



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 March 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- According to the Air Force Times, all 84 of the U.S. military's V-22 Ospreys were temporarily grounded Saturday after the discovery of loose bolts on the aircraft by Marines in Iraq, officials said. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports that the U.S. President declared North Dakota a federal disaster area because of statewide flooding late Tuesday. The Army Corps of Engineers cut water releases from the Garrison Dam to a record low level of 4,000 cubic feet per second to ease the flooding risk along the Missouri River in Bismarck. (See item [42](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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 25, Daily Times* – (International) **2 gas pipelines blown up.** Gas supply to the Sui Power Plant was affected after unidentified men blew up two main gas pipelines in the Peer Koh area of Dera Bugti district of Pakistan on March 24, sources in the district administration said. They said the men had planted explosives under the 20-inch and 16-inch diameter pipelines, supplying gas to the Sui plant from the Peer Koh gas field. The resulting explosions severely damaged portions of the two pipelines.

Source:

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C03%5C25%5Cstory_25-3-2009_pg7_19

2. *March 25, Reuters* – (National) **EPA says it could block mountaintop coal permits.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said on March 24 it has the legal power to block permits for so-called mountaintop coal mines, a move that could affect hundreds of mining operations. The EPA voiced concerns about the controversial mining practice and said it could veto permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if the mines would permanently impair water quality by fouling valley streams. This could affect hundreds of operations where mining permits have been sought or granted. The environment agency made its position known in a pair of letters to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which grants permits for this kind of destructive mining under the condition that mine operators rebuild the streams. The EPA strongly questioned whether the human-made channels often used to replace natural valley streams meet this condition.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE52O1BJ20090325>
3. *March 24, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Helicopter hits line, cuts power in Madera Co.** A Fresno man was injured the morning of March 24 when he crashed a helicopter while flying low over a grape vineyard to warm the vines, Madera County sheriff's officials said. The helicopter struck a Pacific Gas & Electric Co. transmission line near Chowchilla about 6:40 a.m. Power was cut to 10,755 customers in Madera County, said a PG&E spokesman. Power was restored to all customers by 10:15 a.m. Most of the customers were in the Chowchilla area, the spokesman said, but the Chowchilla Police Department noticed no disruption.
Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1283929.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 25, Associated Press and WTVR 6 Richmond* – (Virginia) **Hopewell chemical plant leak.** A 3-mile section of state Route 10 has reopened after being shut down for three hours because of a chemical leak and fire at a Hopewell plant. Evonic Goldschmidt Corp. said a small amount of sodium chlorite leaked from a storage drum and ignited at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday. WTVR-TV reported that employees were in the building at the time, but no one was hurt.
Source: <http://www.wtvr.com/Global/story.asp?S=10066931>
5. *March 24, Bulk Transporter* – (Texas) **Texas gets FEMA funding for hazmat container handling.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded \$1.56 million to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the collection and proper handling of hazardous materials in orphan drums and containers. The funding is being awarded as a result of damaged that occurred during Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Subject to the ebb and flow of tides, approximately 5,000 containers were washed away into the inner tidal zone and identified for recovery and disposal in Galveston, Houston, and Beaumont. FEMA assumed 100 percent of the project costs to Texas. The obligated funds are a portion of \$602 million in total Public Assistance disaster funds sent to the state since September 2008.

Source: <http://bulktransporter.com/management/tank-truck/texas-fema-funding-hazmat-0324/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *March 24, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Virginia) **NRC completes Virginia agreement to regulate certain radioactive materials.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed an agreement with the commonwealth of Virginia, under which Virginia will assume NRC's regulatory authority over certain nuclear materials in the state. Virginia becomes the 36th state to sign such an agreement with the NRC. The agreement is effective March 31. Under the agreement, the NRC will transfer to Virginia the responsibility for licensing, rulemaking, inspection, and enforcement activities for: (1) radioactive materials produced as a result of processes related to the production or utilization of special nuclear material (SNM); (2) naturally occurring or accelerator-produced radioactive material (NARM); (3) source material (uranium and thorium); and (4) SNM in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass. The NRC will transfer 386 licenses to the commonwealth's jurisdiction. In addition, the commonwealth retains regulatory authority for approximately 216 NARM licenses. Approximately 180 of these NARM licenses currently are regulated by both Virginia and the NRC. By law, NRC retains jurisdiction over commercial nuclear power plants and federal agencies using certain nuclear material in Virginia. In addition, NRC retains authority for the review, evaluation, and approval of sealed radioactive materials and devices containing certain nuclear materials manufactured in Virginia and distributed throughout the country. Before approving the agreement, NRC reviewed Virginia's radiation control program to ensure it is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with the agency's own program for regulating the radioactive materials covered in the agreement.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-056.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *March 25, Air Force Times* – (National) **All Ospreys grounded after Iraq incident.** All 84 of the U.S. military's V-22 Ospreys were temporarily grounded Saturday after the discovery of loose bolts on the aircraft by Marines in Iraq, officials said. The grounding affected all V-22s, including the Corps' aircraft and the 11 CV-22s the Air Force operates, said a spokesman for the V-22 program at Navy Air Systems Command. As of Tuesday morning, 76 of the 84 aircraft had been cleared to fly, with problems discovered on four Ospreys operated out of Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, by Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina. The loose bolts were discovered by VMM-266 mechanics after a pilot noticed a vibration and heard a "loud noise" after a routine flight, he said. An inspection revealed that four loose bolts had separated from a stationary swashplate trunnion and a gimbal ring on the drive tube, causing "minor damage" to the engine's pitch links and spinner support, he

said. “We want to stress that this has not happened in flight,” he said. “This (grounding) was a precautionary measure.”

Source:

http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/03/marine_ospreys_grounded_032509w/

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 25, CNNMoney.com* – (National) **Treasury pushes for more power.** The Presidential Administration on March 25 released more details of its plan to give the government more power to take over and wind down troubled financial companies deemed too big to fail. The Treasury Secretary proposed that the Treasury be the one to make the final call of when a nonbanking firm, such as AIG or Lehman Brothers, is in deep trouble and needs government intervention. Treasury would do so after talking with the Federal Reserve and the President, according to Treasury plans. For days, the Treasury Secretary has been saying that he needs more power to step in to prevent the kind of collapse of the financial sector that threatens to deepen the recession. Treasury says the new “resolution authority” would make loans, purchase shares, or put the non-banks into receivership, according to new details. Under the proposal, the Treasury would assess these nonbanking financial firms in the same way that banks are assessed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to fund takeover efforts when banks go bad. The size of such assessments is unclear. However, lawmakers said they were concerned about giving so much power with a political appointee, and they preferred to tap the Federal Reserve to administer such a program.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2009/03/25/news/economy/new_power_treasury/index.htm

9. *March 24, Atlanta Business Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Gainesville man pleads guilty to \$60M in fraud.** A 50-year-old pleaded guilty on March 25 in federal district court to running a Ponzi scheme through his construction equipment business that defrauded investors out of more than \$60 million. February 2005 through October 2008, the Gainesville, Georgia resident bought and sold construction equipment in Gainesville. He did business in the names of North Georgia Equipment Sales LLC and Cornerstone International Investments LLC. In order to keep his failing businesses afloat, he sought and obtained from investors funds to buy additional construction equipment, which he said he could re-sell to third parties for a substantial profit. He promised some of the investors he would split the profits with them on a 50/50 basis, and he promised other investors that he would pay them interest at the rate of 36 percent a year. The guilty party got more than \$60 million in investment capital from more than 50 investors in Gainesville and elsewhere. He then led the investors to believe he used their money to buy specific pieces of construction equipment. He prepared and provided to the investors bogus bills of sale and other counterfeit documents to make it appear he bought equipment as promised. He used a substantial portion of the fraud proceeds to pay phantom “profits” to the investors, to pay his own personal expenses, and to buy a variety of real and personal property for himself and his family members.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2009/03/23/daily25.html>

10. *March 24, KRDO 13 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Scam targets you through text message.** A text messaging scam has exploded across the Colorado Springs area. "It seems to be escalating," said a representative of the Better Business Bureau, "we are receiving numerous calls each day." The calls are about emails, phone messages, or text messages that appear to come from the Air Academy Federal Credit Union. The message says an individual's card or account has been deactivated, and then gives a number to call. "More people have fallen for it than you would think," said the representative. The Better Business Bureau says people are caught off guard, thinking scammers will not have their personal cell phone numbers. "It's organized crime," said an individual with the Air Academy Credit Union, "it is another way of trying to get a hold of information and finances." Financial institutions say they will never contact individuals like that.

Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=10064507>

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Transportation Sector

11. *March 25, Minot Daily News* – (North Dakota) **Amtrak service rerouted because of flooding.** Amtrak service to Grand Forks, Devils Lake, and Rugby has been derailed for at least the next two to three weeks due to flooding in the Red River Valley. Beginning March 25, train passengers will have to travel to either Minot or Fargo to board the train, said the Rugby station manager. "A lot of times the flooding seems isolated if you are not experiencing it," he said, but now the flooding is having a direct impact on a community that has not experienced significant flooding. He said about 18 people get on or off the train each day in Rugby. The station also handles freight, which will be rerouted by Burlington Northern to Fargo and Minot. About 6,600 people each year board or leave the train at Rugby's Amtrak station. The reroute affects Empire Builder Trains 7 and 8 and the Surrey cutoff that goes through New Rockford. Due to flooding on highways and the travel times involved, no alternative transportation will be provided by Amtrak for Grand Forks, Devils Lake, and Rugby.

Source: <http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/525947.html>

12. *March 25, Pocono Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Signals crossed: PennDOT says it will replace 7th Street Bridge after all.** Based on information provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Pocono Record reported March 24 that the bridge with the lowest safety rating in Monroe County had been passed over for planned repair or replacement. "I mistakenly thought no project was scheduled for the bridge. However, as part of the Governor's Accelerated Bridge Program, the bridge (PA 611 over Interstate 80) is programmed to be replaced. This project entails a full replacement of the structure and will require a closure and detour of PA 611 when the work occurs," the PennDOT safety press officer wrote in an apology for the error. The bridge is rated 12.5 on a scale of 100 based on safety, structural soundness, and other measures by the National Bridge Inventory. Built in 1934 and reconstructed in 1959, its supports are cracked and crumbling away. The bridge carries an average daily traffic volume of 8,255 vehicles.

Source:

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090325/NEWS/903250324/-1/NEWS01>

13. *March 25, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Taxiing plane is target of laser light.**

Someone shone a green laser light on an American Airlines plane that was taxiing after landing at Logan International Airport on March 24, officials said. The crew of American Airlines 972 reported the light came in on the right side of their Boeing 757 after their landing on Runway 4R at 12:31 a.m., said an FAA spokesman. He said he did not know if the light had entered the cockpit or cabin, or both. “The crew reported the light appeared to be coming from across the bay. Massport and State Police were notified, and we provided information on the probable location for the light source,” which was in downtown Boston, he said. State Police immediately searched the area, but did not find anyone.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/03/25/taxiing_plane_is_target_of_laser_light/

14. *March 24, KWCH 12 Wichita* – (Kansas) **Wrong fuel caused forced landing.**

The National Transportation Safety Board released a preliminary cause on what forced a small plane to make an emergency landing earlier this year. On January 30, 2009 the pilot of a CESSNA 421C landed the aircraft in a field in Sedgwick County. After an examination of the airplane, the NTSB found that the fuel tanks contained a mixture of 100 low-lead and Jet-A fuel. After questioning, an employee of Jabara Airport admitted to fueling the plane with 80 gallons of jet fuel. Two Rusty Eck Ford employees were aboard the plane, along with the pilot, the day it crashed. They were headed to Omaha, Nebraska for business. All were released from the hospital that same day.

Source: <http://www.kwch.com/global/story.asp?s=10065837>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *March 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Letters mimicking anthrax scare sent to Congress.**

Federal authorities are investigating a documentary film crew that allegedly sent letters to Congress mimicking the anthrax mailings weeks after the September 11th attacks. An official said the investigation started during the week of March 16-20, 2009 and that the letters were written to look exactly like the ones that were sent to two Democratic Senators after the September 11th attacks. The official said the copycat letters did not contain any white powder. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is still under investigation. Authorities did not identify the film crew, and it was not immediately clear if they would face criminal charges. The FBI and U.S. Capitol Police declined to comment on the investigation.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hwWxLznZwcDh9tiaNWAjx8XiAvWgD974LKI80>

Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *March 25, USAgNet* – (National) **Feed ban rule delayed by HHS.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has notified the Food and Drug Administration of its decision to reopen the comment period on the BSE rule, which was to become effective April 27, 2009. The rule would prohibit the use of high-risk cattle material in feed for all animal species. A Federal Register notice will be coming out soon formally announcing that the implementation date of the BSE rule will be delayed for 60 days.
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=660&yr=2009>
17. *March 25, Packer* – (Indiana) **Ionization research shows promise for produce.** A food process engineer, extension specialist, and associate professor of food science at West Lafayette, Indiana-based Purdue University is using a high-voltage, low-watt process to generate a plasma field inside packaging that ionizes the gases inside. This process kills harmful bacteria such as E. coli and salmonella. Depending on the type of sample, type of packaging, and volume of the sample in the package, the treatment takes seconds to minutes. Once ionized, the reactive gas slowly converts back to the air in about four to 24 hours — about the time it takes for the product to get to the store. In the lab, the researcher said he is building a stackable unit which can be placed directly on the packing line that could treat either individual packages or boxed product. “The beauty of this process is that it requires little energy, little time and minimal investment,” he said. “The research unit we are using in the laboratory was built using off-the-shelf components and cost less than \$1,000.”
Source: http://www.thepacker.com/icms/_dtta2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2009-74414-44.asp&stype=topstory&author=Pamela+Riemenschneider
18. *March 25, USAgNet* – (Michigan) **Torres Hillsdale Country cheese recalls of Asadero, Oaxaca over possible listeria.** Torres Hillsdale Country Cheese of Reading, Michigan announces the recall of Asadero and Oaxaca soft Mexican-style cheeses due to potential Listeria contamination. A routine sample of Asadero cheese, taken by an inspector from the Michigan Department of Agriculture’s Food and Dairy Division on February 23, was subsequently tested by the Michigan Department of Agriculture Laboratory and discovered to be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes. Products were distributed to the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, and Wisconsin. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with the recalled products.
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=667&yr=2009>
19. *March 24, Lancaster Online* – (National) **Food-safety bill plants some concerns.** The democratic representative from Connecticut introduced the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2009 last month. H.R. 875 has so far only been referred to the House Agriculture Committee, an early step in the legislative process, but it has 39 co-sponsors. The bill calls for the creation of a Food Safety Administration (FSA) within the Department of Health and Human Services to protect public health because “the food safety program at

the Food and Drug Administration is not effective in controlling hazards in food coming from farms and factories in the United States and food and food ingredients coming from foreign countries.” The FSA would work to prevent food-borne illness, ensure the safety of food, improve research on contaminants leading to food-borne illness, and improve security of food from intentional contamination, according to the bill. The FSA would regulate food safety and labeling and how establishments process, store, hold, and transport food, it states. A representative who opposes the bill said the bill would require, among other things, that the FDA establish minimum standards regulating the use of natural fertilizer to help grow food. The bill is not clear on which growers would be regulated and which ones would not, he said.

Source: <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/235461>

20. *March 24, Southern Shrimp Alliance* – (National) **GAO study links duty circumvention with evasion of food safety laws.** A report released this week by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) includes a formal acknowledgement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other enforcement agencies that companies willing to illegally mislabel shrimp products to avoid paying antidumping duties are also evading U.S. food safety efforts. The Southern Shrimp Alliance, which repeatedly has voiced concern over the unaddressed problem of illegal shrimp imports and its impact on food safety, welcomed the study. Since June 2007, Chinese shrimp have been subject to a food safety “Import Alert” issued by FDA and antidumping orders issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce. However, by transshipping or improperly labeling products, Chinese shrimp have been able to enter the United States despite the Alert while companies are simultaneously avoiding payment of antidumping duties. In September 2007, multiple shipments of suspected Chinese shrimp illegally transshipped through Malaysia tested positive for the presence of illegal, cancer-causing drugs, according to the GAO. According to the report, FDA has not previously been very responsive to consumer or industry complaints about mislabeling. One consumer complained about frozen shrimp labeled as a product of Mexico that had a second label underneath indicating it was a product of Thailand, a country subject to antidumping duties. FDA took no action according to the GAO. FDA is working with Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security to target commodities that pose health and safety risks through Operation Guardian, which is an enforcement initiative to deal with imported substandard, tainted, and counterfeit products.

Source: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/gao-study-links-duty-circumvention-evasion-food-safety-laws/>

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Water Sector

21. *March 25, Republican* – (Massachusetts) **State says no funding for pipe fix.** While work continues on a ruptured water main at Main and Carew streets in the North End of Springfield, Massachusetts, a spokesman for the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security said the repairs, which are expected to cost at least \$500,000, will not be eligible for state financial assistance. The repair work is progressing slowly, keeping the intersection closed until further notice, officials said. The 24-inch diameter water main

broke March 18, flooding streets, disrupting water service, and forcing the closure of schools. An estimated 5.5 million gallons of water was released, flooding the area near the intersection. A spokeswoman for the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission said a commission's work crew is expected to begin laying some new pipe on March 25. The commission and other utilities are working cooperatively, but the process is very slow, she said.

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/springfield/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-20/123796576568120.xml&coll=1>

22. *March 24, WTHR 13 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **City announces \$100M sewer project.** For years, sewer problems have plagued thousands of homes on the northwest side of Indianapolis. The city announced a program March 24 to help the residents of Crooked Creek and other areas. The mayor announced a \$100 million project to prevent raw sewage overflows. A 7-mile sewer interceptor will improve system capacity. The project will also allow homes currently on failing septic systems to connect to city sewers. "Our sewer system is severely overburdened," he said. The city says the project will initially allow about 2,000 homes to hook up to city sewer, with thousands more to come when the project is complete. Right now, failing septic systems are leaching raw sewage into ground water, which then makes its way into local rivers and streams. It will be three years before the interceptor, which will increase capacity, is finished. The project will accommodate community growth and future STEP projects on the city's north, central, and northwest sides, according to the city. When the new pipeline is complete, the city hopes to hook up 7,000 homes total to city sewer by 2013. The design includes a gravity sewer that will carry wastewater along a downward slope, and in areas where gravity flow is not possible, a force main sewer and lift station will move wastewater from a lower to higher elevation. The gravity and force main sewer approach will allow the city to save approximately \$50 million in capital costs and construct the relief interceptor more quickly.

Source: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=10061739&nav=9Tai>

23. *March 24, Niagara Gazette* – (New York) **Niagara Falls: Officials tackle water main break.** A 20-inch water main, running off the city's main 42-inch concrete conduit from the Buffalo Avenue water plant, ruptured between 9 and 9:30 p.m. on March 23 and immediately sent enormous amounts of water flowing into neighborhoods off of 56th Street. The 42-inch main line from the plant is used to fill the tower, which is supposed to provide water to the city in the event of any problems pumping from the plant. "The tower holds 2 million gallons of water and has a normal (depth) of 30 feet," the Falls Water Board executive director said. "So that 13 foot drop probably represented a loss of 750,000 gallons of water." The Falls' water plant normally pumps about 17 million gallons of water a day, but once the 20-inch main broke, the plant began to pump at a rate of about 33 million gallons to maintain water pressure citywide. The city water authority even purchased an additional 6 million gallons of water from the Niagara County Water District to help maintain service in the city. The director said it is not yet clear what may have caused the line to break. "The line is not really that old," he said. "It might have been the recent freeze-thaw, but I don't think we really know yet what caused [the break]." Work crews will continue to "further isolate the leak" on March 25.

Source: http://www.niagara-gazette.com/local/local_story_083191357.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *March 25, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Bomb threat closes UI hospitals emergency center.** Public safety officials say the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Emergency Treatment Center in Iowa City has reopened after a bomb threat. The center was cordoned off for almost two hours Tuesday night after police say a member of a family visiting the emergency center called 911 and said there was a bomb in the family truck. University police say they searched the area using a K-9 expert in explosive detection and tracking. No traces of explosives were found.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-bombthreat-hospit,0,4726887.story>
25. *March 25, Jakarta Post* – (International) **Pekanbaru hospital treats bird flu suspect.** A two-and-a-half year-old bird flu suspect has been referred to Arifin Achmad General Hospital in Pekanbaru after receiving several days of treatment at Ibnu Sina Hospital. Arifin Achmad Hospital's bird flu response team coordinator said the patient had to be referred to his hospital because the symptoms of bird flu he displayed — high fever, breathing difficulties, and coughing — had not abated. The hospital has sent liquid and blood samples to the health ministry's Medical Health and Development Center in Jakarta.
Source: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/03/25/pekanbaru-hospital-treats-bird-flu-suspect.html>
26. *March 24, Austin Business Journal* – (Texas) **Texas A&M system will benefit from \$50M infusion.** The governor of Texas said on March 23 that the state will invest \$50 million from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund toward the development of a national center to fight bioterrorism. The funds will go toward the creation of a Center for Medical Therapeutics Development and Manufacturing that will be part of the Texas A&M University System. The center, located in College Station, will be the first of its kind in the United States. The governor envisions a center whereby Texas will be able to conduct world-class research and development to combat diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and influenza, as well as bioterroristic threats. "There is no question that the biotechnology industry is essential to developing products that can improve and save lives, and Texas is working to foster continued growth of this industry within the state," he said.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2009/03/23/daily16.html>
27. *March 24, WBZ 38 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **MGH patient data lost on MBTA red line.** A Massachusetts General Hospital employee lost confidential patient billing information when she left the records of 66 patients on the MBTA red line. Now the private medical information of those patients including their names, medical diagnosis, dates of birth, and insurance information is out there for prying eyes. "In accordance with MGH practice and Massachusetts state law, each patient was immediately alerted,

and the situation was reported to the authorities,” said MGH’s directors of health information services. She added that MGH police and security are investigating the incident, and are working to recover the missing information and make sure something like this never happens again.

Source: <http://wbztv.com/local/mass.general.hospital.2.966259.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *March 25, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Prairie to burn at Newport Chemical Depot.** State forestry officials will conduct a controlled burn of prairie grass at the Newport Chemical Depot, where 275,000 gallons of deadly nerve agent was destroyed under an international treaty. The Indiana Division of Forestry will burn about 336 acres of native prairie grass March 27 or 28, depending on the weather, at the depot about 20 miles north of Terre Haute. The agency is also holding workshops on fire management. Officials say the controlled burns create habitats attractive to wildlife.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-newport-controlle,0,6473401.story>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *March 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Mueller: Financial fraud cases testing FBI agility.** Thousands of financial fraud investigations are putting a strain on the FBI’s ability to fight other kinds of crimes, the FBI director told Congress on March 25. Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee about the current status of his bureau, the FBI director said the FBI has seen mortgage fraud cases alone balloon to more than 2,000, in addition to more than 566 open corporate fraud investigations. “These cases are straining the FBI’s resources. Indeed, we have had to shift resources from other criminal programs to address the current financial crisis,” the director said in his testimony. Agents are juggling the demands of financial cases with the need to prevent terrorism, he said, as well as fighting public corruption. The FBI director called that the Bureau’s No. 1 criminal priority. Currently, the FBI is investigating 2,500 pending public corruption cases, an increase of more than 50 percent since 2003, he said.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gb-n4HS6J76FWi2mZUko7s9kEEfQD97539780>

30. *March 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Task force looks into floodplain management.** The Interagency Levee Task Force, which met on March 23 in St. Louis, has been helping victims of last year’s Midwestern floods recover quicker, and setting the tone for future flood events. It is made up of officials from federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, along with local and state leaders in the five states hit hard by the 2008 flood: Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Indiana. A general of the Army Corps of Engineers said the task force provides “one-stop shopping” for levee districts, homeowners, and others by

determining the agency best-suited to help them. The task force was formed immediately after the flood that began in June.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/25/AR2009032500466.html>

31. *March 24, Joplin Globe* – (Kansas) **Lightning knocks out 911 in Crawford County, Kan.** The Crawford County Sheriff's Department was struck by lightning Tuesday morning, said the local sheriff. The strike took out the department's telephone system, including 911 and the radio system. The system went down at approximately 4:50 a.m. Operation of the system was restored within 45 minutes. The lightning strike destroyed several radio components in the department's dispatching center and in its exterior radio hut at Girard, Kansas. Those components were being repaired Tuesday. While those repairs were being made, the department deployed its mobile command post to provide radio and paging services.

Source: http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local_story_083153318.html

32. *March 24, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Pennsylvania) **Lehigh County shows off new 911 center.** Lehigh County unveiled its new \$9.3-million emergency management center in Allentown on Tuesday. The facility will allow 911 dispatchers to rally resources faster with state-of-the-art technology. Center officials say the state-of-the-art technology is cutting response times and increasing employee efficiency. The center's technology is also able to pinpoint incoming cell phone calls and call residents to warn of evacuations and other emergencies. The center will also be used as a command center should a large scale emergency unfold.

Source: <http://wfmz.com/view/?id=678643>

33. *March 23, St. Joseph Press News* – (Missouri) **Fire stations temporary closure sparks controversy.** The temporary shutdown of a St. Joseph Fire Department station on March 19 caused conflict between the fire chief and some of the department's firefighters, including the president of the local firefighters' union. The chief announced the morning of March 19 that Station No. 9 would be closed for eight hours so firefighters could get proper certification for being first responders. The last time firefighters had any of that type of training was 10 years ago, he said. Training to be certified as a first responder includes taking classes and spending eight hours for a ride-along in an ambulance. Closing Station No. 9 violated contract, the president of Firefighters Local No. 77 said.

Source: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=63812>

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Information Technology

34. *March 25, MyBroadband* – (International) **Mac users warned of malware.** Sophos is warning Apple Mac users to be on their guard against Web sites hosting malicious code designed to infect their systems. The advice follows the discovery of a new version of the OSX/RSPUG Trojan horse that is being distributed via a legitimate-looking Web site offering HDTV software. "While there is much less malware for the Apple Mac than for Windows, it does not mean that Apple fans can avoid the issue," said the CEO of

regional Sophos distributor, Sophos South Africa. “Mac users are no different to Windows users when it comes to falling for social engineering tricks like this, they are just as likely to install and run this program on their computer if they believe it will help them watch high definition TV.” Sophos notes that the criminal gang behind this malware attack is targeting Windows computers as well as Mac OS X. If a user visits the Web site from a Windows computer, it will serve up a malicious Windows executable from the Zlob family of malware rather than the RSPlug-F Mac OS X Trojan horse. “By targeting both platforms with their malicious website, the hackers can kill two birds with one stone,” said the CEO. “Once a piece of malware such as this in place on a user’s computer, it can do whatever the hacker wants it to do. Mac users are gambling with the security of their data if they believe they are somehow immune from threats that Windows users have been living with for years.”

Source: <http://mybroadband.co.za/news/Software/7445.html>

35. *March 24, IDG News Service* – (International) **China becoming the world’s malware factory.** With China’s economy cooling down, some of the country’s IT professionals are turning to cybercrime, according to a Beijing-based security expert. Speaking at the CanSecWest security conference last week, the CEO of Knownsec, a Beijing security company, said that while many Chinese workers may be feeling hard times, business is still booming in the country’s cybercrime industry. “As the stock market dropped like a stone, a lot of IT professionals lost lots of money on the stock market,” he said. “So sometimes they sell 0days,” he said, referring to previously unknown software bugs. “China is not only the world’s factory, but also the world’s malware factory,” the CEO said. China’s red-hot economy has been hit by the global recession, and while the economy is still growing, technology companies such as Intel, Motorola, and Lenovo have all laid off employees in China in recent months. In December 2008, Chinese hackers found a previously undisclosed 0day vulnerability in Internet Explorer. When employees of the CEO’s company inadvertently published details of the bug on a public forum, Microsoft was sent scrambling to patch the issue. Chinese hackers tend to focus on hacking software that runs on the desktop, rather than the server, because the underground market pays big money for client-side bugs, which are then often used to install malicious software on millions of desktops. While recently investigating a single, but widespread attack, the CEO’s researchers counted more than 4 million infected computers over a one-day period. China has an estimated 250 million computer users, so attackers can do pretty well targeting only Chinese systems. “We have a huge amount of users and a very big local market,” he said.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/161920/china_becoming_the_worlds_malware_factory.html

36. *March 24, Computerworld* – (International) **Adobe details secret PDF patches.** Adobe Systems Inc. revealed on March 24 that it patched five critical vulnerabilities behind the scenes when it updated its Reader and Acrobat applications earlier this month to fix a bug already under attack. According to a security bulletin issued on March 24, the updates to Reader 9.1 and Acrobat 9.1 that Adobe delivered on March 10 included patches for not just one bug, as Adobe indicated at the time, but for five other

vulnerabilities as well. Foremost among the five were a quartet of bugs in Adobe's handling of JBIG2 compressed images, which was also at the root of the original vulnerability made public in February. When Adobe updated Reader and Acrobat to Version 9.1 two weeks ago, it fixed all five JBIG2 flaws, though it admitted only to the one at the time. That bug has been used by hackers since at least early January, when they began sending malformed PDF files to users as e-mail attachments. "The way we always handle this," said Adobe's director of product security and privacy, "is, will publicly released information help more users than not releasing the information?" The director said on Tuesday that Adobe decided the answer was "no," since it had yet to issue updates for all users when it first patched the software on March 10. The decision was prompted by the staggered release of the Reader and Acrobat updates, although Adobe patched the Windows and Mac OS X editions of the two apps on March 10, offered updates to the Version 8 line on March 17, and did not issue Reader 9.1 and Acrobat 9.1 for Unix until March 24. It also did not produce a fix for the even-older Version 7 until March 24.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9130405>

37. *March 23, Computerworld* – (International) **Conficker's next move a mystery to researchers.** Security researchers are in the dark about what will happen next week when the newest variant of Conficker, 2009's biggest worm by a mile, begins trying to contact its controllers. "It is impossible to know until we see something that has a clear profit motive," said the director of malware research at SecureWorks Inc. and a noted botnet researcher. PCs infected with Conficker.c, the third version of the worm that first appeared late last year, will use a new communication scheme on April 1 to establish a link to the command-and-control servers operated by the hackers who seeded the malware. The date is hard-coded into the worm, which in turn polls any of a number of major Web sites, including Yahoo, for the date, said the director. That tactic is just one of several designed to make it tough for security researchers to figure out what Conficker's all about, and more importantly, what it might do. "We had to trick it into thinking it is not only getting back the right page, but that it is getting the April 1 date," said the director, talking about the machines SecureWorks purposefully infected with Conficker.c. "So far, we have not seen any evidence [on those machines] of what it will do April 1," added the director, although that is to be expected. "It is not April 1 yet, so they are not going to put something online, where it might be found. In fact, it is almost a little risky for us to try to look for those sites, since it might give away that we have some bots in their network."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9130228&source=NLT_SEC

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

38. *March 25, Manitowoc Herald Times-Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Two Rivers council OK's contract to allow cell phone tower in industrial park.** U.S. Cellular will be able to erect a wireless tower on a vacant parcel of land in the city's industrial park. The City Council voted March 24 to authorize the city manager and city clerk to sign the lease with U.S. Cellular on behalf of the city. The vote was unanimous by the six council members present. Construction of the tower is contingent upon zoning approval by city staff and approval of the site plan by the Plan Commission, according to the city manager. Plans call for constructing a 195-foot, freestanding lattice tower on an 80-by-80-foot parcel of land in the industrial park, said the city manager.

Source: <http://www.htrnews.com/article/20090325/MAN0101/903250535/1984>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

39. *March 25, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Barrels wash ashore along Brevard beaches.** Residents in Brevard County are keeping a close eye on the beaches after barrels washed ashore on Tuesday. Authorities said the barrels contained gasoline or some other dangerous substance. They washed ashore along a 20-mile stretch of the shoreline. Hazmat teams rushed to collect the barrels from Cape Canaveral, near Patrick Air Force Base and Satellite Beach. "I would urge the public to report any barrels or anything they see wash up, and please leave them alone and let the experts deal with them," a Brevard County fire department spokesman said. The barrels were labeled, and investigators said they will use them to track down their origin. But if they were secondhand containers used for spare fuel, that could be difficult to accomplish.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/green-pages/19008613/detail.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

40. *March 25, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio county loses 2 Civil War monuments to crashes.** Civil War memorials are under attack from traffic in one Ohio county, where two monuments have been knocked down by vehicles this month. Portage County authorities say a Civil War memorial that has already been replaced twice was struck by a truck on March 21, 45 miles southeast of Cleveland. The monument to those who fought in the Civil War first went up in 1870 and was rebuilt after crashes in 1975 and 2002.

Source: <http://www.pal-item.com/article/20090325/UPDATES/90325012/1008/NEWS01>

41. *March 24, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Statue of Liberty will open for the public again on July 4th.** The Statue of Liberty may be fully opened to the public in

time for the Fourth of July, according to U.S. officials. The landmark was closed to the public following the September 11th attacks for security related concerns. Parts of the statue reopened in 2004, but this would mark the first time visitors would have access into the crown. If officials can make the necessary arrangements to open the crown to the public by July 4, they are proposing some sort of lottery system to allow small groups of people to enter. This precaution would limit security concerns due to large groups of people on the spiral stairwell that leads to the top of the monument. Further assessments on the feasibility of the reopening will be made following a security report which is expected to be delivered on April 15. The crown of the Statue of Liberty remains the only portion of a national monument that has not been reopened following the September 11th attacks.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/03/24/2009-03-24_statue_of_liberty_will_open_for_the_publ.html

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Dams Sector

42. *March 25, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Flooded North Dakota declared a disaster area.** The U.S. President declared North Dakota a federal disaster area because of statewide flooding late Tuesday. In eastern North Dakota, Fargo residents are rushing to build dikes to head off a Red River flood crest of 39 to 41 feet on March 20. The river's flood stage in Fargo is 18 feet. Meanwhile, some south Bismarck residents who live near the Missouri River were forced to evacuate their homes when an ice jam caused unexpected flooding. A demolition team may attempt to break up the ice jam. The Army Corps of Engineers cut water releases on Tuesday from the Garrison Dam to a record low level of 4,000 cubic feet per second to ease the flooding risk along the Missouri River in Bismarck. The city also ordered the evacuation of homes along the river where access roads were under water in the middle of the spring blizzard. It was not immediately clear how many homes. Meanwhile, the Red River approached a lower-than-expected crest March 24 in Wahpeton, but the National Weather Service only tweaked its projections for a record crest 30 miles downstream in Fargo, where sandbaggers were working furiously to raise the city's protective dikes high enough.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,510441,00.html>

See also: http://www.kotatv.com/Global/story.asp?S=10061410&nav=menu411_2_3

43. *March 23, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **Main lock at Chain of Rocks Dam closed for repairs.** The main lock at Chain of Rocks Locks 27 near Granite City has been closed for emergency repairs. The Army Corps of Engineers closed the lock March 22 after a lock operator noticed apparent damage at the base of a hydraulic cylinder that moves one leaf of a massive miter gate at the downstream end of the lock chamber. Structural engineers determined that the problem was critical and recommended lock operations be suspended pending further examination and repairs. An adjacent 600-foot auxiliary chamber, normally used for smaller tows, remains in service. The 1,200-foot main chamber can accommodate tows of up to 15 barges, but tows of that size must be separated into two segments to be locked through the auxiliary lock. The "double-cut" procedure takes one-and-a-half to two hours, compared to 20 minutes for a single-cut

lockage. Each of the two leafs of the miter gate is 65 feet wide and 70 feet tall and weighs about 220 tons, or as much as the Statue of Liberty. A Corps of Engineers spokesman said there was deterioration of the concrete base that provides an anchorage for the hydraulic cylinder. He said repairs could be completed sometime March 25, if all goes well. Seven southbound tows were queued in the Chain of Rocks Canal awaiting passage through the locks at 1 p.m. on March 23 and there were no northbound tows waiting at that time, he said. The locks are at the south end of the canal, which was built to allow Mississippi River traffic a safe passage around a treacherous stretch of the river. The locks allow transit for barge traffic carrying 70 million to 80 million tons of bulk commodities each year, as well as thousands of smaller vessels.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/A668114753A8F0A18625758200627524?OpenDocument>

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