



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 March 2009

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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

- KPIX 5 San Francisco and Bay City News report that biochemical firm AnaSpec Inc. in San Jose, California was shut down on Friday by firefighters after fumes from a chemical leak sent two inspectors and a facility employee to the hospital. (See item [7](#))
- According to the Denver Post, 35 people were treated for nausea, headaches, and respiratory problems after a chemical release at the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colorado on Monday. Maintenance workers had somehow mixed hydrochloric acid and Clorox. (See item [26](#))

### **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 9, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Stubborn Deerfield Beach gas leak capped; families allowed to return.** More than 100 evacuees have been allowed to return to their Sample Road-area homes after fire crews capped a ruptured gas line that began burning on Sunday. No one was hurt during the leak, which was ignited by a live electrical wire Sunday afternoon, according to a Deerfield Beach Fire Department spokesman. The leak was capped shortly after 7 a.m. Firefighters allowed residents they evacuated from two city blocks to return home. Meanwhile, six homeowners will remain displaced until noon, when workers are expected to finish repairs. Two leaks were capped after considerable effort: One at Southwest Third Avenue and Southwest

36 Street, and another about 100 yards north of that, the spokesman said. Electrical workers possibly days ago punctured a gas line buried about three feet underground as they installed an electrical pole, he said. The gas leak went undetected until workers returned about 1 p.m. on March 8 to install electrical wires. Florida Power & Light said as crews worked, a power line fell and ignited the leak, cutting off power to about 1,000 customers. Electricity was restored to most of them. The stubborn gas-fueled fire kept burning into the predawn hours because of the difficulty in locating the shut-off valve. Crimping the gas line “was our biggest problem,” the spokesman said. Crews did not want to shut off the gas at a main source at West Dixie Highway, which would have affected a much wider area, according to officials.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/sfl-bn-0309gas-leak,0,7800208.story>

2. *March 9, Reuters* – (California) **BP reports pipe leak at Carson refinery.** BP Plc reported a chemical compound leak on March 8 from a pipe at its 265,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Carson, California, according to a company environmental filing. “The substance is leaking from a pipe in the facility for unknown reason,” BP said in the filing with the California Emergency Management Agency on the hydrogen sulfide leak. Company officials could not be reached immediately for comment.  
Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0942284420090309>
3. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **TVA protester arrested at coal ash site.** An environmental activist was arrested for running a limited-access checkpoint while taking an elderly woman home from a community meeting about a massive coal ash spill. A United Mountain Defense volunteer, who has been videotaping the cleanup and raising concerns about the impact on residents’ health, was arrested during the evening of March 5 by Tennessee Valley Authority Police, just as he dropped off an elderly women at home in an affected neighborhood near the plant. TVA Police established the checkpoint to control traffic entering and leaving an area where the federal utility is cleaning up 5.4 million cubic yards of toxic-laden ash that spilled December 22 from a landfill at TVA’s Kingston Fossil Plant. The 29-year-old Knoxville man was charged with three misdemeanor counts of trespassing by motor vehicle, entering a restricted-access area and ignoring a traffic control device, a stop sign. The man was charged in Roane County but moved to Bradley County Jail in Cleveland out of concerns of stirring protests. He remained in jail the afternoon of March 6 with bond set at \$3,000.  
Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090306/NEWS02/90306087/1009>
4. *March 6, Bedford Minuteman* – (Massachusetts) **Explosive device explodes near gas station.** The Bedford, Massachusetts Police Department received a call from the Shell Gasoline station on Thursday night, March 5 at 8:30 p.m. reporting that someone had allegedly thrown an explosive device at a tanker truck that was in the process of delivering fuel/gasoline to the station, according to police. The driver of the delivery truck provided responding officers with the registration and description of the suspect vehicle that had left the scene, police said. The vehicle was discovered nearby. Four men, ages 19-20, occupied the vehicle and were brought to the Bedford Police Station for questioning. Two of the men admitted they were involved with the incident. The

men said they had built a small, homemade explosive device. Police said the device was placed in a snow bank in the neighboring parking lot (McDonald's), and the men observed it as it exploded as part of a prank. At no time was the gasoline delivery truck a target of this incident as previously reported, police said. At this time, the incident is still under investigation and no charges have been sought.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/bedford/news/x1593361911/Explosive-device-explodes-near-gas-station>

5. *March 6, Bloomberg* – (Alaska) **BP's Alaska pipeline cleaning was hazardous, report says.** BP risked causing an explosion when it cleaned an oil pipeline in Alaska on January 15, according to a report on the incident by Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. BP caused a 34-minute shutdown of the nation's largest oil pipeline, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, an 800-mile conduit that carries about 700,000 barrels of oil a day, Alyeska said on March 6. A fire or explosion could have injured some of the 63 workers at the site and disabled an adjoining pump station, resulting in a longer shutdown of the pipeline, according to the report by Alyeska, the group of oil companies that runs the pipeline, including BP, Exxon Mobil Corp. and ConocoPhillips. "We recognize that the incident was potentially hazardous," a BP spokesman in Anchorage said in an interview. "The conclusion is that the safety-process analysis was inadequate." In a separate report dated February 25, BP confirmed Alyeska's conclusions and said it did not properly evaluate the cleaning procedure's risks.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/business/6298421.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *March 9, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Hazmat crews clean chemical spill on Airline Hwy.** Baton Rouge police and hazmat crews responded to a chemical spill on Airline Highway between Evangeline and Prescott early on March 8 at the PSC industrial facility parking lot on Airline Highway. Hazmat crews say a tanker truck parked there was leaking hydrochloric acid. Crews sealed it with a temporary patch and later replaced the leaking valve with a new one. The spill was contained to the site and Department of Environmental Quality was called out for cleanup. There were no injuries reported and no evacuations in the area.

Source: <http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?S=9967539>

7. *March 6, KPIX 5 San Francisco and Bay City News* – (California) **Chemical leak in San Jose sends 3 to hospital.** Biochemical firm AnaSpec Inc. was shut down on March 6 by San Jose firefighters after fumes from a chemical leak sent two inspectors and a facility employee to the hospital, a fire captain said. One of four inspectors decided to evacuate the buildings around 12:30 p.m., after he noticed a cabinet used to store hazardous and flammable chemicals was open and leaking palpable fumes, the fire captain said. Two inspectors at that time were feeling nauseous and complaining of respiratory problems. A little later, an employee started feeling sick. The three of them were decontaminated and sent to the hospital. They evacuated about 75 people from the two buildings by 12:45 p.m. Fire officials closed the operational facilities for four

reasons that all pose threats to employees and anyone in or near the buildings, the fire captain said. He said the construction was done without proper permits, hazardous materials were above the threshold amount for the size of the facility, numerous mechanical structures such as the air ventilation system were not functioning properly, and the types and amounts of chemicals in the building were not documented properly. Source: <http://cbs5.com/local/sj.chemical.leak.2.952748.html>

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

8. *March 9, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL Fla. St Lucie 2 reactor up to 92 pct power.** FPL Group Inc's 839-megawatt Unit 2 at the Saint Lucie nuclear power station in Florida ramped up to 92 percent power early on March 9, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. On March 6, the unit was operating at 62 percent. Operators reduced it late last week to allow workers to fix a turbine cooling water pump problem.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0937575620090309>
9. *March 6, Platts* – (National) **Palo Verde-3 remains under highest NRC scrutiny.** Palo Verde-3 still requires NRC's highest level of attention, the agency said in a March 6 announcement on the issuance of annual assessment letters to all 104 operating reactors in the US. The Arizona Public Service Co. unit has been in Column 4 of the action matrix under NRC's reactor oversight process since fourth-quarter 2006. The column reflects multiple or repetitive problems with one of seven safety areas of plant operations. If performance slips into the Column 5 threshold, the reactor would have to shut down until the NRC gives approval to restart. The other two Palo Verde units remained in Column 3, which indicates deficiencies in a performance area, but they have been treated as if they also were in the fourth column. Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper remained in Column 3, where it has been since first-quarter 2008. Fourteen other units are in Column 2, which means they require some additional attention: Byron-1 and -2; Comanche Peak-1; Farley-1; Grand Gulf, Hatch-2; Kewaunee; McGuire-1 and -2; Nine Mile Point-2; Oconee-1; Palisades; Prairie Island-1; and San Onofre-2. The other reactors require only baseline inspection. The director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation said in a statement that the 2008 results "show that about 83 percent of the plants are performing strongly enough that we're satisfied with our basic level of inspections at those sites."  
Source:  
<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7711438.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *March 9, Associated Press* – (National) **Base: C-130 repairs pretty routine.** In an inspection of C-130 planes at the Little Rock Air Force Base, cracks were found in nuts on about a third of them, base officials say. The Air Force last week ordered the inspection of hundreds of C-130s, the military's cargo workhorse, for potential problems with nuts that attach the wings to the fuselage. The inspections were ordered after routine depot maintenance of a C-130 at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia found cracks on some of the plane's upper right wing barrel nuts. At Little Rock Air Force Base, all 85 active duty C-130s at the base were inspected. The commander of the 19th Airlift Wing at the base likened the inspections to the 50,000- or 60,000-mile checkups many drivers have done on their cars. Nine of the 10 planes owned by Arkansas National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing require replacement of the wing nuts. The 189th completed its inspections Thursday and will need more than 175 nuts.  
Source: [http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/03/ap\\_c130\\_update\\_030809/](http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/03/ap_c130_update_030809/)

11. *March 6, Air Force Times* – (National) **Inspections of A-10 Thunderbolts continue.** The Air Force continues to inspect and repair the wings of A-10 Thunderbolts. As of the end of February, 322 of the service's 356 Warthogs had been inspected for wing cracks, according to the service. Of the checked jets, 214 returned to flying while 108 await or are undergoing repairs. Another 34 jets had not been inspected but were allowed to continue flying because they were considered the least likely to have cracks. "We remain on schedule to complete the fleet-wide inspections and initial repairs by June," the deputy commander of the 538th Aircraft Sustainment Group told Air Force Times. He added that all A-10s deployed to Afghanistan have been repaired. The groundings and inspections began October 3 after inspections at Ogden Air Logistics Center, where A-10s go through depot-level repairs, uncovered unexpected cracks. The cracks were in wheel trunnions, sections not frequently checked. While A-10s were designed to last for 8,000 flying hours, many have passed the 10,000 hour mark. Starting in late 2010, the Air Force hopes to replace the aging A-10 wings with new wings.  
Source:  
[http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/03/airforce\\_a10\\_wings\\_update\\_030609w/](http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/03/airforce_a10_wings_update_030609w/)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *March 7, Bloomberg* – (Georgia) **Freedom Bank of Georgia seized, 17th U.S. failure this year.** Freedom Bank of Georgia was seized by regulators, the 17th bank closed this year, as the recession persists and a jump in unemployment pushed more borrowers behind on home loan payments. Freedom Bank, in Commerce, Georgia, with \$173 million in assets and \$161 million in deposits, was shut by the state's Department of Banking and Finance and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) was named receiver. Northeast Georgia Bank of Lavonia, Georgia, will assume deposits, the FDIC said. "Customers of both banks should continue to use their existing branches until Northeast Georgia Bank can fully integrate the deposit records of Freedom Bank of Georgia," the FDIC said.  
Source:

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a0ps55\\_jLgTQ&refer=us](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a0ps55_jLgTQ&refer=us)

13. *March 6, Middletown Journal* – (Ohio) **Bank warns against phishing scam.** LCNB National Bank is warning Lebanon, Ohio residents against a recent “phishing” scam involving text messages, e-mails and phone messages. Several residents have reported receiving a suspicious message on March 6 claiming to be from LCNB. The text message instructs the recipient to call a phone number or use a Web site link included in the message regarding unknown identification. It then asks for personal account information the president of the bank. The messages have been sent to customers as well as those who do not bank with LCNB. The bank is advising residents not to respond to the message as it is a scam. LCNB will never contact customers via phone, e-mail or text message asking for personal information.  
Source:  
<http://www.middletownjournal.com/hp/content/oh/story/news/local/2009/03/06/hjn030609phishing.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

14. *March 8, Hamptons Online* – (New York) **Plane catches fire at Montauk Airport after instructor and student pilot escape.** Two men survived a failed take-off at Montauk Airport on Saturday, March 7 just before noon. The single engine Cirrus SR22 was being taxied by its owner during a routine lesson. According to early reports a New York City man was in the middle of a lesson with his instructor when a gust of wind reportedly caught the plane causing a wing to hit the ground, irreparably damaging the aircraft. The two men escaped before the craft erupted in flames near the end of the runway, and officials reported no injuries upon arriving on site.  
Source:  
<http://www.hamptons.com/detail.ihtml?id=6615&apid=13499&sid=27&cid=54&hm=1&iv=1&townflag>
15. *March 8, United Press International* – (California) **3 hurt in small plane crash in California.** Three people were hurt, two critically, when a single-engine civilian airplane crashed on a beach at Camp Pendleton, California, authorities said. U.S. Marine Corps and Federal Aviation Administration officials said the single-engine Cessna 172 crashed on March 7, the San Diego Union Tribune reported. An FAA spokesman said the aircraft was bound for Montgomery Field in San Diego, but it was not clear when or from where the flight originated. The California Highway Patrol said the pilot issued a distress call before going down.  
Source:  
[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/2009/03/08/3\\_hurt\\_in\\_small\\_plane\\_crash\\_in\\_California/UPI-87481236556131/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/03/08/3_hurt_in_small_plane_crash_in_California/UPI-87481236556131/)
16. *March 7, Ocala Star-Banner* – (Florida) **FAA: Loss of engine power likely caused plane crash.** Federal Aviation Administration officials inspecting the wreckage of an experimental aircraft that crashed Friday afternoon said the plane’s engine apparently



lost power before it went down, killing the pilot. It will be about a week before the FAA comes out with a report detailing the cause of the crash, inspectors said at the scene of the crash March 7, but early indications from eyewitness accounts point to engine trouble. Meanwhile, the Medical Examiner's office continued working to positively identify the remains of the pilot of the Stewart 51, or S-51D, an aluminum replica of the North American P51-D Mustang at about 70 percent scale. FAA officials say they want to include in their documentation the pilot's books, any radio transmissions with the pilot and any flight restrictions he may have been under. Also, as part of their investigation, the officials say they want to determine a flight pattern.

Source:

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20090307/NEWS/903070986/1402/NEWS?Title=FAA-says-loss-of-engine-power-probably-caused-plane-crash>

See also: <http://www.ocala.com/article/20090306/ARTICLES/903060966/0/News01>

17. *March 6, Idaho Mountain Express* – (Idaho) **Patience on landing system wears thin.** Obviously frustrated and impatient after 15 years of stalling on an all-weather landing system, the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority declined March 3 to appeal for \$850,000 in federal funds to test the field's Transponder Landing System, which is installed but not certified by the Federal Aviation Administration. The airport began the quest for the \$1 million TLS in 1994, but the FAA has avoided certifying it. Friedman Airport's manager told the governing board during its regular monthly meeting, as he has in the past, that the FAA has lost interest in supporting TLS and now prefers other technologies. In a strenuous appeal to keep TLS alive, the vice president of TLS manufacturer Advanced Navigation and Positioning Corp. asked the authority to seek funds that in effect would force the FAA to test the TLS for certification. The board declined, with several members expressing fears that the \$850,000 might be taken from other federal allocations destined for Friedman for other purposes.  
Source: <http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005125138>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *March 8, Blethen Morning Sentinel* – (Maine) **Waterville police seeking leads in case of white powder.** Whoever mailed a white powdery substance to City Hall and Kennebec Valley Community Action Program likely will face felony terrorizing charges and could face federal charges as well. That was the word March 7 from the Waterville deputy police chief, who said no one has yet been charged in the incidents that prompted evacuation of both buildings on March 6 and resulted in hours of work by local, state and federal officials. Preliminary tests showed the powdery substance to be non-toxic, but the state Department of Health and Human Services' Health and Environmental Testing department is doing more comprehensive tests. Results are expected next week. Officials converged on KVCAP on Water Street on March 6 after police got a call at 9:45 a.m. that a suspicious package was received. Then at 11 a.m., a similar envelope was received in the finance department at City Hall on Front Street. Front Street was blocked off and city and Winslow police, fire officials, Delta ambulance, Kennebec Emergency Management Agency and a U.S. Postal Service

inspector worked at the scene. The Maine Army National Guard, Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction, unit also responded.

Source: <http://morningsentinel.mainetoday.com/news/local/6037147.html>

19. *March 7, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Suspicious tax returns trigger evacuations.** Fifty state Franchise Tax Board employees in Sacramento were evacuated while fire crews investigated two suspicious envelopes found on the morning of March 6. According to a spokesman with the Sacramento Metro Fire Department, two envelopes containing tax returns had yellow powder on the outside of them and had burn marks when they were discovered at 8:47 AM on March 6 at the tax offices. The fire official said the employee who handled the envelopes and two other nearby workers complained of headaches and their supervisors then evacuated the immediate area and called 911. “Fifty workers were evacuated while our hazmat team suited up, entered the building and took possession of the envelopes,” said the fire department spokesman. “We took the envelopes into our fully-equipped mobile hazmat lab and conducted tests.” Those tests took about 20 minutes and according to the fire official, came back neutral. “In other words, there was nothing dangerous,” he said. No one was hurt and emergency responders determined employees could safely return to their offices. The employees were allowed back to work at about 10:45 a.m.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/story.aspx?storyid=55888&catid=2>

See also: <http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/crime/archives/020428.html>

20. *March 6, KXII 12 Sherman* – (Texas) **Anthrax scare at Sherman Post office.** An anthrax scare had Sherman authorities on high alert on March 6. The alert occurred around 7 a.m. at the Sherman Post Office. Authorities say an employee in the receiving room found a suspicious envelope with a letter threatening the spread of anthrax. Also inside the envelope was another small envelope with a brown substance. Authorities have determined that substance was food, possibly cream of wheat. The employee was placed into quarantine. Two rooms in the back of the facility were closed. Operations in the front of the building ran as usual during the morning hours. A postal inspector from Dallas arrived just after 9 a.m. and started running tests. That was when they found the substance was a hoax. At this time, federal investigators are looking into the matter. They say it is unclear where the envelope came from. Wilson N. Jones Medical Center was put on standby in case of emergency.

Source: <http://www.kxii.com/news/headlines/40849777.html>

21. *March 6, Gaston Gazette* – (North Carolina) **Bomb squad removes suspicious package from Social Security building.** Bomb squad technicians used explosives to open a suspicious package at the Social Security Administration on March 6. The Gastonia Police Department’s Hazardous Devices Team popped open the mysterious package using an explosive. The package was delivered on March 6 by the U.S. Postal Service. “We try to open things up remotely,” said the bomb squad commander. “We never put anybody at risk down range.” The bomb squad commander added that the package contained “a variety of components,” but he could not describe the contents further. Police evacuated Social Security employees and clients after the suspicious package was reported. Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms



and Explosives and U.S. postal officials will investigate the incident. Police would not say where the package was mailed from or whether it was addressed to an individual employee at the Social Security office.

Source:

[http://www.gastongazette.com/news/package\\_31376\\_article.html/police\\_social.html](http://www.gastongazette.com/news/package_31376_article.html/police_social.html)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

22. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Volcanic smog shutting down some Hawaii farmers.** Sulfur dioxide from the Kilauea volcano has wiped out multiple small farms and nurseries in the nearby largely rural district of Kau. The gas, which creates volcanic smog when mixed with sunlight and air, threatens the viability of some area flower and vegetable crops. Roses, sunflowers, protea, lettuce, tomatoes, and even medical marijuana are hurt by the smog. Many farmers are desperately hoping government grants or other financial help will save their farms. But the recession has depressed state tax revenues, and Hawaii has little money to help farmers. Sulfur dioxide is not new on the Big Island, where Kilauea has been erupting continuously since 1983. But last March, the volcano began releasing two to four times more sulfur dioxide, and a second, simultaneous eruption began at the summit's Halemaumau crater. Sulfur dioxide volumes have reached levels unseen since scientists began keeping data in 1979. Federal and state governments have offered farmers low-interest loans. But many are not interested in taking on more debt, especially with the vog still blowing in. Farms that purchased federal crop insurance before the disaster have received payments. Many farmers, however, did not have policies. The Federal Government is allowing these farmers to retroactively buy insurance, but the program is new and will not come to fruition until late this year.

Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/03/09/national/a002612D51.DTL&type=science)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/03/09/national/a002612D51.DTL&type=science](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/03/09/national/a002612D51.DTL&type=science)

23. *March 6, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Woman accused of tainting Dairy Queen malts.** Police in Ferndale have arrested a former Dairy Queen employee accused of tainting the eatery's malt mix with a toxic agent. A 43-year-old woman was booked into the Whatcom County Jail under investigation of two counts of assault in the second degree. Detectives, after reviewing surveillance footage from Dairy Queen, said they believe the woman tainted the restaurant's malt mix and caused two customers to become violently ill on February 25. One customer went to the hospital. Both have since recovered. Detectives believe powder bleach or a similar cleaning agent was intentionally dumped into the mix. That mix has been sent off to the crime lab for analysis. The owner of the Dairy Queen said the Whatcom County Health Department has inspected the shop and given it a clean bill of health. But the news of the scare has given some potential customers cold feet. The FBI is aiding in the investigation.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/402670\\_dq07.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/402670_dq07.html)

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## Water Sector

24. *March 9, WLNS 6 Lansing* – (Michigan) **Water main break closed highway.** A two mile stretch of I-96 is back open after a water main break forced officials to close the highway. It happened in Redford Township early the morning of March 7. Police say the water main break flooded the freeway and the service road. No injuries have been reported, but several cars were submerged in the water. Police say the water has since been drained and disabled cars have been removed from the area.  
Source: <http://www.wlns.com/global/story.asp?s=9970411>

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## Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *March 9, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **4th Penn student thought to have meningitis.** A University of Pennsylvania student suspected to have meningitis was in critical but stable condition Sunday, the university reported. Penn said it had informed “close contacts” of the student of the need to seek preventive antibiotic treatments. Last month, after three students were hospitalized with meningitis, Penn and city public-health officials provided antibiotic treatment to 2,100 students. The university said health officials did not recommend widespread treatment in the latest case.  
Source: [http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/03092009\\_4th\\_Penn\\_student\\_thought\\_to\\_have\\_meningitis.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/03092009_4th_Penn_student_thought_to_have_meningitis.html)
26. *March 9, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Firefighters respond to chemical release at Denver hospital campus.** Firefighters responded to a chemical release at the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver Monday morning. Maintenance workers somehow mixed hydrochloric acid and Clorox, releasing a vapor plume. National Jewish shares a campus with the K-8 Kunsberg School, which has a pool used for students as well as physical therapy. The school and two research buildings connected to it by tunnels were evacuated. Thirty-five people were “symptomatic” with nausea, headaches and respiratory problems; they were put in ambulances and taken to other hospitals. None of them are expected to have severe injuries. Seven hundred people in total were evacuated; some employees were sent home for the day.  
Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_11870880](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_11870880)
27. *March 6, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Cellphones may spread superbugs in hospitals: study.** Cell phones belonging to hospital staff were found to be tainted with bacteria — including the drug-resistant MRSA superbug — and may be a source of hospital-acquired infections, according to study from the Ondokuz Mayıs University in Turkey released Friday. Researchers tested the phones and dominant hands of 200 doctors and nurses working in hospital operating rooms and intensive care units. Ninety-five percent of the mobile phones were contaminated with at least one type of bacteria, with the potential to cause illness ranging from minor skin irritations to deadly disease. Nearly 35 percent carried two types of bacteria, and more than 11 percent

carried three or more different species of bugs, the study found. Most worrying, one in eight of the handsets showed methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), a virulent strain that has emerged as a major health threat in hospitals around the world. Only 10 percent of staff regularly cleaned their phones, even if most followed hygiene guidelines for hand washing, the study noted. In the United States, where national statistics are available, MRSA is the cause of more than 60 percent of all hospital infections.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j6sQLhF9UqdCscZPAh05Bi6ZJw>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

28. *March 8, Ashtabula Star-Beacon* – (Ohio) **Bomb scare won't close schools.** Redbird Elementary School students will return to school as scheduled on March 9, following a bomb scare on March 7, a school board member said on March 8. Police were called to the school at 6:45 p.m. March 7 when a passerby found an apparent "bottle bomb" in the school's north parking lot, said a Madison Township police spokesman. The small plastic bottle was examined by the Lake County Hazmat Unit, based at the Willoughby Fire Department, and determined the substance as "non hazardous," the police official said. The police spokesman added that no note or graffiti was found with the device and no threatening telephone call was made to the schools.

Source: [http://www.starbeacon.com/local/local\\_story\\_067225544.html](http://www.starbeacon.com/local/local_story_067225544.html)

29. *March 7, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Explosive device found at Madison middle school.** Madison police say they plan to recommend charges against three boys after an explosive device was found at their middle school. Police say a 12-year-old student at Whitehorse Middle School was caught throwing an "improvised explosive device" at a school building on March 6. Police say three male students between the ages of 12 and 13 were questioned. Authorities say a similar explosive device was found in one of the boys' lockers, prompting police to call in the Dane County Bomb Squad. The school was not evacuated but the hallway around the locker was cleared. No one was hurt. A spokesman for the Madison Metropolitan School District said the district will take appropriate action after police wrap up their investigation.

Source: <http://www.nbc26.com/Global/story.asp?S=9966777>

30. *March 7, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services* – (Texas; National) **GIs steal night vision goggles to sell.** A U.S. soldier from Georgia and an El Paso security executive are charged in a federal indictment with stealing expensive military night-vision goggles from combat teams in Iraq, apparently to sell them in a black market along the border. The suspects include an Army service member, who was arrested at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and a civilian resident of El Paso, who works as a security official with a twin plant in Juarez. They are to have a status hearing on March 13 in U.S. District Court in El Paso on theft charges. U.S. prosecutors allege the men stole 15 sets of Raptor Night Vision Weapon Sight goggles from U.S. servicemen in Iraq. Six sets of

the night-vision goggles are worth \$6,342 each. The other nine sets are valued at \$6,879 each. The suspects also are accused of stealing an MX1 thermal imager worth \$8,675, according to court records. Combat Soldiers on lookout at night use the goggles to check for incoming aircraft and ground-based enemies. The indictment accuses the two men of selling the goggles, but it does not say to whom they were sold. In court records, prosecutors said the suspects stole the equipment between November 2007 and January 2008. Both men are free on \$10,000 bond each. In other theft cases of night-vision goggles around the country, U.S. Army officials have testified that the equipment can give criminals an advantage because they can use the goggles to track police at night.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/gis-steal-night-vision-goggles-to-sell.html?ESRC=topstories.RSS>

31. *March 7, Free Lance-Star* – (Virginia) **GWRC seeking secure telework center.**

Federal employees with security clearances can work only in a secure area, and that usually eliminates the option of teleworking, whether it is from a home office or a standard telework center. To provide an alternate work site, in case federal employees with security clearances need to work closer to home a few days a week, the George Washington Regional Commission is seeking \$4 million in federal funding to start a local secure telework center. Located near Quantico Marine Corps Base in Stafford County, the center would be a pilot program open to any federal workers with security clearances. No staff from the George Washington Regional Commission would ever enter the center. Computer equipment would be installed by the Federal Government. A secure facility 40 miles south of Washington would also help with “continuity of operations,” according to the commission’s letter to a Virginia congressman, outlining the group’s interest in hosting a local site.

Source:

[http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2009/032009/03072009/449807/index\\_html?page=2](http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2009/032009/03072009/449807/index_html?page=2)

32. *March 6, Lafayette Journal & Courier* – (Indiana) **Juvenile arrested for Purdue bomb threat.**

A juvenile was arrested on a federal warrant on March 5 on allegations that the child made a false bomb threat on February 15 directed at Purdue University. The juvenile also is accused of directing similar threats at other schools, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Indiana. The incidents were investigated by the FBI, the Purdue University Police Department and the Tippecanoe County prosecutor’s office. The investigation is ongoing. Further information, including the juvenile’s age and hometown, were not immediately available. Under federal law, all proceedings involving offenders under age 18 are sealed. The U.S. attorney’s office said the investigation is ongoing.

Source: <http://www.jconline.com/article/20090306/NEWS03/90306026>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

33. *March 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Loaded guns stolen from police car in LA**

**County.** Police are trying to recover two loaded weapons taken from a police car that was stolen from an officer responding to a complaint about a party in eastern Los Angeles County. A Montebello police lieutenant said the AR-15 semiautomatic assault rifle and 12-gauge Remington shotgun were missing from the patrol car when it was recovered early Sunday. The car had been missing for about 90 minutes when it was found abandoned on a residential street in the city of Valinda, some 10 miles away from Montebello. The police department is investigating whether keys were left in the car when the officer got out of the vehicle.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_11869987](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11869987)

34. *March 7, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **More counties adding cell phones to 911 system.** Jefferson and Broomfield Counties in Colorado have updated their 911 system to allow people to register their cell phone numbers. Dispatchers can send reverse call-outs to residents when they need important information about something happening near their homes. Starting Thursday, people in Jefferson and Broomfield Counties can go online and register their family's cell phone or internet-phone. Numbers registered with the new E-911 system will be kept private and will only be used for emergency notifications. A similar system is already in place in Aurora and Douglas County.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=111221&catid=188>

35. *March 6, South Coast Today* – (Massachusetts) **New regional hazmat trucks unveiled.** Homeland Security and state public safety officials unveiled new trucks for Southeastern Massachusetts' regional hazardous materials response team in Borne, Massachusetts, Thursday afternoon. One truck will be stationed in New Bedford, one in Yarmouth and the third in Natick. With equipment that is capable of detecting and analyzing potentially hazardous substances, the strategic placement of the new trucks will allow the regional hazmat teams to react quicker to dangerous chemical accidents, cutting response times from an hour to about 30 minutes. Paid for with Homeland Security Department funds, each truck costs about \$450,000, including the equipment.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090306/NEWS/903060338>

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## **Information Technology**

36. *March 9, National Business Review* – (International) **Conficker worm turns meaner; disables antivirus software.** Symantec warns a third variant of the Conficker virus is on the loose. It is the nastiest strain yet, by dint of a new ability to disable security software, and block attempts to track where it phones home on the Web. In a tactical switch, Conficker's authors are sending the new strain to already-infected PCs, helping the worm burrow deeper and become more resistant to attempts to dig it out. In a security update, a representative of Symantec writes that the worm's focus on holding-off antivirus software is part of a new strategy overall: "[It's] authors are now aiming for increasing the longevity of the existing threat on infected machines. Instead of trying to infect further systems, they seem to be protecting currently infected machines



from antivirus software and remediation.” The new mutation also regains the initiative on generating random domain names, or Web servers that infected machines phone home to. The previous version generated 250 random Web addresses per day, using an algorithm that was successfully reverse-engineered by Microsoft, and others. The new Conficker variant, using a new algorithm, generates 50,000 domains — making it, for the time being, impossible to track and reversing one of the security software companies’ few wins in the war on the worm. Symantec discovered the new variant of Conficker (also known as Downadup) on March 7 New Zealand time when the fresh mutation, officially called W.32Downadup.C, was attracted to a “honeypot,” a PC purposefully left exposed to Internet threats.

Source: <http://www.nbr.co.nz/article/conficker-worm-turns-meaner-disables-antivirus-software-74375>

37. *March 9, CNET News* – (International) **Google Docs suffers privacy glitch.** Google discovered a privacy glitch that inappropriately shared access to a small fraction of word-processing and presentation documents stored on the company’s online Google Docs service. “We have identified and fixed a bug which may have caused you to share some of your documents without your knowledge. This inadvertent sharing was limited to people with whom you, or a collaborator with sharing rights, had previously shared a document,” the company said in a note, quoted at TechCrunch, that the search giant sent to affected people. “The issue only occurred if you, or a collaborator with sharing rights, selected multiple documents and presentations from the documents list and changed the sharing permissions. This issue affected documents and presentations, but not spreadsheets.” Google said in a later statement that the problem affected only 0.05 percent of documents stored at the site and that affected Google Docs users had been notified. Though the documents were shared only with people whom the Google Docs users had already shared documents, rather than with the world at large, the problem illustrates one downside of cloud computing, in which Internet servers host software previously run on a person’s own computer. The flip side of a cloud-computing advantage, that a person can get access to those documents from any Internet-connected computer or smartphone, is that technical problems or hacking attempts also can expose private information. It should be noted, though, that housing data on a local machine has risks of its own. A lost or stolen laptop can reveal any number of secrets.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939\\_109-10191463-2.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Security](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10191463-2.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Security)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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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

38. *March 9, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Thousands of Charter Communications customers temporarily lose service.** A severed fiber-optic cable shut off Internet, telephone and some television service for thousands of Charter Communications Inc. subscribers in Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank for nearly five hours on March 8. It was not clear how the line was cut, said a spokeswoman, who identified the trouble spot only as a location in Pasadena. “We know it was not one of our crews,” she said. Customers were without phone, Internet and most television services from about noon to 4:30 p.m. Some TV channels were still available.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-charter9-2009mar09,0,4300021.story>
39. *March 8, Cellular-News* – (International) **Breakthrough for post-4G communications.** With much of the mobile world yet to migrate to 3G mobile communications, let alone 4G, European researchers are already working on a new technology able to deliver data wirelessly up to 12.5Gb/s. The technology, known as ‘millimetre (mm)-wave’ or microwave photonics, has commercial applications not just in telecommunications (access and in-house networks) but also in instrumentation, radar, security, radio astronomy and other fields. Despite the quantum leap in performance made possible by combining the latest radio and optics technologies to produce mm-wave components, it will probably only be a few years before there are real benefits for the average EU citizen. This is thanks to research and development work being done by the EU-funded project IPHOBAC, which brings together partners from both academia and industry with the aim of developing a new class of components and systems for mm-wave applications. The mm-wave band is the extremely high frequency part of the radio spectrum, from 30 to 300 gigahertz (GHz), and it gets its name from having a wavelength of one to 10mm. Until now, the band has been largely undeveloped, so the new technology makes available for exploitation more of the scarce and much-in-demand spectrum.  
Source: <http://www.cellular-news.com/story/36403.php?source=rss>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

40. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Fires reported across Oklahoma.** A fire burned down about two-thirds of a city block in Weleetka, Oklahoma, one of several that broke out across Oklahoma Friday. No serious injuries have been reported. The fire, which is still under investigation, burned down a cafe and flower shop in the town located about 70 miles south of Tulsa. The fire began downtown between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and was brought under control after 2 p.m., according to the Okfuskee County Emergency Management director. Four or five buildings were destroyed, he said. In Edmond, a grass fire threatened more than a dozen homes in a new housing addition before being brought under control shortly after noon, said the Edmond assistant fire chief. In Dewey County, where a fire that began Thursday forced evacuations of the towns of Taloga and Putnam, residents were allowed to return to their homes. Up to 500 firefighters, county employees, and emergency management workers battled the blaze on Thursday, and the National Guard dropped buckets of water from a Blackhawk helicopter, said the Woodward County Emergency Management director.

Source:

[http://www.durantdemocrat.com/pages/full\\_story?page\\_label=home\\_top\\_stories\\_news&id=2037764-Fires+reported+across+Oklahoma&widget=push&instance=secondary\\_news\\_left column&article-Fires%20reported%20across%20Oklahoma%20=&open=&](http://www.durantdemocrat.com/pages/full_story?page_label=home_top_stories_news&id=2037764-Fires+reported+across+Oklahoma&widget=push&instance=secondary_news_left_column&article-Fires%20reported%20across%20Oklahoma%20=&open=&)

41. *March 6, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Suspicious suitcase brings bomb squad to Tempe Marketplace.** Things returned to normal on March 6 near Tempe Marketplace after a suspicious looking suitcase brought out a police bomb squad. A major Tempe road was also closed as police investigated. The suitcase was reportedly found in the northwest area of the mall near the Bevmo store, which voluntarily closed, according to police. Police said a police bomb squad was called out and a police robot opened the suitcase, which appeared to contain only papers and nothing suspicious. The robot then blew up the suitcase as a precaution. Police said no area of the mall was ever evacuated. The mall and road leading to it were reopened at around 8:15 p.m.

Source: [http://www.abc15.com/content/traffic/story/Suspicious-suitcase-brings-bomb-squad-to-Tempe/2CsJvaW9xkutEwP\\_Djlfg.csp](http://www.abc15.com/content/traffic/story/Suspicious-suitcase-brings-bomb-squad-to-Tempe/2CsJvaW9xkutEwP_Djlfg.csp)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

42. *March 9, AccessNorthGA* – (Georgia) **USFS completes upgrade of signage in national forests.** The U.S. Forest Service has completed blazing and signing designated trails in the Chattahoochee and Oconee National forests in an effort to provide the public with better information about the location of trails and what modes of travel are allowed. Forest staff determined standardized signing and blazing is necessary to ensure consistency in signing for trails, trailheads and approaches to these trailheads from the road system. The standard is designed to provide the public uniform signage across the forest and between the districts. The beginning of each trail is marked with official trail number and painted blazes or colored plastic blazers. The following color scheme is used for the blazes/blazers; OHV Trails--Orange, Horse Trails--Green, Bike Trails--Yellow, Hiking Trails--Lime green. Trails management for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest said visitors should not use trails that are without markers. In wilderness, synthetic materials are not used for trail marking and trail blazing is kept to a minimum.

Source: <http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=218460>

43. *March 7, National Parks Traveler* – (California) **Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park could shut down for structural strengthening.** Yosemite National Park officials hope to learn in June whether they will have the money needed to strengthen the Ahwahnee Hotel against earthquakes, a project that could shutter the iconic lodge for two years. Earthquakes in the Sierra are not unusual, and they have in the past shaken the national park. Earlier this week Yosemite officials asked their Interior Department for \$137 million in stimulus funding to perform the seismic strengthening work. A Park spokesman told the Mercury News that if the money is forthcoming, the work would take a year to get under way — that time would be spent

obtaining the necessary construction permits and allowing the hotel to honor its current reservations.

Source: <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2009/03/ahwahnee-hotel-yosemite-national-park-could-shut-down-structural-strengthening>

See also: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_11847761?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11847761?nclick_check=1)

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## **Dams Sector**

44. *March 9, Bangore Daily News* – (Maine) **Cambridge residents OK dam project work.** Residents voted Saturday at the annual town meeting to move forward with the repair or replacement of the rotting Cambridge Dam. As approved, a committee will be formed to help selectmen and the project's engineer oversees the project and to help raise funds to cover its cost. The engineer recommended that the town conduct a topographical survey of the dam and its surroundings, do test boring, verify abutting property lines, prepare a draft design, obtain necessary permits, verify construction costs and prepare a bid package for the project. Toward that end, residents approved the use of \$5,000 to begin the work. Some residents worry the current dam could fail anytime and flood the downtown area. Others say they believe the dam, once it is repaired or replaced, could produce hydropower, which would help the town's finances.

Source: <http://www.bangornews.com/detail/101073.html>

45. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Illinois; Iowa; Missouri.) **Readiness of some rebuilt levees questioned.** With the spring flood season fast approaching, the Army Corps of Engineers insists the earthen levees that were overwhelmed by the Mississippi River last summer are rebuilt and ready. Some people who depend on the levees are not so sure. It was nearly nine months ago that the river neared and, in some cases, exceeded the record levels that were reached in the Great Flood of 1993, something many Midwesterners figured they would never see again. The Mississippi and its tributaries pummeled levees protecting towns and farmland from Iowa south through St. Louis, breaching or overflowing dozens of the earthen structures. Corps officials say holes in the levees have been fixed. The Corps has spent some \$64 million so far to fix breaches in about 70 levees in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Local levee officials in the hardest hit states — Iowa, Illinois and Missouri — believe the Corps is moving too slowly to fix the infrastructure. At least for now, the weather outlook appears far more favorable than a year ago, when there was "the perfect setup" for big trouble, according to a national flood specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29583559/>

46. *March 6, Rochester Post-Bulletin* – (Minnesota) **Rock should stabilize 150-year-old Mantorville dam.** Working through winter's cold weather, a crew recently put about 200 tons of riprap on the lower face of the Mantorville Dam to stabilize it. A year ago, the Mantorville City Council began investigating repair and maintenance options for the 150-year-old dam. Last summer, the top concrete cap was removed and holes in the structure were repaired. In late September, a city crew opened the flood gates to drain

the pond behind the dam, sluice the river bottom and to inspect the dam. This work is done about twice each decade. This time, deterioration of the central limestone support for the gates, undermining of the area under the benches and the absence of rip-rap behind the dam were revealed. In February, the council approved an \$8,500 bid from Swenke County from Kasson to furnish and install about 200 tons on the lower face of the dam. The bid estimated the rock would cover the entire 165-foot length of the dam, 4 feet high and 6 feet out from the base. In previous years, the river below the dam has been dredged from under the Minnesota Highway 57 bridge to re-situate the rock that is washed away during the warmer months.

Source:

[http://www.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews\\_story.asp?z=2&a=388788](http://www.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=2&a=388788)

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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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