



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 March 2009

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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

- The Associated Press reports that pirates armed with machine guns pursued and captured a Norwegian chemical tanker off the coast of Somalia on Thursday, less than 24 hours after a smaller Greek-owned chemical tanker was seized in the same area. (See item [5](#))
- According to the Associated Press, officials in North Dakota ordered Thursday a mandatory evacuation of one Fargo neighborhood and a nursing home after authorities found cracks in an earthen levee built around the area. (See item [41](#))

### **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 27, U.S. Coast Guard* – (Alaska) **Drift River Terminal unaffected by lahars.** Drift River Terminal has been unaffected by the lahars generated from morning eruptions of Redoubt Volcano on March 27. The tank farm remains free of mud and debris and no oil has been released. The previous lahar generated on March 23 deposited mud around the terminal hangar and the landing strip. Some sediment laden water lapped over the tertiary tank containment dike in isolated spots but did not intrude on the secondary containment. Some water appears to have made it into some of the industrial buildings that house offices, equipment, and pumps. The deposits served to direct the latest lahar away from the facility. The Coast Guard and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation are working cooperatively with Cook Inlet Pipe Line

Company to assess the situation at Drift River. Plans are moving forward to have Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response Inc. conduct soundings in the vicinity of the terminal's oil load-out platform to ensure vessel traffic can operate safely. Currently 148,000 barrels (6.2 million gallons) of Cook Inlet crude oil are located in two of the seven tanks that occupy the Drift River tank farm. That is well below the tanks' maximum capacity of 277,000 barrels each. The Associated Press reports that Cook Inletkeeper, a conservation group, on March 24 called on Chevron and state and federal agencies to remove the oil from the tanks to protect Cook Inlet's valuable fisheries.

Source: [http://www.ktva.com/ci\\_12007111](http://www.ktva.com/ci_12007111)

See also:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hcWJaxwgurm\\_TV9AVcObQBWbS25QD974NLV84](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hcWJaxwgurm_TV9AVcObQBWbS25QD974NLV84)

2. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Culver issues emergency proclamation for Greene Co.** The governor of Iowa has issued an emergency proclamation for Greene County after a fire at a substation caused power outages throughout the area. The governor issued the proclamation Thursday night. It sends members of the Iowa National Guard to the western Iowa county to help restore power by providing a power generator.  
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-emergencyproclama,0,186533.story>
3. *March 26, KFYYR 5 Bismarck* – (North Dakota) **Flooding affects power plants.** Flooding on the Missouri River is forcing two electric power plants in western North Dakota to shut down. A utility spokesman and the governor of North Dakota says the action will not affect power supplies for customers. The governor says the Leland Olds and Stanton power plants are shutting down because the Garrison Dam is not releasing water. They generate more than 800 megawatts of power every day. Basin Electric Power Cooperative owns the Leland Olds plant. A spokesman says alternative power sources in South Dakota are being started up to make up for the loss of electricity. The dam has cut off its water releases to ease flooding downstream in Bismarck.  
Source: [http://www.kfyrtv.com/News\\_Stories.asp?news=28468](http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=28468)
4. *March 26, Reuters* – (Texas) **Fire, power outage hit Motiva Port Arthur refinery.** A power outage caused by a lightning storm impacted several units at Motiva's oil refinery in Port Arthur, Texas and set off a flash fire that was quickly extinguished, the company said in a filing with environmental regulators. The hydrocracker was shut and a delayed coker unit was put on circulation, according to the filing with the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality. The fire was extinguished.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2646838620090326>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *March 26, Associated Press* – (International) **Somali pirates hijack two tankers in 24 hours.** Pirates armed with machine guns pursued and captured a Norwegian chemical

tanker off the coast of Somalia on March 26, the owners said, less than 24 hours after a smaller Greek-owned vessel was seized in the same area. The U.S. 5th Fleet, which patrols the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden, confirmed both hijackings and said they happened in the same area but separate from the gulf, one of the world's busiest — and now most treacherous — sea lanes. The 23,000-ton Norwegian-owned Bow Asir was seized 250 miles off the Somali coast on the morning of March 26, and the 9,000-ton Greek-owned Nipayia, with 19 crew members, was attacked about 450 miles off Somalia on March 25, the European Union's military spokesman said. Both vessels are chemical tankers but their cargoes were not immediately made public.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gB7YMEDuCwwY9ncDOtPAkEI4-H2wD975S1G82>

6. *March 26, News-Messenger* – (West Virginia) **Scientists report more findings in C8, a chemical used to produce Teflon, study.** A panel of scientists has detected more possible links between a chemical used to produce Teflon and public health issues. The court-appointed panel is looking at blood samples and health histories of some 70,000 Ohio and West Virginia residents who live near DuPont's Washington Works chemical plant in West Virginia. The three scientists reported Thursday they found evidence that could connect the chemical C8 to birth defects and high blood pressure in pregnant women. The C8 Science Panel also said babies whose mothers have high levels of C8 in their blood are 70 percent more likely to have birth defects. But the scientists played down the findings, calling them "weak relationships." They say the results support the need for more studies.

Source: <http://www.thenews-messenger.com/article/20090326/UPDATES01/90327001>

7. *March 26, Northwest Tennessee Messenger* – (Kentucky) **Road closed for anhydrous ammonia leak.** A small section of the Purchase Parkway in Fulton County, Kentucky was closed for about two hours on March 25 evening after a hazardous materials incident involving an anhydrous ammonia leak. A spokesman from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said a weigh station officer advised that a tractor-trailer combination hauling anhydrous ammonia had pulled over at the weigh station to be inspected, and the leak was discovered. The company was contacted, and plans were made to offload the chemical to another tanker. The Fulton Fire Department was among the agencies which responded to the incident.

Source: <http://www.nwtntoday.com/news.php?viewStory=24475>

8. *March 26, KOVR 13 Sacramento* – (California) **Small fire at P&G facility causes hazmat situation.** A small fire at the Procter & Gamble (P&G) facility in South Sacramento on March 26 caused a hazmat situation. The fire was caused during routine maintenance on a hydrogen tank, according to the Sacramento Fire Department. During maintenance, the tank valve failed, causing hydrogen to leak and catch fire. Firefighters as well as P&G employees quickly got the fire under control.

Source: <http://cbs13.com/local/procter.gamble.hazmat.2.968776.html>

9. *March 25, Las Vegas Sun* – (Nevada) **Mock disaster drill tests police, fire department**

**response.** North Las Vegas police and fire officials wondered if they could respond effectively to a major disaster such as a train carrying chlorine derailing and forcing as many as 10,000 people to evacuate their homes. The city's police and fire Unified Command put that scenario to the test on March 24 in a mock emergency drill. The departments' priority was to test their ability to organize volunteers to assist in crowd control, evacuations, and security. In the mock emergency, however, other agencies were busy with a bomb scare, a fire, and an armed standoff. That left North Las Vegas to deal with the simulated tanker spill with help from about 80 retired law enforcement officers from the Volunteer Homeland Security Reserve Unit. "Nobody ever has an abundance of resources, so the Department of Homeland Security has made that one of the requirements — to work with volunteer groups and volunteer services to assist first responders in emergencies," said the acting director of the city's emergency management department. "The big piece here is communication. How are we communicating? Are we communicating clearly?" As for the likelihood of the scenario, chlorine rolls through town on the rails regularly.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/mar/25/mock-disaster-drill-tests-police-fire-response/>

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

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *March 26, Aviation Week* – (National) **SBSS launch slips until July.** Launch of the U.S. Air Force's first Space-Based Space Surveillance (SBSS) satellite aboard a Minotaur rocket has slipped as engineers try to ensure that the flight does not suffer the same fate as NASA's Orbital Carbon Observatory (OCO). The Block 10 SBSS launch, which had been expected to take place in April or May, is now likely to slip to July, according to the CEO of Boeing Satellite Systems International. OCO was lost in February when the fairing on its Orbital Sciences-built Taurus XL rocket failed to open. Orbital also builds the Minotaur, which has a lot of hardware in common with the Taurus, including fairing systems. SBSS will optically survey objects in geosynchronous orbit from its own low-Earth orbit. Its deployment was led extra urgency by last year's loss of the Defense Department's only previous space-based sensor for keeping tabs on other satellites, which finally failed after exceeding its design life.

Source: [http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_channel.jsp?channel=space&id=news/SBSS032609.xml&headline=SBSS%20Launch%20Slips%20Until%20July](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=space&id=news/SBSS032609.xml&headline=SBSS%20Launch%20Slips%20Until%20July)

11. *March 25, Connecticut Post* – (National) **Sikorsky to pay \$2.9m in fraud case.** Sikorsky Aircraft agreed March 25 to pay \$2.9 million to settle a dispute alleging the aviation firm failed to properly test armor-plated inserts on Black Hawk helicopters sold to the Army. Meanwhile, an investigation is ongoing as to the culpability of Ceradyne

Inc., of Costa Mesa, California, which manufactured and supplied the parts to Sikorsky. The government claims from 1992 to 2006, the ballistic panels installed to the left of the pilot and the right of the co-pilot were not tested to meet the government's ballistic requirements under the contract terms. A spokesman for Sikorsky said that the company entered into the settlement to avoid more costly litigation. The government could point to no specific injuries resulting from the untested plates. The acting assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice's Civil Division said the settlement sends a message that "fraud, especially when it concerns the safety of our men and women in uniform, cannot and will not be tolerated in government contracts."

Source: [http://www.connpost.com/ci\\_11994299](http://www.connpost.com/ci_11994299)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. **March 26, Bloomberg** – (International) **Millennium Bank in Caribbean is Ponzi scam, SEC says.** U.S. regulators said they halted a \$68 million Ponzi scheme at Caribbean-based Millennium Bank, the second case this year accusing a bank in the islands of fraudulently selling certificates of deposit. Millennium, describing itself as the subsidiary of a Swiss bank, made "blatant misrepresentations and glaring omissions" while marketing the instruments to wealthy U.S. clients since 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said in a statement on March 26. A federal judge in Texas agreed to freeze assets after the SEC sued both companies and five people, including residents of North Carolina and California. "The defendants disguised their Ponzi scheme as a legitimate offshore investment and made promises about exuberant returns that were just too good to be true," said the director of the SEC's office in Fort Worth, Texas in a statement. Attorneys for the defendants could not be located.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=amNA4iRaoNPs&refer=us>

13. **March 26, Reuters** – (National) **U.S. bank group opposes plan to expand FDIC powers.** A top U.S. bank industry group said on March 26 it opposes a Treasury Department proposal to give the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp the power the wind down troubled non-bank financial firms. The American Bankers Association also raised concerns about an expansion of Federal Reserve powers, saying nothing should be done to detract from the Fed's monetary policy responsibilities. "With regard to the resolution mechanism, ABA has serious concerns with formally giving the FDIC this power. It is dangerous to risk confusing the mission of the FDIC and detracting from the power of its image in the minds of depositors," the ABA president said in a statement. He said the FDIC's experience with resolving failed banks should be tapped, but the actual resolution power should be located elsewhere. The FDIC currently has the power to seize depository banks, but does not have similar authority for non-banks, including bank holding companies such as Citigroup Inc. or insurers such as American International Group Inc. Legislation was proposed recently that would give the government the power to seize a troubled non-bank financial firm whose outright failure could do broad damage to the economy. The legislation gives the FDIC the power to make loans to a troubled firm while keeping it open, buy a stake in the firm, assume

obligations, take a lien on the firm's assets, sell off the firm's assets, or seize the whole firm.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/governmentFilingsNews/idUSN2649825020090326>

14. *March 26, Spamfighter* – (Colorado) **Phishing mails attacked members of Pikes Peak Credit Union.** The Pikes Peak of Credit Unions in Colorado is cautioning users to be careful about phishing mails being sent by hackers. The Pikes Peak of Credit Unions claims that the ID thieves and hackers did not breach credit union security systems to access phone numbers and e-mail addresses; instead, they are distributing unsolicited mails in the hope that someone will be deceived. According to the investigation done till now, mails carry authentic looking logos and other similar details copied directly from credit union sites, making the e-mails appear legitimate and anyone can be deceived. Like other phishing mails, this too asks for personal details such as passwords, account numbers, and social security numbers to gain access to consumers' money. Further, credit unions and banks will not ask for private details of customers through mails. In addition, as the phishing mails were sent to members in the wild, the official Web site of Credit Union asks its members to contact with the fraud departments of all three important credit union bureaus, TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian, at their helpdesk numbers. Apart from this, it suggests Credit Union members to shut down any accounts that have been exploited or accessed by hackers as credit account includes all accounts with banks, credit unions, credit card companies and other lenders, phone companies, utilities, Internet Service Providers, and other service providers.

Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-12073-Phishing-Mails-Attacked-Members-of-Pikes-Peak-Credit-Union.htm>

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## **Transportation Sector**

15. *March 27, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Several people injured in collision.** Several people were injured on March 26 when a MARC train apparently struck a Metrobus at the Riverdale Park train station, causing it to hit another bus, a Metro spokesman said. A Metro spokeswoman said the train struck the back of an F4 route bus headed to New Carrollton just before 4:30 p.m. The bus then collided with an F4 bus headed to Silver Spring. Another Metro spokeswoman initially said that there had been no collision with the train and that the bus had been hit by the gate blocking the train crossing, then rear-ended by another bus. A Prince George's County fire spokesman said eight people riding in the second bus suffered minor injuries. All Camden Line service was suspended, and MARC ran shuttles between the Riverdale Station and Camden Station in Baltimore.
- Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/26/AR2009032603705.html>

16. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Denver airport returning to normal after big storm.** A storm dumped up to 17 inches of snow in the Denver area on March 26, and airlines canceled at least 475 flights at Denver International Airport. The National



Weather Service says fog is blanketing parts of eastern Colorado, where 20-mph winds pushed snow into drifts of up to 5 feet deep.

Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=10082594>

17. *March 26, New Jersey Star Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Amtrak train strikes car on tracks in North Brunswick.** A car that went over a guard rail and landed on railroad tracks in North Brunswick was struck by an Amtrak train carrying 220 passengers from Washington to Boston on March 26, police said. The driver of the car, whose name was not immediately available, got out of the vehicle and was waiting for police when the train hit his car, a North Brunswick police lieutenant said. The train that struck the car stopped about half a mile north of the crash. It was unknown if there were any injuries on the train. Two of four tracks NJ Transit Northeast Corridor line were closed because of the crash, said the NJ Transit spokesman. It is causing 30 minute delays for NJ Transit trains, but trains are still getting through the area.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/car\\_struck\\_and\\_destroyed\\_by\\_pa.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/car_struck_and_destroyed_by_pa.html)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *March 26, KEYC 12 Mankato* – (Minnesota) **List of post offices receiving bomb threats released.** Several Mankato area post offices have recently been the target of bomb threats. Now the U.S. Postal Service has released the list of the 16 Minnesota cities where bomb threats were received. The first round of threats came in early February. During the week of March 16-20, eight more letters were received. The threats are still being actively investigated.

Source: <http://www.keyc.com/node/19592>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *March 26, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Report calls for new food safety oversight.** Adding to the chorus seeking an overhaul of the nation's food safety system, a report issued Wednesday called on the Presidential Administration to put someone in charge of safeguarding the food supply and to create a Food Safety Administration. The food safety system is "plagued with problems," said the executive director of Trust for America's Health, which released the report in conjunction with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "We are way overdue for a makeover," said the director of the foundation's Public Health Team. "It costs us around \$44 billion annually in medical care and lost productivity, so the stakes are really high." A former FDA deputy and a professor at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services said obsolete laws focus on reacting to problems rather than preventing them, and the agency is underfunded. Also, he said, there is no unified system for inspection, enforcement, and notifying the public of dangers. The report calls for the FDA's food program funding to double in the next five years, from \$542 million in fiscal 2009.

Several bills have been introduced in Congress to remake the food safety system, a responsibility shared by 15 agencies, according to Trust for America's Health. A bill introduced by a Representative from Connecticut calls for splitting the FDA into two agencies — one for food and the other for drugs and medical devices.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-fda26-2009mar26,0,764660.story>

20. *March 26, News 14 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Agriculture leaders plan local food network.** Agricultural leaders from across North Carolina met to discuss the future of the industry during a seminar hosted by North Carolina State University. Leaders said they think a state-supported, local food system would help slow the number of farms lost in North Carolina, which the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported to be one in 5,000 in the last five years. That report counted more than 52,000 farmers tilling and planting across the state. The leaders talked about creating a state-sponsored Local Food System network that would help small farmers with issues like food safety. With recent food safety scares, farmers said they expect federal guidelines to become stricter.
- Source: [http://www.news14.com/content/local\\_news/charlotte/606918/agriculture-leaders-plan-local-food-network/Default.aspx](http://www.news14.com/content/local_news/charlotte/606918/agriculture-leaders-plan-local-food-network/Default.aspx)
21. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota agency tests find melamine in crackers.** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is advising consumers to avoid eating Fortuna brand sugar crackers after lab tests found they contain melamine. The Agriculture Department says anyone who bought the crackers should throw them away. The melamine was found in products collected from Dragon Star grocery store in St. Paul. The crackers were imported to the United States by an Indonesian company. Melamine is an industrial chemical that has been linked to health problems and has been the subject of product recalls in China and Asia. Exposure can lead to kidney and urinary tract problems. There have been no reports of illness from eating the crackers. The department is conducting a broader search for Fortuna products in other stores around the state.
- Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D975V2NG0.htm>

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## **Water Sector**

22. *March 26, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Town 'n Country sewage spill releases 460,000 gallons into Sweetwater Creek.** A sewage spill on March 15 — the third major break in seven months — dumped an estimated 460,000 gallons of waste into Sweetwater Creek, a Hillsborough County official said Thursday. "If there is any good news in this it is we were notified quickly of the break," said the spokeswoman for Hillsborough County Water Resources Services. By contrast, an October 12 break to that section of sewer line occurred in the middle of the night and dumped 1.8 million gallons of sewage into the creek, which empties into Old Tampa Bay, before it was stopped. An earlier break to the same stretch of pipe on September 12 released 200,000 gallons of waste. County officials plan to have a contractor put a bypass around the



faulty section of sewer line. That work could begin as soon as the week of March 30. The county also had already planned to have a contractor replace 755 feet of the defective sewer line. That \$300,000 job had been scheduled to start in a few weeks, but officials are trying to accelerate the project.

Source: <http://blogs.tampabay.com/breakingnews/2009/03/town-n-country-sewage-spill-totalled-460000-gallons.html>

23. *March 26, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Blocked pipe causes wastewater spill in Mount Airy stream.** A blocked sewage pipe in Mount Airy, Maryland led to a spill of 160,000 gallons of untreated wastewater, much of it into a stream that flows to the Patapsco River, Howard County health officials said Thursday. Mount Airy town workers discovered the overflow the morning of March 24 in an isolated, wooded area. The workers removed an obstruction from the pipe. No Howard County homes were directly affected, county officials said. The spill area was treated with lime and signs were posted warning people to stay away. The Carroll County Health Department will monitor the stream for bacteria and take further action if required.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/howard/bal-spill0326,0,3680398.story>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *March 27, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **HIV risk at Miami VA hospital not found until 2nd review.** The Miami Veterans Affairs hospital, which may have exposed thousands of veterans to HIV and hepatitis by using improperly sterilized colonoscopy equipment, gave itself a clean bill of health in January, only to discover problems two months later after a more intensive review, VA officials told U.S. House members in a closed-door briefing Thursday. The green light came weeks after the Department of Veterans Affairs, in a December 22 alert, warned veterans hospitals nationwide to check for problems associated with colonoscopy equipment. The alert followed similar reported problems at a Tennessee VA clinic that also could have exposed thousands of veterans to hepatitis and HIV.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/5min/story/970042.html>

25. *March 27, Reuters* – (International) **Egyptian girl contracts bird flu – WHO.** A 30-month old Egyptian girl has contracted the bird flu virus, bringing the number of avian flu cases in the country to 60, a World Health Organization (WHO) spokesman said on Friday. The girl, from the southern Egyptian province of Qena, was taken to a hospital after showing symptoms of fever on Monday, the WHO spokesman told Reuters. Twenty-three Egyptians have died after contracting the virus, with many of the reported cases involving domestic poultry which some five million households depend on as a main source of food and income.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUSLR125059>

26. *March 26, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Sting operation exposes gaps in oversight of human experiments.** Thousands of medical research groups that monitor clinical trials on behalf of the drug industry may face tougher regulations in the wake of a

congressional sting operation that found gaps in the nation's oversight of experiments on humans. The sting, detailed at a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing Thursday, involved the creation of a fictitious company and a fake medical device, a surgical adhesive gel. The sham firm then applied to three for-profit oversight groups — called institutional review boards, or IRBs — for approval to begin a clinical trial using their adhesive on human subjects. Drug and device makers along with hospitals and university research facilities must retain an independent IRB to oversee the methodology and safety issues for human studies. Corporations cannot get Food and Drug Administration approval for their products without an IRB certifying their clinical trials. About 6,350 IRBs are registered with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123811179572353181.html>

27. *March 26, KSAX 42 Alexandria* – (North Dakota) **180 Fargo hospital patients evacuated to Mpls.** A Fargo, North Dakota hospital began an emergency evacuation of its patients late Thursday as the ever-rising Red River threatens their safety. MeritCare Hospital and MeritCare South University Hospital, located nine blocks away from the river, have already started the process of evacuating hospital patients out of the Fargo-Moorhead area. MeritCare is working with local and state emergency operations centers to coordinate the safest transfer of patients to available hospitals around the state that will be able to continue their required care. At least 180 patients were transported to Abbot Northwestern in Minneapolis. The Emergency Center at MeritCare's downtown location will remain open as officials begin stabilizing patients and transporting them to other locations.

Source: <http://ksax.com/article/stories/S852157.shtml?cat=10230>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

28. *March 27, Washington Times* – (Colorado) **NORAD move raises security concerns.** North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the high-tech facility responsible for monitoring the skies over North America, faces continuing security problems at its new location inside an office building on an air base in Colorado Springs. An internal document summarizing a recent security evaluation “recommends implementing difficult and costly retrofits and new construction to correct numerous physical vulnerabilities” to the building on Peterson Air Force Base. The building houses the NORAD. The commander of NORAD/Northern Command says NORAD is spending up to \$5 million to update security against electromagnetic attack at its new headquarters on Peterson Air Force Base. Last year, the military completed a move of NORAD from a nuclear-hardened bunker burrowed into nearby Cheyenne Mountain to the basement of Building No. 2 at Peterson AF.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/27/norad-move-raises-concerns/>

29. *March 27, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Police arrest 2 students in school bomb threats.** Tempe police arrested two teenage girls Thursday on suspicion of sending false

bomb threats to Corona del Sol High School in Tempe, resulting in the closure of the school on March 20. Authorities believe the girls used the bomb threat as a way to miss a day of school, said the public information officer for Tempe police in a press conference. Because of these threats, the Tempe Union High School District, working with Tempe police, decided that the school should be shut down for the safety of staff and students on March 20.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2009/03/26/20090326b1-update0327.html>

30. *March 27, North Andover Eagle Tribune* – (Massachusetts) **Suspicious package closes district court.** Police sealed off Lawrence District Court after a suspicious device was found on the front steps of the building Friday morning. Workers arriving at the courthouse at 7 a.m. found a cell phone on top of a suitcase, with a note that read: “Call police, the Tribune and Tom Duggan,” police said. The bomb squad and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are on the scene, at the corner of Appleton and Methuen streets. Authorities were planning to review security tapes from courthouse cameras. The police chief said the device may have been planted as a diversion to distract authorities from another crime. He cited an incident Thursday in Wellesley. A branch of The Bank of America in the suburban town was robbed at gunpoint shortly after a suspicious device was found outside a nearby supermarket. Another suspicious device was found at the bank after the robbery. Both devices were destroyed. It has not been determined whether they contained explosives, and police say they may have been planted as diversions. Similar incidents have been reported in others towns around Boston recently. During the week of March 16-20, a bank in Holbrook was robbed shortly after a bomb threat was called into a town elementary school.

Source: [http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local\\_story\\_086084717.html](http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_086084717.html)

31. *March 27, Jackson County Floridian* – (Florida) **Bomb threat clears call center.** Marianna, Florida police were summoned to the local Social Security office Wednesday to run a safety check following a local woman’s angry phone call to a call center for the federal Social Security Administration. According to the police chief, a 41-year-old Greenwood woman told the person answering the call center phone that she would “just come up there and blow up the building” on learning that her request for Social Security benefits had been denied. Unnamed because she is not currently charged with any crime, the woman had spoken with staff at a call center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. That call center notified Social Security’s central office, and the local office was then contacted by the federal agency. The Marianna Police Department was then notified, and police checked out the local building for signs of trouble.

Source:

[http://www.jcfloridan.com/jcf/news/local/article/bomb\\_threat\\_clears\\_call\\_center/65475/](http://www.jcfloridan.com/jcf/news/local/article/bomb_threat_clears_call_center/65475/)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

32. *March 27, Chicago Sun Times* – (Illinois) **Calls to 911 ‘simply vanish.’** Stacked-up

calls to Chicago's 911 emergency center are "disappearing completely" from computer screens because of glitches in a \$6 million upgrade to the dispatch system, call takers complained Thursday. Just last month, the mayor showcased the upgrade, which lets call takers and dispatchers see real-time video from surveillance cameras within 150 feet of any 911 call. But then problems started cropping up, apparently tied to the servers installed three weeks ago as part of the upgrade. Calls that are "stacked" because police officers are responding to higher-priority calls have been "disappearing completely" from computer screens, sources said. "They simply vanish and no record can be recalled or found," said a 911 call taker who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution. Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/cityhall/1498606,CST-NWS-emergency27.article>

33. *March 25, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **Orlando police chief's gun, handcuffs stolen.** Orlando's police chief said she is ready to be reprimanded after her department handgun, handcuffs, and drivers license were all stolen. The incident took place nearly one month ago. The gun was in her unmarked SUV, outside her home in a gated Dr Phillips community. She said she is not sure how her gun was stolen. She left the gun in a duffle bag and made sure she locked the doors. The handgun is a 9-millimeter Sig Sauer and it is still missing. Source: <http://www.wftv.com/news/19008287/detail.html>

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## **Information Technology**

Nothing to report

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**

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

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

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## **Communications Sector**

34. *March 27, Spamfighter* – (International) **Hackers using router to infect computers with malware.** Security researchers at DroneBL have found that malware authors are employing routers to spread malware. They have also revealed that a sophisticated malware piece has been found that converts users' DSL modems and routers into a dangerous botnet called 'Psybot.' The security company further said that Psybot was specifically designed to attack home network routers that include embedded Linux for Microprocessor without Interlocked Pipeline Stages (MIPS) CPUs. The botnet also employs deep-packet inspection technique to sieve user names and passwords. This technology facilitates in the installation of advanced security functions on the system.

DoneBL researchers also state that the new technique used by hackers is extremely sophisticated and advanced as end-users would not be able to know that their network has been hacked, as reported by The Register on March 24, 2009. They added that hackers would use it as an effective attack vector to steal personally identifiable information in future. Moreover, after taking control over the system, hackers use it to plant a malware ridden file on the target system which later on executed, explained security researchers. Once the malware is installed on the system, it does not allow legitimate users to connect with the device by blocking Web access, SSHD (Solid State Hard Disk), and telnet (Telecommunication network). It then connects the hacked device with the botnet. As “Netcomm NBS” (modem router) has several security vulnerabilities that could be easily exploited, it is another main target for hackers, said security experts. Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-12080-Hackers-Using-Router-to-Infect-Computers-with-Malware.htm>

35. *March 27, The Register* – (International) **Cisco patch bundle lances multiple DoS flaws.** Cisco has released a bundle of security updates, designed to fix a variety of flaws in its core IOS networking software. The eight advisories cover security patches that address multiple vulnerabilities in the networking giant’s implementation of networking protocols. Left unchecked, the flaws create a possible mechanism for hackers to crash network hardware kit such as VoIP systems, remote access kit, and routers running IOS. The eight updates relate to a number of TCP, UDP, Mobile, and VPN-related vulnerabilities. Seven of the eight flaws create a possible means to crash or force a reload of affected systems. In most of these cases there is nothing, in theory at least, to stop malicious hackers from doing this repeatedly to run a denial of service attack. One flaw (an IOS secure copy privilege escalation bug) creates a means for an ordinary user to gain admin privileges, thus posing a hacking risk. None of the vulnerabilities create a means for hackers to inject hostile code into vulnerable systems, the most serious class of risk. Cisco’s summary, which contains links to individual advisories, can be found here. The networking giant said it was “not aware of any public announcements or malicious use” of the vulnerabilities it details. Put another way, this means that none of the flaws have been used in denial of service attacks to date, but patching insecure networking kit is still a good idea. Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/03/27/cisco\\_patch\\_bundle/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/03/27/cisco_patch_bundle/)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

36. *March 25, Deseret News* – (National) **Office in Salt Lake a terror target?** A building in downtown Salt Lake City was considered a terrorist target in the weeks after the Oklahoma City bombing, according to internal Federal Bureau of Investigation memos recently made public. A communique from FBI headquarters suggested the building, which houses the U.S. Attorney’s Office for Utah, was to be the third target on a nationwide terror spree. The first target was the federal building in Oklahoma City. Other targets included buildings in Pittsburgh, Raleigh, Las Vegas, and Chicago. The memo was included in a series of documents given to a Salt Lake City attorney, who has filed a freedom of information lawsuit against the FBI and CIA in connection with the

Oklahoma City bombing. The memo said FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. received a letter postmarked April 24, 1995 from “Locating Research, California” that identified six “USATargets to be destroyed by bombs or other unidentified means.” It claims that the orchestrators of the attacks have ties to Libya, “supported from a training site in eastern Iran, west of Zabol...financial and technical backing is coming from a world-wide cartel out of Bulgaria.”

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705293132/Office-in-SL-a-terror-target.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

37. *March 27, KGMB 9 Honolulu* – (International) **Death toll rises in Indonesia dam breach.** In Indonesia, the death toll continues to rise. A dam burst Friday sent a 10-foot high wave of water crashing into a crowded neighborhood just outside Indonesia’s capital. The flood has reportedly killed at least 50 people, left more than a dozen others missing, and submerged hundreds of homes. Torrential rain is being blamed for the dam breach.

Source: <http://kgmb9.com/main/content/view/15541/76/>

38. *March 26, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Rising water level triggers closing of Harvey Canal floodgates.** The Harvey Canal floodgates were closed the morning of March 26 as a result water elevation reaching the operational trigger of two feet and rising, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The request for the closure of the two gates came from the Southeast Levee Protection Authority-West, a Corps spokesman said. He said southeast winds are pushing the water into the canal. The floodgates take 8-10 minutes to close and, once closed, the Corps can begin pumping water from the canal into the lake to maintain the safe water elevation of two feet. The Corps’ pumps have a maximum combined capacity of 750 cubic feet per second at the Harvey Avenue Canal.

Source:

[http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/rising\\_water\\_levels\\_trigger\\_cl.html](http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/rising_water_levels_trigger_cl.html)

39. *March 26, KOTA 1380 Rapid City* – (South Dakota) **West River Reservoir update.** Northwestern South Dakota communities have a little reprieve from flooding concerns. The Bureau of Reclamation reports that the Shadehill Reservoir in Perkins County has peaked at 2,286.98 feet above sea level. That is the highest the reservoir has been since it was first filled in 1952, which an elevation of 2,297.90 feet. That point was reached on March 24. Now, it is down to 2,285.10 feet because 4,500 cubic feet of water per second was going over the spillway when the reservoir was at the peak. Water will continue to



flow over the spillway until the reservoir is at full capacity, which is 2,272 feet above sea level. Three other reservoirs are cause for concern, according to the Bureau of Reclamation. The Belle Fourche Reservoir is just a half foot from the 2,974.5-foot full level. While Pactola and Deerfield are not full, they are both close. Recent snowstorms have added about two inches of additional water for Pactola, putting it just one and a half feet below being full. And Deerfield is just 2 feet from full. Pactola releases into Rapid Creek will begin the weekend of March 27; with an increase in Deerfield releases the week of March 30.

Source: <http://www.kotaradio.com/news.asp?eid=5002&ID=2613>

40. *March 26, Auburn Reporter* – (Washington) **Corps officials: Hanson dam safe, but abutment in need of repairs.** Engineers with the Army Corps of Engineers discovered two sinkholes in the right abutment of the Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River in Washington State after January's storm stressed the pool behind the dam with more water than it had ever held. Engineers have injected dye into the holes to find out what they signify; they have buried sensors in the ground to determine the underlying stability of the abutment. At the moment, however, they still do not know what the problem is. The chief of engineering and construction for the Corps' Seattle District still considers the dam safe.

Source: [http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/aub/news/41864242.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/aub/news/41864242.html)

41. *March 26, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Cracks in levee forces evacuations in Fargo, ND.** Officials in North Dakota have ordered a mandatory evacuation of one Fargo neighborhood and a nursing home after authorities found cracks in an earthen levee built around the area. Authorities say the evacuation on March 26 is a precaution and that the 40 homes in the River Vili neighborhood are not in immediate danger. They say no water has breached the levee. They also say Riverview Estates nursing home is being evacuated. The number of residents affected is not immediately clear. Fargo is on high alert after forecasters said the Red River could crest higher than predicted — at a record 43 feet. A CNN journalist and seven other people have been arrested for standing on top of sandbag levees in the Fargo area. A Fargo Police sergeant did not have many details of the journalist's arrest, but said the man appeared to be taking pictures at the time. He says officers made the arrests Wednesday and Thursday after seeing people climb on the dikes. He says police will arrest anyone they see on top of a dike out of concern for people's safety and the integrity of the levees. He says it is likely all those arrested have been released. A CNN spokesman says the cameraman had been shooting video and was unaware of any restrictions on climbing the dikes.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hw95ek5SIImi4SoQ\\_N4HJvwHE0ZAD9763H780](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hw95ek5SIImi4SoQ_N4HJvwHE0ZAD9763H780)

See also:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jbDbGLQYkIoRmNUJwUMUm-ACfL3gD976H0MO1>

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

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