



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 January 2010

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- The New York Times reports that a gunman opened fire Monday morning in the lobby of the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse in downtown Las Vegas, killing a court security officer and wounding a deputy United States marshal before he was shot in the head and killed nearby. (See item [41](#))
- According to United Press International, members of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Anti-Gang Task Force in southern California found their building had been rigged to explode December 31. A Hemet police lieutenant told the Los Angeles Times it is “an educated guess” that gang members are responsible. (See item [46](#))

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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. *January 2, Examiner* – (California) **Kirkwood ski resort expects all lifts to be operating on Monday, Jan. 4.** Kirkwood ski resort expects to be running at 100 percent on January 4 after reportedly restoring 100 percent power the afternoon of January 3. A fire that started the afternoon of January 1 destroyed the interior of

Kirkwood's 10,000-square-foot power plant, cutting electricity to the entire Kirkwood Valley, which included 14 ski lifts, about 600 residential units and various shops. A hot filter started the fire on the roof of an Alpine County Mountain Utilities power plant around 2 p.m., according to the resort senior vice president. He estimated that the fire will cost Kirkwood \$6 million to \$7 million in property damage and lost revenue.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-26607-SF-Skiing-Examiner~y2010m1d3-Kirkwood-ski-resort-expects-all-lifts-to-be-operating-on-Monday-Jan-4>

2. *January 2, News 8 Austin* – (Texas) **Oil tank fire burns 2,000 barrels of oil near Luling.** Firefighters responded Saturday to an oil tank fire on Salt Flat Road, also known as County Road 128, near Luling, Texas. The fire was located in an oil tank field. No homes are located nearby. The fire reportedly started at about 8 a.m. on January 2 with two 500-barrel tanks. When firefighters attempted to put out the fire, they found it too quick and dangerous to handle. “We had it almost out, and then it flared back up on us,” a Luling Fire Department captain said. “When it flared back up, we decided to go ahead and back up, it’s too dangerous to continue.” The flame then spread to two more 500-barrel tanks. Firefighters said about 2,000 barrels of crude oil burned. The Caldwell County Sheriff’s Office responded to the fire after the Luling Fire Department requested aid. The Austin Fire Department also dispatched to the scene with a truck carrying foam to try to extinguish the fire, as water was not an effective solution. Fires like Saturday’s are not new to the Luling area. It is part of life, living near the oil fields. “It’s usually during lightning strikes or that type of thing, but any kind of static electricity or something happening on the tank can cause this,” he said. Investigators said it is too early to say what caused this fire. Information about the cause of the fire is not available at this time.  
Source: [http://www.news8austin.com/content/your\\_news/default.asp?ArID=262838](http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=262838)
3. *January 2, WKMG 6 Orlando* – (Oklahoma) **Freak accident kills oil rig worker.** An oil field worker was killed New Year’s Day in a freak industrial accident west of Oklahoma City. The accident happened at about 8 a.m. January 1 at an oil rig in Bethany, Oklahoma, KOCO-TV reported. Police said the man, 35, of Noble, Oklahoma, died as workers were winching up a pipe to change a drill bit when the pipe broke loose and fell uncontrolled onto a mobile trailer where other workers stay. “The piece of pipe sliced through the building and landed on him, killing him instantly,” a lieutenant of the Bethany Police Department said. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Labor are investigating. Another worker suffered a hand injury while trying to stop the pipe from falling. He was treated at the scene.  
Source: <http://www.clickorlando.com/news/22109372/detail.html>
4. *January 2, Snohomish County Herald* – (Washington) **Copper thieves hit BPA substation.** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has offered to pay up to \$25,000 for help finding the thieves who stole copper wire and damaged an electrical substation south of Arlington. Utility crews on December 29 discovered copper wire cut from circuit breakers, switches and other equipment at the substation at 17400 Burn Road, according to BPA officials. Officials believe the theft happened sometime the week of December 21. It appears someone cut a hole in a fence and then stole more

than 30 feet of copper wire. BPA officials do not yet have a damage estimate. Theft of copper has been a continual problem for BPA and other utilities. At least three BPA substations have been hit in the Northwest. BPA is a wholesale electricity provider that serves utilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. It is one of the main power providers for the Snohomish County Public Utility District, which serves residential and business customers across the county and on Camano Island. BPA officials are not only concerned about the loss of valuable copper. The damage caused by the theft is expensive to fix. A knocked-out substation could affect not only people living around it, but other substations on the power grid.

Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100102/NEWS01/701029928>

5. *January 2, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Fire breaks out at TVA coal plant.** A failing 4,160-volt circuit breaker caused an electrical arc that started a fire at a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) coal-burning power plant on December 30, 2009. An agency spokesman says the fire at the John Sevier Fossil Plant near Rogersville in East Tennessee occurred at around 2 p.m. Eastern time. It was extinguished before 5 p.m., and no serious injuries were reported. Two employees were treated for minor smoke inhalation. The fire happened at one of the plant's four units, and TVA shut off the unit as a precaution. A TVA fire brigade and police responded. They were assisted by emergency and ambulance units from Hawkins County.  
Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100102/NEWS01/1020341/Fire+breaks+out+at+TVA+coal+plant>
6. *January 1, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Tug captain, second mate, relieved of duties after Exxon Valdez-type crash.** The captain and second mate of the Pathfinder have been relieved of their duties as a result of the tugboat's recent grounding at the same reef as the Exxon Valdez 20 years ago in what remains the nation's worst oil spill. Crowley Marine operates the tug, which was scouting for ice along Alaska's oil shipping lanes December 23 when it ran aground on Bligh Reef, spilling an estimated 100 gallons of diesel fuel. A Crowley spokesman says the two crew members, whose names have not been released, were relieved of their duties two days later. The company says it is waiting for the outcome of a Coast Guard investigation to determine any further action. The company tells Anchorage television station KTUU that once it has a better understanding of what happened, it will decide if the two should be put back on the job.  
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581721,00.html?test=latestnews>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

7. *January 4, Washington Post* – (National) **Use of potentially harmful chemicals kept secret under law.** Of the 84,000 chemicals in commercial use in the United States nearly 20 percent are secret, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, their names and physical properties guarded from consumers and virtually all public officials

under a little-known federal provision. The policy was designed 33 years ago to protect trade secrets in a highly competitive industry. But critics — including the Presidential Administration — say the secrecy has grown out of control, making it impossible for regulators to control potential dangers or for consumers to know which toxic substances they might be exposed to. At a time of increasing public demand for more information about chemical exposure, pressure is building on lawmakers to make it more difficult for manufacturers to cloak their products in secrecy. Congress is set to rewrite chemical regulations this year for the first time in a generation. Under the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act, manufacturers must report to the federal government new chemicals they intend to market. But the law exempts from public disclosure any information that could harm their bottom line. Government officials, scientists and environmental groups say that manufacturers have exploited weaknesses in the law to claim secrecy for an ever-increasing number of chemicals. In the past several years, 95 percent of the notices for new chemicals sent to the government requested some secrecy, according to the Government Accountability Office. About 700 chemicals are introduced annually. Some companies have successfully argued that the federal government should not only keep the names of their chemicals secret but also hide from public view the identities and addresses of the manufacturers.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/03/AR2010010302110.html?hpid=topnews>

8. *January 2, Canadian Press* – (International) **British cargo ship and Singapore chemical tanker hijacked by pirates off Somali coast.** A cargo ship and a chemical tanker have both been hijacked by pirates in the perilous waters off the coast of Somalia, bringing to four the number of ships seized in the past week, officials said January 2. The British-flagged Asian Glory was taken late January 1 roughly 600 miles east of Somalia, said a spokesman with the European Union task force charged with combating piracy off Somalia. The same day, the Singaporean-flagged Pramoni, a chemical tanker with a crew of 24, was seized by pirates in the heavily defended Gulf of Aden. The spokesman said the Asian Glory’s crew of 25 — from Ukraine, Bulgaria, India, and Romania — appeared to be safe and that the pirates had not yet made contact with the ship’s owner, Zodiac Management Agencies. “The standard procedure for the pirates is to get the ship back to their stronghold and then contact the owner,” he said. “I don’t know yet where the ship is bound.” He said the Asian Glory was headed for, but had not yet entered, the internationally recognized travel corridor patrolled by the European Union when it was hijacked. Officials said the Pramoni was traveling east toward India when it was seized. The ship’s master radioed that the crew — from Indonesia, China, Nigeria, and Vietnam — was safe. The vessel is now also heading toward Somalia.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iI6cwVdK1DxwN8dB2Na\\_5TEip-kQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iI6cwVdK1DxwN8dB2Na_5TEip-kQ)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

9. *January 4, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Court records reveal trouble at Turkey Point**. According to court records, Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant’s indicators that show the position of the rods in the reactor core — a central measure about how the core is functioning— are aged and unreliable. “There are the old gauges...where...a needle that goes around and around,” an Institute of Nuclear Power Operations official testified, saying they were “not very reliable.” When operators looked at the indicators daily, “they’d be stuck. So over the years, they developed the habit of pinging them to get them to move...Well, that’s not OK in a nuclear plant because you have to have reliable, you know, verification of where those rods are positioned...That’s a lesson from Three Mile Island,” the worst nuclear disaster in American history. In the hush-hush nuclear world, such insider details rarely, if ever, become public, but now a lawsuit has made public 2,000 pages of testimony that offer a fascinating window into the experiences, thoughts and frustrations of Turkey Point executives, employees and contract workers that reveal myriad problems. Florida Power & Light, which operates the plant, says it is safe and all its actions are done according to federal regulation. Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/business/business-monday/story/1407423.html>
10. *January 3, Middletown Times Herald Record* – (New York) **Feds let Indian Point put reactor in ‘storage’**. Indian Point Nuclear Plant in Buchanan, New York, and federal regulators have reached an agreement that will allow a reactor to sit dormant — under monitoring — for as long as 50 years while its parent company accrues enough money to safely tear it down. The agreement comes eight months after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission discovered a \$38.6 million shortfall in the decommissioning trust fund for Indian Point’s Unit 2. Federal laws require Entergy, Indian Point’s parent company, to show it would have enough money to shut down and dismantle the unit by the end of its life. Entergy is also seeking a change to its license that would allow an auxiliary feedwater pump in Unit 3 to be out of commission for a longer period of time. The license currently allows the pump to be out of service for 72 hours. Entergy wants permission for it to be inactive for 106 hours so that it can evaluate and fix high vibrations that are affecting the pump. Source: <http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100103/NEWS/1030331>
11. *January 1, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (National) **Safety at NFS halting work**. Nuclear Fuel Services is suspending most of its production to deal with safety changes that are being implemented in cooperation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the wake of several safety-related incidents. An NRC spokesman said Thursday the agency has had an “augmented inspection team” at NFS for several weeks. He also said the NRC will issue a “confirmatory action letter” next week outlining what NFS will need to do to restart the idled operations. An NFS news release said the shutdown will occur “while organizational, facility and management changes are made.” The changes will “enhance existing stringent safety controls and processes,” according to the statement. Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jan/01/safety-at-nfs-halting-work/>

12. *December 31, Reuters* – (Arizona; California) **No damage to US Southwest reactors from quake.** A moderate earthquake that rattled both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border caused no damage to nuclear power plants in nearby Arizona and California. However, workers at the Palo Verde nuclear plant in Arizona, about 50 miles west of Phoenix, felt the 5.8-magnitude quake on Wednesday, the plant's owner told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The earthquake did not register on the plant's seismic monitoring equipment. The 3,872-megawatt plant declared an unusual event, which is the lowest of the NRC's four emergency classifications. Workers found no unusual conditions or damage to plant equipment. All three reactors at Palo Verde continued to operate at full power throughout the event.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN3124363020091231?type=marketsNews>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

13. *January 3, WSAZ 3 Huntington* – (West Virginia) **Small electrical fire reported at special metals.** Reports of an electrical fire called firefighters to the Special Metals plant in Cabell County Sunday. Dispatchers say just before 4 p.m. Sunday, they got a call about a small electrical fire inside the plant. However, it was quickly put out. No injuries were reported, and the power company was called in to take care of the situation.

Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/80544577.html>

14. *December 30, Detroit Free Press* – (International) **Toyota's 1st in safety recalls for 1st time.** In a first, Toyota led the U.S. auto industry in recalled vehicles this year, thanks to its largest safety-related problem since it began selling vehicles in the United States. The Japanese automaker has struggled with the fallout from the recall of 4.3 million Toyota and Lexus models for unintended acceleration linked to fatal crashes. Toyota told federal officials in early December it would start fixing the vehicles now, but some repairs would not be ready until March. According to a Free Press analysis of federal data, automakers recalled 15.2 million vehicles in 2009, a sharp jump from 8.6 million in 2008. Safety recalls have generally declined in recent years as automakers catch problems earlier, but the totals can fluctuate widely with one or two big problems. All three Detroit automakers also saw their count of recalled vehicles rise in 2009, even as they caught problems earlier in production. Nearly all of Ford's recalled models were tied to one longstanding problem with cruise control switches; absent it, the company would have hit a record low. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration tracks only those recalls that could affect safety in some way.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20091230/BUSINESS01/912300358/1210/Business/Toyotas-1st-in-safety-recalls-for-1st-time>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

15. *January 4, Military Times* – (National) **New machine guns for Corps' helicopters.** Eventually, all Marine and Navy assault support rotary wing aircraft will be equipped with the M3M FN Herstal GAU-21 .50-caliber machine gun. For the Corps, it is now in use on the ramps of the CH-53E Super Stallion, a heavy-lift helicopter, as well as the ramp and windows of the CH-53D, the Super Stallion's predecessor. But officials at Naval Air Systems Command also are working to integrate a door-mounted GAU-21 onto the CH-53E and the UH-1Y Venom, the Corps' newest light-utility helicopter. The GAU-21, which remains in developmental testing at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, can fire more than 1,000 rounds per minute compared to the roughly 700 rounds per minute of the M2 Browning GAU-16/A machine gun it is replacing. When factoring in the jamming problems experienced by the GAU-16, the GAU-21 can offer double the rate of fire of its predecessor. In addition to putting more rounds down range, the new gun, with a maximum effective range of 21,000 feet, is more accurate due to a new recoil compensation system that also reduces the wear and tear on helicopters. The door-mounted GAU-21s are expected to enter operational testing by the end of the summer at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California. Marine Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 9 will test its accuracy and safety. Testing also will include a go at the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course in Yuma, Arizona.  
Source: [http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/marines\\_gau21\\_010410w/](http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/marines_gau21_010410w/)

16. *January 4, Military Times* – (National) **Fleet scrambles to meet BMD ship demand.** No sooner did the Aegis ballistic missile defense system become operational in 2008 than combatant commanders started asking for BMD-equipped ships to begin patrolling their areas. U.S. Central Command needed a "shooter" in the northern Persian Gulf. European Command wanted one in the eastern Mediterranean. Pacific Command already had Aegis ships with limited BMD capabilities on guard around Japan for a potential launch from North Korea. The demand for BMD ships is expected to increase, driven in part by rising concerns about Iran's intentions and the U.S. decision in September to cancel an anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic and rely instead on Aegis. But the Navy has a relatively small number of such ships, and those destroyers and cruisers are designed to carry out a wide range of war-fighting tasks. As a result, while Navy commanders are pleased with the expanding capabilities of their Aegis ships, they're also somewhat guarded about trumpeting the advances. "We can't constrain assets to one mission," a senior officer said last month. "They need to do a variety of other missions." Worries that valuable Aegis ships might be locked into the BMD mission were discussed in December at a two-day seminar at the National Defense University in Washington. The Navy is also working on how to respond, said the director of the Navy Staff. "We have a small Navy today — the smallest since 1916 — yet we have a growing global demand for maritime forces, maritime security operations. And now we have a growing demand for maritime ballistic missile defense. Our ships and our crews and our systems are up to the challenge, but it's a capacity issue for us," the admiral said to a reporter during the NDU seminar.  
Source: [http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/navy\\_aegis\\_bmd\\_010410w/](http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/navy_aegis_bmd_010410w/)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

17. *January 1, West Volusia News Journal* – (Florida) **Man uses ‘bomb’ to rob Bunnell bank.** An unidentified man put a strange cylinder on the counter at a Bank of America and told the teller it was a bomb, quietly demanding money on December 31. The man fled the bank branch on E. Moody Blvd. just after 11:30 a.m. with an undisclosed amount of cash — and left the package behind. The teller raised the alarm and customers and bank employees were informed of what had happened. Local law enforcement officers shut down the streets around the bank for several hours on December 31 while the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office bomb squad checked out the pipe-like package that was covered in electrical tape. A nearby business was also evacuated and no one was allowed within 500 feet of the bank — including stranded customers and workers whose cars were in the bank parking lot. Just before 3 p.m., the bomb squad “neutralized” the package inside the building by blowing it up in a protective container, the Bunnell police chief said.  
Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Flagler/flaHEAD03010110.htm>
  
18. *December 31, USA Today* – (National) **Cybercrooks stalk small businesses that bank online.** A rising swarm of cyber-robberies targeting small firms, local governments, school districts, churches, and non-profits has prompted an extraordinary warning. The American Bankers Association and the FBI are advising small and mid-size businesses that conduct financial transactions over the Internet to dedicate a separate PC used exclusively for online banking. The reason: Cybergangs have inundated the Internet with “banking Trojans” — malicious programs that enable them to surreptitiously access and manipulate online accounts. A dedicated PC that is never used for e-mail or Web browsing is much less likely to encounter a banking Trojan. And the bad guys are stepping up ways to get them onto PCs at small organizations. They then use the Trojans to manipulate two distinctive, decades-old banking technologies: Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfers and wire transfers. ACH and wire transfers remain at the financial nerve center of most businesses. ACH transfers typically take two days to complete and are widely used to deposit salaries, pay suppliers and receive payments from customers. Wire transfers usually come into play to move larger sums in near-real time. Internet-enabled ACH and wire transfer fraud have become so acute that the FBI, which is usually reticent to discuss bank losses or even acknowledge ongoing cases, has gone public about the scale of the attacks to bring attention to the problem. The FBI, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Federal Reserve have all issued warnings in the past two months.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/2009-12-30-cybercrime-small-business-online-banking\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/2009-12-30-cybercrime-small-business-online-banking_N.htm)
  
19. *December 31, Richmond Palladium-Item* – (Indiana) **Debit card scam: Hagerstown, Greens Fork already affected.** A telephone debit card scam is impacting Hagerstown and Greens Fork, Indiana, and may continue to spread east, bank executives say. The

vice president of member services for Perfect Circle Credit Union said the scam is currently hitting 489 and 886 prefixes. Customers of PCCU and West End Bank are being fraudulently asked via automated phone calls from 1-800-245-9655 to enter their debit card numbers or risk having them canceled. The real risk is that by responding to the scam, unsuspecting customers can expose themselves to unwanted charges on their accounts and also myriad potential credit issues.

Source: <http://www.pal-item.com/article/20091231/UPDATES/91231018/DEBIT+CARD+SCAM++Hagerstown++Greens+Fork+already+affected>

20. *December 30, Investment News* – (International) **Security breach reported by Internet trading site collective2.com.** Users of the do-it-yourself trading site collective2.com received an “urgent” e-mail at a few minutes past noon on December 30 notifying them that the company’s computer database had been breached by a hacker and that all users should log in to change their passwords immediately. That e-mail, from the founder of Collective2 LLC, stated that the information accessed by the hacker included names, e-mail addresses, passwords and credit card information. In addition, the e-mail went on to state: “We have contacted federal and state law enforcement authorities, who we hope will track down and prosecute the person responsible. More important: we have changed our database security, locked down our servers and altered our website in order to prevent similar attacks. We are also notifying the three credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — of the breach.” Launched in 2003, collective2.com provides its 25,000 subscribers with algorithm-based, computer-generated trading systems. A trading system is a set of formulas and rules that generate buy and sell recommendations based on price, volume, or other data. Collective2.com acts as an online repository for more than 9,000 automated trading systems developed by mathematicians and traders from around the world. Trading volume at the site rose to \$17.5 billion during the third quarter. That compares with about \$1.2 billion in the similar period a year ago.

Source:

<http://www.investmentnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091230/FREE/912309990/1035/TECHNOLOGY>

21. *December 29, Help Net Security* – (International) **Phishers prefer Paypal, Visa, eBay and Amex.** Compared to the first half of 2009, the amount of phishing messages has remained relatively unchanged, although phishers have switched their focus to institutions that could bring them the most profit in the shortest timeframe. This is one of the results of BitDefender’s malware and spam survey. Primary targets are PayPal, Visa and eBay, followed by HSBC, American Express, and Abbey Bank. Ally Bank and Bank of America rank last with a little over one percent of the total amount of phishing messages. These messages mostly target English-speaking computer users who are using the services of at least one of the institutions previously mentioned. BitDefender Labs found that most web 2.0 phishing attempts in the first half of 2009 relied on social engineering schemes and speculated user naivety. The Twitter Porn Name scam is a good example. Users were invited to reveal their first pet name, as well as the first street on which they lived. These names are usually employed as

backup/security questions. An e-crook possessing a person's username along with these "clues" can easily retrieve a password that he or she can later employ to access the account and send spam, access transactions, or use the account in whatever way necessary to make a profit, including demanding a ransom for release of the hijacked account.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=8660>

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## **Transportation Sector**

22. *January 4, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Man skirts Newark airport security; flights delayed.** A man walked through a screening checkpoint exit into the secure side of a terminal at one of the nation's busiest airports on Sunday night, and flights were grounded for hours and passengers had to be re-screened while air safety officials searched for him. Airline passengers were allowed to begin boarding their planes at Newark Liberty International Airport about six hours after the man was seen bypassing security. The man walked down an exit lane at Terminal C about 5:30 p.m., a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokeswoman said, and screening was halted while authorities looked at surveillance tapes to try to identify him. Passengers were then moved from the secure side of the terminal, which is used primarily by Continental Airlines Inc., to the open side to go through screening again. Passengers waited in check-in areas. The terminal was searched thoroughly to make sure no dangerous objects were in it before the security checkpoints reopened around 11:45 p.m., the TSA said. The man was not found, but the TSA said its re-screening effort ensured every passenger was fully screened. Security officers instructed the passengers, who expressed frustration over the situation.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581832,00.html>

23. *January 4, Politico* – (International) **U.S. tightens international air security.** All travelers flying into the U.S. from foreign countries will receive tightened random screening, and 100 percent of passengers from 14 terrorism-prone countries will be patted down and have their carry-ons searched, TSA notified airlines on Sunday. All passengers from countries on the State Department's "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list – plus all passengers from other "countries of interest" such as Nigeria, Pakistan and Yemen — will receive "full body pat-down and physical inspection of property," an official said. The countries on the State Department list are Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria. Other countries covered by the TSA directive are Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Somalia. A much higher percentage of all travelers from all foreign countries will receive such screening than is currently the case, the official said. "The screening "could also include explosive detection technology or advanced imaging technology where it's available," the official said. The "enhanced security measures" apply to "all international flights to U.S. locations, including both U.S. and international carriers," the official said. "All international passengers will be screened and the majority of passengers will be screened using threat-based or random measures," the official said. "These are designed to be sustainable measures that are a

significant increase in our security posture.”

Source: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0110/31122.html>

24. *January 3, Aviation Web* – (National) **American Airlines under increased FAA scrutiny.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will increase its oversight of American Airlines following a string of non-fatal landing incidents that took place in December, including one that left an AA 737 in pieces in Kingston, Jamaica. An FAA spokesperson made the comments to CNN, adding that the FAA’s review will attempt to determine if those incidents “might be indicative of a larger issue.” On December 13, an American MD-80 went off the side of the runway while landing at Charlotte Douglas International Airport and dragged a wingtip while realigning. The December 22 incident at Kingston left 91 passengers injured and the 737 broken when it overran the runway in heavy rain. And on December 24, another AA MD-80 dragged a wingtip landing at Austin. American is cooperating with the investigation, all of which is said to be routine for this and similar situations. Upon conclusion of the review, the FAA will deliver its conclusions to American and “assist in the development of appropriate corrective actions,” the spokesperson said.

Source:

[http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/american\\_airlines\\_landing\\_incident\\_FAA\\_review\\_201780-1.html](http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/american_airlines_landing_incident_FAA_review_201780-1.html)

25. *January 2, Seattle Post Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Man arrested after SeaTac airport incident.** Police took a man into custody at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after he locked himself in a bathroom and claimed to be armed. No weapon was found, but part of the airport was evacuated as a precaution in the Friday incident. A Port of Seattle spokeswoman says no one was hurt and no flights delayed. She says the man locked himself in a family restroom in a public part of the airport about 5 p.m., and police negotiators persuaded him to surrender about two and a half hours later. Airport police say they could not immediately determine what the man’s motive was, but they stress that nothing indicates it was an attempt at terrorism. The spokeswoman said that at one point the man said he wanted to fly somewhere but did not have a ticket.

Source: [http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap\\_wa\\_seatac\\_arrest.html](http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_seatac_arrest.html)

26. *January 1, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Brooksville plane forced down near Everglades by military.** A tenuous grasp of English and the skills needed to pilot the plane were not going to keep a French pilot grounded December 30, officials said. The man climbed into the Cessna 425, headed south toward the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe and inadvertently flew into a storm of trouble. In a week of heightened security following an attempted terrorist attack on a plane bound for Detroit, the man picked a bad time for a misunderstanding. He was forced down by military aircraft Wednesday afternoon at an airport in Collier County. “This just got way out of hand,” the director of the Hernando County Airport said Thursday. “Someone heard the words ‘airplane’ and ‘foreign pilot,’ and people started jumping to conclusions.” According to authorities, the man had recently bought the plane from American Aviation in Brooksville and had gone through a series of “check rides” at the Hernando airport with

a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) -certified instructor to test the plane. He was licensed to fly the aircraft in the United States. But the instructor, who was not identified, recommended that the Frenchman not fly because he could not communicate very well in English with anyone on the ground or in the air. The instructor also told the man that his flying skills should be reevaluated by another instructor, according to a report by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. At some point, however, the FAA reported that the plane had been stolen. Authorities at the North American Aerospace Defense Command — the military agency that handles airspace threats — were alerted. Jets responded quickly to pursue the small plane and two F-15's forced the plane down at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport in Collier County, according to reports.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/brooksville-plane-forced-down-near-everglades-by-military/1062273>

27. *December 31, NBC Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **DFW security checkpoint left unattended for 90 minutes.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has launched an internal investigation after a security checkpoint at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport was left unattended and unsecured for 90 minutes in December. Three agents have been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation. The agency said the agents left the checkpoint at Gate E8 from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Dec. 16. Personnel from the airport's Department of Public Safety discovered the gate was not secure during a routine patrol, the TSA said. A TSA spokeswoman called it a "serious and unacceptable security failure." "An immediate review of closed-circuit television tapes verified that no passengers or items entered the sterile area while the gate was unsecure," the TSA said in a statement. The spokeswoman said the TSA is focused ensuring the lapse in security never happens again.

Source: <http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local-beat/DFW-Security-Checkpoint-Left-Unattended-for-90-Minutes-80442357.html>

For another story, see item [8](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

28. *December 30, Associated Press* – (National) **Mailman to deliver aid in case of anthrax attack.** If the nation ever faces a large-scale attack by a biological weapon like anthrax, the U.S. Postal Service will be in charge of delivering whatever drugs and other medical aid Americans would need to survive. In an executive order released Wednesday, the President put the Postal Service in charge of dispensing "medical countermeasures" to biological weapons because of its "capacity for rapid residential delivery." Under the new order, federal agencies must develop a response plan that includes possible law enforcement escorts for Postal Service workers and gives anthrax "primary threat consideration." The President says his decision to give the Postal Service a role in responding to a widespread biological attack will not supersede the authorities of other agencies.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/30/us/politics/AP-US-Anthrax-Attack.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/30/us/politics/AP-US-Anthrax-Attack.html?_r=2)

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## Agriculture and Food Sector

29. *January 1, Associated Press* – (New Mexico; Texas) **Equine disease restricting horse transport into NM.** An equine disease that can result in acute illness and sometimes death is restricting the transport of some horses into New Mexico. The New Mexico Livestock Board has barred the import of horses from Texas counties that have confirmed cases of equine piroplasmosis. Racehorses will not be allowed to enter a New Mexico racetrack until they have a negative equine piroplasmosis test within six months. A state veterinarian told the Ruidoso News that the board has taken a proactive stand to protect the state's racing industry as well as the exhibition and breeding industry from the introduction of the disease. Equine piroplasmosis is a blood parasite that causes blood loss, anemia, debilitation, and death in some acute cases. It is primarily transmitted by certain species of ticks.

Source: <http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=11757228>

30. *December 31, Associated Press* – (National) **Restaurants, foodmakers defend products after report that treated beef may still harbor germs.** Restaurant chains and beef processors are defending their products' safety after a report that an ammonia treatment thought to kill germs in meat isn't as effective as the industry and regulators believed. The New York Times reported Thursday that E. coli and salmonella were found in testing for the school lunch program on ammonia-treated beef from Beef Products Inc. The meat was not served. McDonald's, Burger King and Cargill Inc. use the meat in their hamburgers. All say they test meat from suppliers, that their products are safe and they'll keep using the product. A spokesman for Beef Products, based in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota did not return a message seeking comment. No illnesses have been linked to the meat.

Source: <http://www.wqad.com/news/sns-ap-us--beef-ammonia,0,7579139.story>

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

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## Water Sector

31. *January 3, WYMT 57 Burnaugh* – (Kentucky) **No running water in Buckhorn.** Hundreds in Perry County, Kentucky, do not have running water. The water in Buckhorn, Perry County, Kentucky, is provided by the city of Hazard, and the pipes to the area have leaks which officials are working to fix. There are also several businesses affected by the shortage. Emergency management is providing cartons of drinking water to the area as quickly as possible, but the supply runs out fast.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/wymtnews/headlines/80548712.html>

32. *January 3, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (Nevada) **Agencies try to end Truckee River pollution from Reno rodeo livestock.** Every June, up to 1,000 horses and cattle crowd onto the grounds of Reno’s Livestock Events Center as the popular Reno Rodeo spurs into action. And every June, operators of a water treatment plant just downstream on the Truckee River notice a sudden spike of pollutants believed to be associated with animal waste. Several agencies are joining to make changes that will allow the rodeo to occur without dirtying a river everyone is trying to keep pristine. Directors of the authority, jointly operated by the cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County, recently approved spending \$75,000 to fix the problem. They are working with the Reno Rodeo Association and Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority, which owns the events center. Rodeo operators have long made cleanup of animal waste and other debris associated with the rodeo a high priority, said the executive director of the Reno Rodeo. Dumpster loads of manure and straw are removed daily. But there’s really no way to capture it all, officials said. Some reaches the river. Water authority officials find high levels of organic carbon and coliform in the river near the Glendale water treatment plant during and immediately after the rodeo. Officials plan to build an on-site drainage treatment system that will direct the worst of the pollution into the sewer system. It will then flow to the Truckee Meadows wastewater plant in Sparks for treatment. The result will be a cleaner river and reduced cost of chemical treatment of drinking water at the Glendale plant when the rodeo is under way, officials said.

Source:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100103/NEWS/100103009/1003/CARSON/Agencies-try-to-end-Truckee-River-pollution-from-Reno-rodeo-livestock>

33. *December 31, Watertown Daily Times* – (New York) **Chlorine clog affects Potsdam tap water.** Some Potsdam, New York, residents were left with a bad taste in their mouths this week after a malfunctioning chemical line at the water treatment plant on Cherry Street knocked chlorine levels off kilter. Village officials said there was never any danger to public health, but residents complained of foul-tasting and bad-smelling water beginning Monday morning, according to a trustee. He said he is not sure how many complaints the village received, but said he was contacted by several residents upset about the taste and odor of their tap water. The Potsdam water plant supervisor said problems with the water system actually began Sunday, when heavy rain and melting snow created a high level of turbidity in the Raquette River. The village draws its drinking water directly from the river. Turbidity is filtered out at the treatment plant and the water disinfected with chlorine, according to the supervisor. He said problems treating the high level of turbidity were compounded early Monday when a chlorine feed line at the water plant became clogged, knocking chlorine levels out of whack and setting off an automated alarm. As a result, he said, chlorine levels began to fluctuate, creating what he described as a “musty smell” and “noticeable chlorine odor” in the village’s drinking water supply. The chlorine fluctuation stayed well within state-designated health parameters. He said work crews had the clogged chlorine line fixed by 7 p.m. Monday and the water taste and smell in the village began returning to normal Wednesday morning. The trustee said he sympathized with village residents inconvenienced by the bad-tasting water, but said the chlorine incident showed that safety equipment designed to notify crews in the event of an emergency is functioning

properly.

Source: <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20091231/NEWS05/312319952>

34. *December 31, KFSM 5 Fort Smith* – (Oklahoma) **SW Okla. town of Frederick gets water service back after fixing broken pipe.** Residents of Frederick, Oklahoma, have water again, now that city workers in the Tillman County town have repaired a break in a 24-inch water main, but other towns in the county that rely on Lake Frederick for water may have to wait a few days. The Frederick city manager said Wednesday night that the water main was restored to service before dawn that day, but it took all of the daylight hours to get the system refilled and pressure back up. Other towns — most of them supplementing well supplies with water from Lake Frederick — should get their Frederick link restored soon, he said. The city will work to get water to Manitou first because it has no well supply, he said, and then move on to Grandfield, Tipton, Davidson, Randlett and Devol. The main connecting Lake Frederick with the town's water-treatment plant broke the evening of December 27.

Source: <http://www.kfsm.com/news/sns-ap-ok--waterrestored-frederick,0,7780777.story>

35. *December 31, KULR 8 Billings* – (Montana) **Terrorist threat lacks credibility.** Security at the Billings Water Plant in Montana was back to normal New Year's Eve after a phone call on December 30 had officials concerned about a terrorist attack. A man called the city Wednesday afternoon voicing concerns about a possible threat to city water. Working with the federal government, FBI, and the Department of Environmental Quality, police determined that the threat lacks credibility. Safety protocol did require increased testing and heightened security for some time, but has since resumed normal operations. Police have identified the caller and the investigation is on-going.

Source: <http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/80449522.html>

36. *December 30, Washington Post* – (National) **EPA threatens states for failing to clean up Chesapeake Bay.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), hoping that a get-tough approach can turn around the failing effort to save the Chesapeake Bay, outlined Tuesday ideas for punishing states that do not do their part. Those punishments, the agency said, will fall on states that either do not meet their goals for cutting pollution draining into Chesapeake tributaries or do not set those goals high enough. The consequences might include changes in federal funding, rejections of permits for new factories or tighter rules on some farms. The mere threat of punishments is a new thing around the bay. Both federal and state governments have routinely missed deadlines and never faced consequences for it. Agency officials were vague Tuesday about when they would use specific punishments — and said that none would be used until at least 2011. The federal government is attempting a historic overhaul of the 26-year-old effort to restore the Chesapeake's health. That effort has spent billions yet has failed to solve the bay's main problem: pollution-driven "dead zones," places devoid of the dissolved oxygen that fish, crabs and oysters breathe. In the fall, the federal government outlined what it expects of the jurisdictions in the Chesapeake watershed, which are Maryland, Virginia, the District, Pennsylvania, West

Virginia, Delaware and New York. A computer model of the bay will be used to calculate a pollution “diet” for the Chesapeake — and each state will have to reduce its pollution accordingly.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/29/AR2009122902396.html?hpid=topnews>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

37. *January 4, RTT News* – (National) **Cepheid receives FDA emergency use authorization for first 2009 H1N1 influenza assay.** On Monday, Cepheid said it has been granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its Xpert Flu A Panel test. The test, which runs on Cepheid’s GeneXpert System, identifies the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus in less than one hour. The FDA has authorized Cepheid’s Xpert Flu A Panel to be used in laboratories certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments or CLIA to perform “moderate complexity” testing, enabling the test to be performed in hospital near-patient settings. Cepheid said it will continue development of an expanded influenza panel product that it expects to test for Influenza A with strain identification for H1 seasonal and H3 seasonal influenza A subtypes, the 2009 H1N1 subtype, and Influenza B.

Source: <http://www.rttnews.com/ArticleView.aspx?Id=1169588&SMap=1>

38. *January 4, E Canada Now* – (International) **Solution to MRSA infection found In Norway.** It has recently been reported that Norway has found the solution to killing the “Superbug”, also known as MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). MRSA can actually be controlled without too much effort says medical advisors in Norway. Though it has to be taken seriously it does not have to be feared as much as previously thought if a few precautions are taken. Norwegian medical advisers report that the over use of disinfectants can cause the bacteria to become more and more resistant to antibiotics. Studies have also found that continued over exposure of MRSA to disinfectant can in fact cause it to become resistant to it. The key was lessening the use of antibiotics. As many as 20,000 people a year die from MRSA infection yearly in the United States alone. The model of treatment Norway has perfected can be reproduced in other countries also.

Source: <http://www.ecanadanow.com/health/2010/01/04/solution-to-mrsa-infection-found-in-norway/>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

39. *January 4, Associated Press* – (International) **Possible terror attack cited in embassy closings.** Citing continued security threats, U.S. and British officials said their embassies in Yemen remained closed for a second day on Monday. In a posting on its

Web site, the U.S. Embassy in San'a said the closing was "in response to ongoing threats by Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to attack American interests in Yemen." Al Qaeda has several hundred members in Yemen and is actively planning attacks against U.S. targets, the White House said Sunday as the U.S. and Britain announced the embassy closings. Speaking from Washington during appearances on four Sunday talk shows, the U.S. President's top counterterrorism adviser cited "indications Al Qaeda is planning to carry out an attack against a target" in the capital, possibly the embassy, for the closure. A State Department spokesman said the closure was not permanent but reopening would be assessed day to day, based on the perceived threat to U.S. personnel. The U.S. is worried about the spread of terrorism in Yemen, a U.S. ally and aid recipient, he said, but does not consider the country a second front with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. As to whether U.S. troops might be sent to Yemen, he replied: "We're not talking about that at this point at all." He pledged to provide the Yemeni government with "the wherewithal" to take down Al Qaeda. Britain and the United States are assisting a counterterrorism police unit in Yemen as fears grow about the increasing threat of international terrorism originating from the country.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581803,00.html>

40. *January 4, Washington Examiner* – (Georgia) **Secret Service probes hanging Obama effigy.** The mayor of former President Jimmy Carter's hometown says the city acted immediately to remove an effigy of the current U.S. President that was found hanging from a building. The mayor said Monday he was shocked when the large black doll was found Saturday morning on Main Street in the small Georgia town of Plains. A U.S. Secret Service spokesman says the agency is investigating. He declined to elaborate. Footage from WALB-TV showed the doll hanging by a noose in front of an official sign that says "Plains, Georgia. Home of Jimmy Carter, our 39th President." A witness told the television station that the doll wore a sign with the President's name on it, but the mayor says he could not read the sign on the doll because it was curled up. Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/nation/secret-service-probes-obama-effigy-found-hanging-from-building-in-jimmy-carters-ga-hometown-80569952.html>

41. *January 4, New York Times* – (Nevada) **2 dead in shootout at Las Vegas federal building.** A gunman in a black trench coat opened fire Monday morning in the lobby of the Federal Courthouse in downtown Las Vegas, killing a court security officer and wounding a deputy United States marshal before fleeing. He was then shot in the head and killed nearby. "The suspect was in the lobby, but he never made it past the security checkpoint," said a spokeswoman for the Las Vegas police. The building, the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse, is a huge structure that houses federal courts as well as other agencies, including the offices of two Senators. Both Senators were in Nevada, their offices said, but not in the building. The gunman entered the building shortly after it opened at 8 a.m. and began firing in the lobby. An Associated Press reporter within sight of the building counted 20 shots over several minutes, although it was not clear how many were fired by the gunman and how many by responding law enforcement officials. Two hours after the shooting, the complex was still being evacuated floor by floor, with groups of about 20 people being escorted several blocks away while

surrounded by several officers toting large rifles. The courthouse was blocked off for at least a five-block perimeter. Federal officials confirmed that the security officer had died. There was no immediate word on the identity of the suspect, or whether the shooting was a random act of violence, a vendetta or something else. There was also no initial indication that terrorism was involved.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/05/us/05vegas.html>

42. *January 2, Tristatehomepage.com* – (Indiana) **Evansville man threatens to bomb city offices.** An Evansville, Indiana, man was arrested for threatening to blow up Evansville’s city offices and kill his neighbor. According to police, the man had a blood alcohol level .43. Around 9 p. m. Friday night he began to call 9-1-1 repeatedly. After more than a half dozen calls, he was asked to stop. He became agitated and threatened to bomb the 9-1-1 operator’s home along with city offices. He was placed in custody and treated at Deaconess for high blood alcohol content. On the way to jail, he told police once he is released he planned on shooting his neighbor to death. Because of this erratic behavior, officers requested to have a high or no bond to set to protect the community. His bond was set at \$750. In two months, reports show officers have made 18 runs to the man’s home.

Source: <http://tristatehomepage.com/content/fulltext/?cid=120911>

43. *January 1, Nevada Appeal* – (Nevada) **Abandoned briefcase prompts evacuation of Carson City DMV.** A customer Thursday afternoon inadvertently left his briefcase behind, prompting the evacuation of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Public Safety offices on Wright Way in Carson, Nevada. The DMV director said an employee noticed the unattended briefcase about 2:30 p.m. and brought it to his attention. “I saw it was an older briefcase and very suspicious looking,” he said. “I just stood there and waited to see if somebody was going to come back and claim this, and then after half an hour I said, no, we’re going to pull the alarm and get the people out of here,” he said. The Capitol Police, Carson City Sheriff’s Office, Nevada Highway Patrol and the Douglas County bomb squad responded. An X-ray revealed the case contained paperwork. About 300 employees and 100 customers were evacuated. The building was cleared at 4:20 p.m.

Source:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20100101/NEWS/100109984/1070&ParentProfile=1058>

44. *December 31, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Molotov cocktail found near federal offices in Phila.** A Molotov cocktail was discovered the afternoon of December 30 in a garage near a Philadelphia office of the Department of Homeland Security and triggered an investigation by city police and federal authorities. A bottle filled with diesel fuel was found just before 2 p.m. in the garage at Callowhill and 16th Streets. The garage is across Callowhill from Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices. Initial reports said a laptop computer and several anti-Israel books had been found with the device, near a generator. A tipster called police after seeing a man with several full trash bags emerge from a garage storage closet. A bomb squad unit “rendered safe” the Molotov cocktail, said the city police spokesman. Police were

trying to identify the man seen with the bags and determine if he was linked to the incendiary device.

Source: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/80400222.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

45. *January 4, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Local emergency radio system being repaired.** Technicians are trying to get the city and county public safety radio system up and running after it crashed Sunday. The failure is affecting communications for the Sheriff's Office, Fayetteville police and fire departments, and the county fire departments, an assistant director for Cumberland County Emergency Management said. The agencies are using alternate radio channels for communications, he said. It allows emergency calls to be dispatched but they are not being routed through the regular radio system. The breakdown has no effect on 911 emergency calls nor has it affected any agency's ability to answer calls, he said. The system crashed at about 5:30 p.m. and repair work has been going on since then.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/Articles/2010/01/04/965377>

46. *December 31, United Press International* – (California) **Calif. police building rigged to explode.** Police officers and other members of a gang task force in Southern California found their building had been rigged to explode Thursday, authorities said. At the headquarters of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Anti-Gang Task Force, a gas line had been rerouted through the office, said a Hemet police lieutenant. Given the amount of gas that had accumulated, a spark could have ignited the building, he told KABC-TV, Los Angeles. "It could have easily leveled that building — that's about a 1,700-square-foot building — and killed anyone inside," he said. "It was planned to blow up the building and anyone in it. We're not really sure why it didn't." Authorities evacuated the building and shut down the gas as investigators examined the office. A Hemet police lieutenant told the Los Angeles Times it is "an educated guess" that gang members are responsible. The gang task force, formed five years ago, includes members of the Hemet Police Department, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the county probation office, the state parole office and the district attorney's office.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2009/12/31/Calif-police-building-rigged-to-explode/UPI-60571262319191/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2009/12/31/Calif-police-building-rigged-to-explode/UPI-60571262319191/)

47. *December 31, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Records show a disconnect between embattled fire crew and commanders in Station fire.** As walls of flame from the massive Station blaze closed in on their remote compound, the mission of the crews at Fire Camp 16 suddenly changed from protecting their corner of the Angeles National Forest to saving their own lives. Two Los Angeles County firefighters approached the front line of the blaze in a heroic attempt to stop its march toward the camp high in the San Gabriel Mountains and were killed as the flames engulfed the landscape, officials say. Now, four months later, new details of the tragedy have emerged, along with unsettling questions of how and why the crews were allowed to stay in harm's way, and

whether commanders had failed to grasp in time the danger the camp faced. A U.S. Forest Service e-mail written shortly after the deaths addresses the hazards of the fire and refers to the loss of “two people who stayed too long.” The e-mail was obtained by The Times along with other records that show that the camp crews were not formally assigned to the Station operation and thus might have been excluded from the commanders’ broader strategy of defending critical structures in the forest while ensuring the safety of firefighters. The battle against the fire was managed jointly by the county and the U.S. Forest Service. The unusual disconnect between the camp and those leading the attack on the biggest fire in county history is evident in dispatch logs that reveal scant contact between the Mt. Gleason crews and the command center. Experts say that violates long-established firefighting protocols that require all agencies to work together on major blazes in the forest, maintaining good communications with each other, and sharing information about fire behavior, weather conditions, and escape routes.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-station-fire31-2009dec31,0,5759182.story>

For more stories, see items [6](#), [28](#), and [42](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

48. *January 4, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Symantec issues South Africa cyber crime warning.** The next major global cyber security hub could be South Africa, as the country struggles to cope with the twin effects of rising broadband penetration and the World Cup tournament this summer, warned security giant Symantec. The firm said that South Africa risks creating a “perfect storm” for cyber criminals because of significant broadband infrastructure upgrades within the country, including links to two new undersea fiber-optic cables. Improved broadband connectivity is often the key factor leading to increased botnet activity in a region. Symantec also warned that the World Cup is already generating large amounts of related spam, and other online crime such as government web site defacements. “Over the years Symantec has seen a surge in malicious activity in countries introducing faster, cheaper and more accessible broadband,” said the regional director for Africa at Symantec. “Our research has also shown that events such as the Olympic Games and the Soccer World Cup trigger online fraud, fake web sites, phishing and spam attacks, and hacking.”  
Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2255545/symantec-south-africa-cyber>

49. *January 2, eWeek* – (International) **Researcher uncovers Twitter, Google calendar security vulnerabilities.** A security researcher has uncovered vulnerabilities in Twitter and Google Calendar that could put users at risk. In a proof of concept, a researcher demonstrated cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities in Google Calendar and Twitter that he said could be used to steal cookies and session IDs. He also uncovered an HTML injection issue affecting Google Calendar as well that he said could be used to redirect a victim to an attack site any time the user viewed his or her Google Calendar

agenda events. The researcher sent the code to eWEEK, which in turn contacted Twitter and Google about the vulnerabilities. Twitter issued a fix for the issue December 30, and Google told eWEEK December 31 it would examine the input validation process for the Google Calendar field to help address the situation. “We do not believe this report contains evidence of substantial security issues,” a spokesperson for Google told eWEEK. “Trying to trick someone into copying unfamiliar, suspicious code into a Google Calendar text field is neither a likely attack vector nor one that we are seeing being exploited. ... Nonetheless, we will check the input validation mechanisms in Google Calendar text fields to help prevent any abuse of this capability before an event is sanitized.” According to the researcher, a penetration testing expert with Avnet Information Security Consulting in Israel, the cross-site scripting vulnerability can be exploited if a victim adds malicious code to his quick add post calendar.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Researcher-Uncovers-Twitter-Google-Calendar-Security-Vulnerabilities-530764/>

50. *December 30, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Phishing attacks soar in December.** Phishing attacks soared in December as cyber criminals looked to capitalise on the higher number of online shoppers in the run up to Christmas, according to new research from managed security firm Network Box released on December 30. The firm’s analysis of web-based threats in December 2009 shows that just over 57 percent of all threats were phishing attacks, compared to 28.3 percent in November. “The run up to Christmas is traditionally a time for hackers to strike the vulnerable. A higher proportion of shopping is done online, with more money spent than at any other time of year,” warned a Network Box internet security analyst. “Christmas offers rich pickings for phishers. This is likely to continue through the sales in January, and we urge online bargain hunters to be vigilant.” The firm also found that the greatest source of viruses and spam during the same time period was Brazil, which accounted for 20.9 percent of all viruses and 9.1 percent of all spam in December. This is up from 14 percent and eight percent respectively in November. Network Box also warned that India is playing an increasingly significant role in the world’s threat landscape, with 6.8 percent of all spam coming from the sub-continent, up from 4.2 percent in November; and 4.1 percent of viruses — the same as in November.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2255490/phishing-soared-december>

For more stories, see items [52](#) and [56](#)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto: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>

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## Communications Sector

51. *January 3, McDowell News* – (North Carolina) **Can you hear me now? City's phone system back in service.** The problems with the city of Marion's new telephone system seem to be solved. The city's administrative offices, Public Works Department, and the Marion Fire Department all recently experienced phone outages. The city switched its phone service from Verizon to Charter in an attempt to save money. The city manager said the new system is expected to save the city several thousand dollars a year. The changeover happened before Christmas at around the same time as the big snowstorm. But the city soon faced problems with the new phone system. Calls could not get through to City Hall, the Fire Department and other offices. The lines were constantly giving a busy signal. "It's certainly an annoyance for the public," said the city manager. Charter has worked to correct the problem. On January 3, the city manager said the phones at City Hall and the Fire Department are back in service.

Source: <http://www2.mcdowellnews.com/content/2010/jan/03/can-you-hear-me-now-citys-phone-system-back-servic/>

52. *January 2, Techworld* – (International) **UK mobile operator O2: iPhone apps are hurting our network.** The US mobile phone company AT&T has had trouble keeping its network up to speed given the huge bandwidth requirements of the popular iPhone. They are not the only mobile carrier having issues. In the UK, O2 has been having problems with the huge amount of data being schlepped around the network by iPhones. The CEO of O2 told the Financial Times that performance of the O2 network had been disappointing since this summer and that the company was trying to cope with the increasing number of mobile apps running on devices such as the iPhone. TUAW reported a multi-day data outage that affected O2 users just a few weeks ago. Most of the issues have been confined to London, so the company is installing 200 additional base stations to support the increased levels of traffic. The CEO also noted that the company is working with Apple, RIM, and other handset manufacturers to learn more about which applications are causing the heavy demands on the O2 network. O2 has been working with Nokia Siemens Networks to modify the network infrastructure to better handle the combination of voice and data traffic. While trying to iron out these issues, it appears that O2's parent company, Telefonica, is making moves that could place further demands on the network. Telefonica purchased mobile VoIP company Jajah to add to O2's portfolio of services, and VoIP services are notorious devourers of bandwidth.

Source: <http://www.tuaw.com/2010/01/02/uk-mobile-operator-o2-iphone-apps-are-hurting-our-network/>

53. *January 1, Pittsburg Morning Sun* – (Missouri) **Fire reported at KSN/KODE studio.** An electrical fire at the KODE/KSN studio in Joplin, Missouri, has disrupted programming for ABC, according to a statement on the station's Web site. KSN's evening broadcast also may be delayed because of the fire, the Web site reported. "Empire Electric is working right now to restore electricity to the building," according to the statement. "We are very sorry for this inconvenience." An electrical transformer outside the TV studio caught fire around 2:30 p.m on January 1. The small fire caused

the station to lose power for nearly four hours. The Joplin Fire Department and crews from Empire Electric responded to the station.

Source: <http://www.morningsun.net/newsnow/x1793468993/Fire-reported-at-KSN-KODE-studio>

54. *January 1, Times of the Internet* – (National) **AT&T down: Network service outages.** A number of reports indicate that AT&T is suffering from network outages that are affecting users. 3G cell phone users in Norwalk, Connecticut, Keller, Texas, Ville Platte, Louisiana, Los Angeles, California, and Orange County, California, have all mentioned service outages when attempting to use their phones. There have also been reports of SMS outages due primarily to heavy load, although it appears that issue may now be cleared up.

Source: <http://www.timesoftheinternet.com/briefs/att-down-network-service-outages/>

55. *December 30, Data Center Knowledge* – (International) **Technician injured in Peer 1 power outage.** Colocation provider Peer 1 said a technician was seriously injured during an incident on December 30 that knocked out power at its data center on Front Street in Toronto. The company said the injuries “appear to be non-life threatening.” The service technician from Eaton Corp. was injured during scheduled maintenance on the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) system in Peer 1’s fourth-floor data center at 151 Front, the largest carrier hotel and data center hub in the Toronto market. The technician was replacing a failed fan in a UPS unit. “During the maintenance at approximately 8:46PM EST there was a visible arc flash [no confirmed cause yet] from the UPS causing 2nd and 3rd degree burns to the Eaton service technician and witnessed by our data center manager who also went to the hospital to have his eyes checked for retinal burns,” said the vice president of Facilities and Data Center Operations for Peer 1, in an e-mail update. “The Eaton service tech was transferred to another hospital with a burn unit and was in serious/critical condition and our data center manager was treated and released.” All staff were cleared from the fourth floor suite while the fire and police investigated, but were cleared to return and power was restored about three hours after the incident. Peer 1 said it had additional staff on hand to provide support for customer site restoration.

Source: <http://www.datacenterknowledge.com/archives/2009/12/30/technician-injured-in-peer-1-power-outage/>

56. *December 30, Times Online* – (International) **Domain name extension ‘could boost cyber-crime’.** The introduction of internet addresses in non-Roman scripts could offer fresh opportunities to cyber-criminals, experts have warned. In 2010, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (Icann) will for the first time accept internet domain names in non-Roman scripts. The domain name is the part of a web address that precedes the “dot”, such as timesonline. The new internationalized domain names will open up the internet as never before to users whose native language does not use the Roman alphabet. But Roman-reading users face a possible deluge of phishing and e-mail scams. “With Cyrillic, Korean, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese scripts now possible, this threatens to be like a hydra,” an intellectual property lawyer with the law firm Arnold & Porter told The Times. “You cut off one head and

another grows in its place.” The problem for Western users is that the internet addresses of many well-known companies, such as Apple, Yahoo, Google and PayPal, can also be rendered to look identical in Cyrillic scripts, such as Russian. To a Roman-reading eye, an e-mail containing a link to any one of these sites might appear genuine, while to a Russian-reading eye, “paypal”, for example, reads as “raural”. An e-mail link could thus lead to a clone site constructed by unscrupulous thieves, who could then use it to harvest personal and financial details, or to steal cash.

Source: [http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech\\_and\\_web/article6971724.ece](http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/article6971724.ece)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

57. *January 2, WBNS 10 Columbus* – (California) **Rose Parade hotel evacuated.** The Hilton Pasadena had to move hundreds of guests, including some who had attended the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl, after an electrical malfunction sent heavy smoke billowing through the hotel’s upper floors on New Year’s Day, authorities said. The malfunction knocked out power at about 5:30 p.m. Friday, just as several tour buses full of fans from the Rose Bowl game were arriving back at the hotel, a Pasadena fire department spokeswoman said. A blown out transformer likely caused the problem, she said. The fifth through 12th floors were left with a smoky smell that made them uninhabitable. Guests on those floors were to be moved to another Hilton nearby after being escorted to their rooms to retrieve their belongings, the spokeswoman said. “It’s the one day with the game and the parade that every hotel in town is fully booked,” she said.

Source: <http://www.10tv.com/live/content/local/stories/2010/01/02/story-pasadena-rose-bowl-hotel-fire.html?sid=102>

58. *December 31, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **5.8 temblor rattles 2 counties, Mexico.** An estimated 5.8-magnitude earthquake struck Wednesday about 22 miles southeast of Mexicali, rocking buildings throughout San Diego and Imperial counties and northern Baja California. It sparked initial widespread alarm but caused no serious damage. The temblor, which occurred at 10:48 a.m., came nearly an hour after a magnitude-3.5 quake and followed a magnitude-4.9 aftershock five minutes later, all centered in the same area, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. San Diego is more than 100 miles from the epicenter. These quakes appear to be located at the southern end of the Imperial fault zone, part of a larger system of fault zones that includes the southern end of the well-known San Andreas fault. An attorney was reviewing documents at his desk on the 17th floor of a downtown San Diego high-rise when he started to feel movement under his desk. “We all kinda left our offices and got in the middle of the floor. You could feel the building rocking,” he said. The general manager at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in downtown San Diego said many guests staying at the high-rise hotel were not in the buildings because of the balloon parade going on nearby. In Imperial County, the emergency services coordinator said crews fanned out to assess potential damage to structures, but found most of the harm to be cosmetic, such as missing roof tiles.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2009/dec/30/substantial-shaking-felt-mission-valley/?imw=Y>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [53](#)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

59. *January 4, Helena Independent Record* – (National) **Gun rules in National Parks kick in Feb. 20.** A year of controversy ends on February 20, 2010, when visitors will be allowed to pack guns into Glacier National Park. The rule change — loaded guns have not been allowed in parks for decades — first was floated as an administrative rule change in the last days of the prior Presidency, but later was challenged in court. Congress then attached the gun language to credit card legislation, which was signed by the current Administration on May 22. Under the new rules, “all firearms — loaded, concealed and otherwise — can be carried, by anyone,” according to a Glacier Park spokeswoman. National parks and wildlife refuges now will have the same gun rules as the states in which they are located. The guns will not, however, be allowed in federal facilities — such as park headquarters, visitor centers and ranger stations — or in places where federal employees regularly work — such as the auditorium at Glacier’s Lake McDonald Lodge.

Source: [http://www.helenair.com/news/article\\_eacf04cc-f8fa-11de-91cb-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.helenair.com/news/article_eacf04cc-f8fa-11de-91cb-001cc4c002e0.html)

For another story, see item [47](#)

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## **Dams Sector**

60. *January 4, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (New Jersey) **Blame flies in wake of dam breaches.** The storm that hit Burlington County on July 12 and 13, 2004, set off a chain of dam failures that unleashed massive flooding of the Rancocas Creek, forcing hundreds from their homes, causing \$25 million in property damage, and leading the New Jersey governor to declare a state of emergency. Five years later, a class-action lawsuit by 300 property owners against the dam owners alleging their failure to maintain the structures is coming to a close as legal proceedings turn to the task of dividing \$9.25 million in settlements. The YMCA settled for \$2.15 million, and the Girl Scouts of Camden County, which owned additional breached dams, settled for \$425,000 just before the pair were to go on trial in late November. A Superior Court judge three weeks ago approved the final settlement in the case, with the YMCA. Depositions, expert reports, and other documents for the trial offer insight into how and why some of the most significant dams failed. The plaintiffs considered them the primary defendants, arguing that the breakage of these larger dams sent water gushing downstream and created a domino effect of dam collapses. The storm, which dropped

13 inches of rain, breached 21 dams and damaged 30 more. According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, none of the failed dams was in total compliance with state regulations. The floods mainly deluged Medford, Medford Lakes, Southampton, and Lumberton. The plaintiff experts acknowledged that flooding would have occurred even if all the dams had held. So they tried to prove that the breaches substantially aggravated the flooding. But expert reports commissioned by the YMCA and Girl Scouts — neither of which is admitting liability — concluded that the breaches were beyond the control of any one dam owner.

Source:

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20100104\\_Blame\\_flies\\_in\\_wake\\_of\\_dam\\_breaches.html?viewAll=y](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20100104_Blame_flies_in_wake_of_dam_breaches.html?viewAll=y)

61. *January 4, Greensboro News-Record* – (North Carolina) **Low lake level speeds new dam.** Lake Townsend in North Carolina is significantly lower than normal despite a relatively wet autumn. Lake levels are being kept artificially low to speed construction of a new dam directly behind the old one, which aged prematurely because of faulty concrete. “We have a lot of very expensive construction going on right now,” said the director of the city’s water resources department. “We don’t want to take any risks.” Keeping Townsend abnormally low prevents flooding in part of the nearby construction zone, which must remain completely dry if the new dam is to be built sufficiently strong, he said. The need to remove moisture from the site is so great, construction crews sank wells to pull out as much groundwater as possible from the soil. In addition, they shielded the construction zone with a temporary wall of structural steel to keep out any water flowing from the existing dam. That is key, because part of the construction zone is in the middle of a streambed otherwise full of such water. All dams must release a steady flow from their reservoirs each day to keep healthy the streams they block. In Townsend’s case, the narrow channel behind the temporary wall can carry only so much water. It could easily be flooded in a heavy storm if the lake is too full when the rain begins, he said. If that happened, construction could be delayed significantly, potentially adding to the dam’s \$34 million price. Townsend likely will be kept 2 to 3 feet below capacity at least until March to accommodate work on the new dam, he said.

Source: <http://www.news->

[record.com/content/2010/01/03/article/low\\_lake\\_level\\_speeds\\_new\\_dam](http://www.news-record.com/content/2010/01/03/article/low_lake_level_speeds_new_dam)

62. *January 3, Kennewick Tri-City Herald* – (Washington; Idaho) **Corps ends private security at dams; next move secret for government.** Contract security at six Army Corps of Engineers-owned dams on the Columbia River system in Eastern Washington and Idaho ended December 31 and left about two dozen people jobless. The Corps opted against having private security companies provide armed and trained personnel once the contract with Doyon Security Group of Federal Way expired Thursday, said the senior vice president for the company. Doyon was hired by the federal government three months ago on an interim basis to complete the security contract with HWA of Seattle. That company lost the contract for failing to pay its employees for two months in late summer and fall, amounting to approximately \$900,000 for nearly 200 security personnel. But the absence of a hired security company does not mean the Corps’ dams

are unprotected, said the public information officer for the Corps' Walla Walla district. "There still will be security at our dams, now and in the future," she said. The dams that are losing the hired security forces are McNary Dam near Hermiston on the Columbia River; Ice Harbor Dam, Lower Granite Dam, Lower Monumental Dam, and Little Goose Dam on the Snake River in Washington; and Dworshak Dam on the Clearwater River in Idaho. She said the change in how security will be handled for the dams is because of a risk assessment that was ordered. She said that because of security concerns, the Corps is not revealing how on-site security for the dams will be handled in 2010.

Source: <http://www.thenewtribune.com/news/local/story/1014365.html>

63. *January 2, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Feds may widen Idaho road across dam.** A federal agency may have found an \$8.4 million alternative to closing the road across a southwestern Idaho dam because of terrorism concerns, after residents said such a move would be a major inconvenience and hurt commerce. The Bureau of Reclamation may widen Riverside Road across Lower Deer Flat Dam near Caldwell, making the century-old dam less susceptible to explosives but leaving the road open to automobiles, farm trucks, and cyclists. Destruction or catastrophic failure of the dam could flood out 35,000 people downstream. The Canyon County commissioner told The Associated Press on Thursday that the federal agency has indicated it favors this plan. The Bureau of Reclamation has cited provisions in the USA Patriot Act, passed hastily after 9/11, in its decision to address security concerns at the dam. But word of possible closure roused residents accustomed to using the roughly 4,000-foot-long dam road to navigate southwestern Idaho's agricultural hinterlands. Widening Riverside Road is among five alternatives in a draft environmental analysis released by the Bureau of Reclamation this month. Others include the disputed plan to close the dam and divert traffic; doing nothing, which would not mitigate security concerns; and reconstructing the road downstream for as much as \$16.5 million. The Bureau of Reclamation is taking comment on alternatives through February 15, but Canyon County officials who have met with federal authorities in hopes of working out a solution are growing more comfortable closure is no longer likely.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705355774/ID-road-across-dam-may-widen.html>

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