Top Stories

- The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that an explosion set off a fire at the Sunoco oil refinery in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania late Sunday night. A company spokesman said Sunoco planned to beef up production at its other two refineries in the region. (See item 1)
- According to the Salinas Californian, a device resembling a pipe bomb was found in a juvenile’s backpack during the evening of May 15 at Cypress Plaza in Cypress, California. Businesses in the commercial building were evacuated and the area sealed off for investigation. (See item 35)

Energy Sector

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

1. May 18, Philadelphia Inquirer – (Pennsylvania) Refinery fire contained, but still burning. The fire set off by the window-rattling explosion that rocked the Sunoco refinery in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania late Sunday night was still burning Monday morning. However, no evacuations have been ordered, and no dangerous air emissions
have been detected, officials say. “While the fire is contained and under control, it is still burning,” said a Sunoco spokesman. It is not yet clear how the fire will affect operations, he said, adding that Sunoco planned to beef up production at its other two refineries in the region. The ethylene unit at Marcus Hook, the site of the blaze, is closed, and workers showing up were handed flyers telling them to avoid the area. However, the rest of the facility was open. “People are still reporting to work here at the refinery,” the spokesman said. Around the refinery, life appeared normal Monday morning, with schools open and commuters headed to work. Residents reported hearing one or two explosions that shook car and house windows about 10:15 p.m. While the refinery is near the state line, the flames were picked up by a web camera more than 10 miles away at Philadelphia International Airport. By 1:30 a.m., the fire was contained. The explosion came three days after Pennsylvania fined the Marcus Hook refinery $762,150 in civil penalties for air-quality permit violations.


2. *May 18, WSAV 3 Savannah* – (Georgia) **200 still without power in Savannah.** Just 200 homes in Savannah are without power now. That is after more than 1,200 lost power in the area around Kinzie Avenue just after 10:20 a.m. the morning of May 18. Georgia Power Officials say the outages are out of the Deptford Substation. Georgia Power says the cause of the outage is an equipment malfunction. Georgia Power says a switch that they use in the process of transmitting the electricity over the lines went bad. They have to replace the switch. They are working to replace the switch and to restore power now. Georgia Power officials say power is expected to be restored to the 200 homes in 2-3 hours.


3. *May 17, Beaverton Valley Times* – (Oregon) **Equipment failure leads to transformer explosion in Murrayhill.** Portland General Electric crews restored power to all Murrayhill customers affected by a transformer explosion the afternoon of May 17 at a substation. No one was injured during the incident. According to PGE officials, the cause of the fire appears to be due to equipment failure. A thick, black column of smoke could be seen from miles away as it stretched into the blue sky for nearly two hours. Just before 3 p.m., crews from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue responded to the transformer explosion near the Murray Scholls Town Center in Murrayhill. The explosion took place at a PGE substation in a green space that has active power lines running through it. The Murrayhill green space is part of the southern section of the Westside Trail, which has access points on Scholls Ferry Road and Teal Boulevard. A spokeswoman for the fire district said that it appeared the fire spread to adjacent transformers, causing them to explode as well. PGE officials at the scene de-energized power in the area as a precaution as fire crews allowed oil near the base of the transformers to burn off. Between 1,500 and 5,000 gallons of mineral oil, which is used as a cooling agent in transformers, burned during the fire, she added. As of 3:45 p.m., about 16,000 PGE customers were without power until just after 6 p.m. Businesses in the nearby area were
temporarily evacuated. Law enforcement officials from Beaverton, Tigard and Washington County also responded to the scene to help clear people from the area and direct congested traffic.

Source:  

4. **May 17, Star-Ledger** – (New Jersey) **Power outage affects nearly 10,000 homes in Passaic County.** A power outage cut electricity to 9,788 homes in Paterson, West Paterson and Totowa for more than an hour the morning of May 17, a PSE&G spokesman said. Power ceased at 10:37 a.m. and was restored at 11:57, according to a PSE&G spokesman. “It created a little havoc,” the Paterson mayor said. Some people were trapped in elevators, he said. Traffic intersections lost signals. Five high-rise apartment buildings were affected, including some on Presidential Boulevard, next to the Passaic River. The outage was caused by a problem with a transformer on Ellison Street, the mayor said.

Source:  

5. **May 15, Detroit News** – (Michigan) **Troy’s celebrated solar house left in dark.** Seven months ago, officials gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the $900,000 house owned by the city of Troy that was to be used as an educational tool and meeting spot. But it never opened to the public. And it remains closed. Frozen pipes during the winter caused $16,000 in damage to floors, and city officials are not sure when the house at the Troy Community Center will open. “It’s not safe right now, and there’s no estimated opening time because it depends on when we can get funding,” said the director of the city’s Parks and Recreation Department. Lawrence Technological University, with help from DTE, mostly paid for the building. Its students built the 800-square-foot home, which was supposed to be livable year-round, free from the grid and churn out enough solar power to support a home-based business and electric vehicle. So what caused the flood? The city says it was a mechanical problem. University officials heard it differently. The superintendent of parks for the city said the flooding occurred from a glitch in the heater. “The system was designed to kick a heater on to keep water from freezing,” he said. “The heater drew all reserve power out of the battery causing the system to back down and the pipes froze.” An associate dean of architecture at the university said he heard otherwise. “What I heard repeatedly was that somebody turned off the breaker during the winter and forgot to turn it back on, which caused the pipes to freeze and then break.”

Source:  

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**Chemical Industry Sector**

6. **May 17, KBAK 29 Bakersfield** – (California) **Chemical plant fire forces residents to stay inside.** A large chemical plant in East Bakersfield burst into flames on May 17,
prompting police to order residents within a three-mile radius to stay indoors. The Agro Chemical Plant caught fire around 8:00 p.m. Kern County Fire Department officials say fire crews arrived to find massive flames and smoke pouring from the roof. Since the fire crews did not know what chemicals were stored inside the plant, they immediately ordered people living within three miles of the facility to stay inside and keep their windows and doors closed. It is not known what all the chemicals inside the building were, but one is known to be ammonia. There is no word yet on what sparked the fire.

7. *May 17, WTOC 11 Savannah* – (Georgia) **Chemical spill forces highway closure.** A chemical spill in Liberty County forced a momentary shutdown of Highway 17. Motorists were forced to turn around until the spill could be cleaned up. Fire officials said a tanker truck filled with acrylamide solution, which is used to clean drinking water, spilled part of its load as it was leaving the plant. The mess was minor, but they still called in hazmat crews to clean it up. The roadway is now reopened to traffic.

8. *May 16, Lehigh Valley Live* – (New Jersey) **Cause of Mallinckrodt Baker Inc. chemical leak under investigation.** The cause of a vapor discovered leaking at the Mallinckrodt Baker Inc. facility in Lopatcong Township has yet to be determined, according to the company. A container of ethyl acetate, a compound which can be flammable but is not explosive, was found to be leaking and contained by on-site personnel Saturday morning, according to a Mallinckrodt Baker spokeswoman. Less than 15 employees were working at the facility at the time of the leak, she said. The company produces solvents, acids and salts. The leak was discovered in a building off River Road. That road was closed, and the SCC Concrete building north of Mallinckrodt Baker evacuated as a precaution. No residences were evacuated. There was a concern that the chemicals in the container could flash over, but the situation was resolved without injuries.

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

9. *May 18, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **PSEG shuts NJ Hope Creek reactor.** Public Service Enterprise Group Inc shut the 1,209-megawatt Hope Creek nuclear power reactor in New Jersey from full power on May 17, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. Specifically, the company said it received indications of multiple control rods drifting due to the failure of a solder joint on an air supply header.

10. *May 18, Reuters* – (New York) **Entergy NY Indian Pt 3 reactor back at full power.**
Entergy Corp’s 1,025-megawatt Unit 3 at the Indian Point nuclear power station in New York exited an outage and ramped up to full power by early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The company shut the unit on May 15 due to a problem with a valve on the non-nuclear side of the plant that controls the flow of water into one of the unit’s four steam generators.


11. May 15, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – (Illinois) 21 of 44 sirens out of service due to severe weather. On May 15 at the Clinton nuclear power plant in Illinois, CPS was notified by the maintenance vendor that 21 EPZ sirens are out of service. This is 48 percent of the EPZ sirens out of service for greater than 1 hour as of 7:42 p.m., due to severe weather and power outages. The licensee notified the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the NRC Resident Inspector. As of 21:30, only two sirens remain out of service which is below the 25 percent out of service requirement. The licensee notified the NRC Resident Inspector.


Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. May 16, Reliable Plant – (Indiana) Electric Motors Corporation to build in Indiana. The Indiana governor, along with a team of state, county and city officials, announced May 14 that Electric Motors Corporation (EMC) of Camarillo, California, manufacturers of electric drive system technologies, will be partnering with Gulf Stream Coach of Nappanee, Indiana to launch electric vehicle production facilities potentially creating an estimated 1,600 jobs by 2012. EMC has partnered with RV manufacturer, Gulf Stream Coach, to produce the first light-duty electric pickup truck. Together, the companies plan to invest more than $80 million on building renovations, machinery and equipment to site manufacturing facilities in Wakarusa and Nappanee. EMC plans to hire 450 associates by 2012 to produce and assemble electric motors. Gulf Stream Coach hopes to recall displaced employees that could add up to 1,200 associates to its current workforce within the same timeframe. The decision to expand EMC’s light to medium-duty truck operations into Elkhart County was based on their proximity to one of the largest concentrations of motor home, commercial panel truck and ambulance vehicle manufacturers in North America.


Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. May 18, WETM 18 Elmira – (New York) Acid spill causes evacuation at Sikorsky plant. An investigation is underway after a small sulfuric acid spill caused an
evacuation at the Sikorsky-Schweitzer Black Hawk plant in Big Flats. Fire officials say it happened in the maintenance area of the plant around 11 p.m. on May 17, after workers smelled a strong odor. According to the Big Flats Fire chief, fire officials and the Elmira Hazmat Team both responded to the scene, calling for a mandatory evacuation. The Hazmat Team cleaned up the spill, and ventilated the facility. The building was secured at around 12:30 a.m., and employees returned to work.

Source: http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Acid-Spill-Causes-Evacuation-at-Sikorsky-Plant/1UBMfPc1W0aK3EYcg4gdqQ.aspx

14. **May 17, St. Petersburg Times** – (National) **Warnings about compromised parts in U.S. Navy subs go unheeded.** A former marine and intelligence officer has warned about high-tech computer parts his Tampa company helped sell to the Navy. Some of the equipment is now installed on U.S. submarines, operating part of a secret communications network. The former marine says the equipment is counterfeit. “I bet if the sub captains knew, they would go berserk,” the former marine said, who has warned both the FBI and the Navy because he fears the equipment may be an electronic Trojan horse, capable of sending data to a third party without anyone knowing. The companies that made and installed the equipment, electronic switches that route data on computer networks, say he is wrong. They insist the gear is genuine, poses absolutely no security risk, and works normally. In 2004, Lockheed asked the former marine’s company, American Data & Computer Products, to bid on a deal to provide 68 computer networking switches made by Cisco Systems Inc. The switches route data on classified computer networks used by Navy submarines. They won the $554,000 contract. The sale between Lockheed and American Data opened a convoluted and confusing series of business deals from Largo to Hong Kong. A dozen companies would ultimately have a hand on those computer switches, records show, further muddying their origins. On July 21, 2005, Cisco examined the switches. Its findings stunned American Data: Some of the switches appeared to have altered serial numbers. And the devices appeared to be used. Cisco does not deny the 48 switches are “technically counterfeit.” But Cisco, which inspected many of them, said the counterfeiters got real Cisco equipment and attached new serial numbers to the devices. They also illegally installed “enhanced” software on the “standard” software switches, Cisco said. Whether “technical” counterfeits or real, Cisco cannot identify who altered those serial numbers. Of the 15 switches kept by the Navy, eight are certain counterfeits from China, the former marine said.

Source: http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/article1001627.ece

Banking and Finance Sector

15. **May 16, Salisbury Post** – (North Carolina) **Bank warns of scam targeting ATM card numbers.** Bank customers in Rowan and Cabarrus counties are being warned not to ever give out their debit/ATM card numbers after a telephone scam in the area on May 15. The senior executive vice president and general counsel for F&M Bank said, “There’s never a point where we’re going to ask you to give us financial information because we already have it.” F&M was one of at least three local banks that reported
customers receiving calls alerting them that their debit/ATM cards had been frozen and asking them to key in their card numbers so they could be released. The callers identified themselves as representatives of the customers’ respective banks, according to a security officer for F&M Bank. The security officer said, “I think they’re just targeting this area. They’re using an electronic voice I guess to make it sound as if they are legitimate, and folks are responding to it.” The president of F&M said the callers are using caller ID spoofing so people receiving the calls are not able to trace the numbers. The numbers that have been showing up are legitimate businesses, she said, some of them in Idaho and Florida.


16. **May 15, Associated Press** – (Nevada) **Feds accuse Nevada company owner of $13.5M fraud.** Federal authorities are accusing a Las Vegas businessman and his companies of fraud and misrepresentation in a scheme that regulators say cost more than 100 investors some $13.5 million. Records show a U.S. District Court judge in Los Angeles froze the assets of the individual suspect, Axcess Automation LLC and Axcess Fund Management LLC. A federal civil complaint filed on May 14 in Los Angeles by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission accuses the suspect of operating a Ponzi scheme since February 2006, using money from newcomers to pay apparent profits of about 20 percent to previous investors. The complaint alleges six violations of the federal Commodity Exchange Act. It seeks to ban the suspect and his companies from doing business.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12379081](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12379081)

17. **May 15, Reuters** – (National) **FDIC’s Bair: Bank CEOs will be replaced-report.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp chairman said some U.S. bank chief executives will be replaced in the next couple of months as regulators assess lenders’ financial strength, Bloomberg News said on May 15, citing a television interview to be broadcast this weekend. In the last year, the federal government has ousted chief executives of American International Group Inc, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac after taking big ownership stakes. In March, it pushed out General Motors Corp Chief Executive after concluding the automaker’s recovery plan did not go far enough. Recently, regulators told 10 of the largest U.S. banks to raise a combined $74.6 billion of capital to help withstand a potentially deep recession. Some of those banks may convert some of the government’s preferred stock investments into common stock, giving taxpayers direct ownership stakes.


**Transportation Sector**

18. **May 18, Seattle Times** – (Washington) **Planes collide at Skagit airport.** Four people escaped injury when two planes collided at the Skagit Regional Airport in Burlington. Witnesses tell the Skagit Valley Herald that a biplane carrying two people landed on top of another small plane, a Cessna also carrying two people the evening of May 16. The left wing and nose of the Cessna dug into the runway, while the biplane flipped onto its
roof. The Herald reports the Cessna was carrying a pilot from Friday Harbor and a passenger from Bow who had chartered the plane to return from a fishing trip. The biplane carried a pilot and a female passenger.


19. **May 17, Wichita Eagle** – (National) **U.S. tanker fleet showing its age.** In the skies over Kansas at 21,000 feet on a recent morning, two McConnell Air Force Base crews were on an air-to-air refueling training mission in KC-135 tankers. The Stratotankers fly just 50 feet from another aircraft when they offload fuel. On this day, however, a hydraulic fluid leak would not allow the boom to operate properly. That part of the training mission was scrubbed. The problem typifies a growing issue with the Air Force’s tankers: More and more, the fleet shows its age. Plans to replace the planes have been delayed by contract disputes and political squabbling. McConnell officials compare the fleet to a 1957 Chevy. Aircraft that old run into numerous age-related problems, said a defense analyst at the Lexington Group. “The most common problem is metal fatigue, which requires things like the skins to be replaced,” he said. Corrosion problems are growing. And it is increasingly difficult to get parts and components. At times, maintenance crews have waited up to two years for parts, officials said. McConnell officials worry that a major defect will surface and cause the entire fleet to be grounded. KC-135 crews say they learn to expect problems. “I’ve not met another KC-135 pilot or navigator who hasn’t had some kind of…malfunction,” said a KC-135 pilot at McConnell. Even if a contract to revamp the fleet were in place today, it would take more than 30 years to replace the planes. That will keep some KC-135s flying past their 80th birthdays. Replacing the aerial refueling fleet is one of the Air Force’s top priorities.


20. **May 16, Associated Press** – (Washington) **Scanners flag 2 checked bags at Sea-Tac Airport.** A Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokesman says screening machines that look for such things as explosives or improperly secured firearms in checked baggage identified potential threats in two separate bags at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. A TSA spokesman says two separate, remote areas of the airport were temporarily evacuated the evening of May 15 while the items were checked. He says the bags belonged to two passengers — both members of the military — found for two different flights. He was unable to say what caused concern in the bags and had no information on the two passengers.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2009227581_webbaggage16m.html?syndication=rss

For another story, see item 7

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21. *May 15, WPTV 5 Riviera Beach* – (Florida) **UPS trucks catch fire in Riviera Beach.** Emergency personnel responded to an early morning incident on May 15 at the Riviera Beach UPS shipping center. Police and firefighters were called to the scene just before 4:00 a.m. The Riviera Beach Division Chief said a UPS package vehicle caught on fire, and then spread to another package vehicle. He suspects it started in the engine area of the first vehicle. The building’s fire sprinkler system started, but the facility was quickly filled with smoke. No workers were injured. The division says about 30 employees were in the building at the time of the fire.


22. *May 14, TampaBay.Com* – (Florida) **Pinellas jail inmates suspected of sending ‘suspicious letter’ to State Attorney’s office.** A letter containing a “powdery substance” bound for the State Attorney’s Office but intercepted at the Criminal Courts Complex on May 14 came from an inmate at the Pinellas County Jail, according to police. The substance is being analyzed but is not believed to be harmful, according to Pinellas County deputies. Police say they know the identity of the inmate and are investigating whether other such letters exist. The incident at the Criminal Court Complex was reported to Pinellas deputies shortly before 11 a.m. as a hazardous materials complaint. “It appears it was a letter with a powdery substance that was received by the State Attorney’s Office,” said a Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman.


**Agriculture and Food Sector**

23. *May 15, Journal and Courier* – (Indiana) **Arrest made in Indiana Packers bomb threat.** A Camden man was arrested on May 15 in connection to a bomb threat at the Indiana Packers Corp. in Delphi. The vice president of operations for Indiana Packers Corp. said someone dialed 911 around 6 a.m. on May 14 telling police a bomb was in the factory. Police were called to the scene and the factory was evacuated for about three hours. The man was arrested on suspicion of false informing conveying a bomb threat, a class D felony. Police continue to investigate.


For another story, see item 6

**Water Sector**

24. *May 15, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Idaho) **Study digs into deadly chemical in groundwater.** Idaho is no stranger to arsenic concerns — especially when it comes to drinking water. A groundbreaking new study out of Boise State University (BSU) offers new insight into how it got there. In its natural state, the Treasure Valley is an arid, high desert
climate. In order to get greener pastures, people have spent more than a century irrigating. It turned this area into oasis for agricultural prosperity, but overtime, these fields of plenty were also creating caustic consequences underground. Arsenic was leaching into well water. After a three-year study, a BSU geochemist made a significant discovery — for the first time ever, linking the contaminated aquifer with irrigation water. “Most people thought it was probably coming from sediments in the aquifer, therefore wasn’t really related to human activity,” he said. “Surprisingly, it turns out, the arsenic is coming from the surface so it’s coming from the sediments at the very top of the soil profile and it’s being leached down to the underlying aquifer.”


25. **May 14, Gannett News Service** – (New York) **Sewage plant work may not be up to snuff.** Water sprays like a park fountain from a pipe’s joint deep inside the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. A sign warns workers to avoid the area until it has “been deemed safe to enter.” Outside, a wall built in fall 2004 shows cracks and only recently stopped leaking partially treated sewage onto the ground. There should not be any leaks, considering the facility on Vestal Road has been undergoing a $68 million upgrade during the past decade. But there are. Now, the plant’s two owners, Johnson City and Binghamton, are deciding how to get them fixed. During a meeting the week of May 11 between the joint sewage board and the mayors of Johnson City and Binghamton, the Johnson City public works director said he is sending a letter to C&S Engineers to find out basic details such as when the leaking backwash supply/clean water supply pipe was installed in a new portion of the plant for the Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) system. A wall that connects the old section of the plant with the new section for the BAF system is also leaking. A joint sewage board member said the board needs the go-ahead to hire a firm to make sure piping was installed up to code. Currently, workers entering the area with the leaking pipe are using the buddy system in case the pipe should burst and fill the area with water. The plant superintendent said a more likely scenario would be an expansion of a puddle already on the ground. Outside the plant, the leaking wall has been temporarily repaired by sewage plant staff, but a permanent solution needs to be found, said the plant superintendent. The leak was coming through a faulty link seal around a pipe that goes through the wall. The leaking water has been treated to remove carbon and is headed to the denitrification process. A board member said he is concerned the tributary flowing into the Susquehanna River could become contaminated if the leak starts again. The board is also at odds with Infilco Degremont Inc., the BAF provider, which has been operating the system for more than 18 months.

Source: [http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20090514/NEWS01/905140409/1116/Sewage+plant+work+may+not+be+up+to+snuff](http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20090514/NEWS01/905140409/1116/Sewage+plant+work+may+not+be+up+to+snuff)

26. **May 18, New York Times** – (International) **WHO may raise alert level as swine flu**
cases leap in Japan. The number of swine flu cases in Japan soared over the weekend, raising the likelihood that the World Health Organization will soon have to raise its pandemic alert level to 6, the highest level. Japanese authorities ordered more than 1,000 schools and kindergartens in and near the cities of Kobe and Osaka to shut down. There were no confirmed cases in Tokyo. Until Friday, Japan thought it had contained the virus after finding four infected people who had visited North America and flown home. It quarantined them and 50 other passengers, began sending medical workers to meet each flight arriving from North America to take temperatures of those on board and told visitors they would need to have their temperatures recorded daily. On Sunday, the assistant principal of a school in Queens died after being hospitalized with swine flu. It was the sixth flu-related death in the United States and the first in New York State.


27. May 18, Philadelphia Inquirer – (International) Novel technique developed at CHOP may lead to HIV vaccine. A novel approach that involves inserting genetic material into muscle might lead to a long-sought HIV vaccine, according to a study led by the chief scientific officer at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia published May 17 in the online version of Nature Medicine. The researchers were able to block infections similar to HIV in monkeys using their technique, according to the study. Instead of injecting weakened viral material into patients to activate the body’s natural response, the research team tries to make the desired antibodies directly using a genetically altered “carrier” virus. The vaccine, lodged in a virus that does not cause disease, was injected into muscles, where it produced a protein to block Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV), which is closely related to HIV. That approach protected monkeys against the virus, while two-thirds of the untreated monkeys developed fatal complications from AIDS. Still, a vaccine for HIV, which causes AIDS, would likely take years.

Source: http://www.philly.com/inquirer/health_science/daily/20090518_Novel_technique_developed_at_CHOP_may_lead_to_HIV_vaccine.html

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Government Facilities Sector

28. May 17, KXTV 10 Sacramento – (California) Incendiary device removed near Sacramento federal courthouse. An item determined to be some type of incendiary device was removed from outside Sacramento’s Federal Courthouse Sunday, several hours after the suspicious item forced downtown Sacramento street closures. The Sacramento police department received a call around 4:40 a.m. of something inside a paper grocery bag found outside of a security booth on the east side of the courthouse, said a Sacramento police sergeant. The sergeant said members of the Sacramento Police Department’s Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit analyzed the device. Though the object was meant to start a fire, it caused no damage. Bomb squad personnel took every precaution while determining whether or not the item was dangerous before it was rendered safe and removed just before noon. It was taken to an Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lab in Walnut Creek for analysis. The area around the courthouse, from 7th and J streets to 5th and J streets, was closed shortly after the
discovery. It reopened once the device was removed.

29. May 16, Atlanta Journal-Constitution – (Georgia) Westminster Schools graduation disrupted by suspicious package. The “all-clear” has been sounded after a suspicious package forced officials at the Westminster Schools to delay Saturday morning’s graduation ceremony. The Atlanta police bomb squad and SWAT teams were sent to the school after the package was discovered shortly after 6 a.m. outside one of the school’s buildings. With graduates and their families waiting to get on campus, police gave the all-clear shortly before 8 a.m. The high school graduation, which had been scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on the Pressly Hall lawn, was rescheduled for 10 a.m.

For more stories, see items 19, 22, and 36

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Emergency Services Sector

30. May 15, Crawford County Press Argus-Courier – (Arkansas) Lightning hits 911 call center. The Van Buren Police Department’s 911 operations center was returning to full capacity on May 15 following a lightning strike early the day before. The strike occurred around midnight and temporarily knocked the 911 center out. A police official said the backup system activated no more than a minute or two after the strike, sending 911 calls to the main police station line, where they were still answered. He said any excess calls not picked up by the main station were routed to the sheriff’s office. He said four panels that help route 911 calls were damaged, but the phone company arrived around 8 a.m. May 14 to start repairs.
Source: http://www.pressargus.com/articles/2009/05/16/news/news02_051609.txt

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Information Technology

31. May 15, Telegraph.co.uk – (International) New computer virus on rise, warn security experts. Anti-virus experts at Sophos have warned that the malicious software, or “malware,” is spreading rapidly online, around six times faster than its nearest rival. In the last week alone, almost half of all malware found on websites was identified as the JSRedir-R Trojan, with a new webpage infected every 4.5 seconds. JSRedir-R embeds itself within legitimate but poorly secured websites, and loads malicious programs from third-party sites on to a user’s computer without their knowledge. This gives hackers and cybercriminals a “back door” into the machine and presents them with the opportunity to steal passwords, identity details and financial information. “No one should be in any doubt that the web is still the main vector of attack for cybercriminals, and this new threat suggests this situation isn’t going to change anytime soon,” said a
senior technology consultant at Sophos. “The problem is that too many computer users still think there’s no danger in surfing the web, but with legitimate sites often falling victim to these attacks, it’s time to wake up. Security experts have warned web users to ensure their antivirus software is up to date in order to protect themselves against the malware threat.

Source: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/scienceandtechnology/technology/technologynews/5330044/New-computer-virus-on-rise-warn-security-experts.html

**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/.

**Communications Sector**

32. *May 18, AT&T* – (West Virginia) **AT&T rolls in Cell Site on Wheels to enhance wireless communications in West Virginia flood area.** AT&T has deployed a cell site on wheels (COW) equipped with satellite capabilities in Gilbert to temporarily extend wireless coverage in the region to support the increase in wireless voice and data traffic as hundreds of West Virginians cope with the worst flooding in eight years. Using local and national resources, AT&T is deploying their equipment to help with the telecommunications needs of residents, emergency crews and West Virginia National Guard deployed in the area. Two additional portable cells are en route to Williamson and Varney to extend local wireless coverage early next week. “We want to ensure that the emergency crews assisting the flood relief stay connected to take care of critical needs,” said the Vice President and General Manager for AT&T in West Virginia and Virginia. Source: http://pr-usa.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=212205&Itemid=28

33. *May 18, Cellular-News* – (National) **Motorola develops self-organizing LTE network.** Motorola has announced the launch of its Long Term Evolution (LTE) self-organizing network (SON), which automates previously manual steps involved in planning, deploying, optimizing, and operating the network. Motorola says that the algorithms and features of the LTE SON solution will help the operator dynamically optimize its network for best performance and make it simpler and easier to manage. Source: http://www.cellular-news.com/story/37524.php?source=rss

**Commercial Facilities Sector**
34. **May 16, Associated Press** – (New York) **Long Island fire destroys strip of 9 stores.** A raging fire has wiped out a strip of nine Long Island stores and threatened an apartment building before being brought under control by 16 local fire departments. The blaze was spotted by a police officer early on May 16 when a plate-glass window blew out at one of the shops in Long Beach, a small city on a barrier island off Long Island’s south shore. The roof collapsed before the fire was contained about four hours later. Some firefighters were treated for minor injuries, but none was hospitalized. Police say a six-story apartment building was threatened by the blaze and was evacuated. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

35. **May 16, Salinas Californian** – (California) **Monterey police bust taggers; find explosive device.** A device resembling a pipe bomb was found in a juvenile’s backpack during the evening of May 15 at Cypress Plaza in Cypress, Monterey police said. Businesses in the commercial building were evacuated and the area sealed off for investigation. Police were responding to a report of six juveniles writing graffiti on the back of the building. The juvenile in possession of the device said he manufactured it himself, according to police. He provided detailed information about the device and its contents. It was removed from the backpack and placed in a 55-gallon drum for transport and later destruction. Cypress Plaza, at North Fremont and Casa Nova, was allowed to reopen about 7:30 p.m. Three of the six were arrested on various criminal violations, police said. One was released on citation and the other two were booked.
Source: [http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20090516/NEWS01/905160305/1002/rss](http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20090516/NEWS01/905160305/1002/rss)

36. **May 15, Atlanta Journal-Constitution** – (Georgia) **Midtown building ordered evacuated.** Hundreds of office workers temporarily evacuated a Midtown Atlanta high-rise during the afternoon of May 15 after two suspicious packages were found. Atlanta Police ordered the 28-story One Georgia Center vacated after someone discovered a box on the 22nd floor stairwell around 12:35 p.m. A second box was found on the 19th floor stairwell, police said. The police bomb squad was called in to retrieve the packages and police allowed workers to return shortly around 3 p.m., according to a police officer. Atlanta Police and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are conducting the joint probe into the incident. Most of the building space is occupied by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

For more stories, see items 3, 5, and 38

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**National Monuments & Icons Sector**

37. **May 14, Associated Press** – (Oklahoma) **Law officers’ memorial damaged by wind.** A memorial to Oklahoma law officers has been damaged by strong winds in Oklahoma City. The May 14 early winds broke in two a piece of granite that’s part of the

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3. [3.](#)

5. [5.](#)

38. [38.](#)
Oklahoma Law Enforcement Officers’ Memorial. The damage comes just days after a ceremony May 8 to add names to the memorial which honors fallen law officers. The Memorial chairman says organizers will meet this month to decide what can be done for the memorial which was started 40 years ago.
Source: http://www.ksw0.com/Global/story.asp?S=10361430

For another story, see item 38

Dams Sector

38. **May 15, Associated Press** – (Oklahoma) **Much of Beavers Bend State Park closed.** Recent heavy rains in southeast Oklahoma has forced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release water from Broken Bow Lake — leading to the temporary closing of much of Beavers Bend State Park. All eight flood control gates in the lake dam are being opened, and the state Tourism and Recreation Department has evacuated all 48 cabins and campsites downstream from the dam. Cedar Creek Golf Course, the park restaurant and all boat ramps for Broken Bow Lake also are closed. Lakeview Lodge and some recreational vehicle sites on higher ground above the lake will remain open. Park officials set no timetable for reopening the areas and say only that they will remain closed until the water subsides.

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