



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 January 2010

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- The Associated Press and Fort Myers News-Press report that agricultural losses from the latest freezes could easily top hundreds of millions of dollars, a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services official said Tuesday. Lee, Collier, Charlotte, and Hendry counties reported \$100 million in losses. (See item [24](#))
- KSL 5 Salt Lake City reports that a man in his early 30s died Tuesday hours after ingesting a hazardous substance at his job at Sabinsa Corporation in Payson, Utah, and two dozen people at the Intermountain Healthcare clinic where he went for treatment were quarantined. (See item [38](#))

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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 20, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **Port’s propane site safe, chief says.** The Port of Tampa at some point could consider prospects for an offshore liquid propane gas terminal, but current facilities and operations for handling it at the port are adequate and safe, the port director said. His remarks at the monthly Tampa Port Authority

meeting on January 19 were in response to a Tampa physician's suggestion that the port authority consider the prospect that demand for liquid propane gas could grow. He said an offshore LPG terminal might enhance safety of handling potentially hazardous materials. A project is under way to allow offshore unloading of liquefied natural gas that would be shipped nearly 30 miles by pipeline to Port Manatee, where it would connect to the state's natural gas pipeline. The Port Dolphin project would be completed in 2013 if it proceeds.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/jan/20/sp-ports-propane-site-safe-chief-says/>

2. *January 19, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Alaska's Murkowski, Begich push for federal oil tanker towing law.** The Exxon tanker that briefly lost power in state waters on January 17 while carrying more than 25 million gallons of crude oil has quickly become a poster child for pending federal legislation to beef up protection for Prince William Sound oil shipments. Two tugs escorting the 832-foot SeaRiver Kodiak through the Sound towed it to safety on the morning of January 17. The tanker now is en route to San Francisco. The towing was precautionary, said a maritime operations project manager for the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. The tanker remained on course during its 30 minutes without power — never losing control of its steering system — and had just exited the Sound when the tugs took control, he said. All the same, the advisory council and an Alaska U.S. senator pointed at the incident as a reason why the Sound's tanker escort system — bolstered after the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in the Sound — should not be sacrificed. Some fear corporate cost-cutting will undermine the expensive tug escorts as the amount of oil piped from the North Slope to Valdez declines. “With more than 25 million gallons of oil on board (the Kodiak), a vessel grounding in the inclement weather could have been catastrophic,” said an Alaskan U.S. senator. She and another senator from Alaska last year introduced a bill requiring all tankers in the Sound to be escorted by at least two towing vessels. Right now, that requirement is part of the Sound's spill-contingency plans, but it isn't mandated in federal law. On January 18, she called on the U.S. Senate to pass the legislation, which has already been approved by the House of Representatives.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics/AP/story/1433055.html>

3. *January 19, Bloomberg* – (International) **Venezuela power shortage may push oil above \$100.** Venezuela's power shortage may push oil above \$100 a barrel if the president diverts electricity from the biggest refining complex in the Americas, Curium Capital Advisors LLC said. The president may tap a power plant at the 940,000 barrel-a-day Paraguana complex to supply electricity for public use, said a chief executive officer of the Boston-based oil research firm. “He has to decide every single day what to do with Paraguana,” he said in an interview with Bloomberg TV in New York. A shutdown there would cause a temporary price spike until U.S. refiners make up for the lost output, he said. Most regions of Venezuela are facing blackouts for two to four hours a day to save power as the worst drought in 50 years reduces water levels in hydroelectric dams that provide 73 percent of the country's energy. Most units of state oil producer Petroleos de Venezuela SA generate their own power, the company

president said on January 15. He said the units will not be halted because of the shortages.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-19/venezuela-power-shortage-may-push-oil-above-100-update1-.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

See items [26](#) and [28](#)

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

4. *January 19, Associated Press* – (California) **Siren near SoCal nuke plant was false alarm.** Authorities say a warning siren that went off near California's San Onofre nuclear power plant was a false alarm. A spokesman with Southern California Edison says a siren went off around 4:30 a.m. Tuesday in San Clemente and continued for about 30 minutes before technicians shut it off. The Orange County Sheriff's Department says the incident prompted about 50 calls from concerned residents. The siren is one of 52 in and around the nuclear plant designed to alert people in an emergency to turn on their radios or TVs for more news. The spokesman says there was not an emergency and the siren malfunctioned. He says false alarms are rare: The last one occurred 15 years ago.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/19/AR2010011901882.html>

5. *January 19, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **More tritium found at Vermont Yankee.** The search for the source of the radioactive isotope tritium that seeped into groundwater at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant has led to the discovery of the isotope in a second monitoring well. An e-mail from a spokesman for Entergy Vermont Yankee said the search team "received sampling results that showed an elevated level of 9,540 picocuries per liter in a second tritium monitoring well adjacent to the first well. A second confirmatory sample has been drawn from that well and is being analyzed." Meanwhile, the spokesman said the first well where tritium was first discovered shows a concentration of 22,300 picocuries per liter, a slight increase from earlier samples. Federal standards for tritium in drinking water are 20,000. The heightened levels of tritium have not been found in drinking water.

Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20100119/NEWS02/100119014>

6. *January 19, Reuters* – (California) **PG&E to cut Diablo Canyon nuclear output to 25 pct.** Output will be pared to 25 percent overnight at PG&E Corp's 2,240-megawatt Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California due to stormy seas which would affect the plant's intake water system, a company spokeswoman said on Tuesday. The units began being curtailed earlier in the day, according to a report from the California

Independent System Operator. At 4 p.m., Unit 1 was operating at about 50 percent of output while Unit 2 was cut to 82 percent, the spokeswoman said. Severe weather lashing the California coast creates high sea swells which can increase pressure and debris entering the plant's intake water system, she said. Stormy weather is forecast to continue on Wednesday and Thursday and operators will monitor sea conditions to determine when the units can return to full output, the spokeswoman said. Both units, located in Avila Beach, were operating at 100 percent of capacity early on Tuesday morning, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission daily report.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSNN1910428420100120?type=marketsNews>

7. *January 19, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Illinois) **NRC approves Co-60 pilot program at Clinton.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has approved a license amendment request from Exelon for a pilot program to explore the production of Cobalt-60 at the Clinton Nuclear Power Station, located about six miles east of Clinton, Illinois. The amended Clinton license gives Exelon permission to generate and transfer Cobalt-60 under the NRC's regulations for "byproduct" material. Cobalt-60 is a radioactive material licensed by the NRC for applications such as commercial irradiators and cancer treatment. The amended license allows Exelon to alter the reactor's core by inserting up to eight modified fuel assemblies containing rods filled with Cobalt-59, which would absorb neutrons during reactor operation and become Cobalt-60. The pilot program will provide data on how the modified assemblies perform during reactor operation. Exelon has informed the NRC it plans to insert the modified assemblies during Clinton's current refueling outage. The NRC staff approved the amendment after evaluating the potential effects of the modified fuel assemblies on plant operation and accident scenarios. The staff concluded the modified core will continue to meet the agency's safety requirements.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-015.html>

8. *January 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Sen. Bennett: States may want foreign nuke waste.** A Utah Senator says he does not want the U.S. rushing to ban the importation of foreign nuclear waste because some states may decide they want to dispose of the material to create jobs. The Senator is holding up a bill, which has already cleared the House, that would keep foreign, low-level radioactive waste from reaching American soil. The bill was written to block EnergySolutions Inc.'s plans to import up to 20,000 tons of waste from Italy's shuttered nuclear power program. After processing in Tennessee, about 1,600 tons would be disposed of at the company's facility in Utah's west desert. Bill supporters say foreign waste should be banned because the U.S. needs the space for its own waste. The Utah site is the only one available to 36 states.

Source: <http://www.rdmag.com/News/FeedsAP/2010/01/manufacturing-sen-bennett-states-may-want-foreign-nuke-waste/>

9. *January 16, United Press International* – (Pennsylvania) **Nuclear gauge missing from plant.** A nuclear density gauge missing from a Pennsylvania plant could release harmful levels of radiation if mishandled, authorities said. The device, which contains a

radioactive label, disappeared from a storage locker at Jeff Zell Consultants Inc. in Coraopolis, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported Saturday. The firm has offered a \$1,000 reward for return of the device, which is used at construction sites. The Humboldt, Model 5001 EZ122, with the serial number 5375, is about the size of a shoe box, and has electronic controls and a metal extension rod. Investigators from the state's Bureau of Radiation Protection were inspecting the Coraopolis facility and interviewing workers about its disappearance, the Post-Gazette reported.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2010/01/16/Nuclear-gauge-missing-from-plant/UPI-82451263675551/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/01/16/Nuclear-gauge-missing-from-plant/UPI-82451263675551/)

10. *January 16, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Repair work temporarily closes NJ nuke plant.** A New Jersey nuclear power plant has been temporarily shut down for scheduled repairs. The Hope Creek Generating Station, one of three nuclear reactors on Salem County's Artificial Island, went off line at 8 p.m. Friday night. The two other plants there — Salem 1 and 2 — are not affected by the repairs and continue to operate at full power. PSEG Nuclear, which operates all three plants, said crews will repair a circulating water pump discharge valve at Hope Creek along with other maintenance. But it is not yet known when the plant will return to normal operations. The valve had originally caused the plant to reduce power in October when it stopped functioning properly. The pumps provide water between the main steam condenser and the cooling tower.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20100116/UPDATES01/100116008/1005/NEWS01/Repair+work+temporarily+closes+NJ+nuke+plant+>

11. *January 15, Orange County Register* – (National) **Nuclear plant pipe failures can threaten safety.** A rash of recent failures in the buried piping systems of nuclear reactors has prompted three congressmen to ask the Government Accountability Office to investigate “the integrity, safety, inspection, maintenance, regulations and enforcement issues surrounding buried piping at our nation's nuclear power plants,” according to a public statement January 14. “Under current regulations, miles and miles of buried pipes within nuclear reactors have never been inspected and will likely never be inspected,” said a Democratic representative from Massachusetts (who chairs the Energy and Environment Subcommittee) in the statement. “This is simply unacceptable. As it stands, the NRC requires — at most — a single, spot inspection of the buried piping systems no more than once every 10 years. This cannot possibly be sufficient to ensure the safety of both the public and the plant.”

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/threaten-229284-failures-nuclear.html>

For another story, see item [39](#)

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## Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. *January 20, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Fires force employees to flee steel plant at Sparrows Point.** Two fires in an ore-handling building at Severstal Steel Co. at Sparrows Point outside Baltimore, Maryland on Tuesday afternoon forced the evacuation of several employees and brought nearly two dozen pieces of fire apparatus from several Baltimore County fire stations and the steel plant to the scene, said a Fire Department communications officer. There were no injuries. About 2 p.m., a fire was reported in a screen machine on the third floor and was extinguished in about 30 minutes. A second fire was reported later on the seventh floor and was also quickly extinguished. Firefighters from county stations at Dundalk, Edgemere, Eastview, Wise Avenue and Essex responded. The cause of the fires was being investigated.  
Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bal-md.briefs200jan20,0,1444205.story>
  
13. *January 20, Fire Engineering* – (Pennsylvania) **30 evacuated in Penn Township industrial park fire.** Operations at Versatech Inc. in Penn Township were shut down for nearly three hours on January 19 after a machine caught fire. A Claridge fire chief said the fire was confined to a machine that separates oil and water for drilling. Firefighters from eight companies responded to the call at 11:39 a.m. at the building in the Westmoreland County Industrial Park III on Enterprise Drive. He said dry chemical extinguishers and Halon extinguishers were used to put out the fire. About 30 employees were evacuated. One employee was taken to a hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. The cause of the fire is under investigation. This is the third time firefighters have been called to the industrial park for fires since December 23. On December 31, there was a fire in a sandblasting unit at FS-Elliott Co. and on December 23 a ventilation system caught fire at Dormont Manufacturing. No injuries were reported in either incident.  
Source: [http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news\\_display/140209146.html](http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news_display/140209146.html)
  
14. *January 19, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **2010 Acura MDX recalled to fix A-pillar problem.** American Honda is recalling about 640 Acura MDX models. A bolt used to attach an interior trim piece to the A-pillar may not have been installed properly. In the event of a crash resulting in side curtain air bag deployment, the trim piece might not remain properly secured to the A-pillar, increasing the risk of injury to the driver or passenger. Dealers will inspect the interior trim piece and, if the bolt is missing, will install it free of charge.  
Source: [http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/acura\\_mdx.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/acura_mdx.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

15. *January 20, WKYC 3 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Army Corps: Harshaw nuke site in Cleveland not ‘imminent threat’.** An old factory complex in which part of America’s atomic bomb program was secretly conducted in the 1940’s and 1950’s is no longer an “imminent threat” to human health or to the environment, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has concluded. The Corps has been testing the former Harshaw Chemical

Company site periodically for nearly 10 years. “Based on the site’s current use, there is no imminent threat to human health or the environment,” an Army project manager said, in a statement released by the Corps of Engineers. “However, over a lifetime, with 25 or 30 years daily exposure on the site, there are potential human health risks,” the report stated. The Corps’ next step will be to develop a clean-up plan for the Harshaw site. Families of now-deceased employees have said workers were never told of the dangers of working with radioactive substances. Work on the atomic bomb programs ceased at Harshaw in 1959. Several buildings still stand on the site. Areas that could have been potential threats have been sealed off and warning signs were posted.

Source: [http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=129222&catid=3](http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/news_article.aspx?storyid=129222&catid=3)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

16. *January 20, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Holiday City bank evacuated after bomb threat.** Police are evacuating a Holiday City bank as they investigate a bomb threat on January 20. Patrons and employees of the Provident Bank on Plaza Drive were evacuated at about 10:30 a.m., a detective sergeant said. Police then began evacuating surrounding buildings as they began to investigate the threat, he said. Further information was not immediately available. Drivers are advised to avoid the roads surrounding the bank, including the intersection of Mule Road and Route 37, if possible.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20100120/NEWS/100120048/Holiday-City-bank-evacuated-after-bomb-threat>

17. *January 19, CNET News* – (International) **Korea rules virtual currency as good as cash.** Virtual currency has been one of the more confusing areas of gaming and social networking, with different sites, games and even countries treating currency and goods differently. South Korea has decided that virtual currency is the equivalent of real-world money bringing to light some very real ramifications for users not just in Korea but in other countries as well. The ruling allowing “cyber money” is the first in Korea and was based on the acquittal of two gamers indicted on charges of illegally making money by selling goods earned in the game Lineage. In-game or in-site currency has to date not been able to be swapped for cash — at least not in the U.S. Accordingly, there have been few issues related to gambling and taxes, but this decision in Korea brings up a lot of very ugly possibilities not just for gamers, but for the companies that provide these virtual cash exchanges. Several months ago China decided to tax virtual goods, hoping that players would voluntarily pay the tax on the near \$3 billion in annual gaming revenues. A voluntary system would likely never work in the U.S., where government regulations would quickly come into play related to how games are allowed to distribute funds and what constitutes gambling. For example, if a player was rewarded with in-game currency, then there could be tax implications if the player were to sell the in-game asset. Similarly, if a player were to sell a virtual-asset to another player, the player might be required to pay sales tax, or report the sale as earnings.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-13846\\_3-10437250-62.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13846_3-10437250-62.html)

18. *January 19, Insurance Business Review* – (International) **Philadelphia Insurance launches new cyber security liability product.** Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY) has introduced a new cyber security liability product for small and middle-market customers, which offers both first and third party coverages in one package. The company said that the coverage parts include loss of digital assets, non-physical business interruption, network security and privacy liability, electronic media liability, cyber extortion, customer notification, and public relations expense. Most classes are acceptable; however, prohibited classes include financial institutions, on-line retailers, credit card processors, law firms, hospitals, and colleges or universities, the company said.  
Source: [http://www.insurance-business-review.com/news/philadelphia\\_insurance\\_launches\\_new\\_cyber\\_security\\_liability\\_product\\_100119](http://www.insurance-business-review.com/news/philadelphia_insurance_launches_new_cyber_security_liability_product_100119)
19. *January 19, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **HPD: Tech-savvy thieves target ATMs with skimming devices.** Tech-savvy crooks are putting skimming devices and cameras on ATM machines so they can steal money, said a Houston police lieutenant. Police recently arrested a 31 year old suspect and an accomplice who are accused of placing a skimming device on an ATM machine in the 4300 Block of Montrose, the lieutenant said. The police lieutenant works with the department’s financial crimes division. Police said the two suspects sat across the street from the ATM machine in a black Cadillac Escalade watching with binoculars. Once they saw the customers pull up, they moved in a little bit closer and would turn on their wireless camera, police said. The camera allowed them to watch the customer enter the banking pin into the keypad. One Houston area bank lost more than \$200,000 because of the skimming device.  
Source: <http://www.khou.com/home/Beware-of-Skimming-Devices-attached-to-ATM-Machines-82126067.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

20. *January 20, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Plane with sick passengers had air contamination before.** The US Airways Boeing 767 plane where 15 people got sick January 16 had been taken out of service twice in recent weeks for a foul odor. Flight 1041 from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands was met by ambulances when it landed in Charlotte after passengers and crew complained of headaches and nausea they attributed to a suspicious smell. Eight passengers were treated on the scene. Seven crew members were taken to the hospital, where they were treated and released. Maintenance logs show the plane — tail number 0251 — experienced a similar problem on December 28 and December 30 on flights to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Crew members got sick on board those flights, according to a scientist with the Association of Flight Attendants who studies cabin air contamination. A US Airways spokeswoman said the plane was grounded and serviced on both occasions. After the second incident, it was taken out of the rotation until January 5, when it was cleared for flight. Mechanics determined that the problem was a leak of the hydraulic fluid Skydrol. The

January 16 problem has not yet been officially diagnosed, though the spokeswoman notes that a finding of a hydraulic fluid leak is likely. The plane is currently grounded. Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/breaking/story/1191873.html>

21. *January 19, WREG 3 Memphis* – (Tennessee) **Barge hits bridge: shuts down vital artery.** Barge inspectors suited to check for damage to the Interstate 155 bridge connecting Tennessee to Missouri after a barge heading southbound on the river slammed into the bridge. Authorities shut the bridge down during rush hour traffic. The bridge remained closed for about four hours as state and private agencies took to the water to inspect the barges and bridge for damage. In total, 15 barges popped loose. One was damaged and nearly sank. Authorities determined there was no damage to the bridge.  
Source: <http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-barge-hits-bridge-story,0,4600355.story>
22. *January 19, Charleston Daily Mail* – (West Virginia) **Airplane aborts takeoff; airport officially reopen.** A field of impact-absorbing concrete at the end of a runway at Yeager Airport proved worth the cost to more than 30 people aboard a plane that aborted takeoff on January 19. The plane's wheels sank into the material, which performed as intended and stopped the aircraft from sliding over a steep incline. Yeager Airport was closed after the plane came to rest about 100 feet from the edge of the slope just beyond the airport's main runway. The system was described as a soft or bubbled concrete that is placed at the end of the runway to stop airplanes that have overshot the regular pavement. The airport had been reopened as of Wednesday morning.  
Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/News/Kanawha/201001190538>
23. *January 19, Homeland Security Newswire* – (International) **Potential security breach in German airports workers' IDs.** An investigation by a German news program has revealed a potential security breach at some of Germany's largest airports. Working with the German public broadcaster, ARD, members of the hackers-turned-data protection group Chaos Computer Club have figured out how remotely to access data stored on key cards used by airport employees. Theoretically, terrorists could use such a breach to gain admittance to restricted areas of the airport. Deutsche Welle reports that the CCC hacked the Legic Prime entry system using a device that covertly read the identification cards of airport personnel and saved the data. According to the "Kontraste" show aired last Thursday, the system is used by Hamburg, Berlin-Tegel, Stuttgart, Dresden, and Hannover airports. At Hamburg airport, the hackers were able to get into the "airside" area without detection. An airport spokeswoman, however, told the program that employees normally are required to show their ID and go through a security inspection before entering the restricted areas. Stuttgart airport officials said their multi-level security system would prevent breaches like the one that occurred in Hamburg because they did not store any data on the employee ID cards. An interior ministry spokesman told the news magazine that they had asked for a meeting with the airport operators to review security procedures. The head of the German Police Officers' Union said the old system should be removed immediately and replaced with more up-to-date technology.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/potential-security-breach-german-airports-workers-ids>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [2](#), and [31](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

24. *January 19, Fort Myers News-Press and Associated Press* – (Florida) **Florida freeze losses to top hundreds of millions of dollars.** Agricultural losses from the latest freezes could easily top hundreds of millions of dollars, a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services official told lawmakers on Tuesday. Preliminary damage reports are trickling into the department, a department spokeswoman said. Lee, Collier, Charlotte, and Hendry counties reported \$100 million in losses, including 5,000 acres of tomatoes, and a 30 percent, or \$25 million, loss to the pepper harvest, she said. The Agriculture Commissioner will tour the state Wednesday to assess damage. On Tuesday afternoon, the governor extended for seven days an executive order lifting weight restrictions on the state highways so growers can get as much product to market as quickly as possible. Florida provides that nation with 70 percent of its domestically grown winter fruits and vegetables. The total damage to Florida's \$9 billion citrus industry is still unclear, and may not be known for many months, said the executive vice president of the Indian River Citrus League in Vero Beach.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20100119/NEWS01/100119054/1075/Florida-freeze-losses-to-top-hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars>

25. *January 19, Iowa Independent* – (National) **U.S. Supreme Court will hear Monsanto appeal.** The U.S. Supreme Court will consider overturning a federal court order that has stopped Monsanto Co. from selling genetically-modified alfalfa seeds, but the decision will hardly be limited to one specific crop. The alfalfa seeds in question, like most of Monsanto's products, are resistant to the active ingredient glyphosate used in the company's trademark Roundup herbicide. Although the seeds were initially approved for use in 2005 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the approval was done after the department determined it did not need to conduct a formal environmental review. Environmental groups and a conventional seed company, Geertson Seed Farms, began their lawsuit in 2006 to force federal officials to fully explore the environmental impacts of the seed. A federal judge agreed that a full review should have been completed by the USDA prior to approval of the seed, and the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court ruling. Although farmers who had already planted the

crop were allowed to continue, Monsanto was barred from further distribution of the product. In October 2009, Monsanto filed with the U.S. Supreme Court for a review of the case. As the case has made its way through the courts, the USDA has continued processing an environmental review of the seed, and began a 60-day comment period on its draft impact statement in mid-December.

Source: <http://iowaindependent.com/25911/u-s-supreme-court-will-hear-monsanto-appeal>

26. *January 19, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (California) **U.S. EPA takes action against Sacramento food distributor following chemical waste discharges.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken action against Sacramento based Tony's Fine Foods in order to correct environmental violations and bring the company into compliance with federal law. Under the terms of a settlement Tony's Fine Foods has agreed to pay a \$93,533 penalty. In October 2008, Tony's Fine Foods leaked approximately 360 gallons of anhydrous ammonia into the air from a pressure relief valve at its California Cold Logistics cold storage warehouse in Yuba City, California. The ammonia release resulted in the evacuation of four nearby schools and nearly 30 Yuba City residences. In January 2009, the facility again violated federal law by illegally discharging about 35 gallons of ammonia into a storm drain that discharges to Gilsizer Slough. The release was detected by residents several blocks away. When the fire department responded, the strong smell eventually led investigators to the California Cold Logistics facility. Dumping ammonia down a storm drain is prohibited under the federal Clean Water Act. In both instances, Tony's Fine Foods failed to immediately notify authorities following their chemical releases. EPA inspectors visited the facility following the first release and provided facility representatives information on release reporting requirements.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/6f866c2d3d9e5bfb852576b0006d3cb0?OpenDocument>

27. *January 19, McAllen Monitor* – (Texas) **Investigators: Produce plant fire caused by accident.** A demolition crew's torch sparked the blaze that ripped through a small, unused warehouse at a prominent food processing plant Monday evening, officials said. The isolated building, located less than half a mile from H&H Foods' main plant in Merced, California, caught fire about 5:30 p.m. The uninsured building was set to be demolished, and crews cutting metal inside apparently ignited a flammable material inside, Weslaco's emergency management coordinator said. Much of the building's roof collapsed during the blaze, but no injuries were reported. Emergency responders initially had difficulty accessing the building Monday because the gates surrounding the facility were locked.

Source: <http://www.themonitor.com/articles/plant-34565-accident-produce.html>

28. *January 19, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Ammonia leak contained in north Fort Worth.** An ammonia leak at a cold-storage company in north Fort Worth has been contained, officials said. No one was hurt, but workers were evacuated from the VersaCold plant in the 1300 block of Samuels Avenue, officials said the afternoon of

January 18. Specialized hazmat crews from the Fort Worth Fire Department entered the plant to search for the leak, said a Fort Worth Fire Department spokesman. “They did find it and controlled it,” the spokesman said at 3:15 p.m. “I’m not sure what caused it or what amount of material was leaked.” Officials, however, had earlier asked people who live north of that area to “shelter in place.” A notice to do that was sent out by the city’s emergency management office to cell phones and e-mail accounts through the service “Nixle.” Escaped ammonia had built up inside the building, and officials were concerned that some of it might get in the atmosphere as the hazmat crews entered the building, he said. Also, as a precaution, officials shut down Northside Drive, north of the plant, from North Main Street on west and Cold Springs Road on the east. Northside has since been reopened. The incident drew a Level 2 hazardous materials response from firefighters. Firefighters were checking to see if anyone at the plant needed to be decontaminated, but there were no immediate reports of that at the 3:15 p.m. update. The spokesman did not have information on how many people were evacuated, but a MedStar field supervisor said there were about 100 people there. Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/local/story/1904937.html>

29. *January 18, Lakeland Ledger* – (Florida) **Fish farms could fail after cold weather losses and changing market economy.** Prospects are bleak that Florida’s tropical fish industry can recover from the costliest freeze in its history, Polk fish farmers said Tuesday, unless the federal government lends a hand. Florida’s tropical fish farmers estimate an industry-wide loss of 75 percent, and they said a changing market causes them further problems. The state Department of Agriculture on Tuesday estimated freeze losses at about \$20 million. The biggest change since the industry recovered from devastating freezes in 1977 and 1989 has been the dominance of fish imported from Asia, farmers said, because that pushes down wholesale tropical fish prices and the farmers’ profits. Many will not survive without federal aid beyond an insurance program capped at \$100,000 per farmer, industry leaders said. Tropical fish is Florida’s largest aquaculture sector. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported Florida’s aquaculture sales at \$61.3 million in 2007, the most recent statistics available. That includes tropical fish sales at \$32.2 million.

Source:

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20100119/NEWS/1195054/1001/BUSINESS?Title=Fish-Farms-Could-Fail-After-Cold-Weather-Losses-and-Changing-Market-Economy&tc=ar>

30. *January 18, Bio Prep Watch* – (National) **Study says food facilities failing to comply with Bioterrorism Act of 2002.** The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 requires food facilities to register with the Food and Drug Administration yet a recent government review revealed that nearly half of food facilities have failed to give correct information. Farms, retail facilities and restaurants are exempt from registering under the Bioterrorism Act of 2002. All told, the FDA expected approximately 420,000 domestic and foreign food facilities to register. In total, 157,395 United States facilities and 234,822 foreign facilities exporting to the United States, for a total of 392,217, registered. The goal of the registration is to provide a valid emergency contact name or a physical address to contact the parent company or owner or operator in times of bioemergency.

Twenty-three of the 130 facilities surveyed failed to provide this information. Of those surveyed by the government review, nearly half were found to have failed to give correct information. Forty-eight percent of those surveyed failed to either provide accurate information upon first registering or failed to provide updated information after making changes at their facilities as required. The report noted that, of the 130 facilities surveyed, 30 failed to provide correct information.

Source: <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/news/211659-study-says-food-facilities-failing-to-comply-with-bioterrorism-act-of-2002>

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## Water Sector

31. *January 20, Seacoastonline.com* – (Maine) **York’s Water District boss airs toll plaza concerns.** The York, Maine, Water District superintendent said last week he is concerned about potential health and safety issues if a turnpike toll plaza is located in the same vicinity as the district’s water treatment plant. He said once the situation is thoroughly vetted, the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) will want to look elsewhere for a plaza site. Water district officials plan to meet with the MTA and its engineers in early February to discuss the concerns, which center around hazardous-material leaks and homeland security risks. The plant uses ammonia in its disinfectant process, a substance that can cause irritation to the skin and eyes, and possibly swelling to the nose, throat and lungs. Although the plant has never experienced a leak, he said he’s concerned about the effects one might have on motorists waiting in long lines of traffic to pay their tolls on a summer weekend. He said he’s also concerned about the potential for homeland security breaches if a plaza were placed so close to the town’s primary source of drinking water. The MTA is considering two sites within a half-mile of the plant on Chases Pond Road. “It stands to reason you may not want to site a critical infrastructure on top of a critical infrastructure.”  
Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20100120-NEWS-1200323>
  
32. *January 19, Time* – (International) **The post-quake water crisis: Getting seawater to the Haitians.** Millions of quake victims are suffering from dehydration, especially in the capital, Port-au-Prince. With the city’s waterworks incapacitated, and the relief supply effort only now getting sufficiently energized, ramping up water delivery could mean the difference between alleviating the misery and exacerbating it. The answer may lie in the Caribbean water that the two million residents of Port-au-Prince see every day but can not drink. Sitting off the coast of Haiti, the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Carl Vinson can make some 400,000 gallons of its own fresh water every day, and much of it will soon be going ashore. The nuclear-powered vessel, which had been heading to its new home port in San Diego when it was diverted to Haiti hours after the quake, has massive desalination capacity and the Vinson has a daily excess of 200,000 gallons “that we can give away,” says the commander who oversees the desalination process. Early this week the Vinson will receive up to 100,000 special 2- and 5-gallon water “bladders,” collapsible containers that will make transporting such enormous volumes of liquid more efficient. If the Vinson could actually move all 200,000 of its excess

gallons to Haitian distribution points each day, it could as much as double the amount of water aid.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/time/20100119/wl\\_time/02880419533791953494195458400:\\_ylt=AnAhKFKVky2D3lti5T5IneCs0NUE;\\_ylu=X3oDMTQwa2NlbXFuBGFzc2V0A3RpbWUvMjAxMDAxMTkvMDI4ODA0MTk1MzM3OTE5NTM0OTQxOTU0NTg0MDAEY2NvZGUDbW9zdHBvcHVzYXIEY3BvcwMzBHBvcwMxMwRwdANob21lX2Nv](http://news.yahoo.com/s/time/20100119/wl_time/02880419533791953494195458400:_ylt=AnAhKFKVky2D3lti5T5IneCs0NUE;_ylu=X3oDMTQwa2NlbXFuBGFzc2V0A3RpbWUvMjAxMDAxMTkvMDI4ODA0MTk1MzM3OTE5NTM0OTQxOTU0NTg0MDAEY2NvZGUDbW9zdHBvcHVzYXIEY3BvcwMzBHBvcwMxMwRwdANob21lX2Nv)

33. *January 19, Clarion-Ledger* – (Mississippi) **Temporary water pump may aid SW Jackson, Byram.** A temporary water pump has been installed in a pumping station in southwest Jackson, Mississippi, but Jackson city officials say it will be several more days before the water pressure is high enough to test the system. A city spokesman said there is good pressure at three of the four points where the city tests its well water system. Because of the interconnected nature of the well water system that serves 16,000 in southwest Jackson and the city of Byram, all four must be at least at 20 pounds of pressure per square inch before the system can be tested for possible contamination. “We expect to test all the samples by the end of the week,” he said. “Once two days of testing come back clear, we will be able to lift the boil water notice.” A pump at the Maddox Road station failed some time late Sunday or early Monday, dropping pressure for the entire well water system. The Department of Public Health lifted the boil water notice Sunday for most of Jackson’s water customers. Those customers are on the city’s surface water program. The city had 154 water main breaks during the frigid weather earlier this month, the most breaks caused by a single weather event since 1989 when close to 400 lines ruptured.

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20100119/NEWS/100119016/Temporary+pump+may+aid+SW+Jackson++Byram>

34. *January 19, Lincoln Journal Star* – (Nebraska) **Denton seeks answers to high radium levels in drinking water.** The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is issuing an order to Denton officials to remedy the high levels of radium — a naturally occurring radioactive element — in its drinking water. The village’s options include building a water treatment plant or drilling a new well and abandoning the one with the high levels of radium. Both are costly solutions. The state has been monitoring radium levels in Denton’s drinking water since January 2009, when a well sample exceeded the health standard of 5 picocuries per liter. A picocurie is a measurement of radioactivity. The radium level of the town’s oldest well, drilled in 1972, is at 4.7 picocuries — just below the standard. But quarterly samples taken last year from the newest well, drilled in 1994, averaged 7.5 picocuries.

Source: [http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/article\\_e586afc8-054e-11df-9ab9-001cc4c002e0.html](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/article_e586afc8-054e-11df-9ab9-001cc4c002e0.html)

35. *January 19, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (International) **Rural water infrastructure: Improved coordination and funding processes could enhance federal efforts to meet needs in the U.S.-Mexico border region.** A serious problem

for U.S. communities along the U.S.-Mexico border is the lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation systems. Inadequate systems can pose risks to human health and the environment, including the risk of waterborne diseases. GAO was asked to determine (1) the amount of federal funding provided to rural U.S. communities in the border region for drinking water and wastewater systems and (2) the effectiveness of federal efforts to meet the water and wastewater needs in the region. Seven federal agencies obligated at least \$1.4 billion for drinking water and wastewater projects to assist communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region from fiscal years 2000 through 2008. Federal efforts to meet drinking water and wastewater needs in the border region have been ineffective because most federal agencies (1) have not comprehensively assessed the needs in the region, (2) lack coordinated policies and processes, and (3) in some cases have not complied with statutory requirements and agency regulations. Although federal agencies have assembled some data and conducted limited studies of drinking water and wastewater conditions in the border region, the resulting patchwork of data does not provide a comprehensive assessment of the region's needs. Without such an assessment, federal agencies cannot target resources toward the most urgent needs or provide assistance to communities that do not have the technical and financial resources to initiate a proposal for assistance. GAO suggests that Congress consider requiring federal agencies to develop a coordinated plan to improve the effectiveness of drinking water and wastewater programs in the border region and recommends that the agencies take steps to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements. Because USDA and DOD generally believe they are in compliance with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements; they did not fully concur with this recommendation. GAO believes that its findings and recommendations remain valid.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d10126.html>

36. *January 19, United Press International* – (Michigan) **Metro Detroit sewage polluting waterways.** Sewage from Metro Detroit's aging waste-treatment systems are causing record levels of bacteria in waterways used for drinking and recreation, records show. Treatment plants in more than three dozen communities dumped a total of 80 billion gallons of raw and partially treated human sewage in waterways in and around Detroit during the last two years, the Detroit Free Press reported after analyzing state records. Bacteria from the waste forced bans on fishing, swimming and kayaking on Lake St. Clair and the Clinton and Rouge rivers. "We still treat the Great Lakes and their tributaries as open sewers," a spokesman of the Michigan Environmental Council told the Free Press in a story published Tuesday. Communities lack the hundreds of millions of dollars it would take overall to update their sewage systems, said a spokesman for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2010/01/19/Metro-Detroit-sewage-polluting-waterways/UPI-91741263926325/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2010/01/19/Metro-Detroit-sewage-polluting-waterways/UPI-91741263926325/)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

37. *January 19, Government Health IT* – (National) **NIST explores automating health security compliance.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is exploring the use of advanced software tools that could automatically check whether certain health information transactions complied with security requirements, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). In a business notice, NIST said it wants to identify firms who could use the security content automation protocol (SCAP) – a set of specifications enabling users to depend on common computer settings for meeting security requirements – for transactions involving health information. Software equipped with SCAP can monitor and verify security settings as well as confirm that patches have been installed on applications. Because SCAP tools are standards-based, systems that use them can exchange security information. SCAP tools can detect if an application does not adhere to a security setting and can automatically convey that information. According to the NIST announcement, the vendor would use SCAP to develop security configuration profiles for common platforms and operating systems used in healthcare.  
Source: <http://www.govhealthit.com/newsitem.aspx?nid=72997>
38. *January 19, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Saratoga Springs man dies after ingesting workplace chemical.** A Saratoga Springs man in his early 30s died Tuesday hours after ingesting a hazardous substance, and two dozen people at the health clinic where he went for treatment were quarantined, officials said. An Intermountain Healthcare spokeswoman said the man apparently ingested selenomethionine at his job. She said early reports indicated that he inhaled the substance but she could not confirm that. She said the man worked at Sabinsa Corporation in Payson, Utah. The company’s website says it manufactures synthetic substances used in pharmaceuticals and the nutrition industry. The clinic was shut down and 24 people there were quarantined. Eight of them were decontaminated in a tent on the clinic site, but none complained of feeling ill. Most of those quarantined at the InstaCare were cleared Tuesday night. Hazmat crews have spent most of their time at the man’s home, where his family and a neighbor are under close watch.  
Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=9398135>
39. *January 16, Philadelphia Daily News* – (Pennsylvania) **VA clinic now concedes violations.** In a dramatic about-face, the Philadelphia VA Medical Center has acknowledged that its troubled prostate cancer program violated federal radiation rules meant to protect patients from harm. Just last month, Philadelphia VA officials disputed the finding of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigation that the hospital committed eight safety violations in its prostate brachytherapy program. They did so despite an internal Department of Veterans Affairs review showing that 97 of 114 prostate cancer patients treated over six years at the hospital received incorrect doses of radiation. Last Friday, the acting undersecretary for health at the VA changed course. “I accept the violations,” he wrote in a 12-page letter detailing the agency’s latest position. He said the failure by Philadelphia VA staff to identify and report the poor quality of treatments was “perplexing” and showed “a lack of safety culture.”  
Source: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/homepage/81848892.html>

## **Government Facilities Sector**

40. *January 19, NBC 4 New York* – (International) **Queens man plotted against U.S. troops in Afghanistan: Prosecutors.** Federal prosecutors Tuesday said the Queens man accused of training in an al Qaeda camp had planned to kill American servicemen in Afghanistan. The suspect went to a terrorist training camp in Pakistan in August 2008 “with the intent to kill U.S. service members in Afghanistan,” said an assistant United States Attorney. He added that prosecutors “anticipate additional charges” against the suspect. The 25 year-old suspect, a Bosnian born U.S. citizen, has pleaded not guilty and his defense attorney Tuesday again claimed after the brief hearing that authorities had improperly questioned his client after he had crashed his car on the Whitestone Expressway January 7th. The suspect had apparently been trying to shake an FBI surveillance, sources have said. His associate, a cab driver, may face additional charges, a federal prosecutor said Tuesday in another proceeding at Brooklyn Federal Court. For now the 24-year old Afghani immigrant is accused of lying to FBI agents investigating a terrorism case. His defense attorney did not make a bail application Tuesday and both suspects remain behind bars. Authorities say both men are linked to a former 24 year-old Queens resident who worked as a Colorado airport driver and who originally hails from Afghanistan. That suspect has pleaded not guilty to undergoing terror training and plotting to blow up New York targets with homemade bombs. Prosecutors also said that the cases might be combined. All three men had attended Flushing High School.  
Source: <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local-beat/Queens-Man-Plotted-Against-Servicemen-in-Afghanistan-Prosecutors-82089722.html>

41. *January 19, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **2 men accused of plotting to kill federal prosecutor.** The FBI has arrested two Illinois men charged with plotting to have an Assistant U.S. Attorney and a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, killed CBS2 reports. A 39 year-old suspect, from Downers Grove and a 41 year-old suspect, from Naperville, have been charged with solicitation to commit violence against another person. The 41-year old suspect appeared before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Chicago Tuesday afternoon and was ordered held without bond. The 39 year-old suspect was scheduled to appear in court Thursday. The assistant U.S. attorney targeted in the plot was not named in court papers, but was prosecuting a drug case pending against the 39 year-old suspect in federal court. A criminal complaint says that the 41 year-old suspect approached a defendant in a separate case to have the prosecutor in the 39 year-old’s case killed. An FBI spokesman said, “Here we have two people that are alleged to have conspired to have the prosecutor and the investigator in an unrelated criminal case killed. Very similar to what we’ve been seeing in Mexico and in other countries for a number of years and it’s hopefully not a foreshadowing of things to come in this country.”  
Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/prosecutor.murder.conspiracy.2.1435579.html>

42. *January 19, KCBD 11 Lubbock* – (Texas) **Federal investigation into Texas Tech chemistry explosion.** There is a now a federal investigation into the Texas Tech chemistry lab explosion that severely injured a grad student. The student suffered severe burns and cuts to his hands and face January 7th in the Texas Tech Chemistry building. The United States Chemical Safety Board is now looking into the accident. Texas Tech says the chemical the student was using was nickel hydrazine perchlorate, a primary explosive that is sensitive to flame. The Chemical Safety Board chairman says accidents happen in chemistry labs every year, and it is time to see if they can be prevented.  
Source: <http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=11848148>

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## Emergency Services Sector

43. *January 20, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Man accused of killing 8 people, forcing down Va. police helicopter with gunfire surrenders to police.** Virginia State Police say a suspect in the shooting deaths of eight people at a rural home in Appomattox has surrendered without incident. The 39-year-old approached officers at the crime scene at about 7:10 a.m. Wednesday and turned himself in. The gunman forced down a police helicopter by shooting its fuel tank. The area just about 3 miles from the state police district headquarters was filled with law enforcement from all over, with more than 100 responding. Earlier, as teams tried to catch the gunman, he fired at the helicopter trying to flush him out, police said. One or more rounds struck the helicopter, forcing it down, but no police were injured.  
Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9019945>
44. *January 18, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Voggy Kau to get emergency evacuation center.** The vog-affected district of Kau on the Big Island is on course to get a \$18 million emergency evacuation shelter. The district has been among those most heavily affected by vog since the a new vent opened at Halemaumau summit in March 2009 and the volcano began releasing more sulfur dioxide. The center would be built on the grounds of the Kau High School and Pahala Elementary School complex and would double as a school gymnasium.  
Source: <http://www.kpua.net/news.php?id=19455>
45. *January 17, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Fire risk mounts in Arizona prisons.** The potential for tragedy looms large at Arizona prisons, where each night more than 31,000 adult inmates and some 550 juveniles fall asleep in dangerous and deteriorating facilities. For more than a decade, investigators have identified serious fire-safety issues at the state's prisons and juvenile correctional facilities. Fire-alarm systems are obsolete, broken or non-existent. Sprinklers and smoke-ventilation systems required by building codes have never been installed, even in rapidly deteriorating wooden structures used to house juveniles. Where fire alarms are broken or non-existent,

corrections officials employ 24-hour “fire watches” in which employees look for smoke as part of their duties. Intended to be used for a short time until systems could be repaired, fire watches in many facilities have endured for decades.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2010/01/17/20100117prisonfire0117.html>

For another story, see item [41](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

46. *January 20, IDG News Service* – (International) **Security researcher IDs China link in Google hack.** The malicious software used to steal information from companies such as Google contains code that links it to China, a security researcher said on January 19. After examining the back-door Hydraq Trojan used in the hack, a SecureWorks researcher found that it used an unusual algorithm to check for data corruption when it transmits information. The source code for this algorithm, “only seems to be found on Chinese Web sites, which suggests that the person who wrote it reads Chinese,” he said. That may be an important hint. Because while Google has implied that the people who hacked its computers had the support of the People’s Republic of China, company executives have admitted that they have no proof. Google has threatened to pull out of China, in part because of the cyber attack. According to the researcher’s firm, aside from the fact that some of the servers used in the attack were hosted in China, there had previously been no evidence of a China link. Because the attackers could have simply purchased or hacked into hosting services in China, linking the command-and-control servers to China is inconclusive. The code behind the attack, called Aurora, was written in 2006. But, apparently it was rarely used, which helped it evade antivirus detection for several years. The Hydraq Trojan — just one element of all of the Aurora software security firms have found — dates back to April 2009, the researcher said. Google learned of the attack in December, and quickly notified other affected companies.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9146239/Security\\_researcher\\_IDs\\_China\\_link\\_in\\_Google\\_hack](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9146239/Security_researcher_IDs_China_link_in_Google_hack)

47. *January 19, The Register* – (International) **MS to issue emergency patch for potent IE vuln.** Microsoft will release an emergency update that patches the Internet Explorer vulnerability used to breach the security defenses of Google and other large companies. The software maker has said that real-world attacks against the browser continue to be “very limited” and that they are effective only against version 6, which was first released in 2001. Still, researchers have determined that it is possible to exploit more recent versions using well-known techniques, causing the level of concern generated by the vulnerability to spiral since last week, when Google revealed that it 20 other companies were hit by highly sophisticated attacks that pilfered intellectual property

and user data. Independent researchers have since raised the number of victims to 34 and said source code was specifically appropriated. “Given the significant level of attention this issue has generated, confusion about what customers can do to protect themselves and the escalating threat environment Microsoft will release a security update out-of-band for this vulnerability,” the general manager of Microsoft’s Trustworthy Computing Security group wrote on January 19.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/19/microsoft\\_emergency\\_patch/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/19/microsoft_emergency_patch/)

48. *January 19, Computerworld* – (International) **Apple patches 12 Mac bugs in Flash, SSL.** Apple on January 19 patched 12 vulnerabilities in Leopard and Snow Leopard, including seven in Adobe Flash Player and one in the protocol used to secure Internet traffic. Security update 2010-001, the first from Apple this year, is noticeably smaller than the monster issued last November that fixed almost 60 flaws. The seven fixes for Flash Player, Apple’s first update to the popular media player since September, brought the program up to version 10.0.42.34, the same edition that Adobe shipped December 8, 2009, for Windows and Linux. Adobe tagged six of the seven vulnerabilities as critical in its own security advisory last month. Because Apple bundles Flash Player with Mac OS X, it regularly distributes patches for the Adobe software, at times months after the latter has shipped patches. The six-week gap between Adobe’s issuing fixes and Apple delivering them this time was similar to the time it took Apple to update Flash in the summer of 2009. Altogether, nine of the 12 bugs were accompanied by the phrase “may lead to arbitrary code execution,” Apple’s way of saying that a flaw is critical and can be used by attackers to hijack a Mac. Apple does not assign ratings or severity scores to the bugs it patches, unlike other major software makers, such as Microsoft and Oracle.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9146198/Apple\\_patches\\_12\\_Mac\\_bugs\\_in\\_Flash\\_SSL](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9146198/Apple_patches_12_Mac_bugs_in_Flash_SSL)

49. *January 19, CNET News* – (International) **Baidu.com sues U.S. domain registrar over hacking.** Leading Chinese search engine Baidu.com has filed a lawsuit that blames a U.S.-based Internet domain registrar for allegedly allowing a hacking attack that left the site disabled and defaced. Baidu filed suit in New York against Register.com, claiming that the domain registrar’s “gross negligence” led to the search giant being “unlawfully and maliciously altered,” the company said in a statement on January 19. Baidu’s site was disabled for several hours on January 12, and visitors were redirected to a site where a group calling itself the “Iranian Cyber Army” claimed responsibility for the attack. The same group had taken credit for a similar attack on Twitter last month. Baidu said that its Chinese site, Baidu.com.cn, was unaffected by the outage.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023\\_3-10437763-93.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-10437763-93.html)

50. *January 19, IDG News Service* – (International) **Hackers hit network solutions customers.** Hackers have managed to deface several hundred Web sites hosted by Network Solutions, the company said on January 19. In a blog posting, the Internet service provider described the incident as a “limited attack on websites hosted on

Network Solutions Unix servers.” Several servers were hit and “intruders were able to get through by using a file inclusion technique,” the blog post said. A Network Solutions representative could add little to the blog’s description of the attack, but remote file inclusion attacks are a relatively common way of exploiting buggy Web server programming in order to run unauthorized content on the server. “Our preliminary investigation indicates that the source of entry was through a single site,” said a spokeswoman in an e-mail. A Network Solutions customer learned on January 17 that someone had crawled the folders on the Web site she maintains and replaced all of the index.html and main.html files with new files claiming that the defacement was “For Palestine.” The second defacement made no mention of Palestine, but said simply “Server Is RooT!”

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/187250/>

51. *January 19, The Register* – (International) **Berserker Bing bots bring down Perl network.** Misfiring Microsoft search bots managed to render a site used by Perl Testers almost unusable recently. A post on the CPAN Testers’ blog reports that its servers were being scanned by “20-30 bots every few seconds”, resulting in what developers likened to a denial of service attack. The IP addresses of the bots — which failed to follow house rules defined in the site’s robots.txt file — were traced back to Microsoft. The behavior of the Bing bots contrasted with other search engine agents from the likes of Google, prompting site administrators to post an “msnbot must die” rant on January 15 before banning Microsoft’s search spiders.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/19/bing\\_bots\\_floor\\_perl\\_network/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/19/bing_bots_floor_perl_network/)

52. *January 19, DarkReading* – (International) **Report: DDoS attacks still growing, but at slower rate.** The number of distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks grew 20 percent last year — a major decrease in the rate of attacks from 2007 to 2008, when these debilitating attacks increased 67 percent, according to a new report. Arbor Networks, which today released its annual worldwide security infrastructure report using data gathered from more than 65 IP network operators across the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia, found the largest attack was 49 gigabits-per-second from third quarter 2008 through third quarter 2009. “Last year, we saw a doubling in the sheer volume of these attacks and 40-Gbps was the major finding. To my surprise, only 20 percent” more of these attacks occurred in the past year, says the chief scientist for Arbor. The largest sustained DDoS attacks were 40 Gbps and 24 Gbps, he says. Attackers are employing more smaller-scale DDoS attacks that are harder to detect, yet just as lethal. “Lower-bandwidth attacks can be equally as disruptive to e-commerce and gambling sites, [for example], and more difficult to mitigate,” the scientist says. In the report, 35 percent of the respondents said they expect attacks to move to the cloud, with more sophisticated service and application attacks to be their biggest operational threat during the next 12 months. More than 21 percent expected large-scale botnet-based attacks to be the biggest threat.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/securityservices/security/perimeter/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222301511&subSection=Perimeter+Security>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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### Communications Sector

53. *January 20, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **Ex-employee charged in bomb threat at St. Pete TV studio.** Employees at a television studio were evacuated early the morning of January 20 after someone called in a bomb threat, and investigators quickly figured out it was a former employee who made the threat, St. Petersburg police say. The former employee, of St. Petersburg, was arrested and charged with threatening to discharge a destructive device. He is being held at the Pinellas County Jail with bail set at \$10,000. At about 3:15 a.m., the suspect made an anonymous call to say there was a bomb inside the American Option Network studio, said a St. Petersburg police spokesman. All employees were evacuated, and police traced the call to its origin, the spokesman said. It turned out to be the phone number belonging to the suspect, the spokesman said. Source: <http://suncoastpinellas.tbo.com/content/2010/jan/20/ex-employee-charged-bomb-threat-st-pete-tv-studio/>
54. *January 20, WNWO 24 Toledo* – (Ohio; Michigan) **Did your internet die on Tuesday? You're not alone.** Buckeye CableSystem says their Angola Rd. server crashed around 4:00 p.m. on January 19, causing widespread outages of internet and phone service. A large portion of area Buckeye Cable customers were without the communication services for at least 3-4 hours. Some customers' services were not restored into well into the night. Several area businesses operated with limited phone service and downed credit card machines during the outage. Area ATMs were also affected. The company says it was the first time that one of their servers has crashed. Source: <http://www.toledoonthemove.com/news/story.aspx?id=404283>
55. *January 19, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **FCC management: Improvements needed in communication, decision-making processes, and workforce planning.** Rapid changes in the telecommunications industry, such as the development of broadband technologies, present new regulatory challenges for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). GAO was asked to determine (1) the extent to which FCC's bureau structure presents challenges for the agency in adapting to an evolving marketplace; (2) the extent to which FCC's decision-making processes present challenges for FCC, and what opportunities, if any, exist for improvement; and (3) the extent to which FCC's personnel management and workforce planning efforts face challenges in ensuring that FCC has the workforce needed to achieve its mission. FCC consists of seven bureaus, with some structured along functional lines, such as enforcement, and some structured along technological lines, such as wireless

telecommunications and media. Although there have been changes in FCC's bureau structure, developments in the telecommunications industry continue to create issues that span the jurisdiction of several bureaus. However, FCC lacks written procedures for ensuring that interbureau collaboration and communication occurs. FCC's reliance on informal coordination has created confusion among the bureaus regarding who is responsible for handling certain issues. Weaknesses in FCC's processes for collecting and using information also raise concerns regarding the transparency and informed nature of FCC's decision-making process. FCC has five commissioners, one of which is designated chairman. FCC lacks internal policies regarding commissioner access to staff analyses during the decision-making process, and some chairmen have restricted this access. GAO recommends FCC, among other things, develop written policies on interbureau coordination and commissioner access to staff analyses; revise its public comment process and its ex parte policies; and develop targets identifying expertise needs, strategies for meeting targets, and measures for tracking progress. The FCC generally concurred with GAO's recommendations. The GAO report was conducted in December 2009 and published on January 19, 2010.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d1079.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

56. *January 20, Australian* – (International) **Commonwealth Games terror attacks 'inevitable'**. Regional security experts watching Commonwealth Games preparations in Delhi have warned that a terror strike aimed at derailing the biggest sporting event held in India is virtually inevitable and the only question is when and where it will occur. While Games organizers have reacted angrily to recent claims that athletes face a high risk of terror attacks during the October 3-14 event, South Asia security experts in India, Britain, Australia, and the U.S. consulted by The Australian have all questioned India's ability to effectively repel a strike before or during the event. "The problem is the sheer number of militant actors running around India today that could carry out a terrorist attack," said the vice-president of tactical intelligence with US-based security analysis agency Stratfor. "You can lock down a stadium but you have the issue of crowds trying to get in. That crowd will be incredibly vulnerable to an attack before they get through security. The likelihood is very high that India will face attacks. It's not a matter of if; it's going to be a matter of when and where."

Source: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/commonwealth-games-terror-attacks-inevitable/story-e6frg6n6-1225821809026>

57. *January 20, Australian* – (International) **Aussies warned to reconsider Indonesia trip plans**. Australians traveling to Indonesia have been warned to reconsider their plans because of a very high threat of terrorist attacks. The Department of Foreign Affairs has updated its travel warning to say there was a possibility of attacks in Indonesia, including popular tourist destination Bali. "Terrorists have previously attacked or

planned to attack places where Westerners gather including nightclubs, bars, restaurants, hotels and airports,” the latest advice reads. “Analysts judge that these types of venues could be targeted again.” Three Australians were among the nine people killed in the suicide bombings at the JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta last July.

Source: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/aussies-warned-to-reconsider-indonesia-trip-plans/story-fn3dxity-1225821555350>

58. *January 19, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Teen arrested in MLK Day shooting.** San Antonio police arrested a 14-year-old boy suspected of shooting three people after the MLK March and Commemorative Program Monday afternoon. The boy faces three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. San Antonio police said the teen opened fire on a crowd of people outside a Church’s Chicken at Nevada and South New Braunfels Avenue around 3:30 p.m. Monday. Three people, ages 13, 18, and 21, each sustained a gunshot wound to the leg. One was taken to University Hospital, while the other two were taken to Brooke Army Medical Center. All three victims sustained wounds not thought to be life-threatening, officials said. Just before the shooting, two groups in the parking lot threw gang signs, said the police chief. The teenage shooter fired twice, police said, but struck the three victims, who were not his intended targets.

Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/82079647.html>

59. *January 19, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **MLK parade participants jumped out of the way as car plowed through celebration.** Spectators and police at Hallandale Beach’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade were lucky a driver who plowed her car through the celebration did not hit anyone, police said Tuesday. The only person hurt during Monday’s incident was the driver after she drove away from the parade and crashed elsewhere, police said. The woman, 37, of Hollywood, Florida, was treated at a hospital for minor cuts and scrapes before she was jailed on 13 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Each count reflects each person she threatened to strike with her car, police said. She also was held on charges of attempting to flee or elude police and resisting arrest without violence. The driver left the parade after the incident and headed toward Interstate 95 on Hallandale Beach Boulevard as several police cruisers pursued her, police said. On I-95, she crashed near the Pembroke Road exit, tying up the northbound lanes for several hours, police said. Police then took her into custody.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/hallandale/fl-hallandale-mlk-crash-update-20100119,0,5911823,full.story>

60. *January 15, Consulate General of the United States Hong Kong and Macau* – (International) **Indiscriminate corrosive fluid attacks in Hong Kong.** A Warden Message is being issued to alert U.S. citizens to a series of indiscriminate attacks using bottles filled with corrosive fluid that have occurred in Hong Kong since December 2008. The six incidents occurred mostly in popular outdoor shopping areas and resulted in injuries to the victims of the attacks. In all the cases, the attacker or attackers dropped one or more bottles containing corrosive fluid from a multi-story building onto

the street. According to Hong Kong officials, the attacker or attackers were not targeting specific individuals. Although U.S. citizens have not been specifically targeted in the attacks, nearly all the incidents have taken place in crowded shopping districts that are popular with tourists. The U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong urges all U.S. citizens living and traveling in Hong Kong to exercise caution and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

Source: [http://hongkong.usconsulate.gov/acs\\_wm2010011501.html](http://hongkong.usconsulate.gov/acs_wm2010011501.html)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

61. *January 19, Nogales International* – (Arizona) **Board votes to close Tubac state park on March 29.** By a vote of the Arizona State Parks Board, the Tubac park will be closed March 29 for an undetermined time period. Patagonia Lake State Park will likely remain open, but it and eight other parks are now dependent on having the agency immediately find \$3 million. The vote also means that four state parks will be closed February 22, four state parks will be closed March 29, five state parks will be closed June 3, and eight state parks will be closed or “use alternate operations,” which were not described. In Tubac, representatives of 11 organizations came together on Jan. 12 to talk about protecting the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park after it is closed, and to discuss whether local groups might be able to work with the state to re-open the park through volunteer labor and some monetary donations. “We can’t stop the park from being closed. But we need to look at how we preserve the park in the short term until it can be re-opened. We want to keep it from falling into disrepair or seeing vandalism,” said the meeting’s moderator.

Source:

<http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2010/01/19/news/doc4b55d6702dbc6431406540.txt>

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## **Dams Sector**

62. *January 18, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Illinois) **Illinois officials ask feds exactly what’s wrong with their levees.** Illinois officials know that the feds are on the verge of forcing thousands of American Bottom homes and businesses to spend more for flood insurance — and clamping down on development — until up to \$500 million in repairs are made to Mississippi River levees. But what, exactly, is wrong with those levees? Metro East leaders are frustrated that nobody seems able to tell them. The Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District, a local umbrella agency formed to tackle the problem, is pressing for answers and suggests it might enlist political pressure, or litigation, to get them. Specifically, the district’s governing council asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Army Corps of Engineers to

disclose the basis for an announcement in August 2007 that FEMA would deaccredit the five Metro East levee systems. The corps oversees the infrastructure. An official said FEMA has not responded to a Freedom of Information Act request made November 3, 2009. He said the corps did respond to an October 10 request by providing 93 documents that were largely unconnected to the decision. He said the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention Council would consider legal and political options if no additional information is provided. FEMA proposed new flood insurance rate maps that would reclassify much of the area from moderate-risk to high-risk, or possibly unable to withstand even a 100-year flood. If the new maps become final, many property owners would be required to buy flood insurance, and at much higher premiums than now. Local leaders believe the reclassification would also severely reduce economic development in the area. FEMA recently said the maps will not become final before January 2011. The Corps of Engineers has estimated the cost of repairs at \$300 million to \$500 million.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/illinoisnews/story/BBD91A31132B894C862576AF006C7201?OpenDocument>

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