The Associated Press and KING 5 Seattle report that widespread avalanches, mudslides, and high water throughout Washington State closed 62 highways, including all passes in the Cascade Range. (See item 11)

According to Reuters, an outbreak of salmonella food poisoning has made 388 people sick across 42 states, sending 18 percent of them to the hospital, U.S. health officials said on Wednesday. (See item 16)

Energy Sector

1. January 7, Reuters – (International) Gunmen raid ExxonMobil oil platform off Nigeria. Armed men attacked an oil platform belonging to U.S. energy giant ExxonMobil off Nigeria early on Wednesday. Gunmen in a flat-bottomed vessel raided the facility, which lies some two hours by boat off the coast of the southern Nigerian state of Akwa Ibom, shortly after midnight. They also attacked a nearby barge and an oil services vessel. “They shot into the air and water and ordered everyone on the platform into one room and threatened to kill us,” a witness told Reuters, adding the raid had lasted two hours. A private security contractor said the gunmen had stolen phones, valuables, and money. He said there was no impact on production. Mobil officials
confirmed the incident but gave no details.
Source: http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKL73623420090107?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0

Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies have determined the threat against the Petro Marine fuel facility in Ketchikan, Alaska, to be non-credible. The captain of the Port Southeast Alaska returned the Maritime Security (MARSEC) Level in the Port of Ketchikan to Level 1. The MARSEC Level was raised to Level 2 in response to the threat. The elevation in the MARSEC Level required the Coast Guard, other law enforcement agencies, and the marine industry to assume a heightened security posture. The 500-yard safety zone imposed around the facility has also been lifted. An anonymous caller phoned the Seventeenth Coast Guard District Command Center in Juneau Wednesday morning and threatened to detonate fuel tanks at the Petro Marine fuel facility in Ketchikan. The Coast Guard Investigative Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Alaska State Troopers, and the Ketchikan Police Department are investigating the call.

Perched beneath a helicopter hovering over the Spaulding Turnpike on January 5, contractors for Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) upgraded power lines. Part of a 34-mile upgrade of transmission lines between Portsmouth and Londonderry, the high-wire work is being done from helicopters because “it’s faster” and makes “less of an environmental impact,” said a PSNH spokesman. The PSNH project, which began in December, is targeted for completion by June and will include work in Portsmouth, Newington, Greenland, Stratham, Exeter, Brentwood, Fremont, Danville, Sandown, Chester, Derry, and Londonderry. In total, 140 miles of lightning-protector, galvanized steel “static” wire will be replaced, he said.
Source: http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20090107-NEWS-901070354

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**Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to report

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**Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

A valve leaking radioactive water inside Vermont Yankee’s reactor building was undergoing emergency repairs January 7, Entergy Nuclear said. The leak did not require the company to shut down or even reduce power, according to an Entergy Nuclear
spokesman. He said the leak, which was losing about 2-1/2 gallons of “slightly radioactive” water a minute, had been discovered about two weeks ago during routine company inspection by plant operators. He said the radioactive water, which comes from the reactor water’s cleanout system, was cleaned and filtered before being returned to the reactor building. The water is not discharged to the Connecticut River, he said. He said the leaking radioactive water went into a sump drain, was filtered, and was eventually returned to the reactor water system. He said the metal gasket in the valve was located on what was essentially a “pool filter” on the cooling water in the reactor. According to an e-mail from an Entergy Nuclear spokesman, the company brought in a specialist who can repair the gasket in the valve without shutting down the valve, and the plant, as a result. The spokesman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said the repair would only be temporary, and a permanent repair would have to be done at the plant’s next refueling outage, which is expected in 2010. He said the NRC’s resident inspectors are closely monitoring the valve gasket repair.


5. **January 7, Tennessean** – (Tennessee) **Feds approve TVA’s Browns Ferry safety plan.** TVA still has improvements to make in its safety procedures at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, but the federal agency that monitors the plant gave a stamp of approval to its plan on January 6. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) staff delivered findings of a special inspection in December triggered by a high number of unintended shutdowns of a plant reactor after it reopened in 2007. NRC staff cited the fact that there have been no unintended shutdowns in the Unit 1 reactor since the fifth shutdown in late 2007. The commission’s inspectors found that some of the shutdowns might have been preventable if the Tennessee Valley Authority’s plant management had more quickly implemented safety improvements after the initial problems were discovered. Some of the problems stemmed from the Unit 1 reactor reopening in 2007 after 22 years of being shut down. The unit had a history of safety problems before it closed in 1985. “Based on the results of the inspection, no findings of significance were identified,” said an NRC branch chief who oversees inspections of TVA nuclear facilities. “The NRC determined that your proposed corrective actions are appropriate to resolve the deficiencies.” TVA’s own review also confirmed many of the findings.

Source: [http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090107/NEWS01/901070383/1006](http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090107/NEWS01/901070383/1006)

**Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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**Banking and Finance Sector**

6. **January 8, San Francisco Chronicle** – (National) **Can Madoff payouts break the insurance bank?** The Securities Investor Protection Corp. (SIPC) insures brokerage accounts for up to $500,000 each when customer assets are stolen or missing. But if
clients of Bernie Madoff wipe out the insurance fund, will there be any protection for everyone else? In interviews and congressional testimony this week the SIPC’s chief executive could not rule out the possibility that its resources might be exhausted by victims of Madoff’s alleged $50 billion Ponzi scheme. SIPC appears to have $4 billion to $4.5 billion in assets and lines of credit to draw upon. If the insurance fund ran out of money, SIPC probably would turn to Washington for help. Although it was created by a federal statute, SIPC — unlike the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which insures bank deposits — is not a U.S. government agency nor backed by the U.S. government.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/01/07/BUBT1559LC.DTL

7. **January 7, Forbes – (National) FDIC unnationalizes some debt.** Signs of life in the U.S. mortgage market emerged January 7, after the federal government inked a deal to let a private company service a portfolio of loans that had been owned by a failed Nevada bank. The deal could serve as a model for the government to put nationalized mortgages into efficient private hands, and it gives an indication of how much investors might be willing to pay: half of face value or less. Private National Mortgage Acceptance, a private-equity firm that likes to be known as PennyMac, said it had purchased residential loans worth nearly half a billion dollars from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC). It refused to say what it paid, but its chief said in a television interview that the price was 30 to 50 cents on the dollar. The debts originally belonged to the First National Bank of Nevada, which went bust in July of last year and has since been in receivership. Asset Manager Blackrock has a sizable stake in PennyMac and served as an adviser on the deal. The FDIC has been pulling a growing number of belly-up lenders and their problem loans onto its balance sheet as the U.S. subprime mortgage mess, made worse by the global financial crisis it spawned, deepens with falling home prices and rising loan delinquencies. This sale is the first of its kind as the U.S. government enters a profit-sharing venture with a private investor in order to get troubled loans it does not want to manage off its books.


**Transportation Sector**

8. **January 8, NBCLosAngeles.com – (California) Plane crashes at Santa Monica Airport.** The landing gear on a twin-engine plane collapsed after the aircraft touched down at Santa Monica Airport Tuesday night. Witnesses told Channel 4 News the plane landing gear collapsed and the fuselage skidded across the runway before grinding to a stop. The plane was not on fire when it crashed, but a witness said firefighters sprayed the plane down with fire foam just to be safe. A witness eating dinner at 6:40 p.m. at the airport restaurant said he observed the pilot and passenger walk away from the wreckage unharmed. A Santa Monica Fire spokesman said no one was reported injured. Images transmitted from Telecopter 4 to the Channel 4 newsroom indicated one of the twin-turboprop Beechcraft King Air 100 engines might have caught fire. This has not been officially confirmed. Another witness said there was a loud boom when the plane hit the
ground and that the noise from the crash was heard throughout the airport.

9. **January 8, Associated Press** – (National) **FBI: Man allegedly threatened to bomb LA-bound jet.** A Kentucky man who claimed to have a bomb aboard a Los Angeles-bound jetliner and was then tackled and bound by other passengers will not face federal charges, the FBI said Wednesday. No bomb was found aboard the Delta Air Lines Flight 110 from Atlanta, and after questioning by the FBI and airport police, federal investigators had decided not to pursue charges against the 45-year-old, an FBI source said. She said investigators concluded he should undergo a psychological evaluation. The man was turned over to Los Angeles police and booked for making a false bomb threat. He was being held at a downtown jail, said an airport police sergeant. The plane was only minutes from landing at Los Angeles International Airport shortly before 10:30 a.m. Wednesday when the man “jumped up and started running ... (and) yelled ‘I’ve got a bomb,’” a passenger told Fox 11 News. After passengers restrained him, the man claimed to have a bomb, then later lunged for an exit door and assaulted a passenger. Passengers and flight crew members then restrained him a second time, binding him with plastic ties.
Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hTwX7Zari8f5Dwx8dNwwOqiNzMnAD951NAMG1](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hTwX7Zari8f5Dwx8dNwwOqiNzMnAD951NAMG1)

10. **January 8, Hampton Roads Daily Press** – (Virginia) **New port ID cards to cause delays.** Gates to local marine terminals will be backed up next week, with some workers finding trouble getting through security lines, and others unable to go to work at all. On Tuesday, thousands of maritime and transportation workers in Hampton Roads will be required to show a new federal identification card to gain entry to more than 50 of the region’s port facilities, including four major cargo terminals and a handful of coal piers. So far, more than 17,000 people who work or do business with the area’s maritime businesses — including longshoremen, truck drivers, port employees, and others — have signed up for the cards, but only about 11,000 have activated them, said Hampton Roads’ top U.S. Coast Guard official. As many as 2,000 others have failed to apply for cards altogether. “From a numbers standpoint, overall, we’re looking very good,” the official said Wednesday, noting that more workers have signed up for the card than were originally estimated to need them. “But, there are absolutely going to be individuals who, come next Tuesday, are going to be denied access” to regulated facilities. The cards, called Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, or TWICs, will be required at all of the nation’s ports this year in an effort to boost security. To qualify for one, applicants must submit proof of identity, provide biographical information, and pass an FBI background check.
Source: [http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-biz_twic_0108jan08,0,1162351.story](http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-biz_twic_0108jan08,0,1162351.story)

11. **January 8, Associated Press and KING 5 Seattle** – (Washington) **Washington residents flee as rivers swell.** More than 30,000 people were told to leave their flood-endangered homes in Western Washington Thursday as rain and high winds lashed much of Washington, causing widespread avalanches, mudslides, and high water that could reach
record levels. Throughout Washington, 62 highways are closed, including all passes in the Cascade Range. The state is beginning the process of shutting down a 20-mile stretch of Interstate 5 in Lewis County. The National Weather Service says 22 rivers are at or above flood stage and major flooding is expected on 19. State emergency officials said voluntary evacuations were recommended for the southwest Washington cities of Naselle, Packwood, and Randle. Many roads are underwater and closed to traffic. The Transportation Department says portions of I-5 in Lewis County could go under water. Avalanches and the risk of more slides closed Interstate 90, Washington’s principal east-west route, through Snoqualmie Pass, as well as U.S. Highway 2 through Stevens Pass and U.S. 12 through White Pass. With State Routes 20 and 410 closed for the season, the only road access between the two sides of the state within Washington was winding, two-lane Highway 14 through the Columbia River gorge. U.S. 97 was closed by slides at Blewett Pass, between Leavenworth and Ellensburg, and 200 to 300 feet of the northbound lane was washed away by flooding from Peshastin Creek.


12. **January 8, Houston Chronicle** – (Colorado) **Pilots say Continental jet was unsteady on runway.** The pilots at the helm of Houston-bound Continental Flight 1404 aborted their pre-Christmas takeoff in Denver because they could not keep the wavering 737 steady and centered on the runway — even when they tried to steer it back on course, according to pilot interviews conducted by federal investigators. On Wednesday, the National Transportation Safety Board released a preliminary report on the December 20 accident that, for the first time, included information collected from the cockpit crew.

The report states both pilots found nothing out of the ordinary leading up to the takeoff roll. But once the aircraft got 1,000 feet down the runway, they both had trouble keeping the jet pointed at the centerline. “Both pilots remarked that all appeared normal until the aircraft began to deviate from the runway centerline,” the NTSB report stated. “The Captain noted that the airplane suddenly diverged to the left, and attempts to correct the deviation with the rudder were unsuccessful.” As the jet veered left and off the runway, a series of bumping and rattling sounds began, noises captured by the aircraft’s cockpit voice recorder. The plane, with 115 crew and passengers on board, then left the runway, continued across a grassy area, then crossed a taxiway and a service road before it caught fire and stopped in a 40-foot snowy ravine. No one was killed, but 38 people were injured.


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**Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. **January 8, ABS-CBN News** – (International) **Mla post office staff in quarantine due to anthrax threat.** A dozen employees of the Manila Post Office are currently placed under quarantine after possibly being exposed to a letter addressed to the U.S. Embassy in Manila suspected of containing anthrax. The twelve employees, who all work at the lock-box section of the post office, are presumed to have handled the letter. The U.S. Embassy is assigned PO Box 151 inside the lock-box section, which is now temporarily closed. The letter was first noticed when the U.S. Embassy’s messenger picked up mail.

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The embassy was alarmed when they noticed the letter, which came from Houston, Texas. The letter was immediately brought by the embassy’s Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Hazardous Materials section to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang for testing. The BFP HazMat team also went to the lock-box area to decontaminate the room and to examine the employees. Despite not yet proving the mail actually contained anthrax, authorities said the precautionary measures were taken to ensure the safety of everyone involved.


14. January 8, Salinas Californian – (California) Homemade firecracker found in Pebble Beach mailbox. The Monterey County Sheriff’s Office said an oversized homemade firecracker was discovered at 12:15 p.m. Monday in a mailbox off Middle Ranch Road. Instead of exploding inside of the metal mailbox, it vented its contents through the open end of the cylindrical container, deputies said, and the flame produced by the burning gases left black carbon markings on the inside of the mailbox. Deputies said it may have been a random juvenile prank.

Source: http://thecalifornian.com/article/20090108/NEWS01/901080310/1002

15. January 8, Honolulu Star Bulletin – (Hawaii) Mite poison brings honey caution. The state Department of Agriculture is warning Big Island residents not to eat wild honey collected within five miles of Hilo Harbor during the next three weeks while it attempts to eradicate varroa mites. The state plan to control a mite infestation now includes killing every bee within five miles of Hilo harbor. The mites are tiny, spiderlike parasites that infect honeybees. Since the mites were first detected on the Big Island on August 20, officials have made several unsuccessful attempts to eradicate them, said the head of the state Plant Industry Division. Following those failures, the department is now setting out 200 baiting stations with low concentrations of an insecticide called fipronil, he said. To use it to kill infected bees, the Department of Agriculture had to declare a special 15-day “crisis exemption” from restrictions on fipronil by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, he said. If bees near the harbor are not killed, the parasitic mites could spread to the entire island and cause a crash in the wild bee population.


16. January 7, Reuters – (National) Salmonella outbreak sickens 388 across U.S.: CDC. An outbreak of salmonella food poisoning has made 388 people sick across 42 states, sending 18 percent of them to the hospital, U.S. health officials said on January 7. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is trying to trace the source of the outbreak, which began in September. The Department of Agriculture, state health officials, and the Food and Drug Administration are also involved. The CDC said poultry, cheese, and eggs are the most common source of this particular strain, known as
Salmonella typhimurium. “It is often difficult to identify sources of foodborne outbreaks. People may not remember the foods they recently ate and may not be aware of all of the ingredients in food. That is what makes these types of investigations very difficult,” said a CDC spokesman. The CDC spokesman did not specify how many people were hospitalized, but the percentage he gave puts that figure at about 70.

Source: http://uk.reuters.com/article/burningIssues/idUKTRE5066E420090107

Water Sector

17. January 8, Los Angeles Times – (California) **Sewage plants, industry discharging toxic pollutants into LA County waters.** Sewage treatment plants and industry are discharging toxic pollutants into Los Angeles County waters with impunity, a regional environmental group contends in a new study. In a report released Thursday, Heal the Bay faults state and regional water quality regulators, saying that they have been lax in enforcing and adopting strong discharge standards for toxicity. “Polluters are discharging toxic effluent with no risk of enforcement and not even an obligation to find out and abate what is causing that toxicity — that is a major water quality concern,” said the organization’s president. Heal the Bay reviewed eight years of discharge records from 42 wastewater treatment and industrial plants in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. It found nearly 900 instances in which effluent samples contained toxic levels high enough to harm aquatic life in lab tests. But the vast majority of those cases were not recorded as violations by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. According to the report, the board imposed penalties in less than 2 percent of the cases.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-toxic8-2009jan08,0,6185579.story

18. January 6, Daily Sentinel – (Texas) **County investigates toxic chemical release.** Nacogdoches County officials are investigating circumstances surrounding the release of chlorine gas by employees of the Lilly Grove Water Supply Corp. at a well site off CR 811. While no injuries were reported and a hazardous materials team said there was no health threat, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) said the dispersal of chlorine into the air, if intentional, is a criminal offense. A TCEQ spokeswoman said that while it is an unusual situation, it is being investigated as a criminal matter. A well site operator said another employee approached the site to empty a corroding cylinder of chlorine, which had apparently been leaking for several months.


Public Health and Healthcare Sector

19. January 7, Salem News – (National) **911 security alert standard coming?** The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) will soon announce the fate of a proposed national security standard for automatically routing alarm company
alerts to 911 centers. Alarm companies typically place a phone call to 911 centers when an alarm sounds, but the new standard would send them automatically. An automated standard could eliminate 32 million calls nationally from the alarm companies to the 911 public safety answering points, erasing the two to three minutes of processing time call takers need for obtaining information from alarm company operators, according to the public safety team project manager of the Richmond, Virginia, Department of Information Technology. “That means police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) will get to the scene of an emergency two and a half to three minutes faster,” he said. “That will increase the likelihood of police apprehension. It increases the chances that fires will be extinguished faster, possibly avoiding a structure being completely engulfed when they arrive. Of course a bunch of lives will be saved from an EMS standpoint.”

Source: http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/580757

20. January 7, Rocky Mountain News – (National) **Widespread Tamiflu usage against Avian flu could backfire, study suggests.** Avian flu could gain a huge toehold in the United States if public health officials make the mistake of distributing Tamiflu to everyone, a new study suggests. Fewer than 400 people have had a documented case of avian flu, and some 200 have died. But epidemiologists worry that if the virus mutates to the point that people can get it simply by being near birds or other humans, it could wipe out hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Researchers from the University of Colorado and Ohio State University point to what happened with a group of antiviral drugs known as adamantanes. Farmers in China started feeding the drugs to their chickens as a way of keeping the poultry safe from avian flu. But in the process, the avian virus appears to have found a way to be resistant to the drug. Consequently, 30 percent of the avian flu samples recently analyzed by the study authors proved resistant to the adamantane drugs. Only about 1 percent of the avian flu samples are resistant to a second class of drugs that include oseltamivir, marketed as Tamiflu. But tens of millions of Tamiflu doses are stockpiled in local, county, state, and federal storage areas, awaiting the day when an American gets the virus. The same thing could happen, though, if Tamiflu is distributed like chicken feed, said a CU-Boulder doctoral student who was the lead author of the study that appears online in the journal Infection, Genetics and Evolution.


21. January 7, HealthDay News – (National) **Preparing for a chlorine gas disaster.** A new study examining the lingering effects of the 2005 chlorine gas disaster in Graniteville, South Carolina, should serve as a blueprint for larger metropolitan areas looking to prepare for an accidental or terrorist release of the potentially deadly gas, the researchers said. “This is one of the largest community exposures to chlorine gas since World War I,” the study lead author said in a news release issued by the American Journal of Emergency Medicine, which published the report in its January issue. “It was a tragic disaster that shows us what a significant challenge a large-scale chlorine gas release poses to health-care facilities,” he said. Hospitals need to be able to quickly recognize the signs of chlorine exposure and have enough mechanical ventilators on hand, he
added. He was part of a team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) that studied the accident’s resulting health effects. “Public health agencies and hospitals across the country can learn a lot from this disaster and be better prepared to help in the next emergency,” the state epidemiologist and director of the Bureau of Disease Control at the South Carolina DHEC and a co-author of the report said in the news release.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/07/AR2009010703321.html

22. January 7, WBAL 11 Baltimore – (Maryland) **Legionella bacteria found at city hospital.** Officials at Maryland General Hospital (MGH) in Baltimore said they discovered low levels of deadly Legionella bacteria Monday following a routine test of the building’s water system. So far, no patients or hospital staff have been infected, WBAL TV 11 News said. On Monday, hospital officials discovered it in a shower area during a routine test of the building’s water system. Doctors said they’re taking precautions to make sure patients do not contract it. According to 11 News archives, the bacteria has turned up at least twice at MGH in the last 22 months. MGH took immediate steps to disinfect its water system, hospital officials said.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28527570/

23. January 7, WJXT 4 Jacksonville – (Florida) **Doctors office investigates records allegedly found in trash.** A Jacksonville doctor and her lawyer have been trying to figure out how some sensitive medical records wound up out of the doctor’s office. The medical records of patients of a psychiatrist were mailed to a local news station along with a note saying the documents were found in the garbage last week. The doctor involved said last week that she did not toss out the records, and she and her attorney claimed they were conducting an investigation on how the incident took place.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28528782/

24. January 6, Reuters – (National) **U.S. government sets infection control goals.** Urinary infections caused by improper use and placement of catheters are the top cause of infections among hospital patients, but simple measures can prevent them, the U.S. government said on Tuesday. The Health and Human Services Department released a plan to reduce hospital infections, which kill an estimated 99,000 people a year, affect 1.7 million patients, and cost nearly $20 billion. Besides catheter-linked urinary infections, the most common causes of infections linked with hospitals are surgical site infections, bloodstream infections from intravenous lines, and pneumonia from ventilators, HHS said in the report. “Infections associated with Clostridium difficile and MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) also contribute significantly to the overall problem,” the report reads.

Source: http://uk.reuters.com/article/usPoliticsNews/idUKTRE5055ZA20090106

**Government Facilities Sector**

25. January 8, KING 5 Seattle – (Washington) **Suspicious package left at DSHS office.**
Police in Lacey are investigating after a suspicious package was found at a Department of Social and Health Services building in Lacey. Police say just after 7 a.m. they were notified of suspicious activity outside of a DSHS office. State employees said two suspicious men were near the front of the building, and one was observed looking at a paper box at the front entrance. The men told the state employees they were with Homeland Security and left. Police officers responded and found a small box on top of the Tacoma News Tribune paper box. The building was evacuated and a state bomb squad was called to the scene. They removed the package and blew it up. At this time it is unclear what was inside. There have been no injuries.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28543907/

26. January 8, WJHG 7 Panama City – (Florida) **Hazmat team investigates suspicious material in Marianna.** Suspicious materials Thursday morning have closed the Jackson County Courthouse in Marianna. Police say a white power was found near the front door causing the building to be evacuated. County business and court activities were halted while the Hazmat team was called to the scene. The sheriff says a deputy first spotted an American flag with a Bible and when he went to pick it up some white powder got onto his uniform. The lawman is believed to be the only one who was exposed, but at least four other people are being checked for possible exposure. The incident occurred around 8 a.m. One street has been closed off while the incident is being investigated to determine whatever the white powdery substance may be. Until then, the courthouse in Marianna remains closed.

27. January 8, Air Force Times – (National) **Report attacks AF nuke inspection architecture.** On January 8, the Defense Science Board (DSB) issued a rebuke of Air Force nuclear weapons inspections. The board — organized under the Office of the Secretary of Defense — picked apart the Air Force’s nuclear inspection architecture, faulting it for not alerting leaders to the service’s nuclear erosion and recommended the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) be empowered to revitalize the Air Force’s nuclear inspection process. Meanwhile, DSB members, who have extensive nuclear backgrounds in the Air Force and Navy, found few faults with the Navy’s nuclear inspection process. The DSB is recommending DTRA inspectors have the authority to inspect the Air Force inspectors rather than the units and issue a report to the Air Force inspection team’s command, the Air Force service chief, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. A recommendation was also made to cut in half the time between Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspections in Air Combat Command and Operational Readiness Inspections in Air Force Space Command from every 36 months to every 18 months.

28. January 7, DarkReading – (National) **Congress’ computers still vulnerable, cries Wolf.** A U.S. Representative whose computers were hacked last year is warning that other members of Congress may be vulnerable to the same sort of attack. In a letter obtained and published by the National Journal earlier this week, the congressman said that few members of Congress have attended classified briefings that were triggered, in
part, by the attack on his computers from China last year. “I fear that Members are no better informed today than they were before,” he wrote. He called on the House Speaker to make the briefings mandatory. Last year, the computers of the congressman and seven other Representatives, as well as those in eight committee offices, were infected with a virus designed to covertly remove files and track what a user writes in email or text messages. After the hack, he said that few of his colleagues understood that sensitive information contained on their computers was accessible to outsiders.  
Source:  
http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=3V1NLHDTI5lY4QSNDLOSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=212701181

**Emergency Services Sector**

29. January 7, Chattanooga Times Free Press – (Tennessee) **Hamilton County:**  
**Unification of 911 system has begun.** The first of two phases in the countywide 911 unification were completed Monday morning in Hamilton County, Tennessee, when the 911 Emergency Communications District assumed liability and management for answering and dispatching emergency calls in the county. The unified system creates one emergency-dispatch system for those under the agreement. It also provides training and certification to turn all current dispatchers into emergency medical dispatchers, meaning they can help callers with health issues until an ambulance arrives.  

**Information Technology**

30. January 8, heise Security – (International) **Intel’s Trusted Execution Technology hacked in the alpha stage.** At the Black Hat DC 2009 conference, a rootkit expert and the chief executive of Invisible Things Lab plans to show how to get around Intel’s Trusted Execution Technology (TXT). She has already published a press release describing a two-stage attack on the safeguarded tboot boot loader which, however, is still only available in an alpha version. The security hole is currently of almost no practical importance, since there is scarcely a computer in use that takes advantage of TXT, despite its introduction nearly two years ago under the name LaGrande Technology. Still, she garnered much respect with her Blue Pill rootkit and her “Owning Xen” Xen attack, and the TXT hack points out fundamental vulnerabilities in Intel’s highly complex Trusted Execution concept. These attacks on TXT and Xen show that virtualization involves significant new security risks — the hypervisor runs on the CPU with even higher rights than Ring 0 code — one might say that the VM runs in “Ring -1.” At the same time, entries on AMD and Intel processor errata lists relating to the new virtualization commands are piling up. It is no wonder then that manufacturers are factory-disabling VT-x and AMD-V in many BIOS setups.  
Source: http://www.heise-online.co.uk/security/Intel-s-Trusted-Execution-Technology-
31. January 7, InformationWeek – (International) **LinkedIn profiles link to malware.** Scammers use celebrity names and provocative content to entice LinkedIn users to click on malicious URLs. Malicious user profiles, which have long plagued consumer-oriented social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook, are now appearing on more professionally oriented social networking sites. Earlier this week, a Trend Micro security researcher found several fake LinkedIn profiles that have appropriated the names of celebrities to spread malware. A senior vice president of marketing, KickApps, discusses the vendor’s hosted social media platform, which lets Web publishers add social networking functionality — online communities, user-generated content, programmable video players, widgets for con. The scammers use provocative content descriptions in profile name fields to entice visitors to click on malicious URLs placed in the profile’s Web site section. Doing so downloads malicious Trojan software. LinkedIn did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trend Micro says that cybercriminals buy and sell preregistered profile accounts on social networks as launchpads for attacks. This happens on other trusted sites and services as well, because exploiting trust is the key to a successful social engineering attack.


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**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](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/](https://www.it-isac.org/).

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**Communications Sector**

Nothing to report

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**Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to report

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**National Monuments & Icons Sector**

32. January 8, Los Angeles Times – (District of Columbia) **National Mall reflects magnificence and neglect.** The historic promenade that stretches from the Lincoln
Memorial to the U.S. Capitol is itself a monument to neglect. Patches of the once-lush lawn have been trampled to dust. Half of the underground sprinkler system does not work. The sea wall around the Jefferson Memorial is sinking, and lately, wildlife is dying in the unfiltered waterways. A spokesman for the National Park Service, which maintains the National Mall, likes to say it has been “loved to death,” an American treasure battered by 25 million visitors a year — more than Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks and the Grand Canyon combined. As the crowds have grown, the budget has shrunk, and with $350 million in overdue care, the park service cannot maintain a standard that befits what many consider a national jewel. The mall is protected by an act of Congress. But the park service budget has dwindled to $31 million, even as more attractions bring relentless wear and tear. A $100-million appropriation for repairs failed to pass last year.


33. January 8, Noozhawk – (California) Prescribed burn scheduled in Los Padres National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service will conduct a prescribed burn (weather permitting) on about 5,835 acres along Pine Canyon Road near Horseshoe Spring Campground, in Los Padres National Forest. The burn is scheduled to begin Monday, January 12, and continue through the week. The purpose of the burn is to reduce hazardous fuels, lessen the effects of a future wildfire in the area, improve wildlife habitat, and enhance and protect the Lower Cuyama River watershed. Travel on Pine Canyon, Miranda Pine, and La Brea Canyon roads may be restricted periodically during the burn. Residual smoke may be visible in the area for up to two weeks.

Source: http://www.noozhawk.com/local_news/article/0108_prescribed_burn_scheduled_in_los_padres_national_forest/

Dams Sector

34. January 8, Seattle Times – (Washington) Flooding Puyallup sends residents fleeing. In the largest urban evacuation in Washington State history, residents living near the swollen Puyallup River fled their homes Wednesday night with little time to spare as floodwaters spread across neighborhoods and business districts. Industrial and commercial areas in Fife, Sumner, Orting, and Puyallup felt the brunt, some for the first time. The river was expected to crest 1 1/2 feet above flood stage about 10 a.m. Thursday, according to the National Weather Service Web site. In the Orting Valley, some 26,000 residents were urged to leave. Later, in the Fife area, officials urged voluntary evacuations for more than 5,400 homes as a 3-mile stretch of the Puyallup River breached the levee between I-5 and 66th Avenue East. Once the water started spilling over the levee about 5 p.m., local and state officials could only retreat. Sandbagging was futile, said a spokesperson for Pierce County Emergency Management. The focus turned to evacuations. According to CNN, another spokesperson for Pierce County Emergency Management said crews are most concerned with maintaining the stability of saturated earthen levees as the water levels drop and
checking the safety of people in areas that flooded overnight.
Source: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/nationworld/2008602456_urbanflooding08m.htm!

35. January 8, Wichita Eagle – (Kansas) Area to miss deadline to certify Big Ditch levees. The Big Ditch — the flood control project that protects Wichita — needs about $14 million in repairs. Because of that, the city and county will miss a February 2 deadline to certify the levees that make up the Big Ditch — formally known as the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway — which potentially could require thousands of homeowners to buy flood insurance or pay higher rates for existing policies. New flood maps will be drawn by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the next 18 to 24 months. Without an accredited levee system, the new maps could put more properties in flood zones. The Big Ditch is the first levee system in the country to undergo accreditation, part of stricter guidelines put in force since Hurricane Katrina decimated parts of New Orleans, where levees broke. Repairs are needed because flood control standards are getting tougher to meet, but also because the dirt levees are eroding in places due to tree roots.

36. January 8, Greencastle Banner-Graphic – (Indiana) Glenn Flint dam to be repaired. The dam at Glenn Flint Lake will be receiving some repairs when the weather cooperates again. The 30-year-old dam has a broken bolt in the sluice gate, which is used to regulate or modulate the flow of water. The bolt is causing the gate to stay slightly raised. The Department of Natural Resource requires the gate to be completely down.
Source: http://www.bannergraphic.com/story/1491480.html

37. January 7, Associated Press – (Alabama) Alabama Power opens spillways at dams. Heavy rains have caused Alabama Power Co. to open spillway gates at most of its dams on the Coosa River. The power company said spillway gates were operating Wednesday at Neely Henry, Lay, Mitchell, and Jordan dams on the Coosa River. Weiss Lake and Lake Logan Martin on the Coosa are near summer pool levels and are expected to reach about 2 feet above their summer pool levels. Spillway gates are operating at Logan Martin and may be opened at Weiss. Alabama Power says Smith Lake on the Black Warrior River is rising and could reach about 6 feet above its normal summer elevation.

38. January 6, Daily Journal – (Illinois) Lime from Aqua plant cited as cause for Saturday fog. Residents and businesses along South Schuyler Avenue in Kankakee literally found themselves in a fog despite clear sunny skies Saturday morning. A steady east wind blew a dense white fog of lime particles off a sludge quarry used by Aqua Illinois’ water treatment plant. The fog carried particles of lime that covered cars and windows across the street from Aqua Illinois headquarters, but only water was
discharged into the Kankakee River. The Aqua Illinois vice president and regional manager said the accident occurred when a quarry dam broke, allowing the dried sludge to be exposed directly to the air as water levels in the quarry dropped. The high winds on Saturday swept across the exposed sludge, creating the dusty fog.


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