

Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 4 March 2009



- The Frederick News Post reports that the Frederick, Maryland Police Department is investigating the weekend theft of at least 8,000 pounds of fertilizer from a secured storage shed at a farm supply store. (See item 4)
- According to KXAN 36 Austin and the Associated Press, Texas Forest Service officials said the Bastrop wildfire's reach has destroyed 28 homes, 17 businesses, and more than 1,200 acres of land. Officials said the fire could burn until Friday. (See item 28)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste;

Defense Industrial Base; Dams

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping;

Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare

Federal and State: Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and

Icons

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. March 3, Reuters – (International) Shell shuts some Nigeria sites on pipeline blasts. Royal Dutch Shell Plc.'s Nigerian venture has shut in a number of oil installations after explosions on a pipeline that may have been due to sabotage, a Shell spokeswoman said on March 3. The blasts were on the trans-Escravos pipeline, which sends crude oil to the Escravos oil export terminal. News of the disruption in Africa's top exporter led to a rally in global oil prices. "SPDC can confirm that there have been explosions on the trans-Escravos pipeline," said a Shell spokeswoman. "A number of facilities have been shut in to minimize potential damage to the environment." "The incident was first reported by surveillance personnel on Saturday," she added. "The indication is that the damage is the result of sabotage acts, but there's an ongoing investigation that is looking into it." A Shell spokesman in Nigeria added that the pipeline was punctured in at least three places. The spokeswoman added that Shell was not aware of any injuries or deaths caused by the explosions.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSL389092520090303

2. March 3, Palo Alto Daily News – (California) Exams that Palo Alto's Utilities workers allegedly didn't take were required for public safety. The tests that many Palo Alto Utilities workers allegedly failed to take are required by a federal law drafted to prevent the kinds of explosions and other natural gas distribution accidents that killed 41 people and caused \$90 million in property damage nationwide between 2004 and 2007. A former Palo Alto Utilities employee is claiming his supervisors asked him to answer questions in certification tests for about 60 other employees, in advance of a U.S. Department of Transportation inspection. The question of who did or did not take the so-called "operator qualification" tests lies at the heart of the latest scandal to rock the utilities department and triggered the Department of Transportation's current probe. Officials from other agencies on the West Coast that provide natural gas to customers say such tests are critical in making sure that employees who handle pipelines know what they are doing. "You obviously do not want unqualified personnel installing natural gas pipelines," said a manager of a utilities department in Long Beach, which is one of only a few other California cities with its own gas utility. "By definition (natural gas) can be hazardous. You want to make sure that the person is qualified to do the task." Though the Federal Government does not have a standardized test that pipeline workers nationwide must take, federal regulations do require pipeline operators such as the city of Palo Alto or Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to have some formal method of evaluating employees.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_11824687

3. *March* 2, *Reuters* – (North Carolina; South Carolina; Virginia) **Over 314,000 without power in the U.S. Southeast.** More than 314,000 homes and businesses were without power from Georgia to Virginia after a snow and ice storm pummeled the region overnight, local power companies said early on March 2. In the Carolinas, Duke Energy Corp. reported more than 152,000 customers were without service. That was down from over 166,000 out earlier on March 2. In Virginia, where snow was still falling, Dominion Resources Inc. said the storm left more than 106,000 customers in the dark by the morning of March 2.

Source

http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE52148W20090302?feedType=R SS&feedName=domesticNews

[Return to top]

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 3, Frederick News Post* – (Maryland) **Police continue fertilizer theft investigation.** The Frederick, Maryland Police Department is continuing its investigation into the weekend theft of at least 8,000 pounds of fertilizer from the Southern States store. At least 6,000 pounds of 19-19-19 fertilizer and 2,000 pounds of

urea were taken from a secured storage shed in the rear of the business between Saturday and Sunday, a police lieutenant said. There is nothing to indicate that this is anything other than a theft, he said. The Criminal Investigations Division will continue to investigate, he said. The Maryland Coordination Analysis Center along with all federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation field office, have been notified of the theft.

Source: http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=87156

[Return to top]

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *March 3*, *Reuters* – (Iowa) **FPL shuts Iowa Duane Arnold reactor.** FPL Group Inc. stopped the restart of the 580-megawatt Duane Arnold nuclear power station in Linn County, Iowa on March 2 after identifying higher than normal temperatures on a turbine bearing, a spokeswoman for the plant said on March 3. She could not say when the unit would return to service due to competitive reasons. She said workers were repairing the problem.

Source:

http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN03465613200 90303

[Return to top]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. March 3, WRC 4 Washington, D.C. – (National) Lockheed not source of Marine One leak, report says. The source of sensitive information about the U.S. President's Marine One helicopter that was found on an IP address in Iran has been discovered, and it was not Lockheed Martin, according to a report. Pittsburgh TV station WPXI reported March 2 that Lockheed was not responsible for the security breach last week. Tiversa, a Pittsburgh-area company that monitors peer-to-peer file-sharing networks, said it discovered a file containing entire blueprints, costs and other information about Marine One at an IP address in Tehran, Iran. There were rumors that Lockheed was responsible for the security lapse. Tiversa said it was not, while refusing to name the actual contractor. WPXI reported that someone probably downloaded a file-sharing program to swap music but did not realize the dangers of other files being swiped from the computer. "We found where this information came from," said an advisor to Tiversa, a retired general and former commander of allied forces in the Balkans. "We know exactly what computer it came from. I'm sure that person is embarrassed and may even lose their job, but we know where it came from and we know where it went." Source: http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Lockheed-Not-Source-of-Marine-One-Leak-Report-Says.html

[Return to top]

Banking and Finance Sector

- 7. March 3, USA Today (Oregon) SEC accuses Sunwest Management of securities **fraud.** A major corporate operator of assisted-living facilities and its founder were accused of a massive securities fraud on March 2 in what the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) charged was a scheme that raised \$300 million from investors who now face the loss of their money. The allegations target Oregon-based Sunwest Management; the firm's founder and former CEO; and several related entities and individuals. The former CEO's defense attorney said his client had done nothing wrong. Lawyers for Sunwest did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment on the case. At its peak in 2007, Sunwest managed more than 320 retirement facilities in 34 states and had estimated assets of \$2 billion, SEC said. But the company collapsed in December as the former CEO filed for bankruptcy court protection. From 2006 through 2008, the former CEO allegedly raised \$300 million from more than 1,300 investors who were told that their money would buy partial ownership interest in a specific retirement facility and provide a 10 percent annual investment return, SEC charged. But the money was allegedly commingled in a single fund that was used to pay operating expenses, investor returns, and other costs. As a result, SEC charged that misled investors did not realize that more than half the retirement sites were losing money. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/companies/management/2009-03-02-secsunwest-fraud-charges N.htm
- 8. *March 2, Computerworld* (National) Banks, credit unions begin to sue Heartland over data breach. In an indication of the legal troubles companies can find themselves in over data breaches these days, several banks and credit unions have begun suing Heartland Payment Systems over its recently disclosed data breach. In the six weeks since the potentially-massive breach was disclosed, eight banks and credit unions have filed lawsuits against Heartland over its alleged failure to take adequate measures for protecting credit and debt card holder data. Heartland said on January 20 that unknown intruders had broken into its network sometime last year and accessed payment card data belonging to an undisclosed number of people. The breach, thought to possibly be the biggest ever disclosed, has already affected over 500 financial institutions, including a handful in the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Canada. The lawsuits seek compensation from Heartland for the costs the financial institutions say they have had to bear in notifying affected customers about the breach, and to reissue them new payment cards. The lawsuits also claim damages from Heartland for costs of the alleged fraud the banks claimed have resulted from the breach.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9128841&intsrc=news ts head

9. *March 2, SearchFinancialSecurity.com* – (International) **Visa says no new breach.** Visa Inc. said recent alerts it sent to credit card issuers are not related to a new breach, countering reports that a second payment processor had been compromised. In a statement issued on February 27, San Francisco-based Visa said the alerts "were part of an existing investigation and are not related to a new compromise event." Credit unions

last week reported receiving alerts from Visa and MasterCard about credit and debit card accounts that were exposed in the breach of a payment processor. They reported that the compromise was unrelated to the breach announced by Heartland Payment Systems in January. Information about newly affected accounts was relayed to banks and credit unions February 9, via Visa's Compromised Account Management System. The system, which informs banks of compromised account numbers, gives issuers the ability to monitor, close, or block the compromised accounts. Visa's statement did not say what existing investigation the alerts are related to, and a company spokesman said he could not provide that detail. "Visa has provided the affected accounts to financial institutions so they can take steps to protect consumers," the company said in its statement. "In addition, Visa is risk-scoring all transactions in real-time, helping card issuers better distinguish fraud transactions from legitimate ones."

http://searchfinancialsecurity.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid185_gci1349611, 00.html

[Return to top]

Transportation Sector

10. *March 3, Associated Press* – (New York) **Flight with faulty gear light lands safely in NYC.** A U.S. Airways Express flight with a faulty landing gear light has landed safely after being diverted to New York's Kennedy Airport. Flight 4042 from Norfolk, Virginia landed around 8 a.m. March 3. The flight was operated by Air Wisconsin Airlines Corp. and bound for LaGuardia Airport in New York. An Air Wisconsin spokeswoman said the crew thought the plane's landing gear had not extended because the light did not go on. The pilot flew by an airport tower to confirm the gear was OK, and the plane was cleared to land. The plane was diverted to Kennedy because it has a longer runway. The flight had 39 passengers and three crew members. Source:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PLANE_LANDING_GEAR?SITE=NYONE&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

11. *March* 2, *KTUL* 8 *Tulsa and Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Train derails in Grady County; two injured.** The Oklahoma Highway Patrols says a Union Pacific train derailed Monday in northern Grady County after hitting a tractor-trailer rig hauling salt water. Troopers say the locomotive hit the trailer of the semi as it was crossing the tracks about 12:30 Monday afternoon about 3 miles north of Pocasset and about 15 miles north of Chickasha. Authorities say the conductor and engineer on the train were hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries while the truck driver apparently escaped serious injury. A Union Pacific spokeswoman said two locomotives and 18 cars derailed. She says the train had 46 total cars and was carrying no hazardous material, only general freight, from Wichita, Kansas to Fort Worth, Texas.

Source: http://www.ktul.com/news/stories/0309/599836.html

[Return to top]

Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *March 3, Salina Journal – (Kansas)* **Two arrested for bomb found in Solomon mailbox.** Dickinson County Sheriff's officers arrested a 19-year old man and a juvenile on charges of attempted arson and conspiracy. Sheriff's officers and other emergency personnel were sent to a residence in Solomon on February 6 after a resident found a device in a mailbox. The device was later identified as a homemade hydrochloric acid bomb, according to a press release from the sheriff's office. The two suspects were arrested on February 26. The adult suspect was taken to the Dickinson County Jail. The juvenile will be summoned to court, the release reads.

Source: http://www.saljournal.com/news/story/dickinson-county-bomb-bust-3209

[Return to top]

Agriculture and Food Sector

13. *March 2, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Deer farm owners accused of violating quarantine.** The State of Michigan has accused the co-owners of a Kent County deer farm of violating a chronic wasting disease quarantine. The co-owners were arraigned in Rockford District Court, according to a release from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). They waived their right to a preliminary exam in court Monday and the case was bound over to Kent County Circuit Court. The men face felony charges of violating Michigan's Animal Industry Act by moving a buck in violation of the quarantine on their Algoma Township deer farm, J&B Whitetails. The deer tested negative for chronic wasting disease, a contagious and fatal disease that attacks the brains of infected deer and elk.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-chronicwastingdis,0,5747924.story

14. *March* 2, *San Marcos Daily Record* – (Texas) **Hays County issues drought disaster declaration.** A Hays County, Texas judge on Monday issued a disaster declaration for the county because of severe drought that has had a major economic impact on the county's agricultural producers. The declaration starts the process to request assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to the declaration, Hays County has received less than half of the average rainfall it historically receives in a 14-month timeframe between January 1, 2008 and March 1, 2009 and that drought conditions are unlikely to improve any time soon. A Hays County emergency management coordinator said there has been a 100 percent loss in small grain (oats, wheat, etc.) in the county, and ranchers are being forced to sell livestock because of a shortage of hay brought on by the need for so many farmers to supplement a decrease in natural forage.

Source: http://www.sanmarcosrecord.com/breakingnews/local_story_061132105.html

[Return to top]

Water Sector

Nothing to report

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

15. *March 3, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **2 Chicago hospital patients with bacterial** infections die. Two intensive-care patients at Roseland Community Hospital in Chicago recently died after becoming infected with a common bacterium sometimes found in intensive-care units. Officials learned February 23 that four patients in the hospital's ICU were infected with acinetobacter — bacteria that can be found in soil and water and on people's skin, the hospital said in a statement. Before the outbreak was contained, seven of the ward's 10 patients were infected. Hospital and public health officials said an investigation is under way into the outbreak and how future incidents might be prevented.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/chi-roseland-hospital-infection-mar03,0,6510210.story

16. *March* 2, *Reuters* – (National) **Resistance to flu drug widespread in U.S.** – **study.**Virtually all cases of the most common strain of flu circulating in the United States now resist the main drug used to treat it, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Monday. CDC researchers said 98 percent of all flu samples from the H1N1 strain were resistant to Roche AG's Tamiflu, a pill that can both treat flu and prevent infection. Four patients infected with the resistant strain have died, including two children. This year, H1N1 is the most common strain of flu in the United States, although the flu season is a mild one so far, and still below the levels considered an epidemic.

Source: http://uk.reuters.com/article/marketsNewsUS/idUKN0242732820090302

17. *March 2, WNCT 9 Greenville* – (North Carolina) **Washington Police false bomb threat arrest.** Police in Washington, North Carolina have arrested a man in connection with a false bomb threat last week. Police say the man has been charged with felony false bomb report to a public building. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office received a call about a bomb threat at the Beaufort County Medical Center. After a joint investigation with the sheriff's office and hospital authorities, police were able to locate him. Source:

 $\underline{http://www.wnct.com/nct/news/local/article/washington_police_false_bomb_threat_arre_st/32749/$

[Return to top]

Government Facilities Sector

18. *March 3*, *DiamondBack Online* – (Maryland) **Chemical spill forces evacuation of building.** An adverse chemical reaction at the University of Maryland's chemistry building on February 27 prompted an evacuation and the deployment of a hazardous materials team, according to the Prince George's County Fire Department. During an experiment within the confines of a safety hood system designed to collect fumes, the

experimenter mixed two unidentified acids together causing a reaction that resulted in broken flasks and some chemicals sprayed on the floor and counters, said a Prince George's County Fire Department spokesman. Upon reaching the scene, firefighters and police evacuated wing five of the building. The experimenter was the only person evaluated by paramedics, and he was not transported to the hospital. Source:

 $\frac{http://media.www.diamondbackonline.com/media/storage/paper873/news/2009/03/02/News/Chemical.Spill.Forces.Evacuation.Of.Building-3654901.shtml$

- 19. *March 2, Daily Texan* (Texas) **Suspicious powder found in envelope.** Police, fire trucks, and a hazardous materials unit were sent to an Internal Revenue Service office near Interstate Highway 35 and East Ben White Boulevard on March 2 after a worker reported opening an envelope with suspicious black or brown powder inside. The Austin Police Department is investigating, a department spokeswoman said.

 Source: http://www.dailytexanonline.com/suspicious powder found in envelope-1.1591625
- 20. *March 2, Associated Press* (District of Columbia) **Suspicious vehicle near White House cleared.** Authorities say a suspicious vehicle that had been parked near the White House on March 2 did not pose a safety threat. A Secret Service spokesman says the vehicle was parked at H Street and Madison Place, near one of the access points to the White House where parking is prohibited. Authorities had blocked off surrounding streets for a little more an hour while they investigated. The Secret Service spokesman says the incident has been cleared.

Source: <u>http://wtop.com/?nid=596&sid=1614295</u>

21. *March 1, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) Chemical spill injures Boise State lab manager in Boise. A Boise State University lab instructor was wounded at about 2 p.m. on February 28 when 500 ml of nitric acid spilled onto his wrist, forearm, thigh, and knee, according to a police spokeswoman. When firefighters arrived at the third-floor chemistry lab in the multipurpose classroom building on the west side of campus, the instructor had already begun using sodium bicarbonate to neutralize the chemical. He was taken to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center for burn treatment. About 60 people, including two uninjured lab students, were evacuated as the building was checked and the spill cleaned up. The incident did not affect classes or other activities on campus.

Source: http://www.idahostatesman.com/boise/story/683419.html

[Return to top]

Emergency Services Sector

22. *March 3, KFOR 4 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **You can now 'feel' that EMSA ambulance.** EMSA in Oklahoma City is the first ambulance provider in the country to install Howlers on its entire fleet. Howlers are large speakers mounted beneath each ambulance. Not only do they sound different than a traditional siren, they also reverberate alerting motorists who would not hear the traditional siren due to ambient

noise.

Source: http://www.kfor.com/news/kfor-news-emsa-howler-siren-story,0,7366865.story

23. *March* 2, *Associated Press* – (Texas) **Man stole guns from police car.** Corpus Christi Police have found a man accused of stealing guns and ammo from the trunk of a police car. A Nueces County jailer told the Associated Press that a 27-year-old man was held Saturday without bond. Police recovered a semiautomatic rifle, handgun, Taser, keys and 40 rounds of ammunition that were stolen February 8.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/bizarre&id=6686052

[Return to top]

Information Technology

24. *March 3, Reuters* – (International) **Netbooks may offer hackers private data gateway.**Low-cost netbooks could be a high-speed gateway into people's lives, bank accounts, passwords and other personal data. Netbooks have made headlines since their 2007 launch, making PCs accessible to millions of non-traditional users. But their cheap cost could also carry a steep price tag due to lax security that makes them easier prey for viruses and hackers. Since their introduction less than two years ago by Taiwan's Asustek, nearly all major PC makers, including Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Acer, and Lenovo, have jumped on the netbook bandwagon. But their no frills nature, combined with low computing power and relative lack of sophistication among their users could combine to create the perfect storm for hackers and virus creators looking for easy targets, analysts say. "The Internet is full of dangers, regardless of what computer you are using," said the greater China marketing manager at anti-virus software maker Symantec. "But keeping in mind that the netbook is primarily used to surf the Internet, those dangers are possibly multiplied many-fold, especially if there is no anti-virus software installed in the machine."

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSSP46343120090303

25. *March 3, MX Logic* – (International) **Conficker to attack Southwest on Friday the 13th.** Security professionals are warning of a possible Conficker attack on the Web security of a major commercial airline on March 13. The worm, also known as Downadup, has been found to be targeting the site of Southwest Airlines and may disrupt online flight check-in and other services on March 13. One security official told CNET.com he found millions of computers infected with Conficker were programmed to contact the site wnsux.com, which redirects visitors to the main Southwest.com site, on March 13 to get instructions. The official speculated this would cause a denial-of-service attack, which would temporarily shut down the site. The worm, which has reportedly infiltrated more than 12 million computers worldwide, may also be targeting a site called jogli.com on March 8, a Chinese women's network called qhflh.com on March 18, and a computer phonetics site praat.org on March 31, according to some security experts.

Source: http://www.mxlogic.com/securitynews/web-security/conficker-to-attack-southwest-on-friday-the-13th549.cfm

26. *March 2, SoftPedia* – (International) **Cyber-criminals target their own kind.** Cybercrooks are not only exploiting security flaws in popular software in order to steal from vulnerable and innocent users. An independent security consultant describes how vulnerabilities in unpatched releases of the Zeus crimeware kit are being exploited by hackers in order to steal resources from their fellow criminals. The security researcher has come across an interesting posting made by a botnet runner, who asks for help to secure his infrastructure after being compromised several times by other hackers.

According to his own account, someone hijacked his botnet, composed of over 100,000 compromised computers, by exploiting a vulnerability in the Zeus kit, which allowed remotely injecting a high-level account into the administration panel of the crimeware. Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Cyber-criminals-Target-Their-Own-Kind-105728.shtml

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/.

[Return to top

Communications Sector

27. March 2, InfoWorld – (International) Manufacturers recall plagued handsets. Four manufacturers have issued recalls due to problems ranging from overheating to dropped E-911 calls. AT&T was forced to recall the Quickfire GTX75 (made by UTStarcom) after reports of the handset overheating when improperly connected to the AC charger. AT&T pulled the Quickfire off the shelves and sent out a notice to users explaining how to properly hook up the Quickfire handset to the charger. LG put a recall notice out about 30,000 of its 830 Spyder handsets after several customers had difficulty keeping a connection with (or had trouble with the quality of) voice calls to E-911. The company is recalling two software versions for the touchscreen slider: T83LGV03 and T83LGV04. The handsets were sold at various dealers in several states from September 2008 to November 2008. The Nokia 5800 XpressMusic NAM was released Stateside recently. Within a few days, the forums were reporting that the touchscreen would not connect to 3G. In addition to that problem, Mobile-Review released a report outlining some serious issues with speaker failure — the Web site noted that 10 handsets had experienced the same failure. Nokia is aware of the problem, which it pins on the speaker supplier. Handsets manufactured after February are apparently not affected. Nokia PR has issued a statement saying that service centers should be able to replace the speakers with product from a different supplier. Lastly, RIM's BlackBerry Bold took a hit when NTT DoCoMo had to halt sales of the smartphone in Japan — also due to overheating.

Source:

http://weblog.infoworld.com/mobile_pulse/archives/2009/03/handsets_hit_a.html

Commercial Facilities Sector

28. March 3, KXAN 36 Austin and Associated Press – (Texas) Wildfire may burn until **Friday.** Despite some reports, the Bastrop wildfire is not completely out. Texas Forest Service officials said the blaze's reach has destroyed 28 homes, 17 businesses, and more than 1,200 acres of land. Still, only 75 percent of the fire is contained. More than 100 fire crews have been working since Saturday to get the fire under control. Fire officials said they are still very concerned about hot spots that threaten to flare up and continue scorching land, with the ongoing safety threat of the possibility of fire hiding in the base of trees and brush. Several roads are still closed because of the threat of hot spot flareups. "Two priorities: There are maintain the structures that we've saved, so we don't get reburned and also work on the structures that have burned, anything that may come out of there and pose a problem," said a Texas Forest Service official. The Texas Forest Service has brought in fire crews from other states to help contain this fire, but it warns of the high winds and low humidity becoming the biggest challenges over the next few days. Twenty forest firefighters from North Carolina will be in Bastrop by Wednesday to help with the fight. It said it hopes to have this all out by the end of the week. Officials said if weather conditions continue with winds and humidity, the fire could burn until Friday.

Source:

http://www.wwlp.com/dpp/news/national/south/nat_kxan_austin_bastrop_wildfire_may_burn_until_friday_200903022233467

29. *March* 2, *South Carolina Now* – (South Carolina) **Florence man arrested on bomb possession charge.** A Florence man is accused of trying to build a bomb to retaliate against his former employer, according to a press release from the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The 48-year-old man is charged with possession of a destructive device (bomb), Florence County Detention Center booking reports show. The suspect was arrested Friday, February 27 after deputies received a tip he had bomb-making materials at his residence, according to the release. Investigators, along with the sheriff's office's bomb detection K9 unit and a State Law Enforcement Division bomb squad, searched the suspect's residence and found material that could be used to make an explosive device. An investigation revealed the suspect had made threats against his former employer, the Salvation Army Thrift Store, according to the release. Source:

http://www.scnow.com/scp/news/local/pee_dee/article/florence_man_arrested_on_bomb_possession_charge/36252/

[Return to top]

National Monuments & Icons Sector

30. *March 3*, *National Parks Traveler* – (Washington) **Going to Olympic National Park this summer? Plan ahead due to major bridge work.** Olympic National Park is considered one of the crown jewels of the National Park System. Getting there in the

late spring and early summer of 2009 will require some advance planning — and a bit of patience — for a lot of visitors due to an upcoming six week closure of the Hood Canal Bridge. The Hood Canal Bridge is not the only way to get to Olympic from points south and east, but it is a major one, especially for those coming from the Seattle vicinity. The park staff is doing its best to alert travelers.

Source: <a href="http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2009/03/going-olympic-national-p

31. March 3, Kennebec Journal – (Maine) Historic clock tower endangered by wear and tear in Biddeford. The gold leaf still glitters on the dome of Biddeford's City Hall clock tower, and the bold Roman numerals on all four clock faces reflect the correct time. But the three-story wooden structure, built in 1895 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is in serious disrepair. Today, a honeycomb of scaffolding surrounds the tower as workers finish up emergency repairs prompted last year when large sections of the tower, including an entire section of railing, collapsed from decades of water and ice damage. Get up close and the entire structure is covered with peeling, damaged paint, water-soaked boards as light as cardboard from rot, and fissures in the walls that let wind, snow, and water penetrate the clockworks inside. The town tried in 2007 to raise funds for a full restoration, but voters rejected the \$1.5 million bond measure along with several other bonds on the ballot. The project was put on a back burner until the falling debris made it a safety hazard. An entire railing collapsed at one point, luckily falling back toward the tower instead of down to the street. City officials included \$195,000 for the emergency work in the 2008 budget. Consigli Construction is doing the repair work, mostly removing rotted material, replacing it with new wood, adding protective flashing and copper downspouts to redirect water, and keeping water from pooling at the foot of the lower railings. The work is expected to be complete in about two weeks.

Source: http://kennebecjournal.mainetoday.com/news/local/6015401.html

[Return to top]

Dams Sector

- 32. *March 3, KSJB 600 Jamestown* (North Dakota) **Jamestown Council delays dam action.** The Jamestown City Council in Stutsman County turned down a resolution to take possession of the Feton Lumber Company property surrounding the Ice House Dam. The mayor provided a lengthy explanation of what had been discovered about the ownership and the history of maintenance and management of the dam. Nevertheless, council members still expressed concern about unanswered questions and recommended the issue be referred to the city Public Finance and Legal Committee agenda for March. Source: http://www.ksjbam.com/artman/publish/article_1676.shtml
- 33. *March 2, Associated Press* (Arkansas; Missouri) **Ozarks worried about spring flooding.** Business owners and residents still recovering from floods that did millions of dollars in damage last year in the Ozarks are worried that conditions are ripe for them to have the same problem this year. A group of marina owners asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to act to avoid more flooding this year, but Corps officials said they will

not change their operating procedures. In the spring, rains pushed Table Rock Lake to a record 933.25 feet above sea level last year — about 19 feet above seasonal depth. The waters did not recede at Table Rock or Lake Taneycomo until August, costing lake communities and businesses lost tourism dollars, some destroyed homes and boat docks, and \$7 million in damage to public parks. This year, the spring rainy season is about to begin with Ozarks ground saturated from recent rains. The lake is at 915 feet — the target elevation for this time of year to provide water for hydroelectric generation, the trout fishery, and other things. "We track lake levels and know what averages are any day of the year, and we're worried about it," said the manager of the Port of Kimberling and head of the Table Rock Marina Owners Association. "If they don't drop the lake, we're in for more." Corps officials said the agency can not release water below 915 feet to prepare for anticipated spring rains. The Corps is required to follow a Water Management Plan developed when Table Rock, three other lakes, and three dams in the upper reaches of the White River system were created decades ago. That plan requires the Corps to maintain target levels at certain periods so the lakes can fulfill hydroelectric generation and other water demands and still avoid flooding downstream, Corps officials said.

Source: http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/2009/mar/02/ozarks-worried-about-spring-flooding/

34. *March* 2, *WISC* 3000 *Madison and Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Vernon County officials said dam repair needed.** Vernon County officials said that they need \$11 million to repair dams that were damaged by significant flooding in the last two years. The County Board finance chairman said of its 22 dams, 21 are leaking and jeopardizing those that live below the structures. The State Department of Natural Resources dams and floodplains chief said the dams have been stabilized, but they can not predict when the next flood will be. A state representative of Westby said he is working to get federal stimulus money to help with repairs. He said another alternative is tapping the state's Stewardship Fund, used for land conservation. The governor said last month there will be an unspecified amount of federal stimulus money for dam repairs and improvements. Source: http://www.channel3000.com/news/18835374/detail.html

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