Top Stories

- KRQE 13 Albuquerque reports that Interstate 40 in western New Mexico reopened Monday after being closed for 13 hours due to a crash near Gallup that flipped a 9,000-gallon propane tanker. About 1,000 gallons of the compressed gas leaked after the crash. (See item 1)

- According to the Wall Street Journal, U.S. authorities are investigating the theft of an estimated tens of millions of dollars from Citibank by hackers partly using Russian software tailored for the attack. (See item 14)

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. **December 22, KRQE 13 Albuquerque** – (New Mexico) **I-40 crash closure lasted 13 hours.** Interstate 40 in western New Mexico reopened shortly before 11:30 p.m. Monday after being closed since mid-morning by a crash that flipped a 9,000-gallon propane tanker. Earlier in the evening, New Mexico State Police reported that the process of transferring 8,000 gallons of propane to another tanker was taking longer.
than expected. Another 1,000 gallons of the compressed gas leaked after the crash, raising the threat of a catastrophic explosion, although none occurred. The crash happened in the eastbound lanes at mile marker 47 at about 10:15 a.m. Monday when a car in the left lane somehow got under the wheels of the propane trailer in the right lane. The tractor-trailer rig rolled over onto the shoulder. No serious injuries were reported in the collision. State Police quickly shut down 25 miles of I-40 from Thoreau west of Grants to Church Rock east of Gallup and began detouring traffic. The 45-mile detour routed motorists onto State Roads 566 and 379 and a Navajo Nation road connecting the two highways. Compounding the massive backups has been what police are calling heavier than normal holiday traffic.


2. December 21, Livonia Observer – (Michigan) **Power expected to be restored to 2,000 homes by early evening.** DTE Energy expected to have power restored by early Monday evening to about 2,000 Westland, Michigan homes that remained without power after a fire at a substation. About 10,000 customers lost power about 9 a.m. Monday after the substation at 211 Venoy near Merriman failed. “The fire was at a substation that served an area of four circuits and all of the circuits were affected,” said a DTE spokesman. “What we were doing today is taking all those customers and by passing the substation by placing the customers on an alternate facility.” Once the customers have been reassigned and are again receiving power, he said DTE would need to assess the damage at the substation. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, he said.

Source: http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20091221/NEWS24/91221011

3. December 20, Providence Journal – (Rhode Island) **Tank truck over-turns, spilling heating oil.** A vigorous cleanup effort avoided what could have been a substantial oil spill on the Providence, Rhode Island’s East Side Saturday after the axle of a tank truck carrying 1,800 gallons of heating oil broke, dumping the truck on its side and poking holes in its tank. An emergency response official with the State Department of Environmental Management said the cleanup limited the amount of oil spilled and kept what did spill from going far. “It’s not going into a water body,” she said. An estimated 200 to 300 gallons of oil leaked from the truck, traveling into catch basins but apparently no farther. The rest of the oil was pumped into other tank trucks. The spill drew more than a dozen pieces of equipment and many workers from the Fire Department and from several environmental cleanup firms. The cleanup crews used a tank truck fitted with a pump, as a giant vacuum cleaner, to suck oil from the catch basin nearest the spill and keep it from overflowing and going farther.

Source: http://www.projo.com/news/content/Dumped_Truck_12-20-09_HFGRQ8L_v11.36f8660.html

4. December 19, KPVI 6 Pocatello – (Idaho) **Human error may be the cause of Jefferson County explosion.** A West Jefferson Fire Department official is saying that the December 17 explosion in the Mud Lake area of Jefferson County, Idaho may have been caused by human error, where the driver of a tanker truck delivering gasoline over
filled a storage tank at a gas station and spilled fuel, causing a spark to ignite creating a blast that could be seen for miles. A 5,000 gallon tanker truck owned by Conrad and Bishoff was delivering gasoline to the Tesoro gas station on 1500 North around 5:30 Thursday night until the driver saw vapors from a fuel spill under the truck. Emergency crews say those vapors may have caused a spark, igniting the engine causing a chain reaction of explosions. Roughly 100 rescue personnel from at least nine different departments fought the fire for more than three hours. The tanker truck along with five fuel storage tanks at the gas station were destroyed.


Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. December 21, Associated Press – (Arizona) Univ. of Ariz. plans to shut down research reactor. The University of Arizona (UA) plans to shut down its 51-year-old nuclear reactor by mid-2010, ending a half-century of specialized nuclear research and training at the Tucson school. The reactor’s license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) expires next year, and with a rigorous re-licensing process, the decision was made to shut the reactor down. Documents filed with the NRC show that engineers expect no significant residual radiation after removing the reactor and its control and cooling components. They expect the university’s Engineering Building to be released for other uses within a year of the start of dismantling. The plan estimates that decommissioning will cost $2 million. The first step in the decommissioning process would be to remove the approximately 5 pounds of Uranium-235 fuel on loan from the U.S. government. The reactor itself and its support equipment would be removed, the building swept for contamination and returned for other uses. The equipment would be sent to a radioactive waste storage facility.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5heNUKqZg8CVRS8WjvbGZFujABwlQD9CNP41O0

6. December 21, WWMT 3 Kalamazoo – (Michigan) Nuclear reactor restarted. A nuclear reactor is back up and running on the lake shore in Michigan. It has been a year since the reactor at the Cook Nuclear Power Plant went offline. American Electric Power says it has restarted the reactor. Testing will continue over the next several days. The reactor was shut down in September 2008. Severe vibrations caused by broken low-pressure turbine blades damaged the main turbine and generator, causing a fire.

Source: http://www.wwmt.com/articles/0in-1370548-bottom-style.html
7. **December 20, York Daily Record** – (Pennsylvania) **Radiation found outside TMI after incident.** An Exelon Nuclear monitor located about a mile away from Three Mile Island (TMI) in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania picked up trace amounts of radiation during the same week workers were exposed to contamination at the plant. Between November 18 and November 24, one of TMI’s seven remote monitors detected an increase of 0.02 milirems, said an Exelon spokeswoman. A second monitor recorded a statistically insignificant change in its reading, she said. The occupational radiation exposure limit for nuclear industry workers is 5,000 milirems per year, said the Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman. “There was very trace amounts (of radiation), and that proves that there was no threat to public and safety as a result of the event,” said the Exelon spokeswoman.

For more stories, see items 29 and 30

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**Critical Manufacturing Sector**

8. **December 21, Reuters** – (International) **Papuans threaten to block Indonesia Freeport’s mine.** Tribal leaders in Indonesia’s easternmost Papua province on December 21 threatened to blockade Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Inc’s huge mine after police killed a separatist commander last week. The separatist had led a militant wing of the Free Papua Movement (OPM) and was one of the members who had campaigned against the presence of Freeport, which operates the Grasberg copper and gold mine. About 700 people gathered on Monday outside the local parliament building in Timika where the separatist’s body was kept, awaiting burial, and threatened to disrupt activity at the mine if Freeport’s chairman did not come to Timika to pay his respects to the separatist. “(He) must come and follow the burial, if not the burial must be delayed and Freeport must be closed down,” men and women shouted outside parliament. Timika is the main town near Freeport’s huge Grasberg mine, which accounts for nearly 40 percent of Freeport’s total copper reserves of 93 billion pounds, and boasts the world’s largest gold reserves. An Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman said last week the government was not in a position to negotiate with the OPM.

9. **December 21, Reuters** – (Nevada) **Chinese miner backs out of deal after U.S. objects.** A Chinese mining company bowed on December 1 to U.S. national security concerns and backed out of a deal to invest in a Nevada gold mine about 60 miles (100 km) from a base the U.S. Navy uses to train its pilots. Firstgold had lined up a $26.5 million deal with China’s Northwest Nonferrous International Investment Co to buy a 51-percent stake in the company and develop the Relief Canyon mine near Lovelock, Nevada. Both companies were told last week by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States the deal raised national security concerns because of its proximity to U.S. military installations. Those include Naval Air Station Fallon, home to the U.S.
Navy fighter weapons school known as TOPGUN. CFIUS, an interagency panel headed by the Treasury Department, was expected to recommend to the President that the $26.5 million deal be rejected.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2124958520091221?type=marketsNews

10. December 19, Toledo Blade – (Ohio) OSHA fines Defiance plant again, this time for $190,000. A Chicago specialty tool company has been hit with a $190,000 fine from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), primarily for failing to correct items that were supposed to have been fixed last year. S K Hand Tool Corp., which operates a forging and chrome plating operation at 135 Hickory St., Defiance, Ohio, was inspected in June as a follow-up to inspections that occurred in April and June 2008, an OSHA spokesman said. While the most recent inspection uncovered three serious violations and two repeat violations of health and safety regulations, the agency also discovered that violations cited in its 2008 inspections had not been abated, said the assistant director of OSHA’s Toledo area office. The new violations discovered resulted in $10,000 in fines, while three issues that were not abated from the 2008 inspections brought fines of $60,000 each, for a total of $180,000. The issues identified included failure to install flame supervision equipment on propane furnaces and failure to provide adequate safety equipment to employees. The plant employs about 50 people.

Source: http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091219/BUSINESS03/912190352/-1/BUSINESS

11. December 18, Aviation Week – (National) Boeing plans 8.5 months of 787 testing. Boeing will pick up where it left off when the 787 flight test program was interrupted last June by the need for side-of-body modifications. That schedule calls for earning type certification in 8.5-9 months, followed immediately by first-of-model testing and delivery to launch customer All Nippon Airways. Boeing’s initial plan was for flight testing to begin in August 2007, and deliveries in May 2008. Although the first flight December 15 marked the start of flight testing, the road to full certification will not begin until the aircraft receives type inspection authorization, the milestone denoting the start of full-time FAA involvement. This is expected in February. By then, Boeing is likely to have three 787s in flight test. The first flight aircraft, ZA001, is due to return to work this week, and the second, ZA002, is set to join it. ZA003 should be in the air by the end of February. All are powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines. First flight of a test aircraft with a General Electric GEnx-1B engine is expected about April. Unlike the 777, where test crews remained with specific aircraft, the test pilots and engineers for the 787, as well as the 747-8 and future programs, will be allocated to whatever aircraft is available to perform tests on a given day.

Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. December 21, Federal Computer Week – (National) Encryption of Predator video feeds will take time. It could take as long as five years before video feeds from Predator drones are fully encrypted and U.S. forces are able to keep enemy forces from intercepting the information, the Washington Post reports. U.S. forces uncovered over the past year a number of instances of Iraqi insurgents intercepting video feeds from Predator drones, the Wall Street Journal reported December 17. The insurgents were able to intercept extensive video footage from the unmanned aerial vehicles by using inexpensive, off-the-shelf software. The Air Force has begun encrypting the UAV fleet, but that work will not be finished until 2014, according to the Air Force Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight Plan. The long-range plan released in July outlines the Air Force’s strategy for changes in doctrine, organizational structure, training, equipment, leadership, education, personnel, facilities and policy. The insurgents were not able to interfere with the signal and command and control capabilities of the Predators but were only able to intercept a broadcast signal, Defense Systems reported. Source: http://fcw.com/articles/2009/12/21/predator-video-feed-encryption.aspx

13. December 21, Air Force Times – (National) WaveRider makes first flight. The X-51A WaveRider is expected to fly as fast as 4,000 mph (Mach 6). But in its first flight December 9, it stayed firmly tucked under the wing of a B-52H Stratofortress. The “captive carry” test, conducted at Edwards Air Force Base, California, was a key step in preparing for the WaveRider’s first hypersonic test flight, set for mid-February. On that mission, a B-52 will release the WaveRider 50,000 feet over the Pacific Ocean. A solid rocket booster will ignite and accelerate the WaveRider to Mach 4.5; then, its supersonic combustion ramjet, or scramjet, propulsion system will kick in for about five minutes to take it all the way to Mach 6. The longest scramjet test to date lasted only 10 seconds. The X-51A demonstration vehicle is intended to show that scramjets can fly for long durations at high speeds without overheating. The WaveRider could be used for intelligence-gathering and bombing missions in addition to space launches, Air Force officials say. Source: http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/12/airforce_waverider_122109w/

Banking and Finance Sector

14. December 22, IDG News Services – (International) Report: Russian gang linked to big Citibank hack. U.S. authorities are investigating the theft of an estimated tens of millions of dollars from Citibank by hackers partly using Russian software tailored for the attack, according to a news report. The security breach at the major U.S. bank was detected mid-year based on traffic from Internet addresses formerly used by the Russian Business Network gang, the Wall Street Journal said on December 22, citing unnamed government sources. The Russian Business Network is a well-known group linked to malicious software, hacking, child pornography, and spam. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is probing the case, the report said. It was not known whether
the money had been recovered, and a Citibank representative said the company had not had any system breach or losses, according to the report. The report left unclear from whom the money was stolen, but said a program called Black Energy, designed by a Russian hacker, was one tool used in the attack. The tool can be used to command a botnet, or a large group of computers infected by malware and controlled by an attacker, in assaults meant to take down target Web sites. This year a modified version of the software appeared online that could steal banking information, and in the Citi attack a version tailored to target the bank was used, the Journal said. The attackers also targeted a U.S. government agency and one other unnamed entity, the report said, adding that it was unknown if the attackers accessed Citibank systems directly or through other parties.


15. December 22, Reuters – (International) **France says will keep using stolen Swiss bank tax data.** France will continue to use data stolen from a Geneva private bank in its drive against tax evasion, its budget minister said on December 22, a day after French officials agreed to return the client lists to Switzerland. “Of course they can be used. The French judicial procedure will continue,” the budget minister told reporters on the sidelines of a visit to China with the prime minister. Despite Swiss protests, French tax authorities have been using information secured from a former HSBC computer specialist who has admitted stealing client data from HSBC’s private banking arm in Geneva. On December 21, Paris agreed to return the data after Switzerland threatened not to ratify a tax treaty that would make it easier for French authorities to go after taxpayers who had salted away funds in Swiss bank accounts. A Swiss finance ministry spokeswoman said on December 21 the French move left a number of questions open and said these would have to be resolved between the two governments. A global crackdown on tax havens has forced Switzerland to relax its treasured bank secrecy regime, and it promised in March it would enter new treaties that would allow it to share bank client information in some cases of tax evasion.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9397662

16. December 21, KING 5 Seattle – (Washington) **Bomb threat used to rob Kitsap Co. bank.** A bank robber told employees to stay put or a bomb would go off as he fled a bank in Kingston on December 21. The robbery happened at a Bank of America on Highway 104. According to published reports, the robber told employees that if anyone left the building or if police arrived within 90 minutes, a bomb would detonate. The robber took off on foot. A description has not been released. The Edmonds-Kingston ferry run was suspended for 25 minutes while police searched for the suspect.


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17. December 22, WTOP 103.5 FM Washington – (District of Columbia) **Commuter bus catches fire near L’Enfant Plaza.** More than 50 passengers on a commuter bus run by Dillon’s Bus Service had to find another way to work after their bus caught on fire Tuesday morning. It happened as the bus exited southbound Interstate 395 at the E Street/6th Street SW exit, near L’Enfant Plaza. All the passengers got off safely. No one was hurt. D.C. Fire and EMS says the fire started in the engine compartment and spread to the passenger compartment. The passengers did not wait for another bus to arrive. They continued on their own on foot. The 901 Commuter Bus, which was being run for the Maryland Transit Administration, originated in Waldorf. It had a number of stops to make before its run would have ended at the State Department. 

18. December 22, Anchorage Daily News – (Alaska) **Airport tower blacked out twice by power failures.** All power systems failed twice Sunday morning in the air traffic facility that guides traffic into and out of Stevens Anchorage International Airport via radar, the Federal Aviation Administration confirmed Monday. The failures included two backup systems. “This could have happened the week before when we were in the fog. It would have been an absolute nightmare,” said the Alaska vice president of the air traffic controllers union. As it was, air traffic was light. The FAA regional administrator said the situation was handled safely Sunday and it would have been safely handled even if more aircraft had been flying. Management of air traffic would have been handed off from the airport radar facility to the air route traffic control center on Boniface Parkway near Elmendorf Air Force Base, he said. The Boniface center normally directs planes on the long distances between airports. The Anchorage Terminal Radar Approach Control, which experienced the outages, is on the ground floor of the tower at the airport. It controls aircraft between the ground and 20,000 feet within about a 30-mile radius. Alaska Airlines said one flight was delayed one hour and 39 minutes due to the problem. Software that displays radar information went out for several minutes too. The airport manager blamed the FAA for not maintaining batteries in the emergency backup power system that is supposed to come on right away. The batteries failed in the first blackout Sunday and the generator failed a couple of hours later. 

19. December 22, Orlando Sentinel – (Florida) **Feds called in after passenger urinates in plane.** On Monday, a passenger reportedly became unruly on a Southwest Airlines flight to Orlando and urinated openly on the plane. A spokesman for Southwest Airlines said there was an incident involving a minor, but he would not discuss the details of what happened. Flight 3222 was headed from Baltimore to Orlando, when, for some reason, the female minor urinated all over baggage and on the floor, according to the FBI, which was called in to investigate the incident because it happened prior to arrival. Neither the FBI nor Orlando Police could provide written documentation of the incident. The passenger was released and federal charges are not going to be pursued. He said the airline cooperated with local authorities, and he was not aware of any complaints filed by customers.
20. **December 20, Florida Today** – (National) **Transponder talk heats up.** In a move to boost homeland security, there has been talk of requiring transponders on recreational boats. The idea has been met with heavy resistance from the public and within the boating industry, most recently from BOAT-US. The vice president of Government Affairs for BOAT-US expressed her opposition before the U.S. House of Representatives Coast Guard Subcommittee. Since 9-11, the Coast Guard has been under pressure from the Department of Homeland Security to develop a small-boat threat assessment in addition to a plan to reduce possibilities of small boats being used by terrorists. A BOAT-US news release said that the BOAT-US VP told the subcommittee that any potential requirement for this type of technology on boats is not practical, nor would it reduce the threat of a waterborne attack. “Requiring some type of transponder on recreational boats, many of whom don’t even have a battery to power it, would only be window dressing for a potential homeland security problem that will not be reduced, despite the outlay of billions of dollars,” she said. One proposal is to require so-called AIS units on boats. The Marine Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) are used on commercial ships to avoid collisions, show positions, measure speeds and course information and give vessel identification. “The challenge with AIS is that it does not provide the ability to reduce the small boat threat,” the VP said. “For starters, the AIS unit on a small boat can simply be turned off. And more importantly, how could the U.S. Coast Guard monitor the millions of new vessel traffic movements. The monitoring would be overwhelming, on-the-water force response inadequate, and it would be costly to taxpayers to build and operate the system.” AIS units start at about $600. “Even if a would-be terrorist would go to the trouble of complying with an AIS requirement,” she continued, “they would merely have to pull the AIS unit’s electrical plug moments before the attack.”

Source: [http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20091220/SPORTS05/912200319/1002/SPORTS/Transponder+talk+heats+up](http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20091220/SPORTS05/912200319/1002/SPORTS/Transponder+talk+heats+up)

For more stories, see items 1, 3, and 4

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**Postal and Shipping Sector**

21. **December 21, WSOC 9 Charlotte** – (North Carolina) **Man causes bomb scare at Kings Mountain post office.** A former postal worker demanded money and then threatened to detonate a bomb at a U.S. Post Office in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, Saturday morning, police said. Officers arrested the 63-year-old suspect on charges of armed robbery and false bomb report upon a public building. The suspect walked in the post office, located on E. Gold Street, around 10:30 a.m. A police spokesman said the suspect had asked passersby for directions to the post office and waited patiently in a long line. “He stated that he planted a bomb somewhere on the property and if his
demands were not met that he would ignite the bomb,” the police spokesman said. There were about two dozen employees and customers inside at the time. Someone called 911 and police arrived quickly on the scene. Officers searched the area but did not find any explosives.


Agriculture and Food Sector

22. December 22, USAgNet – (Iowa) Manure release causes fish kill in southeast Iowa. An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 gallons of hog manure was released overnight last week, during application at an NPKK Pork, LLC facility, in Washington County. An environmental specialist with the Department of Natural Resource’s (DNR) Washington office who responded to the scene said the manure applicator filled his tank and left to apply the manure. The stirring device used to combine solid and liquid manure for application was left on and shifted when it was unattended spraying the manure out of the basin. The manure runoff followed a channel designed to divert rainwater from the lagoon, through a field and settled over a tile buried beneath the snow. The tile outlet begins an unnamed tributary of Indian Creek. Employees with NPKK Pork dammed the tributary on December 15, and began pumping the water that they would knife in to the ground. Water samples collected from the tributary about 30 feet down from the tile outlet found the ammonia levels at 0.8 milligrams per liter. Background level of ammonia in Iowa is 0.5 mg/l. Small dead fish were found downstream in the tributary. The DNR will review the case once all the field samples are in and the fish kill investigation is complete and will determine any future enforcement action at that time.


Water Sector

23. December 22, Peninsula Daily News – (Washington) Test results could say today if Port Angeles beach safe to use after sewage station damaged. Test results are expected to reveal on December 22 if the water at Hollywood Beach and Valley Creek Estuary is safe for recreation after a four-day hiatus. Kayaking and other recreational activities were banned for precautionary reasons when about 100,000 gallons of untreated sewage spilled early Friday morning after a driver whom police said was drunk crashed his car into the Front Street wastewater pump station. The Clallam County Environmental Health director said Monday that water tests conducted at the agency’s courthouse lab in Port Angeles should be completed on December 22 to determine if fecal coliform levels are low enough to allow human activity. The sewage introduced pathogens such as bacteria and viruses into the water that would have to enter an open cut or be ingested in large quantities to induce illness, he said. As of now, the risk of getting sick “is really low,” he said. He predicted the spill would have “a
minimal impact” on water quality. Health officials closed a 30-mile stretch of beaches from Joyce to Sequim to swimming, wading and shellfish-digging. Police say the suspect, of Port Angeles, crashed into the wastewater pump station on Front St. at 2:30 a.m. Friday, causing about $20,000 in damage, “if not more.” Untreated sewage overflowed into the harbor beginning at about 5 a.m. Friday and lasting for about 90 minutes before electricity was restored and wastewater pumps reactivated. The suspect was treated at Olympic Medical Center and released.


24. **December 21, Sioux City Journal** – (Iowa) **HAZMAT investigates suspicious substance in Missouri.** Sioux City, Iowa, Fire Rescue called its HAZMAT team to investigate a report of a suspicious substance in the Missouri River Sunday afternoon, but could not determine what the substance was. A person on the Argosy Casino riverboat called authorities at 4:57 p.m. to report seeing something in the river, the fire captain said. The first engine responding spotted the substance, and the HAZMAT team was called to Larsen Park Road between the riverboat and the Anderson Dance Pavilion. “Something was dumped into the storm sewer system or ran off into the storm sewer and made it into the Missouri River,” he said. “By the time the product was identified; we’re not sure it was what it was. It was diluted.” Firefighters sampled the river at a storm sewer outlet into the river and at a manhole on Larsen Park Road. They consulted with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, who said an officer will follow up Monday morning with the department. “We did some sampling and testing and didn’t pick up anything other than some minute substances that you normally would find.”


25. **December 19, WBNG 12 Binghamton** – (New York) **Gas leaks in plant.** A hazardous gas leak has forced part of the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant to shut down in New York. The facility is currently investigating the problem. The Sewage Board held a special meeting Saturday to authorize further repair of the pipe. The plant discovered a series of leaks back in September, which were fixed, but the board says they have detected more and are having trouble locating the cause. “Some other leaks appeared and we’re not exactly sure where they are right now but our facilities engineer believes that it’s in some steel piping that could be as old as 1959,” says the chairman of the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. The board authorized up to $10,000 more for repairs. The money will be used for additional valves and testing services to isolate the problem, and restore service to that part of the plant.


For another story, see item 22

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26. **December 22, Cape Cod Times** – (Massachusetts) **Cape Cod man’s alleged drunken rampage roughs up hospital.** A Cape Cod man is accused of going on a rampage through a Hyannis hospital over the weekend, smashing computers, tearing up exam rooms and leaving behind a trail of destruction and bloody footprints. The man’s lawyer said Monday the 22-year-old cannot remember busting into Cape Cod Hospital early Saturday morning. Hospital staff spotted the man running through the upstairs wings and restricted areas at 2:30 a.m., according to a police report. The damage is estimated at $10,000. Police said the man forced open a boiler room door at the rear of the hospital as a security camera recorded him in the room.


27. **December 21, Wicked Local Cambridge** – (Massachusetts) **Cambridge Birth Center fire causes $50K in damage.** Occupants of the Cambridge Birth Center were evacuated from the building Friday after a fire erupted in the basement. A plumber was using a heat gun to thaw frozen pipes when a fire ignited along the wall, extending to the first floor, according to the deputy fire chief. Firefighters were able to open the walls up to douse the flames. No injuries were reported, and occupants were safely evacuated and sent to the Cambridge Hospital. Estimated damage is $50,000.


**Government Facilities Sector**

28. **December 21, KRCG 13 Columbia/Jefferson City** – (Missouri) **Teen says bomb threat at high school was fake.** A Columbia, Missouri, teen arrested Friday for calling in a bomb threat at Columbia’s Hickman High School now says he was just joking. Police say the suspect, 17, called in the threat from a classroom. The teen was still behind bars Monday at the Boone County Jail. His bail is set at forty-five hundred dollars. He is being held on charges of making a terrorist threat. Three-hundred students had to be evacuated Friday from Hickman High School while police searched for a bomb. No explosives were ever found.


29. **December 21, Associated Press** – (Kentucky) **Inspectors search KY school grounds for radiation.** Contractors scoured a western Kentucky elementary school site searching for signs of radioactivity, heavy metals and cancer causing agents. The Paducah Sun reported that the search at Heath Elementary School over the weekend came after the U.S. Department of Energy received an affidavit saying a contractor working at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant had dumped several truck loads of dirt from the plant on the elementary school’s grounds in 1980. The Paducah Remediation Services operations manager says the cleanup contractor took soil samples from about half of the area around the school. A full analysis will be done by the end of the month. The plant processes low-level radiation uranium, hazardous PCBs used in oil and
electrical equipment, and the toxic heavy metals nickel and chromium. 

30. December 20, Associated Press – (Missouri) MU lab suspended from using radioactive material. A lab at the University of Missouri-Columbia has been temporarily suspended from using radioactive material after a researcher inadvertently spread radioactive material on the soles of his shoes. The Columbia Missourian, citing a report from the school’s director of Environmental Health and Safety, also reported that a university committee will review the lab’s radioactive material privileges in February. A professor of biochemistry who heads the lab told the Missourian that he had no comment about the report, which he had not yet seen. The report said that the professor will be responsible for buying a foot monitoring system and sticky “step-off” pads that will be placed near the lab exit to prevent future contamination, and the lab will be monitored more frequently. Also, the unidentified researcher who spread the contamination will have fewer responsibilities when working with radioactive material to reduce the possibility of distraction.

31. December 19, Newnan Times Herald – (Georgia) Meriwether evacuates 5 schools after telephone bomb threats. Five Meriwether County schools were evacuated Friday afternoon after receiving telephoned bomb threats, according to the assistant superintendent for School Improvement for the Meriwether County Schools. The assistant superintendent said bomb threats were received at Unity Elementary in Luthersville, George E. Washington Elementary in Woodbury, Manchester Middle School, Manchester High School and Greenville High School. After the threats were received, authorities were notified and the Meriwether County Sheriff’s Office led a search of the threatened schools. Local police departments in affected municipalities were also investigating, the assistant superintendent said.
Source: http://www.times-herald.com/Local/Meriwether-evacuates-5-schools-after-telephone-bomb-threats-932535

32. December 18, Associated Press – (North Carolina) Computer server for NC colleges hacked. Authorities say a hacker accessed a computer server for North Carolina community colleges containing the personal information of nearly 51,000 people. The Citizen-Times of Asheville reports Friday the state Community College System will mail letters next week telling students that someone hacked a database that included Social Security and drivers license numbers. The UNC system senior vice president said officials do not believe the hacker gained access to those numbers, which were used to identify library users. She said it appears the security breach was limited. But state law requires the schools system to send a warning. The security breach of the system’s library server in Raleigh occurred August 23 and was discovered the next morning.
Source: http://www.charlotteobserver.com/breaking/story/1131958.html

33. December 18, Greeley Tribune – (Colorado) CSU: Bomb threat not credible. The buildings on the Colorado State University Foothills Campus have been given the all-
clear Friday afternoon after a bomb threat called in Friday morning was found to be a hoax. As a precaution, authorities evacuated the regional biocontainment lab and infectious disease research annex after the 9:15 a.m. call. Employees were allowed to re-enter the buildings at 1:15 p.m. Friday. Authorities blocked off the streets to the buildings, as well. The evacuation did not include the college’s main campus.


For another story, see item 9

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**Emergency Services Sector**

34. *December 22, Vineland Daily Journal* – (New Jersey) **Grant would speed how cops get info on suspects.** When Vineland, New Jersey, police catch a suspect, they often have to spend valuable time checking by phone with other police departments to see if those agencies have had past contact with the person. They might spend even more time waiting for those departments to fax over background about the suspects. Soon, all that information could be available to Vineland police at the click of a mouse. City Council tonight is set to approve a resolution to accept a $45,000 grant from the state Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness to buy software and equipment that would allow the police department to participate in the New Jersey Data Exchange Project, or NJDEx. Police said the program is a valuable crime-fighting tool that can provide vital information in a pinch. The project is a statewide initiative whose goal is to connect the records databases of all state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies. Police already use existing databases to search a person’s criminal history, but the new program would allow them to determine if someone has been questioned elsewhere in other incidents.

Source: [http://www.thedailyjournal.com/article/20091222/NEWS01/912220315](http://www.thedailyjournal.com/article/20091222/NEWS01/912220315)

35. *December 21, Homeland Security Newswire* – (Minnesota) **New radio system is working “flawlessly”**. When the switch was flipped December 15 on Kandiyohi County’s, Minnesota, new 800-megahertz radio system, emergency personnel had no idea the unique technology would be put to such quick use. That night, fire departments from several communities were called to a barn fire and the next day multiple agencies responded to an accident that shut down traffic on state Highway 23 for several hours. “Over the past couple days, we’ve had a chance to use the system and use it for what it was meant to do,” the local sheriff said. “It worked flawlessly.” A West Central Tribune reporter writes that since 2007 the county has been working on the 800-megahertz system, which is part of the state’s Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response, often referred to as ARMER. The system provides an interoperable communication network that, when fully implemented, will allow emergency personnel from different cities and counties talk to each other while responding to incidents. Kandiyohi County is one of the few out-state counties to have implemented the system.
so far, but neighboring counties are expected to use the system in the near future. Swift County, for example, recently decided to begin the process, while Meeker County took action this week to purchase the equipment and is expected to be on line next fall. Stearns, Itasca, and Olmstead counties are operating their systems, as well as the metro counties.


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**Information Technology Sector**

36. *December 22, The Register* – (International) **Intel patches critical security bug in vPro processors.** Intel has released a patch for its series of silicon-based security protections after researchers from Poland identified flaws that allowed them to completely bypass the extensions. The implementation errors in Intel’s TXT, or trusted execution technology, mean the feature cannot be counted on as advertised to protect sensitive files and prevent systems from booting operating systems that have been tampered with. The vulnerability affects the Q35, GM45, PM45 Express, Q45, and Q43 Express chipsets. “We again showed that an attacker can compromise the integrity of a software loaded via an Intel TXT-based loader in a generic way, fully circumventing any protection TXT is supposed to provide,” researchers with the Invisible Things Lab stated in a press release issued on December 21. The researchers laid out a variety of ways their software-only attack could defeat the security measures, which Intel has built into its vPro-branded processors and held out as a way for large corporate customers to make their servers and PCs more resistant to criminal hackers. One TXT feature that can be overridden is a setting that restricts the use of USB-based flash drives. The researchers also said that attacks could allow them to defeat procedures for securely launching applications and encrypting hard disk contents. The attacks exploit implementation errors in Intel’s SINIT Authenticated Code modules, which are digitally signed pieces of code that cannot be modified. The researchers brought the defects to the attention of Intel officials in late September and agreed to withhold publication of their findings until the chipmaker was able to patch the vulnerability.


37. *December 22, The Register* – (International) **iPhone worms can create mobile botnets.** A detailed analysis of the most malign in a recent spate of iPhone worms points to future mobile botnet risks. The IKee-B (Duh) iPhone worm, released in late November, exploited default root passwords on jailbroken iPhones to turn the smartphones into botnet clients under the control of a server based in Lithuania. The worm affected iPhone users in The Netherlands, and specifically targeted customers of Dutch online bank ING Direct. Security researchers at SRI International - noted for top notch work in dissecting the Conficker botnet - published an analysis of the iPhone botnet on Monday that warns users of Apple’s device and similar smartphones to expect more of the same in future. Warnings about mobile malware have been circulating for years. But it’s only since the advent of iPhones and other smartphones, allowing decent internet access with what’s essentially a mini-computer, that such risks
have become tangible, rather than the stuff of anti-virus vendor PowerPoint slides, SRI warns.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/22/iphone_worm_analysis/

38. December 22, Broadband DSL Reports – (National) Mediacom customers still having e-mail problems. A week ago a Mediacom e-mail upgrade promising to deliver “next generation” e-mail service wound up leaving some customers without e-mail for a week. Now, two weeks since the upgrade, both residential and business users are still writing in to complain that they are either without e-mail service, or they’re suffering through oddities like lost e-mail. An ongoing thread in DSL Reports’ Mediacom forum has hit 55 pages, most of them filled with customers complaining about the broken upgrade. The upgrade appears to have given spammers an opportunity to hammer the system further, complicating the upgrade and repair process. Several customers complain that of the e-mail they do actually get, a chunk of it is new phishing attempts they had not seen previously.
Source: http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Mediacom-Customers-Still-Having-Email-Problems-106100

39. December 21, ComputerWorld – (International) Microsoft’s ‘whitelist’ helps hackers, says Trend Micro. By recommending that users exclude some file extensions and folders from antivirus scans, Microsoft may put users at risk, a security company said on December 21. In a document published on its support site, Microsoft suggests that users do not scan some files and folders for malware as a way to improve performance in Windows 2000, XP, Vista, Windows 7, Server 2003, Server 2008 and Server 2008 R2. “These files are not at risk of infection. If you scan these files, serious performance problems may occur because of file locking,” Microsoft states in the document. Among the files and folders Microsoft tells users to exclude are those associated with Windows Update and Group Policy, and files with the .edb, .sdb and .chk extensions contained within the “%windir%\security” folder. Trend Micro took exception — not with the list itself, but with Microsoft making it public. “Although it actually makes sense to stop checking Windows Update and some Group Policy-related files if you really want to speed up the system, we are concerned by the fact that this was released publicly,” said a malware researcher with Trend Micro, in an entry to his firm’s blog. The researcher argued that the list could be a boon to hackers. “Following the recommendations does not pose a significant threat as of now, but it has a very big potential of being one,” he said. “Cybercriminals may strategically drop or download a malicious file into one of the folders that are recommended to be excluded from scanning, or use a file extension that is also in the excluded list.”
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142571/Microsoft_s_whitelist_helps_hackers_says_Trend_Micro

40. December 21, SCMagazine – (International) Malicious cards, Brittany Murphy poisoned search hit web. Security researchers on December 21 began warning internet users of a pair of unrelated threats whose goal is to install malware on victims’ machines. A virus analyst at Sophos said in a blog post that a new wave of spam
purport to be Christmas-related electronic greeting cards sent from Hallmark. However, clicking on the link included in the message installs a trojan known as VBInject. More e-card scams are expected during the holiday season, experts said. Meanwhile, the untimely death of an actress has, as expected, given rise to a number of poisoned search attacks, said a researcher and communications manager at McAfee Avert Labs, in a blog post. Through a technique known as blackhat search engine optimization (SEO), searches for phrases such as “[famous actress] dies” or “[famous actress] 8 mile” have resulted in a number of questionable results trying to lure users to websites pushing rogue anti-virus programs or other malware. The ploy is a common one for attackers hoping to cash in on a curious public seeking news on a major media story. Source: http://www.scmagazineus.com/malicious-cards-brittany-murphy-poisoned-search-hit-web/article/160080/

For more stories, see items 41 and 43

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

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

Communications Sector

41. December 22, V3.co.uk – (International) China outlines new web site regulations. The Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) has issued new internet regulations which could mean that many overseas web sites will be unavailable to Chinese readers. MIIT now demands that all domain management companies and internet service providers (ISPs) tighten controls over domain registration as part of the government’s anti-pornography campaign. This means that only licensed businesses and state-approved organizations can register for a web site. MIIT said that any domain names not registered will not be resolved or transferred, but the organization did not explain whether this applied to overseas web sites as well. The Beijing News maintained that it would be a pity if legal foreign web sites could not be accessed if they were not registered, as the internet “is meant to connect people.” A copyright lawyer at Beachcroft LLP believes that the pressure would mostly fall on ISPs as most domain names will be registered outside China. Source: http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2255399/china-outlines-web-regulations

42. December 22, Multichannel News – (National) Comcast settles class-action suit over peer-to-peer delays. Comcast has agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit alleging the nation’s largest cable company impaired the use of peer-to-peer file-swapping applications, and will pay up to $16 million to customers who believe they were affected. Comcast was sued by several customers who variously claimed breach of
contract or that the operator violated consumer-protection laws by misrepresenting its broadband service as “unfettered” and that it provided “the fastest Internet connection.” Those complaints were consolidated into multidistrict litigation in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The cable company’s practice of impeding P2P traffic during times of peak congestion on its networks drew national attention — and scrutiny from the Federal Communications Commission — after the Associated Press confirmed Comcast was limiting the ability of BitTorrent applications to transfer a copy of the King James Bible. Comcast’s P2P “blocking” was originally publicized by an Oregon resident, who was a plaintiff in the class action. The FCC subsequently issued an order requiring Comcast to change its network-management practices and finding that it violated the agency’s network neutrality principles. Comcast is fighting the FCC’s ruling in federal court; the U.S. Federal Appeals Court for the D.C. Circuit is scheduled to hear oral arguments on January 8 in the case and is expected to rule within three months.

Source: http://www.multichannel.com/article/441501-Comcast_Settles_Class_Action_Suit_Over_Peer_To_Peer_Delays.php

43. December 20, Associated Press – (Maine) Maine to consider cell phone cancer warning. A Maine legislator wants to make the state the first to require cell phones to carry warnings that they can cause brain cancer, although there is no consensus among scientists that they do and industry leaders dispute the claim. The now-ubiquitous devices carry such warnings in some countries, though no U.S. states require them, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. A similar effort is afoot in San Francisco, where the mayor wants his city to be the nation’s first to require the warnings. The Federal Communications Commission, which maintains that all cell phones sold in the U.S. are safe, has set a standard for the “specific absorption rate” of radio frequency energy, but it does not require handset makers to divulge radiation levels.


Commercial Facilities Sector

44. December 21, Associated Press – (Rhode Island) RI Walmart evacuated in response to gas leak. A Cranston, Rhode Island Walmart has been closed while authorities investigate a possible gas leak. The store closed at about 8 p.m. on Sunday and firefighters received reports of a strong odor of gas in the building. Officials said the manager ordered everyone out of the store as a precaution. No injuries were reported. The odor remains under investigation, but it appears something had hit the gas line going into the building. National Grid was called to the scene and told the manager not to re-open the store Sunday night.

45. December 19, San Francisco Chronicle – (California) Neo-Nazis rally on Hanukkah at SoCal synagogue. Congregants at a Southern California synagogue were met by a group of neo-Nazis waving swastika flags on the last night of Hanukkah. The Rabbi says Friday’s demonstration at Temple Beth El in Riverside was the third at the temple in recent months. There were fewer than a dozen protesters at the site. Police were called but there were no incidents or arrests and the services went on as planned. In October in Riverside, a scuffle broke out and punches were exchanged between about 20 Neo-Nazis rallying against illegal immigration and about two dozen counter-protestors near a Home Depot store where day laborers often gather. One man was arrested. A similar rally was held a month earlier. The rabbi says members of her congregation have been among the counter-protestors at those rallies. Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/12/19/state/n194504S20.DTL&tsp=1

46. December 19, North County Times – (California) Motel fire displaces 58 people. Fifty-eight people were evacuated from the Beachwood Motel in Oceanside, California after a trash bin fire in an alley spread to the motel’s electrical system, fire officials said. Thirty-eight of the displaced guests had to spend the night at a Red Cross shelter at Mission Elementary School, the fire Battalion Chief said. The rest of the guests found other lodging. A couch and the contents of a Dumpster caught fire outside the motel on Surfrider Way at 12:18 a.m. Saturday and the fire spread to the motel. One guest’s arms were burned while trying to fight the fire before firefighters arrived, the chief said. The man was treated and released on the scene. Six Oceanside Fire Department units were at the scene along with another from Carlsbad. The fire was under control by 1 a.m. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Source: http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/oceanside/article_8e9369cc-76b5-5940-b8b0-ca4b3c44e7ac.html

For another story, see item 23

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

47. December 22, Palm Springs Desert Sun – (California) Feinstein proposes creation of two new national parks. A U.S. Senator from California introduced a bill in Congress on Monday that could put two new national parks within easy driving distance of the Coachella Valley. The bill, called the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2010, would create two new national parks: The Mojave Trails National Monument, with 941,000 acres along Route 66 between Joshua Tree and the Mojave Preserve. Sand to Snow National Monument, with 134,000 acres, between Joshua Tree and San Bernardino National Forest. Joshua Tree also would get an additional 2,900 acres on its north end, while the Mojave Preserve could grow by 30,000 acres and Death Valley by 41,000 acres. Source:
48. *December 21, Norwich Bulletin* – (Massachusetts; Connecticut) **Dam in Massachusetts raises concerns in Eastern Connecticut.** Officials in Norwich, Connecticut, and other municipalities along the Thames River Basin are keeping an eye on a Massachusetts dam in need of major repairs. The Norwich city manager, the Emergency Management director, and the Police chief met last Friday with their counterparts from other cities and towns to discuss the Westville Dam. The dam is on the Quinebaug River in Southbridge, Massachusetts, Putnam, Danielson, Jewett City and Norwich all are downstream. Last week, the city manager gave the city council copies of letters from the commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and a Colonel with the Army Corps of Engineers, both of which express great concern about the dam’s condition. “The Corps of Engineers has determined that the Westville Lake Dam has significant foundation and abutment seepage issues, and is in need of critical repairs for continued safe operation,” he said in a letter to state officials dated November 19. The dam, completed in 1962, is 560 feet long and 78 feet high. It is one of a series of six that control flooding on the Quinebaug and downstream. The Army Corps will use the dams immediately upstream and downstream to hold more water in order to relieve pressure on the Westville Dam while studies continue. Both the state and the Army Corps have promised periodic updates on the dam’s status.


49. *December 20, Monroe News-Star* – (Louisiana) **Parishes tallying flood damage.** Local governments in Caldwell, Ouachita, and Union parishes are tallying fall flooding damage again in expectation of millions of dollars in federal relief. On December 10 the U.S. President approved the governor’s request for a major disaster declaration because of severe weather that dropped up to 6 inches of rain in some areas and spawned 12 tornadoes in northern and western Louisiana from October 29 to November 3. The declaration frees federal recovery aid to flow to the state for emergency work and repairs. The Caldwell Parish Homeland Security director said FEMA’s preliminary assessment found approximately $990,000 in damages. A little more than half of that money would go to the Tensas Basin Levee District’s effort to shore up a stretch of crumbling levee near Columbia.

Source: [http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20091220/UPDATES01/91220006/Parishes-tallying-flood-damage](http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20091220/UPDATES01/91220006/Parishes-tallying-flood-damage)
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