



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 March 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Associated Press reports that government investigators testing the nation's food tracing system were able to follow only five out of 40 foods all the way through the supply chain, according to a report released Thursday by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office. (See item [28](#))
- According to the Associated Press, fish caught near wastewater treatment plants serving five major U.S. cities had residues of pharmaceuticals in them, researchers reported on Wednesday. The findings have prompted the Environmental Protection Agency to significantly expand similar ongoing research to more than 150 different locations. (See item [31](#))

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 26, Associated Press* – (New York) '**Super' test at ORNL**. A high-tech power cable designed to prevent rolling blackouts caused by everything from a wayward squirrel to terrorists is being readied for New York City's financial district. Now undergoing final tests at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the superconductor cable to be installed in Manhattan next year could prove key to the smart, secure, super grid of the future. Scientists fired 60,000 amps through a cable during a critical test on March 24 — an electrical jolt comparable to turning on the air conditioning in 2,000 homes at

the same time. It was enough juice to lift a 1,000-pound bundle of conventional cable two feet off the ground. But nothing seemed to happen. No sparks, no sound, no movement. Chilled by liquid nitrogen to minus-321 degrees Fahrenheit, this cable becomes super-efficient when cool, carrying up to 10 times more electricity than a copper cable of the same diameter. It also has a unique, built-in, surge-suppressing capability. Power distribution now follows a hub-and-spoke design. That means the failure of a single power station can put a cluster of neighborhoods in the dark. This latest superconductor cable promises to link power stations so they can operate “more like an Internet” and back each other up. The \$39 million project will lay superconductor cable linking two large Consolidated Edison Corp. substations about 1,000 feet apart serving thousands of people on Manhattan’s west side.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/mar/26/super-test-at-ornl/>

2. *March 26, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Supreme Court ruling a blow to regulating oil, gas.** The state of New Mexico was dealt a blow to its oversight of the oil and gas industry with the state Supreme Court’s recent ruling that a regulatory division may not directly impose penalties on operators. The high court said the Oil Conservation Division must instead go through the attorney general, who would have to sue to try to collect penalties for alleged violations of regulations or the law. The lawsuits would have to be filed in the counties where the alleged violations occurred. The director of the division said that will make it more difficult, time-consuming, and costly to regulate oil and gas activity. Marbob Energy Corp., an Artesia oil and gas producer, argued that the Oil Conservation Commission exceeded its authority when it issued a rule in 2006 giving the division the go-ahead to assess civil penalties. The Supreme Court agreed. Marbob, however, agreed late last year to pay the state \$500,000 — the largest penalty ever issued by the division — for misreporting information for 22 years. The violations started when the company was under different management. The commission says the Oil and Gas Act of 1935, under which it operates, is too antiquated to allow the agency to effectively protect New Mexico’s environment and water resources. It says it needs higher penalties, especially in cases where contaminants are released.
Source: http://www.daily-times.com/ci_11998365
3. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colorado set to toughen oil and gas rules.** The Colorado Legislature has given final approval to landmark new regulations for oil and gas drilling, despite warnings from opponents that the rules will hobble an ailing industry and eliminate jobs amid a deep recession. Backers say the rules will bring long-overdue protections to the public, the environment and wildlife. The Colorado governor made overhauling the oil and gas regulatory system a priority after taking office two years ago. He plans to sign the legislation but has not set a date yet, a spokesman said. The rules give more weight to public health and safety, wildlife habitat and migration, and environmental protection when state regulators consider applications for new oil and gas wells. Lawmakers passed bills in 2007 ordering the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to rewrite the rules amid widespread public sentiment that the existing rules favored drilling at the expense of other considerations. With the governor’s backing, lawmakers also changed the makeup of the commission itself to include more representatives from outside the oil and gas industry. The new rules

headed back to the Legislature this year technically just to make sure they, along with other more routine rules from other state agencies, fell within the legal boundaries set by lawmakers.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/6343580.html>

4. *March 25, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Contractor says crew had no warning of gas line.** A contractor says his workers were not warned of the presence of a natural gas line before they unintentionally punctured it on March 24, causing a sweeping evacuation near the University of Utah. The crew with Layton-based Down Under Construction bored into the 6-inch line while setting up a fiber optics connection underground at 500 South and 1580 East, forcing thousands to evacuate the university and surrounding neighborhoods. Contractors are required to register their dig plans with Blue Stakes of Utah, an organization that contacts utility companies. The companies then have two days to mark their lines before digging begins, said a Questar Gas spokesman. But when crews arrived to dig March 24, no gas line was marked, said a Down Under co-owner. ELM workers arrived at the scene and spoke with the Down Under crew shortly after the pipe was broken. Meanwhile, Questar crews expected to complete repairs on the line March 25, the spokesman said. The evacuation served as a test for city and university emergency-response networks.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_11994258

5. *March 25, Canadian Press* – (International) **Irving Oil to explore possibility of building 1,500 megawatt power line.** Irving Oil, Canada's largest exporter of gasoline, is now exploring the idea of constructing a 1,500 megawatt power line to New England and facilities to generate power from wind and natural gas. Irving Oil's director of business development said the company has been studying the project for about a year, but will need more time to determine whether it is economically and environmentally feasible. If the project proceeds, government officials envision the transmission line as part of an energy corridor connecting New Brunswick with the New England states. It has been two years since the New Brunswick premier and the governor of Maine signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to find ways to secure energy supply for their jurisdictions, and provide a way to export energy to power-hungry states to the south. "The corridor would provide an opportunity to collocate multiple energy lines, cables and other infrastructure to safely and reliably move energy," said the governor. The natural gas component of the proposed facility would provide a base load of electricity that could be increased when the wind is not blowing. While company officials say plans are far from complete, it is expected the new power plant could generate up to 600 megawatts of power and would be located near the Irving liquefied natural gas facility in Saint John. The company is also exploring the idea of tidal power, and getting close to making a decision on a second oil refinery in Saint John.

Source: http://www.chroniclejournal.com/stories_business.php?id=174487

6. *March 25, Bloomberg News* – (Alaska) **Alaska volcano eruption shuts oil terminal.** Chevron Corp.'s Drift River oil terminal in Alaska has been shut down following extensive flooding in the area from a volcano eruption earlier this week, a state government agency said. The terminal supplies Tesoro Corp.'s Kenai refinery, a

spokesman for Chevron said in a telephone interview. The terminal handles 8,200 barrels of crude oil a day from Exxon Mobil Corp., Pacific Energy Resources, and Chevron. Chevron has not shut in production from the Cook Inlet and can store between seven and 10 days of output near platforms, according to the spokesman. No spill has yet to be found, from tanks holding 145,000 barrels of Cook Inlet crude oil on site, according to the report from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The terminal and related pipeline were shut early March 23 following the eruption of Mount Redoubt. The terminal can hold at least one million barrels. The Cook Inlet pipeline to the terminal has a capacity of 225,000 barrels of crude a day, and mainly serves the local refinery market, according to Chevron's Web site.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/biz/6340272.html>

7. *March 25, Reuters* – (Texas) **Chevron says safe refining boosts throughput.** A process safety program has improved the reliability of Chevron Corp's 2.2-million barrel per day (bpd) refining system and yielded a gain in throughput equivalent to a new refinery, Chevron's president of global manufacturing said on March 25. Chevron has reduced unplanned operational interruptions by 40 percent in the past two years through regular planned maintenance and preventive maintenance, he said. Small increases in operational reliability at each refinery from the safety program have equaled a capacity gain between 100,000 and 150,000 bpd, he said. Earlier this year, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board called on refiners and chemical plant operators to not reduce maintenance as they cut costs to counter falling refining margins.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2544029020090325>

8. *March 25, Tyler Morning Telegraph* – (Texas) **Lightning possible cause of oil tank fire.** A saltwater tank and two oil tanks will have to be replaced after Winnsboro, Coke-Pleasant Grove and Quitman fire departments responded to a fire in Wood County Wednesday, a fire official said. The Quitman Volunteer Fire Department chief said the fire broke out between 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. and was contained by 5:20 p.m. "We're pretty certain it was (started by) lightning," he said. The fire originated at a saltwater tank, and then caught fire to two oil tanks after gas exploded. He said some oil was burned, but he did not know how full the tanks were at the time. A bobtail truck sitting next to the oil lease was also burned, he said, and there was a small amount of damage to a storage tank — mainly paint damage. A pumper on the oil lease said no one was around when the incident occurred and no one was injured.

Source:

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090325/NEWS01/903250283/0/FrontPage>

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Chemical Industry Sector

9. *March 25, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Rail firm opposes some chlorine shipments.** Union Pacific has asked federal regulators to allow the railroad to refrain from transporting chlorine to some specific destinations because of safety concerns, the Salt Lake Tribune reported on March 25. Utah-based chlorine producer U.S. Magnesium

sought to use Union Pacific to move tanker cars by rail to four sites in Louisiana and Texas, but the railroad asked the Surface Transportation Board to be relieved from its “common carrier” requirement because the transfer would pose “remote, but deadly, risks” as the material passed through high-population cities such as Chicago, Houston, and Kansas City. A Union Pacific attorney argued to the board that the four clients could obtain chlorine much closer to home. The magnesium producer insisted in its submission that it uses strong safety practices in shipping chlorine and needs to sell the chemical, a byproduct of its primary operation, in order to remain economically viable. Roughly 100,000 tankers filled with chlorine and ammonia are placed on U.S. railways each year, said an environmental consultant.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090325_3045.php

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

10. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **NRC finds violation at Conn. nuclear power plant.** Federal regulators are calling a piping system problem at a southeastern Connecticut nuclear power plant a “more than minor” safety violation. However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) says there are no public safety issues, because the owner of the Millstone nuclear power plant in Waterford fixed the problem during routine maintenance in October last year. NRC officials say some gas got trapped in pipes designed to deliver cooling water to one of two operating reactors at the plant. Regulators were concerned that the gas could affect the operation of pumps in an emergency. Millstone workers installed a valve to prevent gas buildup. A spokesman for the plant’s owner, Dominion Resources Inc., says the company found the problem in its own inspection.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h0VIwQP7JwHdprIx5V5phHnP iV_gD975O19O1

11. *March 25, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Regulators deny nuclear reactor appeal.** An environmental group said March 25 it may go to court to try to stop South Carolina’s largest private utility from building two nuclear reactors after state regulators threw out the group’s petition to block the project. An attorney, who represents Friends of the Earth, said he would review the ruling by the Public Service Commission and could decide to appeal the issue to a circuit court. Last month, commissioners approved a request by South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. (SCE&G) to build the two 1,100-megawatt reactors along with Santee Cooper at the same site where the utilities currently run a reactor. The V.C. Summer Nuclear Station is near Jenkinsville, about 25 miles northwest from Columbia. The utilities say the new reactors will be needed to meet future power demand. If the state approval stands, then the request will go to federal regulators, a process that could take several years. SCE&G has said it wants to have the first reactor generating power by 2016, and the second in 2019.

Source: <http://www.aikenstandard.com/State/m1054-BC-SC-SCE-amp-amp-GNuclearPower-2ndLd-Writethru-03-25-0470>

12. *March 25, Associated Press* – (National) **NRC racing to answer questions on depleted uranium.** The NRC is rushing to meet an April 2 deadline to turn over stacks of internal documents that could shed light on why it recently decided to classify large quantities of depleted uranium as the least hazardous type of low-level radioactive waste. The NRC's decision, which still must undergo a rule-making process that could take up to two years, would open the door for federal facilities and companies around the country to dispose of more than 1 million tons of depleted uranium in Utah and Texas. Depleted uranium is unique in that unlike other waste, it becomes more radioactive over time, leading to criticism from environmental groups that the NRC is downplaying the long-term risks of radiological exposure. About 740,000 tons of depleted uranium is currently being stockpiled at Department of Energy sites at Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. By default, depleted uranium has long been considered Class A waste by the NRC.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6340665.html>
13. *March 25, Associated Press* – (California) **Diablo Canyon nuclear plant restarts reactor.** Early completion of refueling and installation of four replacement steam generators has allowed the operator of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant to restart the Unit 1 reactor. Pacific Gas and Electric, operator of the Central Coast plant near Avila Beach, restarted the reactor at about 11:45 a.m. March 24. Restart was originally scheduled for the end of the month. A third of the unit's fuel rods and the four steam generators — which weigh 350 tons each — were replaced.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11991938
14. *March 25, Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Federal regulators extend their review of two Pilgrim power plant appeals filed by critics of the plant's relicensing proposal.** Federal regulators have extended two reviews of appeals filed by critics of a proposal to relicense the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth for another 20 years. The NRC had initially planned to complete those reviews by March 23, but the commission issued brief statements on Monday saying the reviews would be extended for an unspecified time. The commission is reviewing the attorney general's request to put its relicensing process for Pilgrim on hold until a federal appeals court can make a decision on a related case, according to a nuclear agency spokesman. The attorney general wants the agency to pay more attention to the potential hazards of storing spent nuclear fuel at the nuclear power plant sites. The commission is also reviewing an appeal filed by South Shore citizens' group Pilgrim Watch to pay more attention to issues with underground pipes and tanks at the Pilgrim plant in the relicensing process. The commission's staff has already issued a positive recommendation supporting the renewal of the license for Pilgrim, which is owned by Entergy Corp. The license would extend the nuclear plant's life from 2012 to 2032.
Source: <http://www.enterpriseneews.com/business/x945963543/Federal-regulators-extend-their-review-of-two-Pilgrim-power-plant-appeals-filed-by-critics-of-the-plant-s-relicensing-proposal>
15. *March 25, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Puerto Rico) **NRC proposes \$16,500 fine against Puerto Rico firm for violations pertaining to nuclear gauge**

security. The NRC staff is proposing a \$16,500 fine for a Puerto Rico company for three violations of agency requirements involving the security of portable nuclear gauges. The violations against S&M Testing Laboratory were identified as a result of NRC inspections and an investigation by the agency's Office of Investigations. They include the following: the storage of NRC-licensed radioactive material, contained in portable gauges owned by the company, at an unauthorized location; a failure to respond to repeated NRC letters and phone calls requesting information on the company's licensed activities and the storage of the gauges; and a failure to adhere to NRC requirements on physical security controls for the gauges. On March 7, 2008 the NRC Office of Investigations began an investigation to locate the company's president/radiation safety officer and the gauges. With the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the investigators were able to find and contact the president on August 6, 2008. At that time, she informed the NRC and FBI that the lease on the licensed storage location had expired and the gauges had been moved to a private residence in Gurabo, Puerto Rico. The gauges were stored at that unauthorized location between May 1, 2007 and September 23, 2008.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-016.i.html>

16. *March 24, Reuters* – (Arizona) **NRC reduces APS Ariz. Palo Verde reactor oversight.** The NRC said Tuesday it reduced its level of inspection oversight at Arizona Public Service's 3,875-megawatt Palo Verde nuclear power station in Arizona to reflect improvements made at the plant. "Performance at Palo Verde has improved substantially and we are adjusting our oversight accordingly," said NRC's Region IV administrator. "But we will closely monitor the plant. We are reducing our oversight, but not our vigilance."

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/governmentFilingsNews/idUSN2434484120090324>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

17. *March 26, Los Angeles Times* – (New Mexico) **Los Alamos' security flaws exposed.** An Energy Department investigation has alleviated fears that a significant amount of plutonium was missing from a national laboratory, but it has also heightened concerns about flaws in the system for controlling the U.S. stockpile of weapons materials. The investigation began in February, shortly after a routine inventory at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico found a plutonium shortage estimated at 2.2 pounds, setting off a frantic national effort to determine what happened to the material. The confidential investigation concluded this week that statisticians at the lab had miscalculated the amount of plutonium at its facility and that none was actually missing. Although the finding eliminates the worst-case scenario — that the material left the facility and ended up in rogue hands — it raises doubts about the lab's management at a time of growing concern about nuclear terrorism. The inventory miscalculation follows more than a decade of security problems at the bomb design center, including several incidents of lost classified information contained on computers, electronic drives, and paper. An investigator for the watchdog group and a former security expert at the

Energy Department said Los Alamos is overly confident about protecting plutonium. Officials at the local Energy office declined to comment.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-nuke26-2009mar26.0,3038917.story>

18. *March 25, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Oak Ridge lab receives \$71M from stimulus plan.** The Oak Ridge National Laboratory will use a portion of its \$71.2 million in federal economic stimulus funding to replace a half-century-old research building, managers said March 23. The Oak Ridge lab, located about 20 miles west of Knoxville, has been planning for some time to build a 160,000-square-foot chemicals and materials research facility to replace a badly aging 1952 structure with leaking pipes and high heating costs. The new building will house some 200 researchers studying solar batteries, corrosion-resistant materials, and superconducting electric transmission lines. Meanwhile, DOE's 33,000-acre Oak Ridge complex, which includes the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant and a former uranium enrichment plant, expects to soon learn how much it will receive from a \$6 billion stimulus account for "environmental management" cleanup activities, a DOE-Oak Ridge spokesman said.

Source:

<http://www.starhq.com/news/html/news/AP/articles.asp?day=Wednesday&article=e2108bc-tn-oakridge-stimul.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

19. *March 26, Economic Times* – (International) **Software labs warn of ATM virus that steals money from banks.** Russia's leading computer security labs have warned of a new software virus which infects Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) to steal money from bank accounts of their users. Two leading anti-virus software producers 'Doctor Web' and 'Kaspersky Lab' claimed to have discovered a new virus, in the networks of several bank ATMs, which is able to collect information from bank cards. "This is a malicious program intended to infect and survive in ATMs. It is possible that new software will appear, aimed at illegitimately using banking information and removing funds," an official of the Kaspersky Lab was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti news agency. He said the virus is a Trojan which is able to infect the popular American Diebold brand of ATMs, used in Russia and Ukraine. Judging by the programming code used, there is a high probability that the programmer comes from one of the former Soviet republics, he added. The computer security experts say the number of infected ATMs is minimal but individual bank cardholders will not be able to detect whether an ATM is infected or not.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Infotech/ATM-virus-that-steals-money/articleshow/4319363.cms>

20. *March 26, Bloomberg* – (National) **SEC plans new money manager rules after Madoff fraud.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission chairman said she will impose new rules on money managers to safeguard client holdings after a \$65 billion fraud shattered investor confidence. The SEC will propose that all investment advisers

who have custody of customer assets undergo annual audits that are “unannounced,” the chairman said on March 26 in testimony prepared for the Senate Banking Committee. Money managers may also be subject to compliance audits by professional examiners to make sure they are adhering to securities laws, she said. “For our markets to be fair and efficient and to operate in the best interests of investors, those who control access to our capital markets must be competent, financially capable and honest,” she said. The SEC is trying to strengthen oversight after lawmakers weighing the most sweeping overhaul of U.S. financial regulation since the 1930s questioned the agency’s effectiveness in the wake of the scandal. The chairman defended the SEC since taking the helm in January, arguing that the agency must remain independent of any regulator Congress assigns the role of monitoring risks posed to the economy by large banks, hedge funds, and private equity firms. “Congress created only one agency with the mandate to be the investors’ advocate,” she said. “If there were ever a time when investors need and deserve a strong voice and a forceful advocate in the federal government, that time is now.”

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a6.RWxwQh14&refer=news>

21. *March 26, Spamfighter* – (Montana) **Mountain West Bank consumers targeted by phishing scam.** Phishing fraudsters appear to be constantly attacking some banks in the Missoula region of Montana with one being Mountain West Bank, whose authorities inform that the e-mail scam began recently in March and it has gained momentum. The e-mails that pose to be messages from web-admin@mtnwestbank.com or webadmin@mtnwestbank.com direct recipients to input their account details so that their account accessibility is not restricted. The e-mails also provide a link which takes the user to a Web site that appears like the actual homepage of the bank. Meanwhile, various forms of the phishing e-mail are being circulated, with different Web links pointing to www.mtnwestbank-web14.com or www.mtnwestbank.com. The president of Mountain West Bank Missoula Branch said that a few of their clients divulged their account details, and consequently, they lost money, as reported by Montana’s News Station. The president further said that the bank was able to shutdown more than 40 of the cloned sites, but they were arising from all over the world. Meanwhile, since the e-mail has been circulating within the customers’ mailboxes for several days now, the Bank’s official Web site is displaying an urgent alert message. Accordingly, the Bank’s officials inform people that the institution is not behind any of the fraudulent, phishing e-mails. Customers are required to be wary of these kinds of frauds to guard themselves. Moreover, none of the bank’s customer databases have been attacked.

Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-12077-Mountain-West-Bank-Consumers-Targeted-by-Phishing-Scam.htm>

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Transportation Sector

22. *March 25, WTTC 5 Washington, D.C.* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious package at Union Station.** Authorities say a suspicious package at Union Station caused delays for some travelers on March 25. D.C. Police tell FOX 5 the package was found at about

8:40 p.m. One Amtrak train was affected, and one train was delayed, according to an Amtrak spokesperson. The company was planning to accommodate travelers with another train. There were no other details immediately available about the package itself or where it was found.

Source: http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/032509_suspicious_package_union_station

23. *March 25, Aero News* – (Washington) **More lasers being pointed at planes near Sea-Tac.** Yet another laser beam was recently pointed towards the cockpit of an airplane flying near Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and what is worse is the latest incident may involve a repeat offender. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reports a laser beam was flashed at an Alaska Airlines flight approaching the airport the night of March 24. The plane landed safely at just after 8 p.m., and the crew told authorities the light came from an area about 2 miles northwest of the airport. That is roughly the same area where other planes have been targeted by lasers in recent months, according to Port of Seattle police. Last month, a 24-year-old Burien resident was arrested on suspicion of targeting 13 airliners with a handheld laser pointer the night of February 22, but that man was released two weeks ago, when charges were not filed. Police said that suspect — who told police he “might have” inadvertently shone the green laser beam at the planes while attending a party in the area — is a ‘person of interest’ in this latest case.

Source: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=da439ded-1509-442c-b87e-2bfab4e53971&>

24. *March 25, Dickinson Press* – (North Dakota) **Road near bridge damaged.** The North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) closed Highway 200 from the junction of Highway 200A (east of Hazen) to the junction of Highway 1806 because rising water damaged the road near a bridge. The bridge did not collapse. The DOT will repair the road and inspect the bridge for damage.

Source: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/articles/index.cfm?id=21532§ion=News>

25. *March 25, St. Joseph News-Press* – (Missouri) **Flooding closes road.** Missouri Route H at Agency, Missouri, remains closed March 25 due to flooding, the Missouri Department of Transportation said. The department said the route out of Agency was closed at 9 a.m. due to flooding from the Platte River. In Andrew County, Route 48 east of Highway 71 and Route B from Bolckow were reopened. Both roads had been closed due to flooding from the 102 River. The Platte River was expected to crest March 25 at 24.55 feet, about 4 feet above flood stage, the National Weather Service said. The 102 River crested at 18 feet at Rosendale on March 24 and was beginning to drop, the weather service said. Its flood stage is 18 feet. To the east, a 30-foot crest was expected at the Grand River in Chillicothe. That is about 6 feet above flood stage. The Livingston County Sheriff’s Department said no major flooding was reported.

Source: <http://www.stjoenews.net/news/2009/mar/25/Floodupdate/?breaking>

26. *March 25, Greenwire* – (National) **EPA port regulations failing to protect public health, report says.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) efforts to slash ship emissions at ports have not gone far enough to protect human health, the agency’s inspector general said in a recent report. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA has authority to

regulate emissions from oceangoing vessels if their emissions threaten health. But while EPA has acknowledged for more than 14 years that ship emissions are health risks, the agency has only regulated nitrogen oxides emissions, and only from U.S.-flagged vessels. EPA has deferred taking a position on whether it has authority to regulate foreign ships, which account for about 90 percent of all U.S. port calls, the report says. But the agency has pursued international emission reductions through the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Last October, the IMO adopted new standards for vessel engines and fuels. But before significant emissions reductions can be achieved, EPA must establish control areas in which ships would be subject to tougher regulations. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/03/25/25greenwire-epa-port-regs-failing-to-protect-public-health-10285.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

27. *March 26, St. Cloud Times* – (Minnesota) **Threatening letter sent; St. Cloud man charged.** A St. Cloud man has been charged with sending threatening letters with a white powder in them to a Richmond couple and a St. Cloud business. The 37-year old suspect was charged March 9 with two counts of felony terroristic threats, one count of felony harassment/harassing pattern of conduct, and one count of gross misdemeanor criminal damage to property. The investigation started on December 3 when a Richmond couple reported getting a letter that contained a suspicious white powder, the Cold Spring Police chief said. The letter was sent to a lab to be opened and tested. The lab reported that the powder was insect poison, the police chief said. The letter's content was very threatening, he said. On December 4, a St. Cloud business reported receiving a similar letter with a white powder, the police chief added. The letter was tested and it was determined that it likely came from the same person. The FBI and U.S. Postal Inspectors helped in the investigation. Source: <http://www.sctimes.com/article/20090326/NEWS01/103250044/1009>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

28. *March 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Investigators say food tracing system full of gaps.** Government investigators testing the nation's food tracing system were able to follow only five out of 40 foods all the way through the supply chain, according to a report released Thursday. For 31 of the 40, investigators said they were able to identify the facilities that most likely handled the products. And in the case of four items, 10 percent of the total, investigators were unable to identify the facilities that handled them. An investigation by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office found that the records many companies keep are not detailed enough. And one-quarter of the company managers were totally unaware of record keeping requirements. The inspector general recommended that the FDA consider seeking stronger legal powers to improve the tracing of food. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp->

29. *March 26, USAgNet* – (Midwest) **Group formed to consolidate Midwest farms.** A group of investors, Midwest Farmland Partners, headquartered in Lisle, Illinois, is working on consolidating Midwest family farms. The Midwest region of the United States is made up of 12 states and the region's current contribution to the production of grains such as corn, soybeans & wheat, is significant. By joining together, farmers have the power to make decisions relating to food production that can also affect supply and price. Climate change, rising sea levels, and a lack of fresh water in arid areas could significantly increase the world's dependence on grains produced in the Midwest. At the present growth rate of 1.1 percent per year, the U.S. population will reach half a billion people sometime around the middle of the century, which could create issues for the nation. If experts are correct, the world will consume more grain than it produces, on a permanent basis, in only a few short years as a result of a growing population, an emerging bio-fuels industry, and a diminishing supply of productive farmland.
Source: http://www.usagnet.com/state_headlines/state_story.php?tbl=IN2009&ID=238

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Water Sector

30. *March 26, Duluth News-Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Rain causes sewer overflows in Duluth.** The recent rain and melting snow caused at least two wastewater overflows in Duluth. The Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) reports that about 400,000 gallons of wastewater spilled at its Fifth Avenue East overflow control structure at the Lakewalk between 10 p.m. March 24 and 12:15 a.m. March 25. "The pipeline that overflowed carries water from Duluth's Woodland and East Hillside neighborhoods," the WLSSD executive director said in a news release. "We saw flows from the city of Duluth at eight times the normal rate last night. Peak flow to the wastewater treatment plant was over 128 million gallons per day, compared to the average daily flow of 38 [million gallons per day]. This clearly shows that a tremendous amount of rainwater is still getting into the sanitary sewer system." The director said there might have been more overflows if not for recent improvements in the collection system, including the construction of overflow storage basins in Gary/New Duluth, Lakeside and at 18th Avenue East. In addition, the overflow at Fifth Avenue East was directed away from streets to a specified discharge point at lake level, as designed. A planned storage basin should prevent overflows at Fifth Avenue East, according to WLSSD. The city of Duluth also reported a wastewater overflow at Lift Station 45 at 52nd Avenue East and Dodge Street. The overflow began about 1 a.m. March 25. Duluth utility employees have been responding to various water-related calls since March 23. Samples were drawn and will be analyzed for contaminants.
Source: <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/116004/>
31. *March 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Study: Range of pharmaceuticals in fish across U.S.** Fish caught near wastewater treatment plants serving five major U.S. cities had residues of pharmaceuticals in them, including medicines used to treat high cholesterol, allergies, high blood pressure, bipolar disorder, and depression, researchers

reported March 25. Findings from this first nationwide study of human drugs in fish tissue have prompted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to significantly expand similar ongoing research to more than 150 different locations. “The average person hopefully will see this type of a study and see the importance of us thinking about water that we use every day, where does it come from, where does it go to? We need to understand this is a limited resource and we need to learn a lot more about our impacts on it,” said the study’s co-author, a Baylor University researcher and professor who has published more than a dozen studies related to pharmaceuticals in the environment. A person would have to eat hundreds of thousands of fish dinners to get even a single therapeutic dose, he said. But researchers have found that even extremely diluted concentrations of pharmaceutical residues can harm fish, frogs, and other aquatic species because of their constant exposure to contaminated water. The research was published online March 25 by the journal of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and also was presented at a meeting of the American Chemical Society in Salt Lake City. Much of the contamination comes from the unmetabolized residues of pharmaceuticals that people have taken and excreted; unused medications dumped down the drain also contribute to the problem. In an ongoing investigation, the Associated Press has reported trace concentrations of pharmaceuticals have been detected in drinking water provided to at least 46 million Americans. The EPA has called for additional studies about the impact on humans of long-term consumption of minute amounts of medicines in their drinking water, especially in unknown combinations. Limited laboratory studies have shown that human cells failed to grow or took unusual shapes when exposed to combinations of some pharmaceuticals found in drinking water. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jHJX6cEHhC2MY51YVyPv7s mDu9RQD975A5LO0>

32. *March 25, Daily Home* – (Alabama) **Hundreds complaining of bad smell.** Many Sylacauga residents are expressing concern about foul-smelling emissions that exploded from the REEF Environmental LLC water treatment facility and spread across the city recently. “I’ve literally gotten 500 calls about it,” said an environmentalist for the Talladega County Health Department. He said he believes there is nothing toxic about the odors, saying it is a methane gas smell making people nauseated. He added he is not the regulator of the emissions and said he has been referring callers to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for information on the matter. A REEF facility manager said last week the odors come from the facility’s basin. “There’s not anything in it that’s harmful or anything; it’s just...an odor from the treatment disposal of the waste water,” he previously said. He said engineers are working to put up a plastic dome covering the basin, to prevent odors from escaping.

Source: <http://www.dailyhome.com/news/2009/dh-sylacauga-0325-0-9c24w5305.htm>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *March 26, Jakarta Post* – (International) **Bird flu suspect dies in Pekanbaru.** A two-year-old boy, who had been intensively, treated for a suspected birdflu case, died in an

isolated room at Arifin Achmad Hospital in Pekanbaru, Riau early Thursday morning. The boy was admitted as birdflu suspect last Friday after he had been treated at another hospital for six days. The hospital has yet to announce whether the boy died of birdflu because it was still waiting for nasal and throat swab test results from the health ministry laboratory in Jakarta.

Source: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/03/26/bird-flu-suspect-dies-pekanbaru.html>

34. *March 25, Science Centric* – (National) **Study finds program has improved health agencies' preparedness for bioterror and disease outbreaks.** A federal program designed to help metropolitan public health agencies prepare to deliver essential medicines to the public after a large-scale bioterror attack or natural disease outbreak has succeeded in improving the level of readiness, according to a new RAND Corporation study. Researchers found that the federal Cities Readiness Initiative, a program active in 72 metropolitan areas, appears to have improved agencies' ability to rapidly and widely dispense life-saving medications and other medical supplies in the event of a large-scale bioterror attack or a naturally occurring infectious disease outbreak. The study from RAND Health concludes there is merit in extending the program so the impact can be further monitored, although the analysis did not assess the cost-effectiveness of the effort or compare it to other public health priorities.

Source: <http://www.sciencecentric.com/news/article.php?q=09032505-study-finds-program-has-improved-health-agencies-preparedness-bioterror-disease-outbreaks>

35. *March 25, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **U.S. hospitals slow to adopt e-Records.** Only 9 percent of U.S. hospitals have electronic health records, according to a new survey that reveals the gap between the present state of American health care and a high-tech future envisioned by policy makers. The survey, sent to hospitals in March 2008 and published online Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine, found that most institutions have some basic electronic systems, such as those for reporting patients' lab results. Cost was the most commonly mentioned barrier to adoption of such systems, cited in the survey by 74 percent of hospitals without electronic records. That suggests many facilities are likely to tap into federal incentives aimed at increasing the use of electronic records. The economic-stimulus package that Congress passed in February is likely to generate more than \$20 billion in federal outlays for health-information technology, mostly between 2011 and 2015, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Only 1.5 percent of hospitals have adopted what the survey's authors define as a comprehensive, hospital-wide system. Another 7.6 percent of hospitals have adopted basic systems in at least one unit of the hospital, according to a less-rigorous definition that includes electronic physician notes, but not certain other features.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123802378615142099.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

36. *March 26, Associated Press* – (California) **Test pilot killed in F-22 crash.** A Lockheed Martin test pilot and 21-year Air Force veteran died on March 25 in the crash of an F-22

Raptor in the high desert of Southern California. The F-22A crashed at 10 a.m. about 35 miles northeast of Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert, in an area the Bureau of Land Management identifies as Harper Dry Lake, a vast and empty expanse of sometimes marshy flat land. In a statement, Lockheed identified the pilot as a 49-year old, who joined the company in 2003. It did not release any details of the accident, including whether the pilot attempted to eject. A statement issued by Edwards said first responders transported the test pilot from the crash scene to Victor Valley Community Hospital in Victorville, where he was pronounced dead.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/test-pilot-killed-in-f22-crash.html?col=1186032310810&ESRC=topstories.RSS>

37. *March 26, BBC News* – (International) **U.S. air base package not dangerous.** A suspicious package found in a vehicle outside RAF Lakenheath in the United Kingdom on March 25 has turned out to be harmless. As a precaution, a 1,640 foot cordon was place around Gate 1 at the Suffolk base, and traffic on the A1065 was diverted from the area. Police said the package was found during routine checks on vehicles entering the U.S. air base. Surrounding facilities were evacuated, and a team of explosive disposal experts carried out investigations.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/suffolk/7963103.stm

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Emergency Services Sector

38. *March 25, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Audit: Nearly \$2 million misspent under state emergency management's lax oversight.** State emergency management officials failed to monitor a \$1.8 million federal grant that was used to buy inferior equipment for ten Kentucky counties, the state auditor reported. The lack of oversight helped allow a Laurel County emergency operations director to award the contract for the equipment to a business partner, the audit says. "The auditor's office is questioning the more than \$1.8 million cost due to the improper handling of the overall transaction and the lack of oversight by the state," a state auditor said in a press release. "It's clear that the state's lax monitoring allowed this major purchase to be awarded to a related party who supplied equipment to 10 counties that was not only under specifications but also inflated in price." Because of the irregularities at the local level, the state auditor said she referred the matter to the attorney general's office, the FBI, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The findings are part of an annual report by the auditor's office on the state's compliance with requirements for federal grant money spent during the 2007-08 fiscal year. At issue in the audit's main finding is \$1.8 million in federal Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program grant funds. Some Central and Southern Kentucky counties receive the funds because chemical weapons are housed at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20090325/NEWS0101/903250423>

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Information Technology

39. *March 26, IDG News Service* – (International) **Firefox fix due next week after attack is published.** Online attack code has been released targeting a critical, unpatched flaw in the Firefox browser. The attack code, written by a security researcher, was published on several security sites on March 25, sending Firefox developers scrambling to patch the issue. Until the flaw is patched, this code could be modified by attackers and used to sneak unauthorized software onto a Firefox user's machine. Mozilla developers have already worked out a fix for the vulnerability. It is slated to ship in the upcoming 3.0.8 release of the browser, which developers are now characterizing as a "high-priority firedrill security update," thanks to the attack code. That update is expected sometime early next week. "We... consider this a critical issue," said the Mozilla director of security engineering in an e-mail. The bug affects Firefox on all operating systems, including Mac OS and Linux, according to Mozilla developer notes on the issue. By tricking a victim into viewing a maliciously coded XML file, an attacker could use this bug to install unauthorized software on a victim's system. This kind of Web-based malware, called a drive-by download, has become increasingly popular in recent years. While the public release of browser attack code does not happen all that often, security researchers do not seem to have much trouble finding bugs in browser software. Last week, two hackers at the CanSecWest security conference dug up four separate bugs in the Firefox, IE, and Safari browsers.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/032609-firefox-fix-due-next-week.html>

40. *March 25, Computerworld* – (International) **New ransomware holds Windows files hostage, demands \$50.** Cyber crooks have hit on a new twist to their aggressive marketing of fake security software and are duping users into downloading a file utility that holds users' data for ransom, security researchers warned on March 25. While so-called scareware has plagued computer users for months, those campaigns have relied on phony antivirus products that pretend to trap malware but actually only exist to pester people into ponying up as much as \$50 to stop the bogus warnings. The new scam takes a different tack: It uses a Trojan horse that is seeded by tricking users into running a file that poses as something legitimate like a software update. Once on the victim's PC, the malware swings into action, encrypting a wide variety of document types, ranging from Microsoft Word .doc files to Adobe Reader PDFs, anytime one is opened. It also scrambles the files in Windows' "My Documents" folder. When a user tries to open one of the encrypted files, an alert pops up saying that a utility called FileFix Pro 2009 will unscramble the data. The message poses as a semiofficial notice from the operating system. "Windows detected that some of your MS Office and media files are corrupted. Click here to download and install recommended file repair application," the message reads. Clicking on the alert downloads and installs FileFix Pro, but the utility is anything but legit. It will decrypt only one of the corrupted files for free, then demands the user purchase the software. "This does look like a new tactic," said the global director of education at antivirus vendor Trend Micro Inc. "But all online fraud is just minor variations of classic con games. This is just the 'Bank Examiner' played out on the Internet." On the Web, data-hostage scams like this are called "ransomware" for obvious

reasons. This is not the first time the tactic has been used, but it is remarkably polished, said the director. “We have not seen ransomware with this level of sophistication,” he said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=cybercrime_and_hacking&articleId=9130539&taxonomyId=82&intsrc=kc_to_p

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

41. *March 26, Bit-Tech.net* – (International) **Worm targets Linux routers.** Users of Linux-based routers are being warned of a new worm in the wild which attempts to take control and add their device to a growing botnet. As reported over on vnunet.com on March 25, the ‘psyb0t’ worm was first spotted by security research group DroneBL recently, but may have been spreading since the start of the year. Designed to brute-force the password of routers running Linux compiled for the RISC-based MIPS chip, including ones running custom OpenWRT and DD-WRT firmwares, the worm takes control of poorly secured devices and joins a botnet which the DroneBL group estimates may have grown to as large as 100,000 compromised devices so far. Because the worm relies on insecure passwords, or devices which have not been reconfigured from their default settings, the group claims that “ninety per cent of the routers and modems participating in this botnet are [doing so] due to user error.” While it is always good advice to choose a very secure password for Internet-facing devices, it is unlikely that anyone reading a security blog needs telling. The payload of the worm is interesting: as well as allowing full remote control of the router via an IRC channel, the malware uses packet inspection techniques in an attempt to sniff traffic for usernames and passwords to Web sites and e-mail accounts. The worm also attempts to resist disinfection by locking out telnet, SSH, and Web access to the device’s management functionality — preventing the device from being flashed with a known-clean firmware. The group notes that “this is the first known botnet based on exploiting consumer network devices, such as home routers and cable/dsl modems” and warns that “many devices appear to be vulnerable.”

Source: <http://www.bit-tech.net/news/bits/2009/03/26/worm-targets-linux-routers/1>

42. *March 25, IDG News Service* – (International) **Cisco security updates squash router bugs.** Cisco has released eight security updates for the Internetwork Operating System (IOS) software used to power its routers. The patches were released on March 25, the

day Cisco had previously scheduled for its twice-yearly IOS updates. None of the bugs had been publicly disclosed ahead of the March 25 updates, but some of them were reported to Cisco by outside sources. Most of the bugs could be exploited by attackers to crash or somehow disrupt service to a router, typically if a specific, vulnerable service is enabled, Cisco said. For example, Cisco has fixed two bugs in its SSLVPN (Secure Sockets Layer Virtual Private Network) software that could be used to crash the device. Attackers could exploit one of these bugs by sending a specially crafted HTTPS packet to the router. The bug does not affect users of the company's ASA 5500 appliance or of Cisco IOS XR or XE software, however. SSLVPN lets users outside of the corporate firewall access their company's network using a Web browser, instead of installing special VPN software on their PC. Another serious bug affects those who have enabled the Secure Copy Protocol (SCP), used to allow file transfers over the network. Because of this bug, an authenticated user on the device could "transfer files to and from a Cisco IOS device that is configured to be an SCP server, regardless of what users are authorized to do," Cisco said in its advisory. This could allow a user to mess with the router's configuration files or sneak a peek at passwords, Cisco said.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/161959/cisco_security_updates_squash_router_bugs.html

43. *March 25, WTHR 13 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **AT&T to expand Indiana coverage.**

AT&T announced on March 25 that it plans to add over 35 new cell sites in Indiana this year. AT&T says it is expanding its 3G wireless broadband network. New cell sites include Anderson, Bloomington, Carmel, Evansville, Fishers, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Muncie, Noblesville, Sheridan, South Bend, Terre Haute, and more. AT&T will also introduce 3G services in Anderson, Bloomington, Columbus, and Muncie, and expand its 3G footprint in Allen, Hamilton, Johnson, and St. Joseph counties. New sites will also expand coverage in several other Indiana counties including: Clark, Floyd, Lake, LaPorte, Porter, Spencer, and Vanderburgh.

Source: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=10068237&nav=9Tai>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Bill allows Texans to keep guns in cars at work.**

The Texas Senate gave unanimous approval to legislation Wednesday that would allow people to carry legal firearms, including concealed firearms, to work and then store them in their parked vehicles outside. Businesses could still keep guns out of their offices and company-owned vehicles but the bill would no longer let employers ban guns in company parking facilities, as long as they remain locked up inside an employee's vehicle. Also, employers may still ban firearms from secure, fenced parking lots, and garages, but they would have to provide an alternative parking area. The president of the Texas Association of Business warned that it could also spark more workplace gun crimes, particularly at a time when more and more people are losing their jobs.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp->

dyn/content/article/2009/03/26/AR2009032600607.html

45. *March 25, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **Largo chemical plume still spreading.** A large chemical plume that sits beneath the Young-Rainey Star Center building on Belcher Road has spread to nearby properties, including areas around a daycare center. The federal Energy Department, which is overseeing a cleanup at the former General Electric (GE) plant, says the contamination poses no threat to children at the New Directions in Learning Child Development Center. The center sits on the former GE plant property. The Energy Department has already spent about \$15 million to clean up other areas of the plant property, digging holes 30 to 35 feet deep and removing 8,000 cubic yards of soil. The department is overseeing the cleanup because the contamination began in the 1960s when GE produced triggers for nuclear weapons at the plant. Workers at the former GE plant dumped chemicals, degreasers, and cleaning solutions into a pit near the northeast section of the site. Energy Department charts mapping the contamination beneath the Star Center show chemicals are moving east toward the daycare center. The contamination also has spread south through some drainage ponds, across Bryan Dairy Road into an office park across the street.
Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2009/mar/25/largo-chemical-plume-still-spreading/>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

46. *March 26, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **Forest Service to look for explosives in Pink Beds.** U.S. Forest Service personnel plan to search the Pink Beds area of the Pisgah National Forest this week for possible explosives left by a fugitive captured in late November. The forest service performed a controlled burn of 1,000 acres in the area February 17, followed by a second, 50-acre burn on March 24 to clear underbrush to aid in searching for ammunition and explosives that may have been left in the area by a fugitive captured last November. After his capture, the forest service closed the area and posted signs warning the public about the possibility of explosives in the woods after finding equipment to make booby traps along with gunpowder and guns. A forest service spokesman said no explosives were detonated during the two burns and personnel plan to search the area through March 26 for additional explosives. He said the area could be opened as early as next week.
Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009903260350>

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Dams Sector

47. *March 26, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Fargo, ND officials to raise dikes as river rises.** Thousands of North Dakotans stacked sandbags around the clock to protect the state's largest city from the rising Red River, expected to reach a record level on March 28. Across the state, Bismarck breathed easier as the Missouri River fell 2 feet, limiting the flooding. Volunteers and Fargo officials were heeding the mayor's call

March 26 to add another foot of dike protection against the rising water. The river was at 38.19 feet early March 26. The National Weather Service predicted the Red River would crest at 41 feet, raising concerns about massive flooding among residents in Fargo. The mayor described 41 feet as “uncharted territory,” noting the Red’s record high at Fargo was 40.1 feet in 1897. Evacuations of flooded homes south of Fargo continued on the morning of March 26. A Cass County sheriff said authorities had 11 requests for evacuations. The Coast Guard and local rescuers and emergency officials have been using airboats to evacuate flood-stranded residents.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/26/AR2009032600473.html>

48. *March 26, KCCI 8 Des Moines* – (Iowa) **Work to begin on Saylorville Lake damage.** Work will soon begin to repair \$25 million worth of damage after last summer’s flooding at Saylorville Lake. The Army Corps of Engineers says the first priority is to replace the asphalt road below the emergency spillway. Flood waters washed it away last June. Crews will also rebuild parts of the main spillway below the dam and the entire marina boat ramp. The lake manager says even with all the recent rain, the long-term forecast calls for a dryer summer. “Unlike last year, most of our snowmelt is gone, so that makes me more comfortable,” said a spokesman of the Army Corps of Engineers. Most of the construction at Saylorville will start in June and last through the summer.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/19006135/detail.html>

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