



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 November 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- According to WNYW 5 New York, hazardous materials crews responded to the Hillview Reservoir near Yonkers, New York on November 4 after a chlorine gas release at the reservoir, which supplies water to New York City. (See item [25](#))
- WAPT 16 Jackson reported on November 5 that hundreds of fire hydrants in Jackson, Mississippi, have been deemed faulty, according to city records. (See item [31](#))

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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. *November 4, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Smoky fire at Con Ed Yonkers substation; no PCBs involved, utility says.** A smoky fire in a Consolidated Edison substation on November 4 has fire officials seeking confirmation there were no PCBs in the air. Con Edison spokesman said oil in a 345,000-volt transformer caught fire at 5:18 a.m. at the Dunwoodie substation at 152 Kingston Ave., just west of the state Thruway. People were told to keep windows and doors shut and intake vents off, Yonkers police sergeant said. The neighborhood was not evacuated. A Con Edison

spokesman said the oil was non-PCB based. Polychlorinated biphenyls, PCBs, cause irritation to the eyes, ears, nose and throat. They have been linked to cancer. The Yonkers fire Commissioner said he had not gotten any reports of adverse reactions to the heavy smoke that was high in the air, not at ground level, but he expects a report from Con Edison on the makeup of what was burning anyway. The fire was caused by a machine malfunction that created an electrical arc that ignited the oil, the commissioner said. The blaze was contained to one area within 20 minutes and deemed under control by 7:50 a.m., he said. No injuries were reported. No electrical power was lost. The network system picked up the load.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20091104/NEWS02/911040382/-1/SPORTS>

2. *November 4, Unknown Publisher* – (Maryland) **Mount forced to shut down coal plant.** According to an e-mail sent by Deputy Director of Communications at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Mount, a coal fired boiler in Emmitsburg, Maryland, received six notices of violation in accordance to Maryland's visible emissions regulations between July 2008 and March 2009. "MDE's Air and Radiation Management Administration (ARMA) also issued a notice of violation in March 2009 regarding record keeping regulations applicable to the coal-fired boiler," he said. "Exceeding the visible emissions limits poses a risk to human health and the environment." In June 2009 ARMA issued a Corrective Order requiring Mount St. Mary's University to immediately cease and desist from operating the coal-fired boiler until otherwise notified by the Department. This forced the Mount to shut down the coal boiler and begin looking for a new gas boiler. A boiler upgrade is being funded \$500,000 by low interest loans and physical plant funds as it is too small in order to receive grants.

Source:

<http://media.www.themountainecho.com/media/storage/paper565/news/2009/11/04/News/Mount.Forced.To.Shut.Down.Coal.Plant-3822721.shtml>

3. *November 4, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Refinery explosion: Science behind the blast.** Silver Eagle Refinery officials are defending their safety record after the November 4 explosion there. But the refinery has had at least four fires and explosions in the past five years. In January, fumes leaking under a storage tank ignited and sent four workers with serious burns to the hospital. "If you take a look at the number of OSHA violations issued over the past ten years, you'll find two of our refining neighbors have records better than ours and two that are worse. We're right smack in the middle," said a safety manager for Silver Eagle Refinery.

Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=8559722&autostart=y>

For another story, see item [28](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 4, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Texas City says BP leak not dangerous.** Texas City officials say a chemical leak at a BP facility there is not hazardous to the public. The leak happened around 2:30 p.m. A spokesman for Texas City Emergency Management identified the spilled chemical as naphtha, used to make mothballs. Winds carried fumes from the spill to a neighboring Dow facility, causing a lockdown there. The city says the fumes will not impact the city, and the leak was stopped soon after it happened.
Source: http://www.myfoxxhouston.com/dpp/news/local/091105_texas_city_leak

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *November 5, Associated Press* – (International) **Japan Uses Controversial Nuke Fuel.** Japan used weapons-grade plutonium to fuel a nuclear power plant Thursday for the first time as part of efforts to boost its atomic energy program. Kyushu Electric Power Co. said workers fired up the No. 3 reactor at its Genkai plant in the southern prefecture of Saga using MOX fuel - a mixture of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide. The reactor is scheduled to start generating electricity Monday for a month long test run, and then begin full-fledged operations after a final government inspection and approval in early December, a company official said. The Genkai plant marks the beginning of Japan's use of MOX fuel for so-called "plutothermal" power generation, approved by the Cabinet more than a decade ago. MOX fuel is a central element of Japan's plans to reduce its dependence on energy imports. Supporters say nuclear power is a viable clean energy that will support global efforts against climate change because it is essentially carbon-free. Critics say MOX is too volatile and produces highly radioactive waste. Dozens of protesters rallied outside the government office in Saga on Thursday, raising safety concerns about the use of plutonium-based fuel. Japan, which now relies on nuclear plants for a third of its electricity needs, aims to raise that to nearly 40 percent in 2010. The government has said it hopes to convert as many as 18 nuclear reactors that now use more common uranium to those that use MOX. The Japanese public, however, has grown increasingly wary of the nuclear power industry following a spate of safety problems, shutdowns and cover-ups.
Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/11/05/tech/main5533844.shtml>
6. *November 5, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Generator problem shuts down Indian Point 2 plant.** Indian Point 2 is expected to go back online Thursday after an electrical problem caused a shutdown of the nuclear reactor late Monday night. There was no threat to public safety and Indian Point 3 was not affected, federal regulators said. The incident is still under review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which has not yet determined whether the unplanned shutdown would affect the reactor's safety rating. About 10:42 p.m. Monday, the plant's main turbine tripped automatically because a generator malfunctioned. NRC officials said the shutdown went according to procedures but there were two complications. When

operators were verifying the turbine trip, they found one of four turbine stop valves did not indicate whether it was closed or open. That alone mandated the shutdown. The operators also determined that a turbine control valve did not fully close and they had to dump clean steam rather than use its energy to power onsite systems. Should those complications meet federal thresholds for potential danger, the plant's safety rating could drop a notch from green to white, which would result in increased NRC scrutiny. Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20091105/NEWS01/911050338/-1/SPORTS/Generator-problem-shuts-down-Indian-Point-2-plant>

7. *November 4, Augusta Chronicle* – (South Carolina) **NRC inspectors find minor violations at MOX 110409.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) most recent round of inspections at the U.S. Energy Department's mixed oxide fuel facility yielded four notices of violation for mostly minor infractions, according to a copy of the report made public Tuesday. Inspectors, who conducted extensive reviews at the construction site from July 1 to September 30, also noted many programs — including the placement of concrete and steel — were adequate. The \$4.8 million MOX facility, scheduled to open at Savannah River Site in 2016, is designed to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium by using small amounts to make fuel for commercial reactors. The inspections evaluated construction of principal structures and included quality assurance activities related to design verification and documentation control; problem identification, resolution and corrective actions; structural steel and support activities; structural concrete activities; and geotechnical foundation activities, the report said. All were “performed in a safe and quality related manner and in accordance with procedures and work packages.” The four violations identified by the NRC were assigned a priority level of IV — the least serious on the agency's scale. Source: http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2009/11/04/met_554400.shtml
8. *November 3, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Oyster Creek aging badly.** Six months after relicensing the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant for another 20 years, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced last week that the Exelon-owned plant in Lacey will be subject to increased oversight because its safety performance classification has dropped from green to white. That happens if a plant has more than three unplanned scrams, or shutdowns, in one year. Oyster Creek had four. Two occurred just prior to the relicensing and another just days after the license was renewed. Two recent tritium leaks at the plant are further evidence that the plant is aging poorly. Tritium is a naturally occurring radiation emitter that is produced in higher than natural concentrations in commercial nuclear reactors. In a leak in August, 10 million picocuries per liter of tritium were found — 500 times the state's groundwater quality standard. Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20091103/OPINION01/911040317/1029/OPINION/Oyster+Creek+aging+badly>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *November 4, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. criticizes Toyota statement on floor mats.** Toyota Motor Corp. released misleading information about an investigation into problems with stuck gas pedals that led to a massive Toyota recall, the U.S. government said November 4, stressing the issue is still under review by federal safety regulators. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said it was still investigating the case and meeting with Toyota to hear about the company's plan to redesign the vehicles and fix "this very dangerous problem." Toyota recalled 3.8 million vehicles in the U.S. last month over problems with gas pedals that got stuck on floor mats and told owners to remove driver's side floor mats and not replace them until the automaker had determined a fix to the problem. Toyota said in a statement on Monday that NHTSA had confirmed "that no defect exists in vehicles in which the driver's floor mat is compatible with the vehicle and properly secured." But NHTSA said that was inaccurate and the government was investigating possible causes of the acceleration problem. Removing the floor mats was "simply an interim measure" and "does not correct the underlying defect in the vehicles involving the potential for entrapment of the accelerator by floor mats, which is related to accelerator and floor pan design." "The matter is not closed until Toyota has effectively addressed the defect by providing a suitable vehicle based solution," NHTSA said in the statement, which the department said was issued to correct "inaccurate and misleading information" from the automaker. A Toyota spokesman said "it was never our intention to mislead or provide inaccurate information. Toyota agrees with NHTSA's position that the removal of the floor mats is an interim measure and that further action is required. We continue to discuss an appropriate vehicle remedy or remedies."
- Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33627890/ns/business-autos/>
10. *November 4, National Highway traffic Safety Administration* – (National) **GM recalling 53,000 Chevy Cobalt, Saturn Ion, and Pontiac G5 models over fuel leak concern.** GM is recalling 53,000 Chevrolet Cobalt, Pontiac G5, and Saturn Ion models for a potential fuel leak problem that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says could lead to a fire. The problem involves 2006 Cobalt and Ion model models sold or registered in Arizona and Nevada and 2007 Cobalt, G5 and Ion models sold or registered in Arizona, California, Texas, Florida, and Nevada. NHTSA says the plastic supply or return port on the cars' modular reservoir assembly may crack, potentially leading to a fuel leak that could cause decreased efficiency and performance. To fix the fuel leak problem, company dealers will replace the fuel pump module of affected vehicles free of charge. GM is also providing a special coverage for 2006 and 2007 Cobalt, G5 and Ion models in other warm weather states.
- Source: <http://www.autoblog.com/2009/11/04/gm-recalling-53-000-chevy-cobalt-saturn-ion-and-pontiac-g5-mod/>
11. *November 3, WQOW 18 Eau Claire* – (Wisconsin) **Local business evacuated for fire.** A fire forced a local business to evacuate in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on November 3. That fire started in the filtration system near the back the Curt Manufacturing building around noon. The plant's CFO says crews were able to put it out 20 minutes after they arrived. "The fire was contained to just one unit and the damage was about \$50,000," the Curt Manufacturing CFO said. A firefighter was treated for heat

exhaustion at the scene but there were no other injuries. About 200 employees were evacuated during the fire. They were allowed back in an hour later.

Source: <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11436558>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *November 4, Aviation Week* – (National) **Next GMD flight test slips to 2010.** A flight trial for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency's Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) program slated for this fall has slipped to early next year, according to an agency official. The test is to be the most complex to date, featuring a head-on engagement of the Ground-Based Interceptor (GBI) against a separating target with countermeasures, the GMD Project Director said in August. It was slated for September, but is now expected by February, according to an MDA spokesman. This will be an attempt to test against a target similar to that used in a December 2008 test that was deemed unsuccessful because the countermeasures did not deploy as planned. The delay until early 2010 was due to "recently updated target model and simulation predictions used for mission objective development," the spokesman said. In the meantime, the agency is preparing for the final trial of the FTX-06 series of tracking exercises designed to showcase the capabilities of the Aegis 4.0.1E weapon system. This system was recently installed on the USS Lake Erie, and the software is designed to provide better target discrimination for the sea-based leg of U.S. the missile defense shield. The new Aegis software will be used to execute missions using the new Raytheon SM-3 Block IB missile, which will feature a new two-color infrared sensor and throttleable divert and attitude control system.

Source:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/GMD110409.xml&headline=Next GMD Flight Test Slips To 2010&channel=defense>

13. *November 4, Aviation Week* – (National) **NASA drops Ares I-Y flight-test.** NASA's Constellation Program has recommended dropping a planned follow-on to last week's successful Ares I-X flight-test because it does not have the funding necessary to get an upper stage engine ready in time. Instead, the Ares I-X engineering team will study the costs and benefits of going ahead with a 2012 launch previously dubbed "Ares I-X prime" that would flight-test a full five-segment Ares I solid-fuel first stage and the Orion crew exploration vehicle launch abort system at high altitude, according to the Constellation Program Manager. He said on November 3 that he recommended to NASA headquarters that the Ares I-Y test planned for March 2014 be canceled because the J-2X engine needed to propel the upper stage will not be ready in time to support that test date. The test scenario would have the five-segment first stage fly a nominal ascent, with a simulated upper stage ignition failure. The Orion launch abort system would pull the capsule free of the mass-simulated upper stage, and the capsule would parachute back into the ocean. The test also would give NASA another chance to test the parachute system that failed to deploy fully on the Ares I-X test. Given the space policy review ongoing at the White House, which may wind up canceling the Ares I

program in favor of a less expensive approach, the \$445 million I-X test and the follow-on I-X prime study may turn out to be moot, at least as a source of data directly applicable to a final Ares I design. Even so, the Constellation Program continues to work toward a first flight of the Ares I with a full-up Orion on top in September 2014.

Source:

<http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/Flighttest110409.xml&headline=NASA Drops Ares I-Y Flight-test&channel=space>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *November 5, SanDiego.com* – (National) **Business: Feds Close San Diego National Bank.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation recently took over San Diego National Bank (SDNB)—all 28 branches—as well as eight other failed banks nationwide. The banks involved in the seizure were Bank USA, National Association (Phoenix); California National Bank (Los Angeles); San Diego National Bank; Pacific National Bank (San Francisco); Park National Bank (Chicago); Community Bank of Lemont (Lemont, Illinois); North Houston Bank; Madisonville State Bank (Madisonville, Texas); and Citizens National Bank (Teague, Texas). As of September 30, the banks had combined assets of \$19.4 billion and deposits of \$15.4 billion. Like other failed banks across the nation, SDNB’s problems were due largely to losses from investments with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. All the banks, including San Diego National Bank, have reopened as branches of U.S. Bank, a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp, headquartered in Minneapolis. Depositors of San Diego National Bank automatically became depositors of U.S. Bank, said a spokesperson for U.S. Bank.

Source: http://www.sandiego.com/index.php?option=com_sdca&target=6de3f567-8f6b-45d6-a62b-2d2612cf7af7

15. *November 4, Grand Junction Sentinel* – (Colorado) **Man threatens Fruita bank with bomb.** Fruita, Colorado, authorities are looking for a man who robbed a bank Wednesday after threatening to detonate a bomb. The Fruita Police Chief said the suspect walked into a branch of U.S. Bank and verbally demanded money from bank employees, claiming he had a remote-control bomb outside the bank. The man was given an undisclosed amount of cash. He fled the bank on foot along the Interstate 70 frontage road, according to the chief.

Source:

http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2009/11/04/110509_2A_fruita_robbery.html

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Transportation Sector

16. *November 5, Metro International* – (Massachusetts) **T in worse shape than we thought.** With the T’s maintenance backlog exceeding \$3 billion, The Massachusetts

Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) report released yesterday found 51 of 57 high-priority T safety projects could not be funded in the latest budget. The Massachusetts Governor, who had ordered the analysis, stressed the MBTA “is safe for riders,” though the report’s primary author and a former John Hancock chairman, said the T’s infrastructure faces “considerable problems” unless more money is dedicated. Included in the \$543 million worth of critical unfunded projects is an \$80 million job to replace concrete slabs beneath the Red Line damaged by water leaks. In some areas, corroded fasteners that hold the track in place are “presenting the possibility of train derailment.” Earlier in the day the author of the report told WTKK-FM he wouldn’t ride the Red Line between Alewife and Harvard stations. The report recommended reprioritizing top safety projects, finding new revenue sources and having the T reexamine its debt issues and consult MassDOT before adding to debt.

Source: <http://www.metro.us/us/article/2009/11/05/03/0754-72/index.xml>

17. *November 5, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Rail worker killed in Philly on 3rd day of strike.** Hundreds of commuters were stranded at a regional rail station Thursday after service was suspended when a worker was struck and killed on the tracks, creating further havoc on the system already crippled by a transit strike. The train was inbound from the Philadelphia’s northern suburbs when it struck the worker shortly after 9:30 a.m., Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) officials said. More than 625 people on the train were stranded at the Melrose Park station as three of 13 regional lines have had to be shut down. Normally, when regional rail lines are shut down due to an accident, SEPTA buses arrive to take passengers to their destinations, but that is not possible because the more than 5,000 bus, subway, and trolley drivers are in the third day of a strike. Regional rail operators are members of a different union and are not on strike. The shutdown of three regional rail lines cuts off much of the service to the northern suburbs, the spokeswoman said, adding that the problem will likely worsen as more trains arrive.

Source: <http://www.ksro.com/news/article.aspx?id=1504623>

18. *November 4, Aviation Week* – (National) **Babbitt says FAA working to adjust NextGen.** The Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Administrator Wednesday sought to reassure doubters that the agency is genuinely committed to working quickly to absorb the findings of an Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA) industry/government task force on Air Traffic Control (ATC) modernization and use them to shape NextGen priorities. There is a lot of energy being spent in harmonization and “FAA is adjusting our plans accordingly,” the administrator said during an International Aviation Club luncheon in Washington. “Interest is very keen” in ATC modernization and NextGen “at the highest levels of our government.” He endorsed the findings of the task force nearly a month ago, calling them “an excellent headstart on the acceleration” of the modernization program. The task force report, made public in September, was aimed at mid-term initiatives that could be completed by 2018 using technology already in hand. “Without our partners, we can’t get there,” he said, noting that ATC modernization “can’t be an international competition.” He cited the need for common processes, sharing data and best practices, consistency in rules, and “working together to determine the need for new rules,” as ways to ensure “a seamless weave” of

both NextGen and the SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) technologies.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/BABB110409.xml&headline=Babbitt Says FAA Working To Adjust NextGen](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/BABB110409.xml&headline=Babbitt+Says+FAA+Working+To+Adjust+NextGen)

19. *November 4, Aviation Web* – (National) **ALPA Adopts New Pilot Fatigue Policy.** While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to work on long-awaited new rules to cope with pilot fatigue, the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) this week announced its own new policy, which it says is based on the latest science and three years of work. “With the FAA’s commitment to issue a new proposed flight and duty-time rule by the end of the year, ALPA seized the opportunity to improve the safety and quality of work life for airline pilots by forging the strongest policy possible,” the ALPA president said on Tuesday. ALPA’s policy takes into consideration seven different aspects of fatigue: rest, duty, extension of duty, cumulative fatigue, augmentation, reserve, and fatigue risk management systems. The time of day is also taken into consideration, in recognition of the impact of circadian rhythms on fatigue - for example, a pilot who reports for work between midnight and 4 a.m. would be restricted to a shorter overall flight-duty period for that day than a pilot whose day starts between 7 a.m. and midnight. “We won’t know what is in the FAA’s proposed rule until it is published,” said the ALPA president. “But if the FAA considers ALPA’s new policy, and those of the other international aviation safety organizations, the result should be a regulation that sets the pace for progress in combating pilot fatigue around the globe.”

Source:

http://www.avweb.com/news/aopa/ALPAAdoptsNewPilotFatiguePolicy_201452-1.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *November 4, WITI 6 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Granny Bomber: Elderly woman says she has a bomb at Wauwatosa post office.** U.S. Post Office employees were forced to evacuate the Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, post office, which remained closed for an hour and a half after an elderly woman told a clerk there was a bomb in the package she was mailing. Wauwatosa Police, the Milwaukee county Sheriff’s Department, and the Sheriff’s Bomb Squad were called in. The bomb squad examined the contents of the package and determined it was eye glasses, there was no explosive device. The Wauwatosa police estimate that the response cost around \$10,000.

Source: <http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-091104-granny-bomber,0,288522.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *November 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA proposes new pesticide labeling to control spray drift and protect human health.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has rolled out proposed guidance for new pesticide labeling to reduce off-target spray and dust drift. The new instructions, when implemented, will improve the clarity and consistency of pesticide labels and help prevent harm from spray drift. The agency is also requesting comment on a petition to evaluate children's exposure to pesticide drift. The new instructions will prohibit drift that could cause adverse health or environmental effects. Also, on a pesticide-by-pesticide basis, EPA will evaluate scientific information on risk and exposure based on individual product use patterns. These assessments will help the agency determine whether no-spray buffer zones or other measures – such as restrictions on droplet or particle size, nozzle height, or weather conditions – are needed to protect people, wildlife, water resources, schools and other sensitive sites from potential harm. These documents and further information are available in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0628 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/0CF98CA512B5623285257664005E1F5E>
22. *November 4, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Arctic commercial fishing soon to be limited.** A plan that puts a large area of the Arctic off-limits to commercial fishing goes into effect December 3, federal officials said. The plan was approved by the Secretary of Commerce in August. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday that the plan establishes an orderly process to consider requests to develop fisheries in the Arctic, and it provides time for science to catch up to changing Arctic conditions, specifically global warming and the loss of sea ice. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council began looking at management options for the Arctic three years ago. It was feared that the loss of sea ice would open up areas of the Arctic where previously there had been no commercial fishing. The council ultimately decided to take a proactive, precautionary approach. It voted to prohibit commercial fishing until more is known about the Arctic marine environment. The plan governs commercial fishing for all stocks of finfish and shellfish in federal waters, except Pacific salmon and Pacific halibut because they are managed under other authorities. The plan does not affect fisheries for salmon, whitefish and shellfish in Alaskan waters near the Arctic shore. It does not affect subsistence fishing and hunting in the Arctic. It will prohibit industrial fishing in nearly 200,000 square miles of U.S. waters in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33622103/ns/us_news-environment/
23. *November 3, Orange County Register* – (California) **Six sent to hospital after chemical spill at market.** Six people, including four firefighters, were hospitalized after being exposed to a chemical spill inside a Ralphs supermarket, authorities said. The spill was reported just before 7 p.m. at the Ralphs near Alton Parkway and Jeffrey Road, said captain of the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). While they were investigating the alarm, they encountered a “toxic environment” in a refrigerated section of the store, he said. Authorities are still unclear about what chemical caused the six people to feel ill, he said.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/people-spill-ralphps-2635911-authorities-store>

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Water Sector

24. *November 4, Water Technology Online* – (California) **California lawmakers pass water reforms.** California lawmakers on November 4 passed an \$11 billion, multi-bill package designed to overhaul the state's stressed water system, saying it was needed to provide enough water for an increasing population in an environmentally sound manner, according to a November 4 KCRA News report. The plan provides funding for new dams, groundwater cleanup, conservation, and habitat restoration. Restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta also is included in the plan. The governor is expected to sign the measure.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=72891

25. *November 4, WNYW 5 New York* – (New York) **Chlorine gas release in Yonkers.** There was a chlorine gas release at a reservoir in Yonkers that supplies water to New York City. Hazardous materials crews responded to the Hillview Reservoir on Wednesday morning. The release apparently happened in a building that is next to the reservoir. Hillview Reservoir is next to the New York State Thruway in Southeast Yonkers. It appears that none of the chemical actually ended up into the water supply. Sources tell Fox 5 News that nearby residents were warned of a potential problem via Yonkers' reverse 911 warning system but were not ordered to evacuate. Air outside the facility has been tested and reportedly does not pose a risk. It is unclear how much chlorine gas was released next to the 100 year old reservoir.

Source: <http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/091104-Chlorine-Spill-In-Yonkers>

26. *November 4, Forum of Fargo-Moorhead* – (North Dakota) **Sewage line break sends sewage into north Fargo homes.** The Fargo Fire Department, Public Works, and several cleaning companies responded today to a major sewage backup that's affected about 30 homes in North Fargo, North Dakota. A break in a sewer line sent sewage shooting out of toilets, bath tubs and basement drains at the homes. The incident happened around noon on November 4 as a crew was doing a test run on a sewer line connected with the wastewater treatment plant. A plug in the pipe broke and a bypass pump could not keep up, shooting a surge of sewage into homes. The sewer line was one of two major sewage lines in Fargo that feed the city's wastewater plant.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/258592/>

27. *November 4, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Failing sewage plant threatens Lake of the Woods.** A sewage treatment plant in a small northern Minnesota town is failing and threatens to dump thousands of gallons of raw sewage into Lake of the Woods. The treatment plant is only nine years old. Replacing it will cost \$1.6 million and city

officials say they can't afford to fix the problem. About 200 people live in Williams, just a few miles from Lake of the Woods. The plant was designed to last a minimum of 40 years, but the tank that holds the raw sewage is heavily corroded and starting to leak. According to engineers, a major leak could happen any day. Engineers found the one-fourth inch thick aluminum walls are now less than one-eighth of an inch thick because of corrosion.

Source: <http://wcco.com/local/sewage.treatment.plant.2.1290935.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *November 5, Times-Standard* – (California) **Gas leak prompts evacuations in Blue Lake.** The Blue Lake Elementary School and about 30 houses were evacuated here for about two hours on November 4 after a natural gas line was severed, spewing flammable vapor into the air. Just past noon, emergency officials were notified that a private contractor working for a homeowner on the 500 block of Greenwood Road, which runs into the center of Blue Lake, had broken a 2-inch gas line with a backhoe while installing a water line. The sound of gas gushing from the line could be heard blocks away, and the smell was intense along the road. The Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office blocked off about 13 blocks downwind from the site. They used the Reverse 911 emergency notification system, a mobile PA system and knocked on doors to evacuate between 10 and 15 people. At about 1:20 p.m. school buses began shuttling children from the elementary school to the Blue Lake Casino, where they were given food and refreshments while they waited for parents to pick them up, said the Blue Lake assistant fire chief.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_13718964?nclick_check=1

29. *November 5, WBBH 2 Fort Meyers* – (Florida) **Bomb threat forces school evacuation in Englewood.** Students at Lemon Bay High School in Englewood have returned to class after someone called in a bomb threat the morning of November 5. Authorities received a call in reference to the threat around 9:45 a.m. Investigators performed a sweep of the school and did not find anything suspicious. The investigation is ongoing.

Source: <http://www.nbc-2.com/global/story.asp?s=11449115>

30. *November 4, Tristatehomepage.com* – (Unknown Geographic Scope) **Man accused of threat to bomb courthouse.** Deputies got a search warrant and started digging up a man's yard, after he allegedly threatened to blow up the Pike County Courthouse if a jury found him guilty. The man is due in court November 14th. Even though police found explosives, they are apparently looking for more. According to the probable

cause affidavit, the search warrant authorized police to search places where human remains, DNA, or a belt buckle could be located. Pike County chief deputy says the man had the material in his home to carry out the threat. The police chief deputy said the man was living and working here as a machinist. He says there is all kinds of compartments in the home and a false basement, areas they still want to look at. Pike Source: <http://tristatehomepage.com/content/fulltext/?cid=107851>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *November 5, WAPT 16 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **Hundreds of Jackson fire hydrants deemed faulty.** Hundreds of fire hydrants in Jackson, Mississippi, are deemed faulty, according to city records. In September, a local man's home burned to the ground as neighbors watched. Although firefighters were at the scene, the two fire hydrants they plugged into could not produce enough water to fight the blaze. It is not the first time firefighters have found hydrants that were not working when they needed them. In October 2007, firefighters plugged into a faulty fire hydrant at the old Woodland Hills Baptist Academy and last year one house burned down in West Jackson. According to the city fire marshal, the Jackson Fire Department inspected 6,330 fire hydrants this year. They found that 288 hydrants were faulty. Public works crews fixed 28 hydrants and replaced eight others, leaving 252 hydrants still in need of repairs. The director of Public Works, said his department is responsible for fixing problem hydrants but said those which are in need of repair are still capable of producing water. He said the faulty fire hydrants are spread out over Jackson and that the city is using GPS technology to get a better map of where all the hydrants are located.

Source: <http://www.wapt.com/news/21526449/detail.html>

32. *November 4, Lake Wales News* – (Florida) **Assault rifle 'missing' from deputy's car.** A fully-loaded assault rifle was stolen this weekend from the trunk of a Polk County Sheriff's Office cruiser in Lakeland, Florida. The PCSO agency-issued Olympic Arms .223 assault rifle, Model K3B, with serial No. WZ2313 was stolen from the trunk of the detective's unmarked Ford Taurus sometime between 6 p.m. Sunday and 11:30 a.m. Monday, a sheriff's spokesman reported. The rifle was fully loaded with a 30 round magazine of Speer LE Gold-Dot .223 ammunition.

Source:

<http://www.lakewalesnews.com/articles/2009/11/04/news/police/doc4af096fddee2c769949888.txt>

33. *November 4, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Glitch briefly causes malfunction of emergency dispatch system.** The troubles that hit the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center about 10 p.m. Wednesday, November 4, were resolved in less than an hour. The sheriff's chief deputy Mike Nolan said two breakers failed at the main tower site on Route 4 near South Gettysburg Avenue. PNR Communications maintains the seven-tower system. Technicians identified and fixed the problem. The system handles 21 communities including Vandalia, Englewood, Miamisburg, Trotwood and Huber

Heights police traffic. Dayton, Ohio's emergency dispatch staff, receiving about 200,000 calls a year, is a combination of sworn police officers, firefighters and civilians.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/glitch-briefly-causes-malfunction-of-emergency-dispatch-system-385832.html>

34. *November 4, KSTP 5 St Paul* – (Minnesota) **Copper theft delays opening of St. Paul Fire HQ.** The work of copper thieves will delay the opening of the new St. Paul Fire Department headquarters building. The new structure was scheduled to open on Thanksgiving day. But on October 5, someone broke onto the construction site and removed some of the copper feeder cable inside the building. To allow time for construction crews to repair the damage, the opening date has been pushed back to December 14. The contractor's insurance will cover the \$70,000 loss, but fire officials are frustrated. Since the theft, the department did hire a 24-hour security guard to watch the facility. The new 60,000 square foot facility will house two fire stations and department headquarters.

Source: <http://kstp.com/news/stories/S1233626.shtml?cat=1>

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Information Technology Sector

35. *November 5, IDG News Services* – (International) **Scramble on to fix flaw in SSL security protocol.** Software makers around the world are scrambling to fix a serious bug in the technology used to transfer information securely on the Internet. The flaw lies in the SSL protocol, best known as the technology used for secure browsing on Web sites beginning with HTTPS, and lets attackers intercept secure SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) communications between computers using what's known as a man-in-the-middle attack. Although the flaw can only be exploited under certain circumstances, it could be used to hack into servers in shared hosting environments, mail servers, databases, and many other secure applications, according to a security researcher who has studied the issue. Further complicating matters is the fact that the bug was inadvertently disclosed on an obscure mailing list on November 4, forcing vendors into a mad scramble to patch their products. The issue was discovered in August by researchers at PhoneFactor, a mobile-phone security company. They had been working for the past two months with a consortium of technology vendors called the ICASI (Industry Consortium for Advancement of Security on the Internet) to coordinate an industry wide fix for the problem, dubbed "Project Mogul." But their plans were thrown into disarray on November 4 when a SAP engineer stumbled across the bug on his own. Apparently unaware of the seriousness of the issue, he posted his observations on the issue to an IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) discussion list. It was then publicized by a security researcher. By the afternoon of November 5, enough people were talking about the issue that PhoneFactor decided to go public with their findings.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9140362/Scramble_on_to_fix_flaw_in_SSL_security_protocol

36. *November 5, IDG News Services* – (International) **EU breaks deadlock in debate over right to Internet access.** After months of often bitter debate, European Union lawmakers reached agreement on how to preserve citizen's rights to Internet access in a meeting that ended in the early hours of November 5. The issue, which pits citizens' civil liberties against the rights of content owners such as record and movie companies to protect creative works on the Internet, has blocked the passage of a wide range of laws collectively dubbed the telecoms package. Although the compromise reached by representatives of the European Parliament, the 27 national governments and the European Commission has still to be confirmed, it is seen as a watershed moment for the proposed laws, which aim to enhance competition among telecoms providers and to adapt users' rights to better suit the Internet age. The text of the telecoms package now contains a new Internet freedom provision that states that access to the Internet is a human right of every E.U. citizen, and that if authorities take away that right people must have the opportunity to defend themselves; citizens also have an automatic right to mount a legal challenge. However, the text does not demand that authorities in the 27 countries of the E.U. obtain a court order before cutting off someone's Internet connection, as the European Parliament demanded when it last voted on the issue in early summer. The issue is very sensitive, and not just in Europe, where a number of countries including France and U.K. are passing laws threatening to sever users' Internet connections if they are found to have breached the copyright on music or movies. The subject is under discussion at a gathering in South Korea this week. The U.S. is trying to garner support from other countries for a treaty that would force Internet service providers to take action against subscribers to their networks involved in illegal file sharing. The so-called Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) has attracted condemnation from many law experts and civil liberties activists because of the secretive way it is being drafted, and for the dramatic changes it would impose on the way people engage with the Internet.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9140364/EU_breaks_deadlock_in_debate_over_right_to_Internet_access

37. *November 5, The Register* – (Ohio; Indiana) **Men allegedly broke into computers of former employer.** Federal authorities on Wednesday filed intrusion charges against two men accused of accessing the computer systems of their former employer. The suspects, a 45 year old from Jasper, Indiana, and a 39 year old from Williamstown, Kentucky, both worked as managers for Indiana-based Stens Corporation until taking jobs with a competing company in Ohio, according to an indictment filed in federal court. On at least 12 occasions, they used old passwords to access their former employer's computer and access proprietary information, prosecutors allege. Although the men left their jobs in 2004 and early 2005, they were able to use the outdated passwords successfully as late as September of 2006. On at least two occasions, administrators at Stens grew suspicious and terminated old passwords. The men simply

tried different login credentials - and succeeded several times.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/05/computer_intrusion_charges_filed/

38. *November 5, eWeek* – (International) **Botnets tighten defenses year after McColo shutdown.** In the year since the shutdown of notorious Web hosting firm McColo, spammers are growing strong. In fact, researchers at McAfee reported that spam accounted for 92 percent of e-mail in the second quarter of 2009. Part of this is the result of improvements by botnet operators. Like anyone who is successful what they do, the people controlling the most powerful botnets in cyber-space learn from their mistakes. “McColo affected a couple of main botnets seriously, notably Srizbi which has never recovered and Rustock which took an immediate hit before recovering over time,” explained the vice president of technical strategy at M86 Security. “One of the immediate changes was the use of hard coded domains in the malware body instead of IP addresses. Before, domains could be changed to different IP addresses to provide a recovery option on their command and control methods.” “In general,” he continued, “they have improved the availability and resilience of their command and control servers and in some ways the McColo take down has driven them more underground and forced them to use more different methods, making it harder to detect. Some examples that have already been seen have been the use of Twitter, Google Groups and Facebook.”

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Botnets-Tighten-Defenses-Year-After-McColo-Shutdown-613503/>

39. *November 4, The Register* – (International) **Google opens up OAuth to tackle password chores.** Google has opened up a technology designed to cut back on the number of passwords users need to access multiple websites to web developers, effectively moving the technology into the mainstream after a restricted beta lasting almost a year. Plaxo, Facebook and Yahoo! signed up to support so-called “hybrid onboarding” technology that combines OpenID log-ins with OAuth data swapping at various times since the start of 2009. Support of the technology means that rather than creating a Plaxo account from scratch, for example, Gmail users can log into their webmail account to authorize the export of profile and contacts data over to Plaxo. Much the same process occurs in responding to requests to establish a Facebook profile sent to a Yahoo! webmail account since late September. The technology is designed to make the sign-up process less of a chore for users while helping to cut down on the need to maintain numerous passwords for multiple sites. On November 3 Google released its login flow designs to the general population of website operators, explaining “all of these hybrid onboarding techniques are based on industry standards that both Google and Yahoo! support, and that other email providers are beginning to support as well”.

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/04/google_web_password_simplification/

40. *November 4, PC World* – (International) **Java patch closes security holes.** A new Update 17 version for JRE and JDK closes some major risks, including “arbitrary code execution,” according to US-CERT. Sun’s new software versions, released yesterday,

also address privilege escalation, denial of service, and information disclosure vulnerabilities, according to US-CERT's post. Unless a user turned it off, Java will check for updates automatically, but will only do so once a month (on a day that varies per installation).

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/181443/java_patch_closes_security_holes.html

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/>.

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Communications Sector

41. *November 5, Ogle County News* – (Illinois) **Fiber optic cut results in phone service disruptions.** Phone service to Ogle County customers was disrupted Tuesday morning when a contractor cut a fiber optics line east of Oregon. The Ogle County Sheriff said a contractor digging along Ill. 64 about two miles east of Oregon cut the Verizon line shortly before noon. A contingency plan went into effect after service, including 911, was disrupted to the Polo, Leaf River, and Grand Detour exchanges, he said. "Verizon repair crews are at the location of the fiber cut," he said just before 3 p.m. Tuesday.
Source: <http://www.oglecountynews.com/articles/2009/11/04/69132589/index.xml>

42. *November 4, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **AT&T says service disrupted to some Honolulu wireless customers.** AT&T said some of its wireless customers in Honolulu were experiencing an interruption of service Wednesday due to "an equipment issue." "AT&T technicians are currently working to resolve the issue, and we will provide more information as it becomes available," a company spokesman said in an e-mail. "We apologize for any inconvenience to our customers," the spokesman said.
Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091104/BREAKING03/91104062/AT+T+says+service+disrupted+to+some+Honolulu+wireless+customers>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

43. *November 5, MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Marlborough chemical spill just a 'huge mess.** An emergency call Wednesday night about a potentially lethal chemical spill turned out to be nothing more than a tripped fire sprinkler, a deputy fire chief said. When firefighters arrived around 6:30 p.m. at the Rinchem Co. warehouse on Hayes Memorial Drive, they noticed roughly 3 feet of foam spread throughout the

area. “We contacted the state’s hazardous materials response team, which was equipped to deal with these types of emergencies,” he said. “We do not have the proper equipment to deal with a potential spill like that one.” When the state team entered the warehouse, they soon discovered it was not a case of chemical exposure. “A forklift operator carrying a unit of chemicals thought he had accidentally punctured one of the canisters with his machinery,” the deputy fire chief said. “But it turned out that the foam he saw spreading across the floor came from the building’s emergency fire system. He said that the canister contained chemicals featuring a potentially lethal substance. “The forklift driver did the right thing, the fire alarm system did the right thing, and our guys did the right thing,” the deputy fire chief said.

Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1659495613/Marlborough-chemical-spill-just-a-huge-mess>

44. *November 4, MyCentralJersey.com* – (New Jersey) **Carteret warehouse evacuated after three overcome by ammonia.** Middlesex County HazMat and local emergency responders were summoned to a warehouse on Middlesex Avenue early Wednesday after a pallet of ammonia-laced products fell off a rack as it was being moved, officials said. Authorities responded to a call at about 10:25 a.m. that an employee at the White Rose distribution center suffered what appeared to be a broken leg and was covered in ammonia after a pallet containing 60 cases of consumer-grade ammonia fell about 30 feet, and crashed and spilled on the warehouse floor, the Police Chief said. Two EMTs who brought the injured employee out of the building also were overwhelmed by the fumes, according to the Carteret Fire Captain. Both were transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway for evaluation and the injured White Rose employee was taken to University Hospital in Newark. The Mayor said in an e-mail that “the situation is back to normal and their staff has returned to the building.” The borough fire department was assisted by fire personnel from Colonia and Woodbridge proper, according to the fire captain. Ambulances from Woodbridge and Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy also arrived at the scene, he said. According to the fire captain White Rose is a privately owned distribution facility that supplies supermarkets in the region.

Source:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20091104/NEWS/91104032/Two+overcome+by+ammonia++Carteret+warehouse+evacuated>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

45. *November 4, Salem News* – (Arkansas) **Dam breakage scenario drill conducted at Cherokee Village.** Numerous agencies in Sharp County took part in a disaster preparedness exercise October 28 in Cherokee Village, Arkansas. The real case scenario of how the county would react in the event of the breach of one of the dams on area lakes was presented to the Sharp County Judge, Sheriff, OEMâ€™s Coordinator, mayors of Cherokee Village and Highland, Cherokee Village SID, Hidden Valley Property Owners Association, Cherokee Village Fire Department, Road and Street and Police departments, Homeland Security, and members of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. The massive number of participants in the exercise would all be required to respond in the event of this type of disaster. The very detailed scenario that was presented outlined the chain of command in the event one of the dams in the area was to break. The plan started in the morning with a test of the emergency calling system, AlertXpress. Residents then were asked to press a number to let the system know they had received the call. The system can call backup numbers and can be configured to redial a certain number of times. Following the AlertXpress call, the Cherokee Village Police Department then went around the lake alerting residents with the P.A. system on their patrol cars, being sure to include phrases informing citizens it was only a drill. The mobile incident command center was placed near the Thunderbird Marina parking lot, the Cherokee Village Fire Department and central dispatch directed the training exercise. Following the exercise, officials gathered to critique the drill and said the session went well. By allowing emergency personnel to recognize potential problems, it also gave the department an opportunity to update phone numbers of residents. These records were outdated and by updating the phone numbers, it would allow the county to better prepare residents in the event of an actual dam break.
Source: <http://www.areawidenews.com/story/1584620.html>

46. *November 3, Washington State Department of Transportation* – (Washington) **WSDOT prepares for possible Green River flooding.** Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) contractors began work Tuesday, November 3, shoring up a small section of State Route 167 to ensure the route stays open to traffic if the Green River tops its banks in South King County. In January 2009, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discovered problems with the Howard Hanson Dam. In response, the Corps of Engineers will release more water into the Green River this winter, increasing the chances of downstream flooding in the Green River Valley to a one in four chance. Green River Valley flooding could affect state highways in Tukwila, Renton, Kent and Auburn. WSDOT and contractor crews have three projects on their to-do list: sandbag a short section of SR 167 in Kent, apply additional material to protect a vulnerable bridge pier on SR 18 and protect signal cabinets that keep electrical systems like the HOT lanes, traffic cameras and overhead signs running during a flood.
Source: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2009/11/03_SR167greenriverprep.htm

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