



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 March 2009

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Rome News-Tribune reports that about 100 police officers responded to a spill of hydrochloric acid at a steel wire manufacturer in Rome, Georgia on Wednesday. The spill occurred when the steel frame of an 8,000-gallon tank broke. (See item [5](#))
- According to the Houston Chronicle, a King Fisher Marine Service LP employee was killed Tuesday as he and crewmembers were moving a dredge in the Houston Ship Channel. (See item [15](#))

### **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 5, News Journal* – (Delaware) **Valero orders shutdown for repairs.** Valero Energy Corp. ordered an unprecedented full shutdown of refining operations at the Delaware City plant on March 4, citing costs and disruption from a major breakdown on February 16 and weak markets for fuels and other refined products. A company spokesman said the shutdown process could take about 10 days and could last into April. No job losses or layoffs are planned during the shutdown; managers will use the time to carry out additional maintenance and repairs at the 210,000 barrel-per-day complex. “We have made the decision to shut down the remainder of the production units while the coker is undergoing repair,” he said. “By the time everything is complete, production will be zero.” “I’m astounded. That’s pretty drastic,” said a

Delaware City native and industrial chemist who has tracked refinery issues for decades. “I can’t recall when they’ve ever shut the whole place down.” Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control officials were assessing the news late on March 4. Source:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/200903050345/BUSINESS/903050368>

2. *March 4, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Sky-high price needed to bury power lines.** Widespread hardening of the power grid along the Gulf Coast is too expensive a solution to prevent another blanket blackout like Houston experienced in the weeks following Hurricane Ike, according to a report commissioned by the state’s Public Utility Commission. The lead author and vice president at Quanta Technology said broad-based approaches such as burying all power lines are cost-prohibitive at a price of \$1 million per mile. “If you put just distribution lines underground, it would double rates,” he said of the transportation costs consumers pay as part of their utility bills. Texas has 28,200 miles of overhead power lines within 50 miles of the coast, which would cost \$28 billion to bury. By contrast, the cost of storm damage to the grid in the last decade was \$1.8 billion, according to the report. The report recommends hardening 1 percent of the state’s electricity transmission and distribution system — including burying a limited amount of infrastructure — at a cost of less than \$1 billion that would be passed on to ratepayers. The study highlighted the importance of small-scale power sources, including solar panels and natural gas-fired generators, for businesses and critical facilities to help speed recovery efforts. CenterPoint is experimenting with an “intelligent grid” and hopes to have it in place before the next storm. The study did not specify which parts of the power grid should be targeted for hardening, but the leading author said Houston, with an annual gross domestic product of \$345 billion, is by far the largest economic center with the highest societal cost when the power goes out. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/6294690.html>
3. *March 3, Herald-Zeitung* – (Texas) **Cleanup nearing an end after I-35 wreck.** The hero and the culprit of the March 1 rollover accident that shut down Interstate 35 through New Braunfels for close to seven hours and inconvenienced thousands of motorists in the end are the same. A stiff Hill Country wind that, according to the National Weather Service, was gusting from the north at up to 40 mph the morning of March 1 could have played a part, police and others say, in flipping over a fuel tanker as it exited the interstate onto Farm-to-Market 306. That same gusty wind also is being credited, though, in lessening the risks of explosion or fire as 3,700 gallons of gasoline poured from the ruptured tanker. The driver was driving north on I-35 when just after 9 a.m. he overturned his Johnson Oil Company tanker as he exited the interstate and turned left onto FM 306, a New Braunfels Police lieutenant said. The first of several calls to 911 was received at 9:08 a.m., and the first police units were dispatched at 9:10 a.m., he said. The investigation into the wreck had not been completed and no citations issued as of late Monday, said the policeman, who cited the wind, shifting fuel and excessive speed as possible causes being considered. The tanker, which can carry a full load of 9,800 gallons of fuel, was carrying 6,000 gallons of unleaded and 2,500 gallons of diesel when it overturned en route to a gas station in Canyon Lake, said a

spokeswoman for Johnson Oil, headquartered in Gonzalez. Only the tanks carrying unleaded ruptured, she said, with none of the diesel escaping.

Source: <http://herald-zeitung.com/story.lasso?ewcd=7b0a81c964451670&-session=HeraldZeitung:42F949F707665033FBkKH4022505>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *March 5, Visalia Times-Delta* – (California) **Truck that caught fire at Grapevine was carrying chemical.** A truck and trailer that caught fire Tuesday night and closed Interstate 5 on the Grapevine was carrying 350 gallons of hydrogen peroxide. The fire, crash investigation, and clean-up of chemicals and wreckage closed two northbound lanes for 12 hours following the incident that began about 6:40 p.m. Authorities said the fire was touched off by overheated brakes as the truck descended the Grapevine heading north near Fort Tejon, the California Highway Patrol reported. The driver pulled onto the shoulder, and the flames spread to the tires of the attached trailer, causing the peroxide container inside to melt and 25 gallons to spill on the interstate. That spill, along with the trailer carrying other chemicals, led the authorities to close I-5 in both directions for a time.

Source:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090305/NEWS01/903050330/1002/NEWS01>

5. *March 4, Rome News-Tribune* – (Georgia) **Industrial chemical spill leads to evacuations, road closings; several treated.** About 100 police officers responded to a spill of hydrochloric acid at Bekaert in Rome on Wednesday, said the Rome Police chief. At a press conference, emergency officials said the spill occurred when the steel frame of an 8,000-gallon tank broke. The spill was contained to a retaining wall around the tank, according to the plant manager. Several people were treated for inhalation injuries, including 16 at local hospitals and four at a triage center at the Gilbreath Recreation Center in Lindale, said a spokesman of Floyd EMS. Red Cross volunteers have been sent to provide food and drinks for evacuees and emergency personnel. Police radio traffic indicated the spill was hydrochloric acid. Police officers responded to the spill just eight minutes after it occurred, officials said. A perimeter was immediately set up around the area, and in addition to responding to the spill, law enforcement focused on managing traffic and getting people out and around the area. Bekaert manufactures drawn steel wire products.

Source: <http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/680/public/news951727.html>

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

6. *March 5, Reuters* – (Arkansas) **Entergy Arkansas 1 reactor back at full power.** Entergy Corp's 843-megawatt Unit 1 at the Arkansas Nuclear One power station in Pope County, Arkansas returned to full power by early March 5 from 62 percent early on

March 4, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. A spokesman for the plant said operators reduced the unit due to a request by the region's grid operator. He said there was nothing wrong with the unit. In an email on March 4, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), Entergy's transmission coordinator, said outages on the transmission grid contributed to its need to take Transmission Loading Relief (TLR) actions on March 3. To achieve the reduction in flows necessary to maintain reliability, certain generation in the vicinity of the portion of the grid affected by the outage had to be re-dispatched, SPP said. SPP said it could not provide any more specific information due to "data confidentiality and critical infrastructure protection requirements." A TLR allows reliability coordinators to mitigate potential or actual operating security limit violations. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0530855920090305>

7. *March 4, WPTZ 5 Plattsburgh* – (Vermont) **33 towns support closing of nuke plant.** One of the most heated debates at town meetings was about the Vermont Yankee plant. Thirty-nine communities around the state voted on whether or not they think the nuclear power plant's license should be extended, and most of those communities voted an overwhelming "no." Organizers of a campaign to close Vermont Yankee nuclear plant say 33 towns voted in favor a measure urging state lawmakers to pull the plug on it. The non-binding resolution was passed Tuesday at town meetings in Brattleboro, Brookline, Calais, Charlotte, Corinth, Charleston, Craftsbury, Dummerston, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Greensboro, Guilford, Halifax, Hinesburg, Holland, Lincoln, Marshfield, Middlesex, Marlboro, Montpelier, Newfane, Plainfield, Putney, Richmond, Shrewsbury, Townshend, Tunbridge, Warren, Westfield, Westminster, Windham, Woodbury, and Worcester. An organizer says the measure was tabled in Walden and defeated in Topsham, Bolton and Glover. In Bolton and Glover, voters approved a separate item about shoring up the decommissioning fund. A Vermont Yankee spokesman said most Vermonters feel that nuclear energy has to be part of the mix for reducing fossil fuel use and supporting the economy. He says the plant's owners are focusing on keeping the plant reliable and productive, which he says is what makes the best case for continued operation. The plant provides electricity to one-third of the state. But, concerns over the safety of nuclear power, and the plant specifically, are a source of debate for people across Vermont. The vote was an advisory vote, which means that the Legislature has no obligation to act on its results.

Source: <http://www.wptz.com/news/18846612/detail.html>

8. *March 3, Northwest Florida Daily News* – (Florida) **Garbage truck tested for radioactive material.** A garbage truck that tested over the limit for radioactivity on March 2 found its way to the Valparaiso Public Works yard for testing on March 3 afternoon by the Okaloosa County Special Operations Unit. The garbage truck was measured at 175 milliRoentgen on March 2 and 165 on March 3, according to the emergency management coordinator for Okaloosa County. But there was some confusion about the numbers. The coordinator said that those amounts would be dangerous, but it is likely that the first measurements actually were microRoentgen — much smaller units — because the measurement taken on March 3 by the Special

Operations Unit measured zero. The possible confusion caused the closure of Valastics Avenue for hours and halted work for about a dozen employees standing around the area during the Special Operations Unit's testing. A hazardous decontamination pool was set up and firefighters dressed in radioactive suits for protection from possible contaminants. The coordinator said that the truck is in a holding area at the Public Works yard until a specialist from the State Department of Heath's Radiological Response Team can take a reading of the contents inside the garbage truck.

Source:

[http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/garbage\\_15576\\_article.html/material\\_radioactive.html](http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/garbage_15576_article.html/material_radioactive.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *March 5, Bloomberg* – (International) **U.K. Chinook crashes linked to night flight kit, lawmakers say.** A package of equipment that enabled the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force to fly Chinook helicopters at night and support special missions in Afghanistan has been linked to two crashes, a panel of lawmakers said. The night-enhancement software was fitted to eight of Boeing's Chinook Mk2 choppers because a consignment of the more sophisticated Mk3 aircraft remained grounded eight years after they were delivered to the RAF. Fitting the night-enhancement package "has made the aircraft harder to fly, and the use of the package has been judged a key risk to the helicopters' airworthiness," a member of Parliament said in a statement in London on Thursday. In evidence to the committee in June, the deputy chief of the defense staff in charge of equipment procurement said that two incidents where Chinooks crashed had been linked to the night-vision equipment. "It was not due solely to the Night Enhancement Package, and, again, there is a level of emphasis on this," he told the panel. "It is harder to fly. You have to be a better trained as a pilot."

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aHdp5HL1PoU8&refer=europa>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *March 4, Reuters* – (National) **UBS refuses to give U.S. names, replaces chairman.** Switzerland's largest bank held its ground on March 4 in a dispute with the U.S. government, refusing to disclose the names of tens of thousands of rich American clients suspected by U.S. authorities of using secret Swiss bank accounts to dodge U.S. taxes. A senior executive for UBS AG said at a Senate hearing that the bank regrets breaking U.S. tax laws, but it does not intend to hand over the client names being sought in a U.S. Internal Revenue Service lawsuit. "UBS has now complied...to the fullest extent possible without subjecting its employees to criminal prosecution in Switzerland," said the chief financial officer of UBS Global Wealth Management and Swiss Bank. The hearing convened hours after UBS announced that Swiss politician will replace the

current chairman, completing a top management clearout designed to drag the beleaguered bank out of its deepest ever crisis.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE5236OL20090305>

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## **Transportation Sector**

11. *March 5, WTOP 103.5 Washington, D.C.* – (Virginia) **Concrete falls from Glebe Road overpass.** All three lanes of westbound U.S. 50 have reopened after a piece of concrete fell from the Glebe Road overpass, forcing the highway to close while crews evaluated the structural integrity of the bridge and cleaned up the site. Two left lanes of inbound U.S. 50 remain closed as part of the cleanup. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) conducted a structural assessment on March 5. An Arlington County supervisor told WTOP that VDOT determined the bridge and roadway are structurally sound. VDOT closed lanes on both U.S. 50 and on Glebe Road Thursday as they did their evaluation.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1616951>

12. *March 4, Associated Press* – (New Jersey; New York) **Electric trouble snarled morning rush on rails.** Bridge troubles snarled the commute for thousands of rail riders in New Jersey and New York City the morning of March 4. An Amtrak spokesman says an electrical problem kept the Portal Bridge in Kearny from closing properly until 6:26 a.m. He says initial indications suggested ice may have gotten into the bridge equipment. New Jersey Transit train service in and out of Manhattan was restored an hour after it was suspended. But riders on North Jersey Coast Line, Midtown Direct, and Northeast Corridor Line trains faced delays. The problem began at 5:28 a.m. when Amtrak was unable to close the bridge, which spans the Hackensack River and carries trains between Newark's Penn Station and New York City's Penn Station.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--trainsdelayed0304mar04,0,5608677.story>

13. *March 4, WTOP 103.5 Washington, D.C.* – (District of Columbia; Virginia) **Metro deals with fourth derailment in two weeks.** A train derailed in Washington, D.C.'s metro system for the fourth time in two weeks. A huge piece of maintenance equipment went off the tracks near the Cheverly rail station on the Orange Line. "This is highly unusual," a Metro spokesperson told WTOP. In the latest incident, the front wheels of a massive piece of equipment, known as a prime mover, popped off and damaged the tracks as it headed toward New Carrollton. A couple hundred feet of those tracks had to be fixed near the Cheverly station. Metro says the wheels literally fell off the truck and it is still out of commission.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1616323>

14. *March 4, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Sea-Tac Airport: 4 more planes targeted by laser.** A Seattle-Tacoma International Airport spokesman says at least four more planes have been targeted by a laser beam as they approached the airport to land. Pilots of four planes reported seeing a bright laser light on the night of March 4 while heading south



toward the airport. All landed safely. King County sheriff's deputies have searched an area near the north end of the airport. The FBI and Transportation Security Administration have also been notified. Last Sunday night, the crew of a Horizon Airlines plane reported that someone pointed a green laser at them as they approached Sea-Tac. And a dozen planes were targeted on February 22. None of those planes had trouble landing.

Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008815316\\_apwaseataclasers.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008815316_apwaseataclasers.html)

15. *March 3, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Worker dies in dredge accident on Houston Ship Channel.** A King Fisher Marine Service LP employee was killed Tuesday as he and crewmembers were moving a dredge in the Houston Ship Channel, a company spokesman said. The King Fisher dredge, which works to deepen the ship channel, was being moved to a new job site when an accident with machinery aboard the dredge occurred. "We are conducting an investigation," the spokesman said. Initial reports from the Harris County Sheriff's Office indicated a crane aboard the dredge had struck the employee. But there is no crane aboard the dredge, according to company officials. The accident occurred at about 11 a.m. near the San Jacinto Monument. The crewman, whose name is being withheld until his family can be notified, died at the scene, officials said. The U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration were notified about the accident.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/front/6291395.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

16. *March 4, Scientific American* – (National) **Senate bill designed to beef up FDA oversight, enhance food safety.** Coming on the heels of a sweeping salmonella scare, a bipartisan group of senators introduced legislation designed to give the feds the financial and regulatory muscle they need to protect the nation's food supply. The measure, co-sponsored by Senators from New Hampshire and Massachusetts along with five other lawmakers, calls for increased government scrutiny of all food processing plants (annual checks of high-risk facilities and inspections of other plants at least once every four years), and empowers the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to mandate recalls of dangerous foods if manufacturers ignore its requests to voluntarily pull them. It also expands FDA access to food company records and test results; allows the FDA to enlist the help of qualified third parties to certify that imported food facilities meet U.S. food safety standards; and requires importers to verify the safety of imported food. In addition, the FDA would have the authority to deny entry to foods from foreign facilities that refuse to let U.S. inspectors check them out. The package would fork over \$825

million to the agency to hire more agents to inspect domestic and foreign food plants.  
Source: <http://www.sciam.com/blog/60-second-science/post.cfm?id=senate-bill-designed-to-beef-up-fda-2009-03-04>

17. *March 4, NewsInferno* – (Nebraska) **Nebraska salmonella linked to alfalfa sprouts.**  
The mysterious Nebraska salmonella outbreak that sickened 14 women — hospitalizing two — earlier this week has been expanded to now include 24 people. When first reported, the source of the salmonella was unknown and the strain was unfamiliar to experts working on the case. Now, the Associated Press (AP) is breaking with news that alfalfa sprouts are the source the outbreak. According to the AP, the Sunsprouts brand sprouts were distributed by CW Sprouts of Omaha and sold at grocery stores and restaurants; all of the product has been recalled. Now, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is investigating what, if anything, contributed to the contamination at the plant, said the AP; however, investigators are looking at if the sprouts were contaminated prior, saying of the location that it is “one of the cleanest facilities we’ve seen.” The AP reported that of the 24 salmonella cases, 14 are confirmed, four are considered probable, and eight-to-10 other cases are considered suspect. Also, five cases of salmonella poisoning have been confirmed in Iowa by health officials there who say that the strain is Salmonella Saintpaul, which is the same as the salmonella strain spreading in Nebraska, reported the AP.  
Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/4895>

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## **Water Sector**

18. *March 4, Los Angeles Weekly* – (California) **San Fernando Valley’s galaxy of chemical goo.** A local woman has for 14 years been battling Los Angeles city planners and state Department of Toxic Substances Control bureaucrats over a proposed development in Canoga Park. The expanse of land is riddled with heavy metal, chemical and radiological contamination. Corporate Pointe sits on 51 acres of an 81-acre former aerospace and nuclear-research facility once occupied by Hughes Missile Group, Rocketdyne, Atomics International and Raytheon Missile Systems. The woman discovered in 1995 that aerospace and nuclear-research activity had left significant contamination on the land and in the groundwater, just two blocks from her home in Canoga Park. “I did an FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] request to EPA and received thousands of pages of data on the old Hughes property, and I was shocked to see widespread chemical and radiological contamination in the soil and groundwater,” she told L.A. Weekly. “We have radiation in all the wells in Hidden Lake and on the rest of the Corporate Pointe property.” The state warns in its own January 30, 2008 report obtained by the Weekly that arsenic has impacted the sewer line “sitewide,” and the storm-sewer system has not been investigated. “Key points where runoff could carry contaminants and where leaks are more likely to occur may need to be tested,” it concedes.  
Source: <http://www.laweekly.com/2009-03-05/news/san-fernando-valley-39-s-galaxy-of-chemical-goo/1>



## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

19. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Neb. hospital seeks cause of operating room fire.** A hospital in Nebraska is investigating the cause of a small fire in an operating room that burned a patient. The chief medical officer said Wednesday that the February 3 fire at Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha is believed to have started when an electrical cauterizing tool ignited alcohol vapors used for sterilization. A patient received minor burns to the upper back and neck and was hospitalized overnight as a precaution. Because of the fire, the federal agency that administers Medicare will audit the hospital's procedures.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hX0CX5diFOV6KCia8CRTHv4k9oQwD96NFHOO2>

20. *March 3, Associated Press* – (International) **4 Indonesians die of bird flu; toll climbs to 119.** Four Indonesians have died of bird flu, bringing the death toll in the country hardest hit by the disease over the past several years to 119, an official said March 3. The chief of the National Bird Flu Commission said all the victims were believed to have been infected after coming into contact with sick poultry. They were from Java island and died in January and February. Indonesia, which has been criticized in recent months for refusing to immediately make public news of human deaths and in some cases hushing them up all together, has been worst affected by bird flu since it started ravaging Asian poultry stocks in late 2003. It accounts for nearly half the 256 human fatalities tallied worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gApQbyawgKLjltct03EvadCi-cCwD96MFKD00>

## **Government Facilities Sector**

21. *March 5, University of Rochester Campus Times* – (New York) **UR lab fines for safety violation.** Less than a month after the initial violations were issued, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the University of Rochester have come to a potential agreement over the University's liability regarding an accident in the Laboratory for Laser Energetics in August of 2008. UR expects to receive four citations and a fine of \$25,200, barring approval of the agreement by an OSHA review committee in the next 60 days. "The University went to great lengths to determine the cause of accident and help with our investigation," the OSHA assistant regional director said. "They are continuing to work hard to make sure this doesn't happen in the future, which is not something we can say of all the companies we work with." The most substantial violation was from the general duty clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, which faults the employer for not furnishing the workplace free of hazards that could cause serious harm or death. In August 2008, a senior lab engineer was seriously

injured when, while he was servicing the pressurized diagnostic device of the Laser Lab's OMEGA laser, the part exploded. The student was paralyzed as a result of the accident and has spent the last six months in an intensive rehabilitation program in New Jersey. On February 23, after showing signs of improvement, he returned to Rochester to continue his rehab at the Highlands in Brighton, a University facility.

Source: <http://www.campustimes.org/1.1597166-1.1597166>

22. *March 5, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **No one injured in fire at Aberdeen Proving Ground.** A fire broke out on March 4 in a building at the Aberdeen Proving Ground but no one was injured, authorities said. The fire happened about 9:30 p.m. in the Edgewood area of the Army installation, whose firefighters raised a second alarm that brought assistance from fire companies in Harford and Baltimore counties, according to a spokesman for the Harford County Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services. The building, which was not residential, was damaged in the blaze, but the Hartford County spokesman did not have any information about the extent of the damage, a possible cause or the type of building that caught fire. Officials at the facility, which the Army uses as a testing area for military ordnance, could not immediately be reached for comment Thursday morning.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/bal-fire0305.0,1789024.story>

23. *March 5, San Francisco Examiner* – (California) **Suspicious package closes Van Ness Avenue.** Two bottles caused a bomb scare near San Francisco's City Hall on March 4, less than an hour before a gay-rights rally took place, according to a police spokesman. The bottles were reported to police because they appeared to be Molotov cocktails, but they were rendered safe by the bomb unit, according to the police official. "They've taken all the evidence and they're investigating," the police spokesman added. The bomb scare closed Grove Street near City Hall from 6:15 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. The 47-Van Ness and the 49-Van Ness-Mission buses were temporarily re-routed around the intersection at Van Ness Avenue and Grove Street because of the street closure.

Source: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Suspicious-package-closes-Van-Ness-Avenue-40755422.html>

24. *March 5, Space Fellowship* – (New Mexico) **Launch complex ready for Orion's first abort flight test.** NASA has completed work on a 92-acre launch complex that will serve as the test site for abort flight tests of its newest spacecraft, the Orion crew exploration vehicle, which is intended to take astronauts back to the moon. Located at the U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range near Las Cruces, New Mexico, the launch complex will allow NASA to test the system that will pull the vehicle's crew to safety if there is an emergency on the launch pad or during the first minutes of flight. The new complex includes a launch pad, launch services pad, ground support equipment and a new building, the Flight Integration and Test Facility, where the Orion module and its launch abort system will be assembled. There is also office space for test operations. Lockheed Martin is NASA's prime contractor for the Orion crew exploration vehicle and its launch abort system. Orbital Sciences Corporation is building the launch abort system under contract to Lockheed Martin as well as building the abort test boosters and providing launch support services under contract to the Air Force.

Source: <http://spacefellowship.com/News/?p=8356>

25. *March 4, YourHub.com* – (Colorado) **Downtown building evacuated over white powder.** Denver firefighters evacuated the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in response to a report of a suspicious white powder found in three areas in the building on March 4. Police, state troopers, firefighters and representatives from the FBI responded to the scene. According to Denver Fire Department's assistant chief of investigations, six employees were exposed to the powder, but showed no symptoms of any kind of infection or poisoning. Firefighters from Denver Fire Department decontamination unit investigated the scene and tested the powder. According to the fire official, tests showed the substance was 99 percent likely to be talcum powder. Based on the tests and absence of any letter or other credible threat, officials chose not to evacuate a second building, the Capitol Center, over a similar report of a white powder in one room.

Source: <http://denver.yourhub.com/Denver/Stories/News/General-News/Story~587110.aspx>

26. *March 3, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Report: Ship's missile defense technology damaged.** The USS Port Royal's ballistic missile defense capabilities were damaged when the \$1 billion cruiser ran aground off Hawaii in January, a report in the Navy Times said. The report, citing a preliminary damage assessment by the Navy, said the shock of rolling on the reef for three days damaged the vessel's antennae and knocked the ship's Aegis radar arrays out of alignment. The Navy won't release damage details, or estimate for how much repairs will cost, until it has completed a final damage assessment, said a U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman. He did not know when that would be. The Port Royal, which entered Navy use in 1994, is one of 18 cruisers and destroyers the Navy has been outfitting with the ability to track and intercept ballistic missiles. The Navy Times article said hatches on the Port Royal's missile launch cells were also damaged as the ship's hull rolled with the waves. The ship's wastewater and seawater ballast systems are clogged with sand and coral from the reef which are blocking the air conditioning system, the report said.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_11827293](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11827293)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

27. *March 5, Occupational Health and Safety* – (National) **OSHA interpretation: Not all firefighters have HAZWOPER clearance.** Part of OSHA's Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) standard, a document that provides enforcement guidance to OSHA's field personnel, says, "Firefighters expected to respond to releases of hazardous substances must be trained to at least the first responder operations level since they will respond to releases, or potential releases, of hazardous substances for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment." According to the director of OSHA's Directorate of Enforcement Programs, that sentence does not mean that all firefighters must be trained to at least the first responder operations level. In a letter of interpretation dated November 7, 2008, and

posted to OSHA's Web site March 3, he noted that all firefighter training is not necessarily equal. "Firefighters who are not expected to respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances and who would take no action beyond notifying appropriate authorities of a hazardous substance release need only be trained to the first responder awareness level," he wrote, directing interested parties to 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(6)(i).

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/Articles/2009/03/05/OSHA-Interpretation-on-Firefighters-and-HAZWOPER.aspx>

28. *March 5, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **Cops' personal data plundered from Staten Island warehouse facility.** An official with the NYPD pension fund walked into the fund's supposedly secure back office on the Teleport campus in Bloomfield and stole personal information on about nearly 80,000 current and retired police officers, authorities say. Investigators know how the official, who had no business being at the facility, gained entrance. Now they want to know why he took the sensitive data. The addresses, Social Security numbers and medical and bank records could be used in identity theft, or worse. The suspect, who served as the pension fund's telecommunications director, was arrested on February 27 and charged with stealing computer backup tapes from the secure "disaster recovery site" on February 21. "This individual was not authorized to be there, yet the guard let him in," said the fund's executive director. "We think it was poor judgment." The suspect is charged with felony counts of third-degree burglary, fourth-degree grand larceny and computer trespass, and is being held in lieu of \$2 million bail. He faces a maximum of 13 years in prison if convicted. Letters informing the 36,000 active and 43,000 retired cops covered by the pension fund of the security breach were mailed Wednesday.

Source:

[http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/cops\\_personal\\_data\\_plundered\\_f.html](http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/cops_personal_data_plundered_f.html)

29. *March 4, KentNewsNet.com* – (Ohio) **Kent weighs new emergency options.** Kent officials are closer to understanding whether the city should join area communities in a joint firefighting or EMS operation. The consulting firm, John D. Preuer & Associates, began gathering data this week for the six-month study that will cost a total of \$73,000. The city of Kent will contribute about \$25,000 to determine whether collaboration would be beneficial. Kent's fire chief said the study should tell the city the best way to collaborate and do business with other cities. Talk of joining forces began two years ago when Ravenna's mayor brought the idea to the county's attention. "The ultimate goal is to look at efficient ways to provide our (fire and EMS) service," he said, adding that if they can cut response time by just 30 seconds or one minute, it would benefit the community. He also said there can be cost savings when cities buy fire trucks or other equipment in bulk and work together.

Source:

<http://media.www.kentnewsnet.com/media/storage/paper867/news/2009/03/04/News/Kent-Weighs.New.Emergency.Options-3658306.shtml>

30. *March 3, Gant Daily* – (Pennsylvania) **Clearfield County to take part in statewide weather emergency exercise.** The chairman of the Clearfield County Board of

Commissioners announced that Clearfield County will participate in a statewide weather emergency exercise on March 5 that will include officials from Pennsylvania's 67 county EMA's, as well as many schools, hospitals, nursing homes and day care centers. The exercise is designed to test severe weather emergency response plans that have been developed by municipalities and public or private facilities. On March 6 at 10 a.m. a statewide test of the Emergency Alert System will be conducted, originating from the state's emergency operations center in Harrisburg. EAS is a voluntary network of local radio and television stations and is the primary alert and notification system for emergency information. The exercise includes exercise-based severe weather reports to be issued by the National Weather Service over normal reporting channels, such as the NWS Weather Radio stations.

Source: <http://www.gantdaily.com/news/43/ARTICLE/45302/2009-03-03.html>

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## **Information Technology**

31. *March 5, Associated Press* – (International) **Hacker gets 4 years in prison over malware install.** A Los Angeles computer security consultant has been sentenced to four years in federal prison for using malicious software that turned thousands of computers into “zombies” so he could steal private information. Prosecutors say the 27-year-old was sentenced on March 4 after pleading guilty last April to computer fraud. Prosecutors say the defendant and his associates created “botnets,” armies of infected computers, to steal individuals’ identities by extracting information from their personal computers. The defendant also worked as a consultant with a Dutch Internet advertising company to defraud it with his botnets. He was ordered to pay \$19,000 in restitution to PayPal and other companies.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/05/AR2009030500708.html>

32. *March 4, DarkReading* – (International) **‘Tigger’ trojan keeps security researchers hopping.** It is malware that actually removes other malware from its victims’ PCs. And so far, nobody is exactly sure how it is being distributed. Security experts are buzzing about a new Trojan called Tigger.A, also known as Syzor. The data-stealing malware has quietly claimed about 250,000 victims since it was first spotted by security intelligence company iDefense in November 2008, according to a Washington Post report. Tigger.A allows attackers to gain access to “administrator” privileges on Windows machines, even if the user himself doesn’t have those privileges, according to the report. It takes advantage of a vulnerability (MS08-066) in Windows’ “privilege escalation” feature that Microsoft revealed, and patched, in October. “Tigger removes a long list of other malicious software titles, including the malware most commonly associated with Antivirus 2009 and other rogue security software titles,” the report says. “iDefense analysts say this is most likely done because the in-your-face, “Hey, your-computer-is-infected-go-buy-our-software!” type alerts generated by such programs just might tip off the victim that something is wrong with his system, and potentially lead to all invaders getting booted from the host PC.” The Trojan also installs a rootkit on the infected system that loads even when the system is started up in safe mode, an iDefense

researcher says in the report. “The scary part is, none of us are really sure how Tigger is even being distributed,” he said. “I look at a lot at info-stealing malware, and this is the first one I’ve seen in a while that goes to the trouble of removing other pieces of malware.” Tigger’s ability to collect user data also is impressive, an IT expert noted in his blog.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=215800583>

33. *March 4, CNET News* – (International) **Firefox 3.0.7 targets security issues.** Mozilla on March 4 released an update to the Firefox Web browser that its developers said fixes eight security issues found in Firefox 3.0.6, six of which were rated critical. The most serious of the vulnerabilities fixed in version 3.0.7 could allow attackers to run arbitrary code on a victim’s computer, Mozilla warned in security advisories on March 4. The six critical flaws affect the browser’s garbage collection, which monitors how Firefox modules use the computer’s memory, as well as the browser’s PNG libraries and in the layout and JavaScript engines. Mozilla developers said they weren’t sure the layout and JavaScript flaws could be exploited. “Some of these crashes showed evidence of memory corruption under certain circumstances and we presume that with enough effort at least some of these could be exploited to run arbitrary code,” Mozilla said in an advisory.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009\\_3-10188952-83.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Security](http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10188952-83.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Security)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

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

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## Communications Sector

34. *March 3, CNET News* – (New Jersey) **Comcast runs trial Wi-Fi service at NJ transit stations.** In an effort to keep/acquire new broadband customers, Comcast is testing Wi-Fi service at about 120 New Jersey Transit rail stations, according to DSLReports. The trial is for existing customers only and is designed to gauge user interest, a spokeswoman said, adding that no formal announcement of the service has been made. The move comes after Cablevision launched its Optimum Wi-Fi program throughout the tristate area last fall. The two companies are collaborating to extend the reach of their wireless networks, enabling Comcast customers to access their operator’s Wi-Fi at train stations in Cablevision territory and vice versa. Although the two companies worked together on technical tests, the Comcast and Cablevision services in New Jersey will remain entirely separate, though there will apparently be some gear cohabitation.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938\\_105-10187817-1.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Wireless](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-10187817-1.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Wireless)



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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

35. *March 3, Central Florida News 13* – (Florida) **Powder scare at Reunion Resort after suspicious envelope delivered.** Workers at the Reunion Resort in Osceola County had a powder scare March 3. An envelope containing a white, powdery substance was delivered to the front desk, according to staff. The front desk workers called security, who then contacted the county. Three workers who came in contact with the powder were kept in isolation as a precaution. Investigators said the powder is harmless, but they did not know yet exactly what it is. There were no evacuations because of the scare.

Source:

[http://www.cfnews13.com/News/CountyByCounty/CountyStories/2009/3/3/powder\\_scare\\_at\\_reunion\\_resort\\_after\\_suspicious\\_envelope\\_delivered.html](http://www.cfnews13.com/News/CountyByCounty/CountyStories/2009/3/3/powder_scare_at_reunion_resort_after_suspicious_envelope_delivered.html)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

36. *March 5, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Big changes, renovations in plan.** The latest vision of the Mall calls for removing the Capitol Reflecting Pool and the existing Sylvan Theater, according to a planning document unveiled this week by the National Park Service. The D.C. War Memorial and its surrounding landscape would be restored, along with the dramatic, but weathered, sculpture of the Grant Memorial, near the reflecting pool and the west front of the U.S. Capitol. The reflecting pool could be replaced with another water feature as part of the plan; a multipurpose entertainment facility would be built on the site of the Sylvan Theater, south of the Washington Monument. There also would be more restrooms. These and other changes are envisioned in the Park Service's "preliminary preferred alternative," the latest chapter of a Mall plan that has been evolving for more than a year. The final version of the plan is not expected to be formulated for another year. The "preferred alternative" is part of the Park Service's planning for what is officially called the National Mall & Memorial Parks, a complex that is chronically underfunded and overused and that in January hosted an estimated three million people during inauguration week. Park officials have said the inauguration throng "obliterated" the surface grass on the Mall, although the root systems might have survived beneath the frozen ground.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/04/AR2009030403356.html>

37. *March 4, Environment News Service* – (National) **Lynx protected habitat expands by 37,000 square miles.** Critical habitat for the Canada lynx, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, has been expanded by about 37,000 square miles by order of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The decision reverses a 2006 critical habitat designation made under the former Interior Department deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks, who later resigned. The department's inspector general

determined that the woman was illegally pressuring federal biologists to reach conclusions favoring certain industries over species preservation. The revised critical habitat designation takes in 39,000 square miles in the states of Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington. Areas now designated as lynx critical habitat are forests that provide either snowshoe hares for prey, abundant, large, woody debris piles that are used as dens, or winter snow conditions that are generally deep and fluffy for long periods of time. All of the newly designated critical habitat areas have recent verified records of lynx occurrence and reproduction and as a result are considered occupied.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2009/2009-03-04-091.asp>

38. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Man is charged with illegally hunting hogs in national forest.** A man from Licking is accused of illegally hunting wild hogs in the Mark Twain National Forest. The U.S. attorney's office says the man operates a guide service that advertises hunts for wild hogs and other animals. The 66-year-old suspect is charged with violating federal law and U.S. Forest Service regulations regarding feral hogs. Prosecutors say the man conducted an illegal hog hunt last April in the forest in Texas County. They say it is illegal to conduct work activity in the national forest without a special use permit or other government authorization. The individual made his first appearance on the charge in federal court on March 4.

Source: <http://www.ky3.com/news/local/40742427.html>

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## **Dams Sector**

39. *March 5, Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota) **Pipestem Dam given lower safety rating.** The Pipestem Dam received the lowest safety rating of the four North Dakota dams owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the newly released Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC). A press release dated March 2 defined the DSAC rating system and listed Pipestem Dam at a level 3 while Garrison, Bowman Haley and Snake Creek, the three other dams in North Dakota owned by the Corps of Engineers, received level 4 ratings. "The DSAC ratings are a description of relative risk," said the public affairs officer for the Omaha District of the Corps of Engineers. "They go from a five, which is no risk, to a one that means it needs immediate attention." The public affairs officer said a 3 rating indicates there is no immediate risk but the situation warrants extra monitoring. "We've been monitoring there for some time," he said. "The conditions aren't new, but the rating system is."

Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/articles/index.cfm?id=81464&section=news>

40. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Lawrence looking at repairs on Bowersock Dam.** A Kansas River dam that is vital to Lawrence's water system could cost \$8 million to repair. \$1.1 million in emergency repairs is budgeted for the 135-year-old Bowersock Dam. Commissioners have tentatively agreed to build a temporary dam upstream to allow engineers to look at the face of the structure. They also want workers to do about \$700,000 worth of work to plug holes in the dam. But city staff members estimate the temporary dam alone would cost \$500,000 to \$1 million to build. A state

engineer told commissioners that if the Bowersock Dam fails, two Kansas River bridges that lead downtown would be compromised. The dam's failure also would cause the water level of the Kansas River to drop enough to make it difficult for a nearby water treatment plant to operate.

Source: [http://cjonline.com/stories/030409/bre\\_damrepairs.shtml](http://cjonline.com/stories/030409/bre_damrepairs.shtml)

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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