Top Stories

- The New Hampshire Union Leader reports that guests and staff at two motels in Merrimack, New Hampshire had to be evacuated Sunday night when a gas leak at local propane gas distributor Bot-L-Gas reached dangerously high levels. (See item 1)
- According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Xcel Energy officials are investigating what caused a unit at the Prairie Island nuclear power plant in Red Wing, Minnesota to shut down unexpectedly on Monday. (See item 6)

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1. **May 18, New Hampshire Union Leader** – (New Hampshire) **Gas leak forces evacuation of motel guests.** Guests and staff at two motels on the Daniel Webster Highway in Merrimack, New Hampshire had to be evacuated Sunday night when a gas leak at a local propane gas distributor reached dangerously high levels. The highway was closed from the Greeley Street intersection to the Industrial Drive intersection for
more than an hour after Merrimack fire officials were called to check a gas leak at Bot-L-Gas on Star Drive. The Merrimack fire chief said the evacuation was ordered because the gas levels were high enough to cause an explosion. Residents at the Comfort Inn and Residence Inn were told they had to leave. A desk clerk at the Residence Inn said 90 of the 129 rooms were occupied at the time. The Comfort Inn offered van service to transport some of their guests. The fire chief said residents on nearby King Street were alerted of a possible evacuation, but that they never had to leave their homes. Police cruisers blocked the road at intersections and at least six fire-rescue vehicles were on hand. The road was re-opened shortly after 8 p.m. The fire chief said the plant’s shutoff system allowed officials to quickly turn off the valves. Members of Merrimack fire and police joined investigators from the state fire marshal’s office and were still inspecting the facility to find the leak.

Source: http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Gas+leak+forces+evacuation+of+hotel+guests&articleId=1e337de3-f025-4c35-82fa-4208f4b49a6d

2. May 18, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review – (Pennsylvania) Search begins for cause of Cherryhill Township gas fire. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is investigating the cause of a gas fire Sunday in Indiana County. The fire at 9:47 a.m. Sunday occurred in a wooded area near the shore of Two Lick Lake along Allen Bridge Road in Cherryhill Township, according to Indiana 911 emergency management. The 911 Web site termed the incident as a “possible methane gas fire.” The Clymer volunteer fire chief said crews from his department extinguished the fire shortly after responding to the scene. “Whether it was a well leaking or something from underground, it was free-burning in a wooded area,” he said. No injuries or significant damage were reported. Representatives from the state agency as well as EXCO North Coast Energy Inc. — which has gas wells in proximity to the blaze — and Homer City power plant were on scene investigating a possible cause. A DEP spokeswoman said agency staff on scene were unable to determine Sunday the nature or origin of the leak. “It does not appear to be related to methane gas, however, we haven’t completed our investigation,” she said. The cause may be related to an active or abandoned coal mine in the area, she said.


For another story, see item 21

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. May 19, Longview News Journal – (Texas) Tanker spills ammonia. Longview hazardous materials crews on May 18 cleaned an anhydrous ammonia spill near a busy intersection. Firefighters responded to a chemical spill call at 7:21 p.m. at Texas Best Smokehouse in the 3300 block of Eastman Road one block north of Interstate 20, according to the Longview fire department captain. A tanker owned by Airgas of Waxahachie leaked some five gallons of the fluid, which released a pungent smell, he said. Hazmat crews cleaned the spill by about 9:05 p.m., he said. No injuries were
reported, though firefighters evacuated the restaurant.

4. **May 17, Salt Lake Tribune** – (Utah) Explosives factory cleanup to start soon.
Environmental cleanup professionals converged on a former explosives plant on May 17 in Saratoga Springs, Utah to plan, and possibly begin, a cleanup. Cook Slurry Co., the site of an explosives plant since 1978, has thousands of gallons, barrels and bags filled with ingredients for explosives used in mining. The site owner, the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, is evicting the explosives company. It is still unclear exactly what materials and how much of them are at the site, about 1 1/2 miles west of Redwood Road at about 2500 South. Once testing is completed, removal starts. But if the talks fail, chemicals left behind might be reused as fertilizer, detonated off site, burned or otherwise removed. The cleanup is expected to take about 60 days.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_12370392

For more stories, see items 7 and 17

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

5. **May 19, United Press International** – (International) Regulator: Canadian nuclear reactor leaked. A 52-year-old Canadian nuclear facility that produces medical isotopes leaked radioactive water during a power outage, federal regulators said. The incident was reported Monday night by Atomic Energy of Canada, which said the leak on May 14 posed “no threat to workers, the public, the environment or nuclear safety,” the Canwest News Service reported. A storm-related power outage affected the National Research Universal reactor at the Chalk River, Ontario facility, about 110 miles west of Ottawa. The plant produces half of the world’s supply of medical isotopes used in diagnosing cancer and heart disease, the report said. The regulator estimated the reactor would be out of service for about a month while repairs and testing are conducted. It said isotope shortages could occur as early as Saturday, Canwest reported.

6. **May 19, Minneapolis Star Tribune** – (Minnesota) Unit 1 at Prairie Island nuclear plant unexpectedly shuts down. Xcel Energy officials are investigating what caused the Prairie Island nuclear power plant to shut down unexpectedly. One of the plant’s two units in Red Wing, Minnesota automatically tripped off shortly after 1 p.m. Monday. Utility officials said there were no injuries and no radiological releases as a result of the shutdown, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) described the incident as a “non-emergency.” Xcel’s site vice president for Prairie Island said the cause of the shutdown seems to be an electrical malfunction in one of two motors that pump river water into the plant. The circulating water is used to cool and condense non-radioactive steam from the turbine. Once the system detected a problem, circuit breakers shut off the pump, he said, setting off a quick sequence that caused the turbine and then the reactor
to shut down. The vice president said that crews are testing power cables to the motor, the motor itself, and electrical relays to determine what triggered the system shutdown. An NRC report showed that “no safety or relief valves lifted” as the plant shut down, and that it would remain out of service until “the cause of the trip is corrected.” The NRC indicated that the plant’s safety system worked properly, and that one of its two resident inspectors at Prairie Island will oversee Xcel’s investigation and corrective actions. The vice president said that the plant may need to be shut down for a few days, depending on what the investigation reveals and what repairs need to be done.


Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. **May 19, Reliable Plant** – (Michigan) **Michigan steel coater cited for chemical violations.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 recently settled with Double Eagle Steel Coating Company on hazardous chemical and toxic release inventory reporting violations at its Dearborn, Michigan, facility. Federal law requires local and state authorities be notified of hazardous chemical storage. In the event of a fire or emergency, responders need to know what they are dealing with so they can take steps to protect people living or working in the area. Double Eagle paid a civil penalty of $93,392 to resolve the EPA complaint. The facility failed to report many hazardous chemicals stored at the site including sulfuric acid, lead, zinc and hydrochloric acid. The company has since submitted its required emergency and hazardous chemical inventory forms to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council, Wayne County Local Emergency Planning Committee and Dearborn Fire Department.


8. **May 18, Chattanooga Times Free Press** – (Tennessee) **Bomb squad defuses chemical problem.** The Chattanooga Bomb Squad was called May 18 to help Chattanooga firefighters defuse a hazardous chemical in a Tiftonia business. A fire department spokesman said firefighters were called at 10:37 a.m. to the MIG Wire and Tube Co. on Modern Industries Parkway in Tiftonia after plant staff there discovered a damaged container of Picric Acid. The acid normally is suspended in a solution, but the solution had evaporated, causing the acid to crystallize and making it sensitive to shock, friction, fire and water. Workers of the facility, along with occupants of a nearby Holiday Inn Express and Taco Bell restaurant, were evacuated while the Chattanooga Hazardous Material Team removed the container. Squad members placed the jar in an explosive chamber and transported it to a safe area.

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. **May 18, CNET News** – (National) **GPS upgrade behind schedule and over budget.**
   The United States plans to invest more than $5.8 billion through 2013 to modernize and replenish the existing GPS satellite constellation. But facing cost overruns of $870 million and “significant” technical problems, the U.S. Air Force, which is in charge of GPS acquisition, has struggled to build and deploy the next generation satellites on schedule, according to a Government Accountability Office report. A failure to complete development next year before old satellites begin to fail could have wide-ranging impacts on all GPS users, the report warned. Part of the problem has been an acquisition “reform” program, which instead of improving matters by placing more responsibility on the contractors, led instead to “requirements creep,” relaxed specifications, late part delivery, test failures, and poor performance. In addition, the program suffered from the “cluster” factor, i.e. a lack of management continuity. Diffuse leadership contributes to late delivery and cost growth. Part of the program has had seven different managers, the first five of whom only served one year each. The diverse array of officials and organizations involved made it difficult to pare back and control requirements, according to the GAO. Then there were the mergers. For example, the aerospace and defense bits of Rockwell were acquired by Boeing shortly after it won a GPS contract. A year later, Boeing merged with McDonnell Douglas. The work was moved again. Next Boeing acquired Hughes Electronics’ space and communications business, which meant another move; all the while shedding “valuable workers and knowledge.” Among the consequences of degraded GPS: more delays and cancellations on intercontinental flights; degraded 911 services and “smart bombs” get a little dumber. A decrease in accuracy of GPS guided munitions would force the military to use either bigger bombs or more of them to get the same bang.


Banking and Finance Sector

10. **May 18, Reuters** – (National) **Congress gives final OK to mortgage fraud bill.** The U.S. House of Representatives gave final approval on May 18 to a bill that will create an independent commission to investigate the cause of the U.S. economic meltdown and give federal prosecutors more legal clout and staff to crack down on financial fraud. On a vote of 338-52, the House passed the bill, which the Senate had previously approved. It now goes to the U.S. President who is expected to sign it into law within days, a Democratic leadership aide said. The fraud bill is one of three major measures which could go to the U.S. President for his signature before the Democratic-led Congress heads off for its Memorial Day recess. The others are a bill to crack down on abusive interest rate increases and fees by credit card companies and one to help distressed homeowners escape predatory mortgages. The measure approved on May 18 creates an independent 10-person commission with subpoena power to investigate the cause of the U.S. economic crisis. The bill extends anti-fraud legislation to cover Troubled Asset
Relief Program, or TARP, stimulus money and extends mortgage fraud law to all mortgage lending businesses. The legislation is also designed to step up the battle against white-collar crime. Mortgage fraud is believed to have been a significant factor in the U.S. subprime mortgage collapse and subsequent international financial downturn. Source: [http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE54H6KG20090518](http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE54H6KG20090518)

11. **May 18, New York Times** – (New York) **Caller ID fraud is a grim reminder.** The Queens district attorney has taken down an identity theft ring that prominently used phone technology in its deceit. The thieves, who racked up more than a $15 million take over the past year, used easily purchased spoof cards to hide their true identities when calling banks. Phone spoof cards give callers a way to display any number they choose on the recipient’s caller ID. Some of the spoof cards also sell a feature that can alter the caller’s voice. The voice modification can be used to conceal an accent, or even to disguise the gender of the caller. By using the spoof cards to make it appear as though the calls were coming from legitimate customers and credit card applicants, the crooks were able to get credit cards issued in other people’s names. They were also able to trick bank employees into giving out information about real customers’ accounts. The district attorney indicted 45 in the fraud, some of them living out of state and some operating overseas. Source: [http://gadgetwise.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/05/18/caller-id-scam-is-a-grim-reminder/](http://gadgetwise.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/05/18/caller-id-scam-is-a-grim-reminder/)

12. **May 18, Bloomberg** – (National) **FDIC considers fee based on assets to build fund, lobbyist says.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. may charge lenders a fee based on assets rather than deposits to replenish its insurance fund, a step that would put a greater burden on large banks, a lobbyist said. The FDIC board, which meets on May 22 to vote on the charge, proposed on February 27 an assessment of 20 cents per $100 in insured deposits that community bankers said may erode earnings this year. The agency is considering a fee of 5 percent to 6 percent of a bank’s assets, excluding capital, Reuters reported on May 18, without citing a source. “They are looking at different types of assessments, one could be based on assets and not deposits,” said the executive vice president of the American Bankers Association, an industry lobbying group in Washington. “If you go with a fee based on assets, you bring in larger banks that might have to shoulder more of the burden.” The FDIC Chairman told community bankers March 20 that the agency would consider a fee based on assets. The FDIC posted more than 14,596 letters on its Web site about the fees, including from Independent Community Bankers of America members complaining that profits might be reduced this year. Source: [http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aVHiGiyyw0Y&refer=home](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aVHiGiyyw0Y&refer=home)

For another story, see item 18
Transportation Sector

13. **May 19, KNBC 4 Los Angeles** – (California) **Two planes collide off Long Beach.** Two small planes reportedly collided over the ocean nine miles southeast of the Torrance Airport the evening of May 18. A spokesman from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said the report of a collision at about 5:45 p.m. came from the pilot of another plane. By 8 p.m., he still was not confirming some evidence of a crash had been discovered. He said the FAA was reviewing radar data to see if two aircraft had come together. This would also reveal where the planes originated. One of the planes reportedly crashed into the water off Long Beach Harbor, said a U.S. Coast Guard spokeswoman. By 8 p.m., more than 20 boats from the Coast Guard, the fire departments of Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles and Long Beach were scouring the area. Nonetheless, the station reported one boat found some debris, including the engine cowling of an orange and black airplane. Source: [http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Two-Planes-Collide-Off-Long-Beach.html](http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Two-Planes-Collide-Off-Long-Beach.html)

14. **May 17, Wall Street Journal** – (National) **New plane navigation system could save time, fuel.** U.S. airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are phasing in a new navigation system that has already proved it can reduce weather delays, shave minutes off flight times and reduce noise pollution on the ground. “Required Navigation Performance,” or RNP, is already in use in parts of China, Australia, Canada and Alaska. U.S. airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration are working to expand it to major U.S. airports. RNP is precision navigation. The newest generations of Boeing and Airbus jets have the equipment to fly an exact path with deviation of no more than the wingspan of the airplane. RNP routes take advantage of that equipment by creating very precise flight paths that require computers on board to alert pilots if the plane strays. No ground-based equipment like radar and instrument landing systems is needed. The plane’s autopilot can put the aircraft at an exact position within seconds of an assigned time. Source: [http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/travel/45138137.html?elr=KArks7PYDiaK7DUqyE5D7UiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUr](http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/travel/45138137.html?elr=KArks7PYDiaK7DUqyE5D7UiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUr)

15. **May 17, San Francisco Chronicle** – (California) **BART service restored following grass fire.** A grass fire near the BART tracks in Union City tonight stopped train service between South Hayward, Union City and Fremont for almost three hours, BART officials said. The blaze began shortly before 6 p.m., according to officials with the Alameda County Fire Department, which had crews battle the vegetation fire. The fire was extinguished by 7 p.m., according to a BART spokesman but the BART tracks remained shut down until 8:45 p.m. while firefighters investigated the cause of the blaze. During the fire, “we couldn’t run trains because there was a lot of smoke and fire and it was dangerous for our passengers,” said the spokesman. Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/17/BA8L17MBC9.DTL&tsp=1](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/17/BA8L17MBC9.DTL&tsp=1)
Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *May 18, KPTV 12 Salem* – (Oregon) **Post office evacuated because of smoking box.** A suspicious package at a post office in West Salem, Oregon, began making strange sounds and smoking Monday morning. Starting at 6:30 a.m., the post office was evacuated and shut down for four hours. Postal officials said workers immediately called police and the postal inspector after the package began emitting smoke and evacuated the building.


For another story, see item 18

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *May 19, Sun-Times News Group* – (Illinois) **Ammonia leak prompts hazmat on southwest side.** An ammonia leak was discovered Tuesday morning after a small fire inside a first level storage room of World’s Finest Chocolate, Inc. on Chicago’s southwest side was extinguished. A Level 1 HazMat was initiated and was elevated to a Level II HazMat, according to a fire media spokesman. A 1-inch diameter pipe attached to two 1,600 pound ammonia tanks was identified as the source of the leak. The fire had damaged the pipe and caused the leak which was not near where the chocolate is prepared, the spokesman said. About 40 firefighters and 15 pieces of emergency equipment were used to combat the leak, according to the spokesman. The large two-story building was evacuated and no injuries were reported.


18. *May 19, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Grain bin hot spot under control.** Residents of South Charleston, Ohio were evacuated on May 18 after a fire erupted in a grain bin at Southwest Landmark. Earlier in the day, emergency personnel evacuated a bank, post office, hardware store, and several other businesses because of the potential for an explosion. According to a spokesperson with Southwest Landmark, firefighters were called in to help isolate and help put out the fire. People who live nearby the company said corn had been smoldering for days. A resident said, “It’s been going on about a week now.” Other residents said they wondered why nothing was done about the smoldering corn until May 18. Authorities said residents who were evacuated earlier in the day were allowed back in their homes by nightfall.


For more stories, see items 3 and 8
Water Sector

19. *May 19, Post-Journal* – (New York) **Rain barrels offer partial solution to high flows at sewer plant.** An inexpensive solution to ongoing inflow problems at the wastewater treatment plant — caused, in part, by roof downspouts illegally hooked into the sanitary system — was on the minds of village officials. At the Silver Creek Village Board meeting May 18, a spokesperson presented rain barrels as an option to help village residents convert illegal downspout hookups into beneficial water reservoirs — easing destructive peak flows upward of four million gallons each day at the wastewater treatment plant, while cutting their home water bills at the same time. In addition, board members embarked on a grant application to offset costs associated with an engineering study to address current inflow and infiltration problems in the village sewer system. The spokesperson explained, referencing a rain barrel brought to show village officials and residents.

Source: [http://post-journal.com/page/content/detail/id/530926.html?nav=5008&showlayout=0](http://post-journal.com/page/content/detail/id/530926.html?nav=5008&showlayout=0)

20. *May 18, Bay News 9 St. Petersburg* – (Florida) **Next building boom could hinder Florida’s water supply.** According to Bay News 9’s partner newspaper the St. Petersburg Times, a little more than 630,000 houses could be built in the coming years. That many new homes in the state would have a huge impact on the state’s water supply — which already is dwindling. An additional 54 billion gallons of water would be needed. That would mean creating another five desalination plants across the state at a cost of $158 million for each one. While projects like Tampa Bay’s desalination plant, which turns seawater into fresh, are helpful, it would be difficult and expensive to use such technology to meet the demand of a projected housing boom.


21. *May 18, Oneida Daily Dispatch* – (New York) **Gas well site leaks into reservoir.** Heavy rain breached erosion control devices at the Crouch gas well site Saturday, causing soil from the site to run into a stream that flows into the Lebanon reservoir in New York. The site was the location of a petroleum spill and fire in March but, said a spokesperson for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), all of the contaminated soil from the incident was cleaned up. So any run-off from the site that may have reached the reservoir would not have been contaminated, she said. But the DEC is investigating whether or not there was a water quality violation, she added. She said that water from the heavy rain flowed over the silt fences and hay bales set up on the site. The water flowed down the hill and into a stream that empties into the reservoir. But a log jam in the stream blocked much of the soil from reaching the reservoir. An area resident discovered the breach Saturday night. The affected stream runs through his backyard. The stream is usually clear but was filled with dirt and rocks over the weekend. The resident said that the water did not appear to be contaminated with any diesel from the spill in March. The Lebanon town supervisor said he learned about the breach when the resident called and told him that water was running down the hill from the site. The town supervisor said he notified the DEC and surveyed the area himself.
and that parts of the stream are visibly murky. He said he wants to know whether or not there were any quality problems from the run-off and, more importantly, what measures will be taken to make sure it does not happen again.


22. **May 17, Kalamazoo Gazette** – (Michigan) **Pfizer may pay $5M for sewer-plant work.** Pfizer Inc. may pay the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan nearly $5 million to cover the costs of sewer-plant modifications prompted by changing discharges from the pharmaceutical manufacturer. In an agreement expected to be ratified on May 18 by the Kalamazoo City Commission, Pharmacia Upjohn Co. LLC, a Pfizer subsidiary, will pay the city three installments, totaling $4,856,000, to make good on a 1986 agreement. Under that pact, the city agreed to develop a wastewater-treatment operation capable of handling the company’s unique discharges and a rate structure for the company that reflected that. According to the city manager, that agreement has saved the company millions of dollars in pre-treatment capital and operating expenses over the last 23 years.


**Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

23. **May 18, Reuters** – (National) **U.S. health officials troubled by new flu pattern.** While the H1N1 swine flu virus appears to be mild, it is affecting a disproportionate number of children, teenagers and young adults. The virus killed a vice principal at a New York City school over the weekend and has spread to 48 states. Up to 200 people have needed hospitalization, said a doctor at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “That’s very unusual, to have so many people under 20 to require hospitalization, and some of them in (intensive care units),” she told reporters in a telephone briefing. “We are now experiencing levels of influenza-like illness that are higher than usual for this time of year,” she added. “We are also seeing outbreaks in schools, which is extremely unusual for this time of year.” CDC officials say around 100,000 people are likely infected with the new flu strain in the United States and the CDC doctor said the 5,123 confirmed and probable cases and six deaths in the United States were “the tip of the iceberg.”

Source: [http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUSN18510599](http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUSN18510599)

24. **May 18, WBRZ 2 Baton Rouge** – (Louisiana) **Medical center ordered closed.** A U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge ordered financially troubled River West Medical Center in Plaquemine, Louisiana closed on Friday, as recommended by a court-appointed ombudsman who was assigned to monitor patient care at the hospital. The ombudsman wrote in court filings that the hospital’s financial distress was compromising patient safety. He said the court needed to issue an emergency order to close it in order “to avoid (a) potentially life threatening situation.” The 80-bed acute-care hospital was ordered closed effective at 5 p.m. The hospital’s 90 employees were informed by
managers at midday that they would no longer have jobs there. The hospital’s abrupt
closure came two weeks after a group of doctors announced they had acquired River
West’s physical facilities from a California real estate investment trust and planned to
transform it into a locally owned, not-for-profit hospital. The ombudsman noted that a
roof damaged during Hurricane Gustav still has a tarp covering, part of which was
blown off during a recent windstorm.

For another story, see item 5

Government Facilities Sector

25. May 19, Associated Press – (International) U.S. embassy in Qatar closes temporarily
after discovery of powder. The U.S. Embassy in Qatar says it will close temporarily to
the public after the discovery of a suspicious powder on its premises. An Embassy
warden message says the substance was discovered around 9 am on Monday at the
embassy in Qatar’s capital, Doha. The message says the substance is being sent to a
laboratory for analysis. It adds that the Embassy will remain closed until results are
received and a determination is made that the substance does not pose any health or
safety risks. It says the Embassy’s consular section will remain available to provide
emergency services to American citizens.
Source: http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3717931,00.html

26. May 18, WDSU 6 New Orleans – (Louisiana) Sheriff: Student planned attack on
school. The 15-year-old student who fired a shot in a Larose Middle School classroom
Monday before turning the gun on himself planned the attack in a journal, describing his
intent to kill and drawing up blueprints of the area, the sheriff said. But it appears the
student, an eighth-grader at the Lafourche Parish school, did not put his plan into action.
He fired one shot near a teacher in an English classroom before running into the boys’
restroom, where he shot himself in the head, the sheriff said. The student, whose name
has not yet been released, is in critical but stable condition at a nearby hospital.
Meanwhile, the remaining 800 students at the school in Larose, about 60 miles
southwest of New Orleans, were taken to the nearby VFW Hall. There, parents picked
them up.

For another story, see item 9

Emergency Services Sector

27. May 18, Atlanta Journal-Constitution – (Georgia) Ambulances will carry CPAP
breathing treatments. Two new treatments soon to debut on Gwinnett County
ambulances will help congestive heart failure patients breathe easier. After June 1,
people hospitalized with congestive heart failure will have a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine on the ambulance. The machine prevents a patient from having a plastic tube inserted into the windpipe. Patients treated with a CPAP machine instead of intubation spend an average of two fewer days in the intensive care unit and are less likely to suffer from complications such as pneumonia or infection, said a physician specializing in emergency medicine at Gwinnett Medical Center. The county’s two leading hospital systems, Gwinnett Medical Center and Emory Eastside Medical Center, donated $16,000 each to put CPAP machines on all 30 county ambulances.

Source:
http://www.ajc.com/services/content/metro/gwinnett/stories/2009/05/18/ambulance_breathing_treatments.html

28. May 18, Cleveland Plain-Dealer – (Ohio) Some law enforcement agencies joining forces, but regionalism not likely. In June, Lakemore, Ohio will merge its police force with Springfield Township’s, putting them in step with a national trend in which a growing number of communities are sharing resources as they watch their tax revenues shrink. By June 1, most of Lakemore’s police force will be absorbed into the township’s. The village will pay Springfield at least $400,000 a year for law enforcement service — about half what Lakemore currently pays to have its own force of eight full-time officers and a few part-timers. The consolidation puts the village and the township well ahead of most Cuyahoga County communities, where little collaboration is happening between law enforcement agencies. One exception is Chagrin Falls, which provides police protection to the township of the same name as well as fire protection for several nearby towns. In Summit County, two other partnerships allow the village of Clinton and Boston Township to get police service from adjacent villages.

Source:

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Information Technology

29. May 18, SpamFighter News – (International) Adobe’s flash files expose Web sites to XSS attacks. The flaw in Shockwave Flash (SWF) files of Adobe, which was reported for the first time in December 2007, is currently leading several thousands websites to facilitate XSS (cross-site scripting) attacks. Security researchers explained that SWF files generate animated content and banner ads. The vulnerable Flash files of Adobe can be conveniently abused by cyber-criminals to launch XSS and phishing assaults. There is high possibility that the vulnerability may lead to cookie hijacking. In other words, unaware users can be forwarded to phishing or malicious sites from the legitimate ones. Besides, the fraudsters can also intercept the users’ password. Security researchers have also found that the vulnerable Flash files could be easily used by criminals to make interference with the official sites belonging to government agencies, banks and several other reliable organizations. It is highly interesting to note that Adobe has made a number of efforts to fix the same flaw several times in the past; however, the flaw is a complicated one and needs multi-stepped procedure to be fixed.
30. **May 18, IDG News Service – (International)** **IIS 6 attack could let hackers snoop on servers.** Security vendors are warning users of Microsoft’s Internet Information Services 6 Web-server software that a new online attack could put their data at risk. The flaw was made public on May 14, when a security researcher posted details of the vulnerability to the Full Disclosure security mailing list. By sending a specially crafted HTTP request to the server he was able to view and upload files on the machine. The attack takes advantage of a bug in the way that Microsoft’s software processes Unicode tokens, he said. The vulnerability is being used in online attacks, the U.S. Computer Emergency Response Team said on May 18. In a statement, Microsoft said it had not heard of any such attacks, but that it was investigating the researcher’s claims. “We are working on a security advisory to provide customers with guidance,” the company said on May 18. The bug affects IIS 6 users who have enabled the WebDAV (Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning) protocols, used to share documents via the Web. It gives attackers a way to view protected files on the server without authorization and it could be used to upload files as well, according to an independent security researcher who confirmed the findings. However, the independent security researcher said he had found no way to use this flaw to run unauthorized software on an IIS server.

Source: [http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=knowledge_center&articleId=9133219&taxonomyId=1&intsrch=kc_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=knowledge_center&articleId=9133219&taxonomyId=1&intsrch=kc_top)

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31. **May 18, CNET News – (National)** **FTC goes after warranty robocallers.** Recently, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filed lawsuits against three companies — Voice Touch and Transcontinental Warranty, both of Florida, and Network Foundations, based in Illinois — alleging these companies violated the Do Not Call registry law by making more than 1 billion robocalls since 2007 to residences, businesses, and mobile phones. The suit also alleges that the calls, which have generated more than $10 million since 2007, offer unnecessary and false warranty extensions for several thousands of dollars, and that the firms placing the calls also violated laws by blocking caller ID. The FTC chairman in a statement called these telemarketing schemes one of the most aggressive the commission has ever encountered.

32. **May 16, Daily Record** – (New Jersey) **DOT: Workers are not to blame for phone outage.** The New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) May 15 said workers on the Route 46 pedestrian bridge project should not be blamed for damaging a Verizon cable line — and the phone company conceded that a mapping mistake on its end might have caused the mishap. The Verizon line was damaged May 12, the same day that the workers were putting in fence posts along the center concrete highway median as part of the bridge project. The damage resulted in an ongoing loss of phone service for up to 300 homes and businesses and shut down the police department’s radios for 30 minutes. A DOT spokeswoman said the workers had no way of knowing the line would be in their way. In response, a Verizon spokesman said the project subcontractor followed guidelines in seeking information in advance of digging. He said Verizon is checking whether the line was properly marked by the company it uses for such work. Source: [http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20090516/COMMUNITIES12/905160324/1005/NEWS01/DOT++Workers+are+not+to+blame+for+phone+outage](http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20090516/COMMUNITIES12/905160324/1005/NEWS01/DOT++Workers+are+not+to+blame+for+phone+outage)

33. **May 18, Cambridge Chronicle** – (Massachusetts) **Fire investigators rule Cambridge church fire accidental.** After inspecting the four-alarm fire at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 17, fire investigators have ruled it accidental. What actually sparked the fire is still under investigation, according to the Cambridge deputy fire chief. Responding to the fire were 70 to 80 firefighters in total from Cambridge, Somerville, and Waltham. The roof of the church completely collapsed. The approximately 300 worshipers, who were inside watching a live broadcast from Salt Lake City, were evacuated from the church at around 10:45 a.m. after a fire alarm sounded. The church spokesman said they plan to rebuild. According to the Associated Press, the blaze caused an estimated $1.9 million in damage at the church. Source: [http://www.wickedlocal.com/cambridge/news/x340406410/Fire-investigators-rule-Cambridge-church-fire-as-accidental](http://www.wickedlocal.com/cambridge/news/x340406410/Fire-investigators-rule-Cambridge-church-fire-as-accidental)

34. **May 15, Indian Express** – (International) **Terror threat: 3Cs Mall sealed.** In the Lajpat Nagar market area in Delhi, India, the popular 3Cs Mall and the entire area around it has been turned into a fortress after the Delhi police received specific security inputs that the building would be blown up in the next 15 days. According to sources in the Southeast district police, they received inputs from intelligence agencies about a possible threat to the mall a few days earlier. After the message was forwarded to the local police, they cordoned off the entire market. Intelligence agencies reportedly told the police that the army had recovered a sketch of the mall from a few terrorists arrested by it recently and that their interrogation revealed a threat to the mall. The police sources said the present security arrangements were under the direct supervision of an assistant commissioner of
police. A senior officer is present at the site around the clock. Officers said they had kept a few numbers on electronic surveillance. The police said at least 20 policemen had been deputed at the market to thwart any untoward incident. “More than ten officers are placed in front of the mall, while the rest are deputed at the back,” said an officer.

For more stories, see items 1, 8, and 18

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

Dams Sector

35. *May 19, Pocono Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Weapons of mass destruction military training at Beltzville Dam.** The Pennsylvania National Guard’s 3rd Weapons of Mass Destruction, Civil Support Team (CST) is being evaluated during a training exercise at the Beltzville Dam on May 19. Recreational enthusiasts should avoid the dam breast area throughout the day. Carbon County Emergency Management Agency will observe the exercise and active duty military evaluators will also be present at Beltzville. The 3rd CST specializes in response to nuclear, biological, radiological or chemical attack. The 22-man team is stationed at Fort Indiantown Gap.

36. *May 18, HS Daily Wire* – (Louisiana) **U.S. reassesses safe water levels in New Orleans’ outfall canals.** New analyses are under way to determine how much water the worrisome floodwalls on New Orleans’ three outfall canals can safely hold now that new, more conservative design standards gradually adopted since Hurricane Katrina are finally in place. If current safe water levels still prove safe enough to meet the stricter criteria, there will be no need further to restrict the surge allowed into the 17th Street, London Avenue and Orleans Avenue canals before floodgates must be closed. If any of the current levels would put more water into the canals than the new standards permit, however, it would be necessary to either reduce the safe water levels or, if possible, strengthen trouble spots so that existing levels could be maintained, Army Corps of Engineers officials said.
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