



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 January 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, two rival groups of Somali pirates had a shootout Sunday just before a \$5.5 million ransom was delivered to free a supertanker loaded with combustible crude oil and destined for the United States, prompting the pirates onboard to call the anti-piracy force for help. (See item [2](#))
- Multiple sources report the following due to heavy rains over the weekend in California: Power outages were affecting 96,000 customers in PG&E’s entire service area; the access road to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station’s emergency operations facility was inaccessible due to road flooding; 16 or more inches of rain is predicted in Mt. Wilson, where transmitter facilities are located for TV stations serving Los Angeles; and L.A. County Public Works crews have raised dams in some of the smaller debris basins, and used backhoes to dig out more capacity in others. (See items [1](#), [12](#), [59](#), and [64](#))

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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 19, KGO 810 San Francisco* – (California) **Storm leaves 56,000 without power.** Stormy weather has left 56,000 PG&E customers in the Bay Area without power Tuesday morning, a utility spokeswoman said. Nearly half of those outages are on the Peninsula, where 25,000 customers are affected, a PG&E spokeswoman said. Another 15,000 outages are reported in the East Bay, 14,500 in the South Bay, 1,500 in the North Bay, and 150 in San Francisco, she said. PG&E expects storms to continue affecting service throughout the week, she said. “We have been preparing for this and we have all hands on deck.” The region’s coastal and wooded areas pose the biggest challenge for repair crews because of high winds and the concentration of trees, she said. She estimated that outages are affecting 96,000 customers in PG&E’s entire service area, which stretches from Eureka to Bakersfield.
Source: <http://www.kgoam810.com/Article.asp?id=1665577&spid=15884>
2. *January 19, Associated Press* – (International) **Rival Somali pirates exchange gunfire before oil tanker is released.** Two rival groups of Somali pirates had a shootout just before a \$5.5 million ransom was delivered to free a supertanker loaded with combustible crude oil, prompting the pirates onboard to call the anti-piracy force for help, a European Union naval spokesman said Monday. Helicopters dispatched from a warship ended the standoff that could have caused a catastrophic explosion aboard the Maran Centaurus, which is carrying about 2 million barrels of crude oil destined for the United States. The ship’s cargo is so flammable that smoking is forbidden on deck. The supertanker was seized about 800 miles off the Somali coast with a crew of 28. The crude oil onboard was estimated to be worth roughly \$150 million at the time of the November 29 attack. The spokesman for the European Union Naval Force said a rival group of pirates had attacked the gunmen holding the Greek-flagged ship Sunday just before the ransom was to be delivered, prompting the pirates onboard the tanker to call for assistance from the anti-piracy force. A Somali middleman, who helped negotiate the ship’s release, said a nearby warship had dispatched two helicopters to hover over the attackers’ two skiffs, frightening them off. The pirates onboard the ship then collected \$5.5 million, which was parachuted out the back of two planes, he said. The pirates left the ship Monday morning and the helicopter did not fire any shots, he said. In a prepared statement, the ship’s owner declined to give any details about how it negotiated the release of the Maran Centaurus. The Maran Tankers Management Inc. said the crew members are safe and well.
Source: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/stories/DN-piracy_19int.ART.State.Edition1.d936ef.html
3. *January 19, Times of India* – (International) **Bomb outside Indian Oil plant defused, disaster averted in Punjab.** A major accident was averted in the Patiala district of Punjab, India with the timely detection and inactivation of a bomb placed outside an Indian Oil liquefied petroleum gas bottling plant near there, police said on Tuesday. The bomb, suspected to be an improvised explosive device, was discovered late Monday evening. Punjab Armed Police (PAP) defused the bomb, which was placed in a canister and wrapped in a man’s shawl inside a plastic bag. The device was kept along the Bhiwanigarh-Nabha highway, very close to the LPG bottling plant. The IED was placed at a gas pipeline of Indian Oil coming from Panipat to the bottling plant.

The bomb was defused after an operation that went on for over two hours Tuesday morning. “Experts of PAP have successfully defused the bomb and disintegrated it to ascertain its ingredients. Its contents included different chemical substances like potassium nitrate, petrol bottles and nails,” the district police chief told reporters. He added: “After scrutinizing the contents, we will try to find out the places where they were manufactured. So far we have not arrested anybody in this connection but our investigation is on and very soon we will nab the accused.” The bomb contained up to 10 kg of explosives.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Bomb-outside-Indian-Oil-plant-defused-disaster-averted-in-Punjab/articleshow/5476593.cms>

4. *January 18, Reuters* – (New Mexico) **Holly Corp reports fire at Navajo refinery.** Holly Corp reported a fire in a crude unit at its Navajo refinery in Artesia, New Mexico and said initial investigation indicated the damage was minimal. Holly, which operates the 100,000 barrels per stream day refinery in Artesia, said no injuries were reported. The fire was detected early Sunday and was extinguished after about an hour by the refinery’s fire-fighting team, the company said in a statement. The unit was scheduled to be shut down later this week for about three weeks for a planned turnaround, the company said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSGE60H0H920100118?type=marketsNews>

5. *January 18, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Hundreds of Tampa Bay’s risky fuel tanks not updated by state deadline.** Despite 19 years’ notice, hundreds of gas stations, governments, and businesses failed to upgrade risky fuel storage tanks before a New Year’s deadline. To protect drinking water, the state required owners to upgrade the tanks from single-wall protection to double walls — or permanently close them out. But that deadline passed with nearly 600 Tampa Bay area tanks still needing upgrades at almost 200 locations, most of them fuel stations, according to a database by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Nearly 4,700 tanks statewide — about 10 percent of Florida’s tanks — made the list. Now the state agency will give owners until March to upgrade or close off the tanks — or face fines starting in April. Upgrades can run up to \$300,000, said the president of the Gasoline Retailers Association of Florida, based in Longwood near Orlando. Coming up with that much money during a recession has been tough for owners, he said.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/hundreds-of-risky-fuel-tanks-go-unrepaired-despite-state-deadline/1066190>

6. *January 17, Waterbury Republican-American* – (Connecticut) **Plane crash sparks concern over electrical substation.** A deadly airplane crash near Waterbury-Oxford Airport January 13 has sparked new concern over the presence of electric transmission lines and a newly built electrical substation near an approach to the airport. A plane plunged into the Connecticut Light & Power Co. substation after hitting high-tension wires near Commerce Drive, about a quarter-mile south of the airport. The pilot was the only person on board and later died. He crashed into a substation that has only been in service since April 2009. The aircraft damaged two 81-foot-high transmission towers

when it hit one of the topmost wires, said a CL&P spokesman. That line did not feed into the substation, he said. A Middlebury resident, a longstanding critic of the nearby Towantic Energy power plant project, has questioned for years why the power lines have not been buried underground. The crash near the substation also has a first selectman concerned. She said she has been in close contact with CL&P and wants to meet soon to discuss safety features around the substation, and to work on switching power so residents are not without electricity for long periods. Thousands of CL&P customers lost power after the accident.

Source: <http://www.rep-am.com/articles/2010/01/17/news/local/461289.txt>

7. *January 17, WALA 10 Mobile* – (Alabama) **Explosion, rumbling heard in Theodore.** Many residents in the Theodore area heard an explosion and rumbling noises Saturday night. A Mobile Fire Department spokesperson said there were two incidents that occurred at separate locations. The first incident occurred at the Alabama Power Plant on Rangeline Road. Officials said there was a malfunction in a steam turbine that activated a safety mechanism. The explosion and rumbling that most residents heard was actually a valve that was designed to release in the event of a problem. The initial explosion was the valve releasing a burst of steam. The rumbling that followed was the steam continuing to release. At about the same time, the Mitsubishi Polycrystalline plant experienced a power outage which caused a reactor to heat up. Mobile Fire Department responded as a precautionary measure, but at no time was there a fire or explosion. Officials said no residents were ever in any danger.
Source: <http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/Explosion-rumbling-heard-in-Theodore>

8. *January 16, Dickinson Press* – (North Dakota) **No one injured in Friday propane explosion.** Officials confirmed a fire caused a blast that rocked Dickinson, South Dakota residents early Friday morning and say it was a miracle no one was injured. A fire in the West Industrial Park building for B & B Hot Oil Services Inc, of which the ignition source is unknown, is partly to blame for a propane explosion, said the Dickinson Rural Fire Department chief. Nearby homes shuddered and debris littered fields more than a mile away, with residents across town reportedly jolted out of bed by the 4:37 a.m. blast. Nearby subdivisions experienced such powerful shockwaves that windows broke, walls cracked and objects blew off shelves. Surrounding businesses felt the blast's wrath, too, and while many are cosmetically damaged, some are structurally damaged as well. Two large hot oil trucks, each carrying two tanks of propane gas, were housed in the business. Propane is believed to have been leaking from the trucks, and once a fire ignited in the building, the combination caused the massive blow.
Source: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/article/id/31433/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

9. *January 19, Mobile Press-Register* – (Alabama) **Olin Corporation probing release of caustic soda at McIntosh plant.** Olin Corp. said Monday that it is still investigating an

equipment failure that damaged part of its McIntosh complex and some workers' vehicles early the morning of January 14. A pressure valve blew open, causing a release of caustic soda. The chemical was still being cleaned up Monday, said a spokeswoman, and the cause of the problem remained undetermined. She said no caustic soda left the plant, which is east of U.S. 43, and that emergency officials were notified. Using what is known as the chlor-alkali process, Olin applies electricity and water to salt drawn from the salt dome under McIntosh, creating liquid caustic soda and chlorine. The dollar amount of damage was unknown Monday, and it is not clear when the plant will start production again, she said, adding it would be "as soon as possible." She said the company may pay for damage to cars. On January 15, Olin invoked a clause in contracts known as "force majeure," which frees it from delivery obligations to customers. A separate unit on the site that makes the same products was not damaged. That unit, called SunBelt, sends chlorine to part-owner PolyOne Corp. Source: http://blog.al.com/live/2010/01/olin_corporation_probing_relea.html

10. *January 15, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **EPA settles with Claire Manufacturing on hazardous waste violations.** Claire Manufacturing Co. has settled with federal regulators over alleged hazardous waste violations at its facility in Addison. The manufacturer of aerosol packaged chemical products has agreed to pay a penalty of roughly \$44,000. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency inspected the facility in September 2008 and found multiple violations of the federal law. Specifically, EPA found the company failed to obtain a hazardous waste storage permit, update its emergency plan, train personnel, and label containers, among other violations. Source: <http://www.wqad.com/news/sns-ap-il--hazardousewaste-agreement,0,6541410.story>

11. *January 15, KATV 7 Little Rock* – (Arkansas) **Marianna fire forces homes and businesses to evacuate.** Homes and businesses were evacuated the afternoon of January 15 in Marianna after a fire at an agricultural distributor. Firefighters worked into the night trying to extinguish the blaze at Jim Sanders, Inc, but they later allowed the fire to simply burn itself out. The company sells chemicals for agriculture products, so authorities evacuated homes and businesses within a 5 mile radius as a precaution. Late that night, those residents had not been allowed back into their homes. Source: <http://www.katv.com/news/stories/0110/696634.html>

For more stories, see items [37](#) and [39](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

12. *January 18, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (California) **Emergency operations facility inaccessible due to road flooding.** The following event notification was issued by the NRC: "On January 18, 2010, at about 1950 PST, the access road to the SONGS MESA facilities became flooded after a day of rain. The San Onofre Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) is located at the MESA and because of

the flooding, is inaccessible to passenger vehicles. While the EOF itself is operable, in the event of an emergency at San Onofre, SCE [Southern California Edison] would direct EOF emergency responders to the alternate EOF located in Irvine, California. SCE is reporting this occurrence to the NRC in accordance with 10CFR50.72(b)(3)(xiii). “At the time of this occurrence, Unit 2 was shutdown for a Steam Generator Replacement outage and Unit 3 was operating at about 100% power. SCE will notify the NRC Resident Inspectors about this occurrence and will provide them with a copy of this report.”

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html>

13. *January 18, Nuclear Power Industry News* – (International) **U.S. and Morocco cooperate on nuclear incident response.** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has completed cooperative training exercises in Morocco at the National Center for Nuclear Energy, Science and Technologies (CNESTEN) in Rabat. The four day effort included training in plume modeling, emergency operations center development and infrastructure, training and demonstration on specific radiation detection equipment, and exercise development. This training is part of the preparation for an exercise to be conducted under the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. More than 80 representatives from Moroccan agencies participated. “NNSA’s work with Morocco as part of our broader effort under the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism to build and enhance the global capacity to prevent and respond to nuclear and radiological emergencies,” said the NNSA associate administrator for emergency operations.
Source: http://nuclearstreet.com/blogs/nuclear_power_news/archive/2010/01.aspx
14. *January 15, Charlotte Business Journal* – (Michigan) **Shaw studies upgrade for Mich. nuke plant.** The Shaw Power Group has won a contract to study the feasibility of upgrading a 2,155-megawatt nuclear plant in Michigan to a capacity of more than 2,450 megawatts. Such nuclear upgrades are called “uprates” in the industry. Last week, executives of the power group’s parent, The Shaw Group, told analysts that they were aggressively pursuing uprate business.
Source:
http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/blog/power_city/2010/01/shaw_studies_upgrade_for_mich_nuke_plant.html
15. *January 15, GateHouse News Service* – (Massachusetts) **NRC findings reveal low-significance deficiencies.** A Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection of Pilgrim Station Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth found no significant deficiencies in the security areas that were studied. The Problem Identification and Resolution Inspection conducted December 3 has identified two “green” findings, or findings of low significance, according to an NRC spokesman. He could not be specific about the deficiencies but said they were addressed either through immediate corrective actions or by putting compensatory measures in place until permanent changes could be made before inspectors left the site. “We do not provide details on security inspection findings because that information could prove useful to someone intent on attacking a nuclear power plant,” he said.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/plymouth/news/x1409378995/NRC-findings-reveal-low-significance-deficiencies>

16. *January 14, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Alabama) **NRC moves unfinished Bellefonte reactors to deferred status.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) request to change the unfinished Bellefonte Unit 1 & 2 reactors to “deferred” status. “This is just one step in a long list of actions TVA must complete before they can resume construction at Bellefonte,” said the director of the NRC’s Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. “We’ll continue inspecting TVA’s efforts to ensure they’re maintaining the site and all the information necessary to support the plant in deferred status.” Placing Bellefonte in “deferred” status lets TVA further evaluate the viability of completing construction and attempting to license the reactors for operation. TVA submitted a request August 10, 2009, to move the reactors to “deferred” status. The NRC’s review of the request’s supporting information included inspection of the Bellefonte site, near Hollywood, Alabama, in October 2009. Unit 1’s construction permit will expire October 1, 2011, and Unit 2’s permit will expire October 1, 2014. TVA has not indicated if it will seek to extend the permits, nor when it might seek to restart construction activities. TVA has indicated it will give the NRC 120 days’ advance notice of any construction work, as well as provide information laid out in Commission policy to support such a decision. Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-012.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

17. *January 19, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **Boeing: Initial Dreamliner testing shows expected performance.** Boeing Corporation said it completed initial airworthiness testing on its long- delayed 787 Dreamliner, which means more crew members can take part in flights and more airplanes can join the flight test program.”We are very pleased with the results we have achieved so far. The airplane has been performing as we expected,” said the program manager of the 787. Since the Dreamliner’s first flight in mid-December, the program has conducted 15 flights. Pilots have taken the airplane to an altitude of 30,000 feet and a speed of Mach 0.65. Six different pilots have completed a total of nearly 60 hours of flying. In coming weeks, the plane will be flown at an altitude of more than 40,000 feet and a speed of Mach 0.85, with later testing pushing it beyond expected operational conditions. The rigorous testing process is geared toward receiving certification from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. Only then can the company begin to deliver the 865 planes on order. First delivery is planned for the fourth quarter. Boeing for two years struggled with supply-chain and manufacturing issues on the cutting-edge jet. The delays have cost the company billions of dollars. Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201001151817dowjonesdjonline000660&title=boeing-initial-dreamliner-testing-shows-expected-performance>

18. *January 19, Reuters* – (National) **Chrysler to recall 24,177 vehicles on brake issue.** Chrysler Group LLC will recall 24,177 vehicles due to a potential defect in a brake system that could result in sudden brake failure, the automaker said in a filing with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The recall applies to 2010 model-year Chrysler Sebring, Dodge Avenger and Nitro, and Jeep Liberty, Commander and Grand Cherokee SUVs, as well as 2009-2010 model year Dodge Ram trucks. In some of the vehicles, the clip retention tab on the brake pedal pin was not properly formed, or not installed, during the manufacturing process, Chrysler said. That could result in brake failure without warning and could cause a crash, the company said. Chrysler said it was unaware of any accidents or injuries related to the issue. Chrysler said the safety recall is expected to begin during the month of January.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60I35E20100119>

For another story, see item [7](#)

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

19. *January 19, Seattle-Tacoma News Tribune* – (Washington) **Vit plant mixing hazards raises worries.** Inadequate mixing of some radioactive wastes at the Hanford vitrification plant could cause a criticality or a build-up of flammable gas that could cause an explosion, according to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The Department of Energy believes the problem can be resolved. It initiated tests on the mixing system planned for parts of the vitrification plant after a panel of experts in 2006 identified it as one of 28 technical issues that needed to be studied. It is the last major and complex issue to be resolved for the plant, which is half-completed. DOE has been testing the mixing systems at the M3 Mixing Test Platform installed at Mid-Columbia Engineering near the Hanford nuclear reservation. It expects to have testing completed in April, including confirming any modifications that need to be done to the mixing system. At issue is keeping heavy particles in high-level radioactive waste mixed with the rest of the waste in tanks at the vitrification plant, which is being built to turn the waste into a stable glass form for disposal. The waste is left from the past production of plutonium at Hanford for the nation's nuclear weapons program. The mixing at issue will be done in black cells, which will be too radioactive for humans to enter once the plant starts operating. The operation is planned to be done virtually maintenance-free by using a system with no moving parts that relies on pulses of air to keep wastes mixed.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/northwest/story/1034338.html>

20. *January 18, The Register* – (National) **Poisoned PDF pill used to attack U.S. military contractors.** Unidentified hackers are running an ongoing cyber-espionage attack targeting U.S. military contractors. Booby-trapped PDF files, posing as messages from the U.S. Department of Defense, were emailed to U.S. defense contractors recently. The document refers to a real conference due to be held in Las Vegas in March. Opening the malicious PDF file attached to the spoofed emails triggers an attempt to

exploit an Adobe Reader vulnerability only patched by the software firm on 12 January. The infection of vulnerable systems opens up a backdoor that connects to a server hosted in Taiwan, though the hackers who set up the attack may potentially be located anywhere. The assault illustrates that cyber-espionage attacks are an ongoing problem, far from restricted to the IE-based attacks on Google and others in December. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/18/booby_trapped_pdf_cyber_espionage/

21. *January 15, Associated Press* – (Texas) **2 hunters prompt Texas weapons plant to shut down.** Two goose hunters inadvertently caused a security lock down in Texas at the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly plant. The Carson County Sheriff said plant employees on their way to work Friday saw two people in green camouflage carrying rifles about two miles south of the Pantex plant near Amarillo. The employees notified plant officials, who called the sheriff's office and asked for an investigation. Pantex officials then closed the plant for a couple hours. The sheriff says the hunters turned out to be Department of Energy employees assigned to the plant. Both were found to be hunting legally in an area and not on plant property.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/15/AR2010011502781.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

22. *January 20, Credit Union Times* – (National) **Mobile phishing highlights need for greater security.** At least nine credit unions were subject to a mobile phone phishing attack that sought to lure credit union members into giving up their financial information to fraudsters. The attack both speaks to the appeal of mobile banking as well as the pressing need to continue to develop its security. The thieves launched the attack using downloadable applications that they wrote and branded with logos from the financial institutions, which included a number of banks as well as credit unions. They launched the applications on Google's Android mobile phone platform that Google is using as the operating system for its own phone and that a number of different cellular phone networks have offered on their own phones as well. The applications were all developed by a person or group calling itself "09Droid" and contained the phrase "happy banking" on the summary statement that each application uses to advertise itself to potential users. In the attack, a mobile phone user would have seen that the application was available on the Android Marketplace and purchased it for about \$1.50. The user then would have likely logged on to his or her account with the application, which would then capture their password and other information to add to the credit or debit card information that the user had already provided when purchasing the application.

Source: <http://www.cutimes.com/Issues/2010/January-20-2010/Pages/Mobile.aspx>

23. *January 18, Computerworld* – (International) **Hackers are defeating tough authentication, Gartner warns.** Security measures such as the use of one-time

passwords and phone-based user authentication — considered among the most robust forms of IT defenses — are no longer enough to protect online banking systems against fraud, a Gartner Inc. report warns. Cybercriminals are using increasingly sophisticated tactics to outmaneuver security systems so they can steal customers' log-in credentials and pillage their bank accounts, according to a Gartner analyst who wrote the report. Trojan horse programs lurking inside a customer's Web browser can steal one-time passwords and immediately transfer funds, or intercept a transaction between a bank and a customer and make changes unbeknownst to the user or the bank, the analyst said. In cases where a bank uses a phone-based, "out of band" authentication system, criminals use call forwarding so that the fraudster, not the legitimate customer, gets the call from the financial institution, the analyst said. Banks need to quickly implement additional layers of security, she advised.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/346333/User_Authentication_No_Longer_Thwarts_Online_Bank_Thieves

24. *January 18, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Industrial Credit Union warns of text fraud.** The Industrial Credit Union reports that some members have been getting fraudulent cell phone text messages. The messages claim that the member's account has been suspended, and the trouble can be cleared up by calling a phone number provided to report personal credit card and account numbers. In a warning on its Web site, ICU says it is not sending out the text messages, and no other local credit union is doing so, either. The text messages appear to be part of the nonstop, worldwide blizzard of fraudulent e-mails, automated phone calls, and text messages that attempt to trick unwary people into disclosing sensitive financial information. Criminals can use the information to empty bank accounts or make phony credit and debit card charges.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/latestheadlines/story/1250316.html>

25. *January 16, CreditCardGuide.com* – (National) **Smaller merchants may offer less credit card security.** According to a recent survey, credit card security may not be as alive and well as most consumers assume. The study surveyed 560 U.S. and multinational organizations for the degree to which they complied with the Payment Card Industry's Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). The survey was conducted by the Ponemon Institute, a company specializing in research into privacy and information security policy. The PCI DSS is an industry standard introduced in June 2005 by major credit card companies. It outlines the essential security measures companies must take to guard the credit card information and other customer payment data companies collected during credit card transactions. The survey found that many smaller merchants do not make the investment necessary to comply with PCI DSS. While almost three out of four large merchants with 75,000 or more employees complied with the standards (70 percent), only about one in four (28 percent) of smaller companies with 501 to 1,000 employees said they were compliant. Indeed, of the companies surveyed, 55 percent only secured credit card information, but not other vital personal data involved in identity theft, such as Social Security number, driver's license numbers, or bank account details. At the same time, the need for greater protection of credit card information was underscored by one sobering fact: 79 percent of

respondents said they had had at least one data breach involving loss or theft of credit card information.

Source: <http://www.creditcardguide.com/creditcards/credit-cards-general/smaller-merchants-offer-credit-card-security-188/>

26. *January 15, Dow Jones Newswires* – (Illinois; Minnesota; Utah) **Regulators close 3 banks in Minnesota, Illinois, Utah.** Three U.S. banks were shuttered on January 15 by state regulators, bringing the total number of bank failures this year to four, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said. In Illinois, state regulators shut down Town Community Bank and Trust in Antioch. Town Community Bank and Trust, which only had one branch, had approximately \$69.6 million in assets and \$67.4 million in total deposits as of September 30, 2009, according to the FDIC. Under the deal, the FDIC and First American Bank will share in losses on about \$56.2 million of Town Community Bank and Trust’s assets. The FDIC estimated the failure will cost its deposit-insurance fund \$17.8 million. State regulators in Minnesota, meanwhile, closed St. Stephen State Bank, which is based in St. Stephens. The First State Bank of St. Joseph agreed to assume the deposits of St. Stephen State Bank through a deal with the FDIC. St. Stephen State Bank had approximately \$24.7 million in total assets and \$23.4 million in total deposits as of Sept. 30, 2009. The FDIC and First State Bank of St. Joseph will share in losses on about \$20.4 million of St. Stephen State Bank’s assets. Then in Utah, state regulators also closed down the Kaysville-based Barnes Banking Company. Unable to secure a buyer, the FDIC said it has created a bridge bank called the Deposit Insurance National Bank of Kaysville which will remain open until February 12, 2010 so customers can transfer their accounts to other banks. As of September 30, 2009, Barnes Banking Company had \$827.8 million in total assets and \$786.5 million in total deposits. The FDIC estimated the failure of Barnes Banking Company will cost its deposit-insurance fund \$271.3 million.

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100115-713771.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines

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Transportation Sector

27. *January 19, Metro International* – (New York) **Trains snarled by underground blast.** An underground explosion sent five manhole covers shooting skyward around noon and shattered the quiet of brownstone-lined Brooklyn Heights streets. Fire officials were investigating whether a private contractor installing a gas meter accidentally hit an electrical line, sparking a gas leak and knocking power out in the New York City Transit Authority’s substation. “The streets were buckled right in the middle,” said a resident who saw smoke coming from a manhole at the intersection of Willow and Joralemon Street. “The manhole cover was split in two.” Firefighters evacuated her, her 15-month-old daughter and her Yorkshire terrier along with the residents of at least 10 other buildings. No injuries were reported. Residents returned to their buildings around 4 p.m. Disruptions were reported on the Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 trains,

but were fixed by 5:35 p.m., transit officials said.

Source: <http://www.metro.us/us/article/2010/01/19/03/0950-82/index.xml>

28. *January 18, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Tracks near Everett cleared for passenger trains.** Burlington Northern Santa Fe says landslide experts determined Monday that a slope near Mukilteo is stable and passenger train traffic can resume on the rail line. A spokesman says Amtrak and commuter Sounder trains can resume rolling after 8 a.m. Monday over 50 feet of track that was covered by mudslides on January 16. The track was cleared Saturday for freight trains, but passenger trains have to wait 48 hours after a slide. The slide interfered with Amtrak travel north of Seattle and Monday morning's Sounder commuter service from Everett.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_mudslide_on_tracks.html

29. *January 18, United Press International* – (New York) **Lawyer: JFK Airport breach was accident.** A New York man's breach of security at John F. Kennedy International Airport was the result of an accident, his attorney says. The attorney said his 57-year-old client accidentally caused the airport's Terminal 8 to go into lock-down when he attempted to exit the airport, the New York Post reported Monday. "I was looking for the exit to find a taxi," the lawyer quoted his client's comments to authorities. "I went through the door, and the alarm went off. I kept going because I was lost." Authorities said the man was charged with criminal trespass and criminal tampering after his impromptu exit via a restricted area promoted Saturday's 2.5 -hour lock-down. Prosecutors maintain the two doors used in the incident were both clearly marked as restricted. The lawyer denied the possibility that his client, who had arrived at JFK Airport from Haiti, is a terrorist.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/01/18/Lawyer-JFK-Airport-breach-was-accident/UPI-88331263833400/

30. *January 17, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **2 flights diverted after SC runway lights go out.** Flights are back on schedule at a South Carolina airport after a runway light outage caused cancellations and diverted two flights. Multiple media outlets report that all flights in and out of Charleston International Airport were canceled Saturday night after the runway lights went out around 6 p.m. A US Airways flight on its way to Charleston was sent back to Charlotte. A United Express flight was diverted to Columbia. The Air Force maintains the runway. The deputy airport director says maintenance personnel from Charleston Air Force Base worked Saturday night to fix the problem. Flights are back on schedule. But officials say passengers should check with their airlines to make sure there aren't more delays.
Source: <http://www.lakewyliepilot.com/459/story/598966.html>

31. *January 16, Northern Michigan Record-Eagle* – (Michigan) **TC airport probe continues.** Traverse City's airport closed for about a half-hour the morning of January 15, police whisked a man off a United Express flight from Chicago, authorities herded passengers into a fire station for intensive questioning, and reports swirled of a bomb threat after a would-be suspect tarried in a commuter plane's restroom. In the end, no one was hurt, and federal officials downplayed the drama that engulfed Cherry Capital

Airport much of Friday. The Associated Press quoted an anonymous source as saying a suspect made a bomb threat, but passengers said they weren't aware of any such threat. The Associated Press retracted the report later Friday. Authorities and a bomb-sniffing dog failed to turn up evidence of explosives aboard the plane. "A bomb dog from Grand Traverse County was called in to sweep the aircraft and luggage on the aircraft with nothing out of the ordinary found," said a Captain of the Traverse City Police Department. A California man, 28, was detained throughout the afternoon after he spent about 15 minutes in the plane's bathroom, where a plastic flap apparently was dislodged sometime during the flight from Chicago. Airline officials made an emergency call to police to report "suspicious activity by a passenger on an aircraft," police said. Local police, Transportation Security Administration officials and FBI investigators were dispatched to Cherry Capital around 10:20 a.m. Friday.
Source: http://www.record-eagle.com/local/local_story_016011021.html

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [3](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

32. *January 18, Reuters* – (California) **Meat packer recalls ground beef.** Some 390 tons of ground beef produced by a California meat packer, some of it nearly two years ago, is being recalled for fear of potentially deadly E. coli bacterium tainting, the Department of Agriculture said. The beef was produced by Huntington Meat Packing Inc. of Montebello, California, and shipped mainly to California outlets. An initial problem, in ground beef shipped by the plant from January 5 to January 15, was discovered during a regular safety check. During a follow-up, government inspectors determined additional products produced and shipped in 2008 to be of concern. There were no reports of illness.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/19/us/19brfs-MEATPACKERRE_BRF.html

33. *January 16, Food Poison Journal* – (International) **Putin says chlorine in chickens is unsafe.** Getting another American chicken into Russia just got harder, as the Russian Prime Minister weighed into the Russian ban on U.S. chicken imports. "We haven't seen any readiness to meet Russian standards on the part of some of our partners, mainly the companies from the United States," the Prime Minister said. "If our foreign suppliers are unable or reluctant to meet our security requirements, we will use other sources." The Russians banned chickens from countries using chlorine in poultry processing beginning January 1, 2010. The Russian Prime Minister said that Russia was merely joining the European Union in banning, for food safety reasons, chickens

from chlorine-using counties. Since Russia raised the possibility of banning U.S. chickens for chlorine use in mid 2008, the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council has tried to persuade officials in Moscow by sharing scientific studies. The poultry export market to Russia was valued at \$825 million in 2008. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) recommends the "use of hypochlorus (i.e. active chlorine) solutions as an effective antimicrobial.

Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/fsncache/>

34. *January 16, Cattle Network* – (New York) **New York firm recalls beef carcass that contains prohibited materials.** Jerry Hayes Meats Inc. is recalling approximately 490 pounds of a beef carcass that may not have had the spinal column removed, which is not compliant with regulations that require the removal of spinal cord and vertebral column from cattle over 30 months of age, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. Spinal cord and vertebral column are considered a specified risk material (SRM) and must be removed from cattle over 30 months of age in accordance with FSIS regulations. SRMs are tissues that are known to contain the infective agent in cattle infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), as well as materials that are closely associated with these potentially infective tissues. The products subject to recall include one beef carcass which bears the establishment number "EST. 04488 M" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The product was packed on January 7, 2010, and sold to a single customer in New York. The problem was discovered through routine FSIS inspection activities. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product. Source: http://www.cattlenetwork.com/New-York-Firm-Recalls-Beef-Carcass-That-Contains-Prohibited-Materials/2010-01-16/Article_Latest_News.aspx?oid=976200&fid=CN-LATEST_NEWS
35. *January 16, KTIV 4 Sioux City* – (Iowa) **Disaster avoided at a local ethanol plant.** Fire crews responded to a hot spot from a piece of corn germ at Plymouth Oil Company in Merrill, Iowa. Firefighters from several departments, while others were put on standby. Plant officials say the hot spot started when a corn germ, or kernel, ignited in the preparation room. Stoppage in one of the vertical conditioners exacerbated the problem. "What we do here we process fractionated corn germ and make food grade corn oil, and it was just a spot of germ that had set in a pocket and over heated," said the president of Plymouth Oil. He says a portion of the plant had to be temporarily shut down, but will start back up in the morning. Crews have to wash out all of the equipment first. Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11834991>
36. *January 15, North Jersey Media Group* – (New Jersey) **Carlstadt Coca-Cola plant evacuated after unclaimed bag sighted.** The Coca-Cola bottling plant in Carlstadt, New Jersey was evacuated by police and the county bomb squad early Friday after an unclaimed tote bag was spotted by an employee in the parking lot, authorities said. After sifting through the contents, the black nylon bag turned out to contain someone's lunch, a detective said.

Source: http://www.northjersey.com/news/011510_Carlstadt_Coca-Cola_plant_evacuated_after_unclaimed_bag_sighted.html

37. *January 13, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Crews clean sulfuric acid spill at Lynden Darigold plant.** Firefighters were called to contain a sulfuric acid spill at the Darigold plant Wednesday afternoon, January 13. According to the Darigold Web site, the Lynden plant was built in the 1920s and has been producing dried-milk products since the 1970s. At about 3 p.m. an employee noticed the smell and realized an acid spill had occurred at the plant. Lynden Fire Department crews arrived to find about 15 to 20 gallons of sulfuric acid spilled out of one of the plant's warehouses, said the fire chief. Sulfuric acid is extremely corrosive with a harmful vapor that can get worse if mixed with water. A cracked pipe or valve had led to the spill, which seeped out of the warehouse and onto the road. The spill was caught and contained with sandbags before any acid got into the city's sewer or stormwater drains. No one was injured in the spill, and there was no threat to neighboring businesses, the chief said.
Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/102/story/1242949.html>

For another story, see item [11](#)

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Water Sector

38. *January 18, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (Missouri) **State of Emergency declared in Hayti Heights due to water woes.** Missouri State leaders have declared a state of emergency in Hayti Heights due to ongoing water woes. There was an electric problem at the water plant earlier this month which left Hayti Heights residents without water for several days. According to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, sewage was also backing up into some homes and yards. State investigators say they found the water plant was damaged and shut it down. The waste water system was also overloaded by broken pumps and lift stations. The Missouri Rural Water Association is operating the plant until something can be done to fix it.
Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=11833234>

39. *January 17, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Fire breaks out at water treatment plant.** A fire at a water treatment plant in north Harris County, Texas is now out. But firefighters had to contend with some chemicals while battling it. The fire started Sunday afternoon at the plant near the North Freeway and FM 1960. Smoke was pouring out of a two-story building when firefighters got there. They say the building had chlorine in it, so they called a HazMat team. No evacuations were called. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7223922>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

40. *January 18, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Two boys arrested in bomb threats to hospital.** Stoughton police have taken two boys into custody on suspicion of making bomb threats that prompted the temporary evacuation of 18 hospital patients. A police sergeant said Sunday the boys face tentative felony charges of causing a bomb scare. Stoughton Hospital received the first threat Saturday evening. Authorities found nothing. Hospital officials received more threats Sunday morning by phone so they decided to evacuate 18 patients to other facilities. Once authorities deemed the building was secure, patients began returning to the hospital some three hours later. The police sergeant said police had to take the threats seriously because they gave specific information.
Source: http://www.winonadailynews.com/news/state-and-regional/wi/article_462a0c7e-04ac-11df-affd-001cc4c002e0.html
41. *January 18, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Lincoln City hospital reopens after bomb threat.** The Samaritan North Hospital in Lincoln City has resumed normal operations following a bomb threat Monday morning, according to a lieutenant of the Lincoln City police. Emergency dispatch received the threat about 10:35 Monday morning. The caller said the hospital had two hours to evacuate the building before the bomb was due to go off. Nine patients were transferred to other facilities in the area while Lincoln City police, Oregon State Police, and Lincoln County sheriff's deputies searched the grounds. A second search was conducted in the early afternoon and the hospital cleared for use at about 2:15 p.m.
Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/01/lincoln_city_hospital_cleared.html
42. *January 17, WKYC 3 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Lorain: Hazmat and fire units called to local hospital.** Shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday, the Lorain fire department and hazmat responded to the Community Health Partners hospital after an alarm triggered, regarding hazardous materials. Lorain fire officials said the chemical that may have been present on the scene is ethylene oxide, a chemical used in medical sterilization. A public relations manager reports that after the fire department completed a full reading, they found no evidence of a leak or heightened readings. She also states that no patients or visitors were evacuated or hurt during this investigation. Community Health Partners will complete an exhaustive testing of the alarm.
Source: http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/news_article.aspx?storyid=129058&catid=3
43. *January 15, Popular Mechanics* – (National) **Researchers decry proposed rules to secure bio research labs.** New proposals put forward by Congress and supported by a recently released federal study are roiling researchers at labs that work with biological agents. The study, conducted by the Working Group on Strengthening the Biosecurity of the United States, recommends that every biological agent be evaluated for risk. The other aspect of the report focuses on the scientists themselves. The risk of an employee stealing pathogens led the advisory board to recommend stronger screening and oversight of anyone in the lab with access to agents. The study also suggests tightening scrutiny on foreign lab workers. This will affect universities more than federal labs. Biological lab workers watched in dismay as these ideas were broached at a series of

town hall meetings at labs and seminars in Washington, D.C. Scientists worry that the restrictions will hamper their work, without obstructing terrorism. “The bottom line is that almost all scientists here feel that [the new proposals] will be extremely counterproductive to science and will gain virtually no results,” says a Fort Detrick employee. The American Biological Safety Association fears unintended consequences when labs must pay for these security changes.

Source:

http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/military_law/4342549.html?nav=RSS20&src=syn&dom=yah_buzz&mag=pop

44. *January 15, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Veteran pleads guilty in VA hospital threat case.** An Army veteran has pleaded guilty to threatening a shooting rampage at a Veterans Affairs hospital in the southern Illinois community of Marion. Authorities had found the 29-year-old with a handgun outside the VA hospital after he called a nurse and said he planned to “fill that place with lead” in October. Authorities say they found a loaded Glock 23 semiautomatic handgun, a magazine filled with 13 bullets, and 13 loose rounds of ammunition in his truck. In federal court on January 15, he changed his previous not guilty plea to guilty on a charge of attempted possession of a firearm on federal property with the intent to commit a crime.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/15/AR2010011502099.html>

45. *January 15, Reuters* – (International) **J&J recalls more products after unusual odor.** Johnson & Johnson’s consumer division is recalling more than 53 million bottles of over-the-counter products including Tylenol, Motrin, and Roloids after reports of an unusual odor, expanding on an issue that led to a Tylenol recall last year. The latest voluntary recall followed consumer reports of “an unusual moldy, musty, or mildew-like” odor that, in a small number of cases, was associated with temporary and non-serious gastrointestinal events,” the company said. Such events included nausea, stomach pain, vomiting, and diarrhea. The Food and Drug Administration said the company had received about 70 complaints in 2008 of an intestinal problem or an unusual smell with Tylenol caplets but failed to report the problem to regulators until a year later. The recall involves lots in the Americas, the United Arab Emirates, and Fiji. The recall also involved the Benadryl allergy drug and St. Joseph’s Aspirin. On Friday, FDA officials criticized the company’s actions as slow and sent a warning to J&J’s McNeil Consumer Healthcare unit. According to McNeil, the unusual smell is caused by the presence of trace amounts of a chemical called 2,4,6-tribromoanisole, which can result from the breakdown of a chemical that is sometimes applied to wood for pallets that transport and store product packaging materials. It was unclear how the chemical could have penetrated the bottles, a McNeil spokeswoman said. McNeil Consumer Healthcare in December recalled about 5.2 million bottles of a form of Tylenol related to the chemical issue. The company said it has now applied broader criteria to identify and remove all product lots that may be affected, even if they have not been the subject of consumer complaints. It said it was continuing its investigation of the issue.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60E2L420100115>

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Government Facilities Sector

46. *January 19, Global Security Newswire* – (International) **Army grants contract for chemical agent cleanup.** The U.S. Army has issued a contract calling for seven companies to conduct cleanup of chemical weapons agents and disposal of conventional armaments at military sites around the world, one of contract recipients announced during the week of January 11-15. The contract would be worth \$945 million if extended for a full five-year period, according to San Francisco-based engineering firm URS. The contract from the Army Engineering and Support Center allows URS to “compete for, or be assigned, task orders to provide a variety of services for projects at Department of Defense installations worldwide. Potential services include the elimination of conventional munitions and chemical warfare material; environmental compliance and remediation services; and other munitions-related services,” the company said in a press release.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100115_4136.php

47. *January 16, Cherry Hill Courier-Post* – (New Jersey) **State police probe package to Sweeney.** State Police are investigating an incident Friday in which a suspicious package was left at the local office of the acting governor. The package, which was determined not to be dangerous, was left by a man who visited the acting governor’s legislative office on Kings Highway at Forest Parkway, authorities said. The area around the office was closed off as a bomb squad investigated the package. No arrests had been made as of Friday evening, said a State Police spokesman. The acting governor is serving as governor until Sunday, January 17, when the governor is expected to return from a Swiss vacation.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20100116/NEWS01/1160343/1006/news01/Sate-police-probe-package-to-Sweeney>

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Emergency Services Sector

48. *January 17, WAVE 3 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Overnight accident sends KY firefighters to the hospital.** Three firefighters were hospitalized briefly after a fire truck struck two utility poles just after 1 a.m. Saturday, leaving hundreds in the dark. Power crews continued their work 10 hours after the crash in Goshen. It happened near U.S. 42 between Club Drive and Goshen Lane. Two utility poles were destroyed and scheduled for replacement Sunday after a fire truck crashed overnight. “The fire apparatus left the road for some unknown reasons,” the North Oldham Fire Department deputy chief said. Inside the vehicle, three North Oldham firefighters headed to a residential fire alarm at the Paramount Estates subdivision. Officials say the fire truck was driven by a fire chief. “On the way to that run, their vehicle was involved in a collision,” an Oldham County police officer said. Around 1 a.m., the fire truck left the

road, struck two poles and flipped on to the passenger's side. A witness who lived nearby said he heard a loud boom not far from an LG&E substation. A helicopter arrived shortly after and those involved received hospital treatment. All three suffered minor injuries and were released from the hospital Saturday morning. The accident is still under investigation. Officials say the fire truck is a total loss and was picked up by a wrecker service. Multiple agencies had been called to respond at Paramount Estates, so other crews were already en route to that location at the time of the accident.

Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=11837375>

49. *January 14, MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Three towns consider feasibility study on shared 911 center.** Officials from three towns agreed to consider a feasibility study on a regional public safety dispatch center at a meeting Thursday in Ashland. While no official decisions have been made, the Hopkinton police chief said representatives from his town, Ashland and Southborough agreed that a regional dispatch center could potentially cut costs, and a feasibility study may be the best option to find out what those savings, if any, could be. The Hopkinton police chief said that at any given time, there are about five people answering 911 calls and operating dispatch radios in the three towns, and consolidating those resources into a central facility with fewer staff members could mean savings for the towns. The study, the Hopkinton police chief said, could likely be funded by grant money from the State 911 Department. Grant applications open up in April and they are awarded over the summer. If funded, the study could be underway in early fall.

Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x532580051/Three-towns-agree-to-feasibility-study-on-shared-911-center>

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Information Technology Sector

50. *January 19, Computerworld* – (International) **Hackers wield newest IE exploit in drive-by attacks.** Hackers are attacking consumers with an exploit of Internet Explorer (IE) that was allegedly used last month by the Chinese to break into Google's corporate network, a security company said on January 18. That news came on the heels of warnings by the information security agencies of the French and German governments, which recommended that IE users switch to an alternate browser, such as Firefox, Chrome, Safari or Opera, until Microsoft fixes the flaw. In a January 18 alert Websense said it identified "limited public use" of the unpatched IE vulnerability in drive-by attacks against users who strayed onto malicious Web sites. The site Websense cited in its warning has since been yanked from its hosting server. According to Websense, the attack code it spotted is the same as the exploit that went public last week. That code was quickly turned into an exploit module for Metasploit, the open-source penetration testing framework, by HD Moore, the creator of Metasploit and chief security officer for security company Rapid7. Websense also said its researchers were working with Microsoft to identify sites serving up the exploit.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9145721/Hackers_wield_newest_IE_exploit_in_drive_by_attacks

51. *January 19, IDG News Service* – (International) **China: We are biggest victim of cyberattacks.** On January 19, China denied any role in alleged cyberattacks on Indian government offices, calling China itself the biggest victim of hackers. When asked about Google’s allegation that cyberattacks launched from China hit the U.S. search giant, a foreign ministry spokesman said Chinese companies were also often hit by cyberattacks. “China is the biggest victim of hacking attacks,” the spokeman said, citing the example of top Chinese search engine Baidu.com being hacked recently. An Indian official has reportedly said local government offices including that of India’s National Security Advisor were also targeted last month by hackers believed to be from China. The spokesman said the allegation was baseless.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9145719/China_We_are_biggest_victim_of_cyberattacks

52. *January 19, The Register* – (International) **IE6 exposed as Google China malware unpicked.** Fresh analysis has revealed the sophistication of malware used in attacks against Google and other hi-tech firms originating from China last month. It is now known that the attack took advantage of a zero-day vulnerability in Internet Explorer — CVE-2010-0249 — to drop malware onto compromised systems. After backdoor components (malicious Windows library files) are loaded, pwned systems attempt to contact command and control (C&C) servers. Security analysts at McAfee have discovered that this communication uses a custom encrypted protocol on port 443. This is normally utilised by the HTTPS protocol, used by SSL ecommerce transactions. The cracking techniques used in the assault used multiple malware components, with highly obfuscated code designed to confound security researchers. This marks it out as one of the most sophisticated hacking attacks to date, writes a McAfee researcher. “This attack involved very advanced methods, with several pieces of malware working in concert to give the attackers full control of the infected system, at the same time it attempts to disguise itself as a common connection to a secure website,” he explains. “This way, the attackers were able to covertly gather all the information they wanted without being discovered.” The attack — codenamed Operation Aurora — affected Google and at least 20 other firms, including Adobe, Juniper Networks, Rackspace, Yahoo! and Symantec.

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/19/google_china_attack_malware_analysis/

53. *January 19, Techworld* – (International) **Internet heading for ‘perfect storm’.** Attacks on the cloud could cause major global outages and the service providers are now quietly worried at the potential for chaos, a survey of the sector has found. According to Arbor Networks’ latest annual Infrastructure Security Report (Volume 5) survey of 132 large IP operators from across the world, 35 percent of respondents put this at the top of their worry list for the next year, ahead even of the

traditional anxiety over botnets and DDoS. Evidence for attacks on the nascent cloud industry are thin on the ground compared to other sectors, but it is easy to see where the anxiety comes from. In principle, a single vulnerability in any part of the various software elements on which a cloud provider bases its services could compromise not just a single application but the whole virtualized cloud service and all its customers. Botnets came second on 21 percent, marginally ahead of ID and credential theft on 20 percent, with DNS cache poisoning, BGP route hijacking, system compromise and Internet worms all under the 10 percent worry mark. Perhaps the biggest challenge revealed by the survey is simply the sheer number of challenges that have come along at once, what Arbor describes as a 'perfect storm' of problems.

Source: <http://news.techworld.com/security/3210547/internet-heading-for-perfect-storm/?intcmp=nws-hm-l>

54. *January 18, IDG News Service* – (International) **Google cyberattack probe includes employees.** Google's investigation of a cyberattack that rocked the company's infrastructure in mid-December includes a probe of its staff in China, a source familiar with the investigation said on January 18. However, Google does not consider the attack an inside job, as 20 other companies were affected by similar intrusions originating from China, the source said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9145679/Google_cyberattack_probe_includes_employees

55. *January 18, IDG News Service* – (International) **Gmail of foreign journalists in China hijacked.** The Gmail accounts of foreign reporters in at least two news bureaus in Beijing have been hijacked, a journalists' group in China said on January 18. The hijacked Gmail accounts used by the journalists in Beijing had been set to forward all e-mails to a stranger's address, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China said in an e-mail to members. The group did not name the news organizations hit by the attack or say when the hijacking occurred. "We remind all members that journalists in China have been particular targets of hacker attacks in the last 2 years," the group's e-mail said. Last year the group said it had received reports that the news assistants of foreign reporters in China were being targeted by e-mailed viruses.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/187113/gmail_of_foreign_journalists_in_china_hijacked.html

56. *January 15, Computerworld* – (International) **U.S. to lodge formal protest with China over alleged cyberattacks.** The U.S. will lodge a formal protest with China over the nation's alleged involvement in cyberattacks against Google. The U.S. Department of State will issue an official demarche in Beijing early in a short period of time expressing U.S. concerns over the attacks and demanding an explanation, a State Department spokesman was quoted as saying in a Reuters report. Google recently said that it had been the target of cyberattacks by agents who appeared to be working at the behest of the Chinese government. More than 30 other companies also appear to have been targeted in the same attacks prompting widespread concern over state-sponsored

cyberattacks originating from China.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9145218/U.S. to lodge formal protest with China over alleged cyberattacks](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9145218/U.S._to_lodge_formal_protest_with_China_over_alleged_cyberattacks)

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

57. *January 19, WSAZ 3 Huntington, Charleston* – (West Virginia) **Phone outage fixed in Mason County; service restored.** Phones are again working in Mason County, West Virginia, following an outage on January 19. That outage also knocked out calls to Mason 911 in Point Pleasant. A Verizon spokesperson says a problem with power equipment in the Point Pleasant switching office caused the service interruption around 3:30 a.m. on January 19. The spokesman says the initial outage impacted about 4,000 lines, including some wireless lines. Service was restored to everyone by around 11 a.m. During the outage, 911 calls were redirected to Jackson County, West Virginia then relayed back to Mason County 911.

Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/82044632.html>

58. *January 19, Phone+* – (International) **AT&T mends mobile Facebook glitch.** AT&T Inc. wireless customers logging into their Facebook accounts no longer should sign into someone else's page. That was happening over the weekend in what AT&T termed "a limited number of instances." A server software glitch put some AT&T customers using their mobile devices into the wrong Facebook accounts. AT&T says it installed new security measures and had Facebook disable subscriber identification information that let people automatically log in. The problems added another layer of concern over Facebook and privacy — over the mobile Web, in particular. Until this weekend, however, no one had reported being able to access someone else's page and view — not to mention, have the ability to change — their private data. If such issues continue, though, AT&T, other wireless carriers and mobile users will be open to all kinds of security nightmares. And the number of people using Facebook Mobile does not stand to decrease.

Source: <http://www.phoneplusmag.com/hotnews/att-mends-mobile-facebook-glitch.html>

59. *January 18, Television Broadcast* – (California) **Storms threaten access to Mt. Wilson.** The raging wildfires in the fall of 2009 continue to make life difficult for the TV transmitter engineers in Los Angeles. The terrain denuded of vegetation is now

vulnerable to mudslides from driving rains hitting the West Coast. One of the heaviest storm systems in years is expected to dump several inches of rain across Southern California, an effect of El Nino throughout the week. Mt. Wilson, where the transmitter facilities are located for TV stations serving Los Angeles, is in an area where 16 or more inches of rain is predicted. The main road in, the Angeles Crest Highway, was closed between Mt. Wilson and Mt. Islip as of Sunday evening, the Los Angeles Times said. The heaviest rains on Mt. Wilson are expected on January 18. Fire officials in the affected area are preparing rescue teams for flooding emergencies.

Source: <http://www.televisionbroadcast.com/article/93278>

60. *January 18, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Two more arrested for theft of MTA copper wire.** Palmer, Alaska, police say two more men have been arrested in the theft of copper wire from Matanuska Telephone Association. A detective sergeant said a 40-year-old and 48-year-old were taken into custody when they arrived by ferry in Juneau. Source: <http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=11842626>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

61. *January 19, Occupational Health and Safety* – (New York) **Exit access, fire, and crushing hazards add up to \$233K fine for NY retailer.** OSHA has cited Home Goods, a national chain that sells bedding, furniture, and housewares, for 16 alleged violations of workplace safety standards. The retailer faces a total of \$233,500 in proposed fines, chiefly for exit access, fire, and crushing hazards at its Commack, New York, store. Responding to an employee complaint, OSHA found exit routes obstructed by stock and equipment, an exit route too narrow for passage, stacked material that prevented employees from identifying the nearest exit, blocked access to fire extinguishers, workers not trained in fire extinguisher use, and boxes stored in unstable 8-foot high tiers. OSHA had cited Home Goods in 2006 and 2007 for similar conditions at the company's Mount Olive, New Jersey, and Somers, New York, locations. As a result of these recurring conditions, OSHA issued the company five repeat citations, with \$200,000 in proposed fines, for the hazards at the Commack store. OSHA's Commack inspection identified additional hazards, including a defective fire alarm box, a missing exit sign, electrical hazards, and inadequate chemical hazard communication. These conditions resulted in nine serious citations, with \$32,500 in fines. Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/01/19/exit-access-and-fire-hazards-add-up-in-ny.aspx>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

62. *January 19, Denver Post* – (Montana; Wyoming) **Yellowstone earthquake swarm continues into third day, intensifies.** The swarm of earthquakes that started on January 17 at Yellowstone National Park continued the morning of January 19 and had

significantly intensified in magnitude on January 18. At 8:39 p.m. on January 18, a magnitude 3.3 earthquake was recorded followed by a 3.0 at 9:42 p.m. So far today, quakes of 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 have been recorded in the park. As of 9:20 a.m. January 19, 424 earthquakes had been recorded in the swarm that started early Sunday, according to a doctoral student in geophysics at the University of Utah, which operates more than two dozen earthquake recording stations in the park. He said that seven people have told investigators they felt the 3.3 earthquake and another six the 3.0 quake. The doctoral student said the quakes are occurring in an area about 5 miles from where the largest swarm of quakes was ever recorded in October 1985. A geophysicist at the University of Utah and one of the leading experts on earthquake and volcanic activity at Yellowstone said that the activity is a “notable swarm.” “The swarm is located about 10 miles northwest of Old Faithful, Wyo., and nine miles southeast of West Yellowstone, Montana,” he said.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_14221601

63. *January 18, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Yosemite criticized for botching intentional fire.** Yosemite National Park officials did not adequately account for explosive fire danger last August near an intentional brush-clearing burn, which went out of control and charred 7,200 acres, federal reviewers say. The National Park Service review, released this month, said Yosemite should revamp its planning process for so-called prescribed fires. Yosemite officials said a wind-blown ember ignited a cedar tree outside the planned burn perimeter, triggering the Big Meadow fire that caused evacuations at the nearby community of Foresta. Officials say they will review and probably alter their planning for prescribed fires in the future. Plans for the 89-acre burn followed federal guidelines, the review said. But the plans somehow missed the potential problems just outside the boundaries of the planned burn. The dangers included many standing dead trees and snags from a 1990 wildfire. The trees were left standing as habitat for the great gray owl, officials said.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1786617.html>

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Dams Sector

64. *January 18, KPCC 89.3 Pasadena* – (California) **Foothill communities get ready for mudflow threat.** This week, Los Angeles County emergency teams are working to protect homes from heavy rains and mudslides in the foothill communities. An official with L.A. County Public Works says the big question this week will be how much mud will flow how fast. Officials expect the heaviest rain and mudflows Wednesday and Thursday. He says public works is keeping close tabs on the 28 debris basins in the burned areas — especially the smaller ones. “The fact is, though, we have a couple of our basins not designed for what we call our typical design event,” he says. “Those are the hotspots.” Public Works crews have raised dams in some of those smaller debris basins, and used backhoes to dig out more capacity in others. But it is not safe to empty them when it is raining. “When there’s a dry spell we can dewater the basin. We can try to get some of the material out. It all depends on the weather,” he says. “At some of the

critical inlets, we have staff out there trying to ensure that they don't plug with debris." Public works officials say they have planned well enough to capture debris brought down by all the storms this week.

Source: <http://www.scpr.org/news/2010/01/18/debris-prep/>

65. *January 15, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Illinois) **Ice blocks closing at Melvin Price Locks and dam.** Ice accumulation forced closure early the morning of January 15 of the 1,200-foot main lock chamber at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam in Illinois. An Army Corps of Engineers spokesman said the ice prevented proper operation of a giant lift gate at the lock's upstream end. Recent ice accumulation had previously slowed but not stopped lock operations. He said Corps employees had realigned gate sections by 7:30 a.m. and hoped to restore operation of the lock by 2 p.m. on January 15. A 600-foot auxiliary lock chamber remains out of operation because of ice accumulation.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/E9DFEE97A9B161EC862576AC00625F06?OpenDocument>

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