



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 4 January 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, 7 miles of westbound Interstate 80 were closed December 30 in Venango County, Pennsylvania after a tanker overturned, spilling a toxic chemical across the highway. Nearby residents were asked to remain inside their homes as a precaution. (See item [6](#))
- WFAA 8 Dallas-Fort Worth reports that the FBI is investigating a burglary at the John Kubala Water Treatment plant in Arlington, Texas on December 28. None of the secure treatment facilities were breached. Water officials took inventory of their chemicals, but no tampering was found. (See item [23](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 31, Jordan Times* – (International) **Prosecutors question 10 men in connection with oil tanker plot.** State Security Court (SSC) prosecutors on December 29 questioned 10 men suspected of attempting to blow up oil tankers heading from

Jordan to Iraq, their attorney said on December 30. "I was contacted by their families and have met them once. I will meet with them again today to check on them and learn more details," a lawyer told the Jordan Times. The attorney said the 10 men, all in their 20s and 30s, were arrested by security forces in Jordan almost a month and a half ago. He said he expects the SSC prosecution to finish preparing the charge sheet against the suspects next week.

Source: <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=22747>

2. *December 31, GoBlueRidge.net* – (North Carolina) **Blue Ridge Electric restores power to customers.** Blue Ridge Electric crews completed restoration efforts for their entire seven county region. BREMCO's public relations director announced the completion around 9:00 a.m. on December 31. At the height of the outages, around 35,000 BREMCO members were without power. She said, "The lengthy outage is an unusual event for Blue Ridge Electric, as the ice storm damaged nearly half the cooperative's 3,000 miles of power lines and took down some 150 power poles. Hundreds of outage source locations and damage to the system occurred in areas served by the cooperative in very remote, mountainous terrain. Heavy debris and fallen trees also blocked access to major as well as secondary roads early in the restoration process." She said at the end of major outage restoration there may be isolated, single residence outages that are difficult to detect. BREMCO members who are at their service location and do not have power are asked to contact the cooperative. She explained that line technicians will continue cleanup work and final details into the January 1 weekend.

Source:

http://www.goblueridge.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8548&Itemid=1

3. *December 30, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Somali pirates fire at Kuwaiti oil tanker.** Heavily armed Somali pirates fired on a Kuwaiti oil tanker near the Arabian Sea on December 30 in an attempt to hijack the vessel, a global maritime watchdog said. The head of the International Maritime Bureau piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur told AFP that pirates armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades launched the attack from a skiff off Somali waters. "The Somali pirates chased the tanker and sprayed bullets early Wednesday in a bid to hijack the ship," he said. "Fortunately, the tanker managed to escape the pirates," he said, adding there were no reports of injuries to the crew. He urged seafarers to be on high alert as pirates were attacking ships on "all fronts." "Pirates are expanding their areas of attack. They are now operating in the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and in the Indian Ocean," he said. National oil conglomerate Kuwait Petroleum Corp. said later that none of its large fleet of tankers had been attacked, but an industry source told AFP the vessel in the report could belong to a private company based in the emirate. Several other Gulf and pan-Arab oil tanker companies are based in Kuwait. Somali pirates captured a freighter, bulk carrier and a chemical tanker recently, defying foreign warships patrolling the Gulf of Aden and ending the year with millions in ransom. The marauding sea bandits' latest catch was the St James Park, a British-flagged chemical tanker with a crew of 26 from nine different countries, which was seized on December 28.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gIt7-->

[dnl2WzOAmR8Xfy4SzqDU2w](#)

4. *December 30, Corpus Christi Caller* – (Texas) **Small fire at Citgo Refinery confined in minutes.** A small fire was contained within minutes of igniting at Citgo Refinery's West Plant, a company representative said. The fire began at 3:30 p.m. on December 30 and was confined to the unit it began in, a Citgo spokesman said. There were no injuries, he said. "There was never any threat to the community," he added. Once the fire was extinguished, air sampling was done around the plant to check for toxins in the air. "We do that as a precaution. There were no detectable limits of any toxic gases found," he said. The Refinery Terminal Fire Department also was called to the fire, but it had been contained before arrival of that agency, he said. He added that the cause of the fire was unknown Wednesday, but it is under investigation.
Source: <http://www.caller.com/news/2009/dec/30/small-fire-at-citgo-refinery-is-confined-in/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *December 31, Kingman Daily Miner* – (Arizona) **Tanker leak found on train.** A Burlington Northern Santa Fe train made an unscheduled stop outside of Kingman Tuesday morning. The train was traveling west from Kansas City to Barstow, California, when a warning signal alerted engineers that something was wrong, said the BNSF Regional Director of Public Affairs. They stopped the train west of Kingman. As engineers walked the length of the train, they found a leak in a tanker car carrying a non-flammable, non-hazardous liquid fertilizer, she said. The tank was carrying approximately 20,800 gallons of the fertilizer and was leaking at about 30 gallons per minute. Mohave County's Emergency Management Department was notified of the leak. The tank was separated from the rest of the train at a rail spur near Griffith Energy, west of Kingman, said the Mohave County Public Information Director. BNSF has contracted with a California company to clean up the spill, the director said. BNSF is still investigating why the tank started leaking.
Source:
<http://www.kingmandailyminer.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&subsectionID=1&articleID=35429>
6. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Part of I-80W in W.Pa. closed after chemical spill.** Seven miles of westbound Interstate 80 are closed in western Pennsylvania after a tanker overturned, spilling a toxic chemical across the highway. A Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokeswoman says the road is closed from exit 35 to exit 42. The exits are near Clintonville, about 75 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. A Venango County 911 supervisor says drivers have been advised to keep their windows up when driving through the area to avoid inhaling the sodium hydrosulfide solution. She says the chemical is toxic and emergency workers have evacuated a 150-foot area around the spill. The supervisor says residents have not been evacuated from their homes but have been asked to remain inside as a precaution.
Source: <http://kdka.com/wireapnewsfnpa/7.miles.of.2.1397488.html>

7. *December 30, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **SC finds serious violations in ammonia leak.** A chemical company committed seven serious violations and was fined more than \$23,000 after a ruptured hose caused an ammonia leak that killed a passing motorist in July, South Carolina workplace safety officials announced Wednesday. Southampton, Pennsylvania-based Tanner Industries did not have proper safety valves in place that could have lessened the severity of the leak, did not have an alarm system to warn others of the leak, and used an improper hose to transfer the liquid anhydrous ammonia from a truck to a storage tank, according to the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration. About 1,800 gallons of the hazardous chemical typically used in cleaning products spewed from a fist-sized hole in the hose on July 15. It was about a quarter of the 7,500 gallons being transferred. The National Transportation Safety Board said it continues to investigate the incident to determine why the hose burst. The liquid quickly evaporated into a dangerous cloud, which drifted away from the plant in Swansea, about 25 miles south of Columbia. The chemical cloud turned bushes and grass black before floating over U.S. 321, killing a 38-year-old woman as she drove to work. More than a dozen people were injured. The trucking company, Werner Transportation Services Inc. of Omaha, Nebraska, was cited for four serious violations and fined \$5,125.
Source: <http://cbs3.com/wireapnewspa/SC.finds.11.2.1397720.html>

For more stories, see items [21](#) and [23](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *December 31, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **State Senate to consider Yankee power offer.** Now that the Vermont has the details of a power purchase agreement that was offered by Entergy and turned down by the state’s utilities, the Senate might have the information it needs to decide whether it should take up the issue of continued operation of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant during its 2010 session, said the Senate President Pro Tem. “Until 10 days ago, we had no information about what it would cost Vermonters if the license were to be extended,” said the Senate President Pro Tem. “We now have a document for the first time.” On December 18, Entergy, which owns and operates Yankee, presented its offer to the state’s Public Service Board. Entergy has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to extend the operating license of Yankee for another 20 years, from 2012 to 2032. In addition to NRC approval, Entergy must also receive the OK from the Vermont Legislature and a certificate of public good from the Public Service Board. Because the power purchase offer is much less complex than expected, said the Senate President Pro Tem, he has asked the Senate’s various committees to review it and recommend whether a vote should be brought to the floor. Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_14098482
9. *December 30, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Uranium storage rule drafted.** Attempting to safeguard the future up to at least 10,000 years, Utah radiation-control regulators have a

new rule that will be out for public comment regarding the disposal of depleted uranium. Created specifically as a result of EnergySolutions' intentions of storing "significant" quantities of the radioactive material at its Clive facility in Tooele County, the proposed rule requires the company to conduct a performance assessment if it accepts more than 1 metric ton of depleted uranium. The rule would also mandate adjustments stemming from any new restrictions handed down by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is going through its own revisions on storing the waste. A compromise of sorts, the rule came after a summer of wrangling by members of the Radiation Control Board, who were under pressure from antinuclear activists to impose an all-out moratorium. That pressure came in light of EnergySolutions' plans to accept 10,500 tons of the waste from South Carolina's Savannah River site.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705355109/New-safeguards-on-depleted-uranium.html>

10. *December 30, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Palo Verde Nuclear generating station cancels security alert notice due to earthquake.** The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station west of Buckeye, Arizona, has canceled a security alert notice issued Wednesday after an earthquake near the border was felt in Arizona, officials said. At 12:03 p.m., the plant declared an "unusual event" notification, which is the lowest of four security alert categories, said a spokeswoman for APS, who operates the plant. The notice came almost 15 minutes after a magnitude-5.8 earthquake struck, its epicenter about 20 miles southeast of the Mexican city of Mexicali, according to officials with the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Hazards Program. The spokeswoman said the unusual event notification was a precaution and is standard operating procedure when there is any type of unusual activity. Operators and maintenance personnel checked the plant to ensure the earthquake did not cause any damage and everything was operating properly, she said. The check was completed and the notification canceled at 3:15 p.m.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/12/30/20091230swv-paloverde0102.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *December 30, U.S. News and World Report* – (National) **Recall alert: 2009 Audi Q5.** On the heels of an announcement that Audi will offer a Q5 hybrid in 2011, the German automaker has issued a recall on the 2009 Q5 SUV. The recall, which is the model's first, affects more than 6,000 SUVs produced between November 25, 2008 and June 4, 2009. It concerns a defective pillar trim cover clip that can pose a danger during airbag deployment. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's recall notice, the A-pillar trim could "become loose when the sideguard head protection airbags deploy during crash. If this happens, a loose trim piece could injure the front seat occupants of the vehicle."

Source:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/92/2009/december/30/crane-catches-fire-at-port.html

Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *December 30, Aviation Week* – (International) **More A400Ms to join flight trials.** The full extent of flight trials of the Airbus Military A400M military airlifter is due to begin in earnest in 2010 after a stutter-step kickoff. Poor weather restricted the A400M to only one more flight following its first flight on December 11. Those conditions also negated efforts to expand the test infrastructure beyond Seville, Spain, and also start operating from Toulouse, France; test personnel believe that having both sites operational will allow a higher pace of testing. One of the reasons flight trials have been slowed is because the TP400D turboprop engines are fitted with sensors that are sensitive to moisture. One of the objectives in the coming weeks will be to quickly perform the tests requiring those sensors to be able to remove them and avoid additional delays, says an Airbus official. The limited flight operations in December 2009 notwithstanding, Airbus was able to clear the normal flight envelope for the airlifter on its second flight. During that mission, the A400M reached a maximum operating speed of 300 knots and maximum Mach number of 0.72.

Source: <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/A2010-123009.xml&headline=More%20A400Ms%20To%20Join%20Flight%20Trials&channel=defense>

13. *December 29, Online Defense and Acquisition Journal* – (International) **Predator intercepts no big deal.** The head of Air Force ISR — who oversees Predator training and equipping — says that the Predator data that was broadcast in the clear and intercepted by bad guys in Iraq did not have “significant impacts” on U.S. operations. “Nothing is compromised. I want to get information out to the joint forces on the ground, you follow me? If someone does pick [the video feed] up and they don’t know the context of how the information is being used, what’s the compromise?” a lieutenant general familiar with the Predator operations said. Overall, he said, deploying and using Predators in greater numbers provided important information of great use to troops, benefits that far outweighed any weaknesses resulting from intercepted data.

Source: <http://www.dodbuzz.com/2009/12/29/predator-intercepts-no-big-deal/>

Banking and Finance Sector

14. *December 30, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **New CEO of Bank of America seeks credit card fix.** When Bank of America Corp.’s new chief executive takes over next week, one of the first problems he will face is one he has already been grappling with — the bank’s credit-card business. Cards were already the responsibility of incoming CEO in his previous job as president of consumer and small-business banking. But the 50-year-old executive had only taken that job in August so had little time to get his hands around the problem. He did have enough time to realize that mistakes were made and the business had to change. “We gave a lot of cards out to our customers,” he said in a November 5 speech. “We were giving them to too many people.” He discussed a

“repositioning” of the business that would rely less on borrowing and more on card transactions, while acknowledging that the business would not be as big or as profitable as it used to be.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704718204574616454256403772.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_sections_personalfinance

15. *December 30, South Florida Business Journal* – (Florida) **Judge issues injunction in Haitian Ponzi scheme.** A Miami federal judge has issued a permanent injunction against a Miami man charged in connection with a Ponzi scheme that targeted the Haitian-American community. The suspect and two others were charged in October with securities fraud, conspiracy to commit securities fraud, wire fraud and money laundering. According to the court order signed last week by the judge, the suspect failed to appear in court to answer to charges that he and his co-conspirators sold unsecured notes and promised to double investors’ money every 90 days. The order bars the suspect and his Delray Beach-based companies — HomePals Investment Club LLC and HomePals LLC — from continuing to sell securities. They allegedly sold the notes through HomePals. It was alleged that between April and December 2008 the three raised at least \$14.3 million and used no more than \$1.2 million to trade, generating losses of 19 percent. The rest of the money allegedly was used to repay earlier investors in “typical Ponzi scheme fashion,” according to a news release from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Two pleaded guilty to their roles in the scheme.

Source: <http://southflorida.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2009/12/28/daily22.html>

16. *December 28, Associated Press* – (National) **AP: Ponzi collapses more than tripled in ‘09.** In 2009, the recession unraveled nearly four times as many of the investment scams as fell apart in 2008, with “Ponzi” becoming a buzzword again thanks to the collapse of an infamous financier’s \$50 billion plot. Tens of thousands of investors, some of them losing their life’s savings, watched more than \$16.5 billion disappear like smoke in 2009, according to an Associated Press analysis of scams in all 50 states. In all, more than 150 Ponzi schemes collapsed in 2009, compared to about 40 in 2008, according to the AP’s examination of criminal cases at all U.S. attorneys’ offices and the FBI, as well as criminal and civil actions taken by state prosecutors and regulators at both the federal and state levels.

Source:

<http://www.baynews9.com/content/9/2009/12/28/563690.html?title=AP:+Ponzi+collapses+more+than+tripled+in+%2709>

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Transportation Sector

17. *December 31, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Fireworks found in luggage.** Honolulu airport screeners caught a man trying to board a plane with fireworks in his luggage, prompting federal officials to issue a reminder that it is illegal to transport any fireworks on commercial aircraft. Transportation Security Administration inspectors on December 29 found 12 fountain fireworks devices in the luggage of a U.S. citizen trying to catch a

flight to Korea, a government spokesman said. The man was allowed to board the flight after surrendering the fireworks, said an FAA Western-Pacific Region spokesman. "If they were to ignite, the results could be catastrophic," he said. "People have to understand that fireworks, even the smallest sparklers, pose a tremendous fire risk onboard commercial aircraft." It was the first fireworks seizure at the airport here this holiday season. Hawaii travelers have the worst record for breaking the fireworks ban on airplanes in the Western-Pacific Region, which is California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and Pacific islands. "Hawaii makes up a fraction of the region's overall traffic, but the state's passengers account for more than one-third of all fireworks seizures at the region's airports," he said, estimating the number of violations in the region at several dozen per year. FAA officials in Hawaii have sent letters to fireworks retailers asking them to help educate the public by reminding them that they cannot take any fireworks on airplanes. Retailers were given posters to display at their stores.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20091231/NEWS01/912310344/Fireworks+found+in+luggage>

18. *December 30, KOHD 51 Bend* – (Oregon) **Highway 97 shuts down for 3rd time this month due to ice-caused crashes.** Snow and ice have made the past few days busy for emergency response workers. Just after four Wednesday afternoon, another crash caused by ice and snow shuts down Highway 97 just south of Sunriver for the third time this month. While heading north, a SUV lost control on ice and hit a semi truck. That shut down traffic for over an hour as crews tried to figure out how to get both back up. Meanwhile drivers in both directions got stuck. "When we showed up, it probably happened maybe five, ten minutes before we showed up; it was everywhere, smoke, people running around," says a motorist who was heading to La Pine Wednesday night. Some had the option to go around through Sunriver, taking Vandever Road back on to Century Drive. But many waited. Before that crash, and less than a mile north on Highway 97, a RV became dislodged from the truck towing it. After hitting a tree, it too rolled onto its side. Bend Police say they too handled a vehicle roll over on Mt. Washington Drive Wednesday night. Tuesday night's snow storm also brought its share of accidents. The Bend Parkway heading south was partially closed at Truman Avenue near the Wilson Street overpass. There were also reports of accidents stretching from the Rex T. Barber Memorial Bridge north of Terrebonne, all the way south of Bend toward Sunriver.

Source: <http://kohd.com/page/157421>

19. *December 30, Phillyburbs.com* – (Pennsylvania) **Crane catches fire at port.** A fire sparked by a faulty generator damaged a huge crane at a Falls shipyard late Tuesday. No one was injured. The fire broke out about 11 p.m. at Kinder-Morgan, a shipping company on the Delaware River near the former USX facility, said the Falls fire marshal. Volunteer firefighters from the Falls and Morrisville companies were called to the scene and quickly extinguished the fire. The fire marshal said the diesel generator runs when the crane is not being used to keep the computers running.

Source:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/92/2009/december/30/crane-

[catches-fire-at-port.html](#)

For more stories, see items [5](#), [6](#), and [7](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

See item [37](#)

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *December 30, Reuters* – (International) **Taiwan reinstates ban on some American beef.** Taiwan’s parliament agreed to amend a food-safety law to ban certain U.S. beef imports amid widespread fears over mad cow disease on the island, potentially straining ties with the United States. Under the deal, minced beef, cow offal and beef from cattle older than 30 months will not be allowed for import into Taiwan, the government-backed Central News Agency reported. The move would abrogate a bilateral agreement signed by Taiwan and the United States two months ago, officials from the U.S. Trade Representative’s office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a joint statement. “The proposed amendment’s provisions do not have a basis in science or fact and thus in no way serve to protect Taiwan’s food supply,” the statement said. Legislators will vote on the issue early next year, the president of Taiwan’s legislature said. Taiwan first banned U.S. beef in December 2003, after the U.S. found its first case of mad cow disease. In late October, Taiwan said it would lift the age restrictions and reopen its markets to U.S. bone-in beef such as ribs and T-bone steaks. But the public as well as importers have questioned the decision.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126213594603909711.html>

21. *December 30, Mid Hudson News* – (New York) **Nitric acid leak in Kiamesha Lake brings out haz-mat response.** A leak of nitric acid at Leisure Time Ice on Route 42 in Monticello Wednesday morning resulted in a spill of 250 gallons of the chemical; however, it was contained with no injuries, the Monticello fire chief said. The cause of the spill is under investigation. The leak was reported around 10 a.m. with fire departments from Sullivan County and Sullivan and Orange County haz-mat units being brought in. Route 42 in the area of the facility was shut down with a command center established. Some three hours later, the scene was returned to normal with all emergency agencies returning to their headquarters.

Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/December09/30/Acid_leak-30Dec09.htm

For another story, see item [36](#)

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Water Sector

22. *December 31, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYS lacks sufficient clean water funding.** New York State’s 30,000 miles of aging sewer and water treatment systems need billions of dollars in repairs and upgrades in the next two decades, an expensive undertaking even with millions in federal stimulus funding to help. The Department of Environmental Conservation estimates that repairs for municipal wastewater treatment systems statewide will be \$36.2 billion over the next 20 years. Total spending in 2009 on wastewater infrastructure in New York was \$1 billion. That will be down to \$700 million in 2010. The state has more than 600 applications for wastewater projects around the state for 2010, but depending on the size and cost of those selected, officials anticipate funding only between 70 and 80 projects.
Source: <http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/funding-1269806-wastewater-state.html>
23. *December 30, WFAA 8 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **FBI investigating burglary at Arlington water treatment plant.** The FBI is among those investigating a burglary at an Arlington water treatment plant. The John Kubala Water Treatment plant was broken into December 28, which was when someone cut through a chain link fence, police said. Copper tubing was stolen from a storage building at the plant, but city officials said none of the secure treatment facilities were breached. “Our water supply is secure; our water supply is safe” said an Arlington city council member. The FBI has been called in to check for any possible terrorism links. On December 29, water officials took inventory of their chemicals at the plant and police checked water towers across the city, but no tampering was found. Police are investigating to see if the crime is connected to another copper theft at a nearby recreation center in early December.
Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/FBI-called-in-to-investigate-burglary-at-Arlington-water-treatment-plant-80372837.html>
24. *December 30, KPLC 7 Lake Charles* – (Louisiana) **Tank contaminated at George H. West Plant.** A common mistake at the George H. West plant forced the plant to stop service for a day. The afternoon of December 29, the wrong chemical was offloaded into an isolated tank. “It’s a really rare type of incident to happen like this,” says the water superintendent for the Public Works Department. One of the contract vendors for the plant started offloading what he thought was caustic soda. But when he noticed the odor of the chemical, he immediately stopped offloading. “He actually picked up the wrong chemical, but had the right paper work for the chemical we use,” he says. Officials now know the chemical mistakenly offloaded is a toxic chemical referred to as cresol. The chemical is used to manufacture products such as break fluids, insecticides, and disinfectants. The Public Works Department says that just because the plant is temporarily out of service, that does not mean citizens are at risk. “It was caught in time and it was an isolated tank,” he says. “There are 5 other water treatment plants that serve the city, and none of those were affected.” On December 30, workers were getting the contamination out of the tank so the plant can start running once again. “The tank and pipe materials will be taken out of this plant and disposed of properly,” he says. The George H. West plant was expected to be back up and running December 30 evening. The Public Works Department plans to replace the entire tank sometime the week of

January 4.

Source: <http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11747444>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *December 30, Associated Press* – (National) **CDC warns of fake swine flu e-mails.** Health officials are warning the public about fake e-mails inviting people to sign up for swine flu vaccine registrations. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials this week put out an advisory about the e-mails, which call for adults to create a personal H1N1 (swine flu) vaccination profile on the cdc.gov Web site. CDC officials say the e-mails appear to be spam messages designed by hackers to spread a computer virus. The CDC does not have such a vaccination program.
Source: http://www.nctimes.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/article_261e3262-5e74-5653-b38f-5b307d0a31d6.html
26. *December 30, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **FDA, health organizations to study safety of medications taken during pregnancy.** A new research program called the Medication Exposure in Pregnancy Risk Evaluation Program (MEPREP) will fund research to study the effects of prescription medications used during pregnancy. The program is a collaboration among the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and researchers at the HMO Research Network Center for Education and Research in Therapeutics (CERT), Kaiser Permanente's multiple research centers and Vanderbilt University. About two-thirds of women who deliver a baby have taken at least one prescription medication during pregnancy, according to a journal article published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. There are very few clinical trials that test the safety of medications in pregnancy due to concerns about the health of the mother and child.
Source:
<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm195934.htm>
27. *December 30, Hendersonville Times-News* – (North Carolina) **Weather, holidays create shortage in blood supply.** Because of the weather and the holiday season, the Western region of North Carolina is in dire need of blood. "So many drives had to be canceled because of the weather and because people can't get out," said a donor recruitment representative with the American Red Cross. "Our Western region is short about 200 units of blood, an estimate as of Friday." She said they need between 150 and 200 units above the 120 expected at the holiday drive at the church.
Source:
<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20091230/SERVICES03/912301014/1042>
28. *December 29, New York Times* – (National) **FDA to seek new standards on human test data.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is developing guidelines that will set tougher scientific standards for data from tests on humans that makers of medical devices submit when seeking approval of their products, a top agency official said. The acting director of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health criticized the device

approval process. He said in a telephone interview on Monday that the FDA most likely will soon urge device makers to take steps like using more sharply defined targets to measure the success of clinical trials. The agency may also urge producers to more closely follow patients enrolled in such trials to determine whether the targets are met, he added. His comments were made before the release on Tuesday of two studies that found shortcomings in some clinical trials accepted by the FDA over the last decade in connection with the approval of high-risk cardiovascular devices. Such products include pacemakers, implanted defibrillators and the tiny tubes known as coronary stents, which are used to prop open clogged blood vessels.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/business/30device.html?_r=1&ref=us

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *December 31, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Downtown suspicious package is harmless, say police.** A suspicious package that was found Thursday morning outside the downtown federal courthouse is harmless and contained clothes and other items, said police. Officers said they got a call around 6:40 a.m. Thursday about a backpack outside the courthouse located at Eighth Avenue and Broadway. Broadway was blocked from Ninth Avenue to the riverfront, but it has reopened to traffic.

Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/news/22097263/detail.html>

30. *December 30, Ozarksfirst.com* – (Kansas) **Courthouse evacuated after suspicious package found.** A courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas, had to be evacuated on Tuesday after a suspicious package was discovered. The package was found in the northeast corner of the Wyandotte County Courthouse just after 3:00 in the afternoon. The area around the courthouse was also blocked off while police investigated. According to the Kansas City Star, members of the bomb squad were called in to investigate. The package reportedly contained personal items and was harmless.

Source: <http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=220701>

For another story, see item [13](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *December 30, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Mercury left in suspicious package in front of Antioch fire station.** An Antioch fire station was evacuated Wednesday and the bomb squad called in after someone left a suspicious duct-taped lunchbox labeled “Danger” in front of the station. The package held two containers filled with mercury. Investigators do not believe the anonymous package was left maliciously, but rather placed there by someone who did not know how to properly dispose of the hazardous material it contained. Police evacuated the station until the mercury was safely removed at 11 a.m. Firefighters meanwhile worked out of another station. No one was injured and no spills occurred, police said.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci_14096869?nclick_check=1

32. *December 30, Coulee News* – (Wisconsin) **New radios to boost emergency abilities.** The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance recently awarded \$4.2 million to communities around the state for the replacement of outdated radios. Among the communities in this area receiving new radios were Onalaska, West Salem and Bangor. The radios will enable better, more reliable communications between emergency response agencies at critical times and during large-scale disasters where response teams from different jurisdictions are working together. The funds for purchasing the radios have come from the federal Homeland Security Department. The state's short-term goal is to make sure all public safety agencies have access to common mutual aid channels during a major emergency. The new radios have a minimum of 48 channels — as opposed to as few as one channel on some of the police, fire and rescue units previously in use.

Source: <http://www.couleenews.com/articles/2009/12/30/news/02radios.txt>

33. *December 30, Associated Press* – (New York) **Photo catches NY prison guard sleeping on job in front of inmate.** A New York City correction officer took a cell phone photo of his co-worker sleeping on duty, leading to disciplinary action against both of them. The photo shows the guard, in uniform, leaning back in a chair with her arms folded on her chest, eyes closed and mouth open. An inmate is standing next to her, making a “peace” sign. The photo, published in the New York Post on December 29, came to the attention of Department of Correction officials the week of December 21, the deputy commissioner said. Once it was authenticated, the officer was transferred from her post at the Rikers Island infirmary and removed from supervising inmates. The department also did the same to the officer who took the photo. Both officers violated rules, and the department will file charges against both officers with the city's Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581411,00.html?test=latestnews>

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Information Technology

34. *December 30, WIRED* – (International) **Facebook app maker hit with data-breach class action.** RockYou, the popular provider of third-party apps for Facebook, MySpace, and other social-networking services, is being hit with a proposed class-action accusing the company of having such poor data security that at least one hacker got away with 32 million e-mails and their passwords. The suit accuses the maker of apps like “Slideshow” for MySpace and “Superwall” for Facebook of making its unencrypted customer data “available to even the least capable hacker.” “RockYou failed to use hashing, salting or any other common and reasonable method of data protection and therefore drastically exacerbated the consequences of a hacker bypassing its outer layer of web security,” according to the Monday complaint in San Francisco federal court. Redwood City, California-based RockYou admits the data was “breached.” The lawsuit claims a hacker known by the moniker “igigi” exploited an SQL injection flaw and “and removed the e-mails and passwords of approximately 32 million registered RockYou

users.” The suit also accuses the company of failing to promptly notify consumers of the December 4 breach. A company spokeswoman said in an e-mail that RockYou “plans to defend itself vigorously. The company takes its users’ privacy seriously.” The company’s privacy policy said it “makes commercially reasonable efforts to ensure the security of our system,” yet its user database was stored in plain text, according to the lawsuit.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2009/12/facebook-app-data-breach/>

For more stories, see items [25](#) and [35](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

35. *December 29, H Security* – (International) **26C3: Network design weaknesses.** At the 26th Chaos Communication Congress (26C3) in Berlin, a security researcher demonstrated a number of vulnerabilities that can apparently be found in many average communication networks and affect all levels from the access layer to the application layer. Attackers exploit many minor design flaws which allow “dangerous attacks” when combined, explained the Berlin-based security expert who last year investigated vulnerabilities in the basic TCP internet protocol. Overall, the “bugs” can reportedly be exploited to hijack a proxy server such as Squid and control all of the network traffic that flows through it. To demonstrate, he chose the Pidgin instant messaging software, where emoticons in MSN Chat are apparently known to be particularly vulnerable to attacks. The protocol’s flawed encoding of a text in binary enabled him to download an executable program and eventually gave the researcher a first foothold in the network. Next, the expert reportedly took a step back onto the access layer to target a driver for an ethernet network card in order to gain access to the network layer. He said that, in this case, he found a flaw in the way an e1000 Linux driver for Intel devices establishes the maximum packet or frame size, which is also called the Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU). This flaw reportedly involves the inability to securely differentiate in any circumstance between “jumbo frames” for gigabit ethernet and their counterparts in networks with lower transmission rates. Furthermore, all the pertinent security advisories released by Intel and Red Hat apparently misinterpreted the flaw, allowing the firewall to be overcome as well. The hacker’s last step for gaining control of the network’s web traffic was apparently made easier because the Squid server in question also stores the Domain Name System (DNS) traffic in a 24-hour cache. The expert said that the authentication used in the process has been frequently criticized because attackers only need to find 32 matching bits to hack it. Using targeted requests, the researcher reportedly managed to trigger a cache confusion and find an exploitable open

port. Finally, a flawed TCP implementation allowed the hardware filter to be bypassed by transmitting a sequence of useless patches. He concludes: “Isolated vulnerabilities don’t exist.” The expert said that the security of network components depends on that of their respective environments.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/26C3-Network-design-weaknesses-893356.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *December 31, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. warns of possible ‘attack to Bali tonight.’** The U.S. Embassy warned Thursday of a possible New Year’s Eve terrorist attack on Indonesia’s Bali island, based on information from the popular resort’s governor, but security officials said they were unaware of a threat. An embassy e-mail to U.S. citizens quoted the island’s governor as saying, “There is an indication of an attack to Bali tonight.” An Indonesian police spokesman said the department had no information about a specific threat on Bali and that security was in place to ensure festivities would be safe. The embassy said U.S. citizens should monitor local media and be aware of possible threats in the world’s most populous Muslim-majority nation. “While Indonesia’s counterterrorism efforts have been ongoing and partly successful, violent elements have demonstrated a willingness and ability to carry out deadly attacks with little or no warning,” the e-mail said. An embassy spokeswoman said the warning had been widely distributed to restaurants and cafes by the Bali Tourism Board. But the Bali Tourism Board head said he “never issued such a statement or letter regarding the threat of terrorist attacks.”

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34640719/ns/world_news-asiapacific/

37. *December 31, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Suspicious package sent to attorney’s office.** A building in downtown Columbia had to be evacuated on Wednesday afternoon after a suspicious package was sent to an attorney’s office, said the Maury County Sheriff’s Department. The building was evacuated after an envelope, which contained a white powder, was sent to the office of a known attorney. There is no report of injuries, but about 15 employees were quarantined most of the afternoon. Some of those who were evacuated had to go through a detoxification process. Preliminary tests indicate the substance is not harmful, but investigators are still waiting to do more thorough testing. At about 5:30 p.m., everyone but the people who had contact with the envelope was allowed to leave the area. The Joint Terrorism Task Force is investigating.

Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/news/22092016/detail.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

38. *December 30, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Corps rejects Cedar Rapids flood plan.**

One of Iowa's Senators said he will explore whether a law can be changed so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can recommend the construction of flood walls and levees in downtown Cedar Rapids. Corps officials the week of December 28 said that protecting Iowa's second-largest city against the devastating level of flooding that occurred in 2008 would cost more than the damage it would prevent. The Corps of Engineers cannot recommend Congress pay for a levee project unless the benefits at least equal the project's cost. Congress can ignore the Corps' analysis and pay for a project even without a recommendation. However, a Corps spokesman said that typically does not occur. About 10 square miles in the heart of Cedar Rapids was flooded in June 2008 when the Cedar River crested at record levels. Damage was estimated at about \$6 billion. In addition, officials estimated the flood-related economic impact/loss to the business community at nearly \$5 billion.

Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091230/NEWS/912300348/-1/ENT06/Corps-rejects-C.R.-flood-plan>

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