



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 March 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- According to the Associated Press, a report by the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General says the Transportation Security Administration has too few inspectors to make sure rail and mass transit employees are doing enough to guard against terrorists. (See item [10](#))
- The Toledo Blade reports that authorities are unsure what sparked a three-alarm fire Thursday that damaged the Fry Foods production plant in Seneca County, Ohio. A plant manager said he contacted the Ohio Department of Agriculture to evaluate what food inside the plant had been contaminated. (See item [15](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

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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 27, WJLA 7 Washington, D.C.* – (Maryland) **CSX train derails in Bowie, spilling coal.** A massive clean up effort was underway Friday morning after part of a CSX Train carrying coal derailed the night of February 26 in Bowie. Prince George's County fire officials reported the derailment dumped coal just a few hundred feet away from a neighborhood. The cleanup is expected to take a few days, but the big focus right now is the environmental concern. When released into the air, coal can cause dangerous pollutants, creating a potential hazard for residents of the nearby neighborhood. Two engineers were reportedly on the train at the time of the wreck, but they were not

injured. It has been reported the locomotive also jumped the tracks.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0209/598972.html?ref=rs>

2. *February 26, ChinoHills.com* – (California) **Chino Hills residents rally against Edison’s proposed electrical towers.** The residents of Chino Hills rallied on February 26 against Southern California Edison’s proposal to double in height the towers that carry power lines that have been active for 30 years or longer. The proposal would build new towers and power lines that will carry double circuit 500 kV transmission lines and place them through densely populated neighborhoods and near schools. This rally took place just after the city filed a lawsuit against Edison to protect its residents from Edison’s proposal to route the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project power lines through densely populated Chino Hills’ neighborhoods. The mayor pro tem announced that the basis of the lawsuit is that Southern California Edison does not have the legal right to place 198-foot transmission poles within a 150-foot right-of-way and overburden the easement. “We support bringing wind power to Southern California but we want it done safely and Edison’s proposed route will put at risk thousands of residents and children,” said the mayor pro tem. “We will do everything possible to ensure the safety of our residents.”

Source: http://www.chinohills.com/news-articles-details/Chino_Hills_Residents_Rally_Against_Edisons_Proposed_Electrical_Towers-596

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *February 27, Greenwire* – (National) **Industry group calls for ‘modernization’ of toxic chemical law.** A leading chemical industry trade group told a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee Thursday that Congress should act to modernize the U.S. chemical regulatory system so it reflects the latest scientific research and restores the public’s confidence. This is the first time a major industry group has gone so far in calling for reform to the current law, the Toxic Substances Control Act, or TSCA, which was first established in 1976 to govern the roughly 82,700 chemicals in commerce. Part of the problem is that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) faces what many critics call a catch-22 in regulating chemicals because of a high burden of proof on the government. EPA must prove a chemical poses a health threat before it can act, but regulators also need proof before they can require companies to provide more information about a chemical. In a statement, the Energy and Commerce chairman said the hearing was “long overdue,” noting the Government Accountability Office (GAO) first suggested changes to TSCA in 1994. More recently, GAO added EPA’s assessment and control of toxic chemicals to its “high-risk series,” the chairman noted.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/02/27/27greenwire-industry-group-calls-for-modernization-of-toxic-9908.html?pagewanted=1>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *February 27, St. Joseph News-Press & Gazette* – (Missouri) **Abandoned radioactive material found in barn.** Environmental agencies may have found and “secured” a small amount of radioactive material allegedly abandoned by a St. Joseph, Missouri radiologist who died a week ago. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said the public should not be alarmed. The material was found in a barn near Union Star, Missouri, and the nearest home was a half-mile away, said a spokesman for the EPA’s Region 7 office. “At this point we don’t see any hazard and we’ve taken all precautions necessary to handle this type of material,” the spokesman said. The accused had been a leading radiologist in Missouri decades ago, but in 1993 he was fined \$25,000 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for abandoning radiology equipment after his clinic closed. A private citizen reported the location of the material to the Department of Natural Resources. The EPA spokesman said the EPA could not yet release the location or the owner of the property, but he described the material as being found in a barn. Source: <http://www.stjoenews.net/news/2009/feb/27/abandoned-radioactive-material-found-barn/?local>
5. *February 27, NBCSanDiego.com* – (California) **Nuke plant plagued by problems.** The San Onofre nuclear power plant in San Diego County, California has desperately tried to meet the standards of federal regulators in the past year, yet has still been plagued with management problems as well other problems, the voiceofsandiego.org reported. Southern California Edison, the utility that runs San Onofre, did admit performance weaknesses but assured residents that San Onofre was operated “in a safe and reliable manner.” The Nuclear Regulatory Commission did not agree, according to the voiceofsandiego.org. Officials released internal reports showing that the plant exhibited a host of shortcomings, saying that the plant had a degraded safety culture, that preventative maintenance was sometimes forgotten, that problems were not found or fixed properly, and that training of employees was not sufficiently provided. Specifically, a loose battery connection went unnoticed for years, according to the report. Fire-watch records were also falsified. For their part, federal regulators have probed the plant and insist that nearby residents have nothing to fear and that the plant is safe, the voiceofsandiego.org reported. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29417629/>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *February 26, Lockheed Martin* – (Maryland; New York) **VH-71 Presidential helicopter completes initial vibration testing phase on schedule.** The first Lockheed Martin production VH-71 Presidential Helicopter has completed initial ground vibration testing on schedule at the end of January at the Navy’s Presidential Helicopter Support Facility in Patuxent River, Maryland. The testing was conducted on a pre-missionized aircraft to test the basic airframe. Pilot Production One (PP-1) spent roughly six weeks undergoing a series of tests intended to assess the airframe’s vibration characteristics. As

a production representative aircraft, the results will be used as a baseline measurement for all five VH-71 production helicopters that make up the first phase, or Increment One, of the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter Program, and to refine models used for structural analysis. The aircraft was then flown to Lockheed Martin's Owego, New York, facility for integration of mission systems and installation of the cabin interior. PP-1 will undergo a second ground vibration testing period as a fully missionized aircraft to validate modeling results.

Source:

<http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-26-2009/0004979296&EDATE>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *February 27, Bloomberg* – (National) **Citi gets third rescue as U.S. plans to raise stake.** The U.S. government ratcheted up its effort to save Citigroup Inc., agreeing to a third rescue attempt that will cut existing shareholders' stake in the company by 74 percent. The stock fell as much as 37 percent. The Treasury Department said it would convert as much as \$25 billion of preferred shares into common stock provided private holders agree to the same terms, the government said in a statement on February 27. The conversion would give the United States a 36 percent stake in the New York-based company. "We're in these dire conditions, and this is a restructuring of a troubled company," a CreditSights Inc. analyst said. "Common shareholders are severely diluted." Increased government involvement complicates the chief executive officer's attempt to restore confidence in the company after the stock sank to the lowest in 18 years. The government is supporting Citigroup because of concern its failure might roil weak global markets. The United States does not immediately intend to inject additional money after channeling \$45 billion to Citigroup last year. The bank, which last year slashed its quarterly dividend to 1 cent a share, said on February 27 the payout will be eliminated. It also took an accounting charge related to the plummeting value of some businesses, swelling its record 2008 loss to \$27.7 billion, or 48 percent larger than reported a month ago.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ahlzePGAfrdg&refer=home>

8. *February 27, Bloomberg* – (National) **FDIC weighs one-time 'emergency' fee on banks to boost reserves.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) will consider imposing a one-time "emergency" fee and increase regular fees on U.S. banks to replenish a fund for insuring customers' deposits that has been drained by a surge in bank failures, the agency said. FDIC staff members at a board meeting on February 27 in Washington will recommend charging banks an "emergency special assessment" in response to an estimate that bank failures could cost the fund \$65 billion through 2013, according to a memo outlining the proposal. The added fees are projected to generate \$27 billion this year, compared with the \$3 billion raised in 2008, the FDIC said. "Recent and anticipated failures have significantly increased losses to the deposit

insurance fund,” the memo said. The deposit insurance fund fell to \$18.9 billion in the fourth quarter from \$34.6 billion the preceding three-month period, the FDIC said on February 26. The fund, used to reimburse customers for deposits up to \$250,000 when a bank fails, has been shrunk by 39 failures since the beginning of 2008. The FDIC is required by law to replenish the fund when the reserve ratio, or fund balance divided by insured deposits, falls below 1.15 percent. It stood at 0.40 percent at the end of the fourth quarter, the lowest level since the second quarter of 1993, the agency said on February 26.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ardL4JQmxxRc&refer=home>

9. *February 26, CNN Money* – (National) **Problem bank list tops 250.** The government’s closely watched list of troubled banks grew during the fourth quarter to its highest level since 1994, regulators said on February 26. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) reported that the number of firms on its so-called “problem bank” list grew to 252 during the last three months of 2008, compared with 171 banks making the list in the prior quarter. “There is no question that this is one of the most difficult periods we have encountered during the FDIC’s 75 years of operation,” the agency chairman said February 26. Problem banks typically face difficulties with their finances, or are suffering through operations or management issues that pose a threat to their existence. The institutions that wind up on the list are considered the most likely to fail, although few of them actually reach that point. On average, just 13 percent of banks on the FDIC’s problem list have failed.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2009/02/26/news/companies/fdic_banks/index.htm?postversion=2009022614

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Transportation Sector

10. *February 27, Associated Press* – (National) **Report: More agents needed to secure mass transit.** The agency responsible for transportation security has too few inspectors to make sure rail and mass transit employees are doing enough to guard against terrorists, a government report says. The report by the Homeland Security Department’s Inspector General, due out February 27, says the Transportation Security Administration’s request for 102 more inspectors is insufficient to get the job done right. The review of TSA’s inspection program, obtained by the Associated Press, was conducted between last year February and July. The TSA has 175 inspectors assigned to assess transportation security for bus and mass transit systems, and many were hired without any experience with mass transit systems, the report said. Intelligence officials have said that mass transit systems are vulnerable to terrorist attacks because the systems are open, easily accessible and have advertised schedules.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/27/AR2009022700461.html>

11. *February 26, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **2 Miami men charged with stealing freight train.** Police arrested a train enthusiast and his friend, days after the pair took a CSX Railroad locomotive for a joy ride, according to an arrest report. The men, both of Miami, were arrested Tuesday, after detectives said they found fingerprints on the train stolen out of a Kendall area station late February 22. One of the men told officers that he saw the train and “wanted to look at it,” according to the report. He ended up prying various locks and tampering with switches to move the train, police said, before he abandoned it about 7 miles south of where the locomotive was parked. His accomplice told police the man is a train enthusiast and “simply wanted to take the train for a ride,” according to the report.
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/sfl-bn-0226traintheft,0,7779640.story>
12. *February 26, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Gas leak at fuel station at San Jose airport.** San Jose fire crews Thursday night were trying to stop a gas leak at a fuel station at Mineta San Jose International Airport. At about 8 p.m., San Jose fire crews were notified about a gas leak at the CNG fuel station. After two hours, fire crews managed to stop the gas leak. But about 11 p.m., a tanker driver reported that there was still gas leaking from a pump at the station, according to San Jose Fire Department dispatchers. Although no one was evacuated, traffic was rerouted around the airport.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11797539
13. *February 25, Reuters* – (International) **Mexico closes border airport in bomb scare.** Mexico closed an international airport in a northern border city at the heart of the country’s drug war February 25 after a bomb scare during a visit by government officials, the army said. An army spokesman said there were other bomb threats at the international bridge between Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, Texas, and at a federal government building in the city, during an official visit by the interior minister and other officials attending a security meeting. The spokesman said traces of explosive were found in a vehicle parked at Ciudad Juarez airport, which was evacuated by soldiers and federal police but reopened by late afternoon. “Anonymous calls to the police and army alerted us to the threats, but they turned out to be false,” said an army spokesman.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN25516773>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *February 27, FOX News* – (Illinois) **Chicago man arrested for allegedly targeting Obama with HIV-infected blood.** A man from the U.S. President’s hometown of Chicago has been arrested for allegedly sending the President and his staff envelopes containing HIV-infected blood, in the hopes of killing or harming them. It is only the second time ever that HIV-infected blood has been sent with malicious intent through the U.S. mail system, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service said. In the weeks leading up to the President’s inauguration, the suspect, an Ethiopian refugee in his late 20’s, sent an envelope addressed to the current President to offices of the Illinois government in Springfield, Illinois, according to court documents. The envelope

contained a series of unusual items, including a letter with reddish stains and an admission ticket for the President's election-night celebration in Chicago's Grant Park. Court documents said the suspect, who takes drugs to treat a mental illness, later told FBI agents he is "very sick with HIV" and cut his fingers with a razor so he could bleed on the letter. Hazmat teams were called in after the envelope was opened, and offices of the Illinois Department on Aging and the Department of Revenue were locked down for nearly two hours, locking 300 staffers in their offices, court documents said. After the suspect was arrested, he was placed in a Chicago correctional facility. He has yet to be formally charged. A judge ordered he receive a mental examination to see if he is fit for trial, but as of two weeks ago, the court could not locate a translator to conduct the examination, according to court documents.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/first100days/2009/02/27/chicago-man-arrested-allegedly-targeting-obama-hiv-infected-blood/>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *February 27, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Fire damages Tiffin food plant.** Authorities are unsure what sparked a three-alarm fire February 26 that damaged a long-standing food production plant in Tiffin in Seneca County. The fire started underneath a deep fryer at Fry Foods about 8:30 a.m., prompting the evacuation of about 40 first-shift employees. The fire quickly spread to the roof and then to a storage room filled with onions and cooking oil, which fueled the flames, the Tiffin fire chief said. The chief said about a quarter of the 55,000-square-foot building was damaged, and there also was damage to the roof. A plant manager said he contacted the Ohio Department of Agriculture to evaluate what food inside the plant had been contaminated. He was unsure how the fire would affect production, but said some work could be shifted to a sister plant in Idaho if needed.

Source:

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090227/NEWS16/902270333>

16. *February 26, Packer* – (National) **Budget calls for food safety, nutrition increases.** Revealing an interest in boosting the federal feeding programs and food safety oversight, the White House fiscal year 2010 budget proposes \$1 billion per year increase for child nutrition programs and a similar increase for food safety oversight efforts. Offering no specific details, the White House said the budget invests more than \$1 billion for Food and Drug Administration food safety efforts to improve inspections, domestic surveillance, laboratory capacity and response to foodborne illness outbreaks. The White House budget is expected to add about \$10 billion to the programs through fiscal year 2019.

Source: <http://www.thepacker.com/icms/dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2009-172155-590.asp&stype=topstory&fb=&author=Tom+Karst>

17. *February 26, Bristol Herald Courier* – (Virginia) **Quick action means minor damage at snack food plant.** Problems with an air compressor inside Prime Choice Foods' production facility in Bristol, Virginia are blamed for an electrical fire, which occurred

about 6 p.m. on February 26, a local police captain said. There were no injuries and only minor damage to equipment in the waste treatment portion of the facility, according to the company's vice president. About 40 people working inside were evacuated from the facility, which produces organic snack foods. "No one was hurt," the vice president said. "All that was damaged was the compressor and fortunately we have another one. So it will slow us down, but we'll get a maintenance team in there and then get back up and running."

Source:

http://www.tricities.com/tri/news/local/article/quick_action_means_minor_damage_at_snack_food_plant/20979/

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Water Sector

18. *February 27, Boston Herald* – (Massachusetts) **Water main break a 'traffic nightmare' in Financial District.** A water main break in the Financial District of Boston the morning of February 27 flooded Summer Street and is causing a "traffic nightmare" that could continue all day long, according to the city's water and sewer commission. The 12-inch water main in front of the high-rise building at 125 Summer Street burst at about 5 a.m., sending thousands of gallons of water gushing down Summer Street and steam shooting out of a manhole. The burst caused the road to buckle and left a huge crater about 4 feet by 10 feet long that could take all day to repair, said the deputy director of communications for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission. Traffic is being diverted from Lincoln Street to Bedford Street. Pedestrians can access most portions of the affected streets, he said. No buildings were damaged during the water main break, but the 22-story office tower at 125 Summer Street is without water service, he said. No other buildings in the area are without water service, he said.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1155070>

19. *February 26, Associated Press* – (California) **Sewage spills foul San Francisco Bay over and over.** During February 21-22, 890,000 gallons of raw sewage and stormwater spilled into San Francisco Bay from an overloaded World War Two-era treatment plant. Five days earlier, a ruptured pipe released 400,000 gallons of filth into the bay. And those were just the big spills the public heard about. On average, human waste spills into the San Francisco Bay more than five times a day, fouling the waters and shorelines. Decrepit pipes, outdated municipal sewage treatment systems and poor upkeep have been blamed for many of the spills. "It's like living in a situation sort of like a third world country, where there's poor sanitary management," said a spokesperson for the environmental group San Francisco Baykeeper. Some spills have been blamed not only for killing large numbers of fish but for causing respiratory infections, skin and eye irritation and diarrhea in swimmers. On Sunday and Monday, the east San Francisco Bay city of Richmond's more than half-century-old sewage system was overloaded by rain and spewed 890,000 gallons of filth mixed with rainwater. Officials said the system's deteriorating, leaky clay pipes cannot handle the extra load after a storm.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hVM7nS->

20. *February 25, First Coast News* – (Georgia) **Chemical spill forces evacuation of Woodbine Public Works.** A broken valve is being blamed for a chlorine leak that caused an evacuation at Woodbine’s water treatment plant Tuesday afternoon. Fire and rescue crews from Camden County got everyone out of the area and fixed the leaky tank valve. The situation was taken care of within an hour. No injuries were reported. Officials in the area are urging citizens to stay away from the area until the chemical can be cleaned up.
Source: <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/news-article.aspx?storyid=132131&catid=3>
21. *February 25, WBNG 12 Binghamton* – (New York) **Bedrock plume won’t spread to public water supply.** Chemical contamination in one area of Endicott is not jeopardizing the public water supply, as has been reported previously. That is according to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). A DEC representative was in the village Wednesday to update people on contamination cleanup efforts. A project manager says Trichloroethylene (TCE), traced to IBM, leaked through elevator shafts, and into the bedrock in an area north of North Street. TCE was also found in layers above the bedrock, including the upper aquifer. But he says that aquifer does not supply the public with water. He adds that trace amounts of TCE have been found in the lower aquifer, which is accessed for public use. “They did find very very low levels of contamination in those wells they’ve put a treatment system on to address it, we’ve never been able to identify how ground water contamination has gotten into that lower aquifer we know it’s not associated with this bedrock plume,” he said. The DEC is working towards the long term goal of cleaning the bedrock until it meets ground water standards.
Source: <http://www.wbng.com/news/local/40326952.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *February 27, Reuters* – (International) **New drugs needed to fight flu pandemic.** Experts urged governments on Friday to diversify their stockpiles of drugs and called for more new medicines to fight what could be the world’s next flu pandemic caused by the H5N1 bird flu virus. Many advanced countries stock up on oseltamivir and zanamivir, two varieties of the same class of drugs that stops the H5N1 virus from multiplying. But oseltamivir has proven to be largely useless in fighting the H1N1 seasonal human influenza virus and experts are questioning how well, and how long, the drug would stand up against the H5N1 virus, should it unleash a pandemic. “We have been extremely foolish on our policies of stockpiling drugs. We have been stockpiling two varieties of the same drug,” a virologist at the St. Jude Children’s Hospital in the United States said at a medical conference in Hong Kong. He said the resistance of the H1N1 virus to oseltamivir was as high as 98 percent worldwide.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE51Q1VI20090227>

23. *February 26, ScienceDaily* – (International) **Antibiotic combination defeats extensively drug-resistant TB.** A combination of two FDA-approved drugs, already approved for fighting other bacterial infections, shows potential for treating extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB), the most deadly form of the infection. This finding is reported by scientists from Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in the February 27 issue of Science. In the paper, Einstein researchers and collaborators at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, describe a two-drug combination that inhibited both the growth of susceptible laboratory strains and 13 XDR-TB strains isolated from TB patients in laboratory culture medium. The drugs truly work in tandem: one of them (clavulanate) inhibits a bacterial enzyme, which normally shields TB bacteria from the other antibiotic (meropenem).
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090226141112.htm>
24. *February 25, Los Angeles Times* – (International) **HIV is evolving at warp speed around the globe.** HIV is one of the fastest evolving entities known. That is why no one has yet been able to come up with a vaccine: The virus mutates so rapidly that what works today in one person may not work tomorrow or in others. A study published Wednesday in the journal Nature confirms that dizzying pace of evolution on a global scale. “It’s very clear there’s a battle going on between humans and this virus, and the virus is evolving to become unrecognized by the immune system,” said the director of the Ragon Institute at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and one of the researchers. HIV evolves to escape the immune system, much in the same way that bacteria mutate under pressure by antibiotics, he said. Researchers looked at HIV genetic sequences in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Botswana, Australia, Canada and Japan to see how they evolved in response to a key set of molecules in the human immune system called human leukocyte antigens. These key molecules direct the immune system to recognize and kill HIV and other infectious diseases. The study published found that mutations occurred not just in individuals but on a population level. That is, if a particular genetic immune sequence was common in a population, the HIV mutation that evolved to escape it became the most common strain of HIV even in those without that particular human leukocyte antigen gene.
Source: http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/02/hiv-evolving-at.html

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *February 27, Georgetown Hoya* – (District of Columbia) **Unplanned alarms plague East campus.** Fire alarms on East Campus have been set off several times per week since February 15, which university officials say has led many students to ignore evacuation protocol. “A number of different things have caused the problem,” said the vice president for facilities and student housing. “We’ve experienced failed modules, some of which have been replaced, [while] other[s] are in order. A flow switch had also failed,” she said. The vice president added that some alarms were set off after a contractor from D.C. Water and Sewer Authority turned off a valve on M St., lowering water pressure to campus sprinklers. In another case a technician was working and set

off the alarm. But, according to the vice president, until all the modules are fixed, the alarms could continue to be set off.” We assume after all modules replaced that there will be no problems,” she said. “[But], yes, the fire alarms could go off more until all modules are replaced.” These evacuation problems prompted the East Campus Hall director to send out an e-mail to residents on February 19 stressing the importance of following evacuation procedures.

Source: <http://www.thehoya.com/node/18131>

26. *February 26, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Marine charged in ‘08 fire.** A Camp Pendleton Marine has been charged with starting one of two fires that combined to char thousands of acres in October 2008, the Marine Corps said on February 26. The suspect, a Lance Corporal, allegedly lit grass on fire during a land-navigation exercise, which involves using a map and compass to find specific points. He also is accused of lying to investigators about what he did; damaging government, state, and military property; and causing reckless endangerment in connection with the Juliet 2 fire, which started on October 13. Marine authorities did not specify whether they believe the suspect — a member of 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment — intentionally started the blaze. If convicted, he could receive a dishonorable discharge and up to 8 1/2 years in prison. The Juliet 2 fire threatened homes in the Oceanside and Fallbrook areas near Morrow Hill, creeping to within 200 yards of some houses. Between 1,050 and 1,225 people were evacuated, said an Oceanside police spokesman. Other Marines also are facing disciplinary charges in connection with the blazes, said a spokesman for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. He did not elaborate.

Source: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/feb/26/1m26juliet002544-marine-charged-08-fire/?zIndex=58713>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *February 27, Santa Barbara Daily Sound* – (California) **Fire officials unveil new communication technology.** The Santa Barbara County Fire Department now has a specially designed computer in the cab of vehicles that allow them to communicate maps of fires and their direction of travel to every news source in the area. They can also use newly installed satellite phones to contact local television station to provide real-time updates on the fire as live footage or images from his digital camera are shown. This technological leap came together following a \$35,000 donation from Brown & Riding Insurance Services and Fireman’s Fund Insurance Co. to purchase mobile communications equipment for the public information officer’s vehicle. “This equipment allows us to provide more up-to-the-minute reports, maps and information from the scene of an emergency, and that could save lives,” the county fire captain said.

Source: <http://www.thedailysound.com/022709firecommunications>

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Information Technology

28. *February 27, Search Security* – (International) **Conficker's pwned computers could be sold in chunks.** Researchers who conducted extensive analysis of the Conficker/Downadup worm found that it is flexible enough to bypass the traditional way a worm receives a payload, and many researchers agree that the most lucrative move for the worm's author is to divide the botnet into pieces and sell it off to the highest bidder. Once sold, the new botnet owner can better target a specific segment and deliver new commands to harvest data such as passwords and account information from a geographic location or a targeted audience. "There's been surgical changes made," said a representative of SRI International, whose research report recently addressed the peer-to-peer update method that Conficker could use to get its marching orders. The representative said he thinks the cybercriminals behind Conficker could use a backdoor rather than the domain generation algorithm being closely monitored and proactively blocked by a coalition of Internet security and DNS organizations. A feature in the worm's coding allows local and remote processes to communicate information to the Conficker process. It allows an external host to connect and upload commands much like data exchanging in peer-to-peer file sharing. The peer-to-peer update method gives Conficker an alternative path which bypasses the use of Internet rendezvous points. The representative wrote in his report that the Conficker's authors are moving "away from a reliance on Internet rendezvous points to support binary update and toward a more direct flash approach."

Source: <http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com.au/articles/29807-Conficker-s-pwned-computers-could-be-sold-in-chunks>

29. *February 27, VNUNet.com* – (International) **Malware writers exploit Google Trend.** Malware distributors are taking advantage of Google Trends to earn top billing for their pages, according to security experts. Researchers at McAfee's Avert Labs said that a number of malicious pages have seen their Trend ranking artificially enhanced so that the pages will be returned as top results for a number of Google searches. The McAfee senior threat researcher said that the malware writers appear to be using the Google service to find the most popular current search topics, then loading the pages with keywords and text to show up on result pages for those terms." One thing they are doing is to pull the content off the pages that are already ranked high, which makes it a little more transparent when you see the search results," said the researcher. After clicking on one of the malicious links, the user is redirected to a page which will attempt to exploit a three-year old vulnerability in Internet Explorer, as well as a number of fake 'alert' pop-ups designed to trick the user into installing rogue security software. The researcher suggests that users exercise extra caution when clicking on search results and avoid following links to unknown or suspicious domains.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2237402/malware-takes-google-search>

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/>.

Communications Sector

30. *February 27, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. satellite shootdown debris said gone from space.** No debris remains in space from the U.S. destruction a year ago of an errant spy satellite loaded with toxic hydrazine fuel, the head of the Pentagon's Strategic Command said. By contrast, some of the debris caused when China used a ground-based ballistic missile to destroy one of its defunct weather satellites will stay in orbit for another 80 or 90 years, said an Air Force general, the command's chief. "Every bit of debris created by that (U.S.) intercept has de-orbited," the general told a symposium on air warfare hosted by the U.S. Air Force Association in Orlando, Florida, on February 26. The U.S. military used a ship-launched Raytheon Co Standard Missile-3 missile to destroy a crippled National Reconnaissance Office satellite on February 20, 2008. It was shot apart at an altitude of about 130 miles. Space junk is a threat to the 800 or so commercial and military satellites estimated to be operating in space as well as to the International Space Station. The Strategic Command, which coordinates U.S. military operations in space, said it is now tracking about 2,200 pieces of orbiting junk created by the Chinese anti-satellite demonstration in January 2007. The general, in a follow-up session with reporters, said the last bits of debris from the U.S. intercept, which he said had been codenamed Burnt Frost, de-orbited as early as last July or August 2008.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/governmentFilingsNews/idUKN2730646120090227>

31. *February 26, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **FBI probe shuts down 2 cable companies.** Two Arizona cable companies have been shut down as part of an ongoing federal investigation into the misuse of satellite transmissions. The FBI searched the Phoenix-area offices on February 25 of Eagle West Communications Inc. and Indevideo Cable Co. The companies serve the Grand Canyon and rural northern Arizona, where customers lost some or their entire cable broadcast. A U.S. Attorney's Office spokeswoman says the companies were targeted in connection with allegedly re-labeling and distributing satellite transmissions as part of their cable broadcast. The investigation included the execution of search warrants on 21 offices and transmission facilities in Arizona and other states. It was unclear when service would be restored to customers of Eagle West and Indevideo.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=9908609>

Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *February 27, Alamosa Valley Courier* – (Colorado) **Bomb threat empties banks.** At 1:50 p.m. February 25, Alamosa Police were notified that a bomb threat had been called into the main trunk line at San Luis Valley Federal Bank's building. Police, Alamosa firefighters, and EMTs responded to the scene and found the bank's customers and staff already being ushered out of the building and to a safe location in a parking lot south of

the structure. A deputy police chief said the next day that a soft-spoken female, in a calm voice, called the bank and said “a bomb is going to go off.” No bomb was found, but information was developed. Police are currently seeking an interview with a person the deputy chief described as ‘dissatisfied, disgruntled’ who was involved in a disturbance at the Mariposa branch earlier in February and whose account had been closed by the bank. The crime, false reporting of an explosive device, is a class four felony in Colorado. There were no injuries reported during the evacuations.

Source:

http://www.alamosanews.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&story_id=11889&page=72

33. *February 26, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Arrest in weekend bomb threats; caller to mall still at large.** A Chico man, whose family said is developmentally challenged, has been arrested on suspicion of placing bomb threat calls to the Chico Wal-Mart and Raley’s Supermarket last weekend. Police found nothing suspicious at either location. The 28-year-old man was contacted by Chico police February 25 and voluntarily appeared to be interviewed. After questioning, he was arrested and charged with filing a false bomb report. Police said the allegation can be charged as either a misdemeanor or a felony, and do not know if the suspect’s disability will be a factor in the crime. The suspect told police he was angry at Raley’s for being accused of starting a fire in a bathroom trash bin on February 10. His motive for the bomb threat against Wal-Mart is unknown. Police said the man is not a suspect in bomb threat calls made to the Chico Mall and Kohl’s Department Store February 25.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29418604/#storyContinued>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *February 27, Peninsula Daily News* – (Washington) **National Forest firewood ban mulled as thefts increase.** Firewood poaching in Olympic National Forest’s Hood Canal District is so prevalent that personal-use firewood permits will be banned in certain areas if cutters do not stop stealing wood. The district ranger has not decided where he would ban permits but said he would focus on “essentially areas where there isn’t any more firewood.” Twenty cords worth about \$3,000 were poached in Lords Lake the first week in February. Illegal cutters are spurning the narrowly defined rules that allow the taking of wood only on Forest Service roads, and instead gutting pockets of Forest Service land where trees grow and blow-down is vital for new forest growth, Forest Service officials said. The legal cutting zone consists of the roadway and ditch but not beyond the slope line. Live trees cannot be cut under any circumstances with a firewood permit. Violation notices increased sixfold, from 13 in 2006 to 80 in 2008, said a Forest Service patrol captain for law enforcement and investigations for northwest Washington. He said that in 2008, poachers stole \$250,000 of wood that, as “a very rough estimate,” was equal to 1,600 cords, using the going rate of about \$150 a cord.

Source: <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20090227/news/302279995>

35. *February 26, Associated Press* – (California) **DA: Man worked to create device to set**

Calif. fire. A California prosecutor says the mechanic accused of setting a fire that killed five firefighters worked for months to perfect an incendiary device before the 2006 blaze. In October 2006, the crew of San Bernardino National Forest Engine 57 was overrun by flames while defending an unoccupied, isolated home in the San Jacinto Mountains. The deputy district attorney told Riverside County Superior Court jurors in closing arguments Thursday, February 26 that the 38-year-old defendant experimented with devices and terrain before starting the fire. The subject has pleaded not guilty to five counts of first-degree murder, 23 counts of arson, and 17 counts of using an incendiary device. He is accused of setting fires during a five-month period, ending with the October 2006 blaze. His attorney says his client was at home watching his baby daughter when the fire erupted.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5glVBghn3Bw8Xfxpik7AE40sT101AD96JFLT00>

See also: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11789404

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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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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