



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 February 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the Associated Press, Amtrak is launching new security measures that include random screening of Amtrak passengers' carry-on bags. In addition to the screening, counterterrorism officers with bomb-sniffing dogs will patrol platforms and walk through trains, and sometimes will ride the trains. Amtrak plans to roll out the new "mobile security teams" first on the Northeast Corridor between Washington and Boston, before expanding them to the rest of the country. (See item [17](#))
- The Associated Press reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture ordered Sunday the recall of 143 million pounds of beef from the Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. slaughterhouse in Chino, California, where operations were suspended after an undercover video surfaced showing crippled and sick animals being shoved with forklifts. Officials estimate that about 37 million pounds of the recalled beef went to school programs, but they believe most of the meat probably has already been eaten. (See item [22](#))

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Energy Sector

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

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 18, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Explosion at Texas oil refinery injures at least 5**. An explosion rocked an oil refinery in Big Spring, Texas, Monday in a violent blast that shook buildings miles away and injured at least five people, including four

refinery workers. A spokesman for refinery owner Alon USA Energy Inc. said the fire sparked by the blast was under control Monday morning. The company does not know what caused the explosion, he said. The blast closed schools, shut down a major interstate, and left residents rattled. Emergency officials were warning of the potential for more explosions, a local school official said.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=5808118&version=3&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.3.1>

2. *February 18, Aspen Times* – (Colorado) **Ex-FBI agent says terrorism unlikely in Rifle-area gas fields.** Thousands of natural gas wells, pipelines, compressor stations, gas plants, and other facilities in northwestern Colorado are probably not an inviting target for a terrorist group, according to a former FBI agent who is now in charge of security for EnCana Oil and Gas. “Some of the most critical energy-related infrastructures in the U.S. are right here,” he said. “We have to consider both the physical and the cyber attacks that could cause problems. But my opinion is there are many other more viable targets than the oil and gas industry out here. I haven’t seen any evidence of something going on.” While some might think such an attack would come from radical Middle Eastern groups, he said domestic terrorist groups would probably be more likely to single out the area’s gas fields. He points to the arson fires at several Vail Ski Resort buildings several years ago, set by members of the Earth Liberation Front, as an example of domestic terrorism that can happen. “If some group out there hears that a new road is about to be cut into the Roan (Plateau), there may be some heightened awareness,” he said. “You’d start to see things like vandalism, removing signs and survey stakes, and even ‘monkey wrenching’ of heavy equipment. Things like that will escalate when some group might be planning something.” A safety specialist with Williams Production, another area gas producer, said counterterrorism plans are in place. “If the homeland security threat levels go up, we’ll get those plans out and take a look at what we should be doing,” he said.

Source: <http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20080218/NEWS/363269037>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *February 18, Forum of Fargo/Moorhead* – (North Dakota) **Hazardous materials specialists arrive in Wahpeton, ND, to assess fire.** Hazardous materials specialists from Fargo, North Dakota, and Morris, Minnesota, arrived at the Industrial Plating Corporation in Wahpeton, North Dakota, about 12:45 p.m. Monday to begin assessing an industrial fire that prompted two evacuations. The teams said it was too early to comment as they just began to talk with officials and learn more about the fire. Police officers began knocking on doors Monday morning to inform hundreds of residents about a mandatory evacuation, which was prompted by smoke billowing from the business. A Wahpeton City administrator said the evacuation affected 200 to 500 people and the city opened shelters at the Wahpeton Middle School and Bethel Lutheran Church. Officials said they were concerned some water used to battle the blaze had been contaminated and reached the Red River. In addition, officials from state agencies,

including the Department of Health, were being called to the scene. Authorities say the company uses large amounts of hydrochloric acid for cleaning metal. Industrial Plating specializes in zinc plating, vapor degreasing, painting of nuts and bolts, heavy rust cleaning, and polymeric corrosion treatment.

Source: <http://www.wctrib.com/articles/index.cfm?id=32540§ion=news>

4. *February 18, Canadian Press* – (International) **Federal and provincial agencies conduct huge counter-terror exercise in B.C.** A huge counter-terrorism exercise is being held in British Columbia, Canada, this week. Called Exercise Initial Thunder, it involves more than 250 people from several federal and provincial agencies to focus on the threat of terrorists using explosives or chemical, biological, and radioactive weapons. The exercise will practice a coordinated response to major emergencies and show emergency personnel what help they can get in facing such threats. It will include mock scenarios, such as an illegal shipment of radioactive material through the Port of Vancouver and the treatment of people with radioactive burns. Another exercise takes place at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt and will demonstrate how to detect and handle radioactive, chemical, biological, and explosive materials. Agencies involved include the armed forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada Border Services, the Vancouver police and fire departments, the Provincial Emergency Program, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, and 12 federal departments, including Atomic Energy of Canada, Environment Canada, and Health Canada.

Source:

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5jJqGI4BV9flQDERnwGzfy9hDSTg>

5. *February 17, WTOC 11 Savannah* – (Georgia) **Chemical Safety Board probes refinery explosion.** Investigators with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board are on the scene of the sugar refinery explosion in Port Wentworth, Georgia. They are still early into the investigation, and they say finding the ignition source that started the explosion may be “impossible.” Investigators with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board arrived in Port Wentworth just 18 hours after the explosion. More investigators were expected on Monday. The work is long and tedious, but a U.S. Chemical Safety Board Investigations manager said it has never been more important. “The tragic event that occurred here in Savannah demonstrates that the problem of dust explosions in the industry has yet to be solved,” he said. Investigators believe a build-up of sugar dust triggered the explosion from the basement beneath two of the sugar silos. When the dust flies into the air, the official said something as minor as static electricity can ignite an explosion in a confined area, even in the equipment designed to remove the dust itself. “We do have information that one segment, just one segment, of the system had experienced a problem in earlier weeks,” he said, “but I cannot at this time relate that to the accident.” Still, he said in many cases, one explosion can set off another. The investigation is still in its early stages. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board is working with Imperial Sugar to go through the damaged areas and even disassemble them to try to figure out exactly what happened. Over a 25 year period, the official said more than 280 fires and explosions have killed 119 people and injured more than 700 others.

Source: <http://www.wtoc.com/Global/story.asp?S=7885549>

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *February 18, Engineer Online* – (International) **US/UK fight against nuclear threats.** The British energy minister has announced a new collaboration between Britain and the U.S. that will address nuclear and radiological security threats. As part of the program, an initial £2 million will be invested in initiatives designed to secure high-risk nuclear and other radioactive materials and combat their illegal trafficking. “Our first joint initiative will be a new project to enhance long-term security of highly active spent radioactive sources in Ukraine,” he said. The collaboration builds on the progress made by the UK’s existing Global Threat Reduction program, which includes the management of the 30 tons of spent nuclear fuel from decommissioned submarines in northwest Russia and the closure of weapons grade plutonium production reactors in Russia and Kazakhstan.
Source: <http://www.theengineer.co.uk/Articles/Article.aspx?liArticleID=304647>
7. *February 17, International Herald Tribune* – (National) **As nuclear waste languishes, expense to U.S. rises.** The waste from more than 100 nuclear reactors that the U.S. government was supposed to start accepting for burial ten years ago is still at the reactor sites. It was supposed to begin taking away the fuel in 1998. Since then, the utilities have filed 60 lawsuits. If the repository that the government is trying to develop at Yucca Mountain, near Las Vegas, could start accepting waste in 2017, the damages would run about \$7 billion, according to the director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. But that date is actually “clearly out the window,” he said, because Congress underfinanced the effort to build the repository. If the repository opens in 2020, the damages would come to about \$11 billion, and for each year beyond that, about \$500 million more. The industry says the total could reach \$35 billion. Each reactor typically creates about 20 tons of waste a year. If a repository or interim site opened, clearing the backlog would take decades, experts say. At present, waste is in temporary storage at 122 sites in 39 states. The Energy Department has launched an initiative to gather the waste and run it through a factory to recover re-usable components, which would allow centralized storage, but that program’s prospects are highly uncertain.
Source: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2008/02/17/america/17nuke.php>
8. *February 16, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Used fuel storage facility to be developed at Cook Nuclear Plant.** A used fuel storage facility is being developed at American Electric Power Co.’s Cook Nuclear Plant in southwest Michigan. Used fuel will be temporarily stored at the \$54 million dry cask storage facility beginning in 2011. The airtight steel canisters will have concrete and steel overpacks. The overpacks are designed to withstand tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, missiles, airplanes, temperature extremes, and sabotage. Some environmental organizations say a strong earthquake could pose a safety risk for cask storage. But federal regulators say there is little threat from earthquakes at the plant.
Source:
<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080216/NEWS01/302160015>

9. *February 16, American Association for the Advancement of Science* – (National; International) **AAAS and APS release report on tracing nuclear materials.** The world faces a shortage of “atomic detectives” that can trace smuggled nuclear materials and advise decision makers on the critical steps to take after a nuclear explosion, according to a new report by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society. Filling the nearly-empty pipeline of nuclear forensic researchers should be a priority for the U.S., said the head of the panel that wrote the report. “Presently available trained personnel are highly skilled, but there are not enough of them to deal with an emergency and they are not being replaced,” he said. The report – “Nuclear Forensics: Role, State of the Art, Program Needs” – also calls for increased international cooperation in sharing data, upgrading instruments and procedures to identify the source and age of nuclear materials, and stepping up exercises to practice procedures in the event of a nuclear detonation.
Source: http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2008/0216nuke_report.shtml

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *February 19, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Trade, security goals collide.** The U.S. Justice Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement say industrial espionage is a big threat to U.S. security, especially given worries about nuclear proliferation. In the year ended September 30, the number of people charged with violations of export-control laws was up 50 percent from a year earlier, the department says. At the same time, the Commerce Department is relaxing restrictions on some sensitive exports to help revive the White House’s flagging free-trade agenda. In the struggle between industry and administration trade officials on one hand and national-security hawks on the other, “it feels like industry is coming out on top, making things easy to export,” says a researcher at a Washington think tank that works on proliferation issues. “Unchecked export of sensitive technology that could be used for military and weapons of mass destruction applications can have a serious negative impact on our national security,” says the assistant attorney general for national security. Commerce Department officials say their moves would allow regulators to spend more time scrutinizing export applications from less well-known companies.
Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120338464182275887.html?mod=googlenews_wsj
11. *February 18, Agence France-Presse* – (National; International) **Satellite shoot-down attempt to be Feb. 21.** The U.S. will take its first shot at an out-of-control spy satellite on February 21. A U.S. warship will fire a surface-to-air missile at the satellite at a specific point in its orbit that ensures any Earth-bound debris will splash into the ocean. A second attempt would be possible if the first misses. Without intervention, the crippled satellite is due to break into the Earth’s atmosphere on March 6.
Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3379503&c=AME&s=SEA>
12. *February 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Generals warn of “geriatric Air Force.”**

Air Force officials warn that the Air Force's aging jet fighters, bombers, cargo aircraft, and gunships are at the breaking point, and expensive, ultramodern replacements are needed fast. "What we've done is put the requirement on the table that says, 'If we're going to do the missions you're going to ask us to do, it will require this kind of investment,'" said the Air Force's director of strategic planning. "Failing that, we take what is already a geriatric Air Force," he said, "and we drive it for another 20 years into an area of uncertainty." An extra \$20 billion each year over the next five – beginning with an Air Force budget of about \$137 billion in 2009 instead of the \$117 billion proposed by the Bush administration – would solve that problem, according to senior Air Force officers. Yet the prospects for huge infusions of cash seem dim. An Air Force general called the situation a "manageable crisis," but said serious problems could emerge if more money is not provided over the next few years.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/02/18/airforce.wornout.ap/index.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *February 19, Star Press* – (Indiana) **State police warn of phone scam artists.** State police are warning East Central Indiana residents not to fall victim to scam artists who have been targeting local residents via the telephone in recent weeks. According to a police official, the calls – frequently made from the 876 area code in Jamaica – claim local residents have won lotteries in far-off locations such as Jamaica and Bulgaria. The recipients of the calls are then encouraged to wire money – ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars – in order to collect their "winnings." Indiana State Police (ISP) investigators are probing three recent cases in which Delaware, Jay, and Grant county residents were victimized by the scam artists, according to the official. "If you receive these phone calls, do not send money, do not wire money, (and) do not provide them with your banking or credit card information, or your Social Security number," he said. The ISP sergeant said the recipients of such calls should notify local law enforcement agencies or the Indiana Attorney General's office.

Source:

<http://www.thestarpress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080219/NEWS01/802190326/1002>

14. *February 18, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Blumenthal warns of lending scam.** The Connecticut attorney general is warning state residents about a lending scam in which a Connecticut Army National Guard member recently lost \$9,000. He says the scam deceives customers by promising a loan after the consumer makes payments in advance as collateral. But then, the fake company tells the applicant it is rejecting the loan, and never honors its promise to refund the deposit. The AG says the scammers are calling their institution "City Lending Group," a name similar enough to a legitimate and well-known institution to cause confusion. He says its claims to be based in Hampton, Virginia, also turned out to be false and that anyone ensnared in the scam should alert authorities.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/connecticut/ny-bc-ct--lending scam0218feb18,0,4910742.story>

Transportation Sector

15. *February 18, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Military man carry training grenades arrested at Washington Airport.** A 20-year-old member of the military was arrested after trying to get through Yakima airport security with two training grenades in a carry-on bag, police said. Transportation Security Administration agents spotted the grenades using a belt scanner at Yakima Air Terminal around 11:15 a.m. Sunday, a police official said. The grenades contained live fuses but had no explosives packed around them, he told the Yakima Herald-Republic. Police locked down the small airport for a few minutes, then evacuated about 30 or 35 people while explosive experts from the Army's Yakima Training Center dismantled the grenades. All scheduled incoming flights stayed on the ground at other airports. Police temporarily allowed the only incoming flight that was already in the air to land. Passengers were offloaded at the police precinct, a few hundred yards away from the terminal, the official said. The man was released Sunday afternoon while prosecutors and the FBI look into the incident.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,331035,00.html>
16. *February 18, KIMA 29 Yakima* – (Washington) **Yakima Airport to hire police as guards next month.** The Yakima airport in Washington plans to hire police officers to watch over the terminal more than a month after it lost federal funding that paid for security guards. Security is tight once passengers arrive to the checkpoint, but before that and they will not see anyone in uniform. Transportation Security Administration stopped paying for the airport security guards last month when it found out the guards did not have arresting powers. And since TSA officials cannot make arrests, they call for help, like they did Sunday when a pair of grenades in a man's luggage put the Yakima airport on lock down and put the terminal's security to the test. The call about the grenades came into 911 at 11:52 a.m. Yakima police arrived 3 minutes later. There is a police substation just a couple hundred yards from the airport, but officers are not there most of the time because they check-in and are out on the streets.
Source: <http://www.kimatv.com/news/local/15751132.html>
17. *February 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Amtrak to unveil new security measures including random bag screening.** Amtrak passengers will have to submit to random screening of carry-on bags in a major new security push that will include officers with automatic weapons and bomb-sniffing dogs patrolling platforms and trains, the railroad planned to announce Tuesday. Amtrak officials insist their new procedures will not hold up the flow of passengers nor will the moves require passengers to arrive at stations far in advance, officials said. Passengers, who are selected randomly for the screening, will be delayed no more than a couple of minutes, Amtrak's chief executive said. Concern about Amtrak security has been mounting since the 2004 bombings of commuter trains in Madrid that killed 191 people. Amtrak plans to roll out the new "mobile security teams" first on the Northeast Corridor between Washington and Boston, the railroad's most heavily used route, before expanding them to the rest of the country. The teams will show up unannounced at stations and set up baggage screening areas in front of

boarding gates. Officers will randomly pull people out of line and wipe their bags with a special swab that is then put through a machine that detects explosives. If the machine detects anything, officers will open the bag for visual inspection. Anybody who is selected for screening and refuses will not be allowed to board and their ticket will be refunded. In addition to the screening, counterterrorism officers with bomb-sniffing dogs will patrol platforms and walk through trains, and sometimes will ride the trains, officials said. The Transportation Security Administration is also expected to continue sporadic deployments to stations around the country.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,331100,00.html>

18. *February 17, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **U.S. Airways planes clip wings at Reagan Airport.** Two U.S. Airways planes were evacuated Sunday morning at Reagan National Airport after the planes' wings clipped, a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said. She said that the two planes -- a U.S. Airways Airbus A319 headed to LaGuardia Airport and a smaller U.S. Airways Express regional jet on the way to Rochester, New York -- were in an area at the north side of the airport waiting for their turn at the runway when the collision occurred. The smaller jet -- operated by regional carrier Republic Airways -- was carrying 21 passengers in taxi mode toward the runway when it clipped the wing of the larger aircraft and became lodged there, according to a spokeswoman for U.S. Airways. Emergency response vehicles evacuated a total of 63 passengers from the two planes onto buses and took them to the airport terminal, where they were booked onto later flights, officials said. One passenger complaining of back pain after the collision was taken to a nearby hospital for examination, the MWAA spokeswoman said. There were no serious injuries and damage to the planes was slight, officials said. Other flights were not delayed because of the incident. The National Transportation Safety Board is looking into the cause of the collision.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/17/AR2008021701205.html>

19. *February 17, Associated Press* – (California) **Authorities evacuate L.A. Airport terminal due to suspicious comment from passenger.** An airline passenger was in FBI custody Sunday after his 'suspicious comment' forced a terminal at Los Angeles International Airport to be evacuated for two hours, authorities said. A man on a Southwest Airlines flight from El Paso, Texas, made the comment Sunday afternoon at about 2 p.m., an airport spokesman said. It was unclear exactly what the man said. A police bomb squad searched the man and his luggage as he got off the plane but no weapons or explosives were found, the official said. The man was taken into custody by the FBI, which is continuing the investigation. More than 1,800 passengers on Southwest and US Airways had flights delayed.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,330990,00.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *February 19, Gazette* – (Colorado) **Mail-processing center evacuated.** The main mail-

processing center in Colorado Springs was evacuated early Monday after a substance began leaking from a package, a Postal Service spokesman said. Hazardous materials crews responded to the USPS General Mail Facility at 3:46 a.m. Monday after workers processing mail reported a leaking package. By 5:10 a.m. investigators determined the substance was a hair-care product.

Source:

http://www.gazette.com/articles/mail_33308_article.html/processing_monday.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *February 19, Bloomberg* – (National; International) **Wheat shreds Goldman, USDA forecasts belied by gains.** Wheat has more than doubled since May, reaching a record \$11.53 a bushel on February 11 and driving up costs for finished consumer food products. This month the world's biggest securities firm scrapped projections for a price drop within 90 days, and the U.S., the biggest exporter, said it would ship 23 percent more than originally estimated before summer. Wheat set a record 16 times since September, resonating around a world that relies on the grain more than any food crop except rice. Exporters Argentina and Russia halted sales or raised taxes to protect dwindling reserves. Farmers are not keeping pace with the diets of a burgeoning middle class in India and China. The Department of Agriculture predicted February 8 that U.S. stockpiles for the 12 months through May will drop 40 percent to the lowest since 1948 as global production lags behind consumption for the seventh year in eight. Droughts and rain damaged crops in Australia, France, and the U.S. last year, thwarting bets that higher prices would reverse the trend by encouraging bigger harvests. In the U.S., a one-pound loaf of bread sold for an average \$1.28 in December, 13 percent more than a year earlier, as the cost of flour increased 25 percent to 39.8 cents a pound, Bureau of Labor statistics show.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=a3OUGbjmrQk4&refer=home>

22. *February 18, Associated Press* – (National) **USDA orders largest-ever beef recall after alleged animal cruelty.** An undercover video showing crippled and sick animals being shoved with forklifts has led to the largest beef recall in the U.S. and a scramble to find out if any of the meat is still destined for school children's lunches. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Sunday ordered the recall of 143 million pounds of beef from the Chino-based Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. slaughterhouse. The company provided meat to various federal programs. Officials estimate that about 37 million pounds of the recalled beef went to school programs, but they believe most of the meat probably has already been eaten. The Secretary of Agriculture said his department has evidence that Westland did not routinely contact its veterinarian when cattle became non-ambulatory after passing inspection, violating health regulations. About 150 school districts around the nation have stopped using ground beef from Hallmark Meat Packing Co., which is associated with Westland. Two fast-food chains, Jack-In-the-Box and In-N-Out, said they would not use beef from Westland/Hallmark.

No charges have been filed against Westland, but an investigation by federal authorities continues. A Food and Drug Administration press release is available at:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Recall_005-2008_Release.pdf

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,330985,00.html>

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Water Sector

23. *February 18, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Water cleanup list drops 800 areas.** A shift in how Indiana compiles a federally mandated list of its polluted waterways has removed about 800 stretches of rivers and streams from that list, leaving environmentalists worried that it could hamper watershed restoration efforts. State officials argue the new methodology has produced a more accurate picture of Indiana’s “impaired” waterways, and will allow them to focus on cleaning up those most tainted. But environmentalists say the new approach is problematic because it has “de-listed” parts of rivers and streams simply because it does not have data on whether they are polluted. Indiana’s move to base its list on raw data on contaminated fish has removed 805 portions of rivers, streams, or lakes, down to 1,877 on its new list from 2,682 in 2006. States are required to update their list of impaired waterways every two years. Indiana must submit its 2008 list to the Environmental Protection Agency by April 1. The lists include rivers, streams, or lakes that do not meet water quality standards for the following: mercury and PCBs from industrial pollution; E. coli bacteria from animal and human waste; and algae, nutrients, and silt linked to agriculture.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080218/LOCAL/802180369/-1/LOCAL17>

24. *February 17, Desert Sun* – (California; Nevada) **Las Vegas mayor Oscar Goodman brings water war to boil.** If necessary, Las Vegas will meet its water needs with the water that Southern California farmers use, the city’s mayor says. “No one is going to allow us to dry up,” the mayor said at a news conference on Thursday. “The Imperial Valley farmers will have their fields go fallow before our spigots run dry.” His comments stirred already simmering tensions in the agriculture versus urban battle over an increasingly scarce Western water supply. The mayor was responding to a question about a new scientific study projecting that Lake Mead – the major repository for the Colorado River water that sustains much of the Southwest – could go dry by 2021 given current water-use allocations and global warming. This is not the first time officials in large, parched Southwestern cities have eyed the water supplies of California farmers. Coachella and Imperial Valley farmers have some of the oldest, highest-priority and largest water rights on the lower Colorado River. An expert on Colorado River law said Friday that taking California farmers’ water without their consent would be very difficult. “I think (the mayor) was making a kind of political gauntlet statement, rather than a statement based on legal rights,” said a law professor at the University of Utah. Colorado River water was divided in a multi-state, 1922 compact that, under the U.S. Constitution, requires the consent of Congress, he said.

Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080217/NEWS07/802170336/1006/news01>

25. *February 16, Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Santee Cooper detects spill.** A broken pipe in a slurry pond at Santee Cooper's Winyah power plant in South Carolina caused as much as 200,000 gallons of limestone-laced water to spill into a swampy area next to the sprawling facility before crews contained the breach. Santee Cooper officials said the wastewater in the pond is not hazardous, and late Friday the area around the spill did not appear to be affected. State health investigators took water samples but had not determined whether the spill caused any environmental damage. A 30-inch pipe used in the dike's construction during the 1980s apparently failed. Once crews noticed water leaking from the dike, they contained most of it by piling rocks on it and diverting it into a ditched area. They pumped the spilled water back into the pond.
Source: http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/feb/16/santee_cooper_detects_spill30854/

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *February 19, XFN-ASIA* – (International) **China reports bird flu outbreak in Tibet, human death.** Chinese authorities have reported a fresh bird flu outbreak among poultry in Tibet, a day after confirming a 22-year-old man in Hunan, in central China, had died of the deadly virus. He was the country's 18th confirmed human bird flu fatality. The agriculture ministry said 132 poultry had died of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in a village outside the Tibetan regional capital Lhasa and about 7,700 birds had been slaughtered to bring the outbreak under control. It was the second outbreak of bird flu in the Himalayan region this year. In January, about 1,000 birds died and 13,000 were slaughtered during an earlier outbreak in Gongga County, about 50 kilometers south of Lhasa.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/afxnews/limited/feeds/afx/2008/02/19/afx4668281.html>
27. *February 19, Reuters* – (International) **Dead poultry raises bird flu alarm in Vietnam.** Dead poultry have been found in rivers and streams in northern Vietnam, a sign of a possible new bird flu outbreak during a prolonged cold spell, officials said on Tuesday. The Agriculture Ministry said in a report that callers to an animal health department hotline reported large numbers of dead birds in five provinces, but was not specific. "A bird flu outbreak is forecast to emerge in the northern region when cold days extend," an Animal Health Department report said. The department, in a separate report, said that bird flu has killed nearly 2,500 ducks and chickens in the northern provinces of Hai Duong, Nam Dinh, and Tuyen Quang, bringing to seven the provinces on the government's bird flu watchlist. Animal health workers have slaughtered the remaining 1,900 birds at the three infected farms. Doctors confirmed over the weekend that a 7-year-old child from the northern province of Hai Duong had the virus. The child has been under treatment in Hanoi along with several suspected cases. Bird flu has killed 50 people in Vietnam out of 106 infected cases since late 2003, the health ministry said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUSHAN65559>

28. *February 19, Chicago Tribune* – (National; International) **FDA mixed up drug plant names.** The Chinese factory involved in the production of possibly tainted heparin for export to America was not inspected by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) because of a paperwork error in which Washington regulators confused the factory's name with another that already had U.S. approval, the FDA said Monday. The FDA's explanation, by the deputy director of compliance for the FDA's center for drug evaluation and research, comes amid questions about the safety of different types of goods made in China and the adequacy of the FDA's inspection procedures for drugs entering the U.S. from China. More than 300 people have reported potentially deadly allergic reactions after taking the blood-thinner, which includes a key active ingredient produced in China for Deerfield-based Baxter International Inc. by Scientific Protein Laboratories of Waunakee, Wisconsin. While the cause of the allergic reactions remains unknown, the FDA said it plans to visit the Chinese plant this week as part of an investigation that the agency on Monday deemed "one of its top priorities."
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/chitue_bloodthinner2.19feb19,1,4564760.story

Government Facilities Sector

29. *February 19, Courier Journal* – (Kentucky) **U of L bomb threat called in to TV station.** A bomb threat against the University of Louisville was called into a local television station last night. The caller said the threat was for today, but gave no other information, according to a university spokesman. Campus police were informed of the threat by the television station. Metro Louisville Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have also been alerted and are involved in the investigation. The university sent an e-mail out to students, faculty, and staff this morning informing them of the threat, and asking that they be alert for any suspicious activity. They were also reassured that if a situation developed today the university would activate its emergency communication system, which allows the university to immediately send alerts to campus telephones and personal cell phones.
Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080219/ZONE06/80219017/1008/NEWS01>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

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Information Technology

30. *February 19, TMCnet* – (National) **Cisco issues security alerts for its unified**

communications products. Cisco has issued two security alerts relating to flaws in its unified communications products which could enable hackers to launch denial of service attacks or hack into company telephony systems and retrieve sensitive information, among other annoyances. According to published reports, one of the alerts concerns a flaw in certain Cisco Unified IP Phone models running its Skinny Call Control Protocol (SCCP) and/or Session Initiation Protocol (SIP). The other alert relates to a vulnerability which might enable a hacker to launch an SQL Injection attack affecting Cisco's Unified Communications Manager software. Numerous models of Cisco's SCCP- and SIP-based phones contain a buffer overflow vulnerability in the handling of DNS responses. The company said a hacker launching a specially-crafted DNS response might be able to trigger a buffer overflow and execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable phone. The company has already patched the vulnerability in SCCP firmware version 8.0(8) and SIP firmware version 8.8(0), but certain other versions are still vulnerable. Cisco has reportedly released free software updates to address the vulnerability in Unified Communications Manager, which could open it up to an SQL injection attack in the parameter key of the administrator and user interface pages. Such an attack could give a hacker access to usernames and password hashes that are stored in the database.

Source: <http://visualvoicemail.tmcnet.com/unified-communications/articles/20968-cisco-issues-security-alerts-its-unified-communications-products.htm>

31. *February 19, IDG News Service* – (National) **Opera, Firefox bug could export users' Web history.** A flaw in the way the Firefox and Opera browsers handle an image file could allow an attacker to see what Web sites a person has visited. The problem concerns how the two browsers handle a ".BMP" – or bitmap – image file, according to an advisory on Vexillium.org, which included a video illustrating the problem. A malicious bitmap file can be created that pulls other information from the browsers' memory. Some of the information that can be captured is random, but at other times could be valuable, the advisory said. "The harvested data contains various information including parts of other Web sites, users' favorites and history, and other information," Vexillium.org said. Using the "canvas" HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) tag supported by the browsers, an attacker can capture the data. Then, using JavaScript, the information can be sent to a remote server. The flaw could also crash Firefox. The vulnerability affects Firefox 2.0.0.11 and previous versions of that browser, as well as the beta version of Opera 9.50.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/archives/emailPrint.jsp?R=printThis&A=/article/08/02/19/Opera-Firefox-bug-could-export-users-Web-history_1.html

32. *February 18, ars technica* – (National) **New BotSniffer better able to detect botnets.** Researchers at Georgia Tech have published a paper on BotSniffer – a program they have designed to detect and disable botnets. Botsniffer is not the only bot-detection program available, but the Georgia Tech research team believes that the program's approach to the botnet issue results in a better correlation rate and a lower number of false positives. BotSniffer is designed to detect botnets using either IRC or HTTP protocols, i.e. "push" or "pull" botnets. The program uses a detection method referred to as "Spatial-Temporal Correlation and Similarity" when searching for the presence of a

botnet over the network. Spatial-Temporal Correlation and Similarity relies on the assumption that all botnets, regardless of function, will have to communicate with a master node in order to receive updates and instructions. Unlike humans, botnets tend to communicate in a highly synchronized fashion. BotSniffer specifically watches for these types of “response crowd” communications. If a group of responses qualify as both consistent and synchronous, the systems in question are much more likely to be part of a botnet as opposed to a group of humans communicating with each other. Approaching the problem from this angle allows BotSniffer to theoretically detect the presence of a botnet even when overall network communication is low.

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080218-new-botsniffer-better-able-to-detect-foul-stench-of-botnets.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

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

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Communications Sector

33. *February 19, TechWorld.com* – (National) **Vodafone’s Blackberries get disaster shield.** Vodafone Group PLC will offer its BlackBerry customers a high availability and disaster recovery service – good news for corporate users who fear losing e-mail access on the platform. Based on Neverfail’s disaster recovery technology, the Vodafone Neverfail High Availability Service for BlackBerry monitors the health of the entire e-mail environment, including the server hardware, network infrastructure, application, and operating system. If any anomalies are identified, the service should immediately take action to prevent loss of service. The service promises to operate around the clock every day of the year. According to Vodafone, the service will either automatically attempt to restart applications before they fail, switch over to a secondary server, or alert the IT staff so that no downtime or loss of service is experienced. Once the issue is resolved, they are automatically switched back to the main servers, and neither users nor administrators are required to restart their applications. The service requires no SAN or Cluster technology, and supports LAN and WAN technology.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9063318&source=rss_topic15

34. *February 18, Agence France Presse* – (International) **Saboteurs may have cut Mideast telecom cables: UN agency.** Damage to several undersea telecom cables that caused outages across the Middle East and Asia could have been an act of sabotage, the International Telecommunication Union said on Monday. “We do not want to preempt the results of ongoing investigations, but we do not rule out that a deliberate act of sabotage caused the damage to the undersea cables over two weeks ago,” said the UN

agency's head of development. Five undersea cables were damaged in late January and early February leading to disruption to Internet and telephone services in parts of the Middle East and south Asia. There has been speculation that the sheer number of cables being cut over such a short period was too much of a coincidence and that sabotage must have been involved. India's Flag telecom revealed on February 7 that the cut to the Falcon cable between the United Arab Emirates and Oman was caused by a ship's anchor. But mystery shrouds what caused another four reported cuts. "Some experts doubt the prevailing view that the cables were cut by accident, especially as the cables lie at great depths under the sea and are not passed over by ships," said the UN representative on the sidelines of a conference on cyber-crime held in Qatar. The Falcon cable has since been repaired, along with the Flag Europe Asia cable which was damaged off Egypt's Mediterranean coast. The status of the remaining cable is still unclear.

Source:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=080218163315.psfe6g65&show_article=1

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *February 19, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Bennington Battle Monument spray painted with graffiti.** The Bennington Battle Monument, the tallest manmade structure in Vermont and symbol of the state's only official holiday, has been vandalized. Written in red spray paint on one side of the base of the 306-foot-tall obelisk is the phrase, "Heroes?" while another side has the phrase, "F--- Bush" and the symbol for anarchy, a capital A inside a circle. Bennington Police said the vandalism was reported on Thursday, February 14, around 5:45 p.m. Police said official records indicated there had been some previous minor acts of vandalism: toilet paper thrown at the gift shop in 2006; a vehicle driving across the lawn in 2000; eggs thrown at the gift shop in 1999; and a paintball fired at one of the statues on the grounds in 1998, but no acts of vandalism against the monument itself.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080219/NEWS02/802190370/1003/NEWS02>

36. *February 16, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **More Grand Canyon parking proposed.** Federal officials are considering plans to cut down several trees at Grand Canyon National Park to add hundreds of parking spots and ease traffic at the popular South Rim. The park has only 1,200 parking spaces available during the day, and many visitors carve out their own spots along roadsides and cut through the forest as they make their way to the canyon edge. The National Park Service is exploring three

proposals to change the traffic system for the nearly 4.4 million people who visit the area each year. Officials will ask for public comment in March. Each plan would clear trees to make room for parking lots. The National Park Regional Director is expected to pick a plan in May.

Source: <http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1346734>

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Dams Sector

37. *February 19, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **Officials check Fort Payne dam for possible leak.** Authorities are trying to determine whether a dam on a 75-acre reservoir that supplies drinking water to Fort Payne, Alabama, has a leak. More than 30 residents near the dam were notified Sunday night they might need to evacuate, said the executive director of the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency. The danger of flooding was from having to lower the reservoir to see if there is a leak in the dam, not from the leak itself, she said today. Water from the reservoir was pumped through a 30- to 36-inch drain pipe into Wills Creek, which runs through Fort Payne. She said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was to look at the dam Monday to see if there was actually a leak. She was contacted about noon Sunday by the Fort Payne Water Authority of a possible breach in the dam. She said police went door to door to warn residents and are continuing to watch the dam until the problem is resolved.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/huntsvilletimes/index.ssf?/base/news/120341612880320.xml&coll=1>

38. *February 18, Ellwood City Ledger* – (Pennsylvania) **Dam's future to be discussed.** Five years ago, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) designated Hereford Manor Lakes as a high-hazard dam and threatened to drain the lakes, one of Beaver County's most popular fishing spots. At the time, neither its owner, the state Fish and Boat Commission, nor the DEP was willing or able to come up with the funds to bring the dam up to code. Since then, very little has changed, says the vice president of Pashek Associates, a Pittsburgh-based landscape architectural firm. Even so, he is going ahead with a study to determine how best to deal with the dam hazard. The company, along with state and local officials, will meet at Stewart Hall in Harmony to hear proposals and interest in a lake plan.

Source:

<http://www.timesonline.com/articles/2008/02/18/news/doc47ba4404caa84877701506.txt>

39. *February 18, WTHI 10 Terre Haute* – (Indiana) **ATV's destroying West Terre Haute Levee.** There are concerns about Indiana's West Terre Haute levee, where officials say four-wheelers are destroying the levee, and that could mean some serious problems in the long run. A West Vigo Levee board member was concerned because the levee should have grass on top and on both sides to keep it firm, but it has become a muddy path. He says they have posted signs warning riders not to be there. They have also put up guardrails at nearly a half-dozen locations along the levee to keep riders out. None of

that has worked. He says this type of abuse to the levee could lead to erosion, and that could spell trouble for this low-lying community. He says taxpayers will continue paying to fix the damage.

Source: http://www.wthitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7889120&nav=menu593_2

40. *February 17, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (Nevada) **Quagga mussel threatens dam.**

Invasive quagga mussels are adapting well to life in the desert. The Bureau of Reclamation's quagga mussel coordinator for the lower Colorado River dams projected that as the infestation sets in and begins to clog hydroelectric power cooling pipes and other hardware in Hoover Dam's operations, the maintenance-and-control bill could reach \$1 million a year, especially if pipes get plugged with quagga colonies. That could cause turbines to overheat and shut down until cooling pipes can be cleared of the invasive species. There are several options for dealing with the mussels, including using a bacterial product that targets them, using a mechanical filter, using chemicals like chlorine, and using a combination of filters and ultraviolet light.

Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/feb/17/quagga-mussel-threatens-dam/>

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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.

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