Top Stories

- Platts reports that BP found on April 6 a potential problem with a natural gas pipeline that feeds part of its Alaska North Slope Prudhoe Bay oil field operations and will keep the line shut for further inspection. (See item 2)
- According to the Associated Press, cell phone, Internet, and landline service is back in Silicon Valley, California after one or more vandals apparently severed eight fiber-optic cables on Thursday. (See item 36)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

1. April 10, Beaumont Enterprise – (National) Beaumont woman sentenced for oil platform bomb threat. A woman from Beaumont, Texas was sentenced on April 9 in federal court calling in a fake bomb threat to an offshore oil platform. She was sentenced to three years probation with six months home confinement for “maliciously conveying false information,” according to the U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of Texas. In addition to the term of imprisonment, the judge ordered that she be placed on
three years of supervised release following the term of imprisonment, during which time she will be under federal supervision. According to court documents, she pleaded guilty on December 30, 2008 to a one-count bill of information, admitting that on February 18, 2008 she placed a telephone call to a Louisiana offshore oil platform owned by Murphy Oil Co., 103 miles south of Port Fourchon, Louisiana. Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/6367904.html

2. *April 9, Platts* – (Alaska) **BP says Prudhoe gas line may be at ‘risk’; idling some oil wells.** BP has found a potential problem with a natural gas pipeline that feeds part of its Alaska North Slope Prudhoe Bay oil field operations and will keep the line shut for further inspection, a spokesman said on April 8. A company spokesman declined to estimate how much oil production may be curtailed or how many days it would take to resolve the issue with the gas pipeline. Gas from the line is used to boost liquids flow from oil wells. The spokesman, who is based in Alaska, but speaking from Houston, said he did not know how many wells were served by the gas line. “Our plan is to take pressure down on this line,” he said. “That will affect production at Prudhoe for a period of time.” A source at the field had characterized the cutback as “major,” adding it was initiated during the evening of April 8. On April 6, in the course of regular inspections, BP discovered “a potential external corrosion risk on one of our gas lines,” he said. “This is a potential problem spot. We need to take a closer look.” The area of line in question runs underground in a wildlife area, according to the spokesman. Source: http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6253558.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/News&?undefined&undefined

3. *April 9, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Overturned tanker truck spills gas in Baltimore.** A tanker truck has overturned in Baltimore spilling some of the gasoline it was carrying onto the road and into a storm drain. It happened around 2 a.m. on April 9 in a mostly industrial area near the intersection of Northbridge Road and 4th Avenue. A fire department spokesman says the driver may have had difficulty negotiating a curve when the truck overturned. The tanker has a capacity of 8,500 gallons, but it is not known yet how much gasoline was spilled. The spokesman says the Maryland Department of the Environment has stopped the leak, but crews were expected to be on the scene cleaning up until mid-morning. Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1951849~Overturned_tanker_truck_spills_gas_in_Baltimore.html

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**Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *April 9, Whittier Daily News* – (California) **La Mirada derailment affects Metrolink commuters.** A Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) train derailed shortly after 6 a.m. Thursday in an industrial part of the city, causing delays to Metrolink commuters traveling to and from Orange County and downtown Los Angeles. The non-passenger train derailed near Heron Avenue and Macaw Street. About 200 members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s and Fire Departments, along with members of BNSF...
and the California Department of Fish and Game, were investigating the cause of the accident and the subsequent leak of an alcohol-based liquid from one of the five derailed cars, said an LACFD public information officer. “The cars went into a dirt embankment, so there is no leaking into the channel,” he said, referring to the nearby La Mirada Creek County Flood Control channel. The train was traveling from Barstow to Los Angeles. There were no injuries to the conductor or the engineer, he said. “The car itself is not leaking,” he said. “Rather, the liquid was being released from the top of the car as a result of it being at an angle.” The hazardous material was ethyl alcohol, which was contained in three of the five cars, said a BNSF spokeswoman. One of the two cars that stayed upright contained potassium hydroxide. The other was empty. “Less than five gallons spilled,” she said. A cause for the accident has not been determined, but the investigation is continuing, she said.


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

5. **April 8, Free Lance-Star** – (Virginia) **Company says no leak in accident.** A tractor-trailer hauling radioactive equipment used in Dominion power’s refueling outages arrived safely in Surry after an accident April 6 near North Anna Power Station on Monday. No radioactivity was released and there was no danger to the public, the company says. A Dominion spokesman said that the rig was headed from North Anna to Dominion’s Surry Power Station on the James River in Surry County around 12:30 p.m. when the tractor’s engine caught fire. The flatbed trailer was carrying two metal containers with equipment used inside the nuclear reactor containment area during refueling and maintenance outages. Because the tools are used in the proximity of the reactor, they become contaminated. “The truck driver said he was making a turn and smelled smoke” in the cab, he said. He was not hurt, but the tractor truck was destroyed. According to an incident report on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Web site, the rig stopped on U.S. 522, about a mile from State Route 33, roughly 10 miles from North Anna. “We sent technicians to the scene to make sure there was no contamination getting outside,” the Dominion spokesman said. The equipment and tools belong to Dominion. A contract hauler was transferring the load.


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**Critical Manufacturing**

6. **April 10, Reliable Plant** – (International) **SAE International updates FMEA standard.** SAE International has updated a critical standard that helps engineers identify flaws in the assembly and design of ground vehicles. Understanding these flaws leads to their prevention, ensuring a better product for the consumer. Standard J1739, “Potential Failure Mode and Effects Analysis in Design (Design FMEA) and Potential Failure
Mode and Effects Analysis in Manufacturing and Assembly Processes (Process FMEA),” is a revision of the 2002 version. The standard includes updated charts for ranking failure modes and de-emphasizes the use of the Risk Priority Number as the primary factor in determining preventative or corrective actions. The standard also provides appropriate terms, worksheets, requirements, and recommendations to guide the user through the FMEA process. Standard J1739 was revised by SAE International’s Automotive Quality and Process Improvement Committee, which represents thoughts and practices from a balanced selection of original equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

Source:

7. April 10, Northern Ohio News-Herald – (Ohio) 2 fires hit Willoughby. The Willoughby Fire Department kept busy on the morning of April 9 responding to two fires within 40 minutes of each other. The more serious call came at 8:47 a.m. regarding a house fire. Thirty-seven minutes prior to the house call, the department responded to a fire at a Willoughby business. At 8:10 a.m., firefighters responded to Service Stampings Inc., a metal manufacturing company, regarding a fire in a dust collector machine. The building was evacuated. The Willoughby fire chief estimates the fire caused about $10,000 worth of damage.


8. April 9, Associated Press – (Ohio) Contractor worker dies from injury. An employee of a contractor has died after being injured at AK Steel’s Middletown Works plant in southwest Ohio. An Aerospace Workers union local president says the worker leaned against a controller while working on a lift and was crushed between the lift and a pipe. A spokesman for AK Steel Holding Corp. says the contractor worker was injured April 6 and died during a surgical procedure either late April 7 or early April 8. The Cincinnati office of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating.

Source: http://www.coshoctontribune.com/article/20090409/NEWS01/904090309

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. April 9, Air Force Times – (Nevada) Report: Faulty release caused dummy bomb drop. A practice bomb that fell off a fighter and damaged a pick-up truck just outside of Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada was released late by a malfunctioning bomb release system, a safety investigation concluded. On October 15, an A-10 Thunderbolt was preparing to land at Nellis when a 25-pound BDU-33 bomb fell off the jet, the inquiry concluded. The non-explosive bomb struck the ground within Nellis’ boundary and broke apart on impact. Shrapnel flew several hundred feet and outside the base; at least one piece struck a pickup truck on Las Vegas Boulevard North, but did not injure anyone. The safety investigation found that the A-10 pilot thought he had released the bomb while over a training area far from Nellis. There were no warnings indicating that
the bomb had not dropped away. It finally fell off as the plane approached Nellis.
Source:  

Banking and Finance Sector

10. April 10, San Diego Union-Tribune – (California) **Bank warns customers after theft.** The theft of seven laptop computers from an auditing firm has led the Borrego Springs Bank to send warning letters to all of its customers saying their personal financial information may be in the hands of criminals. The thefts occurred March 5, but the firm did not report them to the bank until March 18, the bank’s executive vice president and chief administrative officer wrote in the letter that most of the bank’s customers received Tuesday. “The service provider did not know if the data on the computers had been accessed or misused,” she said. She said the thefts were reported to the Orange County Sheriff’s Department’s Santa Ana office. She would not comment on the name of the accounting firm that was auditing the records or how or where the thefts occurred. The letter also says the computers contained information from the bank’s accounts “as well as information from a number of other financial institutions.”  
Source:  

11. April 10, Philadelphia Business Journal – (National) **Bank of America refines mortgages under Fed plan.** Bank of America Corp. has begun processing its first wave of mortgage-refinance applications under the U.S. Treasury Department’s “Making Home Affordable” program. The initiative provides refinance opportunities to homeowners who previously did not qualify. The plan allows homeowners with loans owned by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and who are current with their mortgage payments and whose home value is not more than 105 percent of the current mortgage balance to refinance their loans. Bank of America services one out of five mortgages in the United States. Charlotte-based Bank of America has extended its moratorium on the foreclosure of loans that may be eligible for the program until April 30.  
Source:  

12. April 9, KSL 5 Salt Lake City – (Utah) **Computer consultant accused of taking $1 million from credit union.** A computer consultant is accused of bank fraud for allegedly programming himself $1 million in extra deposits from Family First Credit Union in Orem. According to the Daily Herald, a federal grand jury indicted the man on one count of bank fraud, and he was arrested on Wednesday. The FBI says he was hired to help the credit union with computer upgrades from June 13, 2008 through mid-January. Instead, they claim he used the passwords to create accounts and transfer money to himself. He now is in the Utah County jail. He could face a potential maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a $1 million fine. The Herald says the man is co-owner of Lee & Morris Enterprises LLC. He was investigated after a business partner saw something suspicious and reported it.
13. April 9, Kansas CW – (Kansas) Attorney General: Beware of Visa e-mail. The Kansas Attorney General is warning about a new e-mail scam that looks like it is from credit-card company VISA. The e-mails claim to be from VISA and highlight the “verified by VISA” fraud-protection program. The e-mail says all VISA customers will be required to enroll in the program or they will not be allowed to make on-line purchases. A form is attached asking for the customer’s credit card information. The e-mail is a scam. The Attorney General says, while the “verified by VISA” program is legitimate, it is not a requirement for VISA card holders. He also says that VISA will not contact customers by e-mail, or ask for any personal information by e-mail or phone. Source: http://www.kansascw.com/Global/story.asp?S=10157207

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Transportation Sector

14. April 10, Associated Press – (California) Jet returns to California airport after bird strike. A United Airlines flight bound for Chicago had to return to the Sacramento airport after hitting a bird during takeoff. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman says the pilot of Flight 332 “acted out of an abundance of caution” after the bird struck the plane’s nose cone on April 9. The plane, carrying 130 passengers, took off again about 90 minutes later after an inspection found no damage. No one on the plane was injured. The Sacramento airport is in the Pacific flyway for migratory birds and reports more bird strikes annually than any other airport in the Western United States. Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g-0EKqhXw6HQX2LfzxLMA8XoAvhAD97FCHV80

15. April 9, Dallas Morning News – (Texas) Highway bridge closed for repair near Texas Motor Speedway. A bridge over State Highway 114 near Texas Motor Speedway could be closed for nearly two months for emergency repairs, according to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The bridge on FM 156 was closed April 8 after crews discovered a damaged beam on its underside, said a maintenance supervisor for TxDOT. The bridge was built in 1940, the maintenance supervisor said. He added that the planned repairs should restore the structure to top condition. Source: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/transportation/stories/0409dnmetclosure.ba306b98.html

16. April 9, Peninsula Daily News – (Washington) Small plane crashes at Jefferson County International Airport; Sequim pilot injured. A 78-year-old Sequim man was listed in critical condition after his small, single-engine airplane crash-landed early Thursday afternoon at Jefferson County International Airport. The pilot reportedly received facial and other injuries and was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. An east Jefferson Fire-Rescue spokeswoman said a gust of wind caught the Remos G3-600 light sport aircraft and flipped it into grass next to the runway. The plane was a two-passenger aircraft made in 2007. The pilot was the sole passenger on the
plane. A co-owner of the airport based Port Townsend Aircraft service, who has been in
the aircraft repair business for more than 20 years, said he has seen three crashes since
opening the business three years ago. “This is more than I’m use to seeing,” he said,
citing the crosswinds at the airport can be tricky. The pilot was coming in from the east
when he attempted to land.
Source: http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20090409/NEWS/904099997

17. April 9, Associated Press – (Florida) North Fla. flooding moves east, hundreds
affected. Record flooding continued to force people from homes in North Florida on
Thursday with the focus moving from the Panhandle, where floodwaters were receding,
to rivers that were still rising in rural areas farther east. The Florida National Guard was
on standby, but the governor had not yet activated the troops. U.S. Highway 90, one of
two major east-west routes across North Florida, is closed at the Suwannee River bridge
on the Madison-Suwannee county line about 70 miles east of Tallahassee. Sections of
Interstate 10, which carries most of the east-west traffic through the region, could be
closed if floodwaters keep going up. A Florida Department of Transportation spokesman
said the problem with the U.S. 90 bridge is not the span itself but water covering the
approaches. “The approaches to I-10 are higher,” he said. “We’re still monitoring that
and hoping for the best.” Dozens of lesser traveled roads also are closed.
Source: http://www.wctv.tv/APNews/headlines/42752857.html
See also: http://www.floridaguard.army.mil/news/read.asp?did=7628

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. April 10, Columbus Dispatch – (Ohio) Farm runoff ‘inevitable,’ EPA warns. A 6-
million-chicken farm proposed for Union County might have to get the Ohio
Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) approval and take extra steps to protect a
nearby stream from pollution before its first egg is laid. Ohio EPA officials said the
farm, to be built by Hi-Q Egg Products, based in Johnston, Iowa, will pollute Bokes
Creek, a stream already contaminated by other nearby chicken farms. The farm would
produce at least 74,157 tons of chicken manure a year, the company told agriculture
officials. A letter the EPA sent Hi-Q on April 1 says pollution from manure-
contaminated storm and egg-wash water “is not only likely but inevitable.” The agency
wants Hi-Q to apply for a permit that would set water-pollution limits. Though
agriculture officials now have the authority to approve and oversee the size, design, and
operations of the farms, the power to regulate water pollution remains with the Ohio
EPA. Hi-Q and other companies have submitted plans to the Agriculture Department
that say their farms will not pollute streams. That includes a proposed dairy farm,
Orleton Farms, which would house 5,400 cows along a tributary to Big Darby Creek in
Madison County. The Ohio EPA is concerned about a plan to spread 23.5 million gallons of manure-contaminated water used to wash eggs on 160 acres of farmland that Hi-Q owns near the barns. EPA officials said pipes under the field that drain storm water would send pollutants to streams that drain to Bokes Creek. The agency also says that ventilators in the buildings would eject particles of dried manure that would settle on storm-water retention ponds that overflow to streams.


Water Sector

19. April 9, Austin Business Journal – (Texas) **Heartland Auto illegally discharged oil, wastewater.** Heartland Automotive Services Inc., a Jiffy Lube franchise operator, has pled guilty and been convicted of violating the Texas Water Code by discharging oil and wastewater into the city of Austin’s sewer system. As part of an agreement with the Travis County District Attorney’s Office, Nebraska-based Heartland Automotive has been ordered to pay $300,000 in fines and issue a public apology. The company issued the apology in the April 9 edition of the Austin American-Statesman. “Heartland Automotive…is very respectful of our environment and regrets any damage that may have arisen from the ill-advised actions of our employees,” the company’s published statement said. “We offer our apology to the citizens of Travis County and the state of Texas.” The $300,000 fine is believed to be the largest for a Texas Water Code violation in Travis County, and possibly in the state, according to the District Attorney’s office. Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2009/04/06/daily43.html

20. April 8, Water Technology Online – (National) **Scientific surprise over water-hungry ethanol.** Scientists from the University of Minnesota are reporting that production of bioethanol — often regarded as a clean-burning energy source of the future — may consume up to three times more water than previously thought. “Water Embodied in Bioethanol in the United States,” scheduled for publication in the April 15 issue of the American Chemical Society’s (ACS) journal Environmental Science & Technology, comes at a time when water supplies are scarce in many areas of the United States, the ACS said in a press release about the study. The lead researcher and colleagues point out in the study that annual bioethanol production in the United States currently is about 9 billion gallons, and they note that experts expect it to increase in the near future. “The growing demand for bioethanol, particularly corn-based ethanol, has sparked significant concerns among researchers about its impact on water availability. Previous studies estimated that a gallon of corn-based bioethanol requires the use of 263 gallons to 784 gallons of water from the farm to the fuel pump. But these estimates failed to account for widely varied regional irrigation practices, the scientists say,” according to the ACS press release. The scientists made a new estimate of bioethanol’s impact on the water supply using detailed irrigation data from 41 states. They found that in 2007 bioethanol’s water requirements could be as high as 861 billion gallons of water from the cornfield to the fuel pump. They also found that production of a gallon of ethanol
may require up to 2,100 gallons of water from farm to fuel pump, depending on the regional irrigation practice in growing corn. However, a dozen states in the Corn Belt consume less than 100 gallons of water per gallon of ethanol, making them better-suited for ethanol production. “The results highlight the need to take regional specifics into account when implementing biofuel mandates,” the article states.

See also: http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/presspac/presspac/full/10.1021/es8031067?cookieSet=1

21. April 8, Hedrick Smith Productions – (National) EPA discloses new actions against polluters at ‘Poisoned Waters’ documentary preview. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief asserted Wednesday at a forum for the PBS Frontline documentary “Poisoned Waters” that new legislation is needed to strengthen the EPA’s authority to control pollution and protect local rivers, streams, and wetlands across America. The chief, speaking at the National Press Club, said that court decisions had left “murkiness” about the EPA’s authority to enforce some mandates of the Clean Water Act. She said EPA would seek new legislation to “clarify” its authority to take action on smaller waterways. The two-hour documentary, to be aired on PBS on April 21, shows sobering evidence of America’s failure over the past 35 years to contain water contamination from agricultural waste, stormwater run-off, and now, a new wave of chemicals, known as endocrine disrupters, most of which have no safety standard set by the EPA.


22. April 8, Water Technology Online – (International) Utilities face ‘significant’ chemical supply issues. Drinking water and wastewater utilities have been experiencing a “significant” chemical supply issue, namely price increases and shortages, in the last several years, according to a new report seeking to help utilities develop strategies to address the issue. Supply of Critical Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Chemicals – A White Paper for Understanding Recent Chemical Price Increases and Shortages, funded in part by Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), examines what is known about the emerging chemical supply issue, and the driving forces behind it. According to the paper’s executive summary, the emerging chemical supply issue has “implications for utility finance, regulatory compliance, public and environmental health, security, and long-term utility sustainability.” Influencing the behavior of the water treatment market since 2003 were two factors: the worldwide commodity price boom from 2003-2008 and the subsequent bust in mid-2008. According to the paper, prior to the bust the shortage of water treatment chemicals, such as phosphorus, was attributed to competing demands for the same input; following the bust, shortages were led by lack of production in some processes that generate byproducts used for water treatment, such as fluoride and caustic soda. The paper is based on two surveys of water and wastewater utilities: a U.S. survey conducted in January 2009 and a U.K. survey conducted one month later. Each survey asked respondents to compare current unit cost for treatment chemicals with unit cost one year ago.
23. April 10, KIVI 6 Boise – (Idaho) **Babies evacuated from St. Luke’s NICU.** A break in a humidification system forced nurses at St. Luke’s Hospital in Boise to evacuate several babies from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Fire fighters say steam was sent through parts of the NICU, Emergency Room, and Operating rooms of the hospital. The cause was found and shut off, but not before temperatures reached triple digits in parts of the hospital. Because of the condition of babies in the NICU, eight of them were moved to other areas of the hospital. The hospital staff says that all patients are safe, accounted for, and will be moved back into the NICU as soon as possible.  

24. April 9, CNET News – (National) **Obama announces e-health records for vets.** The Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs are creating a joint electronic medical record system to allow the two departments to share administrative and medical information, the President announced Thursday. The Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record project will track soldiers’ lifelong medical histories beginning the day they enter service. The VA is currently grappling with a six-month backlog in disability claims. “This would represent a huge step towards modernizing the way health care is delivered…for our veterans,” the President said, noting that the system would follow the “strictest and most rigorous standards of privacy and security.” The new system would also represent a shift in health care services the President has pushed for all Americans. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated about $19 billion for the digitization of medical records. Electronic medical records is a burgeoning business for technology companies as they eye the digitization requirements hospitals and doctors’ offices will soon be expected to meet.  

25. April 9, Boston Globe – (Massachusetts) **Boston hospital cited after staph outbreak among mothers, newborns.** State public health officials have cited Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for serious problems with its infection control practices, after 18 mothers and 19 infants contracted antibiotic-resistant staph infections over the past six months. Eight of the mothers and two infants had to be hospitalized for treatment of their bacterial infections, including two with serious complications, according to a news release Thursday morning from the state Department of Public Health. All patients have since recovered. As a result of the large number of infected patients, the most recent of which occurred the week of April 6, health officials inspected the hospital last month and found significant lapses in the hospital’s policies for preventing infections and training employees.  
26. April 9, Highland Park News – (Illinois) **Part of Highland Park Hospital evacuated after water main break.** Nearly a dozen patients had to be transported out of the emergency room at Highland Park Hospital, after a pipe burst Thursday afternoon. Eleven patients were moved from the emergency room before the 8-inch pipe was sealed, said the assistant city manager with the city of Highland Park. Those patients were either moved to the hospital’s second floor or to nearby Glenbrook Hospital. The water damage has forced the emergency room to shut down and also caused damage to the basement level. There is extensive damage to the first floor of the hospital. The city has used its reverse 911 service to notify residents of the emergency room’s status. Source: [http://www.pioneerlocal.com/highlandpark/news/1520239_hp-hph-040909-s1.article](http://www.pioneerlocal.com/highlandpark/news/1520239_hp-hph-040909-s1.article)

**Government Facilities Sector**

27. April 10, Pakistan Daily Times – (International) **U.S. embassy, foreign agencies suspend services over security threat.** The U.S. embassy in Islamabad on Thursday decided to suspend all consular services for Friday due to heightened security in the federal capital, a spokesman said. He said emergency services would be available to U.S. citizens and they would be able to contact the embassy. Also, Islamabad-based offices of international donor organizations would remain closed Friday due to the security threats.

28. April 9, WMGM 40 Atlantic City – (New Jersey) **Reward offered for info of courthouse bomb threats.** Officials are offering a reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or people behind making bomb threats to the Cumberland County Superior Courthouse. Officials are offering a $5,000 reward following a series of bomb threats called into the county courthouse. One was made Thursday morning. Nothing was ever found, but officials say it is an ongoing problem, costing about $25,000 every time one is made.

**Emergency Services Sector**

29. April 10, Indiana Daily Student – (Indiana; National) **Cities slow to use 911 systems.** A recent nationwide survey found some law enforcement agencies are not fully implementing an information-sharing system to use during emergencies. Ball State University’s Advanced Crisis Communications Training program surveyed the membership of the National Emergency Number Association, an association of 911 professionals, and found several gaps in the use of the National Incident Management System, said the co-author of the study, who is a natural resources professor at Ball
State. The National Incident Management System was created in 2003 when the former President directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a system that identifies the requirement for a standardized framework for communications, information management, and information sharing at all levels of incident management. The Bloomington, Indiana Police Department uses the incident system, but only for large-scale events, not daily dispatch, the communications manager of Monroe County Central Emergency Dispatch Center said. According to the survey, a conflict between fire and police departments in some jurisdictions can cancel out the effect of the system because law enforcement officials do not feel they should have to share information when on a scene with firemen or EMS crew.


30. April 9, San Jose Sentinel – (California) Police, firefighters rely on radios during cell phone-less day; No major incidents reported. For police and firefighters, Thursday’s massive communication outage was a throwback to the days of radio cars and face-to-face interactions with those who need help but not a disruption in service. Most fire departments and police agencies in Santa Cruz County had extra staff working Thursday. The Sheriff’s Office stationed deputies at all of its community service centers in the county and Santa Cruz police put every available officer on the street. Calls to 911 were spotty early in the morning, but by about 7:30 a.m. most land lines were able to get through to NETCOM, the county’s emergency communications center. NETCOM’s director said normally about 40 percent of the calls the center receives come from cellular phones. Thursday, emergency dispatchers did not experience a reduction in calls but did have fewer calls for service.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12109893

31. April 9, Associated Press – (West Virginia) Raleigh 911 center gets grant for generators. Raleigh County is buying four generators to provide electricity during a natural disaster or national emergency. Raleigh County’s emergency services director said the $312,950 diesel generators will be placed at four locations throughout the county. The generators would be used during power outages caused by storms, or in a disaster that would force the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people from the nation’s capital. The four locations would serve as shelters for evacuees and as delivery sites for food and supplies. The generators are being paid for with a Homeland Security mass migration grant.

Source: http://wvgazette.com/ap/ApTopStories/200904090201

32. April 8, Global Security Newswire – (National) U.S. updates standards for bioterrorism breathing gear. The United States has released new guidelines for equipment designed to protect emergency responders in the aftermath of a biological-weapon attack, the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy reported on April 7. The new “Recommendations for the Selection and Use of Respirators and Protective Clothing for Protection Against Biological Agents” include breathing apparatus assessed to protect against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials, said the associate director at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The document also addresses revised National Fire Protection Association protective
clothing standards, he said.
Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090408_8822.php

Information Technology

33. April 10, PC Magazine Security Watch – (International) Microsoft Conficker awakens, mutates, hustles. Reports are all over that a new and interesting version of the Conficker worm is around, and that it is pushing rogue anti-malware to its users. Thus a purpose to the whole endeavor begins to emerge: Money. But the vendor analyses of this new variant are not yet in synch; they disagree on some points and are confused on others. ESET calls this new variant Win32/Conficker.AQ; the names are really beginning to diverge among the vendors. The new variant is split into client and server components. The server, a Windows device driver, attempts to perform the infections of other systems through the MS08-067 vulnerability in Windows that made Conficker famous, but which had actually been removed from the previous variant. It also sets up an HTTP server on a random TCP port. Curiously, after May 3 the server part of the program will remove itself from the system as of the next reboot. The client program is a newly-obfuscated version of the old, familiar Conficker program. ESET says the new version dumps the domain name distribution scheme; this seemed clever, but was too susceptible to organized resistance by the industry and authorities. The new version attempts only to communicate through the already established peer network. They also suspect that the Autoun propagation system has been removed from it too, but have not completed analysis on that point. ESET has a removal tool for this variant. Symantec is reporting that the driver patches tcpip.sys in order to increase the number of concurrent connections on the system. They call this variant W32.Downadup.E. Symantec describes the DLL portion as the C variant and that the purpose of the infection is to install that C variant. This is not exactly what ESET says. Symantec also does not say that the Autorun propagation has been removed and they still recommend in their technical description disabling Autorun, but the description of E variant does not mention Autorun anymore.
Source: http://blogs.pcmag.com/securitywatch/

34. April 10, Softpedia – (International) Microsoft to patch 2 critical vulnerabilities in Vista SP1 and XP SP3. Microsoft is gearing up to patch a couple of Critical security vulnerabilities affecting Windows Vista Service Pack 1 and Windows XP SP3. Come April 14, the Redmond Company will release no less than eight bundles of patches aimed at a wide range of products. In addition to Vista and XP, Microsoft also plans to plug security holes in Windows Server, Internet Explorer, the Office System, Forefront, and ISA Server. The software giant did not indicate in any manner whether Windows 7, the next iteration of the Windows client, or Windows Server 2008 R2 were impacted by the vulnerabilities that put users of previous releases of the operating systems at risk. “As part of this month’s security bulletin release process, we will issue eight security bulletins — five rated ‘Critical,’ two rated ‘Important,’ and one rated ‘Moderate.’ These bulletins address vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Excel, Internet Explorer, and Microsoft ISA Server. Depending on the bulletin, a restart may be
required. The updates will be detectable using the Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer,” revealed the Microsoft Security Response center communications manager. “As we do each month, the Microsoft Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool will be updated.”


35. April 8, InformationWeek – (International) **Scareware surging, Microsoft report finds.** In its sixth Security Intelligence Report, released April 8 and covering the second half of 2008, Microsoft says scareware is on the rise. Scareware purports to be security software but is not. It is sold to technically naive users to address supposed computer security threats. But it generally offers little or no protection, and may act maliciously, by stealing information, for example. “The prevalence of rogue security software has increased significantly over the past [year and a half],” the report says. “Rogue security software uses fear and annoyance tactics to convince victims to pay for ‘full versions’ of the software in order to remove and protect themselves from malware, to stop the continual alerts and warnings, or both.” Microsoft’s report says that two rogue software families, Win32/FakeXPA and Win32/FakeSecSen, were detected on more than 1.5 million computers, putting them among the top threats for the second half of 2008. Illegal hacking nonetheless remains a problem, one that is increasingly focused on the application layer rather than the operating system. Almost 90 percent of vulnerabilities disclosed in the second half of 2008 affected applications, the report says.

Source: http://www.informationweek.com/news/security/cybercrime/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=216403570&subSection=News

**Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: http://www.us-cert.gov.

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

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**Communications Sector**

36. April 10, Associated Press – (California) **Phone, Internet service restored in Silicon Valley.** Cell phone, Internet, and landline service is back in Silicon Valley after one or more vandals apparently severed eight fiber-optic cables. San Jose police said there was evidence that someone removed a manhole cover and cut four cables early April 9. The incident wiped out phone and Internet service for thousands in the area. Hours later, authorities in San Carlos reported that four cables there had also been cut. AT&T Inc., which owns some of the lines, is offering a $100,000 reward for information leading to an arrest. Late April 9, it said service had returned to most of the area.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iEVQh3Ytm9Zxlbr6YP7izQk
37. *April 10, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Digging cuts 9-1-1 center’s phones.** A construction mishap left many Washington County residents without access to a 911 call center earlier the week of April 6. On the morning of April 7, digging machinery doing street repair and maintenance in Hillsboro damaged fiber optic cables connected to a Verizon central office, said a spokeswoman for the Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency. Central offices serve as switching centers to route phone calls to their correct recipients, a Verizon spokesman said. Four fiber optic cables were damaged by the construction. The spokeswoman said 911 phone service was patchy throughout the county until the problem was fixed around 6 p.m. She estimates that 27,000 people were affected. The damage to the fiber optic cables, which carry phone calls between different areas, meant residents could not call outside of their immediate area. So North Plains residents could call each other, but they could not put a call through to Beaverton, where the 911 dispatch center is located. The spokeswoman said the call center has no way to determine whether phone lines are operating properly on a daily basis. On April 7, there was little indication anything was wrong. The damaged lines also affected non-emergency phone calls, as many people had intermittent phone service throughout the day. A widespread outage of 911 phone service is rare, she said.


38. *April 10, BBC News* – (International) **Anti-terror searches continuing.** Police are continuing to search 10 properties across the north-west of England in connection with an alleged planned terror bomb attack. They have found pictures of popular Manchester shopping centers and a nightclub, the BBC has learned. Twelve men — 11 of them Pakistani, and most of them students — are still being questioned over the alleged plot. The U.K. prime minister and Pakistan’s president are “committed to working together” to combat terror, says Downing Street. Although the police previously insisted there was no intelligence pointing to any specific targets, sources have told the BBC photographs of four popular Manchester locations were recovered during searches. These were the Arndale and Trafford Centre shopping complexes, Birdcage nightclub, and St Ann’s Square. On Thursday, security staff at the Trafford Centre and officials at Manchester Arndale said they had not been informed of any threat. An Arndale spokesman said: “Both Manchester Arndale and the The Birdcage will be operating as normal over the Easter weekend.” Police are not thought to have recovered any explosive devices during their searches, and a BBC security correspondent said his understanding was that the alleged plot had been at the “aspirational, not operational” stage.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7993748.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7993748.stm)
National Monuments & Icons Sector

39. *April 9, WWMT 3 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Iraqi Freedom Memorial vandalized.**
Parts of an Iraqi Freedom Memorial in Mount Pleasant have been stolen. Police said a brass rifle and helmet were taken from the monument at Island Park. The memorial was donated in memory of a Michigan native who was killed while fighting in Iraq in 2004. This is not the first time the monument has been vandalized.

Dams Sector

40. *April 9, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Kennewick canal leak creates hole in 10th Ave.**
A Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) canal is being shut down Thursday afternoon after a leak caused a 2-foot hole to form on 10th Avenue near Edison Street in Kennewick. Repairs to the aging Low Lift Canal are to begin mid-morning April 10, after the canal has been drained. Water should be back on by April 11, said KID officials. KID is working with the city of Kennewick to direct drivers around the hole. The KID 2009 canal startup is otherwise on schedule so far, said a KID news release. And water has already reached the end of each canal.
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