



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 February 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the Reuters, Radioactive caesium chloride used in medical and research equipment can be used as a deadly ingredient in a “dirty bomb,” and U.S. leaders should try to curb its use, the U.S. National Research Council (NRC) said on Wednesday in a report commissioned by Congress. (See item [6](#))
- ABC Action News Tampa reports a Clearwater man trying to board a Southwest Airlines flight was arrested over the weekend after airport police found a box-cutter knife hidden inside a hollowed out book, according to airport officials. The man was attempting to go through a security checkpoint inside Concourse C Sunday around 7:30 am when a TSA screener saw the knife inside his backpack, according to his arrest report. (See item [14](#))

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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 21, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Despite ruling, legislator pushes to bury power line.** A Virginia state legislator who has been an adamant supporter of putting power lines underground says the fight to bury a new transmission line in Loudoun County is not over, despite the State Corporation Commission’s (SCC) approval Friday for aboveground construction of a 230,000-volt Dominion Virginia Power transmission line from Leesburg to Hamilton. The legislator, whose bill to establish four underground

pilot projects has passed the House of Delegates and is in the Senate, said Tuesday that he will amend the legislation so that the 12-mile Loudoun line becomes eligible for that program. Under his bill, projects would be eligible for the underground program if the applications were sent to the SCC between July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2012. He said he will omit the start date, leaving the door open for the SCC to reconsider its decision about the Loudoun line. Opponents of an aboveground line say it would be more susceptible to outages and could pose health risks given the high voltage. Although Dominion officials supported the legislator's original idea of a limited pilot program involving future projects, they still have reservations about undergrounding, saying it would add to costs and create servicing problems.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/20/AR2008022000097.html>

2. *February 21, USA Today* – (Midwest) **Midwest mess.** Another ice storm will impact the Midwest today. Accumulating ice could result in widespread power outages, as trees and power lines have already been stressed by previous ice storms.

Source: <http://blogs.usatoday.com/weather/2008/02/national-wea-15.html>

3. *February 21, Reuters* – (Arizona; West) **Spain's Abengoa to build 280-MW solar plant in U.S.** Spanish engineering firm Abengoa said on Thursday it had signed a deal with a U.S. utility to build what it called the world's largest solar plant near Gila Bend, Arizona. The contract with Arizona Public Service Co. (APS) calls for Abengoa's Abengoa Solar to build a 280-megawatt solar facility and sell the output to the utility for \$4 billion over the next 30 years. Construction of the plant is dependant on approval by Arizona regulators and the renewal of the federal tax credits for green energy sources that are set to expire at the end of 2008. With the new project, about 20 percent of APS' power would come from renewable sources, exceeding the state's mandate of 15 percent, said APS's senior vice president for planning. Under the agreement, the "Solana" plant will become operational by 2011 and use parabolic reflectors to focus sunlight on a site covering 800 hectares. U.S. energy companies have announced plans to build tens of thousands of megawatts in solar thermal plants in the coming years, mostly in sun-drenched desert areas in the Western states.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSL2153612420080221?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *February 20, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Security breaches get A&M big fine.** Texas A&M University will pay a \$1 million fine for security breaches in its biodefense research program, the largest such penalty ever imposed by the federal government. The fine is part of a proposed settlement that could allow the university to resume its suspended research into regulated toxins or microbes, known as "select agents," the A&M President said Wednesday. Although the settlement makes no guarantees, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may consider lifting the ban after federal

inspectors evaluate the university's efforts to correct the wide-ranging problems in the research program next month, the official said. The CDC halted the research, which involves some dangerous infectious diseases, in July after A&M failed to report the exposure of researchers to two biological agents. The agency later found lax oversight, resulting in hazardous working conditions and security breaches at the federally funded labs. The key findings included at least seven cases in which A&M allowed unauthorized access to the biological agents. The federal probe also found discrepancies in the inventory of the biological agents, including three vials that were missing from one lab and still have not been accounted for.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/chronicle/5557571.html>

5. *February 19, KCBS 740 AM San Francisco* – (California) **State orders destruction of East Palo Alto chemical plant.** The California Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the demolition of the abandoned Romic Environmental Technologies chemical plant in East Palo Alto. The facility used to process hazardous industrial wastes for decades, but the company was sold last year and the plant ceased operation. The plant will be cleaned up, broken down and recycled by the end of the year, according to the state EPA. But the chemical contamination it leaves behind on 14 acres of land could remain for as long as 7 years, said state officials. The Romic plant has had repeated violations over the years, including a 2006 incident where a tanker truck released a giant but inert chemical cloud over the city.

Source: <http://www.kcbs.com/State-Orders-Destruction-of-East-Palo-Alto-Chemica/1682320>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *February 21, New Scientist and Reuters* – (National) **U.S. urged to stop using “dirty bomb” ingredients.** Radioactive caesium chloride used in medical and research equipment can be used as a deadly ingredient in a “dirty bomb,” and U.S. leaders should try to curb its use, the U.S. National Research Council (NRC) said on Wednesday in a report commissioned by Congress. About 1300 machines at U.S. hospitals and universities used for irradiating blood for transplant patients and other purposes contain caesium-137 in the form of caesium chloride stored in stainless steel capsules. “The presence of these sizable sources in areas that are potentially attractive targets [for attack] is a major factor making radioactive caesium chloride such a concern to the committee,” according to the report. The fear is that individuals or groups eager to detonate a dirty bomb in a U.S. city could steal this caesium chloride and combine it with conventional explosives such as dynamite to produce a “dirty bomb” or radiological dispersal device. The number of caesium chloride irradiating devices appears to be rising in the U.S., says the report. And according to a member of the panel that produced the report, there is no disposal facility for them. The report proposes that the U.S. government stop licensing new caesium chloride irradiators and discontinue their import and export. It also urges the government to create incentives for owners to decommission devices that rely on radioactive caesium chloride.

Source: <http://technology.newscientist.com/article/dn13360-us-urged-to-stop-using->

[dirty-bomb-ingredients.html](#)

7. *February 21, Bloomberg News* – (National) **Nuclear plant security concern is raised.** The number of “inattentive” security guards found at U.S. nuclear power plants more than doubled last year, documents from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) show. The commission found 12 incidents of security officers who were asleep or distracted in 2007 while on duty at a nuclear reactor. That is up from five incidents reported in each of the years 2006 and 2005, and four in 2004. “We’re looking at it to determine if it’s better reporting, greater awareness, an anomaly or what,” said the deputy director for NRC’s division of security operations. The rise in inattentive guards does not present any threat to plant safety or security, he said, since each reactor has multiple layers of defense. “The highly publicized event of inattentive guards at the Peach Bottom nuclear facility last year was not an exclusive occurrence,” said a U.S. Senator, who will hold a subcommittee hearing next week to highlight the problem of inattentive guards at nuclear facilities. “I don’t know there’s any single explanation” for the rise in incidents, said the senior director of security at the Nuclear Energy Institute. “Certainly, we have increased the size of the security force across the fleet,” he said. “There could be some perhaps change in what ‘inattentive’ means.”
Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/news/226175.php>
8. *February 20, Nuclear Engineering International* – (International) **New manual on terrorism prevention.** Interpol, Europol, the World Customs Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency have produced a reference manual that details how to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism. Combating Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material has been written for law enforcement, intelligence, emergency workers, and the nuclear industry. It advises on existing national and international anti-nuclear terror laws, policies, and actions; the existing threat posed by illicit use of nuclear materials; information on radiation health risks and nuclear transports; and advice on the detection of potential nuclear terror threats. It also calls for better coordination and harmonization of procedures between agencies and government departments which deal with possible nuclear terror threats.
Source: <http://www.neimagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=132&storyCode=2048805>
9. *February 20, Port Clinton News Herald* – (Ohio) **Second former Davis-Besse worker files lawsuit.** A second former Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station security shift supervisor sued the plant’s owner last week, saying he was fired last year for raising safety concerns. The former employee said FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, which owns Davis-Besse, unfairly terminated his employment because of discrepancies in his timecards, according to the lawsuit filed in an Ohio county court. The lawsuit came the same day a fellow former Davis-Besse security shift supervisor filed a similar action against FirstEnergy. Both former employees believe they lost their jobs because they raised safety concerns with an outside consultant investigating the plant’s security department, according to their lawsuits.
Source:
<http://www.portclintonnewsheald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080220/NEWS01/802200306/1002>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *February 21, MSNBC News* – (National) **Navy says missile smashed wayward satellite.** The Pentagon says a U.S. missile launched from a Navy ship near Hawaii struck a disabled spy satellite that was headed for Earth, and the military is tracking the debris as it falls over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The USS Lake Erie, armed with an SM-3 missile designed to knock down incoming missiles, launched the attack on Wednesday at 10:26 p.m., according to the Pentagon. It hit the satellite as the spacecraft traveled at more than 17,000 miles per hour. The use of the Navy missile amounted to an unprecedented use of components of the Pentagon's missile defense system, designed to shoot down hostile ballistic missiles in flight – not kill satellites. The three-stage Navy missile has chalked up a high rate of success in tests since 2002 – in each case targeting a short- or medium-range missile. A hurry-up program to adapt the missile for this anti-satellite mission was completed in a matter of weeks; Navy officials say the changes will be reversed once this satellite is down. While Pentagon officials stressed that the satellite strike was a one-time incident, it certainly will spin off massive amounts of data and research that can be studied by the military as it works to improve its missile defense technologies.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23265613/>

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *February 21, Tuscaloosa News* – (National) **Jury duty phone scam resurfaces in state.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation has issued a warning about a scam reported in 11 states that involves a caller who claims to be a jury coordinator and tells the victim he or she has a warrant out for their arrest for failure to appear for jury duty. The scammer asks for a Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Scammers can then use the information to steal the victim's identity. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts, warning consumers about the fraud. Residents are advised to never give out unsolicited personal information by phone.

Source: <http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20080221/NEWS/902746824/-1/NEWS03>

12. *February 20, Info World* – (International) **Poor IT security to blame in Société Générale fraud.** Inadequate IT security allowed a trader at French bank Société Générale to make a series of unauthorized transactions that ultimately cost the bank €4.9 billion (\$7.2 billion), an internal investigation has found. A special investigating committee found that staff did not systematically conduct in-depth investigations when warnings flags were raised. Among the tricks the suspect used to hide his activities, the bank's General Inspection department highlighted the use of fake e-mail messages to justify missing trades, and the borrowing of colleagues' log-in credentials to conduct trades in their name. The committee made a number of recommendations, including the

use of stronger, biometric authentication systems to prevent traders from accessing one another's accounts, and the improvement of alert procedures so that warnings reach the appropriate managers. In addition, it suggests the tightening of trading controls, which do not cover cancelled or modified transactions, two of the tricks the former employee used to conceal his bets.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/infoworld/20080220/tc_infoworld/95453_1

13. *February 20, NBC Action News* – (Missouri) **AG hopes to stop selling of personal information.** The Missouri Attorney General wants a judge to shut down a Web site that could put people at risk for identity theft. The AG says anyone with a credit card can get complete access to social security numbers, addresses, even physical descriptions through a Web site run the Source for Public Data. He says one woman in Florida used that company's site to steal the identity of nearly 30 Missourians and 62 people in Iowa. The woman eventually racked up more than \$220,000 worth of fraudulent charges. The official says the Web site is to blame. "For our investigators and for this defendant, all it took was a credit card charge of \$9.99 to obtain blanket access to protected information of millions of Missourians," he said. The company which runs the site says it gets its information directly from the Missouri Department of Revenue and some Missouri driver's license numbers are still the driver's social security number. But the Web site's attorney says the company has taken action to protect that information in those cases.

Source: http://www.nbcactionnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=81ce024d-40ef-4448-b38a-f46e5dbf87a0

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Transportation Sector

14. *February 20, ABC Action News Tampa* – (Florida) **Passenger at TIA found with box cutter, cops say.** A Clearwater man trying to board a Southwest Airlines flight was arrested over the weekend after airport police found a box-cutter knife hidden inside a hollowed out book, according to airport officials. The man was attempting to go through a security checkpoint inside Concourse C Sunday around 7:30 am when a TSA screener saw the knife inside his backpack, according to his arrest report. A search of the backpack found the knife inside a hollowed out book called "Fear, Itself." The suspect told police he made the compartment to hide his money and marijuana so that his roommate would not steal it, police say. He also told airport police he forgot the box cutter was inside the book, according to the report. The man was charged with carrying a carrying a concealed weapon. A Bible, Koran, and other religious books were found as well as several pages of rap lyrics that he had wrote, according to the report. The man explained that the lyrics, which referenced police, narcotics, weapons and killings, were "lies" and that rap music writers have to play the part, according to his arrest report.

Sources: http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=be6a705c-24d5-4164-b7d8-41e37629dee4

15. *February 20, Myrtle Beach Online* – (North Carolina) **Nuclear threat doesn't stop tour.** A nuclear bomb threat made against the North Carolina port facility in

Wilmington was phoned into a television station Tuesday night, according to port officials, and the FBI had a lead on the caller. The port was operating with a skeleton crew, said the chief executive officer of the State Ports Authority. Ports Authority officials said the complex had been thoroughly searched and no indication of a nuclear device was found. The threat was deemed not credible. The bomb was reportedly to have gone off at 3 p.m. Wednesday, about 30 minutes after members of the state's 21st Century Transportation Committee arrived at the complex. The 21st Century Transportation Committee was named by North Carolina House and Senate leaders to make recommendations to the upcoming General Assembly on how to solve the state's transportation funding crisis. The full committee is to meet Thursday in Wilmington. The port tour was a prelude to that meeting.

Source: http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/breaking_news/story/356773.html

16. *February 20, KITV4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **FAA investigates incident at Honolulu Airport runway.** Federal Aviation Administration officials said they are looking into an incident involving two small planes at Honolulu International Airport on Tuesday night. An air traffic controller cleared a Piper twin-engine plane to land on Runway 4-Left at about the same time a single-engine Cessna was cleared to take off on Runway 4-Right, according to an FAA official. An air traffic controller noticed the twin-engine plane was approaching on the wrong runway, so he radioed the pilot and told him to abort the landing, according to the FAA. The FAA would not say if it was a “near-collision,” but a source close to the situation told KITV it was very close.

Source: <http://www.kitv.com/news/15362697/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *February 21, Santa Cruz Sentinel* – (California) **Senate resolution seeks halt to light brown apple moth spraying.** A San Francisco Bay Area state senator said this week she is introducing a resolution that will call on state and federal officials to set a moratorium on aerial spraying in San Francisco and Marin County until “the U.S. Department of Agriculture can guarantee the spray’s formula is both safe for humans and effective against the moth,” according to her office. She plans to ask senators representing other impacted areas if they wish to include their districts in the resolution. State and federal officials launched a spraying program last fall to combat the non-native pest, which they say is a threat to the region’s farming industry and could cause up to \$640 million in crop damage annually as well as threatening exports. Critics question the damage estimates and the effectiveness of the treatment approach. The California Department of Food and Agriculture announced earlier this month plans to resume aerial spraying in June in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Aerial spraying is highly

unpopular with local residents.

Source: http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_8323459

18. *February 20, CNN* – (National) **USDA: Reinspection of downed cattle was key issue in beef recall.** Last weekend's 143 million-pound beef recall was initiated not simply because cattle that could not walk made it into the U.S. food supply, but because they were not re-inspected after becoming immobile. Cattle that have lost the ability to walk can still be slaughtered for food if they are re-inspected after falling. Since 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has required that cattle be able to walk to slaughter after an inspection by a USDA veterinarian – largely as a precaution against bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. This rule was put in place when the first cow with mad cow disease was found in Washington State at the end of 2003. Only rarely does a cow pass pre-slaughter inspection, somehow become unable to walk, and then get re-examined by a veterinarian and pass for slaughter, according to USDA doctor. Last year, the USDA decided to make permanent an exception to the “no downer cattle should enter the food-supply rule” by allowing a downed cow to go to slaughter if it had already passed pre-slaughter inspection and then passed another inspection after it lost its ability to walk. However, some strongly disagree with this decision, including a former USDA veterinarian who trained other veterinarians to detect mad cow disease. She says the USDA should not make any exceptions to the downer cow rule.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/02/20/downer.cattle/index.html>

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Water Sector

19. *February 21, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Sewage contamination closes South Bay beaches.** Beaches from the Mexican border to Imperial Beach in California were closed yesterday because of sewage contamination from the Tijuana River after the rain. County health officials extended a beach closure that has been in effect since November 30 near the Tijuana River to northern Imperial Beach after the sewage-contaminated runoff flowed north. The county Department of Environmental Health said measurements taken along regular testing sites found that ocean currents moved the contaminated flows north. Additionally, a general advisory is in effect for all coastal ocean waters. County officials caution against water activities for 72 hours after rainfall.
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080221-9999-1m21b2briefs.html>
20. *February 19, Record* – (California) **Mine waste OK to dump.** Meridian Gold Co. has won permission to occasionally dump salt- and metal-contaminated wastewater from its defunct mine near Copperopolis, California, into a creek that flows to Stockton and the Delta. And that is a good thing, according to state water pollution regulators, the company, and even an environmentalist involved in negotiating the closure and cleanup of the Royal Mountain King Mine. “It is better to discharge before everything fills up and while there is diluting water going down the creek, rather than to have it overflow during and after a rainstorm,” said the assistant executive officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, a state agency that polices water pollution.

Under a water pollution permit that took effect last week, the site is allowed to discharge waste only when Littlejohns Creek has high flows, generally rainy periods in winter. That means the toxic salts contained in the mining wastes will be diluted and will not pose a hazard to irrigated crops or city drinking water supplies. High salt levels are often a problem in the Delta in summer and fall, damaging crops and pushing up costs to treat drinking water. The work to reclaim and cap the surface of the mine will be finished this summer. Then the company will settle down to monitoring and controlling wastewater from the site – a duty likely to last decades.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080219/A_NEWS/802190309/-1/A_NEWS

21. *February 19, Daily Breeze* – (California) **Tainted groundwater is discovered in Torrance.** Toxic chemicals associated with gasoline production have been found in the groundwater beneath a part of Torrance, California, officials said Tuesday. Officials with the Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board have expanded the scope of an investigation, seeking evidence of possible chemical vapor intrusion to ten homes in the area. Those officials said the substances found are carcinogenic, but they do not yet know whether they exist in levels or in places that pose a threat to human health. The officials painted the clearest picture yet of contamination in the area first discovered in late November by a resident of a home who smelled a strong gasoline-like vapor. That was due to “high levels” of methane and benzene in nearby soil vapor. Since then, crews have methodically sampled soil, water, and air in an effort to determine the source and extent of the contamination. The Board chairwoman said “most” of the contamination lies about 75 feet below the surface in groundwater, although she stressed there was no danger to drinking water supplies. Chemicals discovered included toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene, which are associated with gasoline production.

Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_8310119

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *February 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Google ventures into health records.** Google Inc. will begin storing the medical records of a few thousand people as it tests a long-awaited health service that is likely to raise more concerns about the volume of sensitive information entrusted to the Internet search leader. The pilot project announced Thursday will involve 1,500 to 10,000 patients at the Cleveland Clinic who volunteered to an electronic transfer of their personal health records so they can be retrieved through Google’s new service, which will not be open to the general public. Each health profile, including information about prescriptions, allergies, and medical histories, will be protected by a password that is also required to use other Google services such as e-mail and personalized search tools. The program has been criticized by privacy watchdogs who believe Google already knows too much about the interests and habits of its users as its computers log their search requests and store their e-mail discussions. Prodded by the criticism, Google last year introduced a new system that purges people’s search records after 18 months. In a show of its privacy commitment, Google also successfully

rebuffed the U.S. Justice Department's demand to examine millions of its users' search requests in a court battle two years ago.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/02/21/google.records.ap/index.html>

23. *February 20, McClatchy* – (International) **Bird flu remains dangerous as it continues to mutate.** As bird flu continues to spread across Asia, Africa, and Europe scientists say that it remains a serious threat to human and animal health. The lethal H5N1 version of the virus is mutating rapidly and rampaging through bird flocks throughout those parts of the world, infecting and often killing people who come in contact with these birds. The fear is that the virus will change into a form that makes human-to-human transmission quick and easy. At least seven slightly different subtypes already have been identified. Although H5N1 has not reached the Western Hemisphere, the chief veterinary officer for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, warned last month that it “could still trigger a human influenza pandemic.” In the last year, the WHO confirmed 98 new human cases, including 69 deaths, a 70 percent death rate. It was the second worst year for bird flu, topped only by 2006, when 115 cases and 79 deaths (69 percent) were reported.

Source: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/28215.html>

24. *February 20, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. seen better prepared for health disaster.** U.S. states are better prepared than in 2001 for a pandemic or biological attack, but still lack trained staff and specialized facilities, according to a federal report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released on Wednesday. All the state health departments are now ready 24 hours a day, seven days a week to examine urgent health threat reports – compared to just 12 states in 1999, the study found. While there are also many more labs that can detect and process chemical and biological agents, not a single state can look at a sample from patients and quickly determine if they have been poisoned by various radiological agents. Only CDC headquarters can do this, the report found. The report found problems in certain areas. “Public health departments report difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified epidemiologists,” the report reads. Also, a national system for distributing drugs and vaccines is not up to speed. In December, the nonprofit Trust for America's Health reported that many states still lack a stockpile of drugs, masks, gloves, and other equipment and noted that federal funding for state and local preparedness was declining.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080220/us_nm/disasters_usa_dc;_ylt=AgFHRyFLj6WKLziteVugcO8WIr0F

25. *February 20, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Next plague likeliest to emerge from poor tropical countries.** Scores of infectious diseases have emerged to threaten humans in the past decades as viruses leap the species barrier from wild animals and bacteria mutate into antibiotic-resistant strains, scientists reported on Wednesday. Presenting the first-ever map of “hotspots” of new infectious diseases, they predict that the next pandemic is likeliest to come out of poor tropical countries, where burgeoning human populations come into contact with wildlife. A three-year investigation led by four major institutions tracked 335 incidents since 1940 when a new infectious disease

emerged. The category includes HIV/AIDS, which has slain or infected more than 65 million people around the world, and outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and H5N1 bird flu, which have cost tens of billions of dollars to contain. The emergence of new diseases have roughly quadrupled over the past 50 years, says the study, appearing in the British journal Nature. Sixty percent of these diseases are so-called “zoonoses,” or diseases that have been transmitted from animals to humans. 20 percent derive from a growing resistance to drugs, such as extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080220/hl_afp/healthdiseaseinfectious

26. *February 20, HealthDay* – (National) **More evidence of danger from heart surgery drug.** Two new studies confirm an increased incidence of death and kidney damage among people given Trasylol (aprotinin), a drug used to reduce bleeding during coronary artery bypass surgeries. The studies suggest the drug raises patients’ risks over both the short- and long-term. One study looked at more than 10,000 people who underwent coronary artery bypass surgery. The death rate was 32 percent higher among the 1,343 people who got Trasylol as compared to the 2,029 who received no medication to limit their bleeding. The mortality rate for those taking Trasylol was also 27 percent higher than those given aminocaproic acid, a different medication used to limit bleeding. Trasylol’s German maker, Bayer AG, suspended marketing in the U.S. last November after preliminary results of a Canadian trial revealed problems with the medication.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/20/AR2008022002311.html>

Government Facilities Sector

27. *February 20, WAPT 16 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **Area colleges receive terrorist response training.** College and community college security teams are getting a crash course in terrorist response. Teams from Jackson State, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and a host of community colleges sent security staffers to Eagle Ridge conference center. There the Department of Homeland Security set up a training seminar on initial response to something like the Northern Illinois University shooting last week. These staffers will be qualified instructors and can return to their own campuses to train community emergency response teams.

Source: <http://www.wapt.com/news/15360523/detail.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to Report

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Information Technology

28. *February 21, IDG News Service* – (International) **McAfee: Virus writers going local.**

Over the past two years, virus writers have increasingly targeted their malicious programs to users in different regions of the globe, creating programs that are specially designed to infect users in countries like Japan, Brazil, China, or Germany. The “taunting Trojan,” which goes after users of the Winny file-sharing program is an example of this phenomenon. Winny is file-sharing software that is incredibly popular in Japan, but virtually unknown outside of the region. Still, it has been the target of several malware programs, according to a security research and communications manager for McAfee Avert Labs. Previously, attackers would write programs that would affect the largest possible number of users, but that is no longer necessarily the case, he said. “What we’ve noticed over the last couple of years is that a growing amount of malware is localized.” McAfee believes that there are a few reasons behind this shift. For one thing, writers no longer want the worldwide attention and law enforcement action that was garnered by outbreaks such as Sasser and Netsky. And with users becoming more wary, hackers have to be crafty with their attacks – creating more targeted malware that victims are unlikely to have seen before. Another factor is that criminals are increasingly targeting their attacks to regions that have weak cybercrime enforcement, McAfee believes.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9063739&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

29. *February 21, Canwest News Service* – (International) **Quebec police bust alleged hacker ring.** Quebec provincial police said Wednesday they have dismantled what they called the largest and most damaging computer-hacking network ever uncovered in Canada. During several action-packed early-morning hours Wednesday, provincial police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers dismantled the latest hacking ring by successfully carrying out 17 lightning-fast raids in 12 towns across Quebec, including Montreal. They collared 17 hacking suspects aged 17 to 26. All are male except for one, a 19-year-old woman. Police raiding parties also sealed and carted away dozens of hard drives and other computer components from the homes of each of the suspects. The actions of the group acts caused an estimated \$45-million Canadian in damages to governments, businesses, and individuals.

Source: <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=322372>

30. *February 20, Times* – (International) **Hacker breaks link between iTunes and the iPod.** Software letting iTunes users copy music and video to mobile phones has been released by the notorious Norwegian hacker known as DVD Jon. The program allows people to drag and drop songs from iTunes into a folder on their desktop, which in turn copies the files to other devices such as mobile phones and games consoles via the web. In doing so, the software breaks the copy protection – known as ‘digital rights management’ or DRM – that is built into all music that is bought from iTunes. Music bought from iTunes can be played only on the iPod. DoubleTwist, DVD Jon’s company, maintains that its service is legal, but lawyers said that Apple would almost certainly

seek to shut it down because the law now specifically targeted technologies which attempted to circumvent measures such as DRM.

Source: http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/article3403705.ece

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: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

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

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Communications Sector

31. *February 21, Canwest News Service* – (National) **T-Mobile tests mobile service to replace home phone service.** T-Mobile will test an Internet calling plan designed to replace consumers' home wireline-based phone service. The tests will be carried out in Dallas and in Seattle near T-Mobile's U.S. headquarters. The tests are in addition to T-Mobile's announcement earlier this week that it will offer complete wireless plans for \$100 a month that include unlimited nationwide calling, text messaging, and data access. Source: <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=322372>

32. *February 20, IDG News Service* – (National) **Update: BlackBerry network goes down again.** BlackBerry users in North America were complaining of service problems again Wednesday morning. Users of the BlackBerry outage newsgroup began reporting problems at around 6 a.m. on the U.S. East Coast related to scheduled maintenance on Research In Motion Ltd.'s (RIM) network. The issue appeared to become progressively worse, initially affecting about half of users in the Americas but eventually affecting all customers, according to users of the newsgroup. RIM said it was not a system-wide outage. The problem affected only users of BlackBerry Internet Service (BIS) and not BlackBerry Enterprise Server (BES) customers, RIM said. BIS customers sign up for the service through their mobile operators. Enterprises often use a different setup, installing a BES to deliver corporate e-mail to BlackBerry devices. While messages to and from both BIS and BES users pass through RIM's network operations centers, in this case, only the network components that handle BIS customers were affected.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9063659&intsrc=hm_list

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Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *February 20, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Threatening note triggers lockdown at college.** St. Peter's College locked down its campus Wednesday for several hours following the discovery of a note that referenced killing students and the massacre at

Virginia Tech. Nothing dangerous was found and the lockdown was lifted just before 3 p.m., a school spokeswoman said. She said campus security became aware at 10:40 a.m. of the handwritten note, taped in the stairwell of an administration and classroom building, and had e-mail and cell-phone text message alerts sent to students within two minutes. She added it was the first time the private Roman Catholic school used its text message alert system, installed last summer in response to the April 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech in which 33 people died. After the note's discovery, police immediately ordered the campus closed while they began searching each room of each building at the school, which has about 3,000 students.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/nj/20080221_Threatening_note_triggers_lockdown_at_college.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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Dams Sector

34. *February 21, Chronicle-Tribune* – (Indiana) **City wants feds' help with dam.** Marion, Indiana, officials are seeking federal money to make improvements to the Charles Mill Dam. The flood gate on the dam, used to control water flow on the Mississinewa River, is 72 years old and is broken. The city engineer said the city hopes to take out the gate and put in a new one, a smaller opening that would control the level of the pool at the dam. The gate stopped working in the mid-1990s. While the new gate will not completely solve the problem – river waters at 13 feet or more could still cause floods – it will help alleviate flooding in certain areas.

Source: <http://www.chronicle-tribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080221/NEWS01/802210303/1002>

35. *February 21, Texarkana Gazette* – (Arkansas) **Lake drawdown uncovers erosion near Millwood dam.** The drawdown of Lake Millwood in Arkansas has uncovered some erosion near the dam, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has started a preventive maintenance project to stop further erosion. "We're stopping the erosion and stabilizing the bank with rip rap (rock) so it doesn't erode back into the dam," said a natural resource specialist with the federal agency.

Source: <http://www.texarkanagazette.com/news/localnews/2008/02/21/lake-drawdown-uncovers-erosion-near-mill-96.php>

36. *February 20, Moscow-Pullman Daily News* – (Idaho) **Dworshak Dam deemed deficient by Corps of Engineers.** A report released Wednesday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concluded that Dworshak Dam in Idaho does not meet industry dam safety standards. The Corps is inspecting and assigning safety ratings to all of its dams

using a rating system titled Dam Safety Action Classification. Dworshak Dam received a DSAC rating of II, which is the second highest level of risk and is considered “urgent and either unsafe or potentially unsafe.” According to the report, Dworshak presents “no immediate danger to people and property below the dam,” however, should a failure occur, the risk to public safety and economic consequences would be “very high.” Inspections and studies show that seeping and leaking water is passing through the dam’s foundation and joint drains. However, the report stated that “the probability of failure at Dworshak Dam is relatively low.”

Source: <http://www.dnews.com/breaking-news/326/>

37. *February 20, Green River Star* – (Wyoming) **Water breaches holding pond at trona mine.** A dike used to store tailing water at the General Chemical facility west of Green River developed a leak early this morning, allowing process water to escape. “As soon as the leak was discovered, procedures were implemented to redirect the water to other nearby containment areas,” according to a release from the human resources manager at the mine. Repairs are scheduled to begin on the break today. Both the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Wyoming Mine Inspector were contacted, and both agencies had arrived at the facility to begin assessing the company’s plan, according to the release.

Source: <http://www.greenriverstar.com/articles/2008/02/20/news/news1.txt>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

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

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