



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 January 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to the St. Petersburg Times, farmers’ attempts to save crops from freezing temperatures by spraying them with water all night caused such a dramatic drop in the underground aquifer that it resulted in at least 22 sinkholes opening up in Hillsborough County, Florida. WDBO 580 Orlando reports that a significant depression formed in the road on I-4 near the Polk-Hillsborough County line. (See items [15](#) and [20](#))
- Msnbc.com reports that an initial contingent of 2,000 U.S. Marines could be deployed to quake-ravaged Haiti within the next few days to either help with emergency aid distribution or help enforce law in order after the U.N.’s peacekeeping operation headquarters was destroyed in the quake. About 100 U.N. personnel are believed to be trapped in the ruins of the building. (See item [26](#))

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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 14, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **Fuel fire shuts down Montrose Road.** Montrose Road in Rockville, Maryland remained closed in both directions the morning of January 14 near the Interstate 270 overpass after a fuel tanker overturned, causing a large fire that snarled rush-hour traffic. I-270 also was shut down intermittently while the fire burned. Firefighters were called to the scene around 4:45 a.m. and found a tanker on its side. The tank was ruptured and fuel was leaking onto the road surface, according to a Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service spokesman. The driver was uninjured and is being interviewed by Montgomery County police about the cause of the crash, he said. Fire officials contained the burning fuel before it could run into any storm drains, and firefighters had to stretch hoses more than 3,000 feet to reach the scene of the blaze. After containing the fuel, firefighters allowed the fire to burn until a hazardous materials crash truck from Dulles Airport arrived on the scene. The crash truck coated the fuel with a special foam that began to extinguish the fire around 6:15 a.m. and fully stifled the flames by 6:45 a.m. About 55 firefighters battled the blaze. Interstate 270 was shut down intermittently while the fire was burning, but was completely stopped in both directions while firefighters extinguished the blaze. It reopened at 6:40 a.m. The Maryland Department of Environment was on the scene making sure no fuel leaked into storm drains or was absorbed by the pavement.
Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/01142010/montnew110231_32568.php

2. *January 14, Denver Business Journal* – (Colorado) **Power outage hits near downtown.** Nearly 3,000 Xcel Energy Inc. customers near downtown Denver were blacked out starting at 7:45 a.m. Thursday morning due to a power outage, a utility spokesman said. About 650 customers were still without power as of 11:15 a.m., down from a total of 2,850 customers at the beginning of the outage. The outage extended from East Colfax to 20th avenues, and Sherman to Logan streets. Told that power would not be restored until 4 p.m., some companies shut down for the day. Xcel was working to isolate the problem, but was hampered by an inability to access three underground electrical vaults that hold switches and transformers, the utility spokesman said. “We have three vaults that we can’t get into right now,” he said. A car was parked on top of one of the vaults and two others had been paved over with asphalt — which is not supposed to happen, he said.
Source: <http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2010/01/11/daily68.html>

3. *January 13, Houston Chronicle* – (Louisiana) **Fire on Apache platform off Louisiana is fatal to worker.** A fire aboard an Apache Corp. oil and natural gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico left one contract worker dead and halted production at the facility. The fire occurred about 1:30 a.m. on January 13 at Apache’s East Cameron 2 processing platform, two miles off Cameron Parish in south Louisiana, Houston-based Apache said. All three workers on the platform were rescued by a commercial vessel working in the area. But one man, 34, of Mowata, Louisiana, died later at an area hospital. The other two workers were discharged from the hospital. The personnel on the platform were employees of Lafayette, Louisiana-based Island Operating Co., which runs facilities for Apache and other energy companies in the Gulf. As of the afternoon of January 13, wells that flow into the processing facilities on the platform remained shut

down. The platform processes about 7.7 million cubic feet of gas and 850 barrels of oil per day. The cause of the fire had not been determined. Apache surveyed the platform by helicopter and found only a “minor sheen” of petroleum on the water, a company spokesman said. “Our priority is dealing with the environmental impacts and making sure it’s safe to be aboard the platform,” he said. “Then we’ll conduct an investigation.” Officials with the U.S. Coast Guard and Louisiana State Police said they were working with Apache to assess damage.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/6813596.html>

4. *January 13, Clay Center Dispatch* – (Kansas) **Freak snow caused \$8 million of damage to electric lines.** Spokesmen for Bluestem Electric Cooperative told Lions Club members that the cooperative is still working on rebuilding and recovery from the December 16 storm. The first wet, heavy snow of the season caused \$8 million of damage to electric lines mostly in Washington County, though parts of northern Clay and Riley counties were also affected by the power outage that last five days for some customers. A spokesman said the company was not expecting a disaster from the first major snow of the season. Initially, the cooperative found 20-30 poles down, and by the time they were through surveying the damage, little over 400 poles were down, all in Washington County. Most of the poles snapped a couple feet above the ground, an indicator that it was caused by weight of snow that accumulated on the lines. In many of the cases, it was “a domino effect,” he said. The Cooperative was able to get a federal disaster declared in Washington County because of the snow. The other spokesman said the snow accumulation on the lines seemed to be caused by “small swirls” the wind blew around the line, causing the snow to stick to the snow already on the line. It was a “rare phenomenon” he said. Normally it is ice that builds up on lines. The cooperative also had to deal with two thousand-pound regulators that fell and were damaged beyond repair.

Source:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20402489&BRD=1160&PAG=461&dept_id=190958&rfti=6

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *January 13, Jacksonville Daily News* – (North Carolina) **Officials: Explosives spill at port accidental.** The cleanup of hazardous materials continued Wednesday at the state port in Morehead City after the discovery of a second issue involving the chemical PETN being shipped through the port. Additional damaged cylinders of pentaerythritol tetranitrate, also known as PETN, were found during the early morning on January 13 as work continued to mitigate a spill of the substance that was reported on January 12 after a forklift operator punctured nine cylinders during unloading. “During clean up operations overnight, additional compromised hazardous material cylinders were discovered inside containers on the port facility,” said a lieutenant of the North

Carolina State Ports Authority. “The good news is these cylinders were discovered before they left the port. There was also a small amount of residue discovered inside the larger shipping containers that carry these cylinders.” He said the second discovery is a separate incident from the forklift accident. “This residue was not caused by what was initially happened (Tuesday) with the forklift puncturing the drums. It was likely caused during shipping,” he said. Operations at the state port facility remained temporarily suspended January 13 until the situation is resolved. A 300-yard safety zone was in place around the port facility, but waterways are still open outside of that zone, and there is no additional concern for public safety outside that area. The precautions were lifted around 5 p.m. on January 12 as the threat was reduced to an acceptable level and clean up of the spill site continued. “As far as we know it was an accident,” the deputy of communications for the State Ports Authority said.
Source: <http://www.jdnews.com/news/port-71755-reopening-delayed.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *January 14, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Toxic waste not coming to Kings Co. landfill.** Radioactive waste from a former nuclear and rocket-research site near Los Angeles will not be dumped in a Kings County landfill. Waste Management, which runs a hazardous-waste landfill in the Kettleman Hills west of Interstate 5, notified the California Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday that it will not accept hazardous waste from Boeing’s Santa Susana Field Lab. The decision was announced by the Waste Management’s senior district manager in a letter sent to the state EPA Secretary. Fear over radioactive waste from the Boeing site has been a key point for opponents of a landfill expansion. In a statement, a spokeswoman for the Kettleman City group People for Clean Air and Water called the decision “a great victory for our community.”
Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1780700.html>
7. *January 14, Raleigh News and Observer* – (North Carolina) **Harris plant leak contaminates soil.** Progress Energy’s Shearon Harris nuclear plant in Wake County, North Carolina, leaked about 1,000 gallons of water contaminated with tritium, a low-level source of radiation, nuclear safety regulators reported Wednesday. The leak, which affected about 100 cubic feet of soil, did not affect public safety, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The contaminated soil will be dried onsite to evaporate the tritium. The Shearon Harris leak was discovered at 8:30 a.m. Sunday by a plant operator during regular inspection rounds. A pipe sprang a leak about 15 feet from the nuclear plant’s water treatment building and about two miles within the plant boundary.
Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/business/story/283142.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *January 13, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (New York) **OSHA cites two employers following confined-space deaths.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has completed inspections prompted by a June 29, 2009, triple fatality at a Jamaica, New York, recycling facility. An employee of S. Dahan Piping and Heating Company of South Ozone, New York, was fatally overcome by hydrogen sulfide gas while cleaning a dry well at Regal Recycling Company Inc. The owner of S. Dahan Piping and Heating, who was also the worker’s father, and a Regal Recycling employee also succumbed while trying to rescue him from the dry well. OSHA’s inspection found that S. Dahan Piping and Heating should have monitored the air quality in the dry well to determine if there was a lack of oxygen or the presence of another breathing hazard before any of its employees entered the dry well to perform their duties. If a hazard was found, protective measures would need to have been implemented prior to employee entry. Regal Recycling failed to post signs warning its employees of hazards that may be present in a confined space, such as the dry well. “Unfortunately, this incident was a classic example of a multiple-fatality event where would-be rescuers are themselves overcome in their attempt to save the initial victim,” said OSHA’s area director for Queens, Manhattan and Brooklyn. “Many deaths in confined spaces occur because people who are attempting to rescue someone else are neither trained nor equipped to do so.”
Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/22194/OSHA-confined-space-deaths>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *January 14, Arizona Daily Star* – (National) **Test flight keeps Raytheon decoy on track.** The U.S. Air Force and Raytheon Missile Systems recently completed the first free-flight test of the Miniature Air Launched Decoy-Jammer (MALD-J), the Tucson-based company said Wednesday. The test sets the stage for a critical design review in 2010 and a possible decision on production in early 2011, Raytheon said in a news release. The MALD-J adds radar-jamming capability to the basic MALD, a relatively low-cost, air-launched and programmable craft that mimics the flight profiles and radar signatures of U.S. and allied aircraft.
Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/business/325164>
10. *January 14, Attorneyatlaw.com* – (Rhode Island) **Asbestos disposal fines issued at Navy shipyard.** Three companies that worked on a demolition project at the Newport Navy Base in Newport, Rhode Island will pay nearly \$15,000 in fines for illegally handling and disposing of asbestos, the toxic building material linked to deadly mesothelioma cancer. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency charged the United States Naval Station – Newport, Goel Services, Inc., and A. A. Asbestos Abatement Co., Inc. of violating the Clean Air Act and the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Asbestos in February 2009. Part of the demolition work involved removing, handling, and disposing of asbestos. The three firms accused of violating the law at the Rhode Island base “failed to properly seal asbestos-containing waste materials in leak-tight containers while the materials were wet,” the EPA said.

The risk of inhaling asbestos fibers is dramatically reduced when the fibers are wet. As part of the settlement and fines announced Thursday, the three parties must and certify that they are currently operating in compliance with federal asbestos safety requirements, the EPA said.

Source: <http://www.attorneyatlaw.com/2010/01/asbestos-disposal-fines-issued-at-navy-shipyard/>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *January 14, Forum of Fargo-Moorhead* – (North Dakota) **Scam texts center on Fargo credit union cards.** A series of scam text messages has tried to trick cell phone users into giving up bank account information by telling them their card with Fargo Public Schools Federal Credit Union has been deactivated. Two batches of the scam texts have been identified, one sent to Sprint users on January 9 and another to Verizon subscribers on January 12, said the credit union's CEO. She said it appears the scammers are working from cell phone subscriber lists, plucking out Fargo names. Information about credit union accounts have not been accessed, she said. She said the credit union has received hundreds of phone calls about the text messages, which she figures could have been sent to thousands of people. West Fargo police sent a warning out about the text messages late on January 13, saying they have received numerous reports about them.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/265770/>

12. *January 13, Credit FYI* – (National) **Debit cards as vulnerable to fraud as credit cards.** Shoppers are frequently warned to be on guard against consumer credit card fraud, but they may be less inclined to think about the security risks that they face with their debit card as well. According to Discover, debit cards can be vulnerable to identity theft and other fraudulent activity when shoppers fail to properly safeguard their personal identification numbers (PINs). People are advised to change their passwords and PINs regularly so the information stays out of the wrong hands. Another thing to watch for is criminals who can steal financial data simply by looking over a person's shoulder or, in some cases, by using so-called skimming devices that can be attached to an ATM machine to steal data. Discover also advises people to regularly track their purchases online to spot any red-flag activity as quickly as possible, and to promptly report any missing cards so that potential thieves do not get a head start on racking up fraudulent charges.

Source: <http://www.creditfyi.com/News/debit-cards-as-vulnerable-to-fraud-as-credit-cards-234.htm>

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Transportation Sector

13. *January 14, Associated Press* – (Montana) **TSA: Security fails to spot gun at Mont. airport.** Officials say security screeners at a Bozeman-area airport failed to spot a gun in a passenger's luggage last month, but the man turned himself in when he realized his error. A Transportation Security Administration spokesman said in a written statement Wednesday that the unidentified man became aware that he had the firearm in his carryon luggage as he was boarding December 13 at Gallatin Field. The gun was confiscated and the passenger was allowed to continue on the flight. The incident occurred nearly two weeks before the alleged Christmas Day attempt to blow up a U.S. airliner reawakened widespread concern over airline safety.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/national/1110ap_us_airport_security_breach.html

14. *January 14, Las Vegas Sun* – (Arizona; Nevada) **Hoover Dam bridge project gets nearly \$6M grant.** An Arizona congressman has announced the acquisition of a nearly \$6 million federal grant that will be used to fund continued work on the Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge Project at the Arizona-Nevada border. The 1,900-foot span is being designed to carry four lanes of U.S. Highway 93 traffic between Arizona and Nevada, bypassing a winding two-lane road across the dam. The highway is a key route between Las Vegas and Phoenix. The bridge project is expected to cost \$240 million and may be completed by this fall. He says the current stretch of 93 that passes over the dam is the only major U.S. highway that is still restricted due to post-9/11 security concerns. The bridge also should eliminate much of the traffic over the dam that can take hours to cross.
Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/14/hoover-dam-bridge-project-gets-nearly-6m-grant/>

15. *January 13, WDBO 580 Orlando* – (Florida) **Part of I-4 shut down due to possible sinkhole.** The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) closed all three eastbound lanes of I-4 near the Polk-Hillsborough County line because of a significant depression that formed in the road. FDOT says that the section could remain closed all of Wednesday and into Thursday. Engineers were concerned that the depression could have been the beginnings of a sinkhole, but they were able to determine Wednesday morning that it was not. 47,000 drivers a day use this stretch of the Interstate and at 6:30am traffic was backed up as far as the eye could see. Drivers traveling eastbound on the Interstate had to use the emergency lane to get around the unsafe portion of the road. FDOT discovered the problem with the roadway on Tuesday. Core samples and a ground scan helped engineers determine that part of the road had settled. At that point, two of the eastbound lanes were closed, resulting in a five mile backup. With all three lanes to remain closed through Wednesday, the backup is expected to be much worse. FDOT will drill ten holes, fill them with concrete and then re-asphalt the road. They do not expect the portion of the road to be reopened anytime Wednesday. "We just ask people to have patience. This is an emergency situation, but we need to fix the roadway so we can open it up for them," said an engineer. To the naked eye, the dip in the road does not appear to be that severe. However, FDOT says when driving a vehicle over the depression at 70 MPH it can result in a significant jolt.
Source: <http://wdbo.com/localnews/2010/01/part-of-i4-shut-down-due-to-po.html>
See also [20](#)

16. *January 13, Chicago Southtown Star* – (Illinois) **Barge owner, captain charged in fatal explosion.** The captain and the owner of a tank barge that exploded in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in 2005, resulting in the death of a crew member and the spilling of thousands of gallons of oil, were indicted Wednesday on federal charges of maritime negligence. The two men from Lemont, Illinois were each charged with one count of negligence by a ship officer or owner resulting in death; and were charged together with one count of causing oil to pollute a navigable waterway. According to the indictment, on January 19, 2005, a fully-loaded Egan Marine tank barge, the EMC-423, was being pushed by the tow boat Lisa E from the ExxonMobil refinery in Joliet to the Ameropan Oil facility near California Avenue in Chicago. The barge was transporting about 600,000 gallons of clarified slurry oil, a byproduct of petroleum refining that also can be used as fuel. Just after the boat cleared the Cicero Avenue bridge and was traveling parallel to the Stevenson Expressway, a large explosion erupted on the barge. The barge sank, discharging thousands of gallons of the combustible heavy oil into the canal, according to court documents. A crewman who had been aboard the barge was determined to be missing. His body was recovered from the canal near Laramie Avenue on Feb. 4, 2005. Court documents allege Egan Marine and its employees negligently vented combustible vapors from the cargo hold of the barge to the deck causing an explosion hazard. And at the alleged direction of Egan Marine, the victim was using a propane-fueled open flame from a hand-held torch to heat a cargo pump on the deck.

Source: <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1989630,STM-Egan-barge-explosion-charges-0113.article>

17. *January 13, Wall Street Journal* – (New Jersey) **Landing-gear door malfunction suspected in United jet incident.** Federal crash investigators suspect that a partially closed landing-gear door may have prevented part of the main wheels of a United Airlines jet from extending last weekend at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport, resulting in a harrowing but safe landing for 48 passengers and five crew members. Following an uneventful flight from Chicago and a normal descent toward the Newark airport Sunday morning, industry officials said, cockpit instruments indicated that the Airbus A319's landing gear had not locked into place. After circling for another approach and unsuccessfully trying emergency procedures to fully deploy the gear, the twin-engine jet landed on its nose gear and the left portion of its main gear, damaging its belly and scraping the right wing on the ground. The right portion of the main gear did not drop down. The jet slid to a halt on the runway's centerline. Nobody was seriously hurt as the passengers evacuated using emergency chutes. Investigators for the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday they are pursuing a theory that the emergency deployment did not work because right panel of the main landing-gear door did not fully open. The right main gear caught on the panel and could not extend. Sunday's incident was unusual, according to safety experts, because the main landing gear of such a large commercial jet seldom fail to deploy when pilots resort to emergency procedures that basically rely on gravity.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703414504575001982246948938.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_sections_news

18. *January 13, Offshore Magazine* – (Texas) **New system to improve GoM aircraft management, says FAA.** Houston air traffic controllers now are using the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) system to separate and manage aircrafts flying over the Gulf of Mexico. “Safety is our highest priority at the US Department of Transportation, and this new satellite-based technology will help the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) improve the safety of flights over the Gulf even as air traffic increases,” says the US Transportation Secretary. ADS-B brings improved satellite-based air traffic control to the GoM, an area that has not previously had radar coverage. Before ADS-B, controllers had to rely on an aircraft’s estimated or reported position. Commercial aircraft flying at high altitudes were kept as much as 120 miles apart to ensure safety. Controllers are now able to reduce the separation between ADS-B equipped aircraft to 5 nautical miles. Individual helicopters flying under Instrument Flight Rule conditions at low altitudes to and from oil platforms were isolated within 20 x 20 mi boxes to remain safely separated. These complex, manual operations reduced capacity and efficiency for the 5,000 to 9,000 daily helicopter operations in the region, the FAA says. Aircraft equipped with ADS-B will now receive flight information including Notice to Airmen and Temporary Flight Restrictions. Source: http://www.offshore-mag.com/index/article-display/4354209804/articles/offshore/equipment-engineering/us-gulf-of-mexico-2/2010/01/new-system_to_improve.html

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [5](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *January 12, KREM 2 Couer D’Alene* – (Idaho) **Grenade removed from truck parked at Idaho post office.** Roads around the Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, Post Office have reopened after a grenade was removed from a pickup truck. Authorities from Fairchild Airforce Base removed the British explosive with the pin still in Monday afternoon. A person, who was taking care of an elderly couple who recently died, took over their estate. In their home he found a grenade. He said he did not want it and decided to take it to the police. While he was driving through town, he called a family member and that family member suggested it wasn’t a good idea to drive with an explosive device. The man then pulled over at the Coeur d’Alene Post Office. Source: <http://www.nwcn.com/news/idaho/Grenade-removed-from-truck-parked-at-Idaho-post-office-81245442.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *January 14, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **30 percent of Florida crops damaged by freeze; 22 sinkholes open after fields sprayed.** Despite farmers' best efforts to protect their crops, about 30 percent of Florida's agricultural bounty was damaged by this month's freezing temperatures, state officials say. The farmers' attempts to save their strawberries, citrus and other crops by spraying them with water all night caused such a dramatic drop in the underground aquifer that it resulted in at least 22 sinkholes opening up in Hillsborough County. Sinkholes have resulted before when farmers pumped millions of gallons of water out of the ground to spray it on their plants, hoping that the coating of ice that forms would protect the plants from damage. In the past, such sinkholes primarily affected the farmers themselves. The crumbling ground fell in and sucked down citrus trees or created instant lakes in the middle of a pasture. Now, geologists say, the spread of suburban development into formerly rural areas means more people are affected by what the farmers do. More than 300 people have called the Southwest Florida Water Management District to report problems with their private wells, ranging from burned-out pumps to wells that have dried up completely. A Swiftmud spokeswoman said after the freeze conditions are over, the agency will review how it handled the crisis and there may be changes.
Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/30-percent-of-florida-crops-damaged-by-freeze-22-sinkholes-open-after/1065217>
See also [15](#)

21. *January 13, Raleigh News and Observer* – (North Carolina) **ConAgra to pay \$106,440 fine.** ConAgra Foods has agreed to pay a fine of \$106,440 and take steps to improve safety at its Slim Jim plant in Garner as a result of the explosion in June that killed four people and injured dozens more. The state Department of Labor found 26 serious health and safety violations at the plant and initially fined the company nearly \$135,000. As a result of the settlement announced Tuesday, the company waived its right to contest the citations or the penalties. Among other things, ConAgra agreed to prescreen the safety compliance records of contractors working at the plant and to work with them in advance to address potential safety and health hazards. Investigators say the explosion occurred as a contractor was trying to light a gas-fired water heater inside a pump room at the plant. A contract worker had improperly purged a new fuel supply line, allowing gas to vent into the enclosed room, according to the Labor Department.
Source: http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local_state/story/281419.html

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Water Sector

22. *January 13, Water Technology Online* – (Alabama) **Alabama town declares state of emergency due to water shortage.** A massive water shortage has forced officials in Thomasville, Alabama, to declare a state of emergency, according to WSFA 12 News. The town has had little or no water for almost a week, the report stated. The shortage is believed to be caused by the unusually cold weather and heavy use, according to the report. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency has distributed 150,000 bottles of water to help the town cope with the shortage, the story reported. According to the

Thomasville mayor, the shortage is expected to last at least a few more days.

Source: http://www.watertechnology.com/news.asp?N_ID=73240

23. *January 13, Water Technology Online* – (Michigan) **Engineers develop paper strip to detect toxins in water.** University of Michigan engineers have developed a biosensor that can quickly detect microcystin-LR (MC-LR) in drinking water, according to a press release. The new technology consists of an inexpensive strip of paper infused with nanotubes. The paper strip is less expensive and performs much faster than the most common method used to find MC-LR, the release stated. Commonly found in nutrient-rich water, cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, produce MC-LR, which has been shown to cause liver damage even in small quantities, according to the release. Before the nanotubes are implanted in the paper, they are mixed with MC-LR antibodies. The sensor detects changes in the electroconductivity of the nanotubes when the antibodies bond with MC-LR, the release stated. According to the researchers, the technology easily could be adapted to other toxins simply by replacing the antibodies.

Source: http://watertechnology.com/news.asp?N_ID=73243

24. *January 12, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Sewage pours into Lake Washington.** A sewage overflow that started at a downtown Kirkland pump station Tuesday afternoon was detected and repaired, but not before about 25,000 gallons of wastewater overflowed into Lake Washington near Kirkland's Marina Park. King County's Wastewater Treatment Division said the overflow, which was detected about 1 p.m. near Peter Kirk Park, a couple of blocks from its source, was stopped within a half-hour. Utility workers took water-quality samples, closed Marina Park's beach and notified health and regulatory agencies about the overflow. A Wastewater Treatment Division spokeswoman said water-quality levels will be checked for bacteria count to be sure levels are back to normal before the beach is reopened, which could take several days. Equipment damage and mechanical failure were being investigated as a possible cause of the overflow, the utility said.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2010777051_sewage13m.html

For more stories, see items [7](#) and [20](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *January 13, Associated Press* – (National) **Tougher rules urged to protect deadly pathogens.** A federal panel has recommended that researchers who work with the world's deadliest pathogens undergo more frequent security screening. The Working Group on Strengthening the Biosecurity of the United States also suggested random drug tests and closer monitoring of the physical and mental health of those with access to dangerous pathogens. And it recommended tighter scrutiny of foreign nationals who work in U.S. labs. The former presidential administration ordered the report after the

FBI concluded an Army scientist was behind the 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people. Its recommendations will be considered by lawmakers and federal regulators seeking to improve the safety of labs that handle dangerous germs and toxins. The report was published last week. The panel recommended that those who work with dangerous pathogens undergo a security risk assessment every three years instead of every five, the current standard. The assessment should include certain mental health indicators that the FBI currently is prohibited from using in such reviews, the panel said.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/01/13/20100113biolab0113.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *January 14, msnbc.com* – (International) **First U.S. vessel arrives at Port-au-Prince.** The General in charge of the U.S. Southern Command described the U.S. response to the earthquake in Haiti. An initial contingent of 2,000 Marines could be deployed to the quake-ravaged country within the next few days to either help with emergency aid distribution or enforce law in order in conjunction with U.N. peacekeepers already there, the General said. The General said that a U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, is also heading from Norfolk, Virginia, to the area and should arrive Thursday afternoon after a stop off Naval Station Mayport in Florida to pick up helicopters, crews and supplies. The USS Bataan, carrying Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, USS Fort McHenry and USS Carter Hall were ordered to get under way as soon as possible, and more vessels were ordered to stand ready to assist. The USS Higgins from Naval Station San Diego was scheduled to arrive off the coast of Haiti on Thursday to provide logistical services for Coast Guard helicopters. The dispatched troops would aim to keep the peace in the event of post-disaster unrest as part of a larger international effort overseen by the United Nations, whose peacekeeping operation headquarters was destroyed in the quake. About 100 U.N. personnel are believed to be trapped in the ruins of the building.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34832613/>
See also [29](#)
27. *January 14, Sarasota Herald-Tribune* – (Florida) **Lemon Bay High School student is charged in bomb threat.** Authorities arrested a 17-year-old Lemon Bay High School student Wednesday in connection with a November bomb threat at the school. According to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, the girl reportedly left a note in one of the bathrooms on November 20 warning "there will be a bomb at 12:09, we will all die." It was written on toilet tissue, detectives said. The school was evacuated, while deputies went through the school and found nothing. The girl was charged with threatening to place/discharge a destructive device and disruption of an educational institution. She was booked at the Charlotte County Jail.
Source: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20100114/ARTICLE/1141069/-1/NEWSSITEMAP>

28. *January 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Sens to DoD: Find extremists in ranks.** A Senate committee on Wednesday urged the Defense Department to take firmer steps to combat the threat of Islamist extremism within the military's ranks, calling the current procedures inadequate for heading off possible attacks like the shootings at Fort Hood, Texas, that left 13 people dead. The recommendations by leaders of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee come as the Pentagon is preparing to release an internal review of the Fort Hood massacre. That review, directed by two former senior defense officials, will propose ways to improve the military's ability to identify service members who may be a danger to others and quicken reaction times by emergency response teams. In a January 13 letter to the Defense Secretary, the committee's top Republican and the senior Independent Senator, contend the threat of "homegrown terrorism" inspired by violent Islamic extremism is growing and the military is not exempt. As a result, the Defense Department's existing policies for dealing with personnel that become involved in gangs and racist groups need to be expanded to cover new avenues of violence, the two Senators say. Not only will that head off future attacks, it will protect Muslim-Americans in the military from suspicion, they said.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/sens-to-dod-find-extremists-in-ranks.html?col=1186032310810&ESRC=topstories.RSS>

For another story, see item [10](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *January 14, Yeshiva World News* – (International; New York) **NYC search & rescue taskforce heads to Haiti.** Among those offering to help the people of Haiti is a group of emergency medical technicians and a search and rescue taskforce from Brooklyn who have volunteered to make the trip to the devastated Caribbean island. The 80 or so members of Task Force One are hoping to be on the ground in Haiti by the afternoon. The rescue team is managed by the Office of Emergency Management. It is made up of highly trained personnel from the NYPD and FDNY who specialize in disaster relief and emergency triage and medicine. The taskforce has been loading equipment they could use to search for victims through the sea of rubble that remains of the capital. The taskforce will travel with a doctor and 4 K-9 units.

Source:

<http://theyeshivaworld.com/news/General+News/44835/NYC+Search+&+Rescue+Taskforce+Heads+To+Haiti.html>

See also [26](#)

30. *January 14, Burlington County Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Willingboro to charge for emergency services.** Willingboro, Pennsylvania, will start billing \$600 for ambulance transportation and additional fees for other emergency medical services, likely beginning next month. At its meeting Tuesday, the Township Council awarded a contract to DM Medical Billings of Berlin to administer billing to and collect payment

from those who use local emergency services. The fire chief said emergency personnel average about 3,000 to 3,500 calls per year and that the fees are expected to raise about \$618,000 in revenue annually. Under the contract, DM Medical Billings will receive 6.5 percent of the revenue raised. Payment will be sought from people's insurance companies and will not be required of residents who do not have insurance, he said.

Source:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/92/2010/january/14/willingboro-to-charge-for-emergency-services-1.html

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Information Technology Sector

31. *January 14, Computerworld* – (National) **Alleged China attacks could test U.S. cybersecurity policy.** The attacks on Google and more than 30 other Silicon Valley companies by agents allegedly working for China is focusing renewed attention on the issue of state-sponsored cyber attacks and how the U.S. government should respond to them. The U.S. has no formal policy for dealing with foreign government-led threats against U.S. interests in cyberspace. With efforts already under way to develop such a policy, the recent attacks could do a lot shape the policy and fuel its passage through Congress. On January 12, the U.S. Secretary of State released a statement asking the Chinese government for an explanation for the attacks, which raised “very serious concerns and questions.”
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9144440/Alleged_China_attacks_could_test_U.S._cybersecurity_policy
32. *January 13, CNET News* – (International) **Gmail to get secure net connection by default.** Shortly after Google announced the partially successful cyberattack on Gmail, the company said it will activate by default a secure network technology for its e-mail service. Google has long offered the option to access its Web-based Gmail service by using HTTPS — a secure version of the Hypertext Transfer Protocol that Web browsers use to retrieve information from Web sites. Now it will become the norm. “Using HTTPS helps protect data from being snooped by third parties, such as in public Wi-Fi hotspots,” the Gmail engineering director said in a Gmail blog post on January 12. “We initially left the choice of using it up to you because there’s a downside: HTTPS can make your mail slower since encrypted data doesn’t travel across the Web as quickly as unencrypted data. Over the last few months, we’ve been researching the security/latency tradeoff and decided that turning HTTPS on for everyone was the right thing to do.”
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-30685_3-10433965-264.html
33. *January 13, Nextgov* – (International) **More cyberattacks likely from group that took down Chinese search engine.** The source and motivation behind a cyberattack against China’s largest Internet search engine on January 12 remains unclear, as does its relation to an attack on Google, but more computer networks likely will be targeted,

security professionals said. The same group that took down Twitter in December 2009 hacked China's most popular search engine, Baidu, taking down the Web site for almost four hours. Whether the group has legitimate ties to Iran or Iranian terrorist organizations is unclear. "We are seeing the visible peak of the underground cyberwar that goes on around us 24 hours a day," a forensic technologist who has 31 years experience said. "Terrorists and governments — through fronts — use attacks to test for weaknesses, gauge reaction and build cyberattack playbooks against adversaries. Governments can't stop these attacks because of the [interconnected] nature of the Internet." The group likely will strike again at another heavily visited domain to ensure continued global attention, said the chief executive officer of the security software company Internet Identity.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20100113_2896.php

34. *January 13, IDG News Service* – (California) **Law firm in Green Dam suit targeted with cyberattack.** The law firm representing a U.S. company involved in a legal dispute over China's Green Dam censorship software says it was targeted with a sophisticated online attack this week, similar to the one reported by Google on January 12. Gipson Hoffman & Pancione, a Los Angeles law firm, says employees began receiving well-crafted e-mail messages that appeared to come from other company staffers. The messages tried to get the victims to either open a malicious attachment or visit a Web site that hosted attack code. "It came from email addresses that people would recognize as internal to the firm, and the attempt was to make it seem like everyday stuff," said an attorney with the company. The company reported the attack to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, the attorney said. Although 10 employees were targeted, none of them took the bait, he said. "We were on guard prior to filing the lawsuit that something like this would happen."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9144618/Law_firm_in_Green_Dam_suit_targeted_with_cyberattack

35. *January 13, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (International) **Haitian earthquake relief fraud alert.** The FBI, on January 13, reminds Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti to apply a critical eye and do their due diligence before responding to those requests. Past tragedies and natural disasters have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Do not respond to any unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails, including clicking links contained within those messages. Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites. Verify the legitimacy of nonprofit organizations by utilizing various Internet-based resources that may assist in confirming the group's existence and its nonprofit status rather than following a purported link to the site. Be cautious of e-mails that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files because the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes. Do not give your personal or

financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel10/earthquake011310.htm>

36. *January 13, DarkReading* – (International) **Spear-Phishing attacks out of China targeted source code, intellectual property.** The wave of targeted attacks from China on Google, Adobe, and more than 20 other U.S. companies, which has led the search giant to consider closing its doors in China and no longer censor search results there, began with end users at the victim organizations getting duped by convincing spear-phishing messages with poisoned attachments. Google and Adobe both revealed on January 12 that they were hit by these attacks, which appear to be aimed mainly at stealing intellectual property, including source code from the victim companies, security experts say. So far, the other victim companies have yet to come forward and say who they are, but some could go public later this week. Microsoft, for one, appears to be in the clear: “We have no indication that any of our mail properties have been compromised,” a Microsoft spokesperson said in a statement issued on January 13. iDefense says the attacks were primarily going after source code from many of the victim firms, and that the attackers were working on behalf of or in the employment of officials for the Chinese government. The attacks on Google, Adobe, and others started with spear-phishing email messages with infected attachments, some PDFs, and some Office documents that lured users within the victim companies, including Google, to open what appeared to be documents from people they knew. The documents then ran code that infected their machines, and the attackers got remote access to those organizations via the infected systems. Interestingly, the attackers used different malware payloads among the victims. “This is a pretty marked jump in sophistication,” iDefense’s head on international cyberintelligence says. “That level of planning is unprecedented.”

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/database_security/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222300840

37. *January 13, The Register* – (International) **Trojan pr0n dialers make comeback on mobile phones.** After taking a long hiatus, trojan dialers that can rack up thousands of dollars in charges are back by popular demand. According to researchers at CA Security’s malware analysis lab, a new wave of malicious dialers is hitting users of mobile phones. The trojans are built on the Java 2 Micro Edition programming language and cause infected handsets to send SMS messages to high-cost numbers, at great expense to the victim. “As soon as the application is loaded, this malicious software starts to send premium text messages,” CA warned on January 12. “The messages sent out are in the typical format to invoke premium services and land the mobile user with heavy mobile bills without the user’s knowledge and consent.” Malware that automatically dials pricey premium numbers was all the rage a decade ago, when dial-up internet services required computers to connect to a phone line. With the growth of broadband connections the frequency of dialers waned. The explosion of smart phone that can run software made by anyone has given malicious dialers a new lease on life. And as was the case in previous years, they mostly tap into pornographic

services.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/13/trojan_dialer_comeback/

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

38. *January 13, Nisqually Valley News* – (Washington) **Maintenance work will interrupt Thurston County website and services.** A planned network outage will shut down Thurston County’s web site and will also interrupt some other services this coming weekend. Thurston County Central Services Information Technology (IT) is reconfiguring the main network room and the first part of this major project is scheduled to start at 8am Saturday morning, January 16th. This work is set to run through the holiday weekend, January 16th - 18th. Data network services including the Internet site, email and other services will be down throughout county facilities. Telephone services to and from the main courthouse campus will be limited. Phone services for remote facilities will be down except for the Family Justice Center (FJC). The public will be able to call in to FJC. IT staff will prioritize the network restoration and the goal is to have the critical infrastructure and systems up and running by Saturday evening. IT staff plans to work on Sunday, January 17th, 8am-5pm, to finish restoring systems not completed Saturday. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by January 18th at the very latest. The goal of the project is to accommodate integration of some new equipment and to assist with energy efficiency. Source: http://www.yelmonline.com/articles/2010/01/13/first_report/doc4b4e627c61f54616690310.txt

39. *January 13, Merced Sun-Star* – (California) **Valley Public Radio loses signal.** Valley Public Radio was off the air this morning as a result of what its general manager called “a satellite problem.” The station’s president and general manager said a feed from the station to its transmitter in the Sierra went down overnight after a series of power outages. The station was awaiting a technician to arrive and diagnose the cause. “It is a mystery,” the general manager said. “We have no idea. It says it’s feeding a signal but it’s not.” A signal to the station’s other transmitter in the Bakersfield area was being received successfully and was broadcasting a limited program of classical music, she said. Source: <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/1268571.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *January 13, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Deputies investigating bomb threat at Orange County apartment.** Orange County, Florida, deputy sheriffs are investigating a bomb threat called in this morning to Sun Key Apartments in the Winter Park area. Deputy sheriffs were called to the scene about 9:45 a.m. after an anonymous caller phoned in the threat. The apartments are located off of North Goldenrod Road in the 7500 block of Sun Key Boulevard. No bomb has been found so far, deputies said. Investigators think the call was placed from a nearby Sunoco gas station. The caller has not been found.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-sun-key-bomb-threat-20100113.0,4215023.story>
41. *January 13, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **17-year-old from Annadale accused of making mall bomb threat.** A 17-year-old from Annadale, New York, left a chilling message on a computer in the Staten Island Mall Apple store threatening employees and customers alike with “bloody death,” prosecutors allege. The 17 year-old told authorities he meant the note as a joke, but authorities are viewing it as a terroristic threat, and have arrested him on a charge that carries a maximum of seven years in prison. “I have threatened your store and all its employees with a bloody death... On January 17th, 2010 whoever the crew may be working, or the innocent citizens that walk in... will be eliminated with the force of a 98lb bomb loaded with C4, strapped to my chest,” he typed on a computer at the store, using a name that belonged to his friend’s father. He had walked into the store with two friends at about 2:50 p.m. Monday. Someone discovered the message and notified authorities, and police arrested him inside the mall a few hours later. “So I typed that note and put his father’s name as the author of the letter,” the suspect told police later, according to court papers. “And as we exited the store we forgot to delete the note off the computer, so when Apple found the note it looked like a terrorist threat.” He was arraigned in Stapleton Criminal Court, where his bail was set at \$10,000 bond or \$5,000 cash until his next court appearance February 2. His lawyer characterized the note as a “foolish joke,” and pointed out that the teen made a full, written confession.
Source: <http://www.silive.com/westshore/index.ssf/2010/01/17-year-old-from-tottenville-a.html>
42. *January 12, Citrus Daily* – (Florida) **Teams clean up chlorine spill at Homosassa WalMart.** A chlorine spill at the Homosassa Walmart store has been cleaned up. The spill was reported around 9:45 this morning at the store, which is on S. Suncoast Blvd. The Citrus County Sheriff’s office (CCSO) said this afternoon that the CCSO, Hazardous Materials Unit, Fire Rescue and EMS teams responded, and cleanup began soon after their arrival. The store was evacuated, and the air conditioning was turned off during the cleanup. No injuries were reported, and no one was transported. Meanwhile, Fire Rescue reported today that firefighters in protective gear and breathing apparatus entered the facility to determine the extent of the hazard. Approximately four store shelves had collapsed, damaging the containers and causing approximately 30 gallons of liquid chlorine to spill on the floor. Prior to Citrus County

Fire Rescue's arrival, Walmart management had contacted a hazardous materials clean-up contractor, and they were on their way. As a precaution, two Walmart employees were treated by Nature Coast EMS. The employees refused to be transported to the hospital.

Source: <http://www.citrusdaily.com/local-news/teams-clean-chlorine-spill-homosassa-walmart/2010/01/12/24398.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

43. *January 13, Reuters* – (Massachusetts) **US govt seeks to bring Cape Wind dispute to close.** Opponents of a proposed wind farm off the coast of Massachusetts on Wednesday will get one of their final chances to try to block or at least limit the scope of the plan to build the first major U.S. offshore wind farm. The Secretary of the Interior called for meetings on Wednesday between key stakeholders in a bid to bring the nine-year regulatory battle to a close. It was unclear whether the meeting would produce a final decision, but the Secretary set a March 1 deadline for interested parties to reach agreement on actions that could reduce Cape Wind's impact on historic and cultural resources. Local native tribes have opposed the construction of the wind farm, arguing the area is significant to their customs and it should be designated a "traditional cultural property." Last week, the National Park Service determined the Nantucket Sound, where the wind farm would be located, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The decision requires the Interior Department to consider any related significant archeological, historic and cultural values when reviewing the permit for Cape Wind.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1315086620100113?type=marketsNews>

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Dams Sector

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