



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 January 2010

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- Stars and Stripes reports that messages posted recently by prominent contributors to jihadist Web sites are seeking specific information on U.S. military targets in hopes of carrying out an attack on Navy ships in the Persian Gulf, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute. The specificity and the call for personal familial information led the Naval Criminal Investigative Service to caution U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet on December 31, a Navy official said. (See item [35](#))
- The Huntington Herald-Dispatch reports that ten communication tower sites in Cabell County, West Virginia have been vandalized and the copper stolen from them since December 28. The county commissioner said that the crime “needs to be looked at as terrorism.” (See item [45](#))

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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 8, KAIT 8 Jonesboro* – (Arkansas) **Highway 167 opens after tanker wreck.** Arkansas State Police say that Highway 167 is now open after a tanker was hauling approximately 9,600 gallons of propane when it overturned the afternoon of January 7. The accident happened on Ramsey Mountain near Batesville on Highway 167. The wreck caused State Police to shut down the highway. As many as 500 people were evacuated so fire and haz-mat crews could clear the scene. Highway 167 was shut down for almost 13 hours.  
Source: <http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11787653>
  
2. *January 8, Reuters* – (Texas) **Texas power usage sets another winter record.** Electricity usage in Texas rose Friday as arctic air covered most of the state, hitting another winter power record after setting one just the night before, according to initial data from the state grid operator. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) said power use as of 8 a.m. CST reached 55,856 megawatts, surpassing the winter peak set Thursday evening of 52,001 MW and the previous record of 50,408 MW in February 2007. ERCOT reported no major power problems. Temperatures across Texas are running about 15 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit below normal, according to DTN Meteorlogix. Power demand is expected to remain above 50,000 MW for several hours Friday morning and again Friday evening, according to ERCOT's daily forecast. The high temperatures for many cities will not rise above 32 degrees Fahrenheit, it predicted. The current cold snap, expected to linger into the weekend, is the longest in the Lone Star State since 1990, according to National Weather Service officials. Forecasts call for temperatures to drop into the teens Friday night but weekend power demand will slide as businesses close, paring demand for heating, according to ERCOT projections. The new record far exceeds ERCOT's peak-hour winter projection of 43,463 MW. That forecast, 9 percent below the year-earlier actual peak, was based on lower industrial activity due to the recession and normal weather patterns, ERCOT said.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6072MO20100108>
  
3. *January 7, KATU 2 Portland* – (Oregon) **Lights back on after fire at PPL substation.** Crews raced to the Albina Substation in North Portland at about 3:30 a.m. and found it in flames. The substation is located near the base of the Fremont Bridge. Fire crews were contemplating shutting down the substation, a move that Portland Fire and Rescue officials said could darken 25 percent of Portland if Pacific Power was not able to re-route the power. However, Pacific Power disputed the widespread outage warning, saying only about 1,900 customers were affected, mostly downtown and in the Pearl District. Firefighters said Thursday afternoon that the cause of the fire was "accidental" and there was over \$200,000 in damage. Firefighters said battling blazes at electrical substations are very dangerous due to the high voltage present in the equipment, which can travel through water hoses, possibly electrocuting firefighters or damaging equipment. Fire crews were pouring foam on the fire and appeared to have the blaze contained by about 6 a.m. Power was restored following the replacement of two transformers at the substation.  
Source: <http://www.katu.com/news/local/80899527.html>

For another story, see item [21](#)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *January 7, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Food Club ammonia recalled.** OnLine Packaging Inc. is recalling about 75 bottles of Food Club Supreme Clean Clear Ammonia. The bottle, which is labeled as containing ammonia, actually contains household bleach. The mislabeling of the bottles can pose a chemical hazard to consumers. If bleach is accidentally mixed with ammonia or acid, irritating or toxic gases could be produced. This recall involves Food Club Supreme Clean Clear Ammonia that is packaged in a 64 ounce white bottle with the date code 232 stenciled on the lower shoulder of the bottle. The ammonia was sold at Piggly Wiggly Midwest stores from August 2009 through September 2009. Consumers should immediately return the product to Piggly Wiggly for a full refund or dispose of the bleach in accordance with state and local requirements.

Source: [http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/food\\_club.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/food_club.html)

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

5. *January 8, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL Florida St Lucie 2 reactor cut to 48 pct amid cold.** In the face of record cold weather, FPL Group Inc's (FPL.N) 839-megawatt Saint Lucie 2 nuclear power unit was running at 48 percent power early Friday, down from full capacity early Thursday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its power reactor status report.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0823383420100108?type=marketsNews>

6. *January 8, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Radioactive isotope found in Vt. Yankee groundwater.** A small amount of radioactive material was found in a test of groundwater wells at the Vermont Yankee nuclear facility, the plant confirmed Thursday. The problem at the 38-year-old reactor is similar to those cropping up at nuclear plants around the country, with the discovery of a radioactive isotope called tritium in a monitoring well. A Vermont Yankee spokesman said Thursday the plant confirmed a report provided a day earlier by an independent testing laboratory hired to check samples from 32 groundwater monitoring wells on the site. The spokesman said it was the first time a groundwater sample at the plant had tested positive for tritium. Both the plant spokesman and the radiological health chief for the Vermont Department of Health said there was no threat to the public health and safety from the level of tritium reported. They said the 17,000 picocuries of radioactivity per liter of water measured at Vermont Yankee was 3,000 less than the 20,000 picocurie safety limit set for drinking water by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. But a former nuclear industry engineer, who has consulted with the Legislature on issues related to Vermont Yankee, on Thursday called the discovery of tritium on the plant site "a big

deal.” “It’s a sign that there’s a pipe or a tank leaking somewhere” at the plant, the engineer said. “It’s highly unlikely that the highest concentration in the ground would happen to be at the monitoring well,” he added.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/BT/20100108/NEWS02/1080340/0/WW2>

7. *January 7, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Cooling towers required by DEP.** In a surprise announcement, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said it is moving to require cooling towers at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant to protect the Barnegat Bay ecosystem. The DEP said Thursday that the proposed water-discharge permit for the plant would require the Exelon Generation Co. to convert its once-through cooling water flow into a closed-cycle system, using the towers, with less daily demand for bay water. “We had a commitment to get this draft permit issued, so we wanted to make sure it gets a proper review,” the acting DEP commissioner said of the cooling tower requirement. But the plan has a long way to go before final adoption, with technical, scientific and economic cost-benefit analysis that will likely take a year to complete, the acting DEP commissioner and other agency officials said.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20100107/NEWS/1070365/Cooling-towers-required-by-DEP>

8. *January 7, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Tennessee) **NRC issues confirmatory action letter to Nuclear Fuel Services.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Thursday sent a letter to Nuclear Fuel Services detailing the company’s commitments for actions to assure the agency that NFS can safely operate the plant. The company has agreed to suspend production at its Erwin, Tennessee, facility until the items are completed. The NRC’s confirmatory action letter is designed to address issues that contributed to recent events at the facility, including an October 13 incident being reviewed by an NRC augmented inspection team. The letter is being issued to detail and confirm NFS’s agreement to take certain actions in response to shortcomings identified by the inspection team. Although NFS can continue work in other areas such as construction and transportation, the company has agreed that the process lines at the facility will remain out of service until the NRC is satisfied that the issues have been addressed. The NRC will verify through further inspections that the items in the letter have been successfully completed before production is resumed.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-001.ii.html>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Fire chief says 1 worker killed, 4 injured in Indiana steel plant blast.** An explosion at a steel plant in Indiana killed one worker and injured four more on Thursday, a fire official said. The Portage, Indiana fire chief said the evening blast at the Beta Steel Corp. plant may have happened because water somehow met with molten steel. One person died at the scene. The fire chief described two of the workers who were hurt in the blast as “walking wounded” and said that all

four injured were taken to the hospital. He said they all suffered steam burns, but he had no other details about their injuries. The fire chief said the plant was not on fire but that there had been some damage to the furnace area.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-steel-plant-explosion,0,5751537.story>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *January 7, Navy Times* – (National) **LPD machinery issue could affect other ships.** The amphibious transport dock New York has suffered a mechanical failure and can't get underway, Navy Times has learned. Engineers are investigating whether the ship's problems will affect its San Antonio-class siblings, several of which have struggled since joining the fleet. Inspectors discovered problems with the bearings on the New York's diesel engines during an assessment while the ship was at sea, but it was able to return to its dock at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., under its own power, said a spokesman for Naval Surface Force Atlantic. Bearings hold a ship's engines and vital propulsion gear in place. Although Navy inspectors have noted an improvement in recent San Antonio-class ships, including the New York, the early ships in the class were plagued with technical woes and bad luck. After months of delays and millions dollars before the San Antonio's first deployment, it was laid up for a month in Bahrain with debilitating lube oil problems. Sailors aboard the second ship, New Orleans, told Navy Times about adversarial relationships with shipbuilders in the yard, who turned in shoddy work and even stole their tools. New York sailors told Navy Times in November before the ship's commissioning they were working out their own bugs in their new ship; for example, New York's helmsmen had gotten used to piloting it manually because its fiber-optic control network tended to blink out.

Source: [http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/navy\\_lpd21\\_bearings\\_010710w/](http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/navy_lpd21_bearings_010710w/)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *January 8, eWeek* – (International) **HSBC customers hit by mainframe failure.** HSBC customers were unable to use ATM cash machines, as well as online banking on January 8, after the bank suffered an outage with its mainframe computer. "We experienced a mainframe outage at 11.45am this morning," an HSBC spokesman told eWeek Europe. "This impacted our ATM network and Internet banking, as well as credit and debt cards." "This outage lasted for two hours and the network is now fully back up and running," the spokesman added. "We would obviously like to apologise to our customers for any inconvenience this caused." Failures of this nature are rare as mainframes are normally robust machines with a high degree of fault tolerance, which makes this two hour failure so surprising. When asked about the nature the mainframe failure, the spokesman was unable to identify the exact problem, although he did confirm the mainframe in question is from IBM.

Source: <http://www.eweekurope.co.uk/news/hsbc-customers-hit-by-mainframe-failure-2969>

12. *January 8, Winston-Salem Journal Reporter* – (North Carolina) **Man operated a Ponzi scheme, FBI says.** An Ashe County, North Carolina, businessman arrested last month by the FBI was operating a Ponzi scheme that defrauded investors of more than \$35 million, according to court documents. The owner of Black Diamond Capital Solutions and other businesses had at least 240 investors nationally, and he told them that he was investing their money in the foreign-currency exchange system. But he did not invest any money in foreign-currency exchange, according to a FBI agent's affidavit requesting an arrest warrant. Rather, the Ponzi schemer deposited money into banks and spent the money on payments to other investors, and on cars, real estate, lavish trips and other things. The suspect was arrested December 17 in an Ashe County parking lot. He has been charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering, wire fraud and securities fraud. He remains in federal custody.

Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2010/jan/08/man-operated-a-ponzi-scheme-fbi-says/news/>

13. *January 8, Wall Street Journal* – (New York) **NY fed told AIG to shield payouts.** The Federal Reserve Bank of New York told American International Group Inc. (AIG) not to disclose key details of their agreements to make big payouts to banks in the insurer's regulatory filings in late 2008, according to a set of email exchanges released on January 7. AIG later amended its regulatory filings several times over the following months and provided the information after the Securities and Exchange Commission requested more disclosure. Congress also pressured the insurer to release the names of banks that were paid off in full on \$62 billion in bets on soured mortgage securities. The biggest payouts went to French bank Societe Generale and to Wall Street firm Goldman Sachs Group Inc., AIG finally said publicly in mid-March 2009. The government's handling of the AIG bailout continues to draw scrutiny and has created political difficulty for the Treasury Secretary, who was president of the New York Fed when it first bailed out AIG in September 2008. He played a key role in the regional Fed bank's controversial November 2008 decision to make U.S. and European banks whole on their mortgage gambles with AIG, according to a government audit last year. "There was no effort to mislead the public," said a general counsel of the New York Fed, on January 7. He said it was "appropriate" for the institution to comment on AIG's disclosures on transactions involving the New York Fed, "with the understanding that the final decision rested with AIG and its external securities counsel."

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704130904574644542588515508.html?mod=rss\\_Today's\\_Most\\_Popular](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704130904574644542588515508.html?mod=rss_Today's_Most_Popular)

14. *January 8, NJBiz* – (National) **Heartland agrees to \$60M settlement over data breach claims.** Princeton, New Jersey-based Heartland Payment Systems, one of the nation's largest payments processors, announced Friday a settlement with Visa Inc. under which issuers of Visa-branded credit and debit cards will have an opportunity to obtain a recovery from Heartland over losses they may have incurred from a breach of

Heartland's online systems in 2008. Heartland will pay as much as \$60 million to fund the settlement program, which is subject to certain conditions. Visa will present details of the settlement to eligible issuers in the coming days. Late last month, a Miami hacker pleaded guilty to conspiring to breach Heartland's systems.

Source: <http://www.njbiz.com/article.asp?aID=80241>

15. *January 7, Tallahassee Democrat* – (Florida) **Bank reports appearance of fake cashier's checks.** ProBank of Tallahassee, Florida, has contacted the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to report that counterfeit cashier's checks bearing the institution's name are in circulation. The FDIC issued an alert Thursday morning regarding the matter. The counterfeit items display the routing number 063116407, which is assigned to ProBank. A security feature statement is embedded in the top and bottom borders. The words "CASHIER'S CHECK" (spelled with an apostrophe) are in the top-right corner. The words "Tallahassee, FL" are shown below the bank's name in the top-left corner. The FDIC said authentic cashier checks are light blue and graduate horizontally to white in the center. A padlock and vertical security feature statement are along the right border. The words "CASHIER'S CHECK" (spelled without an apostrophe), "Date" and "Branch" are in the top-right corner. The word "REMITTER" is shown below the bank's name in the top-left corner. Regulators cautioned that the appearance of counterfeit items can be modified and that additional variations may be presented.

Source:

<http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20100107/BREAKINGNEWS/100107003/Bank-reports-appearance-of-fake-cashier-s-checks>

16. *January 7, Credit Union Times* – (North Carolina) **Novel skimming cases hitting North Carolina.** Financial institutions in North Carolina, including the \$18 billion State Employees' Credit Union have been wrestling since roughly mid-December with a novel approach to card skimming. Customarily card skimming has involved devices being attached to the outside of ATMs that capture the card numbers of machine users and cameras to record their personal identification numbers. The thieves then use this information to steal money from cardholder accounts. But this most recent skimming attack relies not on devices attached to ATMs, but instead on devices placed on the inside of gasoline pumps at busy, high traffic, service stations in the Triangle part of the state. According to the senior vice president with SECU, the device's locations on the inside of the gas pumps mean they are hidden to cardholders and the credit union has launched a public relations effort to alert all cardholders, whether members or not, to ways they can protect their information. The credit union adopted a pro-active media stance, contacting local media outlets with the story. SECU executives urged cardholders to either use their cards as credit rather than debit cards, which means they would not use their PINs or to cover the keypad with the other hand to block the view of any hidden cameras.

Source: <http://www.cutimes.com/News/2010/1/Pages/Novel-Skimming-Cases-Hitting-North-Carolina.aspx>

17. *January 7, Reuters* – (International) **Canada police search for "Chinese Warren Buffett".** Canadian police issued an arrest warrant on Wednesday for a man who

promoted himself as the “Chinese Warren Buffett” accused in Canada of operating a US\$29 million Ponzi scheme. He is accused of defrauding more than 100 victims in Canada, China, and the United States, according to Toronto police. Ontario securities regulators barred him in June from any trading activity and warned investors on Wednesday they believed he was soliciting business from relatives of his previous victims. Local news reports said he was believed to have fled to Hong Kong. He was scheduled to go on trial in Ontario for alleged security violations in April, according to the Ontario Securities Commission.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6055QN20100107>

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *January 8, Ionia Sentinel-Standard* – (Michigan) **Guardrails “headache” for road commission, motorists.** This summer, many Michigan highways were lined with cable guardrails with the hope of keeping people safe by keeping cars from crossing the median. After the first few major snowfalls this year, however, some are beginning to worry that the cable rails are more dangerous, not to mention more costly, than the alternative. “I think (the cable rails) are the biggest mistake the state ever made,” said the owner of Bussell’s Towing in Ionia. “Every car that hits it is damaged, and most have bounced right back out into the road and gotten hit by another car.” He estimated that during a two hour period last Wednesday, over \$175,000 worth of damage was done to vehicles that collided with the guardrails between mile markers 69 and 75. “The cables just shred the cars,” he said. “There is no way you can hit this cable and drive back onto the road.” The vehicle-guardrail collisions are also happening fairly frequently. According to the Ionia County Road Commission, they have been repairing between 17 and 20 damaged sections of the cable guardrails a week. Devoting that much time to repairing the cable barrier poses more than just monetary concerns for officials, who said that with a crew repairing the barrier, they have one less out repairing or plowing the roads. The Michigan Department of Transportation still believes the cable guardrails are serving a good purpose, regardless of the problems experienced thus far. “We think they’re great,” a spokesman said. “We anticipate saving 13 lives and avoiding 51 incapacitating injuries this year because of them. Of course you’re going to see an increase in vehicle damage, but it’s worth it.”  
Source: <http://www.sentinel-standard.com/news/x1793477538/Guardrails-headache-for-road-commission-motorists>

19. *January 8, Toledo Blade* – (Florida) **Toledoan taken off Miami plane, detained over disruption, threats.** A Toledo man remained in jail in Florida Thursday night after being taken off a Detroit-bound jet and arrested for making racially threatening comments and taking a “combative posture” toward city police who responded at Miami International Airport, authorities said. He was charged with disorderly conduct, threats against a public servant, and resisting arrest without violence after his Wednesday night arrest at a gate to which Northwest Airlines Flight 2485 had returned after taxiing onto a runway. No terrorist activity was alleged in the case, and a Miami

FBI spokesman said the federal agency, after participating in the initial investigation, said the incident “was a local matter.” The flight was allowed to resume its trip to Detroit after a security sweep was conducted after the man’s removal from the aircraft. A spokesperson for the FBI’s Miami office said that while disrupting an airliner is a federal offense, the man caused no physical disturbance until after police took him into custody, and his comments were not considered sufficient to warrant federal charges or further FBI involvement in the case.

Source:

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100108/NEWS02/1080347/0/COLUMNIST33>

20. *January 7, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Man, bag results in incident at airport.** Administration officials are investigating an incident at Philadelphia International Airport, in which a plane had to turn back to the terminal. Officials say a Somilian national, who had cleared security, was waiting in line to board the plane when he asked someone to watch his carryon bag. Other passengers became suspicious and asked security officials to search the man. While officials found nothing in the bag, the man was taken into custody by federal authorities for immigration issues and did not board the plane. After the plane was taxiing towards the runway, other passengers were concerned about the man’s luggage being on the plane. The plane turned back and passengers were evacuated. The man’s bags were checked and nothing was found. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=resources/traffic&id=7206934>
  
21. *January 7, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Western intel warns Gulf states of Qaeda attacks: report.** Western intelligence has warned energy-rich Gulf states that Al-Qaeda is on the verge of launching attacks mainly on ships after regrouping in the past few months, the Al-Qabas daily reported Thursday. Citing unnamed Kuwaiti security sources, the daily said that Al-Qaeda has trained operatives in the region to carry out attacks on war, commercial, and passenger vessels in the Gulf and Arabian Sea. Western intelligence has urged Gulf states to boost security measures to provide protection for ships, especially oil and gas tankers, the Kuwaiti security sources said. The Al-Qaeda network has been able to regroup over the past few months, taking advantage of deteriorating security in Somalia and Yemen, and has successfully established command and control bases in the two countries, the sources said. They added that Qaeda operatives in Somalia have in recent weeks captured advanced weapons from government forces and transferred them to their counterparts in Yemen. Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5giFz8SbH7-rzSAV\\_Y-Pjby-wwYfw](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5giFz8SbH7-rzSAV_Y-Pjby-wwYfw)
  
22. *January 7, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **Goodbye kiss provoked Newark airport scare: report.** The security scare that shut Newark Liberty International Airport for hours and delayed thousands of passengers was caused by a man who slipped into a secure area to give a woman one last goodbye kiss, a newspaper reported on Thursday. A videotape of the Newark incident shows the man embracing a woman at the C-1 security checkpoint before she passes through passenger screening, the Star-Ledger newspaper of New Jersey said, citing unnamed security officials who have viewed the tape. The

man, who was not a passenger, walks past a spot where a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officer should have been stationed to move closer to the woman, the paper said. The woman holds up a rope meant to keep unscreened people out of the secure area so that the man can pass underneath, and they walk hand-in-hand toward the boarding area before disappearing from view, the paper reported. The man left the airport and has not been identified. The TSA officer who was working that area has been placed on administrative leave. A U.S. Senator from New Jersey is attempting to make the video public, a spokesman for the Senator said. “After viewing video of the security breach, I am even more outraged by the lapse that occurred,” the Senator told the Star-Ledger.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6063J820100107>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [35](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

23. *January 6, KOLO 8 Reno* – (Nevada) **White powder at Hawthorne military base not harmful.** Everything is back to normal at the Hawthorne Army Depot. For much of Wednesday, January 6, security was tightened at the depot because of a package that contained a suspicious white substance. An explosives team from Fallon Naval Air Station examined the substance and decided it is not harmful. However, they were unable to identify it. The package was sent via the mail. Investigators say they do not know who sent it.

Source: <http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/80829057.html>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

24. *January 7, Bloomberg* – (Texas; International) **Japan bans Texas poultry on Avian Influenza concerns.** Japan has banned imports of poultry and eggs from Texas after tests showed possible avian influenza in a flock of ducks in the state, U.S. federal and state officials said. Meat from birds slaughtered in Texas as of December 1 is ineligible for export to Japan, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service said today on its Web site. Texas is the sixth-largest U.S. producer of chicken meat. The Texas Animal Health Commission restricted movement of about 1,000 domesticated ducks in the north-central part of the state after routine tests at an associated live bird market found a “weak positive” result for avian flu, the state agency said in an e-mailed statement. The live bird market slaughters and processes animals on site as they are purchased, and the ducks were not part of a commercial flock, the commission said. “No clinical illness at the market or in the flock” has been discovered, the state agency said. Additional samples from the duck flock are being tested, according to state officials. Flocks near the market are also under surveillance, they said.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-06/japan-bans-texas-poultry-imports-on-avian-influenza-usda-says.html>

25. *January 7, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **USDA designates disaster areas in counties.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture has named nine Montana counties that were hammered by last October’s heavy freeze “primary natural disaster areas.” The designation includes Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Chouteau, Gallatin, Lake, Madison, Richland and Treasure counties. It qualifies farmers for natural-disaster assistance and allows farmers in bordering counties to apply for aid. U.S. Agriculture Secretary said in a news release that the designation “will provide help to hundreds of farmers and ranchers who suffered production losses to sugar beets and potatoes.” Freezing temperatures between October 8 and 14 gripped much of the state, frustrating farmers who still had crops in the ground. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from Tuesday’s declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their losses. Source: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article\\_8c9d3046-fc1e-11de-a8b2-001cc4c002e0.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_8c9d3046-fc1e-11de-a8b2-001cc4c002e0.html)
26. *January 7, USAgNet* – (South Dakota) **Cattle tuberculosis confirmed in South Dakota.** A Yankton County, South Dakota cattle herd has been found positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB) after a 3-year-old cow from the herd was confirmed to be infected with the disease. A state veterinarian said the herd has been quarantined for additional testing. “At this time, there is only one confirmed case, but we are taking all of the necessary precautions,” the veterinarian said. The veterinarian added that South Dakota remains a TB Accredited Free state and has had that status since 1982. The finding of a single affected beef herd will not automatically impact the Accredited TB-free status of the entire state. Source: <http://usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=38&yr=2010>

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## Water Sector

27. *January 7, Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Frozen pipeline near Minturn raises concerns.** Crews in Minturn, Colorado, Wednesday continued their efforts to thaw a pipeline that transports water contaminated by zinc, cadmium and other heavy metals from the Eagle Mine to a water treatment plant. The 10-inch pipeline, held aloft by trestle as it crosses two roads, froze solid during December. Without that pipeline, there is some risk of water from the mine seeping out and into the Eagle River, similar to what happened in 1990, if at diminished concentrations. To reduce the potential for such a spill, CBS, the company legally responsible for cleanup of pollution from the mine, has been hauling contaminated water from the mine by truck to the treatment plant. State and county officials say they believe the trucking of water has substantially reduced the risk of a spill. But Eagle River Water and Sanitation District, which delivers water to communities from Vail through Edwards, has taken precautions. First, it topped off all storage tanks, to better ensure sufficiency of supplies. As well, operators of treatment plants in Avon and Edwards have been taking the extra step of

sampling water in Minturn before drawing water from their plants downvalley. The district has also stopped pumping water from the treatment plant in Avon to Vail, which is common in winter, and is instead relying entirely on water from its wells near the Vail Golf Club. If those wells should have trouble meeting demand, water could be released from Black Lakes, located at Vail Pass.

Source:

<http://www.vaildaily.com/article/20100107/NEWS/100109819/1078&ParentProfile=1062>

28. *January 7, Mineral Daily News-Tribune* – (West Virginia) **Pump failure alert could have warned Keyser officials of sewer problem.** The city of Keyser, West Virginia, hopes it has identified the source of industrial towels that have entered the sewage system and disabled wastewater pumps essential to the treatment process, but the discovery comes too late to avoid a pump-repair bill that could top \$40,000. City officials also learned this week that an alarm that could have alerted city staff to the malfunction before the pumps failed was never hooked up. The mayor said the Wastewater Treatment Plant supervisor contacted his counterparts at the Cumberland wastewater treatment plant, to determine whether their system had ever been fouled by such rags, which can pass through a screening process and enter the pumps themselves, entwining around the machinery and ruining the motors that drive the pumps. The city has been wrestling with the problem for at least the past month, but over New Years weekend a mass of towels entered the pumping station east of town and knocked three of four pumps offline. Sewage plant operators in Cumberland reported that they had encountered a similar problem with towels that nursing homes and hospitals use to bathe patients. City officials contacted nursing homes and Potomac Valley Hospital. While the nursing homes said they did not use the towels, hospital officials confirmed their use and pledged to work with the city to ensure that the towels are properly disposed of by staff. Still, with city officials earlier in the week mentioning the possibility of a deliberate campaign to sabotage the pumping station with the towels, no one was ready to declare the problem solved.

Source: <http://www.newstribune.info/news/x1689195563/Pump-failure-alert-could-have-warned-Keyser-officials-of-sewer-problem>

29. *January 7, Wicked Local Brookline* – (Massachusetts) **Poor water quality mystifies Coalition for Buzzards Bay.** The water quality of Sippican Harbor in Massachusetts continues to deteriorate after 15 years of environmental monitoring according to representatives from the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. And the cause of the nitrogen pollution continues to elude the organization. Members of the 23-year-old environmental group asked Selectmen at the Board's January 5 meeting for their support in uncovering the mystery. "Something in particular has been going on in recent years with Sippican Harbor," the executive director for the coalition said. "Sippican is declining. It's becoming one of the worst with a dramatic decline in 15 years." Each water body the coalition monitors is given a score called the Bay Health Index score. The score for inner Sippican Harbor has fallen from 60 in 2001 to 36 in 2006 and 2007. A score of 100 is the highest and is typical of central Buzzards Bay, he said. The Coalition examined sewer lines in the area and also noted there is little

industry. There are no dense housing developments in the vicinity that could be contributing to pollution. Runoff from lawn fertilizer, agriculture, rain, and boat discharge may be small contributors. However, the director said three unconfirmed records were found suggesting that there may be an inherent problem with the lagoon construction though he insisted the information is preliminary and inconclusive.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/marion/news/x1409364698/Poor-water-quality-mystifies-Coalition-for-Buzzards-Bay>

30. *January 6, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Backing off on bay cleanup.** Nearly five years after regional water-pollution cops announced a landmark order to clean toxic muck in San Diego Bay, they are back with a plan that would remove just 16 percent of the sediment targeted initially. The latest strategy was crafted during months of confidential talks with groups on the hook for the work. It is expected to cost about half of the \$96 million price tag from the original cleanup order, which the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board spent years developing so it could withstand courtroom challenges. Critics say the revised proposal will not take out enough mercury, lead and cancer-causing compounds that have accumulated since the early 1900s because of pollution by heavy industry, military operations and storm runoff. Scientists and community activists have long feared that the contaminants are harming marine life and endangering people who eat fish and shellfish from the bay. However, the recently appointed executive officer of the regional water board, said the new plan focuses on the most polluted sediment near the shoreline instead of the entire 55-acre study site south of the San Diego-Coronado Bridge. He also said it's better to leave some pollutants buried rather than dredging them and stirring up more contamination.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/jan/06/backing-bay-cleanup/>

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

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

31. *January 7, Medscape Today* – (New York) **Initial H1N1 patient information helped guide outbreak response in NYC.** A medical record review of the first 99 patients with 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) hospitalized in New York City (NYC) has helped guide subsequent efforts against the pandemic, according to a study conducted by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). The study is published in the January 8 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The authors concluded from the findings that public education campaigns should “encourage patients at high risk of severe illness to be vaccinated, and should emphasize to medical providers the importance of early antiviral therapy for children under age 2 years and patients with underlying risk conditions.” The analysis assessed disease and patient characteristics of the first patients with H1N1 influenza. Medical record information was collected within about 2 weeks and included patient demographics, disease severity, and use of antiviral medications. Among the 99

patients, about 60 percent were younger than 18 years and 91 percent were younger than 50 years.

Source: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/714782>

32. *January 7, United Press International* – (National) **Health security strategy released.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a strategy for protecting people’s health during a huge emergency. The nation’s first such comprehensive strategy enumerates priority for government and non-government activities in a large-scale emergency during the next four years, the department’s secretary said Thursday in a release. “As we’ve learned in the response to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, responsibility for improving our nation’s ability to address existing and emerging health threats must be broadly shared by everyone — governments, communities, families, and individuals,” she said. “The National Health Security Strategy is a call to action for each of us so that every community becomes fully prepared and ready to recover quickly after an emergency.”  
Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2010/01/07/Health-security-strategy-released/UPI-18711262914028/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/01/07/Health-security-strategy-released/UPI-18711262914028/)
33. *January 7, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **W. Va hospitals will fire unvaccinated workers.** West Virginia’s largest hospital plans to fire any employees who have not been vaccinated against seasonal flu. A Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) spokesman says workers have until Friday to get the shots. The policy was announced last summer. Hospital officials say mandatory vaccines for workers protect both patients and employees. The hospital allows exceptions for employees with medical reasons for avoiding the shot, such as allergies. The spokesman would not say how many employees risk being fired. He did say it amounts to “a handful” of the hospital’s roughly 6,000 staffers. CAMC is one of a small number of hospitals in the U.S. to require flu vaccines, although required immunizations against other illnesses is common.  
Source:  
[http://www2.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/state\\_regional/article/w.\\_va\\_hospitals\\_will\\_fire\\_unvaccinated\\_workers/29542/](http://www2.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/state_regional/article/w._va_hospitals_will_fire_unvaccinated_workers/29542/)
34. *January 5, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **State computer glitch snarls birth control prescriptions.** A state computer glitch prevented uninsured and low-income people from filling prescriptions for birth control recently. Officials at the California Department of Public Health said they began receiving complaints at 9 a.m. January 5 from pharmacies, clinics and other providers unable to fill birth control prescriptions covered by the department’s Family Planning Access Care Treatment program. The program covers about 2 million men and women statewide, including those covered by Medi-Cal. State officials said the glitch prevented providers from dispensing the usual three-month supplies of contraceptives covered by the program, limiting them to a month’s supply. Staff at some Los Angeles-area pharmacies said they had been unable to fill even partial prescriptions covered by the program and that problems began on January 3. State staff traced the glitch to computer system updates by a contractor that took effect January 1. The contractor made necessary repairs and fixed the problem by

2:55 p.m. January 5, state officials said.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/01/state-computer-glitch-snarls-birth-control-prescriptions-.html>

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

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

35. *January 9, Stars and Stripes* – (International) **Group: Internet posts indicate threat to Navy in Persian Gulf.** Messages posted recently by prominent contributors to jihadist Web sites are seeking specific information on U.S. military targets in hopes of carrying out an attack on Navy ships in the Persian Gulf, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). One post on the jihadi forum Al-Falluja calls for information such as the “name of the particular naval unit to be targeted, its exact location, the number of troops on board the warship and their ranks, familial status, where their families live, the type of weapons the warship carries...and the number of nuclear bombs onboard,” reads a report compiled by MEMRI. “The postings that have come out recently are from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula...from some of their leaders and some of the main people and...head moderators,” MEMRI’s executive director said. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service warned U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet of the threats on December 31, said a Navy spokesman. Citing security reasons, he declined to say whether the Navy changed any force-protection measures or policies or tactics as a result of the threats. It was the specificity and the call for personal familial information that led NCIS to caution 5th Fleet, a Navy official said. A December 30 Al-Falluja post called for a gathering of intelligence on U.S. Navy targets. Included on the post were diagrams and a dated picture of the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier. The photos, however, are from open-source Web sites, said MEMRI’s executive director, and easily attainable. “Anyone who thinks our enemies don’t monitor what our sailors, families and commands are doing via the Internet and social media had better open their eyes,” wrote a master chief petty officer in a message posted Wednesday on the Navy’s Web site. “These sites are great for networking, getting the word out and talking about some of our most important family readiness issues, but our sailors and their loved ones have to be careful with what they say and what they reveal about themselves, their families or their commands.”

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=67112>

36. *January 8, Denver Post* – (District of Columbia) **Fake Secret Service agent arrested.** Federal authorities have arrested and charged a man for entering U.S. Health and Human Services headquarters by posing as a U.S. Secret Service agent — with false credentials and a badge — who needed to meet with the Health Secretary. The U.S. Attorney’s Office says the 46-year-old suspect was arrested Tuesday, January 5. Documents filed in U.S. District Court say somebody recognized him from photos circulated at HHS as a warning that he was barred from the building. It was unclear

why the individual was not allowed at the HHS offices.

Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci\\_14145707](http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_14145707)

37. *January 8, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **MCSO: 911 caller says bomb will go off at Phoenix courthouse.** Hundreds of people have been evacuated and police dogs are searching a Phoenix courthouse after two 911 calls reported a bomb threat Friday morning. A spokesperson for the Phoenix Police Department said the bomb threat was reported at the Superior Court 1st Avenue and Jefferson Street. According to a spokesperson for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Maryvale police received a 911 call around 8 a.m. from a person claiming there was a bomb that was going to go off in 3 hours in a building located at 101 W. Jefferson St., in Phoenix. The call came from a Circle K pay phone near 90th Avenue and Camelback Road. The court's public information officer said the East Court Building was evacuated. Around 8:30 a.m., a second 911 call came into police from a pay phone in the area of 19th Avenue, south of Camelback Road. The person claimed, once again, a bomb would go off in 2.5 hours. The MCSO is taking this as a legitimate threat, and approximately 600 to 1000 people were evacuated from the building. MCSO has three canines, Phoenix police has two canines, and the U.S. Marshalls office has one canine searching the building. After the search, individuals will reportedly be allowed back into the building, but there is no word when this will happen. Although it has been 3 hours since the initial 911 call, there have been no reports of a bomb being found at this time.

Source: <http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/central/story/MCSO-911-caller-says-bomb-will-go-off-at-Phoenix/KKR08Ply0iiQ-Oj7cPeUA.csp>

For another story, see item [23](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

38. *January 7, Panama City News Herald* – (Florida) **State report reveals violations at fire station.** For now, the fire station in Sunny Hills, Florida, is an open parking lot. Radios are scarce. Much of the other fire gear is borrowed. It still may be an improvement over last year, according to the state. In a report made public Thursday, the state fire marshal's office faulted Sunny Hills Volunteer Fire Department Inc. for several failures, including sparse equipment and uncertified firefighters, revealed in an inspection late last year. Since the inspection began, the Washington County Commission has relieved Sunny Hills Volunteer Fire of its duties. Serving the area now is its replacement, the Sunny Hills Fire Rescue Department. But the new agency has not been able to run its trucks out of the former agency's station — property acquired from the Deltona company that developed Sunny Hills, a current volunteer firefighter said. He said Washington County is considering building a new one.

Source: <http://www.newsherald.com/news/station-80408-chipley-violations.html>

39. *January 7, Superior Telegram* – (Wisconsin) **Most are not prepared for an emergency.** A new state study suggests most Wisconsin residents are not ready if

disaster hits. A survey commissioned by Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) says 80-percent of residents have not taken basic disaster precautions such as making a kit of emergencies supplies. And more than 60-percent can not find the emergency broadcast channel on the radio. The study also isolates answers by region. For example, at 30-percent, northwest Wisconsin had the highest percentage of people who have put together a disaster kit, or taken other preparedness steps, in spite of being among the least likely to have seen a message about emergency preparedness. At 18-percent, West Central Wisconsin had the lowest percentage of residents doing that.

Source: <http://www.superiortelegram.com/event/article/id/39319/>

40. *January 6, KTUU 2 Anchorage* – (National) **Nationwide alert test goes well, has some glitches.** FEMA and Homeland Security officials say they are assessing any glitches in Wednesday’s first “live” National Emergency Alert, which was tested in Alaska. The Emergency Action Notification Code was a test local and national officials have been working on for months. The alert is activated from the East Coast, reaches local radio station KFQD, and is then relayed to stations across the state. After that, it was broadcast over programming for three minutes, sending out the crawl and the message. At about 10 a.m. Wednesday morning the dial on the radio, the channels on the TV tuned in to one message. It was an exercise to see if, during a real national emergency, the word will reach the public. Programming on many of Alaska’s television, cable, and radio stations paused for what Homeland Security officials say was a successful test, but not without a few issues. “We found a few anomalies with equipment and programming as expected, and that’s the primary reason that we were doing the test was to discover those issues so we could move forward and work on resolving them,” said an official with Alaska Homeland Security. Some radio and TV stations did not get the message at all, while others broadcast it more than once. “A lot of this equipment has been in place in Alaska since 1995 so there are known issues with the power of the equipment, we had some reports of the equipment rebooting when it received the message. That’s a known issue, we expected to see some of that,” he said.

Source: <http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=11782403>

For another story, see item [45](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

41. *January 8, SC Magazine* – (International) **Adobe plans to release auto-updater for Acrobat Reader as exploits are seen of unpatched vulnerability.** Adobe is testing the functionality of an auto-updater for its Acrobat Reader following a number of recent PDF threats. PC World has reported that the company will begin a beta test of its new updater, called the Acrobat Refresh Manager, with next week’s critical security updates. A group product manager at Adobe Systems revealed in October on the Adobe reader blog that Adobe Reader and Acrobat 9.2 and 8.1.7 were shipping with a new

beta updater technology, which was initially in a passive state. It is planned for the updater to be turned on the week of January 11 and if all goes well, Reader and Acrobat users on Macintosh and Windows computers will be offered the new update mechanism as a default option with the company's next security update, currently scheduled for release on 13th April. Adobe is also expected to patch a vulnerability next week in Adobe Reader and Acrobat, after it announced in December that the update would be released by 12th January 2010 to resolve the issue.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/adobe-plans-to-release-auto-updater-for-acrobat-reader-as-exploits-are-seen-of-unpatched-vulnerability/article/160895/>

42. *January 8, The Register* – (International) **Microsoft readies singular fix for first Patch Tuesday of 2010.** Microsoft's first Patch of the year on Tuesday is designed to fix just one critical vulnerability that affects Windows 2000, XP, Vista, and Windows 7. It will also patch the same bug in Windows Server 2003, Server 2008, and 2008 R2, although the security flaw in those products is marked as low by Microsoft. However, a spokesman for the firm claimed on the company's security blog that the "Exploitability Index" rating for the vulnerability would not be high, thereby lowering the overall risk. He also admitted that Microsoft had not patched a Denial of Service bug in SMB (Server Message Block), which the company went public about in November 2009. The security bug in Windows 7 and Windows 2008 R2 makes it possible to lock up affected systems. The crash would happen without a Blue Screen of Death or other visible indication that anything was amiss. The software giant's light-footed approach to its latest round of updates contrasts with the hefty collection of patches that trundled out of MS Towers and onto the Internet in October last year.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/08/patch\\_tuesday\\_january/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/08/patch_tuesday_january/)

43. *January 8, Reuters* – (California) **Silicon Valley shaken by another mild quake.** Silicon Valley technology companies and residents were shaken by another light 3.8 magnitude earthquake on Friday. There were no immediate reports of damage, according to local news outlets. Friday's earthquake follows a 4.1 magnitude earthquake in the same region on Thursday. Silicon Valley is home to a number of large technology companies including Google, Cisco, and Oracle. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake, which struck at 11:48 a.m. local time, was at a depth of 5 miles.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6074RM20100108>

44. *January 7, Techworld.com* – (International) **SpamAssassin '2010' bug blocked e-mail across world.** If anyone sent an email in the first few hours of 2010, there is a chance that it never reached its recipient thanks to a '2010' bug buried in the open source SpamAssassin anti-spam engine used by many Internet Service Providers. According to a UK-based techie who first blogged on the issue, the fault lies with the 'FH\_DATE\_PAST\_20XX' rule used in conjunction with many others by the program to score the likelihood of an email being spam. This assigns an especially high score to any email it encounters that has within its header a date beyond a defined point in the future, normally a reliable sign that the email in question is suspicious. Unfortunately, due to an oversight this rule was not updated in compiled versions of Apache SpamAssassin 3.2.0 thru 3.2.5 in time for the turning of the year, and so any email sent

with a sending date between 2010 and 2099 would have had the higher score applied to it automatically. Although this on its own would be unlikely to have stopped an email, it is likely that the number of false positives would have increased dramatically until service providers noticed the issue. Non-packaged versions of SpamAssassin would not have been affected, though only a small minority of users download the software in this form. It is impossible to say how many emails were affected, but reports have emerged of false positives in Sweden, Germany, and The Netherlands.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/article/186215/spamassassin\\_2010\\_bug\\_blocked\\_email\\_across\\_world.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/186215/spamassassin_2010_bug_blocked_email_across_world.html)

### 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

45. *January 7, Huntington Herald-Dispatch* – (West Virginia) **EMS services could be hindered.** Ten communication tower sites in Cabell County have been vandalized and the copper stolen from them since December 28. The communications site at Rotary Park, which includes four towers, was vandalized and had its copper stolen Wednesday, and two more tower sites in the county were hit Thursday. The EMS director estimates that damage has totaled about \$50,000, while only about \$1,000 worth of copper was stolen from the sites. Since the thefts began, crews were working to replace all missing and damaged parts at emergency services communications sites before the snowstorm. The Cabell County Commission passed a resolution on Thursday to implore the state’s congressional delegation to push for federal legislation that would make theft or damage to communications infrastructure a felony crime. The commission also said it would look into installing electric fences and razor wire to deter criminals from the sites. “This deserves attention and needs to be looked at as terrorism,” the commissioner said. Although 10 separate communications sites have been damaged in the county, the EMS director said only two of the four emergency services tower sites have been hit. The rest of the towers and communications sites that have been damaged belong to cell phone companies. One major worry is the theft from the four Rotary Park towers, the EMS director said. Thieves stole the copper from the propane tank that runs the backup generator used for the tower when bad weather causes an outage at the tower. He said the West Virginia State Police, Cabell County Sheriff’s Department, and several local police forces are working to find the people responsible for the thefts. He said he suspects the same people to be involved in all the crimes.

Source: <http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/x300704187/Damage-from-thefts-could-affect-EMS-services>

46. *January 7, Reuters* – (International) **Cellular group says mobile calls safe from hackers.** A wireless industry group said mobile phone conversations are safe from eavesdropping, even after a German security expert released the code for unscrambling calls made using most of the world's cell phones. Concerns spread recently that cell phone calls could easily be intercepted after an encryption expert unveiled his research at Europe's largest hacking conference in Berlin. The London-based GSM Association said on Thursday that it has spent the past few years figuring out ways to thwart hackers who might try to tap into wireless calls using his research, which it first learned of in 2007. GSM Association engineers have figured out a short-term solution to block eavesdroppers, said the head of security for the association. It involves making slight changes to the settings in each wireless operator's network. Carriers can quickly make those adjustments by tweaking existing features in the technology, GSM's head of security said in an interview. "Should people be worried? I think no," he said. The research by the German security expert applies to GSM technology, which runs about 80 percent of the world's mobile phones, including systems run by AT&T Inc, Deutsche Telekom, and France Telecom. Over the next several years, GSM carriers will adopt a new standard for encrypting, or scrambling, voice conversations that will be tougher to crack, according to GSM's head of security.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60641G20100107?type=technologyNews>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

47. *January 7, Delaware Ledger* – (Delaware) **Central Y evacuated, following day care center bomb threat.** At approximately 7:50 am on January 7, Wilmington Police were advised by the staff of the YMCA on 11th Street that an anonymous caller had called the children's day care center and the reception desk and stated "I am gonna blow the place up." The building was evacuated without incident. During the evacuation, it was learned that there was a suspicious package on the eastern roof of the day care center along the 1100 Blk. of Washington Street. Wilmington's explosive ordinance detonation team along with bomb sniffing K-9s and uniformed officers made a complete sweep of the building and found that the package was safe and full of miscellaneous items. At approximately 12:35 am, officers on scene along with the staff were satisfied there was no threat and everyone evacuated was allowed to return into the building.

Source:

<http://www.ledgerdelaware.com/articles/2010/01/07/news/doc4b463b47b8332735989025.txt>

48. *January 7, Ventura County Star* – (California) **Oxnard park evacuated, school locked down after suspicious package found.** The discovery of a suspicious package sparked a school lockdown and park evacuation Thursday morning in Oxnard, but authorities later deemed it was not a threat. Oxnard city employees were working about 8:40 a.m. at Southbank Park in the 2500 block of Woodside Place when they found the package

and a note with it, police said. The park was evacuated and Rio Del Norte School locked down while Oxnard police and members of the Sheriff's Department bomb squad assessed the package. Authorities determined the package was not a threat, and the park and school reopened about 11:10 a.m. Further details were not immediately available.

Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/jan/07/oxnard-park-evacuated-school-locked-down-after/>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

49. *January 8, Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota) **Area dams release water over winter.** Jamestown and Pipestem dams in North Dakota are continuing to release water this winter, according to the dam manager at Pipestem Dam. The releases are intended to maintain the proper water levels through the winter. “We’re releasing 12 cubic feet per second from the Pipestem Dam,” he said. “That is about the same as last year although we don’t normally release water from Pipestem during the winter.” He said the releases are matching the inflows to the lake from springs and ground water. The lake is currently at 1,442.7 feet mean sea level or about 3 inches above the conservation pool level of 1,442.5 feet msl. The Pipestem Dam peaked at 1,492.5 feet msl last spring. “Normally we wouldn’t draw below the conservation pool level except for inspections or repairs,” he said. Releases from the Jamestown Dam are 13 cfs at this time. The level of the lake is 1,429.3 feet msl and is climbing slightly. Monitoring the snowpack in the drainage area of the lakes is scheduled to start in February although there are no indications of possible flood problems at this time.

Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/102226/group/News/>

50. *January 7, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Residents ask for levees, housing aid.** Residents are concerned about the future of Montegut and Pointe-aux-Chenes according to questions and comments made during a public meeting held Wednesday by the Terrebonne Parish president. He reassured the audience the parish is working to protect their community with levees and drainage work. The meeting, held to update residents on local government’s work, was the first in a series to be held throughout the parish over the next two months. “I think it’s strong and clear: more housing in the lower parts of the parish, it’s coming to the lower parts of the parish, cleaning up Bayou Pointe-aux-Chenes, other areas, and in addition to that, we all know levees, restoration, barrier islands,” he said, summarizing comments. The president said he believes preventing flooding first will ease people’s fears and they’ll feel safer building in places like Montegut. This year, Terrebonne Parish will see an unprecedented \$500

million worth of levee construction.

Source:

<http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20100107/ARTICLES/100109621/1212?Title=Residents-ask-for-levees-housing-aid>

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

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