



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 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, a man with a handgun fired several shots January 21 on the Texas Capitol’s south steps in Austin, but state troopers quickly tackled him and there were no reports of injuries. (See item [33](#))
- WFTV 9 Orlando reports that Osceola County, Florida deputies spent hours late January 21 and early January 22 dismantling a meth lab that exploded inside the Carefree Inn and Suites hotel in Kissimmee. More than one hundred hotel guests were evacuated. (See item [53](#))

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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 21, Citrus Daily* – (Florida) **Small fire extinguished at Crystal River coal plant.** A small fire at Progress Energy’s coal plant in Crystal River was quickly extinguished around noon on January 21. There were no injuries reported in the incident. The blaze broke out at Unit 4’s pulverizing machine, and was quickly brought under control, according to a Progress Energy spokeswoman. Citrus County Fire

Rescue was called as a back-up, but was not needed, a county spokesman confirmed on January 21.

Source: <http://www.citrusdaily.com/local-news/small-fire-extinguished-crystal-river-coal-plant/2010/01/21/25691.html>

2. *January 21, WBIR 10 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **3 arrested for trespassing at TVA Kingston Fossil Plant.** Three environmental activists have been arrested for trespassing on the site of the massive fly ash spill in Roane County. TVA Police indicate they have warned one man, 30 and of Knoxville, multiple times about trespassing on the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant. But he was arrested the afternoon of January 20 around 3 p.m. as a passenger in a car that had driven past a TVA sign reading “Notice: Authorized personnel only.” The Roane County chief deputy said the man has ties to United Mountain Defense, an environmental advocacy group. TVA Police arrested a 24 year-old female from Boone, North Carolina. An officer wrote that she had gotten out the car in which the male was a passenger, climbed up onto some stationary railroad cars, and was taking pictures of the interior of the cars. The officer wrote that climbing up on the cars was very dangerous, “as the rail cars can move without notice.” The Chief Deputy said the female had news credentials from an environmental publication. The officer also arrested another female, a 22 year-old from Burke, Virginia, who was driving the car. The three were booked into the Roane County Jail. They have since been released.

Source: <http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=111391&provider=gnews>

3. *January 21, Occupational Health and Safety* – (Texas) **CITGO facing \$236K fine following ‘catastrophic’ chemical release.** OSHA has cited CITGO Refining and Chemicals LP in Corpus Christi, Texas, for workplace safety violations resulting from a catastrophic release of hydrocarbon and hydrofluoric acid from the alkylation unit at the facility. Proposed penalties total \$236,500. “CITGO did not ensure adequate maintenance and oversight of its process safety equipment, exposing workers to the release of toxic chemicals and posing a danger to not only the company’s employees but to the community, as well,” said OSHA’s regional administrator in Dallas. OSHA has alleged two willful, 15 serious, and one repeat violation following an investigation that began July 20, 2009. The willful violations include failing to adequately repair and maintain process equipment, and to update changes in operating procedures. Serious violations include failing to maintain floor holes to prevent employees from tripping, to properly label electrical equipment, to prevent exposure to electrical parts, to update piping and instrumentation diagrams, and to address process hazard analysis deficiencies. The repeat violation addresses failing to train workers regarding modified procedures.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/01/21/citgo-facing-fine.aspx?admgarea=news>

4. *January 21, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Iowans scrape off ice, wait for more.** More freezing rain was expected in northern Iowa starting the afternoon of January 22. Though accumulations are predicted to be less than a tenth of an inch, the fresh ice may frustrate efforts to restore power to tens of thousands of Iowans who lost it after the

January 20 ice storm encrusted the state. Further complicating matters: Wind speeds are forecasted to pick up. More than 40,000 Iowa power customers were without electricity the evening of January 21, according to representatives from Alliant, MidAmerican Energy, and the state's dozens of rural electric cooperatives. The afternoon of January 21, the governor declared a state of emergency that made it easier for power crews from other states and companies to join the restoration efforts and help speed recovery. Some Iowans could be without power for three days and beyond, power company officials said. Sixty-five two-man crews from 31 electric co-ops in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota are helping nine co-ops in central and western Iowa bring power back online. More than 850 utility poles spread among six electric cooperative service areas were broken by January 21. There were reports of ice up to six inches in diameter on power lines in western Iowa.

Source: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/01/21/iowans-scrape-off-ice-wait-for-more/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *January 22, Today's Sunbeam* – (New Jersey) **Salem 2 nuclear reactor automatically shuts down because of problem with feedwater pump.** The Salem 2 nuclear reactor was shut down Thursday evening due to low water levels in one of the steam generators at the facility, according to a spokesman for the plant's operator. The reactor automatically went off line at 6:20 p.m., according to a PSEG Nuclear spokesman. The low water level was caused by the failure of a feedwater pump that supplies water to the steam generator. The generator and pump are on the non-nuclear side of the plant, the spokesman said this morning. The equipment responded as it should when the low water levels were detected. Troubleshooting is under way this morning to determine what caused the failure of the feedwater pump. The spokesman could not estimate when Salem 2 would return to service.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2010/01/salem_2_nuclear_reactor_automa.html

6. *January 22, Standard Speaker* – (Pennsylvania) **Study: Nuclear plant radiation may be to blame for cancer spike.** Thyroid cancer rates in Pennsylvania soared in recent decades and radiation from nuclear power plants may be the cause, a study released Thursday said. A researcher, who authored the study which appeared in the International Journal of Health Services and is executive director for the Radiation and Public Health Project, called the growth in the number of cases "an epidemic."

Pennsylvania's incidence of thyroid cancer in the mid-1980s was 40 percent below the national rate, and now the rate is 44 percent above the national rate, he said.

"Something occurred to change Pennsylvania's rate from low to high, and one of these possible factors is radiation from reactors," the researcher said. Some of the highest thyroid cancer rates occur in eastern Pennsylvania, which has the nation's largest concentration of nuclear reactors, including the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Salem Township, he said. Others reactors are Three Mile Island in Dauphin County, Peach Bottom in York County and Limerick in Montgomery County. Seven continue to operate. Some of the highest thyroid cancer rates — 80 percent above the national rate — are in Sullivan, Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton, Lehigh, and York counties, according to his research. The researcher noted that the radiation released from these reactors is relatively low. But the effects of low-level radiation needs to be explored further as a public health concern, he said, because radiation exposure is the only known cause of thyroid cancer.

Source: <http://standardspeaker.com/news/study-nuclear-plant-radiation-may-be-to-blame-for-cancer-spike-1.563288>

7. *January 21, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Federal agency reports safety concerns over Browns Ferry nuclear plant.** Federal regulators are raising new concerns about the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Brown's Ferry nuclear plant in north Alabama near Athens. In a letter released Thursday, inspectors from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) found that equipment used to automatically shut down the plant's reactors in an emergency was not properly protected from fire hazards. The NRC described the findings as significant "apparent violations." But it was waiting for more information to make a final determination. Brown's Ferry was shut down in 1985 over safety and management lapses. After billions of dollars in improvements, two reactors were restarted in the 1990s and the final unit was restarted in 2007. A TVA spokesman had no immediate comment.

Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2010/01/federal_agency_e.html

8. *January 21, Beaver County Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Missing nuclear gauge found alongside road.** An Economy, Pennsylvania, road worker Wednesday afternoon found a nuclear density gauge that disappeared from a Coraopolis business, according to police and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Economy police said they do not know how the device ended up alongside Cooney Hollow Road where it was spotted around 2:30 p.m. by the road crew worker. The road worker immediately called police, and the device was taken to the borough police station so that it could be given to the DEP. It was not known how long the device was lying alongside the road. According to a DEP press release, the device belonged to Jeff Zell Consultants. The company discovered the device was missing during a January 4 inventory but waited 10 days before reporting it to the DEP, according to the state agency.

Source:

http://www.timesonline.com/bct_news/news_details/article/1373/2010/january/21/missing-nuclear-gauge-found-alongside-road.html

9. *January 21, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Nuke plant may dismiss guard whose gun went off.** The Indian Point security guard who fired his weapon inside a building at the nuclear plant could be fired, company officials said Wednesday. “Disciplinary actions can include termination upon the completion and review of the incident,” said a spokesman for Entergy Nuclear, which owns and operates Indian Point. The security guard has been suspended without pay indefinitely since the gun went off about 4 p.m. Saturday. The spokesman declined to say what caliber handgun the guard fired, but said it was a lone bullet that was accidentally shot and ended up piercing a nearby wall and falling “harmlessly” in the next room. He said the building was empty. The handgun was issued by the plant as part of the guard’s regular equipment and guards routinely are trained in handling firearms, officials said. The shooting occurred in a newly renovated office building on site that was empty at the time. The guard was supposed to be in that building at that time, the spokesman said. Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20100121/NEWS01/1210356>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *January 21, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Toyota recalls 2.3 million more vehicles to fix runaway acceleration.** Toyota is adding 2.3 million vehicles to the 4.2 million Toyota and Lexus models already recalled to fix a problem that can cause the accelerator pedal to stick. The latest recall involves 2007-10 Camrys, 2009-10 Corollas, 2009-10 RAV4s, 2009-10 Matrixes, 2005-10 Avalons, 2010 Highlanders, 2007-10 Tundras and 2008-10 Sequoias. Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. said in a statement that accelerator pedals could stick “in a partially depressed position or return slowly to the idle position” in the affected models. A spokesman said the problem was most likely to occur when the pedal mechanism becomes worn. Today’s action is separate from the ongoing recall of 4.2 million Toyota and Lexus models. The company said about 1.7 million vehicles are included in both recall actions. Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/01/toyota_pedals3.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *January 22, Military Times* – (National) **Widespread problems found on LPDs, other ships.** Navy engineers are tackling a raft of problems discovered aboard warships built at the Gulf Coast yards of defense giant Northrop Grumman including faulty welds, lube-oil problems and a defective engine. Inspectors are rechecking every pipe weld aboard every ship built in the last several years at Avondale, Louisiana, or Pascagoula, Mississippi, including destroyers and amphibious vessels, after discovering so many problems that all pipe welders and Navy inspectors at both yards had to be decertified and then re-certified to work on ships. The disbaring and reapplication took place last summer, when some of the problems were first discovered. In most cases, the issues announced Thursday aren’t urgent. The unsatisfactory pipe welds mean a seam doesn’t

meet the Navy's specifications to resist shock and last for the ship's full life. But in other cases, the problems could have immediate operational implications for the fleet. Inspectors are looking at the entire San Antonio class of amphibious transport docks to determine what has caused systemic lube-oil problems in multiple ships, as well as damage to engine bearings that recently sidelined the newest ship, USS New York. Source: http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/navy_ships_problems_012110w/

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *January 22, Bloomberg* – (National) **Obama calls for limiting size, risk-taking of financial firms.** The U.S. President, tapping into voter anger over bank bailouts, called for limits on the size and trading activities of financial institutions in order to reduce risk-taking and prevent another financial crisis. The proposals, to be added to an overhaul of regulations being considered by Congress, would prohibit banks from running proprietary trading operations solely for their own profit and sponsoring hedge funds and private equity funds. He also proposes expanding a 10 percent market-share cap on deposits to include other liabilities such as non-deposit funding to restrict growth and consolidation. “While the financial system is far stronger today than it was one year ago, it’s still operating under the same rules that led to its near collapse,” the U.S. President said on January 21 at the White House after meeting with a former Federal Reserve Chairman who has been an advocate of taking such steps. “Never again will the American taxpayer be held hostage by a bank that is too big to fail.” The proposals could affect trading at some of the nation’s largest banks, including New York-based Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan Chase & Co., according to the chief market strategist at D.A. Davidson & Co. in Lake Oswego, Oregon.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=an1RU9C9UqAY>
13. *January 22, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **SEC sues Plano firm’s owner, alleging stock ‘pump and dump’.** The Securities and Exchange Commission sued a Plano man and his firm on January 21, accusing them of helping stock promoters “pump and dump” shares of small companies for profit. The suit claims that the suspect of Plano and his Dallas-based company, Summit Advisory Group, helped three stock promoters advertise false information about three small companies so that investors would buy the shares and raise their stock prices. After the prices rose, the stock promoters sold their interests in the companies – My Vintage Baby, Alchemy and Beverage Concepts Inc. – and made at least \$20 million, the suit said. The suit claims the suspect helped stock promoters – all named in separate SEC suits filed in recent years – to mislead investors about the health of the companies.
Source: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-secsuit_22bus.ART.State.Edition1.3cfed00.html
14. *January 21, Web CPA* – (National) **Auditors get more involved in credit card security.** Internal auditors will soon be playing a larger role in ensuring the security of

credit card information. In December, in response to an inquiry from the Institute of Internal Auditors, MasterCard Worldwide decided that beginning in June 30, 2011, merchants that process more than 6 million credit card transactions annually can use internal auditors to conduct annual on-site assessments of their compliance with the industry's data security standards. Auditors need to have obtained training and certification in the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council's Data Security Standards in order to qualify. The council intends to offer the training and accreditation to internal auditors this year and will share additional information as the program develops.

Source: <http://www.webcpa.com/news/Auditors-Get-More-Involved-Credit-Card-Security-53054-1.html>

15. *January 20, Reuters* – (International) **Saudi Kingdom Tower evacuated after bomb hoax.** Saudi authorities ordered the evacuation of Kingdom Tower, a landmark in the capital Riyadh, as a precaution on January 20 after a bomb threat which turned out to be a hoax, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "We confirm that this was a hoax ... The building and sites immediately close to it are being evacuated as a precautionary measure," the Interior Ministry spokesman for security affairs told Reuters. "An unknown person called an employee at Samba (Financial Group) bank's offices in the tower to say a bomb was placed in his car" he added. Bomb threats are rare in Saudi Arabia. The spokesman said earlier the anonymous caller told a Samba employee that the bomb was placed in a car in the parking lot of the bank's main headquarters in Riyadh.

Source: <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-45552720100120>

16. *January 20, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Suspicious package prompts bank evacuation.** A bank in Altamonte Springs is surrounded on January 20 after a suspicious package was reported. Altamonte police said someone left a suspicious-looking object on the sidewalk near the front door of the Wachovia bank located at 351 North state Road 434. Customers and employees in the bank have been evacuated. Hazmat and bomb squad crews are examining the object.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/news/22283750/detail.html>

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Transportation Sector

17. *January 22, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **NTSB blames engineer for 2008 Metrolink crash, urges railroads to install cameras to monitor train crews.** Federal safety officials called for railroads to install cameras and voice recorders in every locomotive cab in the nation as they publicly warned Thursday that cellphone texting by engineers and conductors was a growing and lethal danger. The call came as members of the National Transportation Safety Board publicly concluded their investigation into the deadly collision of a commuter train and a freight train in Chatsworth in 2008 — a crash they blamed on a Metrolink engineer who passed a stop signal as he sent a message from his phone. The engineer's prolific text messaging was

“egregious,” the NTSB chairwoman said, citing records of his phone use. “This was an accident waiting to happen.” In general, text messaging by train crews “is becoming more widespread,” the chairwoman told reporters after the board’s public session in Washington ended its 16-month Chatsworth inquiry. “I think we have to nip this in the bud right now.” The collision, which left 25 dead and 135 injured, could have been prevented by an automatic braking system that NTSB regulators had long recommended, board members noted after the daylong meeting. The Chatsworth crash prompted Congress to pass a bill requiring railroads to install such systems within six years.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-metrolink22-2010jan22,0,5862623.story>

18. *January 22, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **India issues plane hijack alert.** On Friday India issued a security alert to all airports and airlines following an intelligence notification that some terror groups were plotting to hijack a plane. “We have reliable information of a planned plane hijack by terrorists. We have advised the civil aviation ministry to take necessary steps,” said a spokesman at the federal home ministry. Indian airports were put on high alert and security tightened following the federal home ministry warning. Sky marshals were deployed on certain flights and passengers were being subject to intense security screening, the spokesman said. Indian news agency Press Trust of India said according to intelligence inputs terror groups linked to al-Qaeda and Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba were planning to hijack an Air India or Indian Airlines plane flying in or from SAARC countries - Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The alert comes two days after the U.S. Defense Secretary, traveling in the region, warned of possible strike by al Qaeda and its affiliates to destabilize South Asia and trigger war between India and Pakistan.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703699204575018261016131460.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines

19. *January 22, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. warns against having same airport security systems.** The United States does not want countries to use identical airport security systems which could make it easier for potential attackers to elude them, the U.S. Homeland Security Secretary said on Friday. “What we want to avoid is a ‘cookie cutter’ approach, because then the terrorists know about the approach and they plan around it,” the Secretary said during a visit to Europe to discuss tightening airport security. U.S. use of full body scanning airline passengers has increased in the wake of a failed bombing attempt last month on a U.S. passenger jet, though some European countries are reticent to introduce technology that could violate privacy. “There is a whole mix of technology and practices that can be done at airports independently of scanners and this is what we are focused on as an international consensus,” the Security Secretary said. She is flying to Geneva to meet airline associations after agreeing with her EU counterparts on Thursday in the Spanish city of Toledo to propose new measures on airline passenger information sharing by April. Thursday’s meeting was prompted by the failed Christmas Day attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner

blamed on a Nigerian who boarded the plane in Amsterdam carrying a home-made explosive device.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60L2N420100122>

20. *January 21, Pensacola News Journal* – (Florida) **DOT: Pensacola Bay Bridge is ‘structurally deficient,’ must be replaced.** The Pensacola Bay Bridge must be replaced within the next six years because it is “structurally deficient,” according to the Florida Department of Transportation. “It doesn’t mean the bridge is unsafe,” a DOT spokesman said. “It is safe for traveling, but our bridge inspectors found some corrosion on the metal parts, some concrete chipped on the pilings and other things that could not be gone into because of Homeland Security reasons. When it was built in 1960, the life expectancy of the bridge was 50 years, which the bridge turns this year. In 1989, safety lanes also were added.

Source: <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/pensacola-24984-replaced-bay.html>

21. *January 21, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Man in airport screening incident no longer TSA worker.** The Transportation Security Administration worker who jokingly pretended to plant a plastic bag of white powder in the carry-on luggage of a passenger at Philadelphia International Airport on January 5 is no longer employed by the agency, a TSA spokeswoman said. The incident occurred as a University of Michigan student, was having her bags screened before her flight to Detroit. The employee told the passenger to say where she’d obtained the bag of powder, then about 20 seconds later smiled and said it was his, she said. The passenger said she was told that the man trained TSA workers in detecting contraband. A spokesperson said the TSA employee involved was not a security officer who screened passengers and he was not a supervisor. The spokesperson said privacy laws prevented her from identifying the TSA worker and his job title, and whether he was fired or left on his own.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/business/homepage/20100121_Man_in_airport_screening_incident_no_longer_TSA_worker.html

For another story, see item [2](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *January 21, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Bomb squad detonates suspicious device.** Police in Huber Heights were called to Pitcairn Road on the report of a suspicious device that was found. According to police, a mailman found the suspicious device inside a mailbox. The Dayton Bomb Squad was called to the scene to investigate. A few homes in the area were evacuated as a precaution. A News Center 7 reporter was at the scene and said that the bomb squad has detonated the device and an all-clear has been given. Officers said a very real-looking pipe bomb was found inside a mailbox. However it turned out to be fake. An officer with the Huber Heights Police told Dayton Daily News that crews responded to the scene around 12:30 p.m. Medics

were also called to the scene as a precaution.

Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/22303872/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *February 1, Journal of American Veterinary Medicine Association* – (National) **Military software to help food producers guard against attacks.** Food producers can use software developed for the U.S. military to assess their vulnerability to tampering, terrorism, or other criminal attacks. The risk assessment tool was adapted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Agriculture to help farmers and other producers evaluate their supply chains and processes for weaknesses that someone could exploit. The Director of the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition said in a press release that the tool can help producers understand how an attacker may think as well as how to implement countermeasures for weak points. The tool evaluates the health and economic impact of attacks, ease of reaching potential targets, ease of recovery following an attack, vulnerability to attack, potential production loss following an attack, visibility as a potential target, and psychological impact of an attack. It can be downloaded at www.fda.gov/food/fooddefense/carver. Source: <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/feb10/100201r.asp>

24. *January 21, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **Fruit processing warehouse destroyed in fire.** Firefighters worked into the early-morning hours Thursday to extinguish a fire that destroyed a fruit processing warehouse about two miles north of Sunnyside. The blaze, which started Wednesday about 7 p.m., engulfed a produce warehouse of Kinsey Farms, located near the corner of Scoon and Independence roads. The tin and wood building, which was 6,000 square feet, burned until about 3:40 a.m. Thursday and took 28 firefighters from five stations to manage. A cause is undetermined, but Yakima County's fire marshal was investigating. Although the building was a total loss, firefighters were able to save a cold storage facility connected by a conveyor belt. That prevented ammonia and other refrigeration chemicals from exposure to the flames, said the fire captain of Lower Valley Fire District 5. Nobody was injured during the fire. Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2010/01/21/fruit-processing-warehouse-destroyed-in-fire>

25. *January 20, Chicago Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Small fire at Gurnee factory.** No one was hurt in a late-morning fire that shut down a Gurnee, Illinois frozen pizza factory briefly on Wednesday, firefighters said. Little Lady Foods lost power around 11 a.m. The shop's conveyor belt stopped, but the oven kept running, starting a fire. Workers at the plant were able to put out the fire before emergency crews arrived, but firefighters had to spend about 45 minutes ventilating the facility, which was filled with smoke. Little Lady Foods was able to resume operating after cleaning and disinfecting the area per federal regulations, firefighters said. Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=352599&src=3>

26. *January 19, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Asian carp DNA found in Lake Michigan.** The DNA of Asian carp has been found in Lake Michigan for the first time, researchers said Tuesday, igniting a new round of calls for urgent action and renewed criticism of Illinois and the federal government for allowing the voracious carp to migrate up the state’s waterways. The alarming find came just hours after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to address the carp issue, rejecting Michigan’s request for an injunction to force Illinois to stop its waterways from flowing into Lake Michigan. That left the issue in the hands of federal and state officials in Illinois. Soon after the DNA announcement, officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies attempted to downplay concerns, saying there is still no evidence that live carp have entered Lake Michigan or that the invasive species could flourish if they do. But the discovery may bring the region a step closer to a scenario in which the carp devastate the Great Lakes’ fragile ecology and commercial fishing interests. While researchers now plan more tests to verify the DNA findings, some officials are calling for a White House summit to draft a joint plan of action, while others are demanding a massive carp kill or more barriers leading to the lake. Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/ct-met-0120-asian-carp-ruling-20100119,0,4725350.story>

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Water Sector

27. *January 22, Fond Du Lac Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Water treatment problems continue to plague filters.** Progress is slow in finding a solution to the iron-clogged filters at Fond du Lac’s water treatment facilities, but officials now have a glimmer of hope for a fix. Ever since a new ion exchange filtering system went online in January 2009, staff from Layne Northwest — the vendor that installed the ion exchange system — continued to monitor and change the bag filters around the clock. “The saga has not changed whatsoever,” said the Fond du Lac Public Works director. The city, he said, knew that the high iron content of the water would be problematic. The city manager and the Water Operations manager recently traveled to Madison for a meeting with consultants and representatives of the companies that installed the system. He said that Layne Northwest has contended that characteristics, or the quality of the water, changed from the time of the trial pilot testing to the time the radiation filtration system was put into use. Officials and the company are working to resolve the issue. Source: <http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20100122/FON0101/1220386/1985/FONbusiness/Water-treatment-problems-continue-to-plague-filters>
28. *January 22, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Iowa outages affecting wastewater treatment.** The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reporting power outages have caused the dumping of untreated wastewater into local streams and rivers. DNR officials say Brayton in Audubon County is without power and has been dumping into the East Nishnabotna River since early Thursday. The city of Fairfield sent untreated wastewater to Crow Creek for about three hours before power was restored.

Officials of the city of Audubon said they were not sure when power would be restored at their treatment plant. A DNR official says the problems reaffirm why state law requires design standards and an ability to operate in an emergency. He says the lack of maintenance and failure to provide for a reliable alternate power source is the main reason cities do not have emergency operating capacity when they need it.

Source: <http://www.connecttristates.com/news/story.aspx?id=405532>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *January 21, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Kan. pharmacy evacuated after bomb threat.** A Kansas City, Kansas, pharmacy had to be evacuated after a man demanded drugs and left behind what he claimed was a bomb. Police say a man in his 50s walked into Mark’s Pharmacy around 11 a.m. Wednesday and ordered the pharmacist to give him drugs. When the pharmacist refused, the man placed a device on the counter and said it was a bomb. Police say the pharmacist fired a shotgun several times as the man fled, but they do not think he was hit. A bomb squad determined the device did not pose a threat.
Source: <http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=11856581>

30. *January 21, Austin American-Statesman* – (Texas) **80 percent of kids lack second dose of H1N1 vaccine, state says.** Eighty percent of children under 10 who were vaccinated against the H1N1 swine flu virus did not get the required second dose, state health officials said Thursday. Data provided by the Department of State Health Services show that 311,025 children under age 10 received at least one dose of H1N1 vaccine in Texas, but there was no record of 249,477 kids, or 80.2 percent, getting a second dose within two months of the first vaccine. The data was current as of last week, the department said. That rate could be the result of reduced spread of swine flu since the fall, a recall of some childhood vaccines because of lost potency and skepticism about the immunizations. Swine flu is still circulating, and national and state health officials say they are concerned about a new wave of H1N1 illnesses this winter. More children have died from H1N1 than from seasonal flu, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Source: http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/health/entries/2010/01/21/80_percent_of_kids_lack_second.html?cxntfid=blogs_salud

31. *January 21, Kaiser Health News* – (National) **Rules for patient data security remain widely unenforced.** As the federal government prepares to spend up to \$27 billion in stimulus funds to promote electronic medical records, a health technology industry survey suggests that a number of hospitals, health clinics, and insurance firms are violating federal security rules on patient data and putting sensitive health information at risk,” The Center for Public Integrity reports. “The November survey by the health technology trade association Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society

(HIMSS) found that one in four of the 196 health organizations that responded do not conduct a formal risk analysis to identify security gaps in electronic patient data. ... failure to conduct a formal risk analysis is a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which became law in 1996.” The deputy director for health information privacy at HHS’s Office for Civil Rights, “said the agency hasn’t issued any fines because the goal of enforcement is to nudge doctors, hospitals, and insurers into compliance, not to punish them.” Industry insiders “say there have been few patient data security cases at HHS because the agency relies on media reports, complaints, and referrals from other agencies to learn of potential HIPAA rules violations, which has not generated a wide number of leads or investigations.”

Source: <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2010/January/21/Enforcement-of-Patient-Data-Rules.aspx>

32. *January 21, WJLA 7 Washington, D.C.* – (Virginia) **Virginia doctor’s office hit by meteorite; no injuries reported.** A meteorite crashed landed into an examination room at a Lorton family practice office. A physician was supposed be in the room when it happened, but the patient canceled at the last minute. Witnesses say the force of the half-pound meteorite sounded like an explosion when it shot through the ceiling. It broke into three pieces, but put together, it is about the size of a digital camera. The meteorite hit a little after 5:30 p.m. on Monday. A planetary scientist at the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of Natural History confirmed it was a meteorite. She says the meteorite weighs just over a half pound and was probably traveling about 220 mph when it struck the building.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0110/698189.html>

For more stories, see items [43](#) and [55](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

33. *January 21, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Police: Man arrested after firing shots on Texas capitol’s steps.** A man with a handgun fired several shots Thursday on the Texas Capitol’s south steps in Austin, but state troopers quickly tackled him and there were no reports of injuries, the Texas Department of Public Safety said. The Capitol was on lockdown as officials searched as a precaution. The south steps were secured by yellow police tape. The shots rang out just after noon, and officers with rifles quickly swarmed the scene. More than a half dozen Department of Public Safety cars quickly appeared, and troopers quickly surrounded the building. “We’re not aware of any injuries,” a department spokesman said. An artist from New York City said she was just inside the front doors of the Capitol when the shots were fired. She ran out the doors in time to see troopers holding a man down on the ground. “They were all over him,” the witness said. “I could hear him saying ‘my hands are up.’” The Texas governor was not in the building at the time, his office said, and many lawmakers were

away from Austin on Thursday because the legislature was not in session.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,583564,00.html?test=latestnews>

34. *January 21, Arizona Daily Sun* – (Arizona) **Page DES office gets two bomb threats.** The Page office for the State Department of Economic Security (DES) was searched earlier this week after two bomb threats were made. The Page police chief said an anonymous call was placed Monday to the Child Protective Services hotline in Phoenix. The caller disguised his or her voice and stated that they were going to “blow up” the Page or Flagstaff DES office Tuesday when staff members returned to work. A news release issued Thursday by the Page police chief said the police department received a call of the threat about 2:50 p.m. Monday. Once at the Page DES office, officers secured the area. They were met by the CPS supervisor, who told them of the threat. Officers and the Page Fire Marshal assisted in searching the interior and exterior of the building, the police chief said in his release. No sign of an explosive device was found. Officers returned to the scene about 8 a.m. Tuesday as employees arrived for work and conducted another search. Again, no sign of an explosive device was found. The CPS supervisor informed officers on the scene that the hotline had received another call around midnight and that the caller sounded like the original caller. This time, a vague threat was made toward northern Arizona, the police chief said. Page Police has been in contact with Flagstaff Police, Phoenix Police and the FBI. The Phoenix Police Department will be conducting the investigation because the call was received in the city of Phoenix.

Source: http://www.azdailysun.com/news/local/article_6440ee23-48fd-5d4e-929b-8ea1c1f08060.html

35. *January 21, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Bellingham DSHS office evacuated after threat, but no bomb found.** The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) office on Meridian Street was evacuated for a bomb threat Thursday morning, January 21, but a search found no explosives, police said. Employees were ushered out of the building around 10 a.m., according to witnesses. Police swept the building twice with the assistance of a bomb-sniffing dog, but did not find anything, said a Bellingham Police Department spokesman. The building was cleared at approximately 11:40 a.m., and employees were allowed back into the building shortly after the police spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.bellinghamherald.com/590/story/1255252.html?storylink=omni_popular

36. *January 21, Associated Press* – (Washington) **No threat from suspicious bag at McChord AFB gate.** An Air Force bomb squad used a robot to check a suspicious bag at McChord Air Force Base and found nothing dangerous. KOMO News reports the scare Thursday morning and the response by the military, Lakewood police, and Pierce County sheriff’s deputies disrupted traffic for a short time. A Sheriff’s spokesman said someone drove a stolen car near a gate, threw the bag over the fence and ran off.

Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_mcchord_package.html

37. *January 21, Network World* – (International) **80% of government Web sites miss DNS security deadline.** Most U.S. federal agencies — including the Department of Homeland Security — have failed to comply with a December 31, 2009, deadline to deploy new authentication mechanisms on their Web sites that would prevent hackers from hijacking Web traffic and redirecting it to bogus sites. Agencies were required to roll out an extra layer of security on their .gov Web sites under an Office of Management and Budget mandate issued in August 2008, although at least one expert calls that year-end deadline “a little aggressive.” Aggressive or not, independent monitoring indicates that only 20 percent of agencies show signs of deploying this new security mechanism, which is called DNS Security Extensions, or DNSSEC for short. DNSSEC is an Internet standard that prevents spoofing attacks by allowing Web sites to verify their domain names and corresponding IP addresses using digital signatures and public-key encryption. Secure64, a DNS vendor, researched 360 federal agencies to see how many of their Web sites showed signs of digital signatures on their .gov domains. OMB officials declined to say why the agency has not enforced the DNSSEC deadline for executive branch departments.
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/012010-dns-security-deadline-missed.html?hpg1=bn>
38. *January 20, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Reno court evacuated due to suspicious packages.** A courthouse building in downtown Reno has been evacuated while sheriff’s deputies investigate two suspicious packages left outside Reno Justice Court. Washoe County deputies closed off the streets and Reno Justice Court canceled the rest of the day’s calendar on Wednesday after a court security officer found the packages about 11:30 a.m. A police spokesman says there has been no direct threat made but that as precaution a regional bomb squad is investigating with a robot equipped with a camera. The evacuation affects both Reno Justice and Municipal Court on Sierra Street just south of the Truckee River but not Washoe County District Court a block to the east.
Source: http://www.marinij.com/tablehome/ci_14231747

For another story, see item [51](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

39. *January 22, Flynn Daily Item* – (Massachusetts) **Police station override fails in Swampscott.** Swampscott, Massachusetts, voters defeated a ballot question that would have allowed the town to borrow \$6 million to build a police station by a mere 224 votes. There were 3,240 voters opposed to the debt exclusion override and 3,016 in favor of borrowing money to build a new station on the site of the pumping station on Humphrey Street. The existing station was built in 1938 to accommodate a small police force in a community that was much smaller than it is today. According to the Police Station Building Committee, the station is in deplorable condition and does not meet

current safety standards.

Source: <http://www.thedailyitemoflynn.com/articles/2010/01/20/news/news02.txt>

40. *January 21, Colusa Sun Herald* – (California) **City fire station roof collapsing.** The roof of the Colusa, California, Fire Department has been collapsing for years, but Wednesday’s storm was the final straw. The urgent need to get the roof replaced has even drawn the attention of a U.S. Senator from California, city officials said Tuesday. The city manager said the fire station – built in 1964 – contains asbestos, a material typically used in roofing products throughout most of the 20th century. City officials believe with the state requirements for asbestos removal, the roofing project could cost the city as much as \$500,000. Colusa firefighters did their best during the recent storm to keep equipment from getting damaged, city officials said, but leaks also sprung over the firefighters’ living quarters.
Source: <http://www.colusa-sun-herald.com/news/roof-4184-collapsing-fire.html>

41. *January 21, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Vineland may have to delay fixing leaky emergency facility.** Vineland, New Jersey’s emergency management building has sprung several leaks over the past two years, and during the December northeaster water infiltrated the building and damaged dry wall, the fire chief said. Now city officials are evaluating how much money would be required to repair the building, which is a converted firehouse, or whether it is more economical to move to a new building. So far, the city has spent about \$5,000 on repairs. “We’re starting to get mold issues in the basement,” the chief said Thursday. The building likely will not be in line for immediate replacement due to other needs being more highly prioritized, the mayor said. City officials plan to include between \$3 million to \$4 million in their next capital budget for a new public works garage to replace one that also has flooding problems. That capital budget, expected out this spring, will likely also include about \$250,000 for a new public works truck.
Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/cumberland/article_33d5297c-06f1-11df-b2f1-001cc4c03286.html

42. *January 21, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Orlando says it can’t afford to replace firehouse plagued by mold.** Orlando officials have spent years doing patchwork repairs on a “sick” fire station where stubborn mold has contributed to the early retirement of at least two firefighters, but they say they don’t have the money to replace the aging building. One firefighter was granted a \$54,000-a-year disability retirement last month after a pension board concluded that poor air quality at Fire Station 9 contributed to her debilitating respiratory problems. She had worked in other firehouses during her seven years with the Orlando Fire Department, but she began having problems during a year-long assignment at busy Station 9 on Mercy Drive in northwest Orlando. Records show that city administrators have known about problems with mold and water intrusion since at least 2000. City officials said they have responded promptly whenever a complaint arises from any of the 24 firefighters assigned to Station 9.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/os-sick-fire-station-20100121,0,4756678.story>

43. *January 21, McClatchy* – (National) **Duke University to develop dirty bomb radiation test.** Duke University has received a \$3.7 million contract to develop a test for radiation exposure from a dirty bomb or nuclear attack. The contract comes from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, and could be worth up to \$43.6 million to Duke if the government renews it in the future. “Since 9/11, there has been national concern about the possibility of a terrorist attack in the U.S. involving radiological or nuclear materials. Such an attack could kill or injure hundreds of thousands of people,” says an associate professor of medicine at Duke and principal investigator of the project, in a Duke press release. “The problem is that right now, we don’t have any way to rapidly screen thousands of people to determine their level of radiation exposure. Many people who suffer radiation injury can recover and survive if they are promptly and properly treated.” The end product will be a portable, 30-minute test for radiation injury that can be used to triage thousands of individuals in a short time following a radiological or nuclear attack.
Source: <http://www.hanfordnews.com/news/2010/story/14609.html>

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Information Technology Sector

44. *January 22, Computerworld* – (International) **IE attacks pose small threat to U.S., big risk to China.** Chinese computer users are five times more likely than U.S. users to be targeted by hackers exploiting the just-patched bug in Microsoft’s Internet Explorer, a Web metrics company said on January 22. The attacks, which Symantec researchers say are coming from hundreds of sites, are only able to compromise computers running Internet Explorer 6 (IE6), the nearly nine-year-old browser bundled with Windows XP. While less than 10 percent of U.S. computer users run the ancient IE6, 50 percent of the PCs in China use that browser to access the Internet, according to the most recent data from NetApplications.com. Worldwide, IE6 accounted for 21 percent of all browsers used last month to surf the 40,000 Web sites that NetApplication.com monitors for its clients. Other sources say that China’s computer users are even more vulnerable to the growing attacks. StatCounter, an Irish metrics vendor, pegged IE6’s share of the China market last month at 62 percent, nearly 10 times greater than the 6.4 percent share the old browser enjoyed in the U.S. It’s ironic that Chinese users are more likely to fall victim to the attacks, since by most accounts the original exploit was created in China by Chinese hackers.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9147299/IE_attacks_pose_small_threat_to_U.S._big_risk_to_China
45. *January 21, The Register* – (International) **RockYou hack reveals easy-to-crack passwords.** Analysis of the 32 million passwords recently exposed in the breach of social media application developer RockYou last month provides further proof that consumers routinely use easy to guess login credentials. Sensitive login credentials - stored in plain text - were left exposed because of a SQL injection bug in RockYou’s website. RockYou admitted the breach, which applied to user password and email

addresses for widgets it developed, and pledged to improve security in order to safeguard against future problems. Database security firm Imperva analysed the frequency of password disclosed by the breach, prior to publishing a report on Thursday on Consumer Password Worst Practices, a problem illustrated by the top ten passwords thrown up by the RockYou security snafu. The five most common passwords used were 123456, 12345, 123456789, Password, and iloveyou. The trivial nature of the top ten RockYou passwords is bad enough, but worse is that nearly 50 per cent of passwords records exposed by the RockYou breach used names, slang words, dictionary words or trivial passwords (consecutive digits, adjacent keyboard keys), Imperva discovered. Password database breaches have happened before, of course, but the size of the RockYou breach allowed for the most in-depth analysis of real-world passwords to date. These days the average surfer maintains scores of login credentials for social networking and e-commerce sites.

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/21/lame_passwords_exposed_by_rockyou_hack/

46. *January 21, IDG News Services* – (International) **Widespread attacks exploit newly patched IE bug.** The first widespread attack to leverage a recently patched flaw in Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser has surfaced. Starting late on January 20, researchers at antivirus vendor Symantec's Security Response group began spotting dozens of Web sites that contain the Internet Explorer attack, which works reliably on the IE 6 browser, running on Windows XP. The attack installs a Trojan horse program that is able to bypass some security products and then give hackers access to the system, said a security intelligence manager with Symantec. Once it has infected a PC, the Trojan sends a notification e-mail to the attackers, using a U.S.-based, free e-mail service that Symantec declined to name. As of midday January 21, Symantec had spotted hundreds of Web sites that hosted the attack code, typically on free Web-hosting services or domains that the attackers had registered themselves. The IE flaw being leveraged in these attacks was also used to hack into Google's corporate network last December. It has been linked to similar incidents at 33 other companies, including Adobe Systems. Microsoft patched the vulnerability in an emergency security update in the morning of January 21.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9147179/Widespread_attacks_exploit_newly_patched_IE_bug

47. *January 21, DarkReading* – (National) **New details on targeted attacks on Google, others, trickle out.** New details about the targeted attacks against Google and other U.S. companies that resulted in the theft of source code and other intellectual property emerged Thursday, while Microsoft released an emergency patch for a flaw in Internet Explorer that was exploited in those attacks. The principal analyst for security and risk management at Forrester Research says Google the week of January 11 instituted an emergency update to its corporate VPN, raising questions about whether the network was in some way compromised in the attacks. But, she says, Google disputed her initial analysis that the attackers gained access to Google's server via its corporate VPN. "This is the first we've heard about the VPN involvement at Google. I'm not sure this

definitely qualifies as a VPN breach because we don't know what the attacker did to the VPN system — it's possible that the attacker used the user credentials to log in through the VPN without doing anything illegal to the VPN. Or it is possible that the attacker did attack the VPN system. But Google won't say one way or another," she says. A Google spokesperson declined to comment on her findings.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/database_security/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222400172

48. *January 18, AppleInsider* – (International) **Apple's iPhone touchscreen supplier faces violent employee strike.** More than 2,000 workers at a Wintek Corp. factory in Suzhou, China have gone on strike and destroyed equipment at their factory, potentially straining the supply of parts for Apple's iPhone. According to China Daily, factory workers the week of January 11 damaged equipment and vehicles in response to a number of alleged deaths from overexposure to toxic chemicals. Employees said they did not accept the local government's investigation into the matter. Bloomberg reported that the factory is a component supplier for the iPhone. On January 15, workers gathered in the morning and caused damage at the Suzhou Industrial Park. They also blocked off a road and threw rocks at police, though no casualties were reported. Various reports said that the workers were reacting to rumors of a canceled 2009 bonus, but one worker told China Daily the matter was not solely about money. Employees said there was a strong smell at the factory that they believe caused the deaths of four workers. The employees believe the deaths are attributed to an overexposure to hexane, a toxic chemical used to clean touchscreen panels at the factory.

Source:

http://www.appleinsider.com/articles/10/01/18/apples_iphone_touchscreen_supplier_faces_violent_employee_strike.html

For another story, see item [52](#)

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

49. *January 22, Computerworld* – (Oregon) **Prineville, Ore., pop. 10,000, is Facebook's new friend.** Facebook Inc. has selected Prineville, Oregon, as the home for its new data center. Among its attractions are good places for fishing and camping, as well as dry, cool air that's conducive to running large data center operations. The rural community, with a population of about 10,000 located in the center of the state, depends largely on

the production of forest-based products. Prineville was hit hard by the recession, as its unemployment rate hit 20 percent last year, said Prineville's city manager. Facebook said it will hire 35 fulltime employees to work at the 147,000 square foot facility, which was announced on January 21. It will also create some 200 construction jobs, and ongoing jobs for contractors hired to maintain the facility. Facebook had been leasing data center space on the East and West coasts. The Prineville facility will be its first custom built data center. Facebook is not saying how many servers it will install there, but it's a safe bet that the fast growing Palo Alto, California-based company will need an enormous IT operation that incorporates energy saving approaches.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9147318/Prineville_Ore._pop._10_000_is_Facebook_s_new_friend

50. *January 22, Columbia Missourian* – (Iowa; National) **Mediacom Internet outage affects 22 states.** An Internet outage affected Mediacom customers the night of January 20 and morning of January 21 in 22 states. The outage, which began in some areas the night of January 19, stemmed from a problem at Mediacom's Internet Network Operation Center in Iowa. A processing issue routed Internet network traffic incorrectly, a Mediacom spokeswoman said. It was not due to an equipment failure; traffic coding got changed within the system. This created problems with how the system responded and, in turn, caused customers to lose their Internet connections. Because the Internet and television signals are wired through different fibers, she said, the problem affected only Internet connections. Mediacom worked January 19 with its equipment vendors to identify the problem. Early January 21, Mediacom added additional monitoring technology to help address the issue. All customers in the 22 states affected should have Internet service now, and those customers still experiencing problems can try restarting their computers and rebooting modems or routers, she said. She said the company should be able to immediately address this issue should it arise again.
- Source: <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2010/01/22/mediacom-internet-fails-22-states/>

51. *January 22, Associated Press* – (California) **Computers down at all 168 California DMV offices.** A systemwide computer failure at the California Department of Motor Vehicles caused several hours of delays at all 168 offices Thursday. The offices remained open, but with computers unable to connect to the state's network, DMV workers were forced to do everything by hand, such as processing driver's licenses and registrations, a DMV spokeswoman said. DMV offices began experiencing problems connecting to the state's network around 11 a.m. Offices started to connect back around 2 p.m. The office of the state Chief Information Officer, which is in charge of state information technology, blamed the outage on equipment failure at the state's data center in Sacramento. "It was a router switch that malfunctioned," said a spokesman. "Network traffic was rerouted and the system is back up and running." It was not clear how long customers were being delayed because of the failure. He said no other state agencies were impacted, contrary to initial reports that other offices were affected by

the outage.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=9634243>

52. *January 21, The Register* – (International) **Targeted attacks replace botnet floods in telco nightmares.** Targeted attacks against backend systems have replaced botnet-powered traffic floods as the main concerns for security staff at telcos and large ISPs. Only one in five of the 132 senior telco security experts quizzed by DDoS security and network management specialists Arbor Networks reported the largest attacks they observed as lying within the one-to-four Gbps range last year, compared to 30 percent in 2008. The most potent DDoS attacks recorded in 2009 hit 49Gbps, a relatively modest 22 percent rise from the 40Gbps peak reached in 2008. Although botnet-enabled DDoS attacks the top operational threats faced by the network operators surveyed by Arbor, this may change in future. One in three (35 percent) of security managers at ISPs and telcos across the world quizzed by Arbor reckoned more sophisticated service and application-layer attacks are the biggest threat they face over the coming year. By comparison, 21 percent thought large-scale botnet attacks would be their single biggest problem during 2010. Service level attacks, while also driven from compromised networks of zombie PCs, are designed to exploit service weaknesses, like back-end database flaws rather than simply flooding a site with more traffic than it can handle. Several of the senior techies quizzed by Arbor reported prolonged (multi-hour) outages of prominent internet services last year as a result of application-level attacks. Systems targeted included distributed domain name system (DNS) rigs, load balancers and SQL server back-end infrastructures.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/21/arbor_teleco_security_survey/

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Commercial Facilities Sector

53. *January 22, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **Meth lab explosion rocks Kissimmee hotel.** Osceola County, Florida, deputies spent hours late Thursday night and early Friday morning dismantling a meth lab that exploded inside a Kissimmee, Florida, hotel. Everyone staying at the Carefree Inn and Suites on Highway 192 had to be evacuated for hours Thursday night after the explosion caused a fire in the room on the third floor. Osceola County Sheriff's deputies said two guests at the Carefree Inn and Suites were cooking methamphetamine in a third-floor room when the chemicals exploded. "The ground shook and then everybody said there was a bomb and that we need to evacuate," said a hotel guest. The blast happened just before 7:00pm Thursday night and more than one hundred hotel guests were evacuated. Deputies say the two people staying in the room were cooking meth when the chemicals exploded, blowing the door off its hinges and shattering windows. Eyewitnesses said they saw two people running from the hotel after the explosion, but the two people, who were injured, were soon caught by law enforcement officials. "One has minor injuries to his legs and one was taken to Osceola Regional Medical Center," said a spokesperson with the Osceola County Sheriff's Office. The sheriff's office says it is not uncommon to find meth labs inside hotel rooms, and it is a worst case scenario when an explosion happens because

of the proximity of other residents. Both people will face felony charges, deputies said.
Source: <http://www.wftv.com/countybycounty/22309426/detail.html>

54. *January 22, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Auto show in Detroit reopens after evacuation.** The North American International Auto Show has reopened after a small electrical fire forced the evacuation of thousands of people from exhibit halls at Detroit's Cobo Center. No injuries were reported in Thursday afternoon's fire. The show reopened several hours later. The fire was in the rafters above the Audi display and filled the main hall with smoke. An auto show spokesman says no vehicles were damaged. The Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority says a malfunction in a piece of electrical equipment caused the fire. The authority, which runs Cobo Center, says the exhibit halls were calmly evacuated.
Source: <http://www.registercitizen.com/articles/2010/01/22/business/doc4b5911db0627e580299318.txt>
55. *January 22, Associated Press* – (National) **North Carolina casino cleans slots every 2 hours to beat virus.** Workers are cleaning slot machines with bleach every two hours as a North Carolina casino battles a virus that has sickened nearly 250 people. The Asheville Citizen-Times reported Friday that Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Hotel is wiping down its 3,300 slot machines with a bleach and water mix around the clock. The outbreak since January 12 has caused intestinal troubles including vomiting and diarrhea. Door knobs, escalator handrails and restrooms are being sanitized hourly. A casino spokesman says the culprit is a norovirus that is sometimes a problem on cruise ships and at schools. A State epidemiologist says relatively few of the casino's 7,500 daily visitors have gotten sick.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,583641,00.html?test=latestnews>

For another story, see item [15](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

56. *January 22, Associated Press* – (Colorado; Wyoming) **Feds report latest effects of pine beetle outbreak.** The U.S. Forest Service is releasing a new report on the areas affected by the beetle infestation that has killed more than 2.5 million acres of pine trees in Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. Regional forest officials in Denver will release an aerial survey Friday showing the latest number of affected acres. The Forest Service announced last month that it is pumping \$40 million more into battling the tiny bugs that burrow under the bark of pine trees and lay their eggs. The needles on infected trees turn from green to rust before eventually falling off. Forest officials say threats from the strands of dead trees include the risk of catastrophic wildfires, injury and property damage from falling trees and damage to waterways from erosion.
Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=11863470>

57. *January 21, KTAR 92.3 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Potential avalanche advisory.** As this severe winter storm continues the Coconino County, Arizona, Sheriff’s Office and the Coconino National Forest are extending the warning to backcountry mountain travelers to be alert for potential avalanche hazards on the San Francisco Peaks. Due to the predicted heavy snowfall dangerous avalanche conditions may exist and may remain potentially hazardous for long periods. Snow depths are as much as 60” and individuals have already reported witnessing some natural avalanche activity. It is important for backcountry travelers to be aware that no avalanche control is conducted in the backcountry outside of the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Area boundary. At this point the majority of dirt roads in the northern portion of Coconino County are snow packed and impassable to vehicles. The avalanche potential in the higher backcountry is very real and presents an unacceptable hazard to anyone who may travel in the area and will remain a hazard for at least a week. The Coconino County Sheriff’s Office Strongly advises against backcountry travel given the current circumstances.
Source: <http://ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=1255433>

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Dams Sector

58. *January 22, HeraldNet* – (Washington) **Sunnyside dike breaches; flood threat negligible.** A broken portion of the levee that runs along Ebey Slough near Sunnyside south of Marysville, Washington caused minor flooding but no damage to homes or people Thursday afternoon. Diking District No. 4, which oversees flood control in the area, reported that the breach was close to 20 feet long. It was discovered about 2 p.m., County a Snohomish County spokesman said. “There are very few homes there and the homes that are up there should be high enough that they’re not in any imminent danger,” he said. County public works and state Department of Emergency Management crews were dispatched to help the diking district assess damage, he said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also was expected to send crews to help repair the breach. “With low tide, the water’s flowing out, so it’s pretty shallow flooding right now,” the spokesman said. District No. 4 is contiguous with the Diking District No. 2 levee upstream. Lake Steven’s sewage treatment plant is located nearby, but there’s no immediate threat to the treatment plant, he said.
Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100122/NEWS01/701229851>
59. *January 21, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Thurmond Dam turbines getting inspected.** Mechanics are inspecting the turbines at Thurmond Dam this month. The dam’s original seven turbines, built in the 1940s, were replaced one-by-one during a \$70 million renovation that began in the late 1990s. After the first few years of operation, the new units are shut down, one at a time, for an inspection to gauge how well they are performing. The inspections have found no problems with the mammoth stainless steel turbines. Weighing 40 tons apiece, and producing 72,500 horsepower per unit, they are vastly more efficient than the 59-ton iron turbines installed in the dam when it was built. “We still look for condition changes, cracks, things like that,” a mechanic said. Inspectors work within the cavelike pipes — called penstocks — that

force lake water through the dam to operate the turbines. Unlike the original units retired over the past decade, the new turbines have an oxygen-injecting “venting” feature to increase oxygen downstream, which enhances water quality and makes the lower channel more suitable for fish. The new units also generate 30 percent more electricity.

Source: http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2010/01/21/met_564111.shtml

60. *January 21, Clarion-Ledger* – (Mississippi) **Jones County dam bursts.** A dam on a private lake in Jones County burst on January 21, spilling out millions of gallons of water that threaten to damage another nearby dam, officials report. The burst dam, located on Poole Creek Road, is privately owned, said the director of the Jones County Emergency Management Agency. About 13 million gallons of water have spilled from that lake, much it flowing into the Rolling Hills Ranch Lake about a mile away. “Our concern is that this [Rolling Hills] lake’s dam won’t hold under the added pressure,” he said. “But so far there have been no evacuations, no one has been hurt and no agricultural operations have been affected. “It has affected wetlands primarily, so far.” As of early afternoon, officials from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency were on their way to evaluate the situation and make recommendations, he said. “We are also waiting on a helicopter from MDOT [the Mississippi Department of Transportation] to fly over for a survey. We want to make sure we haven’t overlooked anything and that the water has gone where we believe it has and not caused damage anywhere else.”

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20100121/NEWS/100121019/Jones+County+dam+bursts>

61. *January 21, XETV 6 San Diego* – (California) **Tijuana River Valley Levee Breached.** The Tijuana River Valley levee was breached late Thursday afternoon and the area was flooded. Horse owners worked quickly to pull their animals out of the water, fearing a repeat of last year when several horses and goats drowned in a flash flood. A resident who has lived in the area since 1977 has seen a lot of floods come and go and says the river is not the problem; it is government red tape and environmental groups that make it tough for residents and horses. “You got too many agencies involved in this,” he told San Diego 6. He says there is no single agency in charge. He says to get the river bed dredged and clear of debris you have to go through some 28 environmental and government agencies, which he says does not allow for the kind of care that is required to keep the river flowing. He says the city is required to clean the river bed every year but for more than one reason, has not in several years. And that, he says, means trouble for the levee.

Source: http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/story/San-Diego-River-Mission-Valley-flood-warning/_L2yQ4nWtE67nr21rhBcgQ.csp

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