Top Stories

- The Associated Press reports that the explosion at the Imperium Grays Harbor biodiesel plant near Aberdeen, Washington apparently started when a tank used to mix glycerin and sulfuric acid became overpressurized. About 500 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked out the tank, but state officials say air quality in nearby neighborhoods is safe. (See item 1)
- According to Reuters, the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team has identified flaws in equipment from four companies that hackers can exploit to break into corporate computer networks. The warning applies to certain networking products from Cisco Systems Inc, Juniper Networks Inc, SonicWall Inc, and SafeNet Inc. (See item 34)

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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]

started when a tank used to mix glycerin and sulfuric acid became overpressurized. A spokesman for Imperium Grays Harbor near Aberdeen says he does not know why the tank was overpressurized and why it exploded Wednesday afternoon. He told the Daily World newspaper that glycerin is not an explosive substance and the sulfuric acid makes it less, not more, volatile. In the explosion, a large piece of the tank blew about 100 feet, crashing through a chain link security fence. No one was injured, and he says the biodiesel tank is intact. Officials estimate that about 500 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked out the tank at the time of the explosion. But state officials say air quality in nearby neighborhoods is safe.


2. December 3, Brazoria County Facts – (Illinois) **Freeport LNG says leak posed no danger.** A small amount of methane gas escaped from a pipeline at Freeport LNG on Wednesday, but company officials say crews stopped the leak minutes after it occurred and the public was not at risk. The Freeport LNG Terminal Manager and Environmental Manager spoke with local officials by phone about 30 minutes after the leak occurred, the Freeport LNG said. Also, the company posted information on the Brazosport Industrial Community Awareness and Emergency Response telephone line about the same time. Quintana officials did not hear about the release from Freeport LNG officials for more than an hour, and the emergency horns did not go off, a town councilman said. The uncertainty almost led the town to call for a full-scale evacuation. The methane gas began leaking about 10:30 a.m. while crews were doing annual preventative maintenance on more than 100 safety release valves within the island terminal, Freeport LNG officials said. A safety release valve connected to the pipeline got stuck open for about eight minutes, allowing methane within a 400-foot section of the pipeline to release. The fact it got stuck open indicated a spring used to keep the valve closed needs to be replaced, a spokesman said. “It did make a lot of noise, but that’s why we test them,” he said. “Now we will go back in and perform maintenance on it. Our employees were never in danger and, certainly, the public was never in danger.”

Source: http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=38f4178b2be0d830

3. December 2, Anchorage Daily News – (Alaska) **Crews cleaning Prudhoe Bay oil spill estimated at 3/4 acre.** Cleanup efforts continued December 1 on a three-quarter-acre area of tundra affected by a spill of oil and water near BP’s Lisburne Processing Center on the North Slope. More than half of the affected area was coated by a sprayed mist from an 18-inch flow line, a pipeline that carries raw oil, water and gas to the center for separation, according to officials with BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., the company that runs most North Slope oil fields. Late December 1 it remained unclear how much oil had spilled or why the pipeline leaked. The new spill was discovered the afternoon of November 29. Cleanup of contaminated snow began late on November 30, with 12 workers removing 40 cubic yards of contaminated snow with hand tools, according to officials involved in the cleanup. Crews had not yet begun clearing the more heavily affected remainder of the spill area nearest the pipe, which will first require building an
ice pad to support them and their equipment. Concern about ice blockages in the line, which can build pressure inside, have prompted officials to establish a 10-foot safety zone around the pipe. Until they get a closer look, officials will not know what caused the leak, a BP Alaska spokesman said. The pipeline was not in operation when the leak was discovered, though product remained inside, he said. Production suffered a slight dip on November 29 but was back up on November 30 as a parallel line made up the difference, he said. The cause of the spill remained under investigation.

4. December 2, Associated Press – (Washington) Smoke over UW caused by faulty power plant switch. University of Washington officials say a cloud of black smoke over the Seattle campus was caused by a faulty power plant switch. A university spokesman says the plant alternates between oil and natural gas. When the fuel was switched to oil on Wednesday morning, there was too much oil in the area of the burner and that caused a cloud of smoke to go up the chimney. He says the plant has been switched back over to natural gas, repairs are underway, and no damage or injuries were caused by the problem.

5. December 2, Associated Press – (Wyoming) Sinclair refinery releases more chemicals. Authorities are investigating more spills and releases of chemicals at a refinery in Sinclair. A spokesman of Sinclair Wyoming Refining Co. says 2,300 gallons of isobutane spilled Monday morning, prompting the evacuation of refinery employees and contract workers. The spill followed a release of an estimated 309 pounds of hydrogen sulfide at the refinery earlier Monday because of a malfunction in equipment. The Carbon County Emergency Management coordinator says town residents were not endangered by either incident. He says the isobutane release was caused by a crack in a line and workers are trying to determine why the line failed. The same refinery was plagued by other releases and spills, including 2 million gallons of gasoline-grade material.

6. December 1, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City – (Oklahoma) Gunman renders Okarche powerless. Police are looking for the gunman who opened fire on a power substation in Okarche, causing a power outage. Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) officials said vandals shot at their substation, causing its failure. Not only did the incident cause concern among residents in the Oklahoma town, it cost businesses money. A resident said he heard the gunshots the morning of November 29. The substation did not fail until more than a day later, OG&E officials said. Crews brought in a portable substation, but it took 12 hours to get the power back on. The transformer will have to be replaced because of the vandals, officials said. OG&E said it will take a little while to get the parts to fix the transformer. In the interim, the portable substation will keep the lights on for Okarche. The Kingfisher County Sheriff’s Department is investigating. OG&E officials said they will pursue legal action against the culprit.
For another story, see item 21

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. December 2, Advocate – (Louisiana) Intracoastal Canal bridge now open. In Port Allen, the southbound lanes of La. 1 on the Intracoastal Canal Bridge have been reopened to traffic. The lanes were closed earlier today after a dump truck carrying a load of “lime slurry” accidentally dumped its cargo on the bridge around 2:30 p.m. this afternoon, a local Fire Chief said. The lime slurry, or lime mixed with water, does not pose a chemical hazard risk, the fire chief said; however, the substance is too slick for vehicles to drive over safely, he said.

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. December 3, Ocala Star Banner – (Florida) Utility investigates crack in containment wall at nuclear plant. Progress Energy continues to investigate what caused a 2-inch wide and at least 30-foot-long crack in the containment wall of its Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant. It expects to have answers within the next few weeks. Once the cause is determined, the utility will decide how it will repair the containment wall, said a Progress Energy spokeswoman. The containment facility ensures that radiation does not escape in the event of a radioactive leak or accident within the reactor. Also unknown is how much it will cost to repair the crack, which is about 9 inches deep inside the 42-inch-thick wall. The spokeswoman said the repairs would not cause customers’ rates to increase, at least not in the short term. That could change when the cost of the repairs becomes evident, though.
Source: http://www.ocala.com/article/20091203/ARTICLES/912031004/1402/NEWS

9. December 3, Clarksville Leaf Chronicle – (National) Foreign nuclear waste ban passes House. Legislation authored by a U.S. Representative to ban the importation of foreign low-level nuclear waste was approved overwhelmingly by the House on December 2. The bill passed 309-112 under an expedited method that requires approval by at least two-thirds of House members present. The Representative introduced the bill after EnergySolutions Inc. applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to import 20,000 tons of radioactive waste from Italian nuclear facilities for processing at a company facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and storage at a company site in Utah. The Murfreesboro Democrat and other proponents argued the ban is needed because the Clive, Utah, storage facility is the only one serving 37 states and putting nuclear waste there could cause a storage problem. Opponents of the ban say it is unnecessary because federal agencies do not foresee running out of space for low-level nuclear waste in the near future.
Source: http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20091203/NEWS01/91202020
Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. December 2, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – (National) **BRP recalls All Terrain Vehicles due to loss of steering control.** The following product safety recall was voluntarily conducted by BRP U.S. Inc. in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The recall involves about 2,400 Model Year 2010 Can-Am Outlander and Renegade ATVs. Consumers should stop using the product immediately unless otherwise instructed. The dynamic power steering can fail, resulting in the sudden loss of steering control. This poses a risk of injury or death to riders. The firm has received one incident report with no injury no material damages. Consumers should immediately stop using these vehicles and contact any Can-Am dealer to schedule a free repair. Consumers are being sent a direct notice from BRP. Source: [http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10708.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10708.html)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. December 3, Aviation Week – (National) **A400M taxi trials set to resume.** Airbus Military said December 2 that it would resume a series of A400M taxi trials after introducing systems refinements in the run-up to the planned first flight in the second half of next week. Ground tests since the military airlifter was handed over to the flight-test department November 12 identified several areas where enhancements have to be made in the engines, braking system, and other areas of the aircraft. Those issues notwithstanding, the chief test pilot will be at the controls of the first flight aircraft. Preparations have been ahead of expectations, he said. Taxi tests planned for December 3 aim to validate a software upgrade to the anti-skid braking system, which during early tests showed poor characteristics. Early trials also led to the tachometer reading being lost on some of the wheels because of a connector failure. Other issues have crept up, including nacelle heating. On the ground, the heat buildup is higher than anticipated — something already seen on the C-130 flying test bed. As a fix, engineers have figured out they can take some air off the high-pressure compressor for a nacelle ejector system to provide better ventilation at low power. The exhaust gasses are also overheating aft parts of the nacelle in some conditions. As an interim step, Airbus is adding insulation and metal plate protection, with a more permanent fix planned for the third flight-test aircraft. Tweaks are also being made to the engine settings. For now, high reverse power is limited to inboard engines. The ground idle position may change for a better neutral thrust position. However, the issue will not affect first-flight plans. Overall, the engines have shown “good response,” the chief test pilot notes. Source: [http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/A400M120309.xml&headline=A400M Taxi Trials Set To Resume&channel=defense](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/A400M120309.xml&headline=A400M Taxi Trials Set To Resume&channel=defense)
12. *December 2, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Marine Corps chooses H&K to make SAW replacement.** The U.S. Marine Corps has selected the infantry automatic rifle (IAR) made by Heckler & Koch (H&K) as the weapon that will replace the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) in infantry fire teams, a senior service official told Marine Corps Times on Wednesday. The H&K IAR “was truly the best in the class on multiple levels and will finally allow the billet of automatic rifleman to be performed as intended without the disruption of the squad integrity that the M249 created,” the Corps’ senior gunner said in an e-mail. Like the SAW, each IAR finalist is built for 5.56mm ammunition. Unlike the SAW, they are not designed to operate with a 200-round drum, a point of contention for some U.S. Marines concerned about a loss of firepower. The IAR is designed to use the same 30-round magazine used with the M16, although industry, including FN Herstal, is also developing high-capacity 5.56mm magazines for the weapon that could hold 100 or 150 rounds. The H&K IAR is the lightest of the four weapons the U.S. Marine Corps tested this summer, after selecting finalists for the competition in December 2008. It weighs 7.9 pounds empty, with a barrel length of 16.5 inches and a collapsible stock that extends from 33 to 36.9 inches, company officials have said. It has a gas-operated system and fires from the closed-bolt position.


### Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report

### Transportation Sector

13. *December 3, Lakeland Ledger* – (Florida) **DOT will install new traffic system.** The city of Winter Haven and the Florida Department of Transportation are joining together to make the city’s road system safer and more efficient. The Transportation Department is poised to begin construction of an Advanced Traffic Management System within Winter Haven. Winter Haven’s streets and cemeteries supervisor said the city fronted the $4.1 million for the project. The Transportation Department is overseeing the construction and will reimburse the cost to the city. The project consists of designing and installing a traffic control system for signalized intersections and Intelligent Transportation System devices, including 15 closed circuit TVs and 17 Vehicle Detection Systems throughout the city. Forty-four intersections will be controlled by the Automated Traffic Management System with approximately 12 miles of fiber-optic cable installed underground. In addition, traffic signals at two intersections on First Street — one by Winter Haven Hospital and the other near the Winter Haven Police Department — will be upgraded from span wire cables to mast arm poles. A Traffic Management Center will be built at the Winter Haven Police Department on Lake Silver Drive. The center, which will be staffed by city workers, will be able to monitor...
live traffic conditions at these 44 intersections, allowing adjustments to be made when unexpected occurrences cause a delay in traffic.  

14. December 2, Associated Press – (Colorado) FAA reviews ‘operational error’ in Colorado airspace. A commercial plane turning too late breached the amount of space it was supposed to keep between two other planes in an incident in late November, a federal aviation official said Wednesday. The plane was following an air traffic controller’s directions when it turned near Denver International Airport and lost the required distance between two planes simultaneously, said a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Planes at high altitudes are supposed to keep 5 miles of horizontal distance and 1,000 feet of vertical space between them, he said. He said the controller had given correct directions to the pilot, but the pilot had flown past the point where the plane could have followed those directions and instead made a late turn. The spokesman classified it as an “operational error” rather than a near-midair collision, saying none of the pilots or the air traffic controller reported it as such. Alarms sounded in at least one of the cockpits telling the pilots to take evasive action and in the Denver Air Route Traffic Control Center, he told a Denver TV station. 
Source:  http://cbs4denver.com/local/FAA.investigating.mistake.2.1346758.html

For more stories, see items 2, 3, 7, and 29

Postal and Shipping Sector

15. December 2, Des Moines Register – (Iowa) Powder in mailbox was from fire extinguisher. A Des Moines hazardous materials team was called out Tuesday night to investigate a white power on the mail at the home of a resident. Police said the powder was all over the mail. The homeowner’s 10-year-old son brought in the mail on Tuesday afternoon and it made him sneeze. After seeing all the powder, the father went to the mailbox and found a lot more of it inside. It was tested and determined to be from a fire extinguisher. Police said they do not know who set off the fire extinguisher in the mailbox, and no witnesses had been located.
Source:  http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091202/NEWS/91202006/-1/BUSINESS04/Powder-in-mailbox-was-from-fire-extinguisher-

Agriculture and Food Sector

16. December 3, St. Louis Post-Dispatch – (Missouri) Missouri-based cattle giant asked to cease organic operations. One of the largest organic cattle producers in the country has been suspended for four years from selling organic dairy cows after failing to demonstrate that it was following federal organic standards. Promiseland Livestock
LLC, based in Falcon, Missouri 160 miles sells thousands of dairy cows to large dairies that produce organic milk, including the nation’s largest, Horizon Organic, and others that produce private-label organic milk for several chains, including Target, Wal-Mart and Schnucks. Promiseland, which has primary operations in Missouri and Nebraska, and its owner repeatedly refused to provide access to records that would show compliance with organic rules, according to court records. “The law is very clear,” said the head of the Wisconsin-based Cornucopia Institute, a watchdog group that filed complaints leading to the investigation. “You have to cough up the records and he refused.” The decision, issued by a federal administrative law judge in Washington last week, was applauded by organic advocates, who have long suspected that large-scale dairy operations are skirting federal organic rules. It is the second suspension in the organic dairy industry since the rules governing organic foods took effect in 2002.


17. **December 3, Washington University in St. Louis** – (Missouri) **Complete genome of corn sequenced by WUSTL scientists.** A team of scientists led by The Genome Center at the Washington University in St. Louis’ School of Medicine published the completed corn genome in the November 20 journal Science, an accomplishment that will speed efforts to develop better crop varieties to meet the world’s growing demands for food, livestock feed and fuel. “Now they’ll know exactly where those genes are. Having the complete genome in hand will make it easier to breed new varieties of corn that produce higher yields or are more tolerant to extreme heat, drought or other conditions,” said the Genome’s Center director.


18. **December 2, USAgNet** – (International) **China lifts import ban on U.S., Canada, Mexico pork.** China has lifted its bans on imports of pork products from the United States, Canada and Mexico, its quarantine bureau said on Tuesday, but analysts said the move would not likely lead to a surge of new imports. Earlier in the year, China banned imports from the three countries on worries of outbreaks of H1N1 flu, reports Reuters News Service. After assessment of risks, the bans were lifted, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a notice on its website. The lifting of the ban had been expected earlier by officials in the United States, the largest pork exporter, which exported $560 million to China in 2008.


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**Water Sector**

19. **December 2, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** – (Pennsylvania; West Virginia) **Feds: Mine discharges led to algae that killed creek life.** A new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report blames a September bloom of toxic golden algae for wiping out almost all fish, mussels, salamanders and aquatic life on 43 miles of Dunkard Creek
along the Pennsylvania-West Virginia border. The 17-page interim report released on December 2 also said mine treatment discharges high in total dissolved solids created the water conditions that allowed the algae, normally found in brackish waters in Southern and Southwestern states, to thrive and bloom. The EPA also confirmed that its recent stream survey found golden algae on Whiteley Creek, the watershed just north of Dunkard Creek in Greene County. No fish kills have been reported on Whiteley Creek, which also has high concentrations of total dissolved solids or TDS. The survey found no golden algae in 10 other streams or the Monongahela River. Although the EPA report confirms an earlier finding by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection that blamed the algae, it offers no explanation of how the algae got in the creek and said it will be almost impossible to remove. The only way to control its growth and toxicity and foster stream restoration, the study said, is to reduce mine drainage containing high TDS. A preliminary estimate by the Greene County Conservation District put the cost of restoring the creek at $30 million.

Source: http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09336/1017801-455.stm

20. December 1, Globe Gazette – (Iowa) Chemicals in waterways untracked, unchecked. Growing awareness of pharmaceuticals in Iowa waterways has eclipsed a broader problem of chemicals from consumer products that are untracked and unchecked, a new report said. The Iowa Policy Project report released Tuesday said federal and state regulations do not require regulators to monitor many chemicals that show up in water supplies including fragrances in soaps, chemicals in antimicrobial compounds, and active ingredients in insect repellents. The group of contaminants are broadly referred to as “organic wastewater contaminants.” A common attribute is that current law does not require public or private water companies to remove them, the report author said. “Neither are there processes that target these chemical compounds for removal or do a very good job of removing them,” he added. He said the concern about pharmaceuticals showing up in drinking water in trace quantities have prompted a growing public awareness of the need to dispose of unneeded pharmaceuticals properly. But changing disposal methods will not solve the problem of other organic waste contaminants, because most of them get into the wastewater stream through intended uses such as bathing and laundering, and because wastewater treatment systems generally are not able to remove them. One recent study by University of Iowa scientists found low concentrations of two synthetic fragrance compounds known as AHTN and HHCB in both the Iowa River and in the University of Iowa’s drinking water. The report cited several problems with the lack of federal regulation of organic wastewater contaminants. While the manufacturers test the safety of these chemicals for their intended product use, they are not required to test their effects inside the human body, including whether they can become concentrated in human tissue through drinking water.


21. December 1, Los Angeles Times – (National) Ethanol, biodiesel linked to water pollution. Growing U.S. production of biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel could
increase water pollution, a government report warned this week. Ethanol refineries discharge chemicals and salts that can contaminate drinking water and endanger fish and other aquatic life, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released Monday. Biodiesel refineries release pollutants such as glycerin, which disrupts the microbial cleaning processes used in wastewater treatment, the report noted. Storage of ethanol is also a concern. “Ethanol is highly corrosive and there is potential for releases into the environment that could contaminate groundwater and surface water,” the GAO said. The U.S. government is encouraging increased biofuel use to reduce dependence on imported oil, mandating that ethanol’s share of vehicle fuel content grow to 15 billion gallons, or an estimated 10 percent of all fuel sold by 2015. Total use of biofuels could grow to as much as 20 percent by 2022 as mandates kick in for the use for “advanced” biofuels, including those made from algae, grasses and nonedible plant material. The GAO warned that biofuels developed from corn, such as ethanol, have a particularly significant impact on water quality because corn requires heavy use of irrigated water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Fertilizer runoff can lead to aquatic “dead zones,” sometimes even hundreds of miles from the farm, the report said. Using perennial grasses rather than corn to produce biofuels would help limit water pollution, the report said. Such grasses require less water and fertilizer and help protect soil from erosion.


Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. December 3, Reuters – (International) Tamiflu-resistant flu not spreading more widely: WHO. Tamiflu-resistant H1N1 viruses have not spread to hospital staff or beyond despite spreading among two clusters of patients in Britain and the United States, the World Health Organization (WHO) said. Investigations to date showed that the resistant-form of swine flu was not transmitted outside of two hospital wards in Wales and North Carolina where they emerged in October and November, the WHO said in statement. A total of a dozen patients, all with severely suppressed immune systems due to underlying medical conditions, were infected with H1N1 viruses resistant to oseltamivir, the generic name for Roche’s Tamiflu. “Transmission of resistant virus from one patient to another is suspected in both outbreaks,” the WHO said. “No illness in staff caring for these patients has been detected, suggesting that the resistant virus does not spread easily to otherwise healthy people, especially when good measures for infection control are in place.”

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=9236206

23. December 3, Associated Press – (National) Maryland reports first drug resistant H1N1 cases. Maryland health officials are reporting the state’s first two known cases of swine flu resistance to Tamiflu. Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore announced Wednesday that the two patients were treated there and have been discharged. The hospital says the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Maryland
health officials confirmed the patients had a drug-resistant form of the virus. Last month, health officials in North Carolina announced four patients at one hospital tested positive for Tamiflu-resistant swine flu, the biggest cluster seen in the United States. Tamiflu is one of two common swine flu treatments, and health officials have been watching for signs of resistance to the drugs. More than 50 resistant cases have been reported since April, including 21 in the United States.
Source: [http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,579033,00.html](http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,579033,00.html)

24. **December 3, Teamsters Local Union 929 – (Pennsylvania)** Philadelphia Red Cross blood workers strike to protect donor and blood safety. Teamsters who work at American Red Cross (ARC) Blood Services facilities in Philadelphia went on strike Thursday morning to protest unfair labor practices and problems with working conditions at these facilities that could imperil the safety of donors and the integrity of the blood supply. The problems outlined in a recent investigative report published by Jobs with Justice include lengthy hours of service for frontline blood workers that sometimes exceed reasonable limits and that the workers themselves say can lead to fatigue and mistakes and sharp reductions in pay for Red Cross frontline blood employees that have led to dramatic increases in employee turnover, resulting in less experience and training in key positions. “We are concerned of course for our members who rely on their jobs to provide for their families, but we are also concerned for the safety of donors, the blood supply in Philadelphia, and the wellbeing of all Red Cross employees,” said the Vice-President of Teamsters Local 929. “We believe there is a strong connection between maintaining high standards for donor and blood safety, and employing experienced and well-trained frontline blood drive workers, who perform their critical duties under suitable working conditions.” For the past 15 years, the ARC has been under a federal court order to improve the way it collects and processes blood. Since 2003 the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has fined the organization $21 million in relation to lapses in blood safety. Most recently, the FDA charged the Red Cross with a new round of blood handling violations in two adverse determination letters sent to the Red Cross on October 30, 2009.

25. **November 30, KERO 23 Bakersfield – (California)** Breach of privacy information at Kern Medical Center. On October 31, a theft occurred at Bakersfield, California, Kern Medical Center outside the Information Services Department. Documents that were intended for the KMC Laboratory Department were stolen from a set of external lockers outside the KMC Information Systems building, according to the Center’s chief executive officer. These documents contained confidential patient information including the name, date of birth, social security number, physician, laboratory test data, medical record number and/or account number of KMC patients, he said. Since then, KMC has taken appropriate steps to notify the California Department of Public Health and the patients involved, and to make sure patient information is secure and to prevent this type of incident from occurring in the future, he added. As required by law, KMC reported the incident to the Bakersfield office of California Department of Public
Health on November 5.
Source: http://www.turnto23.com/health/21766435/detail.html

Government Facilities Sector

26. December 3, Mid Columbia Tri-City Herald – (Washington) Plutonium finishing plant removes last of high-risk material. The last of the nuclear materials requiring high security has been removed from Hanford’s Plutonium Finishing Plant. “It eliminates the need for special security requirements for deactivation and decommissioning workers at the Plutonium Finishing Plant,” said a spokesman for the Department of Energy. “It becomes like any other facility at the Hanford Site going through D and D.” Work is under way to clean out and demolish the Plutonium Finishing Plant as part of the environmental cleanup of Hanford, where plutonium was produced for the nation’s nuclear weapons program. But security at the plant in central Hanford has been some of the tightest at the nuclear reservation because of materials stored there. Workers had to pass through metal detectors when they arrived at the plant and materials taken out of the plant had to be scanned for security. The last high security material to be removed from the plant was irradiated fuel from the Fast Flux Test Facility that had been temporarily stored at the Plutonium Finishing Plant, said a DOE assistant manager for central Hanford. It was stored there because of the amount of plutonium it contained and level of radiation. It has been moved to the Canister Storage Building complex at Hanford after $20 million worth of work to prepare for it was completed. DOE’s long-term plan for the irradiated fuel has been to store it there until the U.S. has a national repository available, the DOE official said. Source: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/815411.html

27. December 2, Worchester Telegram – (Massachusetts) Video camera helps find bomb-threat suspect. Police said a video camera helped them zero in on the suspect in a bomb threat at North Central Charter Essential School. The suspect was arraigned before a Judge in Fitchburg District Court Tuesday on charges of making a bomb threat, disturbing a school and vandalizing property. Further court appearances are scheduled for tomorrow and December 10. The suspect, a student at the school, was arrested Monday after a janitor found a bomb threat Sunday night that had been written on the inside of a bathroom stall. Police said the threat was not reported until after school opened Monday morning. The threat, written in Magic Marker, included the statements, “Bomb in school will go off Monday, November 29 at 9 a.m.,” and “Go big or die.” The threats were believed to have been written between 10 p.m. November 23 and 10 p.m. November 24. Police used a video from a surveillance camera set up in front of the bathroom to narrow down the number of suspects. The video showed 33 students used the bathroom during the period when the threat was believed to have been made. All except the suspect used the bathroom for three minutes or less. He was in the bathroom for more than nine minutes. Handwriting samples from the suspect’s locker were also obtained and compared with the writing in the bathroom stall. Police said the samples and the writing in the stall were similar. Police said the suspect
admitted to writing the threat and other Magic Marker vandalism in the bathroom. Source: http://www.telegram.com/article/20091202/DIGESTS/912020379/1003/NEWS03

28. December 2, The Republican – (Massachusetts) Springfield siblings arrested for setting off chemical ‘bomb’ outside Milton Bradley Elementary School. Police arrested two children, a 12-year-old girl and her 15-year-old brother, and charged them with setting off a soda-bottle bomb Wednesday afternoon outside Milton Bradley Elementary School, police said. The two children were charged with possession of an infernal device and trespassing, said a police spokesman. Their names were not released due to their ages. Each will be arraigned Thursday in Springfield Juvenile Court. Police and fire were called to the school in the Metro Center neighborhood, shortly before 12:30 p.m. for a reported explosion, said a Springfield Fire Department spokesman. No one was injured when the bomb exploded, and school was not disturbed. The police spokesman said surveillance cameras captured the pair placing two devices against the school exterior, and witnesses saw them running away after one of them exploded. The second bomb was a dud and did not detonate, the spokesman said. It was recovered by members of the Arson and Bomb Squad, he said. Source: http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/12/springfield_siblings_arrested.html

Emergency Services Sector

29. December 3, WGRZ 2 Buffalo – (New York) Mercy flight makes emergency landing. A Mercy Flight medical helicopter enroute to Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) from Orleans County made an emergency landing Wednesday morning. The pilot reported a drop in one of the two engines then decided to land at the airport, as a precaution. Less than a mile from the runway, one engine lost all power, forcing the pilot to rely on just one engine to land the aircraft. Aboard the chopper at the time of the landing was the pilot, 2 flight crew nurses, and a patient. Once on the ground, the flight crew nurses transported the patient to ECMC by ambulance. Officials with Mercy Flight say the pilot and all crew members executed the emergency landing by the book, even using the word “perfectly.” As with all emergency aircraft landings, the Federal Aviation Administration will interview the pilot and all crew members in the next week. Mercy Flight has transported 18,000 patients across Western New York for the past 30 years. They currently have 5 choppers, all between 20-25 years old which officials say is the average age of medical helicopters. They are currently looking to purchase two new choppers which cost between 5 and 6 million dollars. Source: http://www.wgrz.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=72458&catid=13

30. December 3, MyCentralJersey.com – (New Jersey) 5 Middlesex County towns stand to get new fingerprinting system to replace ink method. Police departments in small towns in the county still use a method of fingerprinting that stretches back more than a century — rolling a criminal defendant’s finger in ink and leaving the mark on paper.
But the shift to software and scanners that record a fingerprint and verify someone’s identity in minutes rather than weeks almost is complete. Five towns will be getting a system called Live Scan in the coming weeks: Cranbury, Dunellen, Milltown, South Amboy and Spotswood. Each Live Scan costs $25,831. The Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office and the county freeholders are using a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to buy the equipment.

Source: [http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20091203/NEWS/91203009/5+Middlesex+County+towns+stand+to+get+new+fingerprinting+system+to+replace+ink+method+](http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20091203/NEWS/91203009/5+Middlesex+County+towns+stand+to+get+new+fingerprinting+system+to+replace+ink+method+)

31. **December 2, Occupational Health and Safety – (National)** OS**HA issues guidance for safeguarding emergency medical responders.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a guidance document, titled “Best Practices for Protecting EMS Responders During Treatment and Transport of Victims of Hazardous Substance Releases,” that addresses adequate training and personal protective equipment for emergency medical services responders who assist victims of hazardous substance release incidents. This document, a companion to OSHA’s “Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers,” advises that employers provide, at a minimum, awareness level training to EMS responders. Workers receiving awareness-level training are not permitted to rescue or treat contaminated patients, but are responsible for notifying authorities if they suspect hazardous substances at a scene. Operations-level training teaches EMS responders skills for entering hazardous areas and caring for contaminated individuals. “Healthcare workers, including EMS personnel, play a critical role in a community’s emergency response program,” said the acting assistant secretary of labor for OSHA. “Emergency workers who protect the lives of victims at dangerous incidents should not risk becoming victims themselves because they lack proper training and protective clothing.”


32. **December 2, WWJ 950 Detroit – (Michigan)** Malfunction causes emergency sirens to sound. An equipment malfunction set off emergency warning sirens in Southfield Wednesday evening causing concern for residents in several cities. The sirens started blaring in Southfield around 9:20 p.m. and led to dozens of calls to police departments in Southfield, Oak Park, Royal Oak Township, Ferndale and Lathrup Village. Detroit emergency dispatchers also reported receiving a number of calls. There was no emergency. Southfield Police say it was an apparent malfunction in the city’s equipment. The sirens shut off after about 20 minutes. The Oakland County spokesman says it appears to be a malfunction in the alert system, and technicians Thursday will take a closer look at what may have triggered malfunction. The county’s Homeland Security Department website says sirens are usually tested at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month, however those tests are not conducted in December, January and February because of winter weather.

Source: [http://www.wwj.com/Malfunction-Causes-Emergency-Sirens-To-Sound/5805247](http://www.wwj.com/Malfunction-Causes-Emergency-Sirens-To-Sound/5805247)
Information Technology Sector

33. December 3, V3.co.uk – (International) Security worries continue to dog cloud vendors. Worries over security are severely hampering the adoption of cloud computing services, according a recent analyst report. Research firm Forrester said that a recent survey revealed that roughly half of all companies, from small businesses to large enterprises, cited security worries as the primary reason for not adopting cloud services. Security concerns have long been one of the biggest issues with cloud services. The enterprise and government sectors have both expressed concerns about putting corporate data in the hands of third parties and remotely-accessed systems, while security experts have made cloud security a hot topic. The cloud security sector itself has also grown as vendors seek to offer services and best practice guidelines to help improve data security on cloud platforms. The Forrester study was performed as part of the firm’s larger report on the state of emerging business hardware. Analysts noted that, while cloud adoption is being hampered, technologies such as virtualization and energy management are seeing healthy growth and giving hope for an economic rebound in the IT space as a whole in the coming year.

34. December 2, Reuters – (International) Cisco, Juniper gear vulnerable to hacking: U.S. govt. The U.S. government has identified flaws in equipment from four companies that hackers can exploit to break into corporate computer networks. The Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, US-CERT, said on its Web site on Wednesday that the warning applies to certain networking products from Cisco Systems Inc, Juniper Networks Inc, SonicWall Inc, and SafeNet Inc. The flaw applies to equipment with technology known as SSL VPN that companies use to set up secure communications systems for safely accessing internal computer systems over the Internet. Hackers who exploit the vulnerability could gain broad access to corporate networks, then steal confidential data, install malicious software, or turn PCs into spam servers. US-CERT’s posting said the manufacturers have yet to develop a remedy for the problem, which government officials brought to their attention on September 24. In the meantime, US-CERT researchers have developed three “workarounds” that they said minimize, but do not eliminate, the risk of an attack.
Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/technologyNews/idUSTRE5B161X20091202

35. December 1, SearchSecurity.com – (National) Cybersecurity grant to fund research into critical infrastructure threats. A consortium of cybersecurity researchers from the country’s top academic institutions, coordinated by Northrop Grumman Corp.’s information systems sector, was announced on December 1 in Washington, D.C. The group’s stated goal is to collaborate on cybersecurity research and proactively address known and unknown threats to critical infrastructure, public safety and ecommerce. The group outlined 10 cybersecurity research projects they will conduct under a five-
year grant from Los Angeles, California-based Northrop Grumman, one of the largest contractors to the defense and intelligence communities in the United States. The cybersecurity funding totals in the millions of dollars annually, said Northrop Grumman’s chief technology officer. While some of the work will be funneled back into Northrop Grumman’s business, the technology officer added that each participating university — Purdue University, Carnegie Mellon University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology — would be able to patent any intellectual property it developed as part of the consortium; collaborative projects would be handled on a case by case basis. While the consortium members representing the universities acknowledge that the bulk of the cybersecurity research would not focus on building solutions to existing problems, it does not mean a particular application could not be accelerated to meet a current cybersecurity issue.


### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: [http://www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: [https://www.it-isac.org](https://www.it-isac.org)

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### Communications Sector

36. **December 3, CNET News** – (National) **FCC seeks comment on spectrum reallocation.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opened a formal proceeding Wednesday to get feedback on whether it should reclaim some spectrum licenses held by TV broadcasters and auction them off to wireless broadband providers. The public comment notice issued by the FCC is the first step in a process that could pit TV broadcasters against the FCC and the wireless industry. The FCC Chairman said in a speech earlier in the week that he is interested in taking back some of these airwaves to re-auction them for use in building new wireless broadband services. Broadcasters oppose a plan under which they would give up any spectrum licenses, saying that it would harm some Americans’ access to free over-the-air TV programming. But some FCC officials, such as the one who is in charge of drafting a policy plan for national broadband, argue that some of this spectrum is not being used efficiently or effectively. The idea is that the spectrum could be better used for providing 4G wireless services.


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### Commercial Facilities Sector
37. December 3, WGCL 19 Atlanta – (Georgia) **Police: Mall evacuated after bad elf made bomb threat.** Morrow police and mall security cleared out Southlake Mall after they said a man dressed like an elf told Santa he had a bomb. Police say the 45-year-old man got in line at the mall on Wednesday evening to have his picture taken with Santa. “He stood in line with kids and told Santa he wanted like a picture taken with him, at that point he told Santa he had dynamite in his bag,” said the police captain. People started running out of Southlake Mall around 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday evening. Police evacuated Southlake mall and it remained closed the rest of the night. The Georgia Bureau of Investigations and Morrow police bomb squad units searched the mall but did not find any explosives. Police charged the man with making terrorist threats and reckless conduct. 


38. December 3, Los Angeles Times – (California) **Temple attack probed for links to organized crime.** Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) detectives are investigating whether the shooting of two men at a North Hollywood synagogue in October is the work of Israeli-connected organized crime. The October 29 shooting ignited fear that it was a hate crime, but Los Angeles police officials may have ruled that out. In the last few weeks, LAPD investigators have concentrated their resources on the idea that the shootings were designed to silence someone. A congregant noticed some commotion between a fellow congregant and the assailant. When he approached the gunman, the gunman shot both congregants in the legs. Such nonfatal shootings have been a part of the Israeli organized crime scene for some time, according to the law enforcement sources. But in an interview with The Times, the deputy chief of police said no one has absolutely decided the shootings were related to organized crime. Since the incident, the synagogue has increased security and a new entry buzzer is being installed at the front entrance of the attached religious school. 


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**National Monuments and Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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**Dams Sector**

39. December 2, Homeland Security News Wire – (Louisiana) **Appeals court rules dredging contractors not liable for Katrina flooding damage.** Federal contractors cannot be held liable for flood damage in New Orleans linked to the dredging of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet shipping canal prior to Hurricane Katrina, a federal appeals court has ruled. The three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that found dredging contractors qualify for government-
contractor immunity. Such immunity is granted when the government authorizes companies to conduct specific work. “They had a contract with the government, and the only way that a plaintiff can get around that is to argue that the contractor exceeded their authority or the authority wasn’t validly conferred,” said the director of the Mississippi-based Sea Grant Law Center. “Here, the plaintiffs didn’t allege either one of those.” A reporter for The New York Times wrote that the case stemmed from two class-action lawsuits that claimed the dredging of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) shipping channel by the U.S. government and thirty-two contractors damaged natural storm buffers and aggravated the storm surge that overwhelmed parts of New Orleans after the 2005 hurricane. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in 2007 dismissed the case against the government on a procedural error, a decision that was not contested in the appeals court. The director said the appeals court ruling refocuses the liability for the dredging back on the federal government. In a separate case, a federal judge ruled earlier this month that the Army Corps bears responsibility for the flooding because the agency failed to properly maintain the MR-GO.


40. December 2, Kokomo Tribune – (Indiana) **Dam removal uncovers petroleum-laden slag.** Contractors uncovered more pollution Wednesday at the site of the Continental Steel cleanup. Crews with Boyer Excavating of Peru, Indiana, expected to destroy and remove a solid concrete dam structure, and truck the concrete less than a half mile away. Instead, the crews soon discovered the dam they thought was solid concrete was actually a shell, covering a large amount of pollution-laden material. Soon city officials joined emergency response officials from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) at the site on the Wildcat Creek, about 300 yards south of the Markland/Park avenue intersection. Work was stopped after the Boyer crews had scooped out several bucketfuls of what appeared to be ground-up slag from the old steel mill. Much of the material was black or grey in color, flecked in spots with drops of what looked and smelled like old fuel oil or diesel. “It’s definitely a petroleum product,” the city stormwater manager said as he inspected the excavated material. Now the city, which is paying for the dam removal, could be looking at a much more expensive project. Boyer crew members said the dam is actually two 16-inch thick concrete walls, about 10 feet apart, filled in the middle with the slag material. A concrete cap was poured over the slag, back when the dam was made, making the structure appear to be solid.

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