



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 November 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Global Security Newswire reports that while the U.S. government and the atomic energy industry are confident that the country's nuclear power plants are safe from any terrorist attack, critics caution that there are holes in those defenses. (See item [6](#))
- According to SCMagazine, although a number of trusted sources continually decry the vulnerabilities present in web applications, this vector remains the primary avenue of attack for cybercriminals, according to a WhiteHat Website Security Statistics Report released on November 12. (See item [36](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams Sector](#)

SUSTENANCE AND HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water Sector](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information and Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL AND STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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 13, Whitworthian* – (Washington) **Break in natural gas pipeline leads to evacuation.** A natural gas pipeline was broken at the construction site of the future science center resulting in an evacuation of the Health and Counseling Center at approximately 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11. Construction employees hit the pipeline with machinery, causing the break. A safety manager arrived on site shortly

after the time of evacuation to verify there was no natural gas in the air, said a manager of environmental health, safety and security. “The evacuation was a precaution taken,” she said. “We don’t have anyone on site with an air monitor.” Health center employees and patients were allowed to return to the Health center at 3 p.m., said a senior medic. “There was no impact on the health center other than missed appointments,” the manager said.

Source: <http://www.whitworthian.com/news/break-in-natural-gas-pipeline-leads-to-evacuation-1.2065208>

2. *November 12, Examiner* – (California) **Dangerous gas leak in the Bay**

Area. Emergency services received thousands of calls on Wednesday evening from residents in the East and North Bay when they smelled a potent gaseous odor. The smell that was thought to be dangerous turned out to be harmless and had traveled into the Bay Area from out of state. The source of the odor came from a natural gas supplier in the northwest who mixed in too much mercaptan on Tuesday night, which caused the powerful scent. Even though concerns of a toxic leak turned out to be a false alarm, the fire department and PG&E are stressing that people should always call whenever they suspect they smell gas. Contra Costa Fire District Battalion Chief told ABC7 that along with calling emergency services and the gas company, people should also make sure that all their pilot lights are lit and no gas lines are open that are not burning. He also spoke with PG&E employee who believes that the smell will not hit most of the Bay Area stating, “...there are a number of other transmission sources that also feed into the Bay Area, we expect it dilute pretty quickly.”

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-29502-Alameda-County-Headlines-Examiner~y2009m11d12-Dangerous-gas-leak-in-the-Bay-Area>

3. *November 9, Examiner* – (Washington) **Former Boeing employee convicted on threats had 100 firearms, wanted to blow up oil refinery.**

A man, 47, of Des Moines, Washington, was convicted on November 9 in U.S. District Court in Seattle of 19 felony counts regarding threats he made against the Boeing Company, Shell Oil, and Chevron Oil Company. He was convicted of two counts of making interstate communications with threat to injure persons, seven counts of making threats by instrument of interstate commerce, one count of possessing a firearm during threats of violence, and nine counts of identity theft. He faces a mandatory minimum five years in prison and up to 10 years in prison when sentenced on February 19, 2010. He was arrested on August 26, 2008, in the parking lot of the REI store in Tukwila, Washington. During a search of his home, law enforcement recovered more than 100 firearms. According to records in the case and testimony at trial, he sent threats via e-mail and through the Internet, on nine occasions between the dates of May 2, 2008, and May 30, 2008. In making the threats, he posed as other real people, and used e-mail addresses that he had opened under the names of those individuals. In the e-mails that he transmitted to Boeing, he stated variously that he was going to bring a gun into a Boeing facility and “shoot ever [sic] employee I see,” and also that he would “strap himself with explosives and detonate” them if and when he was apprehended, in order to cause “maximum death and destruction in the workplace!” In an e-mail he posted to the Anacortes oil refinery website, and to the Richmond, California Chevron Oil

refinery website, he stated that “a bomb was placed at a strategic location at the oil refinery” and that he was “going to set it off via remote control” so that it “will kill the most of your employees and do the most destruction to your refinery.” The case was investigated by the FBI, the Auburn Police Department, and the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department. The case is being prosecuted by an assistant United States attorneys.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-25653-FBI-Examiner~y2009m11d9-Former-Boing-employee-convicted-on-threats-had-100-firearms-wanted-to-blow-up-oil-refinery>

For another story, see item [18](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 13, Reuters* – (National) **Union, Greens push anti-hydrofluoric acid campaign.** The United Steelworkers (USW) union and the Sierra Club along with other environmental groups pushed on Thursday their campaign to ban the use of hydrofluoric acid at U.S. refineries. The campaign kicked off in Corpus Christi, Texas, where one USW member was severely injured in a July alkylation unit fire, said the subdirector of USW district 13. Hydrofluoric acid is used in alkylation units at about one-third of the 150 refineries in the United States. Alkylation units make high-octane blending components for gasoline. Hydrofluoric acid can burn skin and eyes as well as damage internal organs. When accidentally released at the high temperatures like those in refinery units, hydrofluoric acid can form a mist capable of spreading for miles away from a refinery. “Hydrofluoric acid is a dangerous killer that can clump together and move far downwind,” said a consultant on chemical accident prevention. The National Petrochemical and Refiners Association has argued against changes in chemicals used by refiners, as the USW and Sierra Club advocate, claiming it would increase costs and possibly cause more harm in the event of accidental release.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE5AC0EQ20091113>

5. *November 12, DVice.com* – (National) **Want your iPhone to detect deadly chemicals? There’s an app for that.** Scientists at NASA’s Ames Research Center, working with the Department of Homeland Security, have created a portable chemical sniffer for cellphones such as the iPhone. It’s about the size of a postage stamp, can plug into 30-pin dock connectors, and can quickly detect airborne traces of ammonia, chlorine gas, and methane. The device senses chemicals in the air using a “sample jet” and a multiple-channel silicon-based sensing chip, which consists of 16 nanosensors, and sends detection data to another phone or a computer via telephone communication network or Wi-Fi. According to NASA, it’s a “new technology that would bring compact, low-cost, low-power, high-speed nanosensor-based chemical sensing capabilities to cell phones,” which is another example of more advanced consumer

technology being re-appropriated to allow more complex functionality all around.

Source: <http://dvice.com/archives/2009/11/want-your-iphon.php>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *November 12, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Concerns raised over terrorism threat to nuclear plants.** While the U.S. government and the atomic energy industry are confident that the country's nuclear power plants are safe from any terrorist attack, critics caution that there are holes in those defenses, CNN reported November 12. "The protection level at nuclear power reactors is not anywhere near that required," said a Princeton University nuclear physicist. "The utilities are unwilling to spend the money and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is basically under the thumb of the utilities, is not willing to make them." The September 11 attacks increased fears that terrorists might try to initiate a nuclear meltdown by flying an airplane into a nuclear facility and crashing it against a reactor. A 1980s report by the U.S. Government's Argonne National Laboratory had highlighted the risks of such an event occurring. The U.S. Government plays down the likelihood of such an event. A terrorist would find it extremely hard to overcome airport security and hijack an airplane, avoid military fighter aircraft and hit a plant that is significantly smaller than the World Trade Center buildings or Pentagon, officials say. Nuclear power plants also have concrete reinforcements around their reactors, and an attack would not create an explosive-like detonation. It would take hours, possibly days, for a nuclear meltdown to occur. That is enough time, authorities say, to remove people from the surrounding area.

Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20091112_8681.php

7. *November 12, Monroe News* – (Michigan) **Fermi plant restarts after long shutdown.** DTE Energy's Fermi 2 nuclear power plant resumed generating electricity November 12 after workers repaired a leak on the cooling system of the plant's electrical generator. Workers began restarting the reactor Wednesday and it had reached power levels required to resume generating electricity by mid-morning today. Fermi 2 was shut down September 30 after operators noticed that a hydrogen gas leak into the generator's cooling system was worsening.

Source:

<http://www.monroenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091112/NEWS01/711129971/-1/NEWS>

8. *November 12, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Minn. regulators consider increase in nuclear power.** State regulators could decide Thursday whether Xcel Energy will be permitted to increase power and radioactive waste storage at the Prairie Island nuclear plant. The utility plans to spend \$600 million to upgrade the plant so it can handle higher pressure and temperatures that could add 164 megawatts to its output. Prairie Island currently generates about 1,000 megawatts, which is enough power for about one-fifth of Xcel's customers. Xcel is asking regulators for permission to store nuclear waste in 98 casks on a concrete pad next to the plant, on an island in the Mississippi

River. If the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approves, the proposal moves to state legislators for consideration.

Source: <http://kstp.com/news/stories/S1249192.shtml?cat=206>

9. *November 12, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **NRC: TVA nuclear plant has fire response problem.** The Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in north Alabama has a fire response problem that could lead to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) civil penalty. In a letter to TVA, the NRC said inspectors this year found that the plant near Athens, Alabama, potentially violated four safety standards, the Chattanooga Times Free Press reported Thursday. A TVA spokesman said the plant is working with regulators to address their concerns. He said TVA will "do the work necessary to implement the National Fire Protection Association standards at Browns Ferry." NRC officials said the deficiencies do not pose any immediate safety risk, since TVA has maintained fire watches and other compensatory measures in response to identified weaknesses. The NRC Regional Commissioner said inspectors found four potential problems at the plant where a 1975 fire damaged a reactor. "The inspection team identified potential violations associated with an inadequate fire response procedure, inadequate compensatory measures and inadequate emergency lighting," the Regional Commissioner said in a letter to TVA's top nuclear officials this week. Regulators developed those standards partly in response to a fire started by a candle two years after the Unit 1 reactor at Browns Ferry started operating. A NRC spokesman said details will be released in December and there could be a civil penalty. "These are not the kind of issues that would cause us to shut the plant down, but they are issues that TVA will have to address," he said.

Source: <http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20091112/APN/911121892>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *November 13, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **New glitch reported in Dreamliner.** Boeing Co. engineers discovered yet another structural problem with the 787 Dreamliner this summer as they raced to reinforce the plane's frame, the Wall Street Journal reported November 13. Engineers found that metals bolts had damaged composite materials in the wing of one of the six planes Boeing plans to use in flight tests and had recommended that the plane not fly until the problem is fixed. Delamination can greatly weaken a composite, essentially the super-hardened plastic that Boeing is using extensively in place of metal in the new plane. It is not known whether the corrosion has been found in other Dreamliners. The 787, which is nearly three years behind schedule, relies on composites to a greater extent than any other commercial jetliner. The space-age materials, which are stronger and lighter than metal, are designed to make the plane more fuel-efficient. However, Boeing has encountered problem after problem as it tries to get the best-selling jet into the air for the first time. Critics say Boeing was too ambitious with the Dreamliner: attempting broad changes in its design and manufacturing process.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-boeing-787-dreamliner-glitch-nov13,0,2113557.story>

For another story, see item [3](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *November 13, Nashua Telegraph* – (New Hampshire) **Warwick Mills to pay \$114,454 environmental penalty.** The Hillsborough County Superior Court, Southern District has approved a settlement between the State and Warwick Mills, Inc. (“Warwick Mills”) located in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, to resolve a civil enforcement action involving violations of the State’s air pollution and air toxics laws and Federal air pollution laws. In its lawsuit, the State alleged that Warwick Mills violated State air pollution and air toxics laws and Federal air pollution laws by failing to comply with air pollution control requirements relating to hazardous air pollutants (“HAPs”), specifically, toluene and volatile organic compounds (“VOCs”). Warwick Mills owns and operates a facility where it manufactures custom high performance composites. Beginning in January 2006, Warwick Mills’ manufacturing process included coating woven fabric and metal using various coating materials that contain HAPs and VOCs. In 2007, DES discovered during an inspection and review of information submitted by Warwick Mills that Warwick Mills exceeded emission limits in its permit, thereby triggering several state and federal requirements which require emission controls, emission limitations and stack testing. Warwick Mills thereafter modified its two boilers as a means to control VOC and HAP emissions. The settlement imposes a \$114,454 civil penalty on Warwick Mills, \$31,908 of which will be paid in cash to the State. Warwick Mills will also spend \$72,696 in the form of two supplemental environmental projects (“SEPs”).
Source: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/News/430744-196/warwick-mills-to-pay-114454-environmental-penalty.html>
12. *November 13, Associated Press* – (International) **Blasts rock Russian ammunition depot, 35 missing.** Explosions are rocking an ammunition depot in Russia, and a news agency quotes a regional governor as saying 35 people are missing. Television networks are broadcasting footage showing intermittent explosions sending flames and thick smoke into the sky over the military facility in the Ulyanovsk province, a few hundred miles (kilometers) east of Moscow. The provincial government says the blasts and fire have persisted hours after first erupting while ammunition was being destroyed at the arsenal. The Interfax news agency quotes the regional governor as saying 35 workers are missing, 10 people have been hospitalized and some 3,000 civilians have been evacuated from the area.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/national/1103ap_eu_russia_arms_blasts.html
13. *November 12, Aviation Week* – (International) **U.S. services cooperate to test answer to brownout.** With brownout landings and obstacle strikes accounting for almost as

many helicopter losses as hostile fire in Iraq and Afghanistan, flight tests of an integrated sensor and symbology system are being hailed as potential breakthroughs in improving safety. The 3D-LZ system developed jointly by the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and Army Aeroflight Dynamics Directorate (AFDD), with support from the Navy's CH-53 heavylift program office, was evaluated in full brownout conditions at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona in September. Results are still being analyzed, but four Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps pilots achieved a 77 percent success rate in 26 landing attempts in severe dust. Equally important, says a lieutenant colonel, 3D-LZ flight-test director, the laser radar and display symbology enabled pilots to identify an unsafe landing and execute a go-around. Rotorcraft survivability data released last month by the Defense Department shows brownout and obstacle strikes caused 48 combat nonhostile helicopter losses in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2001 and 2008, plus another 25 noncombat losses out of theater—37 percent and 28 percent, respectively, of the total losses in each category. As a result, improved awareness through obstacle detection and flight symbology is a priority.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/BROWN111209.xml&headline=U.S. Services Cooperate To Test Answer To Brownout&channel=defense](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/BROWN111209.xml&headline=U.S.%20Services%20Cooperate%20To%20Test%20Answer%20To%20Brownout&channel=defense)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

14. *November 1, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **State warns about credit card scam.** The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office is issuing a warning about scam artists who are trying to steal credit card numbers. Scammers are receiving text messages that alert users that their credit card has been deactivated and giving them a number to call to reactivate it. The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office said the message is coming from a scammer, not a bank.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/money/21602373/detail.html>

15. *November 13, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (National) **Digg Yahoo! Del.icio.us Facebook Reddit Drudge Google Fark logo Fark Stumble It! Prosecutors seek to seize properties tied to Iranian bank.** Federal authorities on Thursday moved to seize a wide array of U.S.-based properties, bank accounts and religious sites that they charge in court documents are funneling money to an Iranian bank involved in that country's alleged nuclear weapons program. Prosecutors sought the forfeiture of Islamic centers containing mosques and schools in California, Maryland, New York City and Houston, as well as 100 acres of land in Virginia. The U.S. attorney's office in New York stressed that "no action has been taken against any tenants or occupants of those properties." They also took steps to seize financial control of a 36-story office tower at 650 Fifth Avenue in Manhattan that they say is part of a business empire controlled by the Alavi Foundation, which it alleges has been illegally "providing numerous services to the Iranian Government," including a large amount of money. The properties and bank accounts being sought by the federal government in a civil lawsuit are worth more than \$500 million, and represent one of the largest attempted seizures of alleged assets

linked to Iran.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/nation/story/B604BCF842D6569F8625766D00178E50?OpenDocument>

16. *November 13, Agence France-Presse* – (New York) **FBI probes potential billion dollar Ponzi scheme.** The FBI is investigating a prominent Florida lawyer suspected of organizing a Ponzi scheme that may have defrauded investors of more than a billion dollars, the agency said. “I estimate that this scheme could well exceed one billion dollars,” the agent in charge of the FBI’s Miami office, said at a news conference here. In Ponzi schemes, investors typically are lured by an appearance of high returns to put money into a fund or some other investment. New money coming into the fund is used to sustain the returns until the scheme collapses of its own weight. The FBI and the Internal Revenue Service issued a statement asking investors in Rothstein Structured Settlement Investment or others with pertinent information to come forward in order to establish the scope of the fraud.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hLi4HmxOpZuyngISZ6KKD BL92l8w>

17. *November 13, IDG News Service* – (International) **Spam campaign targets payment transfer system.** A new spam campaign is targeting a financial transfer system that handles trillions of dollars in transactions annually and has proved to be a fertile target of late for online fraudsters. The spam messages pretend to come from the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA), a U.S. nonprofit association that oversees the Automated Clearing House system (ACH). ACH is a widely used but aging system used by financial institutions for exchanging details of direct deposits, checks and cash transfers made by businesses and individuals. In 2002, ACH was used for nearly 9 billion [b] transactions worth more than US \$24.4 trillion. Over the last few months, many businesses have lost money through ACH fraud, primarily when fraudsters obtain the authentication credentials required to transfer money. In many cases, significant portions of the fraudulent transfers are never recovered, and businesses are on the hook with their bank. NACHA has no direct involvement in the processing of the payments, but spammers have nonetheless launched a spam campaign with messages purporting to be from the organization saying that an ACH payment has been rejected. The spam messages have a link to a fake Web site that looks like NACHA’s. The site asks the victim to download a PDF file, but it is actually an executable. If launched, the executable will install Zbot, also known as Zeus, an advanced piece of banking malware that can harvest the authentication details required to initiate an ACH transaction, according to M86 Security. The spam campaign is coming from the Pushdo botnet, M86 said on its blog.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/111309-spam-campaign-targets-payment-transfer.html?hpgl=bn>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

18. *November 12, South Bend Tribune* – (Indiana) **Ruptured gas line causes major delays on US 33.** A major gas leak in Elkhart County closed all lanes of US 33 in both directions around Dunlap, Indiana, Thursday. The leak occurred when a construction crew hit a 6-inch natural gas line and it ruptured at the intersection of Main Street and Kulp Avenue just after 2 pm November 12. Fewer than 15 area homes were evacuated, police said. Northern Indiana Public Service Company was called to the scene to shut off the gas. By 6:30 p.m., the scene was all clear and traffic was able to flow as usual.
Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20091112/News01/911129944/1130>
19. *November 12, Minnesota Public Radio* – (Minnesota) **Plane lands safely at MSP without landing gear.** A private plane landed safely at the Twin Cities airport late Wednesday night without its landing gear, an airport spokesman said. The pilot and co-pilot on the King Air General Aviation plane notified air traffic controllers about the malfunctioning landing gear at about 11 p.m. as they approached the airport, a spokesman said. Firefighters were standing by in case the plane caught fire, but there was no fire and no one was injured when the plane landed on its belly, the spokesman said. Two runways at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport were shut down for about 4 hours because the plane was in the way, he said. The airport's other two runways remained open.
Source: http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2009/11/12/crash_landing/
20. *November 12, New Jersey Star Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Suspicious powder on NJ Transit train in Rahway was Ultra Slim-Fast.** Police said a suspicious powder found on an NJ Transit train that sparked a Hazmat investigation and snarled service through the morning of November 12 turned out to be the diet supplement, Ultra Slim-Fast. About 7:41 a.m., the train from New York to Long Branch was stopped in Rahway after the powdery substance was discovered, according to a NJ Transit spokesman. He said the diet supplement was on the floor of the sixth car of the train. Police locked down the station and took precautions as if responding to a hazardous chemical material. They quickly determined that the powder posed no harm, and no one complained of any health problems.
Source:
http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/11/suspicious_powder_found_on_nj.html

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *November 12, WOFL 35 Orlando* – (Florida) **Suspicious package at Ocala city hall.** A suspicious package was delivered to the City of Ocala's Utilities Customer Service office inside the City Hall building Thursday morning. The Ocala Fire and Police Departments responded to the scene and the building was evacuated. The

Marion County Sheriff's Bomb Squad along with the Marion County Fire Department's Special Operations unit were called in and Ocala Police blocked off six blocks until the situation was under control. Investigators say the Bomb Squads Radio Controlled Robot made entry into the office building along with a Bomb Technician and after they determined the contents of the box were not explosive, the box was removed from the building. The box was opened by Firefighters in protective and they found a new photo album and an old utility bill inside. No injuries were reported and the Ocala Utilities Office and the Ocala City Hall were reopened for business.

Source: http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/marion_alachua/111209-ocala-suspicious-package

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *November 13, USAgNet* – (National) **Pesticides in midwestern rivers has dropped.** Concentrations of several major pesticides mostly declined or stayed the same in Corn Belt rivers and streams from 1996 to 2006, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study. The declines in pesticide concentrations closely followed declines in their annual applications, indicating that reducing pesticide use is an effective and reliable strategy for reducing pesticide contamination in streams. Declines in concentrations of the agricultural herbicides cyanazine, alachlor and metolachlor show the effectiveness of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory actions as well as the influence of new pesticide products. In addition, declines from 2000 to 2006 in concentrations of the insecticide diazinon correspond to the EPA's national phase-out of nonagricultural uses. The USGS works closely with the EPA, which uses USGS findings on pesticide trends to track the effectiveness of changes in pesticide regulations and use. Scientists studied 11 herbicides and insecticides frequently detected in the Corn Belt region, which generally includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska and Ohio, as well as parts of adjoining states. This area has among the highest pesticide use in the nation - mostly herbicides used for weed control in corn and soybeans. As a result, these pesticides are widespread in the region's streams and rivers, largely resulting from runoff from cropland and urban areas. Elevated concentrations can affect aquatic organisms in streams as well as the quality of drinking water in some high-use areas where surface water is used for municipal supply.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=2368&yr=2009>

23. *November 12, Reuters* – (Mississippi) **Mississippi sees "catastrophic" crop losses.** Rain from Tropical Storm Ida further slowed the cotton, soybean and sweet potato harvest in Mississippi, where crop losses were devastating even before the storm hit, a state agriculture official said on Thursday. "We're seeing catastrophic losses," a spokesman for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, said in a phone interview. Ida swept in from the Gulf of Mexico into neighboring Alabama on Tuesday. Mississippi was spared a direct hit but still got an unwelcome soaking. "We got a few counties in east Mississippi that did get a lot of rain. Of course any more rain

at this point is not good in terms of crop harvest,” he said. At the start of the month, state economists estimated Mississippi’s crop losses at \$485 million. The southern U.S. state expected to lose two-thirds of its sweet potato crop, half its cotton and 44 percent of its soybeans. Spring rains delayed planting, while record rainfall in September and October cut yields and quality, the agriculture department said. Mississippi cotton growers traditionally harvest 95 percent of their crop by November 1 but this year the month started with only 14 percent harvested. “A lot of the cotton producers, before this last rain, were trying to get their crop out of the field at any cost but the quality is still not very good,” he said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE5AB4EK20091112>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

24. *November 13, Nashville Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Groups fight TVA plan to discharge water from Kingston plant into Clinch River.** Three environmental groups want the state to throw out a permit it just issued that would allow Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to dump water tainted with mercury, selenium, arsenic, and other chemicals from the Kingston coal-fired power plant into the Clinch River. The Clinch, which lies below the power plant, has already received ash moving down the Emory River from the massive ash spill last December. Earthjustice, Environmental Integrity Project, and the Sierra Club on Thursday filed an appeal of a water discharge permit that the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation issued four weeks ago. They say letting TVA pipe one million gallons of wastewater a day from a pond with gypsum into the river isn’t wise. The material will be a byproduct of the plant’s new air pollution system.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20091113/NEWS01/911130349/2066/NEWS03>

25. *November 13, The Columbia State* – (South Carolina) **DHEC measuring river contamination.** State environmental officials checked three sewer plants in the Columbia area after heavy rain caused spills Wednesday. The tests for fecal coliform will determine how badly the spills contaminated three major rivers. Measurements could be complete as soon as today, with more tests to follow if high levels of pollution are found. Wastewater samples were taken late Wednesday from plants the city of Columbia operates and private facilities run by Alpine Utilities and Bush River Utilities, officials said. The tests followed the placement of signs warning of bacterial pollution on stretches of the Broad, Congaree and lower Saluda rivers after remnants of Tropical Storm Ida soaked the area. Officials in Cayce, Chapin and Columbia - communities that run major local sewer plants - said their facilities handled triple the normal amounts of wastewater. That spurt created line breaks and other equipment failures, DHEC officials said. Nearly 17 million gallons of sewage went through Cayce’s plant Wednesday, officials aid.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/1025767.html>

26. *November 12, Jacksonville Daily News* – (North Carolina) **Rainfall causes sewer spills.** Rain from Tropical Storm Ida has caused overflows of the City of Jacksonville, North Carolina, wastewater system, according to city officials. According to a press release from the city, the wastewater treatment plant typically handles 4.95 million gallons per day but during the storm handled 18.5 million gallons per day. The pressure from the sewer lines also caused a manhole cover to be blown off between Bell Fork Road and Hargett Street. The cover was found 40 yards away from the manhole and city officials estimate that 2,000 gallons of wastewater flowed out of the manhole while the cover was off. There were also spills at the Henderson Drive lift station, where it is believed that at least 500 gallons of wastewater entered Mill Creek between 5 p.m. and midnight Wednesday and 3 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, according to the release.
Source: <http://www.jdnews.com/news/bodycopyrag-69823-gallons-city.html>
27. *November 12, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Contractor hits sewer line, causing leak in downtown Novato.** A contractor nicked a sewer line Thursday morning in downtown Novato, prompting a 6,000-gallon sewage leak that was contained by the early afternoon. The raw sewage was collected before it could enter a storm drain, officials said. The contractor struck the 27-inch line just south of the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Olive Street while checking ground water elevation as part of a sewer project. Traffic was being redirected on Railroad Avenue with traffic cones, but no lanes were closed. The manager of the Novato Sanitary District, said about 6,000 gallons of sewage had leaked from the main as of about 1 p.m. and it was being collected by vacuum trucks. The flow was shut off from a nearby pump station and raw sewage was diverted into a storage tank there.
Source: http://www.marinij.com/novato/ci_13772984
28. *November 12, National Geographic News* – (Washington) **Cocaine, spices, hormones found in drinking water.** A team of researchers in Washington State has found traces of cooking spices and flavorings in the waters of Puget Sound. A University of Washington associate professor heads the Sound Citizen program, which investigates how what we do on land affects our waters. He and his team have tracked “pulses” of food ingredients that enter the sound during certain holidays. For instance, thyme and sage spike during Thanksgiving, cinnamon surges all winter, chocolate and vanilla show up during weekends (presumably from party-related goodies), and waffle-cone and caramel-corn remnants skyrocket around the Fourth of July. The Puget Sound study is one of several ongoing efforts to investigate the unexpected ingredients that find their way into the global water supply. Around the world, scientists are finding trace amounts of substances — from sugar and spice to heroine, rocket fuel, and birth control — that might be having unintended consequences for humans and wildlife alike.
Source: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/11/091112-drinking-water-cocaine.html>

For another story, see item [22](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *November 12, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Slow-moving fire causes lockdown at LDS Hospital.** A smoky fire put LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, into a lockdown situation Thursday evening. Firefighters had been called out earlier in the day but could not find a fire. Then they were called back around 5 p.m. with more reports of smoke. The hospital went into a lockdown — which means anyone could leave, but no one could go in. A contractor was working on the ninth floor and was cutting through five inches of concrete. He used a cutting torch to get through some rebar and caught some insulation on fire. There were no evacuations, and a spokesman for LDS Hospital says patients were never in any danger.
Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=8652005>
30. *November 12, WCAX 3 Burlington* – (Vermont) **Man accused of grabbing deputy's gun arraigned.** A man who was taken to Porter Hospital in Middlebury, Vermont after he complained of respiratory problems Monday while he was in court for domestic assault and fish and game violations, grabbed for a deputy's gun when he dropped it in the ER. The officer and a bystander were able to subdue the man and grab the gun. While the man was on the loose the hospital went into lockdown to keep everyone inside safe.
Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=11496218>
31. *November 12, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **Calif. sees major H1N1 vaccine shortage.** Twenty-two-million Americans have gotten sick from the Swine Flu since April, and 4,000 have died. And production of the Swine Flu vaccine is not meeting the demand. California state health officials have declared a state of emergency due to the delay in getting the vaccine. The death toll is significantly up because the causes of death for many people were originally attributed to illnesses like pneumonia, but they were actually brought on by H1N1 influenza, so they are now being counted as H1N1 casualties. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expressed disappointment that so few vaccines were shipped this week: 3 million versus 11 million last week. The CDC now estimates some 8 million children have come down with H1N1 influenza during the past six months, and as many as 800 have died. Those numbers are particularly troubling because the traditional flu season has just begun. That makes vaccination all the more urgent. In California, shipments are still behind schedule because of production delays by manufacturers. More than 6 million doses are supposed to be here by now, but only 4.5 million have shown up. Supplies might improve: Some manufacturers have decided to cut back production of seasonal flu vaccine in order to produce more of the H1N1 vaccine.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/state&id=7115928>

For another story, see item [1](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

32. *November 13, Washinton Post* – (International) **Man from West African nation attacks employees at country's embassy.** A 31-year-old man from the West African nation of Togo attacked employees of the country's Washington embassy with a knife Thursday, injuring three people, the U.S. Secret Service said. The assailant, who has been identified by authorities, has been living in the United States, walked into the embassy in the 2200 block of Massachusetts Avenue NW just after 11:30 a.m. and said he wanted information on how to immigrate back to Togo, said a Secret Service spokesman. He said the suspect "became agitated" while speaking with embassy workers, then pulled out a knife and attacked them. By the time other employees subdued him, three workers and the assailant had suffered injuries, a Secret Service spokesman said. "I have no indication that any of [the wounds] are life-threatening," the Agent said. He said the workers and the suspect were taken to George Washington University Hospital. The Secret Service charged the suspect with one count of aggravated assault and probably will file additional charges as an investigation of the attack progresses, the Agent said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/12/AR2009111209015.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

33. *November 13, Fire Fighting News* – (Massachusetts) **Boston Fire Department - We didn't block feds in firefighter probe.** Suffolk prosecutors and Boston Fire Department brass yesterday strongly refuted findings in a federal report, saying they never blocked requests from safety investigators to hand over toxicology reports involving two firefighters who died in a 2007 fire. In its November 9 report, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) sidestepped the issue of whether alcohol and drug use played a role in the deaths of two firefighters, who perished battling a blaze inside a restaurant in West Roxbury on August. 29, 2007. NIOSH, a branch of the Centers for Disease Control which investigates fatal fires, cited the department's "insufficient tactics and training" and "ineffective incident management" as contributing factors in the deaths. While it acknowledged "there have been media reports of alleged substance abuse" by both victims, the federal auditors said, "NIOSH repeatedly requested a copy of autopsy reports through the fire department, district attorney's office, and representatives of both families, but did not receive any toxicology reports."

Source: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=72702>

34. *November 12, Salisbury Daily Times* – (Maryland; Virginia) **Delaware loses power; Maryland sections flood; Virginia in state of emergency.** A drenching, wind-driven rain lashed much of the Atlantic seaboard Thursday, flooding streets, closing schools, roads and bridges and causing at least five deaths. In Maryland on Thursday evening, the governor ordered the partial activation of the state's emergency operations center. The director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, said late Thursday that the agency was monitoring Ocean City, St. Mary's County and southern Maryland, but

no one had requested resources yet.

Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20091112/NEWS01/91112005/-1/newsfront2/Delaware-loses-power-Maryland-sections-flood-Virginia-in-state-of-emergency>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

35. *November 12, ComputerWorld* – (International) **Flash flaw puts most sites, users at risk, say researchers.** Hackers can exploit a flaw in Adobe's Flash to compromise nearly every Web site that allows users to upload content, including Google's Gmail, then launch silent attacks on visitors to those sites, security researchers said on November 12. Adobe did not dispute the researchers' claims, but said that Web designers and administrators have a responsibility to craft their applications and sites to prevent such attacks. The problem lies in the Flash ActionScript same-origin policy, which is designed to limit a Flash object's access to other content only from the domain it originated from, added a senior security researcher at Foreground. Unfortunately, said the researcher, if an attacker can deposit a malicious Flash object on a Web site — through its user-generated content capabilities, which typically allow people to upload files to the site or service — they can execute malicious scripts in the context of that domain. "This is a frighteningly bad thing," the researcher said. "How many Web sites allow users to upload files of some sort? How many of those sites serve files back to users from the same domain as the rest of the application? Nearly every one of them is vulnerable."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9140768/Flash_flaw_puts_most_sites_users_at_risk_say_researchers

36. *November 12, SCMagazine* – (International) **Study finds 64 percent of websites contain serious flaws.** While a number of trusted sources continually decry the vulnerabilities present in web applications, this vector remains the primary avenue of attack for cybercriminals, according to a WhiteHat Website Security Statistics Report released on November 12. Despite metrics that substantiate the claims and any number of security best practices recommendations, many organizations, particularly those building custom web applications, are at risk, says the report, which measured data collected from January 1, 2006 to October 1, 2009, across more than 1,300 websites. The problem is exacerbated because it is not possible to patch against custom web application software, such as that used by big e-commerce sites, the founder and CTO of WhiteHat, told SCMagazineUS.com. And that, he said, includes the vast majority of sites. The amount of time it takes to repair a vulnerability once discovered is also an issue for those charged with maintaining network security. According to the WhiteHat report: "The time to fix should be as short as possible because an open vulnerability represents an opportunity for hackers to exploit the website, but no remedy is instantaneous." But, the good news is that more organizations are repairing the technical issues associated with these threats.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Study-finds-64-percent-of-websites-contain-serious-flaws/article/157655/>

37. *November 12, ComputerWorld* – (International) **Apple issues week's second patch set, fixes 7 Safari flaws.** Apple on November 11 issued its second security update in three days, patching seven vulnerabilities in Safari, including one in the Windows version that the company fixed two months ago for most Mac users. But unlike the operating system security update issued on November 9, which did not deliver patches for Mac OS X 10.4, aka Tiger, the November 11 upgrade applies to users running Safari on that 2005 operating system. Apple traditionally stops providing security updates for its oldest still-supported OS several months after the release of a new edition, but apparently will continue supporting Safari on Tiger. Of the seven holes that Safari 4.0.4 plugs, six apply to the little-used Windows version of the browser, six affect Tiger, but just three impact Mac OS X 10.5 and 10.6, Leopard and Snow Leopard, respectively. Only two of the vulnerabilities were accompanied by Apple's "may result in arbitrary code execution" phrasing, its way of noting that the bugs are serious and if exploited, could let attackers hijack a machine. Both of those critical vulnerabilities affect the Windows edition of Safari only.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/111209-apple-issues-weeks-second-patch.html?hpg1=bn>

38. *November 11, Info World* – (National) **Hackers will exploit Windows kernel bug.** Hackers will quickly jump on one of the 15 vulnerabilities Microsoft patched Tuesday to build attack code that infects Internet Explorer users, security researchers agreed today. The bug, which Microsoft patched as part of a record-tying security update for the month of November, is in the Windows kernel, the heart of the operating system. The kernel improperly parses EOT (Embedded OpenType) fonts, a compact form of fonts designed for use on Web pages that can also be used in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents. Microsoft rated the flaw as "critical," its highest threat rating, and gave the bug an exploitability ranking of "1," which means it expects a working exploit to appear in the next 30 days.

Source: <http://www.infoworld.com/d/security-central/hackers-will-exploit-windows-kernel-bug-972>

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/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

39. *November 12, IDG News Services* – (National) **Telecom experts worry about Net neutrality rules.** Net neutrality rules proposed by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) could slow down improvements to the nation’s broadband networks, some telecom experts said Thursday. But others speaking at an Institute for Policy Innovation (IPI) forum in Washington, D.C., said they believed the FCC could find the right balance between protecting broadband consumers and allowing new telecom business models, while allowing broadband providers to manage their networks against congestion, malware and illegally shared copyright materials. The proposed rules would prohibit broadband providers from selectively blocking or slowing legal Web content and services, while allowing them to engage in “reasonable” network management. Some speakers at the event worried about how the FCC will define reasonable network management, with no definition in a notice of proposed rulemaking released by the FCC in October. With new rules potentially on the way, broadband providers may be reluctant to invest new money in their networks, added the co-chairman of Arts+Labs, an Internet content advocacy group.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9140773/Telecom_experts_worry_about_Net_neutrality_rules

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

40. *November 13, Associated Press* – (National) **Environmentalists say climate change threatens 25 national parks.** The Natural Resources Defense Council and the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization say 25 national parks are threatened by climate change. A report called “National Parks in Peril: The Threats of Climate Disruption” say the changes in landscapes and ecosystems are harming plants, trees and wildlife, but also threaten human activity in the parks and manmade structures. The factors include a loss of ice and snow, including melting glaciers; a loss of water, especially in the West; and higher seas and stronger coastal storms, which leads to flooding in coastal areas. The parks on the list are Acadia National Park, Maine; Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia; Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico; Biscayne National Park, Florida; Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina; Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia; Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska; Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida; Ellis Island National Monument, New York Harbor; Everglades National Park, Florida; Glacier National Park, Montana; Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee; Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana; Joshua Tree National Park, California; Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada; Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado; Mount Rainier National Park,

Washington; Padre Island National Seashore, Texas; Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado; Saguaro National Park, Arizona; Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota; Virgin Islands National Park, U.S. Virgin Islands; Coral Reef National Monument, U.S. Virgin Islands; Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming; Yosemite National Park, California; and Zion National Park, Utah.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09317/1004260-37.stm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

41. *November 13, Index Journal* – (South Carolina) **Buzzard Roost Dam to open tonight to alleviate lake flooding.** The flood gates at Buzzard Roost Dam will be opened tonight to let out some of the water that has come into the lake during the rain of the last several days. The Greenwood County Public Safety Director said the flood gates will be opened sometime between 6 and 8 p.m. to let water through. He said this will be the first time the flood gates have been opened for this purpose since March 11, 2007. He said the operation will cause water levels to rise downstream; however, he emphasized that there is no danger involved in this opening of the flood gates.
Source: <http://www.indexjournal.com/articles/2009/11/12/news/b1113floodgates.txt>

42. *November 13, Southern Oregon Mail Tribune* – (Oregon) **Forgotten dam could pose hazard to boaters, fish.** The removal of Savage Rapids Dam from the Rogue River has unearthed what appears to be an old temporary construction dam from 1921, creating the possibility of a new navigational and fish-passage barrier there. About 150 feet upstream of the former dam site, the timber and rock structure lay beneath nearly 10 feet of sediment that has scoured away since the Rogue began flowing freely past the dam site on October 9, authorities said. The structure, which now sits just beneath the surface, is about 10 feet thick “and we don’t know how wide it is yet,” said the federal Bureau of Reclamation’s manager of the \$39.3 million project. The structure appears now to be a hazard to boaters, and it could turn into a barrier for salmon and steelhead passage as it scours, he said.
Source:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091113/NEWS/911130322>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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