



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 March 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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

- The Air Force Times reports that inspections were ordered for the C-130 fleet after routine depot maintenance on March 4 of a C-130 at Georgia's Robins Air Force Base found cracks on some of the plane's upper right wing barrel nuts. The total number of C-130s needing wing inspections is 596. (See item [9](#))
- According to the Associated Press, a natural-gas explosion on March 5 destroyed several historic buildings in downtown Bozeman, Montana. (See item [38](#))

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](#)

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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. *March 5, Platts* – (National) **Top grid expansion issue is who makes the decisions: FERC's Kelly.** Underlying the policy issue of the future of interstate electricity transmission grid expansion in the United States is the bigger issue of who is going to decide where the lines go, a U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) member told a Washington conference on March 5. There is a growing political consensus that siting authority for interstate transmission lines should rest with the Federal Government, she told a briefing hosted by the SNL Center for Financial Education. Some of the discussion may include who should be in charge, who should pay, and whether transmission should be developed under a market or planning model, she added. "If FERC has the authority to site the line within those corridors regardless of

opposition, well then we will...But it's going to litigious," she said. Under a planning model "presumably you'd get more lines in, but the devil is in the detail," she said. "Who will be in charge? Other than FERC or DOE who could do the planning? Could reliability coordinators do the planning?"

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/7708619.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

2. *March 5, Grand Junction Sentinel* – (Colorado) **Tanker spills 5,000 gallons of toxic gas.** Quick action by local authorities and help from law enforcement across the Western Slope helped contain a massive spill of a highly flammable, toxic chemical that traveled down Rifle's main road after a tanker rolled the morning of March 5. About 5,000 gallons of condensate or "drip gas" spilled when a northbound tanker owned by TGP Transport of Mesquite, Texas, overturned at a curve in the road at the intersection of Colorado Highway 13 and Railroad Avenue. The liquid ran down the gutters of Railroad Avenue into a storm drain, but officials said they were able to close the drains before the liquid entered nearby Rifle Creek and drained into the Colorado River. As a precaution, though, the Colorado State Patrol notified down-river communities who divert water out of the Colorado for drinking water. Rifle officials used a reverse 911 call to inform residents in the nearby Deerfield Park subdivision to head indoors if the fumes became overpowering. The spill emitted a strong stench, and fire department officials tested the air for toxic levels. Officials also worried that static electricity caused by strong winds Thursday could ignite the material. Businesses along Railroad Avenue between 16th Street and 24th Street were evacuated for several hours after the accident. A hazardous-materials team from Grand Junction, the Grand Junction Fire Department, Burning Mountain Fire Department, Glenwood Springs Fire Department, Colorado State Patrol and Garfield County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene. Crews worked into the night Thursday grounding and mopping up the spill and hauling away contaminated dirt.

Source:

http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2009/03/05/030609_2a_Chemical_spill.html

3. *March 5, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Protesters ticketed for trespassing at W.Va. mine.** Five protesters say they have been ticketed for trespassing at a Massey Energy surface mine in West Virginia. The protesters say state police troopers ticketed them on March 5 atop the containment dam for a coal slurry pond at Massey's Edwight Surface Mine near Marsh Fork Elementary School. A spokeswoman says they wanted to draw attention to the potential danger to the school. The school long has been the focus of protests and lawsuits over Massey's desire to build a second coal silo nearby. Massey already has a silo about 300 feet away. A spokesman for Massey did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The protest was the third recent instance of civil disobedience targeting surface mining in southern West Virginia.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/03/05/ap6132803.html>

4. *March 5, WHDH 7 Boston and Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Somerset residents**

still smell gas after deadly explosion. Several Somerset residents are on edge weeks after a house exploded because they say they still smell gas. Natural gas is still in the air two weeks after an explosion leveled a home killing the female homeowner inside. Residents voiced their fears of another blast at a town meeting the evening of March 4. Since the explosion, New England Gas Company said they have isolated a damaged section of the main, but residents said the utility seems to be pursuing patchwork repairs which they have been working on for more than a year. Residents want the utility to pull out the pipe and replace it. The gas company is expected to send a representative to a meeting the week of March 9-13, and residents said they will be back hoping to get some answers.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29520668/>

5. *March 5, River Reporter* – (New York) **Manhattan politician releases gas drilling report.** The borough president of Manhattan does not normally concern himself with goings on in the Upper Delaware Valley. But the coming of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale got his attention. He had his staff prepare a report on the topic; his constituents get much of their drinking water from the area. The borough president said that the report documents dozens of incidents in nine states where hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has resulted in leaks, spills, water contamination, and explosions. He is calling for drilling companies to reveal the ingredients of the fracking fluids they use, and he wants fracking fluids to be tracked underground to determine where they are going. He also said safer versions of the fluids should be studied. A professor from the Colorado School of Mines said that safer “green” versions of fracking fluid exist, and drilling companies are required to use them in offshore drilling operations where fracking is required. The more toxic fluids are prohibited in off-shore operations. He said it was ironic that the more toxic fluids may be used on land where they might contaminate fresh-water supplies.

Source: <http://www.riverreporter.com/issues/09-03-05/news-drilling.html>

6. *March 4, CW30 24 Memphis* – (Tennessee) **Driver killed when fuel tanker truck crashes and flips off I-40 in east Memphis.** At 11:34 a.m. on March 4, a semi-truck carrying a tanker trailer loaded with fuel crashed and flipped off of Interstate 40 in East Memphis. Fuel was leaking from the tanker, and fire officials were not approaching the tanker due to a fear of fire and explosion. A Tennessee Department of Transportation camera near the area showed paramedics working on the driver, who was thrown from his cab. He was taken to a local hospital where he died. There is no official word on the cause of the crash. The Coast Guard and officials from the Memphis Emergency Management Agency office were on the scene. The crash and leak is near the Wolf River. The Memphis Police Department (MPD) sent more than twenty cars to the scene. Police and fire crews believe the tanker carried about 6,000 gallons of gasoline. MPD traffic investigations will conduct the investigation into what happened.

Source: <http://www.myeyewitnessnews.com/mostpopular/story/fuel-tanker-truck-crash-memphis/wlbhmvR6E0qgvbP0BqFv-w.csp>

Chemical Industry Sector

7. *March 5, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **2 hurt in flash explosion at Neb. ethanol plant.** Two workers at a Hastings ethanol plant are being treated for burns suffered in an explosion. A spokesman for Chief Industries says the men opened the door of a grain grinder while doing maintenance and a small explosion occurred. The incident happened about 3 p.m. on March 5. The plant remained in operation following the explosion. The spokesman says the men were taken to a Hastings hospital with burns. The extent of their injuries is not known. The company is investigating the cause of the explosion. Source: <http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=9957157>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *March 6, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. official: Yucca Mtn. no longer option for nuclear storage.** The U.S. Energy Secretary told a Senate hearing Thursday that the Yucca Mountain site no longer was viewed as an option to store nuclear waste. Instead, the Secretary said the Administration believes the nearly 60,000 tons of used reactor fuel can remain at nuclear power plants while a new, comprehensive plan for waste disposal is developed. At the hearing, a senator from Arizona and a senator from Alaska said the decision not to pursue the Yucca Mountain project threatens the expansion of nuclear energy because the government can give no assurance on waste disposal. The Energy Secretary said there were short-term answers other than Yucca. “The interim storage of waste (at reactors), the solidification of waste, is something we can do today,” he said. According to the TheDay.com, lawmakers representing Waterford, Connecticut that hosts the Millstone nuclear reactors said Thursday that the abrupt curtailment of funds for Yucca and lack of planning for alternatives is shortsighted and unwise. Nuclear reactor sites were never designed or built with the intent of harboring used fuel permanently “or even long term,” said the attorney general of Connecticut, who continues to press federal officials to meet their “legal obligations.” Most of the spent fuel is highly radioactive and potentially dangerous to the public, he said. The spent fuel in the bunkers is not as radioactive as the fuel in the pools. Spent fuel in the concrete bunkers could potentially be exposed if those bunkers decompose decades from now, after the plants are decommissioned, said the chairman of the regional Nuclear Energy Advisory Council. Alternatives to Yucca Mountain include recycling, or reprocessing, spent fuel or building shorter-term, above-ground storage sites, said the spokesman for the Nuclear Energy Institute, which called for the Energy Department to appoint a commission to “look, more broadly, at what we do with fuel management.” Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/283115>
See also: <http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=cc1f1298-5ef4-4a1f-a696-4597c5341fca>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *March 6, Air Force Times* – (National) **C-130Js added to wing inspection list.** The Air

Force's fleet of C-130J Hercules is part of the ongoing inspection of the C-130 fleet, Air Mobility Command (AMC) said on March 6. The 68 J-models brings the total number of C-130s needing wing inspections to 596. Along with the C-130s used to fly cargo and passengers, the inspection orders applies to combat C-130s flown by Air Force Special Operations Command and Air Combat Command. Maintainers at C-130 installations were told on March 5 to check for defective nuts that help attach the plane's wings to the fuselage section called the wing box. The planes are not grounded but can not fly until checked, a process that takes about four hours, said an AMC spokesman at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. The inspections are expected to be completed soon, he said. The inspections come after routine depot maintenance on March 4 of a C-130 at Georgia's Robins Air Force Base found cracks on some of the plane's upper right wing barrel nuts. Initial inspection involved only the older "legacy" models, and not the newer C-130J, which first came on line in 1999, he said, but they were added to the list on March 6. Other branches of the U.S. military and dozens of other countries use the aircraft. A specialist on the C-130 program at manufacturer Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia did not immediately return telephone messages on March 5. According to Air Force data, the C-130 became operational in December 1956. More than 2,000 aircraft in 70 variants and five basic models have been produced.

Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/03/ap_c130_inspections_030509/

10. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Audit reveals problems with warhead work in Tenn.** By the time the government got around to rebuilding nuclear warheads for Trident submarines, the processes for making a key classified component called Fogbank were dismantled, records were gone, and knowledgeable employees had retired at an Oak Ridge weapons plant. That is according to a report prepared by the Government Accountability Office for the House Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on strategic forces. The Knoxville News Sentinel reports the audit released March 3 concludes the National Nuclear Security Administration put security goals at risk with overly ambitious production schedules and wasted tens of millions of dollars on poor planning in rebuilding the W76 warheads at the Y-12 plant. Production began last summer, more than a year late.

Source: <http://www.volunteertv.com/news/headlines/40714937.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *March 6, Washington Post* – (National) **FDIC to trim emergency fees.** The head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has agreed to halve a new emergency fee on U.S. banks in exchange for Congress more than tripling the agency's borrowing authority to tap federal aid if needed to replenish the deposit insurance fund. Word of the move by the FDIC chairman came days after she warned that the fund insuring Americans' deposits could be wiped out this year without the new fees on U.S. banks and thrifts. Banks, especially smaller community banks, have been chafing over the new insurance fees, saying they will place an extra burden on an already struggling industry. The chairman is agreeing to cut the new emergency premium, to be collected from all federally-insured institutions on September 30, to 10 cents for every \$100 of their insured deposits

from the 20 cents the FDIC approved recently. That compares with an average premium of 6.3 cents paid last year.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/05/AR2009030503764.html>

12. *March 4, Investment News* – (National) **Audit: Regulators saw red flags at First National.** Federal banking regulators knew as far back as 2002 about problems at First National Bank Holding Co.'s banks in Arizona, California and Nevada but failed to act until shortly before their demise last year, auditors said on March 4. The criticism of the U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) by the Department of the Treasury's inspector general echoed its blast last month of the U.S. Office of Thrift Supervision for lax oversight of IndyMac Bancorp. Inc. The two reports are likely to fuel moves in Congress for a toughening of federal banking oversight. First National Bank of Scottsdale, Arizona, which described itself as the Southwest's largest privately held family-owned banking institution, incurred significant losses from its commercial and residential real estate loans, the report said. The banks' management failed to address repeated regulatory concerns about their underwriting, loan concentrations and accounting. Regulators said the executives "directly caused" the banks' problems, according to the report. Yet the OCC failed to act for six years, auditors said. "We believe that OCC should have taken formal enforcement action much sooner and was not aggressive enough in the supervision of the banks when problems first arose," the inspector general report said.

Source:

<http://www.investmentnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090304/REG/903049957>

13. *March 4, Reuters* – (International) **Attackers throw firebombs at bank in Athens.** Arsonists threw gas canisters and firebombs at a bank branch office in Athens on March 4, causing serious damage to the building but no injuries, Greek police said. There has been an outbreak of violence since the police shooting of a 15-year-old boy in December, which sparked Greece's worst riots in decades. "The devices exploded, causing a fire, which seriously damaged the Piraeus Bank branch in the northern Athens suburb of New Psychico," a police official said on condition of anonymity. Police said they had received no warning for the attack. Last month, Greek police defused an explosive device outside Citibank's headquarters in a northern Athens suburb.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSL457941520090304>

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Transportation Sector

14. *March 6, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **'No explosive materials' in airline drama: probe.** There is no evidence that explosive materials were involved in a mid-air blast that forced a Qantas airliner to make an emergency landing last year, according to Australian air safety investigators. An exploding oxygen bottle has already been blamed for blowing a gaping hole in the Boeing 747-400 carrying 365 passengers from Hong Kong to Australia in July, but the latest findings take the probe further. "Tests have

revealed no evidence of an external explosive event or the use of explosive materials around the rupture area,” the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said in an interim report. A preliminary ATSB report released in August said one of seven passenger oxygen cylinders failed and then exploded in the aircraft hold, rupturing the fuselage. The explosion punched through the cabin floor, driving the malfunctioning cylinder into the cabin before it fell back through the floor and out of the aircraft, it said. Terrorism was ruled out soon after the incident, but the latest report said investigators had been unable to find a reason for the cylinder explosion, with the only item of physical evidence recovered being the oxygen valve. The valve showed no sign that “an oxygen-promoted fire or an overpressure event had contributed to the cylinder failure,” it said.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jDWVmJAY4hdMHZj4P6N5s9R_bvfQ

15. *March 6, Associated Press* – (California) **Passengers escape injury after two Southwest jets clip each other.** Southwest Airlines says no one is injured after two of its jets touched on the ground at San Diego’s Lindbergh Field. A Southwest spokeswoman said a wingtip of one jet clipped the tail of another jet as it was backing out of the gate on March 5 around 3:45 p.m. Both were Boeing 737s. Both planes were taken out of service, and customers were being moved to other aircraft. One flight was headed to Kansas City International Airport and the other to San Francisco International Airport. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman says the aircraft were not under FAA air traffic controllers’ direction at the time.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,505785,00.html>
16. *March 5, WJLA 7 Washington, D.C.* – (California) **Contractor to remove top execs at L.A. rail request.** The contractor that provided the engineer involved in last year’s deadly train collision in Los Angeles says it will comply with a request to remove its two top managers. Connex Railroad made the announcement March 5 after commuter rail service Metrolink asked the company to find a new general manager and assistant general manager. Metrolink says its request was prompted by federal findings that the Connex engineer had allowed unauthorized rides in Metrolink locomotive cabs and used his cell phone just before the crash.
Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0309/601144.html?ref=rs>
17. *March 5, U.S. Coast Guard* – (Alaska) **Vessel Mar-Gun aground on St. George Island Shoal.** The 112-foot fishing vessel Mar-Gun is aground on the rocky shoal off St. George Island after Coast Guard rescue crews hoisted five fishermen to safety from the vessel at 7:53 a.m. on March 5. The Mar-Gun, homeported in Seattle, was fishing for pollock when it ran aground. After being rescued, the five men were transferred to St. Paul Island Clinic at 8:30 a.m. The cause of the incident is not known and being investigated by the captain of the Port for Western Alaska.
Source: <http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/780/259567/>
18. *March 5, Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – (Minnesota) **State says replacing Hastings**

Bridge is only option. Rebuilding the existing Hastings Bridge to accommodate northbound traffic along Hwy. 61 while a new span built on the upstream side would handle southbound traffic is no longer an option. The decision by the Minnesota Department of Transportation means the existing bridge will be demolished after a new bridge is built, with construction beginning next year. State bridge inspection reports from 1997 through 2007 indicated that the current bridge's condition had worsened with crumbling concrete, corrosion, broken bearings, and rotting sidewalks. Last summer, the transportation agency repaired gusset plates — metal plates that connect steel beams — and other hazards, but those fixes were considered temporary. The volume of traffic is a concern, too, because traffic on the two-lane 1951 bridge has doubled in 20 years, to about 32,000 daily crossings. MnDOT's goal is to have the work under contract by June 1, 2010, with construction to start a few months later. The project could take three to six years to complete at a cost of \$232 million to \$303 million.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/40794107.html?elr=KArksc8P:Pc:UthPacyPE7iUiD3aPc:Yyc:aU7DYaGEP7vDEh7P:DiUs>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *March 5, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Disaster designations issued for 7 Colo. counties.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued disaster designations for seven central and western Colorado counties because of crop losses in 2008 caused by bad weather. Farmers in Chaffee, Fremont, Gunnison, Lake, Park, Pitkin, and Saguache counties will be eligible for consideration for emergency loans and other assistance from the Farm Service Agency. The Agriculture Secretary announced the designations in a letter received by the governor of Colorado on Thursday. The letter says the USDA determined that excessive spring snowfall and below-normal temperatures caused enough crop losses to warrant the designations.

Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=9957639>

20. *March 5, Mount Airy News* – (North Carolina) **Structure lost, 20,000 chickens perish in fire.** More than 20,000 chickens and the large structure housing them were lost March 3 as a result of a fire of undetermined origin in the Ararat community in Surry County. The blaze — which resulted in losses totaling at least \$200,000 — was reported at 8:30 a.m. at a poultry house. It was responded to by members of five area volunteer fire departments. The baby chicks involved were owned by Wayne Farms. An assistant Surry County fire marshal said on March 4 that the cause of the blaze was still undetermined. In addition to about 40 firefighters, an area gas company responded to the scene to move propane tanks, used for heating the chicken house, to prevent an

explosion. Fire personnel remained on the scene for more than five hours.

Source:

http://www.mtairynews.com/pages/full_story?page_label=home_top_stories_news&id=2024458-Structure+lost-+20-000+chickens+perish+in+fire&widget=push&article-Structure%20lost-%2020-000%20chickens%20perish%20in%20fire%20=&instance=secondary_news_left_column&open=&

21. *March 5, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Inspector failed to flag salmonella-linked plant.**

A Texas agriculture inspector failed to note that a peanut plant at the center of a national salmonella outbreak was operating without a state health department license, despite at least three visits in the years before hundreds of people got sick, according to interviews and documents obtained by the Associated Press. The inspector responsible for certifying the plant to process organic products noted after each visit that the plant operated by Peanut Corp. of America had such a license when it did not. Noting that the plant failed to obtain a license would have alerted the state health department, which for years had no record of the plant and did not send its own inspectors there until recently. The inspector was fired on February 13, the day after state health officials ordered a recall of all products the plant had shipped since 2005. The inspector acknowledged that he checked “yes” to the question of whether the Plainview plant had records showing it was in compliance with health codes on worksheets he completed for inspections in 2005, 2006, and 2008. The reason he checked “yes” the first time, he said, was because a plant manager told him an application for state health department licensing had been completed and was in the hands of Peanut Corp. officials at the company’s headquarters. He said he continued to check “yes” in succeeding years because he assumed that the license was granted. An environmental inspector for the Plainview-Hale County Health Department said plant officials led him to believe the licensing process was under way when he visited the facility before it opened. “To be honest, I never really thought to follow up on it,” he said. “It just never occurred to me that they wouldn’t be (licensed).”

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jeLgwCG-FEEYH8KZ7Tt45zOdSIKgD96O89EO0>

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Water Sector

22. *March 6, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **Water main break on Staten Island’s South Shore posing danger to utility wires.** A water main break near the intersection of Arthur Kill and Veterans roads in Staten Island’s Huguenot section is causing a small geyser to shoot into the air. The water is apparently reaching utility wires, prompting the Fire Department of New York to call in Con Edison to assess the situation. The city Department of Environmental Protection is also responding to repair the broken main.

Source:

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/water_main_break_on_staten_isl.html

23. *March 5, Duke University* – (National) **Buckyballs could keep water systems flowing.** Spherical carbon molecules known as buckyballs may be able to keep the nation’s water

pipes clear in the same way clot-busting drugs prevent arteries from clogging up. Engineers at Duke University have found that buckyballs hinder the ability of bacteria and other microorganisms to accumulate on the membranes used to filter water in treatment plants. They think that coating pipes and membranes with these nanoparticles may prove to be an effective strategy for addressing one of the major problems and costs of treating water. “Just as plaque can build up inside arteries and reduce the flow of blood, bacteria and other microorganisms can over time attach and accumulate on water treatment membranes and along water pipes,” said a post-doctoral fellow in Duke’s environmental and civil engineering department. “The results of our experiments in the laboratory indicate that buckyballs may be able to prevent this clogging, known as biofouling. The only other options to address biofouling are digging up the pipes and replacing the membranes, which can be expensive and inconvenient.” The results of his experiments were published March 5 in the *Journal of Membrane Sciences*.

Source: <http://www.dukenews.duke.edu/2009/03/buckyballs.html>

24. *March 5, Environment News Service* – (Washington) **Toxics found in stormwater entering the Spokane River.** A team of water quality experts has started work in Spokane to investigate sources of toxic pollution entering the Spokane River. Now that a background study to find and eliminate toxic chemicals in the Liberty Lake storm drain and sewer system is finished, the Spokane Urban Waters Initiative team is ready to tackle the larger, more complicated Spokane area. In Spokane, the Urban Waters program is a collaboration between the Washington Department of Ecology and the Spokane Regional Health District. Results of the Liberty Lake pollution sleuthing effort are not yet available. In the meantime, more than 100 businesses are being contacted to be part of the effort in Spokane. Specialists in the Urban Waters program will work with small and large business owners to help find ways to better manage hazardous materials that might be stored on-site or poured down the drain. The goal is to prevent them from entering the storm drains and sewer system that lead to the river. A tributary of the Columbia River, the Spokane River flows for 111 miles through northern Idaho and eastern Washington. It drains a low mountainous area east of the Columbia, passing through the city of Spokane. Heavily used for irrigation and drinking water, extensive farming and timber production take place in the Spokane River watershed. The lowered water levels in the river have resulted in an ongoing pollution crisis.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2009/2009-03-05-091.asp>

25. *March 4, GateHouse News Service* – (Massachusetts) **Problems plague Plum Island sewer.** Plum Island’s new air-vacuum sewer is failing, and without significant changes, the city will not be able to maintain the system. That was the news delivered by the collection system manager in a February 14 memo to the city’s Board of Sewer Commissioners. According to the manager, the vacuum sewer system that cost islanders from Newburyport and Newbury betterment fees of at least \$10,763 and \$10,401, respectively, is fundamentally flawed. And at this point, it is unclear how the city plans to fix it. Over the past couple of months, sewer department crews have been responding to an increasing number of sewer alarms with jackhammers, sledgehammers and steel bars to remove ice from many of the system’s 637 household valve pits, where waste is held until a valve opens to release it into the system. The pits have been frozen with up

to 18 inches of solid ice; valves are frozen closed; controllers for the valves are freezing open or closed or are being unseated by ice. In addition to freezing caused by water in the pits, valves are freezing due to the constant stream of freezing ambient air being pulled in through “candy cane” vents, the manager wrote. The city mayor has stepped in and scheduled a March 12 meeting with AIRVAC, the manufacturer of the vacuum system, and representatives from CDM, the firm that designed Plum Island’s water/sewer project. “Our job is to find out what the problem is,” he said, “and analyze what a solution might be.”

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/northshoresunday/news/x594735692/Problems-plague-Plum-Island-sewer>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *March 6, Times of India* – (International) **Virus mix-up by lab could have resulted in pandemic.** It has emerged that virulent H5N1 bird flu was sent out by accident from an Austrian lab last year and given to ferrets in the Czech Republic before anyone realized. As well as the risk of it escaping into the wild, the H5N1 got mixed with a human strain, which might have spawned a hybrid that could unleash a pandemic. Last December, the Austrian branch of U.S. vaccine company Baxter sent a batch of ordinary human H3N2 flu — altered so it could not replicate — to Avir Green Hills Biotechnology, also in Austria. In February, a lab in the Czech Republic working for Avir alerted Baxter that, unexpectedly, ferrets inoculated with the sample had died. It turned out the sample contained live H5N1, which Baxter uses to make vaccine. The two seem to have been mixed in error. A spokesperson for Baxter says no one was infected because the H3N2 was handled at a high level of containment. Accidental release of a mixture of live H5N1 and H3N2 viruses could have resulted in dire consequences. While H5N1 does not easily infect people, H3N2 viruses do. If someone exposed to a mixture of the two had been simultaneously infected with both strains, he or she could have served as an incubator for a hybrid virus able to transmit easily to and among people.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health--Science/Science/Virus-mix-up-by-lab-could-have-resulted-in-pandemic/articleshow/4230882.cms>

27. *March 5, LimaOhio.com* – (Ohio) **St. Rita’s patients warned of possible ID theft.** Last month, a home-health employee for St. Rita’s Medical Center in Lima, Ohio had a bag stolen during an automobile break-in. The bag contained information on some patients, including names, dated of birth, addresses, phone numbers, patient identification numbers, and the names of case managers and physicians. In some cases, it also included Social Security numbers and the type of treatment being provided, according to a letter given to the patients involved. A St. Rita’s spokeswoman said Wednesday that information on 242 patients was stolen. Home-health nurses are meeting personally with all those affected, and the hospital is offering free identity theft protection service and free professional credit restoration services to anyone affected by the theft. The theft is under investigation by the Lima Police Department.

Source: http://www.limaohio.com/news/theft_34914_article.html/patients_rita.html

Government Facilities Sector

28. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Conn. courthouse evacuated after bomb threat.** State police say a bomb threat that prompted the evacuation of the New London Superior courthouse on Broad Street is an apparent hoax. A State Trooper spokesman says the threat was phoned in on the morning of March 6 shortly after 9 a.m. and state police and others were sent to the courthouse. The spokesman says state troopers, judicial marshals and state police bomb technicians and their dogs searched the courthouse but found nothing. The spokesman says the building had been swept by late morning and officials are re-opening the building.
Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/statewire/hc-ap-ct-bombthreatmar06,0,591385.story>
29. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Police arrest student suspect in Ohio campus fires.** Police say a student at a small Ohio college has been arrested on arson charges after several fires were set on the campus. Police in the Cincinnati suburb of Delhi Township say the 18-year-old suspect was arrested on March 6 and charged with two counts of aggravated arson. Authorities say the suspect set at least one of five small fires on March 5 in two buildings at the College of Mount St. Joseph. She is a resident at the liberal arts college of 2,300 students. The fires prompted evacuations on the campus. Officials report one person died, but the cause of death has not been determined.
Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i5TIY_gnFlAsv4h8AvckYzcF0MCAD96OJP080
30. *March 4, Daily Bruin* – (California) **Package not a threat, LAPD says.** A second BruinAlert was sent out at 2:19 p.m. on March 4 notifying students that a taped-up shoebox found in Parking Structure 1 at the University of California, Los Angeles was determined not to be a threat. A UCLA police spokeswoman said the box is thought to have been designed to look like a suspicious package, but actually poses no threat. The Los Angeles Police Department bomb squad stepped in after the box was found. An initial BruinAlert text message was sent at 12:57 p.m., when students were told to wait for an “all-clear sign.” She added that UCPD will continue investigating the origin of the box.
Source: <http://www.dailybruin.ucla.edu/news/2009/mar/04/breaking-news-package-not-threat-ucpd-says/>

Emergency Services Sector

31. *March 6, Frederick News-Post* – (Maryland) **911 gets an upgrade.** A \$1.6 million upgrade to the Frederick County Emergency Communications system became operational Wednesday. The upgrade helps the center prepare for the next generation of 911, said the director of emergency communications. Dispatchers can now transfer calls

to surrounding jurisdictions with the push of a button, he said. Before the upgrade, they had to bring up the list manually and transfer the call. The dispatchers had also been using a system that came out in 2001, the director said. Now, they have the latest programs. Once the technology is available in the future, the center will be prepared to receive text messages, camera phone videos, and Internet-sent messages for help.

Source: <http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=87380>

32. *March 5, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Report: BFD gets ‘F’ for truck maintenance.** A consultant’s report that was expected on March 6 about the Boston Fire Department’s maintenance of apparatus will give truck mechanics and their supervisors a failing grade, Team 5 reported. The city hired the consultant in the wake of the Ladder 26 crash on January 9 that killed a first responder. Boston’s fire commissioner said that Mercury Consulting advised him that preventive maintenance inside the fire department is basically non-existent. “It comes as no surprise to us that the maintenance is not getting a passing grade,” said the president of the Boston Firefighters Union. On numerous occasions, the union or firefighter supervisors warned the commissioner that more needed to be done to ensure public safety, a Team 5 reporter said. A letter dated in 2006 obtained by Team 5 Investigates warned the commissioner of grave safety deficiencies because of equipment maintenance. In 2007, the commissioner received a memo from the deputy of fleet maintenance that specifically asked for a preventative maintenance program — the same type of program consultants recommended two months after a fatal crash from brake failure.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/18856081/detail.html>

33. *March 4, Business Courier of Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Ohio National Guard gets \$8.5M in stimulus funds.** The Middletown, Ohio, armory will benefit from \$8.5 million the Ohio National Guard is receiving thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the latest federal stimulus package. About 14 guard stations will receive funds, including the armory, officials announced Tuesday. The armory will receive \$125,000 to overhaul its plumbing system, and save energy. A spokesperson with the Ohio National Guard said the group expects to receive the money in four to six weeks. The guard will probably use “state term” for some projects, meaning Ohio has already negotiated terms and agencies can take advantage of work, he said. The National Guard Bureau began collecting information on “shovel ready” projects from state National Guards last year in anticipation of a federal stimulus bill, according to state.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/cincinnati/stories/2009/03/02/daily41.html>

34. *March 4, WJZ 13 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Some lawmakers support privatizing Medevac system.** Maryland lawmakers are set to debate the future of the state’s emergency evacuation Medevac program. Some state senators want to give private companies the chance to take over Medevac helicopters. Hundreds of emergency responders from across the state have rallied in front of the State House against two Senate bills aimed at overhauling the state’s Medevac helicopter program. The Medevac Improvement Act splits the state’s existing fleet into two units — medical and law enforcement. Private companies can bid to run the medical fleet, and new safety standards can reduce costs. The state is facing tens of millions of dollars in bills to

replace and upgrade the aging fleet.

Source: <http://wjz.com/local/privatize.medevac.2.950608.html>

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Information Technology

35. *March 5, CNET News* – (International) **Report: Firefox buggier, but issued fixes quicker.** Mozilla reported more vulnerabilities in its Firefox Web browser last year than Internet Explorer, Safari, and Opera combined, but Mozilla dealt with those flaws quicker than Microsoft, according to a new report by vulnerability-testing company Secunia. Firefox had 115 reported flaws in 2008, nearly four times as many as every other popular browser, and nearly twice as many as Microsoft and Apple combined, according to browser vulnerability research (PDF) released the week of March 2-6. In comparison, Microsoft reported 31 flaws in IE, Apple reported 32 in Safari, and Opera reported 30. However, the report found that Mozilla was quicker to patch Firefox's flaws that were disclosed publicly without vendor notification compared with Microsoft. These "zero day" vulnerability disclosures contain information that can be used by attackers to write exploits for the flaw. The longer it takes vendors to release an update that repairs the vulnerability, the longer users of the browser are at risk.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10190206-83.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 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

36. *March 5, CNET News* – (International) **4G race gaining speed, data says.** Twenty-six operators are committed to the long-term evolution 4G standard, according to research released the week of March 2-6 by the Global Mobile Suppliers Association. While the forum for GSM and 3G suppliers worldwide decidedly has a stake in promoting LTE, the number indicates growing momentum for the standard, which promises download data rates of at least 100Mbps. Fierce competition has arisen to become the world's first LTE operator in an arena regarded as the next generation of mobile phone service and a huge draw for customers. Ten network operators are ready to launch their networks by 2010, according to the report. In the United States, these include Verizon, which committed to 4G at the 2009 GSMA Mobile World Congress in Barcelona in February; MetroPCS; and CenturyTel. TeliaSonera in Sweden and Norway has signed on. In Japan, NTT DoCoMo and KDDI are onboard, and in Canada, it is Rogers Wireless, Telus, and Bell Canada. Sixteen more telecommunications companies will launch their

LTE 4G services after 2010. With earlier launches of new mobile-network standards, handset availability has been a limiting factor for the commercial launch of the service. In the GSA report, two mobile players have already predicted release dates of their LTE phones. Sweden's Ericsson says it will have an LTE-capable platform for commercial release in 2009 and will deliver mobile products based on the platform in 2010. South Korea's LG has announced that its first LTE mobile phones will likely reach the market in 2010. For users, 4G wireless technology is primarily about higher data rates to match the increasing capabilities being offered by phones. But consumers probably will not experience the full impact of 4G until 2012 or 2013, when Strategy Analytics forecasts that the global LTE handset market will increase from 70 million sales units to 150 million.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1035_3-10190218-94.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Wireless

37. *March 5, DarkReading* – (International) **Next generation ‘war-dialing’ tool on tap.** War-dialing is back, and it is not limited to finding modems anymore. A renowned researcher is putting the final touches on his latest project, a telephone auditing tool that also finds PBXes, dial tones, voicemail, faxes, and other phone line connections for security assessment, research, or inventory. The so-called WarVOX is free, Linux-based software (no telephony hardware necessary) that uses voice over IP services to place calls. It looks at the audio in a call and is much faster than old-school war-dialing, scanning more than 1,000 phone numbers per hour over a residential broadband connection, and up to 10,000 in eight hours. The researcher says WarVOX is aimed at security auditors and penetration testers looking for a faster and cheaper way to detect phone system vulnerabilities. “Right now, the target audience for WarVOX is anyone who currently uses legacy war-dialing tools and is frustrated by the amount of time and money it takes to perform the audit,” the researcher says. Traditional war-dialing has been on the decline in the broadband age. “Most security service providers that offer penetration tests still perform war-dialing for their clients. However, as a rule war-dialing has been a declining trend as fewer and fewer systems are left connected to modems,” he says. WarVOX, he says, is simple to use and can provide a wealth of security information for organizations looking at their phone-line security posture. PBX voice system lines, for example, can harbor security holes that could put an enterprise at risk.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=215800791&subSection=Vulnerabilities+and+threats>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

38. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Explosion shakes Bozeman.** One woman remained missing on March 5 after a natural-gas explosion on East Main Street shook downtown Bozeman, leaving several historic buildings demolished. No other casualties or injuries were reported, although local historians said the destruction was the largest from a single incident in Bozeman in a century. The explosion was still under

investigation on March 5, and authorities speculated it would be days before they would be able to pinpoint a cause. The explosion at 8:12 a.m. on March 5 destroyed several businesses on the 200 block of East Main Street between North Bozeman and North Rouse avenues. Officials said it was too early to accurately estimate the cost to repair the damage, although that figure will certainly be in the millions. The Bozeman Police chief said on March 5 that he had decided to use the National Guard to help with security during the recovery operations.

Source: <http://www.idahopress.com/news/?id=20844>

39. *March 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Pakistan attack prompts caution in U.S. intel report.** The attack on a cricket team in Pakistan the week of March 2-6 prompted intelligence officials to caution local authorities Thursday to be on the lookout for possible similar assaults at U.S. sporting events. The notice, along with details of the attack, is part of an intelligence assessment that points out there are no known plots against sporting events in the United States. In a separate assessment dated March 4, the FBI and Homeland Security reminded Indiana law enforcement officials that the Big Ten basketball tournaments this month in Indianapolis and other large sporting events are inviting targets for terrorists. The Big Ten bulletin noted that U.S. intelligence agencies were unaware of any threats against the tournaments. Copies of the intelligence assessments were obtained Thursday by the Associated Press. The review of the March 3 attack in Lahore, Pakistan noted that the Sri Lankan cricket team was traveling with a security detail at the time. Six police officers and a driver were killed. Seven players, a coach, and an umpire were wounded during the half-hour assault. The attackers arrived on motorcycles and rickshaws and used automatic weapons, grenades, and rocket launchers, then disappeared into the crowded city. U.S. intelligence officials say the attack — carried out by a small team of operatives — shows how easily it could be duplicated elsewhere. “Although we have no information regarding a threat against U.S. interests, this is a strong reminder for everyone to be aware of such a possibility,” said a spokesman for the FBI. He said the assessment was sent to law enforcement officials to provide guidance on what to watch for.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jEZMVJXywTqX0J1UD16uGPVrVMDgD96O6DJG0>

40. *March 4, Standard-Examiner* – (Utah) **Hazardous materials fuel fire? Flames hit 15 units of West Haven storage facility.** Firefighters battled a fire on March 3 that spread through more than a dozen storage units in West Haven. The fire began around 3 p.m., and within minutes, thick clouds of black smoke could be seen coming from 15 units at the west end of the Storage West facility. The fire was out by 4 p.m. “When the first truck got on the scene, they could see a liquid fire pouring out and burning out both sides of the storage unit, so it was a pretty significant fire from the start,” said the Weber Fire District deputy chief. “In a storage unit fire, anything can be in there.” Firefighters sawed through the thick aluminum storage doors to make room for the hoses to start fighting the flames from inside. After opening storage unit 103, flames erupted and were put out by firefighters spraying water and foam through the half-opened door. Foam was used because of the liquid nature of the fire. Hours later, the Weber Fire District

Hazardous Material Squad was on the scene, sifting through blackened aluminum and trying to determine the substance that caught fire. The manager of Storage West said renters are not allowed to store chemicals or other hazardous materials in the units. “When the firefighters were opening some of the units, you could see gas cans and oil, which are both flammable items,” she said.

Source: <http://www.standard.net/live/news/166026/>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *March 5, KTRE 9 Lufkin* – (Texas) **Car problems lead to wildfire in Davy Crockett Forest.** Car problems on Hwy. 7 led to a seven-acre wildfire Thursday afternoon, according to an official with the U.S. Forest Service. A motorist with engine trouble pulled over on Hwy. 7 near Ratcliff. A spark from the car ignited a blaze so the motorist moved their car to get out of the fire. The car sparked another fire about 100 yards west from the original spot, the official said. The fire spread across 7 acres in the Davy Crockett National Forest before firefighters put out the blaze, the official said. Responders were called to the fire around 2:15 p.m. and had it under control within an hour, the official said.

Source: <http://www.ktre.com/Global/story.asp?S=9955301>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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