenges to Their Development and Deployment (Testimony).** The Department of Energy (DOE) has funded research and development (R&D) on advanced renewable, fossil, and nuclear energy technologies. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined the (1) R&D funding trends and strategies for developing advanced energy technologies; (2) key barriers to developing and deploying advanced energy technologies; and (3) efforts of the states and six selected countries to develop and deploy advanced energy technologies. GAO’s report recommended that the Congress consider further stimulating the development and deployment of a diversified energy portfolio by focusing R&D funding on advanced energy technologies.


4. **February 26, Reuters** — **FERC chief endorses new plan for Alaska natural gas.** The chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Monday, February 26, endorsed a plan to allow competitive bidding for rights to build a long-envisioned Alaska North Slope natural gas pipeline. FERC Chairman Joseph Kelliher met Monday with Alaska Governor Sarah Palin in Washington and endorsed the new governor's plan. "We talked about her efforts on the Alaska natural gas pipeline, which I believe represent the best hope for building a pipeline to bring Alaska's vast natural gas resources to the energy-consuming lower 48 states," Kelliher said in a brief statement. Among alternatives Palin advocates is one for a much shorter, all-Alaska pipeline that would deliver gas to tankers that would carry liquified
natural gas to the lower 48 states.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/governmentFilingsNews/idUSN26 17348520070227

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. February 28, Bradenton Herald (FL) — Fuel spill at gas station prompts road closure. A vehicle drove off with a nozzle still in its fuel tank, spilling 25 gallons of gasoline across the parking lot and temporarily closing one lane of traffic on State Road 70 in Manatee, FL. Southern Manatee Fire Rescue arrived at the BP gas station at 4720 53rd Ave. E. within minutes. It will take one or two days to complete the cleanup and $5,000 to $25,000 to repair the damage.

6. February 26, Pittsburgh Tribune−Review — Small chemical spill causes fire at Duquesne University. A small chemical spill caused a fire at Duquesne University in Pennsylvania Monday, February 26, forcing a second evacuation of the science hall in two hours. Students doing an experiment spilled phosphorus oxychloride. University officials evacuated and closed the Richard King Mellon Hall of Science in response. No one was injured, and the building was reopened after Duquesne employees appeared to have the spill under control. Shortly after, the chemical caught fire and the building was again evacuated.
Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregi on/s_495081.html

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. February 28, Department of Defense — Gates, Pace call on Congress to fund IED research. Defense leaders Tuesday, February 27, called on Congress to approve a further $2.4 billion to defeat the biggest killer of Americans in the Middle East: the improvised explosive device (IED). Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Peter Pace told the Senate Appropriations Committee that the fiscal 2007 emergency supplemental request includes money to fund research into defeating IEDs. The money is in addition to $2 billion Congress already has appropriated this year to deal with the problem. Gates stressed to the senators that this is an overriding concern in the Department of Defense. There is no easy solution, Gates said, and the United States must keep pushing at the problem. “The reality is we face an agile and a smart adversary, and as soon as we...find one way of trying to thwart their efforts, they find a new technology or a new way of going about their business,” he said. “But I can assure you this is a very high priority for us.”

8. February 27, Star−Telegram (TX) — The Air Force's aging fleet. At a time when the nation is at war on two fronts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force is also battling another enemy — age. The average age of military aircraft in 1973 during the Vietnam War was nine years. Today, the average is 24 years, and venerable planes like the KC−135 Stratotanker and the
B-52H Stratofortress are well into their 40s. Today, nearly four years into the Iraq war, more than 800 aircraft are grounded or operating under flying restrictions. In turn, overall combat readiness has declined by 17 percent, in part because of "the aging fleet and our ability to get those airplanes in the air," Maj. Gen. Frank Faykes said a budget briefing early this month. The age issue has become a source of alarm for the Air Force leadership, which is pushing against rising budget pressures to modernize and restock the fleet. "It was a looming crisis," says Richard Aboulafia, an aircraft analyst with the Teal Group in Fairfax, VA. "And now, because of Iraq and Afghanistan, it's a looming disaster."

Source: http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/16796113.htm

Banking and Finance Sector

9. February 28, IDG News Service — Germany puts antiterror data law in place. A law allowing security officials in Germany to create the largest and most comprehensive pool of personal data ever amassed in the country goes into effect Thursday, March 1, as the European Union's (EU) largest member state moves to protect itself against possible terrorist attacks. The databases of nearly 40 different agencies, including the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Intelligence Service, will be linked to allow authorities to run searches on suspected individuals and retrieve information within minutes. Support for the security measure has grown in Germany and many other EU member states that worry about their national security being increasingly threatened by international terrorism, organized crime, and illegal immigration. An expanded index file will be created for suspected terrorists. The file will contain the person's name, bank account number, telephone number, e-mail address, driver's license information, and other data, including the names of companies, organizations and other parties associated with the person and linked to terrorist groups.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/02/28/HNgermanantiterror law_1.html

10. February 28, CNET News — Cyber investigators overwhelmed with data. Cyber investigators are nearly drowning in the massive amounts of digital data seized from criminal suspects, a government official said Wednesday, February 28. As digital evidence increases in importance, authorities seize anything that can hold data. This includes computers, CDs, USB keys, MP3 players, cell phones and game consoles, Jim Christy, a director of the U.S. Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center, said in a presentation at the Black Hat DC Briefings & Training event in Arlington, VA. Digital evidence can answer key questions in a legal case, but efficient tools to sift through massive amounts of data don't exist today, Christy said. Cybercrime investigators need more tools because they are stretched thin. There are only about a dozen accredited digital-forensics labs in the United States. Digital evidence is used in many more cases than DNA analysis, for example, which appears in only 1 percent of U.S. criminal cases, Christy said.

Black Hat DC Briefings & Training:


11.
February 28, InformationWeek — Social networking Websites feed phishers. Computer security vendor MessageLabs on Wednesday, February 28, released statistics showing that one in every 203.7 messages carried a phishing attack, a 0.58 percentage point drop. Mark Sunner, chief security analyst with MessageLabs, attributes the decline to criminals targeting their victims more efficiently. "We're seeing people's personal details—their names, addresses, ZIP codes, that kind of thing—used inside the messages that are purporting to come from banks," explained Sunner. "And this is increasingly a symptom of the big uptake in social networking sites such as MySpace, where people are willingly keying in all this data about themselves." The cyberthieves can easily use this information to craft targeted attacks, Sunner said, which tend to be more successful.


Source: [http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=42G0GZOFVXXFWQSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=197009245](http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=42G0GZOFVXXFWQSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=197009245)

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**Transportation and Border Security Sector**

12. February 28, Los Angeles Times — Pilots blamed for two incidents at LAX. Aircraft came too close to one another at Los Angeles International Airport twice last weekend, the first such incidents at the facility since September. On Sunday, February 25, controllers instructed the pilot of a Piaggio P180 turboprop to taxi to a runway on the airport's south side in preparation for takeoff. As the pilot neared the runway, he breached a safety zone, said Ian Gregor, a spokesperson with the Federal Aviation Administration. A controller told the pilot of the Piaggio to stop before he crossed the runway, and the tower asked an incoming SkyWest Airlines turboprop that was approaching from about half a mile away to circle and make another landing attempt, Gregor said. On Saturday, a Continental Airlines Boeing 737 landed on the north side of LAX and left the outer runway on a taxiway, where it was to wait before crossing the inner runway. Controllers then cleared an American Eagle turboprop to take off on the inner runway. After the turboprop was airborne, the controller cleared the Continental jet to cross the runway. The turboprop flew about 800 feet over the Boeing 737, officials said. In both cases, a ground radar system designed to alert controllers in the tower to impending collisions sounded an alarm.


13. February 28, Associated Press — Costa Rica tightens security at Limon port. Costa Rican authorities pledged Tuesday, February 27, to increase police patrols in a Caribbean resort town after a U.S. tourist in his 70s killed a mugger with his bare hands there last week. Officials said they planned to double the number of police on patrol during stopovers by cruise ships in the port city of Limon, a surfing, fishing, and diving destination. Officials also plan to install security cameras around the city and have police to keep a closer eye on vehicles carrying tourists. Last week, three armed assailants held up a bus ferrying about a dozen tourists from a docked cruise ship to a beach. A retired member of the American military put one of the attackers in a headlock, ending the attack, officials said. Tourism is Costa Rica's biggest source of income, generating $1.6 billion last year.
14. **February 28, CBC (Canada)** — New Brunswick premier: Smart-card ID could ease border restrictions. New Brunswick's premier hopes adding citizenship verification to new smart-card driver's licenses would make them acceptable passport alternatives at U.S. border crossings. Premier Shawn Graham is in Washington, DC, this week, with the premiers of Ontario and Manitoba, hoping to convince American authorities to drop a requirement for passports at land crossings due to take effect in early 2008. New Brunswick has a close relationship with its neighboring state, Maine, which sometimes means services are shared, Graham said. For example, he said, at a major fire last week in Lubeck, ME, New Brunswick trucks were sent to put out the blaze after the U.S. trucks froze. Tougher restrictions at borders could hurt such relationships, Graham said. The Canadian premiers are asking U.S. officials to delay implementing passport requirements at land crossings until a better option can be found. That solution could include new smart-card driver's licenses recently introduced in New Brunswick, Graham said, but he admitted the cards are still missing some of the information American officials want to see.


15. **February 28, Government Accountability Office** — GAO−07−299: Aviation Security: TSA’s Staffing Allocation Model Is Useful for Allocating Staff Among Airports, but Its Assumptions Should Be Systematically Reassessed (Report). The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has identified the transportation security officer (TSO) workforce as its most important asset in securing commercial aviation. TSOs screen passengers and baggage to prevent dangerous items onboard aircraft. In response to an Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 requirement to develop standards for TSO staffing, TSA developed a staffing model to guide its TSO allocations across airports. The act also required the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to analyze TSA’s staffing standards. GAO analyzed (1) how TSA ensures its model provides a sufficient TSO staff to perform screening and (2) how TSA deploys its TSOs and factors that affect deployment. GAO analyzed data and reviewed documentation about the model and discussed it with TSA headquarters officials and TSA officials at 14 airports. GAO recommends that the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) direct the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Security to (1) establish a mechanism to ensure periodic assessment of model assumptions and (2) establish a policy for when TSOs can be used to provide operational support. DHS reviewed a draft of this report and concurred with GAO’s findings and recommendations.


16. **February 27, USA TODAY** — Coyotes at Chicago's O'Hare cause delays. Two planes preparing to land at O'Hare International Airport aborted their landings after another pilot spotted coyotes near the runway, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Tuesday, February 27. The flights, operated by United and American airlines, did "go−arounds" and landed safely on their second attempts on Sunday, said FAA spokesperson Tony Molinaro. The pilots were about a quarter−mile from O'Hare with their landing gear down when they were warned, Molinaro said. The pilot of a flight landing ahead of them saw the coyotes and alerted controllers. Even in urban areas, it's not unusual for coyotes to end up on runways. They're seen at O'Hare once or twice a week, Molinaro said. The FAA said reports of planes hitting wildlife
quadrupled from 1,744 in 1990 to 7,136 in 2005 because there are more flights, more wildlife near airports, and more reports from pilots. In the same period, 172 people were injured and nine died in such incidents, which resulted in $233 million in losses. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007−02−27−coyote−del_ay_x.htm

17. February 27, Associated Press — Airlines complain over rent, fee hikes at LAX.
Twenty−two airlines joined to complain about steep increases in rents and other fees at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The complaint preceded Monday, February 26's ceremony kicking off a $575 million−plus construction phase of the renovation of the Tom Bradley International Terminal. The carriers using the Bradley terminal describe the rate increases as unjustified, unfair and unlawful. The 22 airlines joined seven mostly low−cost airlines that earlier asked federal regulators to step in because of the fee increases. Three other airlines — United, American and Continental — filed a U.S. District Court lawsuit last month. The airlines, which are paying for much of the renovation, said in the complaint that recent hikes in rent and other fees make the airport a much more expensive place to land. Leases in the international terminal run out next month, and the airlines there expect to see sharp increases in their rents when they renew. The airlines want federal transportation officials to overturn the fee increases and order the airport agency to refund any extra money they have paid. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007−02−27−lax−fees_x.htm

18. February 27, Government Accountability Office — GAO−07−504T: Secure Border Initiative: SBInet Planning and Management Improvements Needed to Control Risks (Testimony). This testimony summarizes the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) February 2007 report on SBInet, one element of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Secure Border Initiative (SBI). SBInet is responsible for developing a comprehensive border protection system. By legislative mandate, GAO reviewed SBInet’s fiscal year 2007 expenditure plan. This testimony focuses on (1) the extent that the plan provided explicit and measurable commitments relative to schedule and costs, (2) how DHS is following federal acquisition regulations and management best practices, and (3) concurrency in SBInet’s schedule. GAO assessed the plan against federal guidelines and industry standards and interviewed program officials. GAO recommended that DHS (1) ensure that future expenditure plans include explicit and measurable commitments relative to the capabilities, schedule, costs, and benefits associated with individual SBInet program activities; (2) modify the SBInet contract to include a maximum quantity or dollar value; and (3) re-examine the level of concurrency and appropriately adjust the acquisition strategy. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) concurred with the first and third recommendations, but not the second. DHS stated that the contract already contains a maximum quantity. GAO disagrees and believes DHS needs to modify the contract to ensure that it is consistent with regulations. Highlights: http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07504thigh.pdf Source: http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO−07−504T

Effective May 24, truck carriers entering the United States through land border ports of entry in the states of Michigan and New York will be required to provide advance cargo information by filing electronic manifests through the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Truck Manifest System. Said Lou Samenfink, executive director for CBPs Cargo Systems Program Office, "With e−manifests, CBP officers are able to pre−screen trucks and shipments, and
dedicate more time to inspecting suspicious cargo without delaying the border crossings of legitimate carriers." The use of ACE for filing e−manifest became mandatory on January 25 at land border ports of entry in Arizona and Washington and the ports of Pembina, Neche, Walhalla, Maida, Hannah, Sarles and Hansboro in North Dakota. On April 19, ACE will become mandatory at land border ports of entry in California, New Mexico and Texas.
Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/104131

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

20. February 28, Dow Jones — Panel recommends U.S., Canada get favorable BSE rating. A panel for the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has recommended to its 167 member countries that the U.S. and Canada be given a favorable rating on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) safety, a designation both countries want to spur beef and cattle trade, according to U.S. and Canadian officials. OIE is proposing both countries get a "controlled" risk rating for their handling of the cattle disease that can be passed to humans through consumption of tainted meat. The OIE will meet in May for its annual general session and members will vote to approve or disapprove rating categories being proposed for several countries, including the U.S. and Canada. There are three possible categories and "negligible" status is considered the best. That rating is reserved for countries with the smallest risk for BSE. Next best is a "controlled" rating. That is the category being proposed by the OIE Scientific Commission for the U.S. and Canada, government and industry officials said.
Source: http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=109506

21. February 27, Reuters — European Union to assemble animal disease team. A "swat" team of experts to tackle bird flu and other animal diseases is being assembled to fight outbreaks within the European Union (EU) and other countries. "When there is a serious animal disease outbreak ... very quick reaction is essential and efficient expert support can be crucial in bringing the situation under control," the European Commission said Tuesday, February 27. EU governments will be asked to submit lists of experts they propose to become members of an EU−wide emergency team. "The aim in creating this team is to have experts in the fields of veterinary, virology, wildlife, laboratory testing, risk management and other relevant areas on stand−by, ready to respond when an animal health crisis breaks out," it said.
**February 28, USA TODAY — USDA wants to reveal stores in food recalls.** When food is recalled, U.S. consumers get a lot of information to help them identify whether they have the potentially dangerous product. They're told the product name, how it's packaged, if it has an identifying code and the states or regions in which it was sold. What they usually aren't told is where it was sold. That's because the business ties between food manufacturers and their retail customers have been considered confidential business information. As such, retailer names aren't typically released unless a recall involves a store brand. That may soon change, given a new law in California and a national proposal. The California law, effective July 1, will authorize health officials in that state to inform consumers which retailers sold meat and poultry covered by the most serious recalls. The national proposal comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which wants to post retailer names and store locations on its Website for all meat and poultry recalls. If it follows through, it will break ranks with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which oversees other food recalls. The FDA has no plans to release retailer names, as it considers them confidential business information, says spokesperson Michael Herndon.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/2007−02−27−recalls−usat_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/2007−02−27−recalls−usat_x.htm)

23. **February 28, USAgNet — U.S. and South Korea beef meeting scheduled.** South Korea and the U.S. will hold high–level agriculture talks in Washington next week to discuss issues related to beef and free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, according to a report by the South Korean news agency, Yonhap. "Discussions on the FTA will be held on Monday, March 5, followed by beef talks the following day," said Lee Chang–buhm, spokesperson for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, told Yonhap. The two sides are expected to discuss South Korea's refusal to relax screenings for bone chips in beef imports from the U.S. U.S. officials say import restrictions should be lifted for types of bone–in beef that are not classified as specified risk materials.


24. **February 27, Food Safety and Inspection Service — Ham steaks recalled.** First Quality Sausage, a Las Vegas, NV, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 930 pounds of semi–boneless ham steaks that may be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Tuesday, February 27. The ham steaks were produced on February 14, 2007 and were distributed to institutions in Carson City, Las Vegas and Reno, NV. The problem was discovered through routine FSIS microbiological testing. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product. Consumption of food contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.


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**Water Sector**

25. **February 28, Reuters — Six million Chinese face water shortages.** A severe drought in southwestern China is threatening the water supplies of six million people in the crowded metropolis of Chongqing, Xinhua news agency said on Wednesday, February 28. The city faces an acute water shortage in early March due to a continuing drought along the Yangtze River.
Official figures show that the amount of water stored in Chongqing's reservoirs is around 1.17 billion cubic meters, less than half the normal storage. Last summer's drought was the worst to hit southwest China in more than a century, and about 18 million people faced water shortages. Some parts of Chongqing — home to some 30 million people — have started limiting water supplies to residents.

Source: [http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK282430.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK282430.htm)

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**Public Health Sector**

26. *February 28, Boston Globe* — **Officials expect to complete plan to eradicate polio.** The final push toward global eradication of polio has been full of pitfalls, but those fighting the disease expect to finalize a plan Wednesday, February 28, that they believe should wipe out the virus. Backed by a new Harvard University analysis that details the high costs of failure, an urgent World Health Organization (WHO) meeting will bring together donors, infectious disease experts, and representatives of the last countries in which polio is still transmitted — Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Spurred by doubts on whether polio can be eradicated, public health officials have debated whether to continue the 18–year effort to kill the disease, or to simply control outbreaks of it. The WHO, under director–general Margaret Chan has decided to continue toward eradication, and the new plan depends on the four countries' leaders to commit to it — and intensify programs to vaccinate children. A major hurdle awaits: vaccinating children along the Pakistan–Afghanistan border, a dangerous stretch where several Al Qaeda leaders may be hiding out. Two weeks ago, a senior Pakistani health official involved in polio immunization died in a bombing in the Bajaur tribal area.


27. *February 28, Agence France–Presse* — **Sweden boosts bird flu security measures.** Sweden said Wednesday, February 28, it was ordering poultry and other birds in captivity in the southern third of the country to be kept indoors because of recent outbreaks of the H5N1 bird flu strain in Europe and the imminent migration season. However, ducks, geese and other game birds may still be kept outdoors as long as they are fenced in and fed and watered under a roof. The restrictions apply as of March 7. Recent cases of avian flu have been detected in Great Britain, Hungary and Russia. According to the latest World Health Organization toll, the H5N1 strain of the virus has killed 167 people worldwide since it emerged in 2003.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070228/hl_afp/healthflusweden_070228112842;_ylt=Avy_il2rfcwqOG8sRI2oenaJOrgF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070228/hl_afp/healthflusweden_070228112842;_ylt=Avy_il2rfcwqOG8sRI2oenaJOrgF)

28. *February 28, CTV (Canada)* — **C. difficile outbreak hits Ontario hospital.** Fourteen people have been diagnosed with C. difficile at an Ontario, Canada, hospital, prompting officials to isolate the patients and bring in more stringent cleaning of rooms and areas where the bacterium might be present. Officials at the Trillium Health Center have not been able to determine if C. difficile was responsible for the deaths of four patients over the last two months, the hospital said Tuesday, February 27. The hospital said it is implementing a plan to "minimize" the number of infections and reduce the chances of spreading C. difficile. Trillium serves more
than one million residents in the Peel region and areas west of Toronto. Last year, a committee set up by Ontario's chief coroner found that C. difficile was behind 10 deaths at a Sault Ste. Marie hospital. Hospitals in Quebec, Canada, have struggled with numerous outbreaks. As recently as December a person died in a Montreal–area facility due to C. difficile bacteria, bringing the toll at Honore–Mercier hospital to 16. Hospitals in the province have been struggling with the problem since 2003. Outbreaks over that time have killed as many as 2,000 patients.

C. difficile information: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/id_Cdiff.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/id_Cdiff.html)


29. **February 28, Agence France–Presse** — **Pneumonic plague kills nine in Uganda.** An outbreak of pneumonic plague has killed at least nine people and infected 15 others in the northwest of Uganda, a health official said Wednesday, February 28. Sam Okware, the health ministry's director of communicable diseases, said the disease erupted early this month in Masindi district after spreading from a neighboring area where one death was reported.


Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070228/hl_afp/ugandahealthplague_070228153826;_ylt=AgwpAIgjqiIGdc6gqX08vXijOrgF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070228/hl_afp/ugandahealthplague_070228153826;_ylt=AgwpAIgjqiIGdc6gqX08vXijOrgF)

30. **February 28, New York Times** — **Panel endorses first vaccine for avian flu.** The first vaccine against avian flu for the U.S. was endorsed by a U.S. Food and Drug Administration advisory panel yesterday, but merely as a stopgap measure until better vaccines are developed. The experimental vaccine, made by Sanofi–Pasteur, protected only 45 percent of the 91 people on whom it was tested in a hasty clinical trial. Reaching even that level of protection required 12 times the dose of antigen delivered by a typical flu shot, and it had to be given in two shots several weeks apart. It is also based on a virus strain that was circulating in Vietnam three years ago. Robert Couch, an advisory panel member from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, said members knew of better vaccines still in development, “but this is the only vaccine we had in front of us.” The panel voted unanimously that the vaccine was effective enough to be used. The government has plans to stockpile enough avian flu vaccine to protect 20 million doctors, nurses, paramedics, laboratory technicians and other emergency workers against the H5N1 strain if a pandemic breaks out.


**Government Sector**

31. **February 28, The Day (CT)** — **School called off after 22 buses found vandalized.** East Lyme, CT, rocked in recent days by reports of vandalism, awoke Tuesday, February 27, to find that 22 school buses had been vandalized in the predawn hours, causing school and after–school activities to be canceled. Among teachers, students, parents, school officials, and others, the news was met with a measure of disbelief by some and disgust by others. “Anger,” Superintendent of Schools Paul Smotas said in an interview at his office. “My first reaction was anger that someone purposefully and maliciously disabled the buses so we couldn't go to school
today.” Kevin Seery, the Board of Education chairman and resident state trooper in neighboring Salem, was on the scene as an officer Tuesday and also communicating with board members. Police, however, have suggested no link between the earlier vandalism and Tuesday's disabling of the buses. No arrests had been made in connection with the bus vandalism as of Tuesday night. School officials as well as police expect to increase security at the bus lot, an open field across the street from the middle school. They are also discussing potential permanent changes.

Source: http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=4d4682ca–5de0–4f60–b8b7–d7b accbbdbcb

Emergency Services Sector

32. February 27, Seattle Post–Intelligencer — Changes needed to emergency system, Seattle mayor says. Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels called for numerous changes to city emergency response services Tuesday, February 27, in the wake of a recently completed report examining Seattle's response to the December 14 wind and rain storms. The city estimates the storm will cost taxpayers about $15.5 million in overtime and damage to public structures, such as power poles. "I am very proud of the response of our city employees. Many people worked around the clock under extreme circumstances," Nickels said. "But events like this give us a wake–up call and an opportunity to improve our response to emergencies and disasters." Nickels said he wants city departments to: Implement a 311 phone number of all non–emergency calls during such events; Develop an outage management system to track power failures and predict how long to expect to be without electricity; Install emergency generators in every city fire station; and Hold annual emergency response training exercises.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/305295_storm28ww.html

33. February 27, Department of Homeland Security — DHS awards $194 million to states for emergency management. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released $194 million to help states and local governments prepare and implement emergency management activities through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. Emergency managers have been awarded more than $750 million since fiscal year 2004 through the program. State emergency management agencies use EMPG funds to enhance their emergency management capabilities in a range of areas that include planning, equipping, and training, conducting exercises, and providing for all–hazards emergency management operations. In addition, EMPG funds are used to pay for personnel who write plans, conduct training and exercise programs, maintain emergency response programs, and educate the public on disaster readiness. EMPG funding supports state emergency management programs based on needs identified through the Emergency Management Accreditation Programs Process, the Nationwide Plan Review or other emergency management assessment processes, and address the national priorities outlined in the Interim National Preparedness Goal.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1172607027848.shtm

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector
34. **February 28, US−CERT** — **Worm actively exploits vulnerability in Sun Solaris Telnet Daemon.** US−CERT is aware of public reports of a worm that is actively exploiting a known vulnerability in the Sun Solaris telnet daemon (in.telnetd). The worm targets Solaris 10 (SunOS 5.10) systems that are not patched to address this vulnerability and have enabled the telnet daemon. More information about this vulnerability is located in the following:

Vulnerability Note VU#881872 − Sun Solaris telnet authentication bypass vulnerability:  
[http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/881872](http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/881872)

Sun Alert 102802 − Security Vulnerability in the in.telnetd (1M) Daemon May Allow Unauthorized Remote Users to Gain Access to a Solaris Host:  

Source: [http://www.us−cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#sunwrmexpinet](http://www.us−cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#sunwrmexpinet)

35. **February 28, CNET News** — **PC hardware can pose rootkit threat.** PC hardware components can provide a way for hackers to sneak malicious code onto a computer, a security researcher warned Wednesday, February 28. Every component in a PC, such as graphics cards, DVD drives and batteries, has some memory space for the software that runs it, called firmware. Miscreants could use this space to hide malicious code that would load the next time the PC boots, John Heasman, research director at NGS Software, said in a presentation at this week's Black Hat event. "This is an important area and people should be concerned about this," Heasman said. "Software security is getting better, yet we run increasingly complicated hardware. Unless we address hardware security, we're leaving an interesting avenue for attack."

Malicious code delivered via the memory on hardware components poses a rootkit threat since it will run on the PC before the operating system loads, Heasman said. This likely will hide it from security software and other protection mechanisms, he added. Such low−level malicious code is known as a rootkit.


36. **February 28, Register (UK)** — **Warezov worm fiends target Skype.** The authors of the prolific Warezov worm are targeting users of Skype. Instead of arriving via an e−mail attachment, the latest variant of the worm spreads using a bogus Skype chat message asking users to click on a link, which points to a hacker−controlled Website hosting malicious codes. The plausibility of the attack is increased because infected messages likely come from a target's list of known contacts, though the abrupt dialogue it generates might trigger a few alarm bells. Some older Warezov variants used other Instant Messaging clients in a similar fashion, but this variant (Warezov−LY) is the first to use Skype, anti−virus firm F−secure reports.


37. **February 28, Sophos** — **Graphic Japanese Trojan attacks P2P file−sharing pirates.** Sophos has warned of a bizarre Trojan horse that has been distributed on Japanese peer−to−peer (P2P) file−sharing networks. The Troj/Pirlames−A Trojan horse has been distributed on the controversial Winny file−sharing network in Japan, posing as a screensaver. However, if P2P users download and run the program their files are overwritten by pictures of a popular comic book star who abuses them for using Winny. Programs, music files and e−mail mailboxes are amongst the files targeted by the Trojan horse.

38. *February 27, InfoWorld* — **Researchers: Worms not heading underground.** During the past two years, security experts and software vendors have downplayed the threat of so-called worm viruses, but new evidence suggests that the attacks are still as dangerous, if not more so, than ever. While the enormous mass-mailing worm viruses of years past — such as the well-known MyDoom, Sobig, and Slammer attacks — that were aimed at crippling IT infrastructure have all but disappeared, smaller outbreaks that aim to load financially-motivated malware onto end users' computers — such as the recent Storm Worm — will continue to menace the Internet, according to researchers. Consensus opinion among security experts has been that as businesses and consumers improved their desktop security tools and computing habits, it became harder for malware writers to lure the same volumes of people with worms. This trend pushed the attackers away from creation of the self-propagating threats and further into financially-motivated crimeware, market watchers observed. However, the continued spread and modification of Storm Worm, which first surfaced in mid-January 2007, could illustrate an emerging breed of the attacks that is likely to trouble users in years to come.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/02/27/HNwormtrender_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/02/27/HNwormtrender_1.html)

39. *February 27, ComputerWorld* — **Researcher charts new, more dangerous Oracle attack.** In a paper discussed Wednesday, February 28, at the Black Hat DC 2007 conference, noted database security researcher David Litchfield outlined a new attack method against Oracle databases that boosts the danger to unpatched systems. Litchfield, the managing director of UK-based NGS Software has found a way to exploit Oracle vulnerabilities without requiring system privileges. The new tactic, which he spelled out in "Cursor Injection: A New Method for Exploiting PL/SQL Injection and Potential Defenses," increases the threat risk of many Oracle-disclosed bugs. "On occasion, Oracle in their alerts state that the ability to create a procedure or a function is required for an attacker to be able to exploit a flaw," Litchfield said in the paper. "This is not the case. All SQL injection flaws can be fully exploited without any system privilege other than CREATE SESSION and, accordingly, the risk should never be 'marked down' [in an alert]." he said. The new technique doesn't rely on a vulnerability and applies to all versions of Oracle.


40. *February 27, ComputerWorld* — **Firefox, IE7 open to URL spoof.** Although Mozilla Corp. patched one more Firefox bug last week than first reported, the researcher whose work has plagued the open-source browser for weeks has released details about another flaw. Firefox does not properly handle JavaScript "onUnload" events and can be tricked into taking the user to an unintended destination, said security researcher Michal Zalewski. "This flaw allows the attacker to track your footsteps and either redirect you to the URL you wanted to visit, which wouldn't be noticed at all, or to a similarly named phishing Website when you choose to visit a target of some significance," Zalewski said. The bug affects the just-released Firefox 2.0.0.2 and 1.5.0.10 updates, as well as Microsoft's Internet Explorer 7. JavaScript can be disabled in the browsers to block such redirects.

**Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

41. *February 28, Associated Press — Home-made bomb covered in racial slurs found.*

Authorities detonated a home-made bomb found near Firth, in south east Nebraska, this week made from a coffee can on which racial slurs had been scribbled. Gage County Sheriff Millard Gustafson says the device was found late Monday afternoon, February 26, along a rural road about four miles south of Firth. The device, consisting of a coffee can filled with black powder, was not near any homes and was partially detonated by authorities. What remained of the device was sent to the Nebraska State Patrol laboratory for analysis.


**General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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