Top Stories

- According to the Los Angeles Daily News, the Governor of California signed Senate Bill 24 to let the FBI continue to closely track the lifting of entire big-rig containers from the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach. The FBI says $15 billion to $30 billion worth of goods gets heisted nationwide each year, with about $5 billion to $10 billion of that vanishing in Los Angeles every year. (See item 13)

- The San Antonio Express-News reports that carbon monoxide leaked into a San Antonio, Texas Water System sewer line Wednesday morning, causing five people at a nearby Northeast Side business to suffer headaches and nausea, officials said. (See item 15)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - [http://www.esisac.com]

1. October 15, Occupational Health and Safety – (National) NTSB urges better 911 coordination by pipeline operators. The question of what caused a leak in a liquid propane pipeline on November 1, 2007, near Carmichael, Missouri, was answered on October 15 by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) after a long meeting
dealing with two incidents, an air ambulance crash in Milwaukee in June 2007 and the Carmichael incident, in which 430,600 gallons of propane leaked. When the ensuing gas cloud ignited, the fire destroyed four homes, killed two people, and injured seven others. The meeting was available as a webcast. The NTSB chairman ended the meeting by vowing to bring about regulatory changes that will prevent pipeline fires and explosions, so the board will no longer have to investigate such tragedies. The best-known of these recent incidents was the June 10, 1999, failure of an Olympic Pipe Line Company gasoline pipeline in Bellingham, Washington, which released 237,000 gallons of gasoline into a creek, subsequently igniting and causing three deaths. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, a DOT agency, joined in NTSB’s investigation of the Carmichael incident, which involved a Dixie Pipeline Company pipeline. According to NTSB, Dixie reported property damage from the leak and fire totaled $3,377,247. The board concluded a weld failed in the pipeline. It found corrosion, excavation damage, the controller’s actions, and the operating conditions of the pipeline were not factors in the incident, and emergency responders performed well. But “current inspection and testing programs are not sufficiently reliable to identify features associated with longitudinal seam failures of ERW [electrical resistance welded] pipe prior to catastrophic failure in operating pipelines,” and Dixie’s oversight and evaluation of the effectiveness of its public education programs were inadequate, the board found. It also concluded that the American Petroleum Institute’s Recommended Practice 1162 should explicitly identify 911 emergency call centers as emergency response agencies included in pipeline operators’ public education programs.


For another story, see item 13

Chemical Industry Sector

2. **October 14, Amarillo Globe News** – (Texas) **Truck driver hauling lye killed in accident.** A Kansas truck driver was killed early Tuesday morning in an accident involving hazardous chemicals, the Department of Public Safety said. Officials said the man was southbound on Farm-to-Market Road 119, about five miles north of Sunray, when he lost control of his 2007 Peterbilt tractor-trailer and swerved into a ditch. He overcorrected, and the tractor-trailer turned on its side, blocking the roadway, troopers said. The semi was carrying the hazardous chemical sodium hydroxide, also known as lye. Troopers said a local man was driving northbound on FM 119 when his 2009 Ford pickup collided with the overturned semi. The impact caused a “massive explosion,” and the semi caught fire, officials said. The truck driver was killed; the motorist was taken to Moore County Hospital in Dumas, where he was treated and released, officials said.

3. *October 14, North Platte Bulletin* – (Nebraska) **Chlorine cars derail at Bailey Yard.** A derailment Saturday, October 3 in Bailey Yard could have had disastrous consequences, according to an anonymous witness. The source, who was present at the time of the accident Saturday morning, said that snowy conditions contributed to the incident. A switch had not been thrown properly, but the mistake was not noticed due to the weather. This led to a collision that sent four empty chlorine tankers and a lumber car off the tracks, the witness said. The cars were mangled. He stated that a foot of snow completely buried the track and blowing and falling snow hid the switches. The witness said that work should have been stopped, but continued. There was no talk of shutting the yard down, he said. “Production overruled the safety of North Platte,” he stated. The witness claimed that Hazmat training railroaders receive tells them that a one-inch gash in a full chlorine car could kill everything within a quarter mile. The wheels were torn off the derailed cars. The source’s primary stated concern was that Union Pacific did not alert anyone in North Platte to what had happened. The clean up was conducted by UP without any assistance from local authorities. A Union Pacific spokesman asserted that three chlorine cars, not four, were derailed. The other cars were the lumber unit and a car full of canned goods. Three other cars were damaged but remained on the tracks. The spokesman also said that there was minimal track damage and the two damaged lines were reopened by 4 p.m. Saturday.


For another story, see item 13

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**Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

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**Critical Manufacturing Sector**

4. *October 15, Erie Times-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Car crusher catches fire at Erie plant.** Four Erie Bureau of Fire crews worked to extinguish a smoky blaze on October 14 after a scrap metal plant’s car crusher caught on fire in Erie, Pennsylvania. Firefighters arrived at Liberty Iron & Metal Co. about 11:45 p.m. to find heavy smoke coming from a car crusher outside one of the plant’s buildings. By about 1:13 a.m., they had extinguished burning debris inside the machine. Fire officials said no employees were working when the fire started. No injuries were reported.

5. *October 15, Reuters* – (International) **BHP Olympic Dam mine damage assessment due Oct 21.** BHP Billiton Ltd/Plc will make public on October 21 an assessment of damage suffered earlier this month at its giant Olympic Dam mine which threatens to disrupt world supplies of copper and uranium, a company spokeswoman said on October 15. Analysts estimate the global copper market stands to lose up to 50,000 tons of supply this year after the automated hauling system derailed at the Australian outback mine, knocking out 80 percent of production capacity. If damage to the mine’s central equipment at the bottom of the main Clark shaft and winding operations at the surface prove extensive, operations could take up to six months to return to normal, according to experts familiar with the mine. A protracted repair period on the automated system could also force BHP to purchase copper and uranium to meet contractual obligations. BHP Billiton said immediately after the incident on October 5 that it would take about two weeks to conclude its investigation, which is coinciding with a probe by government work safety officials. In the meantime, it had reactivated a smaller shaft, capable of maintaining just 20 percent of the mine’s overall 200,000-ton-per-year operating rate and used to take miners underground. BHP also stands to lose part of its annual 4,000 tons or so of uranium production from the mine. The radioactive material is sold to nuclear power plant operators. BHP’s damage update will coincide with the release of its September quarter production report next Wednesday, which is expected to show improved copper output from another BHP mine, Escondida in Chile, which has been exploiting richer ores.

Source:

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**Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *October 15, Air Force Times* – (California) **Poor maintenance likely led to fatal T-38 crash.** An Air Force accident investigation board has determined that a failure in the rudder operating mechanism — most likely due to maintenance issues — caused a T-38 aircraft on a training mission to crash May 21, killing a student pilot. The crash occurred 12 miles north of Edwards Air Force Base, California. A student at the Air Force Test Pilot School died as a result of the accident. His student navigator sustained serious injuries for which he is still undergoing treatment. The Test Pilot School is a unit within the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards. The aircraft, assigned to the test center, was destroyed at an estimated cost of $6.4 million. The report stated that the mishap occurred when the rudder operating mechanism disconnected the flight controls from the rudder actuators and caused the rudder to deflect 30 degrees to the left. This induced an uncontrollable yaw and a resulting roll, causing the aircraft to depart controlled flight, a condition that is unrecoverable in the T-38. The report identified two potential causes for the failure: a structural fatigue failure or structural break in a critical component or bolt, and a maintenance error in which a nut or cotter pin did not properly secure a bolt connecting two critical components. Citing two historical cases of rudder failure, the report concluded that maintenance error was the more likely
cause. The report stated that “insufficient supervisory oversight and a lack of discipline of the training process” was a factor. Experts from Air Force Materiel Command are now reviewing the flight test center’s current processes.

Banking and Finance Sector

7. October 15, Blue Ridge Times News – (National) New rivals pose threat to New York Stock Exchange. Even as the Dow Jones industrial average topped 10,000 for the first time since the financial crisis sent it tumbling, the New York Stock Exchange and its hometown face an unsettling truth: the Big Board, the symbolic heart of New York’s financial industry, is getting smaller. Young, fast-moving rivals are splintering its public marketplace and creating private markets that, their critics say, give big banks and investment funds an edge over ordinary investors. Some of the new trading venues, “dark pools,” the industry calls them, are all but invisible, even to regulators. These stealth markets enable sophisticated traders to buy and sell large blocks of stock in secrecy at lightning speed, a practice that has drawn scrutiny from the Securities and Exchange Commission. While the exchange has been under assault since the beginning of the decade, its decline has accelerated in recent years as aggressive competitors have emerged. Currently, 36 percent of daily trades in stocks that are listed on the New York Stock Exchange are actually executed on the exchange, down from about 75 percent nearly four years ago. The rest are conducted elsewhere, on new electronic exchanges or through dark pools.

8. October 15, Dow Jones Newswires – (National) FDIC, OCC see bank woes continuing. The woes for the U.S. banking industry are expected to continue for some time, top regulators told a U.S. Senate committee on October 14, exacerbated by ongoing and expected problems in the commercial real estate sector. “We expect the number of problem institutions to increase and bank failures to remain high for the next several quarters,” the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. chairman said in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee. The chairman and the Comptroller of the Currency said there are some initial signs that the economy may be stabilizing, a good sign for banks, but warned that problems for U.S. banks are likely to lag any recovery. “Credit quality is continuing to deteriorate across almost all classes of banking assets in nearly all sizes of banks,” the Comptroller said in his prepared remarks. The negative outlook provided by regulators comes as lawmakers are engaged in a high-stakes battle to overhaul oversight of the financial system. The continued problems facing banks, as well as the expectation that more problems could arise, could affect those efforts. The Comptroller said the “vast majority” of national banks will have the financial capacity to withstand the declining quality of assets in their portfolios. But he warned that commercial real estate bets made in past years have yet to come due for many
institutions.

9. October 15, Bloomberg – (National) **Dark pool plans by SEC may limit growth as trading quadruples.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission may restrict trading by so-called dark pools after lawmakers said a lack of transparency on the private venues hurts investors. The SEC may reduce the amount of orders that the stock networks are allowed to execute before being required to display them publicly and limit what traders call indications of interest that gauge demand without committing to buy or sell, said a market analyst at Aite Group LLC, a Boston-based financial-services consultant. Dark pools, trading venues operated by firms such as Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Getco LLC and Credit Suisse Group AG that do not display orders to the public, are getting increased scrutiny because their share of U.S. equity volume more than quadrupled to 9.4 percent in three years, according to Tabb Group LLC. A U.S. Senator said the platforms may give an unfair edge to some investors. “The intention is to restrict the overall growth of these markets that they view as not transparent,” said the market analyst whose firm counts the nation’s biggest banks, brokerages and hedge funds among more than 100 clients. “There’s a level of fairness that’s in question.” Trading in dark pools such as Credit Suisse’s Crossfinder and Goldman Sachs’s Sigma X, the two largest, has surged from 2 percent in mid-2006, according to estimates by Tabb, a New York-based financial-services consultant. Bloomberg LP, the parent of Bloomberg News, owns Bloomberg Tradebook LLC, an electronic stock-trading system that links to dark pools.
Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a0EiQ4tBzOC8

10. October 13, WISN 2 Milwaukee – (Wisconsin) **Bomb scare reported at M and I bank.** The Milwaukee Bomb Squad was called to the scene of a bank robbery on 83rd and Silver Spring streets on October 13. According to police, a male dressed as a female came into the M&I Bank shortly after 12:30 p.m. claiming that he had a bomb and demanding money. The robber got away, leaving the device behind. The bomb squad determined that the device was not explosive.

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**Transportation Sector**

11. October 15, Sun-Times News – (Illinois) **Red line rerouted when man falls on tracks in subway.** Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Red Line trains were delayed for about 40 minutes Thursday morning after a man fell from the platform onto the southbound subway tracks near the Jackson station in the Loop. The 45-year-old man fell on the tracks just before 7 a.m., spokesmen from the CTA and Fire media affairs said. A fire media affairs spokesman said they responded to the subway at 230 S. State St. Power was shut off from Fullerton to Cermak as emergency crews worked to get the man off
the tracks. He was taken in critical condition to Northwestern Memorial Hospital. A CTA spokesman said the man injured his leg. The man was not hit by a train and did not make contact with the third rail, he said. The CTA’s Web site said at 7:15 a.m. that southbound Red Line trains were temporarily being rerouted to the elevated tracks between the Fullerton and Cermak-Chinatown stations. At 7:45 a.m., the trains were running. Howard-bound trains were unaffected, the CTA said.

Source: http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/red.line.accident.2.1249606.html

12. October 14, Wired – (National) Airlines and pilots push for naps in the cockpit. Many in the airline industry are pushing the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to allow pilots on commercial airplanes to take short naps during flights. Pilot unions and U.S. airlines stand behind the idea as a way to make flying safer. The problem of pilot fatigue has been around for a long time and there are many stories of incidents involving sleep deprived pilots in the cockpit. But after the crash near Buffalo last January, the issue continues to receive attention and now the industry appears to be in agreement to push for controlled naps for pilots. “There’s no question it produces better pilot performance at the critical phases of flight” is what a sleep researcher told the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) about how naps during cruise could be helpful during the more demanding approach and landings. The article points out that many pilots already take naps on flights, citing the now well known long work schedules of commuter pilots as an example of where fatigue is particularly problematic. Just last year the FAA and National Transportation and Safety Board looked into the problem at a symposium to address pilot fatigue problems. But despite the fact that carriers outside the U.S. such as British Airways and Qantas allow pilots to nap (one at a time), the FAA has not been willing to budge on the issue. According to the WSJ story, controlled napping was going to be allowed in the mid-1990s, but senior officials in the Department of Transportation nixed the idea fearing ridicule from the public. Indeed, many in the industry say one of the challenges is being able to convince the public that allowing one of the two pilots in the cockpit to catch a little shut eye is safe and could reduce the chances of mishaps during the more demanding sections of their flight.


13. October 14, Los Angeles Daily News – (California) Secret criminal billionaires: Big-rig cargo thefts are hitting L.A.’s port. Huge big-rigs are quietly vanishing from the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach regularly, their cargo whisked away by sophisticated crime teams using regional leaders, fencers, “lumpers” and drivers who hijack the entire big-rig container, each stuffed with goods worth between $12,000 and as much as $3 million — in, say, iPhones. That is per big-rig container. California’s governor signed Senate Bill 24 to let the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and others continue to closely track, separately from other kinds of thefts, the lifting of containers, as the locals and the feds try to figure out how these criminal rings are so easily getting past security at the ports (insider corruption comes to mind). The FBI says $15 billion to $30 billion gets heisted nationwide each year — that is that they know of — and the math appears to suggest that about $5 billion to $10 billion of that is vanishing in Los Angeles every year. It is unnerving that a large number of jobs
related to the port involve “a specialist who is expert at foiling the anti-theft locks on truck trailers,” as the legislative analysis of the bill the governor signed seems to suggest. The ports are highly sensitive places filled with gigantic oil tanks, big piles of chemicals, and other explosive materials.
Source: http://blogs.lawweekly.com/ladaily/crime/secret-criminal-billionaires-b/

For more stories, see items 1, 2, and 3

Postal and Shipping Sector

14. October 14, Pioneer Press – (Minnesota) A family that learns to build pipe bombs together. A Prior Lake couple allegedly thought it would be “a good educational tool” for their son and his friends to learn how to make homemade explosives from PVC pipe and gunpowder. They had no idea, they reportedly said, that the teens would go on a destructive spree, using pipe bombs to explode mailboxes in Burnsville, Lakeville and rural Scott County. One of the incidents drew Bloomington’s bomb squad, according to charges. The allegations surfaced in two criminal complaints filed last month by the Scott County attorney’s office against the couple, who each face felony charges of manufacturing explosives and aiding offenders in a felony. Their first court appearance is scheduled for November 2. The father, 48, is suspected of accompanying his son last spring to Fleet Farm in Lakeville, where, over two visits, they bought 2 pounds of gunpowder using a credit card. The powder, which is used to arm muzzle-loading firearms, cannot be bought by anyone under the age of 18. The father then showed his son and his son’s friends how to assemble explosives on the family’s workbench, and he and his wife encouraged the teens to learn more by watching how-to videos on YouTube, according to the criminal complaints. Not long afterward, mailboxes in Burnsville, Lakeville and Scott County began exploding. Five teens are under suspicion of taking part in at least six bombings. A sixth is believed to have been a witness in at least one of them. The teens are identified solely by their initials in the complaints because they are juveniles. One of the teens said the group began blowing up mailboxes at random but later targeted the homes of people they knew, the complaints said.
Source: http://www.twincities.com/topstories/ci_13564156

Agriculture and Food Sector

Nothing to report

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Water Sector

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15. *October 14, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Carbon monoxide sickens two at Northeast Side business.** Carbon monoxide leaked into a San Antonio Water System (SAWS) sewer line Wednesday morning, causing five people at a nearby Northeast Side business to suffer headaches and nausea, officials said. “We’re going to investigate this further, because it is not normal to have carbon monoxide in sewer lines,” said a SAWS spokeswoman. Employees at Builders Flooring in the 3800 block of Binz Engleman Road began to feel ill soon after they came into work, said the owner. Around 8 a.m., he called SAWS, whose crew took an air reading and told him they found noxious fumes present, he said. When he called the Metropolitan Health District for advice, officials “told us to vacate the building immediately,” he said. Nearly 20 San Antonio firefighters, paramedics and members of the department’s hazardous materials team arrived at the business around 10 a.m., said the department’s battalion chief. He said the hazardous materials team detected carbon monoxide in the sewer. While five employees complained of feeling sick, only two women sought medical treatment, he said. The women said they received oxygen and immediately felt better; neither was hospitalized. The owner said he’s smelled the odor, which SAWS officials said is hydrogen sulfide, in the past two years, but Wednesday’s fumes were more intense than ever. By noon, employees were let back into the building. Crews have tested the line before and are installing backwater valves to prevent hydrogen sulfide from escaping in the future. Meanwhile, SAWS crews will investigate the source of the carbon monoxide leak, which may have been caused by illicit dumping in the area.


16. *October 14, Water Technology Online* – (Nevada) **Watershed pollution focus of multi-agency report.** Federal, state and local agencies are cooperating to determine why nitrates and other contaminants are polluting many Lower Yakima Valley, Nevada, wells, the Yakima Herald-Republic said in an October 8 story. The agencies have put together a draft report, which will be discussed at an October 21 public meeting. The report calls for a water-sampling program. The report also includes recommendations for reducing contamination, including creation of a new public entity to carry out water-quality improvement measures, the story said. The report notes that about 12 percent of domestic well users in the Lower Valley are exposed to nitrate levels that exceed health standards; 21 percent of wells have elevated levels, and bacteria have been detected in 19 percent of wells.


17. *October 14, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Portland Water commissioner wants armed workers.** The city commissioner in charge of Portland’s Water Bureau wants to deputize his security personnel, giving them the ability to carry guns and arrest people. That idea does not sit well with the commissioner who oversees the Police Bureau, who called the proposal unnecessary and confusing. The Police chief says creating another police unit in the city would be “extreme” and would require a “Heculean” effort. The commissioner says he does not understand the objections; the city has five open reservoirs, and his employees need to be able to protect a valuable resource. The 19 security officers and two administrators in the Water Bureau are authorized to patrol
reservoirs and call police for help. The proposed ordinance would create a law enforcement unit within the bureau whose members would be trained by the state Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. The commissioner said he has been talking about this ever since he took control of the bureau in 2005. With the city seeking permission from the federal government to keep its reservoirs open, he said he has promised that armed officers would patrol them. The water administrator said the agency needs a way to handle trespassers as well as terrorists capable of harming the water supply. Last summer, he said, someone threw a bucket of paint into a reservoir at Mount Tabor, and people were caught hunting in the Bull Run watershed. However the Police chief said the trend nationally has been to consolidate police bureaus. “It would be unusual for a city to commission two different police departments,” he said. “I think there are alternatives that are more efficient and effective that I’m not sure have been explored.”


Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. October 15, Occupational Health and Safety – (International) WHO, allies stress safety of hospitals themselves. Allied international authorities Wednesday cited an urgent need to ensure hospitals around the world are protected against natural disasters. Marking International Day for Disaster Reduction 2009, the World Health Organization cited the recent earthquakes and tsunamis in Asia and Pacific islands as evidence of the “large-scale human suffering [that] is exacerbated when the very services that are most needed to save lives — hospitals, clinics and other health facilities — are counted among the casualties.” From London to South Africa, Nepal, and Panama, events were held in conjunction with the day. The same theme of safeguarding hospitals was used for the 2008-09 World Disaster Reduction campaign that ended yesterday. The two-year campaign was a joint initiative of WHO, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and the World Bank trying to ensure access to functioning health facilities during and after natural hazards. Available in several languages at the Safe Hospitals Web site is the Hospitals Safe from Disasters information kit. According to a recent WHO survey, only half of all countries’ health sectors have a budget allocation for risk reduction and emergency preparedness. And there are at least 90,000 hospitals and other health facilities in the 49 least-developed countries of the world, with many of them vulnerable to disasters, according to WHO.


19. October 15, WLWT 5 Cincinnati – (Ohio) At least 3 sickened by chlorine at health center. At least three people were sickened by exposure to chlorine at the Mercy Hospital Healthplex in Anderson, Ohio Wednesday morning. Firefighters said the leaking gas had dissipated from the pool/whirlpool area shortly after they arrived, but they were evaluating three patients who were having trouble breathing. A spokesman
said a contractor was working on the water pump for the men’s whirlpool. When the contractor turned the pump back on, an unusually high amount of chlorine was pushed into the whirlpool.


20. October 15, Daytona Beach News Journal – (Florida) Laptop containing Halifax patient information stolen. About 33,000 Halifax Health patients were sent letters this week notifying them that their personal information might have been compromised. The notice is the result of the August 28 theft of a laptop computer from a Halifax Health employee’s vehicle in Orange County, Floridan, hospital officials said. Attempts to retrieve the stolen computer — which might have contained password-protected patient information — have not been successful, so notification began this week.


21. October 15, WXII 12 Winston-Salem – (North Carolina) Patients’ personal information may have been hacked. Patients receiving letters warning their personal information may have been stolen by a hacker have been surprised to learn they were involved in a University of North Carolina medical study. Federal guidelines requiring patients to approve the sharing of personal data are often waived for a big medical study, according to a News and Observer report. Many women learned that their radiologists submitted data for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill research only when the school sent letters on the computer breach. The school said it does not know who the hacker is.


Government Facilities Sector

22. October 15, The Californian – (California) Storm renewed Monterey County reservoirs, flooded schools. The rainfall from Tuesday’s storm was great news for Monterey County’s reservoirs, but bad news for some local schools. San Antonio reservoir, which gained 6 inches of water from the storm, is at 32 percent of its capacity. Lake Nacimiento gained 9 feet, but is only at 18 percent. For instance, staff at the Pacific Coast Christian Academy and Little Lambs Preschool waded through knee-deep water in the hallways, library and classrooms, looking less like a Salinas school and more like the flooded buildings of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The school at 381 San Juan Grade Road, which serves about 115 students, was closed Wednesday. The principal said more than 8 inches of water from the Little Bear Creek next to the school flooded the main building, and 10 inches inundated the playground. School staff worked all day Wednesday and were able to clean enough of the school to hold classes starting today, the principal said. Other schools in Salinas saw minor damage from the storm. At least 16 portable classrooms in four schools in the Alisal Union School District had minor leaks, said the director of maintenance for the district. In the Salinas Union High School District, the gym at Harden Middle
School had a minor leak from a roof vent, but the rest of the middle schools and high schools weathered the storm without a problem, said the manager of business operations and safety. The storm gave maintenance workers in the Salinas City Elementary School District a good test of two gutters that were installed this summer. Loma Vista and Mission Park elementary schools saw some minor setbacks with the new drains, but things are now running smoothly, said the director of facilities for the district.

Source: [http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20091015/NEWS01/910150303/1002](http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20091015/NEWS01/910150303/1002)

23. **October 15, Times-Delphic** – (Iowa) **Suspicious backpack found outside of Howard Hall.** Staff and students remained inside Howard Hall while the Des Moines Police Bomb Squad responded to a suspicious backpack left unattended on the academic building’s steps at Drake University Tuesday morning. The commander of the Des Moines Bureau of Homeland Security said each situation is different and it is up to the discretion of the officers on the scene to determine if an evacuation is necessary. “If it was determined that (the backpack) was a threat we would have handled it differently,” the official said. “Everything is situation dependent.” The backpack was originally discovered on the south steps of Howard Hall, located on the east side of Drake’s campus, around 8 a.m. by a university staff member. At 8:02 a.m. Campus Security was notified and an officer was dispatched to Howard. The Director of Campus Security said the officer discovered a note that “looked a little weird” on the backpack. The officer requested a Des Moines Police Officer examine the backpack as well.

Police reports indicate DMPD was called at 8:26 a.m. An officer on patrol near campus arrived shortly thereafter. He also found the backpack and note to be suspicious and requested a bomb technician. “We thought only one technician would show up, but then the whole squad showed up,” the official said. The backpack contained a toy pistol still in its packaging, a plastic dinosaur and a box of Twinkies. After gathering evidence, the bomb squad left campus by 10:30 a.m. Once the backpack was accessed, Campus Security Officers searched campus buildings for other suspicious backpacks or packages but found none. The note found on the backpack included a cell phone number. University officials were able to find the student responsible for leaving the backpack, and the official said disciplinary action is being coordinated through the dean of students. The official indicated that the toy pistol may be considered a violation of Drake’s no weapons policy. The official was reluctant to disclose the motives of the student, but he said the student essentially wanted to start a treasure hunt. The student meant for the backpack to be picked up, for someone to find the random items and use the cell phone number to find the next clue.


24. **October 15, Air Force Times** – (North Dakota) **Wing commander, 2 others fired at Minot.** The 91st Missile Wing commander at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, was fired Wednesday after Air Force Space Command leaders “lost confidence in his ability to command.” The commander of the 20th Air Force flew to Minot to remove the Colonel from command. The Major General also fired two other senior officers from the 91st Missile Wing. The firings followed an investigative report released
October 9 that found a bug caused a 91st Missile Wing truck carrying rocket engine parts for intercontinental ballistic missiles to overturn outside Minot on August 31. The “large insect” landed on the driver’s back, and the truck tipped over as the driver tried to remove the insect, according to the report. The crash follows multiple accidents, incidents of misconduct, and a failed nuclear surety inspection at the 91st Missile Wing under the removed officer’s command, which led to his removal, an Air Force Space Command spokeswoman said. He was not relieved for any misconduct or wrongdoing, she said. “He was not fired solely because of the accident in August,” the spokeswoman said. “His removal from command was a combination of multiple factors.” In July 2008, three officers in the 91st fell asleep while in possession of classified components containing superseded missile launch codes for Minuteman III ICBMs. The two lieutenants and one captain received Article 15s. An airman in the 91st also left a safe open in the summer of 2008 for an entire night. The safe contained missile operation procedures. Officials found nothing was removed. Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/10/airforce_minot_firing_101409w/

25. October 13, Washington Post – (Virginia) Va. pays dearly for computer troubles. A scathing legislative audit released Tuesday shows Virginia’s outsourcing of a massive $2 billion computer upgrade has been so troubled that core government services have been disrupted but that canceling the contract could cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars. The problems have affected almost every state agency that uses a computer — a prison was left without inbound phone service for hours, the Virginia State Police in Newport News lost Internet access for more than three days and computers in DMV offices crashed. Northrop Grumman, the giant Los Angeles-based defense company, was awarded the contract, the largest of any kind in Virginia’s history, because state officials thought it would provide the best value despite the business’s lack of experience managing state computer and communication systems, according to the report by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. Terminating the contract early could cost the state as much as $400 million and leave no one to manage its computer system. Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/13/AR2009101303044.html

26. October 13, KXXV 25 Waco – (Texas) Baylor science building OKed after chemical spill. A chemical spill on the campus of Baylor University that prompted the evacuation of the school’s sciences building has been neutralized. HAZMAT Teams and Firefighters on scene at the Baylor Sciences Building, cleaned up the spill just after 5pm Tuesday. University officials tell News Channel 25 a researcher was working near Isobutyl cyanide when the chemical’s container broke somehow. Officials say the researcher then rushed the flask under the exhaust hood and pulled the chemical alarm. “Fortunately for us we had a researcher who followed procedure, immediately putting the chemical under a fume hood, reporting the spill and evacuating the area,” said a Baylor spokeswoman. HAZMAT crews at the scene report less than 1 milliliter (1/5 of a table spoon) spilled inside the lab; the spill was confined to the lab. Crews described the chemical as “potentially very dangerous if inhaled.” This is why it took so long to stage for cleanup, said a Waco Fire and HAZMAT representative. “With HAZMAT
you don’t get in a hurry,” he said. “We’ve got to get everything setup. We’ve gotta get our decontamination team setup. We have everything in place before they go in.” The spokeswoman said about 200 students were evacuated from the building and everyone was moved down wind of the spill. Baylor Police closed Bagby Avenue from University Parks Drive to Speight Avenue, from around 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Classes in the building were canceled for most of the afternoon, but students were allowed back inside the building around 5:45 p.m.

For another story, see item 27

**Emergency Services Sector**

27. *October 15, CNN* – (California) **Fake quake to shake state.** Millions of Californians will duck for cover Thursday morning in one of the largest earthquake drills in the world. “The Great California Shakeout” will kick off at 10:15 a.m. at schools, museums, fire stations and other sites across the state. More than 6 million people have registered to take part in the drill, sponsored by various state agencies. About 5.5 million Californians participated in last year’s drill, organizers said. This year’s participants also can watch an animated video that shows how much damage a magnitude 7.8 earthquake can cause. Thursday’s event comes two days before the 20th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake. The magnitude 6.9 quake rocked Northern California in 1989, killing dozens, collapsing a 50-foot section of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, damaging thousands of homes, and interrupting baseball’s World Series.

28. *October 14, WTKR 3 Norfolk* – (Virginia) **Marine arrested for impersonating federal law enforcement officer in Virginia Beach.** The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) arrested a Marine lance corporal last week on charges of impersonating a law enforcement officer. Clothing with police markings, a badge, and police equipment from a vehicle were recovered. The Virginia Beach Police Department is assisting NCIS with the case.

For another story, see item 33

**Information Technology Sector**

29. *October 15, MX Logic* – (International) **Phishing scam spreads on Twitter via direct messages.** Twitter users have reported a new phishing scam spreading on the social network through direct messages into a user’s inbox. The messages say “you’re on this
vid” and contain links to a phishing website. The link in the messages takes users to a phony Twitter log-in site that asks for user passwords, in a scheme designed to steal passwords and hijack accounts for sending out more phishing spam to a user’s contacts. Twitter has been working to block spam accounts that can be used to spread malicious links for phishing or spreading malware and worms. Users who suspect that they have been spammed by an account can click on the actions toolbar and then click the “report as spam” button to report the suspicious profile.


30. October 15, IDG News Service – (International) **With botnets everywhere, DDoS attacks get cheaper.** Security researchers say the cost of criminal services such as distributed denial of service, or DDoS, attacks has dropped in recent months. “The barriers to entry in that marketplace are so low you have people basically flooding the market,” said a security researcher with Arbor Networks. “The way you differentiate yourself is on price.” Criminals have gotten better at hacking into unsuspecting computers and linking them together into so-called botnet networks, which can then be centrally controlled. Botnets are used to send spam, steal passwords, and sometimes to launch DDoS attacks, which flood victims’ servers with unwanted information. Often these networks are rented out as a kind of criminal software-as-a-service to third parties, who are typically recruited in online discussion boards. DDoS attacks have been used to censor critics, take down rivals, wipe out online competitors and even extort money from legitimate businesses. Earlier this year a highly publicized DDoS attack targeted U.S. and South Korean servers, knocking a number of Web sites offline. DDoS attacks may have cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars per day a few years ago, but in recent months researchers have seen them going for bargain-basement prices. The Arbor Networks security researcher has seen DDoS attacks offered in the US$100-per-day range, but according to a SecureWorks security researcher, prices have dropped to $30 to $50 on some Russian forums.


31. October 15, IDG News Service – (International) **Mozilla plug-in checker boosts security.** Mozilla developers have launched a new online tool that tells Firefox users whether popular add-on components such as Java or QuickTime are up to date. The new plug-in Check page tests for more than 15 popular plug-ins right now, and Mozilla plans to add more in the future. “Visitors to the page can see which plug-ins they have installed and, for any that are outdated, follow an easy link to the update site,” wrote Mozilla’s “human shield” in a October 13 blog posting. A test version of the site was introduced recently. The final page tests for plug-ins such as Silverlight, Picasa, iTunes and Acrobat. Firefox can already check to make sure that add-ons, installed through the addons.mozilla.org Web site, are up to date. But this can’t be done with the plug-in software targeted by the new Web page, the “human shield” said in an e-mail interview. “plug-ins like RealPlayer, Flash or Silverlight are pieces of software installed on your machine outside of Firefox’s control,” he said. “They interact with Firefox, but they are independent software packages, and make their own choices about
when and how to update.” Keeping plug-ins up-to-date is becoming increasingly important. Mozilla says that about 30 percent of browser crashes are caused by obsolete plug-ins. Besides that annoyance, however, they also pose a security risk. That’s because out-of-date plug-ins are increasingly exploited by hackers in Web-based attacks that place malicious software on the victim’s computer. Flaws in Adobe’s Flash and pdf formats, Apple’s QuickTime, and RealPlayer have all been widely exploited in this way in the past few years.

32. **October 14, NewsFactor Network** – (International) **Cyberthieves find workplace networks are easy pickings.** Workplace networks have turned out to be much more porous and difficult to defend than anyone ever anticipated. Overly complex IT systems are producing endless opportunities for cyberthieves, who need only to master simple hacking techniques to get their hands on sensitive data. The result: Data breaches continue to plague companies, hospitals, universities and government agencies, any entity that collects data and conducts business on a digital network. The vast majority of organizations routinely fail to take simple defensive measures, such as shoring up common Web site weaknesses or uniformly enforcing the use of strong passwords. “Networks have become a hodgepodge of components stitched together, creating security holes that can easily be taken advantage of,” says the senior vice president at applications security firm Fortify Software. Though companies are loath to publicly disclose data losses, about 656 data breach cases made headlines in 2008, up from 446 in 2007, according to the non-profit Identity Theft Resource Center. Through nine months this year, ITRC has archived new stories chronicling 391 data thefts. With IT staffs stretched thin, and concentrating on adding digital services, data heists are going unreported, or unnoticed, security analysts say. Data thieves, in turn, are having a field day using well-understood hacking techniques to carry out increasingly refined cyberthefts. “They know where the money is,” says the CTO of security assessment firm Core Security Technologies. “And they’re getting to where the money is faster and with less noise.”

For another story, see item 25

**Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@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/.
33. October 15, WFIE 14 Madisonville – (Indiana) **Ham radio gets new life.** Ham radio operators already provide an invaluable communications link during disasters, like Hurricane Katrina and even right here at home after tornados ripped through the Tri State in 2005. A new system though will help ham radio operators reach out even further the next time disaster strikes. “We always say that ham radio talks where others fail,” said a ham radio operator. “It’s a fail-proof type of system to have. A guy can pop the hood up on his car, hook it up to the battery and be operational,” said the Vanderburgh County EMA director. “They used it in Katrina. It was the only communications they had in Katrina.” After attending an emergency management conference discussing earthquake preparedness, the director began thinking about using ham radio operators as a backup mode of communication should everything else fail. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has given the director a $350,000 grant to setup a series of ham radio stations and repeaters throughout 12 different counties in southwestern Indiana. If the system, set to be installed soon, meets expectations, the state plans to roll it out in every region.


34. October 15, Wall Street Journal – (National) **Microsoft recovers lost Sidekick data.** Microsoft Corp. said on October 14 that it has been able to recover the personal data lost on many of T-Mobile USA’s Sidekick devices. The Redmond, Washington, software giant said that most, if not all, customer data was recovered, and that the company would begin restoring data as soon as it has validated it. The company said it will start with personal contacts, and move on to the lost calendar, notes, tasks and pictures as quickly as possible. The fix comes as Microsoft suffers through a public backlash after mishandling the information found on the Sidekick line of messaging phones, which are popular with teenagers. T-Mobile already has offered affected subscribers a free month of data services and a $100 gift card. At least one customer has filed a lawsuit against both companies. Microsoft said the problem affected a minority of Sidekick users. The company blamed a system failure for the data loss in the core database and backup system. Microsoft said it had taken steps to strengthen the stability of the Sidekick service and started a more resilient backup process.

Source: [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704107204574475032328975504.htm](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704107204574475032328975504.htm)

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**Commercial Facilities Sector**

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**National Monuments and Icons Sector**
Nothing to report

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**Dams Sector**

35. *October 15, North Penn Reporter* – (Pennsylvania) **Regional emergency drill set for Oct. 18.** At 9:30 a.m. October 18 there will be a simulated structural failure at Loch Alsh Reservoir Dam in Upper Dublin Township. The dam failure will be one of a series of emergencies set off by a simulated weather event in multiple municipalities, the Upper Dublin Fire Services administrator said Monday. The pretend storm will cause flooding and impact six “host” sites, he said. The drill “is an attempt to bring all emergency management agencies together to work an exercise as one team in order to prepare and plan for future potential incidents,” he said. About every three years, the Eastern Montgomery County Regional Emergency Management Group, comprising emergency management officials from 14 townships and boroughs whose jurisdictions comprise 35 percent of the county’s total population, runs a drill to determine the effectiveness of plans set up to handle possible emergencies, according to a coordinator of the October 18 exercise. The host sites include Upper Dublin, Cheltenham, Montgomery Township, Hatboro, Towamencin, and several medical facilities, said the director of fire inspections for Warrington. Not all of the host sites October 18 will be dealing with flooding, he said. Hatboro will have a “transportation incident,” and other emergencies might be caused by power outages. The exercise will begin at midnight with a weather alert of an impending storm, with projected flash flooding, and end at noon following a debriefing. The lake and dam has been identified in a hazard vulnerability assessment by Upper Dublin as “a concern to public safety,” the Fire Services Administrator said. The plan calls for the evacuation of about 300 residents from 90 dwelling units, but the drill will not involve any actual evacuations, he said. Residents will be notified via announcements on the township’s Web site, its TV channel and in letters, and posted signs near the site that will go out this week “emphasizing this is a drill,” he said.

Source:  

36. *October 15, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **City tests flood barrier.** Rutland, Vermont, city officials are hoping a flood prevention device called a “Water-Gate,” tested on State Street Wednesday afternoon, will close the flood gates on the troublesome transit center during downpours downtown. Company representatives from Quebec’s MegaSecur Inc., an environmental security contractor, met with the Rutland mayor, the Department of Works commissioner, two city attorneys, and a project manager for the Vermont Department of Building and General Services. They met on the road turned testing site about 3:30 p.m. to mock a flood and how to stop it — placing long yellow water barrier strips designed to replace up to 770 sandbags (depending on the model) in the middle of the blacktop and unleashing a fire hydrant. It was a proactive measure led by the mayor to ask the state for an estimated $8,000 for what he called a “short-term
“temporary” fix to downtown businesses flooding from rain as a result of numerous backups over the past two years in the lowest part of the city — the transit center’s storm drains. A bidding process this year revealed the drain project would cost the state double, about $500,000, he said. The mayor said he was impressed with what the water barriers he saw Wednesday could do, seemingly offering the same effect — redirecting water away from the center’s drains and into the much-larger West Street pipes.

Source: [http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20091015/NEWS01/910150349/1002/NEWS01](http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20091015/NEWS01/910150349/1002/NEWS01)