



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 November 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Bloomberg reported that Brazil's integrated electricity grid leaves it vulnerable to the types of outages that occurred this week, when 40 percent of the country was plunged into darkness, according to a government energy research agency. As many as 70 million people lost power on the night of November 10. (See item [2](#))
- According to the Washington Post, China is significantly boosting its capabilities in cyberspace as a way to gather intelligence and, in the event of war, hit the U.S. government in a weak spot, U.S. officials and experts say. China apparently hopes that by concentrating on holes in the U.S. security architecture, it will collect intelligence that could help it counter the United States. (See item [42](#))

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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 12, Associated Press* – (National) **Ida's remnants sweep along, soak East Coast.** Relentless rain swept much of the Atlantic seaboard on November 12, triggering

coastal flood warnings and watches from North Carolina to New York's Long Island, inundating streets and forcing some rescues of stranded drivers in hard-hit Virginia. The downpour marks the track of the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida, which blew ashore in Alabama from the Gulf of Mexico on November 10. Ida lost its tropical storm strength shortly after coming on land but has drenched a swath from Alabama through Georgia as it meandered toward the Atlantic. The Virginia governor declared a state of emergency and officials urged people in some areas to stay home as rain was predicted to continue at least through November 13. Dominion Power reported more than 22,000 outages in Virginia early on November 12, with the largest numbers in southeast Virginia and the Richmond area. In Norfolk, on the coast, several bridges and a major tunnel were closed and numerous streets were flooded. Thousands of North Carolinians lost electrical service. Duke Energy reported more than 11,000 customers lost power in the Charlotte area, though much of the service had been restored by late morning on November 12.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33856828/ns/weather/>

2. *November 12, Bloomberg* – (International) **Brazil agency says power grid vulnerable to outages.** Brazil's integrated electricity grid leaves it vulnerable to the types of outages that occurred this week, when 40 percent of the country was plunged into darkness, according to a government energy research agency. "Brazil has the largest integrated power grid in the world; it's fantastic because it facilitates electricity transmission between regions, but the domino effect that happens when we have a problem is a major inconvenience," said the president of Brazil's Energy Research Agency. As many as 70 million people lost power on the night of November 10. The energy minister said wind, rain and lightning strikes on transmission lines connected to the 14,000- megawatt Itaipu hydroelectric dam probably caused the failure, which affected 18 of 26 states for as long as 3 1/2 hours. Companies including Vale SA, Gerdau SA and Petroleo Brasileiro SA reduced output because of the lack of electricity. Brazil's Federal Prosecutor, known as MPF, said that it had opened an investigation of the outage. Itaipu and government officials have 72 hours to submit their preliminary reports, MPF said in a statement. Unlike in the U.S., which has three main regional power grids, almost all of Brazil's electricity runs through an interconnected network. The blackout occurred because the system could not cope with the three transmission lines failing at about the same time. It was the first time that transmission from the world's largest dam by output was forced to shut down since power began to flow from Itaipu in 1983, he added.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=assqIe.PMIRs>

3. *November 10, Cowley County Newscow* – (Kansas) **Man nabbed for cruising past GE security gate.** A retired General Electric employee was arrested the afternoon of November 10 at GE's Strother Field plant after running a stop sign at a security gate and refusing to cooperate with authorities and private security guards, a Cowley County sheriff said. The man, 69, was arrested and faces charges of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. The incident occurred around 12:44 p.m. when the sheriff's department received a report that a man had ignored a security gate at the plant. Identification and clearance is required to enter local GE plants. Once he entered the

gated and secured area of the plant, security approached the man after observing him park his vehicle. He told security personnel he was at the plant to see a friend and that it was none of their business, the sheriff said.

Source: <http://www.newscow.net/story.php?StoryID=3381>

For another story, see item [43](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 11, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Report cites two potential terror targets in San Diego.** Chemical facilities are vulnerable to accidents and sabotage. Terrorism is a real concern, as a News 10 camera crew discovered when shooting video for this story outside the Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Facility. Down the street from the facility, police officers in squad cars and motorcycles surrounded the reporter and photographer, wanting to know if they were a threat. Security is important at the Escondido facility, and at the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant in La Mesa. Besides the importance of keeping the water supply safe, both store large amounts of chlorine gas to treat drinking water. “When the chlorine is used as a gas, there’s the danger of an emergency release forming a dense ground-hugging plume and drifting off site for many miles, and being very harmful to people,” said an advocate for chemical safety. That’s exactly what happened in Graniteville, South Carolina, in 2005. A train accident that ruptured a tank of chlorine created a dense cloud of chlorine gas. The two local water treatment plants are cited in the advocate’s latest report as high-hazard facilities that could be made safer.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/21579832/detail.html>

5. *November 11, East Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Chemical emergency signal false.** An emergency signal sent Wednesday concerning the Umatilla Chemical Depot was false. A news release from Umatilla County Emergency Management has confirmed the activation signal telling people to seek shelter was an accident. “There has been an accidental activation of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program public alert system,” the news release said. “There is NO emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot” The Umatilla County Sheriff said county dispatch was “buried in calls” from concerned citizens.

Source:

<http://eastoregonian.com/main.asp?FromHome=1&TypeID=1&ArticleID=100085&SectionID=13&SubSectionID=48>

6. *November 10, Newport News Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Chemical leak closes section of Va. highway.** Authorities closed a section of highway in Rockbridge County for more than nine hours because of a chemical leak. The Virginia Department of Transportation said Tuesday afternoon the section of U.S. 11 north of Lexington has been reopened. State police say toluene began leaking from a small hole in a tanker truck parked at a truck stop. The tanker was carrying 55,000 gallons of the gasoline additive and solvent.

Police say no one was evacuated, although trucks around the tanker were moved. The Rockbridge County Emergency Management Coordinator says the highway was shut down mainly because fire crews had to stretch their hoses across the road.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/virginia/dp-va--toluenespill1110nov10,0,3401257.story>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *November 12, Reuters* – (Nebraska) **NPPD shuts Neb. Cooper reactor.** Nebraska Public Power District shut the 758-megawatt Cooper nuclear power station in Nebraska on November 11 due to a turbine hydraulic fluid leak, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The company said it discovered the leak when the reactor was operating at about 70 percent as it was ramping up after exiting an outage. This was the second shutdown for the plant since exiting a refueling outage last week. The unit first shut on November 6 due to an oil leak. It returned to service by November 10.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1240618320091112>

8. *November 11, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **NH nuclear plant to test sirens.** New Hampshire's Seabrook Station nuclear power plant will be conducting an emergency siren test. The 121 sirens in New Hampshire and Massachusetts will sound at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The test will last three to five minutes. The sirens are part of a warning system in the event of an emergency at the nuclear reactor. In a real emergency, the sirens would signal for people to listen to radio or television news for emergency information.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=11482971>

9. *November 11, Dow Jones Newswires* – (International) **Reactor designs concerns raise specter of nuclear plant delays.** Regulators' concerns about two new nuclear reactor designs could throw a wrench in energy companies' plans for a build-out of nuclear power plants in the U.S. Regulators in France, the United Kingdom and Finland told French nuclear powerhouse Areva S.A. earlier this month to fix a flaw in the safety systems for its EPR reactor, which the company is also seeking to license in the U.S. And in October, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rejected a modified version of the AP1000 reactor, designed by Toshiba Corp.'s Westinghouse Electric Co., citing concerns about structural integrity. Regulatory delays could force U.S. power companies like Scana Corp. and PPL Corp. to push back their timetables for building nuclear power plants using the new reactor technology, though both of these companies say their plans currently remain on track.

Source:

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200911110905DOWJONESDJO_NLINE000473_FORTUNE5.htm

10. *November 11, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Feds order redo of emergency exercise at Oyster Creek.** State police did not follow up with some municipalities during an emergency preparedness exercise held at the Oyster Creek Generating Station last month. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, cited the state police's Emergency Management Section's failure to follow up with five communities after sending faxes as a "deficiency," and the drill will have to be conducted again within 120 days of the drill held on October 6, 2009. "This could have had an impact on public health and safety if the municipal emergency management directors were unaware that their populations were being advised to evacuate or shelter-in-place," wrote the acting regional administrator for FEMA. The emergency management services did fax all 17 communities that are considered close to Oyster Creek. However, the faxes were supposed to be followed up with phone calls. In the meantime, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has asked Oyster Creek to work with state police and any other offsite agencies to make sure that the follow-up drill is performed correctly. The remedial drill was originally scheduled for December 8, 2009, but has since been moved to "sometime in January," according to a spokesman for Oyster Creek.

Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article_5e6f6afe-cee2-11de-ac69-001cc4c002e0.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *November 12, Urbana Daily Citizen* – (Illinois) **Fire impacts about 5 percent of Fiber Corp. operations.** A fire at International Fiber Corp. on November 10 impacted about five percent of the business's operation, according to an Urbana firefighter. The fire division received a report of an explosion and fire about 10 p.m. and found light smoke showing from the roof on arrival. He said there had been an explosion and that two hoppers were on fire in the grinding room. He said there were no reports of injury and no damage to the structure. He added that the business had installed safeguards to minimize structural damage in the event of an accident such as occurred on November 10. Sprinklers in the hoppers also helped the situation, he said. Employees evacuated the building and Muzzy Road was closed about 90 minutes while firefighters worked. Firefighters remained on scene until about 12:30 a.m.

Source:

<http://www.urbanacitizen.com/main.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=5&ArticleID=152377>

12. *November 12, RP Newswires* – (Missouri) **Missouri plant faces \$511K OSHA fine after worker killed.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Loren Cook Company of Springfield, Missouri, with seven alleged willful and three alleged serious violations after a worker was killed by an ejected machine part on May 13. "Loren Cook Company willfully allowed its employees to work on dangerous equipment without safeguarding the machinery and exposed workers to debris ejected while operating manual spinning lathes," said the

acting Assistant Secretary for OSHA. “It is imperative that employers take steps to eliminate hazards and provide a safe working environment.” Seven instance-by-instance willful citations at \$70,000 each are proposed for failing to guard seven manual spinning lathes, with a total proposed willful penalty of \$490,000. OSHA issues a willful violation when an employer exhibits plain indifference to or intentional disregard for employee safety and health. Three serious citations with penalties totaling \$21,000 are proposed for a lack of adequate personal protective equipment for workers’ faces, extremities and hands. OSHA issues a serious citation when death or serious physical harm is likely to result from a hazard about which an employer knew or should have known. The proposed fines total \$511,000. Loren Cook manufactures industrial ventilation equipment and employs approximately 800 workers, with about 580 located at the Springfield site and the remainder at a North Carolina site.

Source:

[http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=21180&pagetitle=Missouri+plant+faces+\\$511K+OSHA+fine+after+worker+killed](http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=21180&pagetitle=Missouri+plant+faces+$511K+OSHA+fine+after+worker+killed)

13. *November 11, Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Firefighters battle blaze at Ken Garner Manufacturing.** Chattanooga firefighters spent most of the night putting out hot spots after battling a two-alarm fire at Ken Garner Manufacturing Company on November 10. The Chattanooga Fire Department received the alarm shortly after 9 p.m. Tuesday and responded to 1201 E. 28th St. with six fire companies. Flames were shooting through the roof when the first firefighters arrived on the scene. Seeing the magnitude of the fire, the Battalion Chief called for a second alarm response to bring in additional firefighters and equipment. The Chief said the fire appears to have started in or near the paint shop, which is located toward the rear of the 48,000-square-foot building. The firefighters attacked the fire quickly and managed to keep the fire from consuming the entire building. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is undetermined and under investigation. An estimate on the loss was unavailable. Ken Garner Manufacturing makes counter-weights for excavators and cranes and employs 45 people.

Source: http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_162888.asp

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *November 11, Defense News* – (National) **Uncoordinated EW procurement creates combat issues.** A lack of coordination and networking of electronic warfare equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan is becoming a hazard for U.S. and allied troops in the two wars, the Army’s chief of electronic warfare told defense analysts and investors in New York on November 10. One scenario outlined by the official involved helicopters, which dispense flares when they sense enemy missiles to throw the missiles off-course, but the helicopters also are dispensing flares in reaction to the use of the CREW jamming devices they carry. The device emits a signal that a helicopter reads as radar and so it dispenses a flare in response, quickly using up the available supply. What’s needed is more coordination in the military’s acquisition strategy for electronic warfare

equipment, she said. Every time adversaries' electronic warfare strategies change, the U.S. military responds with a reactionary "box-by-box" solution, she said. Progress is being made in the Pentagon to better coordinate electronic-warfare strategy, with the Defense Secretary emphasizing proven technology, upgrades and equipment that can serve more than one armed service. But consolidated leadership on the issue is still lacking, she said. The electronic warfare equipment that is fielded is not connected. Within the Army, for example, there are dozens of networks to sense, communicate and react to improvised explosive devices and other threats, but these networks are not connected.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4372242&c=AME&s=LAN>

15. *November 10, The Register* – (National) **Pentagon chiefs buy net-security early warning system.** U.S. weapons manufacturer Raytheon announced that it and allied firms have landed a \$28m deal from the Pentagon to provide an early-warning system for defense against cyber attacks on military networks. The program in question is referred to by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) as "Network Operations Situational Awareness" or NetOps SA. NetOps SA is just one of the netwar systems the agency intends to procure in coming years, under the general slogan "Arming the Cyber Warrior" According to DISA, NetOps SA will primarily use two "classified thin client web applications" known as the Global Information Grid Customizable Operational Picture (GIGCOP) and the User-Defined Operational Picture (CND UDOP). The new NetOps SA deal with Raytheon will see these tools integrated into one system and further developed.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/10/raytheon_netops_sa_deal/

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *November 11, Reuters* – (International) **Feds bust hacking ring accused of stealing millions.** A U.S. grand jury indicted eight foreigners on charges that they hacked a computer network used by the credit card processing company RBS WorldPay and stole more than \$9 million, the U.S. Justice Department said on November 10. The group, which included people from Estonia, Russia and Moldova, was accused of compromising the data encryption used by RBS WorldPay, based in Atlanta and part of Royal Bank of Scotland, and gaining access to accounts a year ago. RBS WorldPay is one of the leading payment processing businesses globally. U.S. cybersecurity officials long have been worried about hacks into global financial networks that could harm the financial system. This indictment marked the latest in a series of cases that have highlighted the risk to such networks. The ring was charged with hacking data for payroll debit cards, which enable employees to withdraw their salaries from automated teller machines. Those accused in the case allegedly raised the limits on some cards so they could withdraw the money, the U.S. government said. More than \$9 million was withdrawn in less than 12 hours from more than 2,100 ATMs around the world, the Justice Department said, adding that RBS WorldPay immediately reported the breach

once it was discovered.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,573670,00.html?test=latestnews>

17. *November 10, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota) **Attorney General warns of debit card scam.** The South Dakota attorney general is warning consumers to be cautious of a scam that is targeting bank customers. Law enforcement statewide has reported complaints from consumers who have been receiving fraudulent phone calls. These calls come from individuals alleging to be an employee of either their bank or their credit card company. The consumers were told that their debit card had been compromised and were asked to provide their PIN number. Some individuals have reported unauthorized charges on their cards.

Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_91507b9a-ce22-11de-bef6-001cc4c002e0.html

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Transportation Sector

18. *November 11, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **TSA tells airport screeners to stick to weapons and explosives.** The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has dropped its lawsuit against the Transportation Security Administration after the TSA revised its policy on searching travelers, telling screeners they can only investigate transportation-related issues, barring them from seeking evidence of crimes unrelated to air safety. The ACLU sued TSA this summer, accusing airport screeners of overstepping their authority by searching and questioning travelers about potential crimes that had nothing to do with carrying weapons or explosives onto airplanes, which is the specific role defined for TSA. The suit was filed after a Ron Paul campaign staffer was detained and questioned about \$4,700 in cash he was carrying through the St. Louis airport. TSA says it issued a management directive in 2007 telling screeners that any evidence of criminal activity discovered during searches “shall be referred to a law enforcement officer for appropriate action.” On September 1, that directive was revised, emphasizing that “screening may not be conducted to detect evidence of crimes unrelated to transportation security.” Indeed, even when illegal drugs are discovered, the policy notes, TSA can inform local law enforcement authorities and ask passengers to wait at screening checkpoints, but TSA officials do not have the authority themselves to detain people suspected of anything unrelated to aviation security. A second directive this fall specifically addressed the issues raised in the ACLU’s lawsuit, stating that “traveling with large amounts of currency is not illegal,” and that to the extent bulk quantities of cash warrant searching, it is only to further security objectives.

Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/middleseat/2009/11/11/tsa-tells-airport-screeners-to-stick-to-weapons-and-explosives/>

19. *November 11, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Townsend Inlet Bridge closed after being rammed by barge.** A barge broke loose from its anchor Wednesday evening amid high wind and heavy surf and struck the Townsend Inlet Bridge, police said. There is some structural damage to the bridge, which has been closed until

engineers can inspect it Thursday morning. Townsends Inlet Bridge connects Avalon and Sea Isle City. The bridge is owned and operated by the Cape May County Bridge Commission. The barge is the “PKF Mark 3” out of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. There is no word on how long the Townsend’s Inlet Bridge will be closed to traffic.

Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article_cff0ee84-cf21-11de-a04d-001cc4c03286.html

20. *November 11, Associated Press* – (International) **Pilot charged with being drunk before flight.** A United Airlines pilot who failed a breath test shortly before he was due to take off has been charged with having too much alcohol in his system, British police said. This is the third U.S. pilot in 13 months to be arrested for being over the strict alcohol limits imposed on airline staff. The pilot was arrested after officers were called to United Airlines Flight 949, which was already full of passengers and due to leave London’s Heathrow Airport just after noon on Monday. A spokeswoman for BAA Airports Ltd., Heathrow’s operator, said late Tuesday the pilot had been reported to authorities by another member of United’s staff. She spoke on condition of anonymity, saying it was company policy. It was not immediately clear how much alcohol the pilot was accused of having consumed. Under British law, pilots are forbidden from having any more than 20 micrograms of alcohol for each 100 milliliters of blood in their system, or .02 percent. If convicted, he faces up to two years in prison, a fine, or both. United Airlines said the pilot had been removed from service pending an investigation. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33837034/ns/travel-news/>

21. *November 10, WWL 4 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Barge hits Lapalco Bridge.** Investigators are trying to determine if winds from Tropical Storm Ida caused a barge to break loose and hit the Lapalco Bridge which has closed the bridge until further notice. No injuries were reported after a barge carrying a crane slammed into the bridge early Tuesday morning, according to Jefferson Parish officials. The Coast Guard reports the barge that hit the Lapalco Bridge last night, did so as it was evacuating the Harvey Canal. It was not a runaway barge. According to the Coast Guard, the Captain of the Port gave the order for mariners to leave the canal as Hurricane Ida approached the Louisiana Gulf Coast. The Jefferson Parish Homeland Security Director reports an inspection this morning revealed that a crane on the barge damaged the under-carriage of the bridge. It apparently gouged some of the steel girders. Engineers are now making some emergency repairs. Source: <http://www.wwltv.com/news/Barge-hits-Lapalco-bridge-69648277.html>

For more stories, see items [6](#) and [46](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *November 10, Bioprewatch* – (International) **Suspicious envelopes sent to U.N. missions apparently contained flour.** Looks like flour was the suspicious powder inside those envelopes sent to several United Nations missions. A fifth foreign mission

received an envelope with a suspicious white powder inside on Tuesday, WABC reported. New York City police say the mission to the United Kingdom was the last to receive a letter. The German mission to the U.N. got a similar package earlier Tuesday. Three other envelopes arrived Monday at the missions of France, Austria and Uzbekistan. A New York Police Department spokesman says tests revealed the substance contained in those three letters was flour. Test results are pending on the other two letters. No one was hospitalized Monday night, but 43 people were decontaminated, officials said. “Nobody’s sick as far as we know,” a high-ranking police source said. “This is a precautionary measure. Several of the notes in the envelopes were reported to contain a single-line message of “al-Qaeda FBI in America,” the New York Post reported. At least four of the envelopes had Dallas postmarks. The incident is being looked into by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which intends to determine if the envelopes contain any DNA, United Press International reported. An FBI spokesman says his office is trying to locate the sender.

Source: <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/news/210866-suspicious-envelopes-sent-to-un-missions-apparently-contained-flour>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *November 11, WUSA 9 Washington* – (Maryland) **Cabin John shopping center reopened after evacuation.** Montgomery County fire officials say that the Cabin John Plaza shopping center is now open after parts of it were evacuated due to a possible hazardous situation. A captain of the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service says that hazmat investigators have not been able to identify what made people sick inside the Giant grocery store. Health officials joined firefighters in investigating the Giant and surrounding stores in an effort to determine the source of the smell reported by customers and workers. The total number of people evaluated by firefighters and medics was 14. Six of them were taken to the hospital with non-life threatening symptoms. It is still not known what caused the odor. Firefighters found no sign of a gas leak, including the freon used for the freezers.

Source: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/breaking/story.aspx?storyid=93478&catid=158>

For another story, see item [27](#)

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Water Sector

24. *November 12, Washinton Post* – (National) **Toxic stew’ of chemicals blamed for intersex fish in Potomac.** Pollutants that mimic natural hormones have created a “toxic stew” in the Potomac River, altering the sexual development and the immune systems of fish, a local nonprofit group warned in a report Wednesday. In its third annual “State of the Nation’s River” report, the Potomac Conservancy focused on concerns first raised in 2003, when fish began dying in large numbers in such Potomac tributaries as

the Shenandoah River. As scientists investigated those fish kills, they found that male bass around the Potomac watershed were growing eggs. The report says it appears that chemicals — it's still not certain which ones — in the water are interfering with the hormones that guide development in the fish. It said that potential causes include animal hormones from manure washing off farm fields in the rain and human hormones and pharmaceuticals that are flushed out with treated sewage. It seems likely, the report said, that the cause is not a single chemical but a mixture whose components might be different around the river. Pesticides might dominate in rural areas, for instance, and human hormones downstream of a sewage plant. The conservancy's president, said that the best solution to the problem was to try to keep these chemicals out of the water in the first place. That, he said, could entail increased testing to figure out which chemicals have hormone-mimicking properties or installing measures to keep animal waste from washing downstream. The report said it's also unclear what these chemicals mean for the health of people in the Washington area, where the Potomac is the original source of much of the region's tap water.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/11/AR2009111118805.html>

25. *November 11, South Coast Media Group* – (Massachusetts) **Dartmouth wastewater treatment plant damaged by fire.** A building was marred and a machine was damaged beyond repair in a fire at the wastewater treatment plant on Russells Mills Road on Tuesday in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. According to a former deputy chief for Fire District 1, about 25 firefighters from Districts 2 and 1 battled the blaze, the first reporting to the scene at 1:30 p.m. A tumbler machine used for chipping trees and shrubs was engulfed in flames. A nearby metal-framed building also caught fire and its siding was heavily damaged, he said. The state Department of Environmental Protection was on scene to evaluate the damage caused by fuel and oil leakage from the machine. The Fire Department used absorbents to contain the spill. One firefighter was taken to St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford and treated for smoke inhalation. Damage to the building and the machine were estimated to be in excess of \$200,000. The cause of the fire is believed to be accidental.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091111/NEWS/911110340/-1/news>

26. *November 11, WHAS 11 Louisville* – (Kentucky; Indiana) **Millions of gallons of raw sewage pour into the Ohio River.** Roughly 8 million gallons of raw sewage poured into the Ohio River Wednesday. It all started midday when a major pipeline failed forcing the contamination into the river. The Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) worked for more than 10 hours to repair the pipeline but still wants people to stay away from the river downstream from the McAlpin Dam for the next 3 days. Crews fixed the problem around 10 o'clock Wednesday night, and Louisville's water supply was never affected by the contamination because the water intake is upstream from the problem. The sewage began pouring into the Ohio River around noon Wednesday and continued hour by hour dumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of waste. It happened because something went wrong along one of the two major sewage lines running to MSD's

wastewater treatment plant. “We were working on one of those gates and it broke and fell and closed. It’s one that never gets all the way closed but it fell and closed totally,” a MSD spokesman said. The failure pushed the waste into the river and put MSD crews to work with a crane, trying to get things flowing again the right way. MSD faces tens of thousands of dollars in fines from state and federal regulators.

Source: <http://www.whas11.com/news/local/Millions-of-gallons-of-raw-sewage-pour-into-the-Ohio-River-69813917.html>

27. *November 10, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Indiana) **EPA study reveals widespread contamination of fish in U.S. lakes and reservoirs.** A new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study shows concentrations of toxic chemicals in fish tissue from lakes and reservoirs in nearly all 50 U.S. states. For the first time, EPA is able to estimate the percentage of lakes and reservoirs nationwide that have fish containing potentially harmful levels of chemicals such as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). The data showed mercury concentrations in game fish exceeding EPA’s recommended levels at 49 percent of lakes and reservoirs nationwide, and PCBs in game fish at levels of potential concern at 17 percent of lakes and reservoirs. These findings are based on a comprehensive national study using more data on levels of contamination in fish tissue than any previous study. Burning fossil fuels, primarily coal, accounts for nearly half of mercury air emissions caused by human activity in the U.S., and those emissions are a significant contributor to mercury in water bodies. From 1990 through 2005, emissions of mercury into the air decreased by 58 percent. Results from the four-year National Study of Chemical Residues in Lake Fish Tissue show that mercury and PCBs are widely distributed in U.S. lakes and reservoirs. Mercury and PCBs were detected in all of the fish samples collected from the nationally representative sample of 500 lakes and reservoirs in the study. Because these findings apply to fish caught in lakes and reservoirs, it is particularly important for recreational and subsistence fishers to follow their state and local fish advisories. EPA is conducting other statistically based national aquatic surveys that include assessment of fish contamination, such as the National Rivers and Streams Assessment and the National Coastal Assessment. Sampling for the National Rivers and Streams Assessment is underway, and results from this two-year study are expected to be available in 2011. Collection of fish samples for the National Coastal Assessment will begin in 2010.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/62B53C67BC92EF878525766A004B3456>

For another story, see item [4](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *November 12, ABC News* – (New York) **H1N1 surge triggers emergency plan for NYC hospital.** The number of flu cases in New York City ERs jumped 25 percent this Monday. At Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn’s Sunset Park neighborhood, a surge in

pediatric patients over the weekend continued into the week, leading the hospital to trigger its emergency preparedness and surge capacity plan for the first time since it was created this summer. “[Flu levels] peaked [Tuesday], and over the past five days we’re seeing an increase,” said the director of pediatric emergency medicine at Maimonides said Wednesday. He added that compared to the same time in 2008, flu cases were up 10 percent. In tracking the spread of H1N1, the New York City Department of Health has been collecting data on flu visits to the ER from 50 hospitals, a spread that covers 95 percent of ER visits annually for the city. Though this Monday’s surge was the largest increase seen this fall for New York City hospitals, a look back at past health department data showed that Mondays consistently bring a bump in flu patient volume, and often in overall ER patient volume. Because of this Monday trend a spokeswoman for Maimonides Hospital, said that when officials saw an increase in volume for pediatric patients with flu-like symptoms this past weekend, they were not necessarily alarmed. But when the rise in flu cases continued into Tuesday, traditionally the hospital’s slowest day, hospital officials became concerned. Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/SwineFluNews/h1n1-surge-triggers-emergency-plan-nyc-hospital/story?id=9058170>

29. *November 11, IT Business Edge* – (National) **Survey finds patient data at risk.** According to a study from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, many health care organizations are not ready for new federal regulations and other security challenges. InformationWeek reports that three quarters of organizations found patient data was at risk due to inadequate security controls, policies and processes. In fact, one-third of respondents said that their organization has had at least one case of medical identity theft. Source: <http://www.itbusinessedge.com/cm/community/news/sec/blog/survey-finds-patient-data-at-risk/?cs=37410>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *November 12, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire bomb scorches court office building in McKeesport.** A fire bomb was thrown into a McKeesport building that houses the offices of a District Judge on Oneil Boulevard. A small fire resulted, but firefighters extinguished it within 30 minutes before it could spread to residential apartments on the second and third floors of the building, emergency dispatchers said. No injuries were reported, and damage estimates were not immediately available. The Allegheny County fire marshal is investigating with McKeesport police. The distinct burn pattern indicates that an accelerant was used to fuel the fire. Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09316/1012928-100.stm>
31. *November 11, Associated Press* – (California) **EPA seeks ex-Santa Susana lab workers for cleanup.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants the help of former workers at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory to identify contamination from nuclear and radiological projects at the site. The EPA is interested in interviewing

former workers for three companies—Atomics International, Rocketdyne and Rockwell—who may know about spills, dumping or other releases of radiological material, the agency said in a news release this week. The lab was established in 1946 and covers nearly 2,900 acres in eastern Ventura County, just west of the San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles. The lab was used to test rocket engines, conduct nuclear energy research and develop nuclear reactors, one of which had a partial meltdown in 1959. For years there has been debate about whether activities at the lab are connected to health problems. In preparation for cleanup, the EPA is planning a study of the contamination and wants a full understanding of past operations and events at the now-closed laboratory.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_13765663?nclick_check=1

32. *November 11, WHIZ 40 Zanesville* – (Ohio) **OU student center receives bomb threat.** The Ohio University (OU) Police Department says it plans to increase its presence at the campus's student center after receiving a bomb threat within the past week. An OU Communication and Marketing press release indicates that the OU Police Department conducted a search of the building last Friday and found nothing. Then a second search closed down the student center Monday night, around 10 p.m. It says the Columbus Fire Department's bomb squad along with the State Highway Patrol, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and the FBI were called in to assist. Bomb-sniffing dogs were used in the second search but nothing was found. The police chief says in the coming weeks, the OU Police Department may conduct random searches and emergency drills for the students' safety.

Source: <http://www.whiznews.com/content/news/local/2009/11/11/ou-student-center-receives-bomb-threat>

33. *November 9, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Group targets U animal scientist.** University of Minnesota police have increased patrols near the home of a Medical School animal researcher after a posting on an animal rights activist website displayed his name and photograph and noted that "... we should not be surprised when the unconscionable violence inflicted upon animals is justifiably visited upon their tormentors." The Internet posting went up late last week on the website NegotiationIsOver.com in reaction to a Star Tribune story about a multimillion-dollar national campaign by biomedical researchers, including the targeted professor, to increase lagging support for medical and scientific tests using animals. "The university police are patrolling around my house now," said the targeted academic, an associate professor of surgery and director of experimental surgery. "The FBI is involved to assess the threat." An FBI spokesman would not confirm or deny whether or not an investigation was underway, but he did state that the FBI had received information from the targeted professor.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/69622092.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUUI>

34. *November 9, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Army says it has finished work stopping mustard leak at Pueblo Chemical Depot.** The U.S. Army says it has finished work

containing a leak of mustard agent at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. The leak was discovered in August by a sensor at one of the “igloos” containing the deadly toxin. Chemical weapons set for destruction are stored at the site. The Army sorted through the stored projectiles and found one leaking liquid mustard and one leaking mustard vapor. The Army said Monday that the leaky projectiles were moved to a more secure igloo on November 5. No one was hurt in what spokesman called “standard operation.” The Army is in talks with Colorado health officials to settle a state lawsuit calling for increased monitoring of how chemical weapons are stored at the site. Congress has set a 2017 deadline to have the weapons destroyed to meet international treaty obligations. Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--mustardleak,0,125301.story>

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *November 12, Middletown Times Herald Record* – (New York) **NY police fingerprinting goes electronic next year.** As of January 1, police agencies in New York must submit all fingerprints to the state electronically. Some departments are already there; others are scrambling to catch up or work out the logistics of sharing equipment with other agencies. The change requires computerized live-scan equipment. At this point, every county in the state has at least one live-scan device, which allows fingerprints to be recorded electronically and transmitted immediately to the state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for verification, said a spokesman for the DCJS. Many of the counties also have card scanners, which scan ink-and-roll cards into electronic form. No one disputes the value of the changeover, said Walden’s police. It is more efficient. But he said it also amounts to an unfunded mandate. In the Town of Montgomery, the four police agencies — the town, Walden, Maybrook and Village of Montgomery — are trying to come up with ideas for a shared system. Otherwise, they will have to rely on the Orange County Sheriff’s Office, which has the equipment. But it would be impractical to transport every arrestee to the sheriff’s office for prints. Source: <http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091112/NEWS/911120311>
36. *November 11, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Potholes take a toll on Fire Department GPS units.** For more than a year, a \$400,000 system that pinpoints Fire Department vehicles on Milwaukee streets has been foiled by the streets themselves. The department’s global positioning system units repeatedly have been knocked out of service when firetrucks and paramedic vans struck potholes while racing through the city’s deteriorating streets, the fire chief said. Fire Department personnel have spent more than 300 hours fixing the electronic equipment, and only recently reached the point where nearly all of the GPS units in front-line vehicles fully were operational, department officials said. The department’s satellite-based automatic vehicle locator system was part of a \$4.2 million computer-aided dispatching system that went live in late April 2004. Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/69819627.html>

37. *November 11, IDG News Services* – (National) **How to DDOS a federal wiretap.** Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania say they have discovered a way to circumvent the networking technology used by law enforcement to tap phone lines in the U.S. The flaws they have found “represent a serious threat to the accuracy and completeness of wiretap records used for both criminal investigation and as evidence in trial,” the researchers say in their paper, set to be presented Thursday at a computer security conference in Chicago. Following up on earlier work on evading analog wiretap devices called loop extenders, the Penn researchers took a deep look at the newer technical standards used to enable wiretapping on telecommunication switches. They found that while these newer devices probably do not suffer from many of the bugs they had found in the loop extender world, they do introduce new flaws. In fact, wiretaps could probably be rendered useless if the connection between the switches and law enforcement are overwhelmed with useless data, something known as a denial of service (DOS) attack.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9140717/How_to_DDOS_a_federal_wiretap

38. *November 10, FireRescue1* – (New Jersey) **NJ fire truck backing LODD blamed on communication breakdown.** Driver distractions and the loss of direct communications between driver and spotter contributed to the death of an Elizabeth, New Jersey, firefighter during fire apparatus backing, according to investigators. Possible failure of the automatic reverse breaking system was also a key factor identified in a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) firefighter fatality report released Tuesday. The firefighter was killed on the fireground when the fire truck he was spotting ran over him on January 2, earlier this year. The apparatus driver was distracted during backing when he momentarily focused his attention on a tow truck driving past him, breaking eye contact with the victim who was spotting the apparatus from the rear on the officer’s side. As a result of the fatal distraction, NIOSH investigators recommend fire departments develop, implement and enforce SOPs on safe backing of fire apparatus.

Source: <http://www.firerescue1.com/vehicle-safety/articles/602908-NJ-fire-truck-backing-LODD-blamed-on-communication-breakdown/>

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Information Technology Sector

39. *November 12, The Register* – (International) **Attackers conceal exploit sites with Twitter API.** Drive-by exploit writers have been spotted using a popular Twitter command to send web surfers to malicious sites, a technique that helps conceal the devious deed. The microblogging site makes application programming interfaces (APIs) such as this one available so legitimate websites can easily plug into the top topics being tweeted. As the concerns and opinions of Twitter users change over time, so too will the so-called top 30 trending topics. But it turns out that the API for generating the never-ending stream of keywords is being used by miscreants, too. According to a researcher, it’s being added to heavily obfuscated redirection scripts

injected into compromised websites. The scripts, which redirect victims to drive-by sites that attempt to exploit unpatched vulnerabilities in programs such as Apple's QuickTime, use the second letter of a trending topic to arrive at a secret code that's a key ingredient in determining the contents of the domain. The top term "Jedward" from a few days ago, for instance, becomes ghoizwvlev.com. Other domain names generated this month included abirgqvlev.com, fgxhzgvlev.com and abxhcgvlev.com.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/12/attackers_use_twitter_command/

40. *November 12, The Register* – (International) **Win 7 remote kernel crasher code released.** Microsoft has reportedly begun investigating a potentially nasty denial of service vulnerability affecting Windows 7. A security bug in windows 7 and Windows 2008R2 makes it possible to lock up affected systems. The crash would happen without a Blue Screen of Death or other visible indication that anything was amiss. The system freeze can be triggered remotely by sending malformed packets to targeted systems - specifically a NetBIOS (Network Basic Input/Output System) header that specifies an incoming Server Message Block (SMB) packet is either four bytes smaller or larger than it actually is. SMB is a network protocol used to provide shared access to files and printers. Proof of concept code was posted by a white hat security researcher in a blog entry on November 11. "Whatever your firewall is set to, you can get remotely smashed via IE or even via some broadcasting nbns tricks, [with] no user interaction," he writes. While it might be used to knock over targeted systems, there's no evidence that the latest flaw lends itself to code injection, a far more serious type of problem. News of the bug broke a day after Microsoft's regular Patch Tuesday updates came and went.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/11/12/win7_kernel_crasher/

41. *November 11, DarkReading* – (International) **iPhone targeted yet again.** European researchers discovered the so-called iPhone/Privacy.A malware, which targets jailbroken iPhones and iTouch handsets, via a wireless network. Jailbroken devices are disabled such that the user can run code or apps on the device that are not "signed" by Apple. The hacking tool can copy the user's email, contacts, SMS text messages, calendar, photos, music, video, and other data gathered by an iPhone app, according to Intego, the security firm that discovered it, and the victim would have no idea his iPhone was hacked. The attacker would run the tool on a desktop or laptop machine and be able to identify and break into a jailbroken iPhone or iTouch via WiFi or via the same mobile network. "I haven't seen anything like this before...that's automated to remotely log into the device wirelessly," says a senior manager of security research for Websense. But the tool can hack only a limited number of iPhones. It targets a jailbroken iPhone or iTouch that has SSH (Secure Shell) installed and is using the default password that comes with the SSH utility. "You're not at risk unless you have all three" of these factors, the manager says.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=221601340&subSection=Attacks/breaches>

42. *November 11, Washinton Post* – (International) **China proves to be an aggressive foe in cyberspace.** China is significantly boosting its capabilities in cyberspace as a way to gather intelligence and, in the event of war, hit the U.S. government in a weak spot, U.S. officials and experts say. Outgunned and outspent in terms of traditional military hardware, China apparently hopes that by concentrating on holes in the U.S. security architecture, its communications and spy satellites and its vast computer networks, it will collect intelligence that could help it counter the imbalance. The U.S. President, who is scheduled to visit China next week, has vowed to improve ties with the Asian giant, especially its military. But according to current and former U.S. officials, China's aggressive hacking has sowed doubts about its intentions. U.S. officials and experts of all political persuasions in the Pentagon, on Capitol Hill, in private industry and in think tanks are convinced that China is behind many of the most egregious attacks. A senior Air Force official estimated that, as of two years ago, China has stolen at least 10 to 20 terabytes of data from U.S. government networks, the larger figure equal, by some estimates, to one-fifth of the Library of Congress's digital holdings. Nuclear weapons labs, defense contractors, the State Department and other sensitive federal government agencies have fallen prey. What experts do not know is exactly what has been stolen or how badly U.S. systems have been exposed.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/10/AR2009111017588.html>

For another story, see item [15](#)

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

43. *November 11, CNET News* – (California) **Powering cell phone towers with wind.** Helix Wind announced Wednesday that it is beginning a trial run in Southern California to see if its wind turbines might be useful for powering cell phone towers. The manufacturer is becoming known for its small vertical-axis wind turbines that can generate electricity with winds as low as 10 mph, as well as its unique business model to finance them. The pilot program, conducted in conjunction with cell phone tower operator Core Communications, will experiment with whether the turbines powering cell phone towers could also generate surplus energy to sell back to the energy grid. If they generate enough surplus power, small wind turbines could provide a new source of income for cell phone tower operators as well as a new power source. Helix Wind's turbines, which will be installed in early 2010, will run for up to three months before being re-evaluated. According to statistics provided by Helix Wind, there are

approximately 3,500 cell phone towers in Southern California, and another 1,000 expected to be added in the next five years to cover consumer growth.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-10395216-54.html

44. *November 11, Brookline TAB* – (Massachusetts) **Demolition cuts off phone service for hundreds in Brookline.** Around 350 homes near the Brookline Reservoir lost phone service Monday after demolition crews accidentally ripped open a cable line near the intersection of Warren Street and Route 9. The Building commissioner said the line was damaged early Monday when a contractor attempting to remove the concrete foundation of a 75-year-old pump house accidentally caught the cable on one corner and ripped it open. The Building commissioner said the cable contained roughly 900 individual wires, and was housed in an old wooden conduit. Verizon crews have been working around the clock since the line was severed to bring service back, though some residents may not have their phones reconnected until Thursday, November 12, he said. Crews had begun demolishing the dilapidated pump house and adjacent transformer building, both located on the northeast corner of the reservoir, on November 6, but suspended work over the weekend. Work resumed after the phone line was ruptured Monday, but was disrupted again when oil began leaking from the transformer building into the storm-water drain.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/brookline/news/x809130136/Demolition-cuts-off-phone-service-for-hundreds-in-Brookline>

For another story, see item [37](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

45. *November 11, KOSA 7 Odessa* – (Texas) A major chemical threat was feared on November 11 at the Univision station headquarters. An unidentified white powder found at the local TV station was considered a false alarm by the evening. Station employees feared a chemical threat when they called police, only to find out that it was an illegal substance of a different kind. A Hazmat Crew arrived to investigate a white powder found on keyboards inside the Midland/Odessa Univision station building. The white substance tested positive on site as cocaine.

Source: <http://www.cbs7kosa.com/news/details.asp?ID=16122>

For more stories, see items [23](#) and [30](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

46. *November 11, Barnesville Herald-Gazette* – (Georgia) **Runoff from heavy rain breaches local dam, closes roads.** Nearly 36 hours of continuous rainfall from the remnants of Hurricane ida, pushed Potato Creek well out of its banks and caused the failure of at least one Lamar County, Georgia, dam. One local resident lost a 10-acre lake behind their home on Highway 41 South in Redbone after the dam failed Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. Additionally, Lamar County public works has closed Cook, Allen, Perkins and Bottoms roads due to wash-outs. They will remain closed through Friday. Reported rainfall amounts ranged from 5.7 to 6.3 inches.

Source: <http://www.barnesville.com/archives/1603-Runoff-from-heavy-rain-breaches-local-dam,-closes-roads.html>

For another story, see item [2](#)

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