



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 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, Monrovia, California police say a man who barricaded himself in a bank entrance Wednesday and claimed to have a bomb has surrendered in the Los Angeles foothill suburb. Hundreds of people were evacuated from Citizens Business Bank and nearby buildings. (See item [18](#))
- The Associated Press reports that federal officials are investigating an explosive device that was set off Thursday morning on train tracks near the James Madison University campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia. (See item [23](#))

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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 28, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **High benzene levels found on Barnett Shale.** Nearly one-fourth of the sites monitored in North Texas’ Barnett Shale natural-gas region had levels of cancer-causing benzene in the air that could raise health concerns, state regulators said on January 27. They emphasized, however, that gas companies have fixed the worst emission problems and are working on less-serious

sites where the state still wants benzene levels to come down. “We don’t have a widespread air-quality issue, at least according to the data,” said the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s deputy director for compliance and enforcement. The mayor of the tiny Denton County town of Dish criticized the study for not including enough tests in residential areas or enough long-term sampling. The town commissioned its own monitoring last year that found extremely high benzene levels. The commission report follows public worries over air and water effects from the Barnett Shale drilling boom, which has seen more than 12,000 wells drilled in metropolitan Fort Worth and areas to the north, west and south since about 2005. With wells come compressor stations and pipelines. Earlier this month, the commission said three days of air tests from Fort Worth found no cause for concern. It gave Flower Mound a similar report. The study covered the entire Barnett Shale region. In the state’s latest tests, two of the 94 places checked for airborne toxic chemicals had extremely high benzene levels – in one case, as much as a person might breathe in at a gasoline nozzle during a fill-up. Both were in eastern Wise County, about six miles west of Dish. State officials said new tests after companies fixed leaks showed negligible benzene in the air. At 19 other Barnett Shale sites – in Tarrant, Johnson, Hood, Parker, Wise and Denton counties – tests found benzene levels that were lower but still high enough to require reductions. Those sites are all being addressed, he said. The other 73 sites in the commission’s investigation had benzene levels that were below the commission’s long-term effects screening level. Below that level, said commission chief toxicologist, a lifetime exposure for 70 years would not be expected to harm a person. “Right now, based on the data we’ve seen, there’s no need for widespread alarm,” he said.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-shale.ART.State.Edition2.4bf8062.html>

2. *January 27, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Sabine-Neches Waterway reopens to limited traffic after oil spill.** The Unified Command, consisting of the Texas General Land Office, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Eagle Otome’s owner, opened the Sabine-Neches Waterway to limited traffic January 27 after moving the tank vessel Eagle Otome to the Sunoco oil terminal in Beaumont the evening of January 26. “The Unified Command has been working closely to get the waterway back open as safely as possible,” said Coast Guard captain of the port and federal on-scene coordinator for the response. “We are doing everything we can to provide much-needed relief to the region’s four large refineries.” Three tugs escorted the Eagle Otome, while two boats carried boom to prevent further spillage and a fire fighting barge was on scene to prevent any fires. Two pilots were on board the ship to further ensure its safe transit to Beaumont. Crews began unloading the Eagle Otome’s remaining 570,000 barrels of oil from the ship’s undamaged cargo tanks at approximately 4 a.m. January 27. An estimated 462,000 gallons of crude oil were spilled into the waterway as a result of the collision between the Eagle Otome and the Dixie Vengeance, which was pushing two barges. Unified Command responders have recovered an estimated 534, 000 gallons of oil/water mixture. They continue to work in the waterway to recover the remaining oil. Lightening operations for the barges that were being pushed by the towing vessel Dixie Vengeance, as well as the tank vessel Eagle Otome, were completed Monday night.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7242589>

3. *January 27, Ledger Independent* – (Kentucky) **Propane tank rouses suspicion.** A suspicious propane tank found at a Garrison convenience store is being investigated by authorities, according to the Lewis County Emergency Management Director. The tank was spotted on January 27 by workers picking up empty tanks that had been traded in for filled propane tanks. The tank in question raised a red flag with workers because there was some corrosion around the valve. “Propane doesn’t corrode like that,” the director said. Officials believe the tank may have been used to store anhydrous ammonia, a chemical used commercially as fertilizer. It differs from household ammonia because of its absence of water. To be on the safe side, workers alerted authorities which are keeping the tank for inspection. An investigator with the Kentucky State Police was coming from Lexington to take a look at the tank, according to the director. “That’s why we’re going this route,” he said. “We don’t want the propane people to take it and fill it up and put it back out there and have a bigger problem if someone used it on their grill.” In addition to being used as fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia is sometimes used in the illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine. Farmers that use the chemical store it in specially designed tanks strong enough to withstand internal pressures of at least 250 pounds per square inch. These tanks are typically very large to store a large amount of the chemical and its rare to see them stored in the smaller tanks, like the one found on January 27. Officials do not have any leads on who may have left the suspicious tank at the store, according to the director.

Source: http://www.maysville-online.com/news/local/article_922ede6e-0bce-11df-a936-001cc4c002e0.html

For more stories, see items [25](#), [48](#), and [59](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *January 27, Lowell Sun* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. chemical spill sends 15 to hospital.** A chemical spill inside the Siemens Water Technologies office building at 10 Technology Drive on January 26 sent 15 people to the hospital, including one employee who suffered respiratory burns to his eyes and throat, according to Lowell Deputy Fire Chief. Firefighters responding to a call about 7:57 a.m., found that a male employee in the building had been exposed to about a one-gallon spill of a cleaning solution containing 5 percent hydrochloric acid, the chief said. “He had irritation around the eyes and in his throat,” said the chief. “But he was pretty well washed up by the time we arrived. He was breathing on his own and ambulatory, but we ended up taking him by stretcher.” Fourteen others were also taken to Lowell General Hospital as a precaution to monitor any possible effects from breathing air containing the acid. The company sent about 240 employees home, according to an unidentified Siemens

employee, who declined to make any further comment. A phone call to a corporate contact number for Siemens reached an answering message that stated the facility was closed. Siemens contracted with Norwell-based Clean Harbors Environmental Services on January 26 to send a cleanup crew to the building to ensure that it's safe to reopen, the chief said. The cause of the spill is being investigated by the company and the Fire Department, according to the chief, although preliminary evidence seemed to indicate an accidental spill.

Source: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/hazmat-equipment/articles/750054-Mass-chemical-spill-sends-15-to-hospital/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *January 28, Mid Hudson News* – (New York) **First quarter IP siren test scores high.** Four of the 172 sirens in the Indian Point nuclear power plant alert area failed to sound Wednesday morning in the first quarter emergency siren test. The 97.7 percent success rate is well above the 94 percent threshold set by the NRC, said a Entergy spokesman. The spokesman said the company is satisfied with the results of this latest test. “There are 172 sirens. They are obviously outdoors and from time to time, there are minor maintenance issues with these sirens,” he said. Entergy has full-time staff assigned to their maintenance, the spokesman said. Of the four sirens that failed, three were in Westchester County and one was in Rockland County. Two of the problems may be related to power supply issues and the cause of the other two failures is under investigation.
Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2010/January/28/IP_siren_test-28Jan10.html
6. *January 26, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **List of buried piping released.** On Sunday, Entergy Vermont Yankee electronically filed a document with the Vermont Public Service Board detailing the extent of buried piping at the nuclear power plant in Vernon. The list was in response to a recent controversy over whether Yankee executives supplied adequate information about buried piping to the PSB and Nuclear Safety Associates, which was tasked with conducting a reliability assessment of the power plant. Entergy has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to extend the operating license of Yankee for another 20 years, from 2012 to 2032. In addition to NRC approval, Entergy must also receive a certificate of public good from the Public Service Board and the OK from the Vermont Legislature. The list encompasses more than 40 buried or subsurface pipes and systems, which Entergy executives and plant staff had previously said did not exist. Yankee attributed the shortcoming to a “miscommunication.” According to an affidavit attached to the list, it is a “comprehensive list that completely and accurately identifies all pipes and systems that meet my understanding” of the requirements outlined in the NSA audit. “Where was that list hiding?” said the spokesman for NEC. “How did someone miss that?” Entergy met with the Vermont Department of Public Service and NSA contractors to review the

list on January 26.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_14267582

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *January 28, WSBT 2 South Bend* – (Indiana) **Dust fire sends Elkhart plant employees into cold.** A reported dust fire sent employees of one Elkhart manufacturing facility out into the cold early Thursday. Firefighters were sent to Dexter Chassis on Elkhart's northeast side just before 5 a.m. The city's emergency dispatch center said workers had left the building because of the fire, and there were no reports of injuries. A photojournalist at the scene said the fire was quickly controlled and employees were back inside the building. There was no additional information on the extent of the damage.
Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/82878312.html>

8. *January 28, Greensboro News-Record* – (North Carolina) **Fire damages Tyco plant in Winston-Salem.** A fire Wednesday morning caused an estimated \$110,000 to a Tyco Electronics plant. The Winston-Salem Fire Department did not immediately say what caused the fire at the Tyco plant at 3920 Reidsville Road. Firefighters were called at 9:27 a.m. Wednesday and had the fire under control at 9:44 a.m. The fire department said the blaze broke out in the plant's automotive lab. The building sustained about \$10,000 in damage. Damage to equipment was estimated at \$100,000. No injuries were reported.
Source: http://www.news-record.com/content/2010/01/28/article/fire_damages_tyco_plant_in_winston_salem

9. *January 28, New York Daily News* – (International) **Toyota extends massive safety recall to Europe; Suspension of production could cost \$550M a month.** Toyota is extending to Europe the recall of millions of its most popular cars due to dangerous accelerator pedals, a further blow to the reputation of the world's largest car maker. Toyota said it had not yet determined how many vehicles in Europe would be recalled, or when, but media and analysts have said 2 million cars may be affected on top of some 6 million now recalled in North America. The recall and a related sales and production halt in North America of eight models including its best-selling Camry have damaged Toyota's once unshakeable record for safety and reliability. It comes as its grapples with a patchy recovery from a vicious global downturn in the industry and growing competition. "Toyota's got the resources to bounce back from this, but this is the biggest crisis that they have ever faced, and Ford and Hyundai and others are coming on strong," said an auto dealer consultant in Atlanta. A Toyota Europe spokeswoman said the models and exact number of potentially affected vehicles was under investigation but there was no need to stop production. Toyota late on Wednesday also offered to replace floor mats or pedals on another 1.1 million U.S. vehicles if customers wanted. With that voluntary measure, Toyota would be dealing with nearly 6 million U.S. vehicles for accelerator-related problems across its lineup, a

sweeping safety action that has emboldened its rivals.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/money/2010/01/28/2010-01-28_toyota_extends_massive_safety_recall_to_europe_suspension_of_production_could_co.html

10. *January 28, Courthouse News Service* – (National) **Rescue hooks could dump injured, says FAA.** Certain hooks on helicopter hoists could fail during rescue operations, causing the rescued passenger to fall, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and a European safety agency. The FAA is requiring that helicopter operators switch out the unsafe hooks before performing up to 200 hoist lifts. Rescue hoist operators had reported surface irregularities and discontinuities in hooks in D-Lok Hook Assemblies made by Lifesaving Systems Corporation that were made of cast material instead of forged material. This change in manufacturing was unapproved, according to European Aviation Safety Agency airworthiness information sent to the FAA. The FAA has noted that with the design change, the hooks are not approved for use in aircraft operating in the United States. The part that must be changed out is from lot numbers 208 and 1108 of D-Lok Hooks assembly part number 410-A and 410-F. D-Loks are used on Goodrich and Breeze-Eastern rescue hoist assemblies, which, in turn, are used by Eurocopter and Sikorsky helicopters, among others.

Source: http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/01/28/Federal_Regulations.htm

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *January 28, Aviation Week* – (National) **GMD facing countermeasures in upcoming test.** The U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) plans to conduct a flight test of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system January 31 and hopes to execute the first-ever intercept attempt by the Airborne Laser soon after. The goal of the GMD test will be to achieve an intercept against a new target, the Lockheed Martin LV-2, according to an MDA spokesman. This will also be the first flight of this target type, an intermediate-range ballistic missile that will deploy countermeasures during the test. Last fall, program officials said this would be the most complex test to date of the GMD system. With a target launching from Meck Island and the interceptor boosting from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, the test will feature similar geometry to a launch from North Korea. This flight test originally was slated for last September. An intercept attempt also was a goal in a December 2008 flight test of the GMD system against a different target. But during that test the countermeasures developed by Sandia National Laboratories failed to deploy.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=defense&id=news/asd/2010/01/28/01.xml

12. *January 27, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Chemical fire at Ariz. Raytheon plant injures 2.** Two people were hurt in a fire Wednesday at a Raytheon chemical storage

compartment near the Tucson airport. A Tucson Fire Department spokesman says he did not have information on their injuries. It also was not immediately known what type of chemicals were stored where the blaze broke out. The spokesman says the fire started just before 11:30 a.m. at Raytheon's main facility south of Tucson International Airport. He says hazardous materials teams from Raytheon and the Tucson Fire Department fought the blaze, which was put out before 1 p.m.

Source: <http://www.kgun9.com/Global/story.asp?S=11889935>

13. *January 27, MyCentralJersey.com* – (New Jersey) **South Plainfield firm evacuated after chemical reactor leak.** Employees of a communications hardware manufacturer are expected back at work Thursday a day after production was disrupted by a chemical leak that forced evacuation of the business. “There were no injuries,” said a spokesman for the Middlesex County Health department, which dispatched a six-member Hazardous Materials Unit team to clean up the discharge, which occurred around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at CyOptics Inc. The leak was contained to the site, located in a light-industrial park, and no surrounding businesses were in danger. “It was an acid-base reaction due to a hood-system malfunction. It caused a vapor cloud, and one building was evacuated,” said the spokesman. The exact chemicals involved were not immediately available. After local police, firefighters, first-aiders and emergency management personnel arrived, the leak was isolated, the area ventilated and the air tested for acid levels before the scene was declared safe again around 4 p.m. A hazardous materials team from Union County assisted in the effort. CyOptics designs, develops and markets optical chips and components for integration into communications systems.
Source: <http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20100127/NEWS/100127053/-1/newsfront/South-Plainfield-firm-evacuated-after-chemical-reactor-leak>

14. *January 25, United Press International* – (International) **‘Magic Wand’ probed in Iraq.** The Iraqi prime minister has ordered an investigation into a British-made detection device after the government in London said it was ineffective and the manufacturer's director was arrested on charges of fraud last week. Britain has banned the export of ADE651, manufactured by the British-based company ATSC, following recent reports exposed by the Independent daily and the BBC challenged its effectiveness. The reports have already propelled Britain to pull the plug on exports related to the gadget. Known as “the magic wand,” the device uses a series of interchangeable credit card size paper cards said to be able to detect explosives such as C4 and TNT, as well as weapons. The gadget has been widely used in Iraq as it is believed to have been sold in bulk to Iraqi security forces before Britain imposed the export ban. The U.S. military has been particularly harsh in its reviews of the device, claiming that the “magic wand” contained only a chip to detect theft from stores. The claim was based on a study released in June by U.S. military scientists, using x-ray and laboratory analysis. “The examination resulted in a determination that there was no possible means by which the ADE651 could detect explosives and therefore was determined to be totally ineffective and fraudulent,” a U.S. military spokesman was quoted saying to a string of American and British news outlets. He explained that the U.S. military and private contractors assigned to guard Baghdad's international airport

and main road use “tried and tested” sniffer dogs to detect explosives instead.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2010/01/25/Magic-Wand-probed-in-Iraq/UPI-67641264459854/

For another story, see item [8](#)

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *January 28, WSAU 99.9 Rudolph* – (Wisconsin) **Credit card scam.** There are reports of credit card scam in the Wausau, Wisconsin, area. Several people have received phone calls from people claiming to be from their bank, saying their credit card has been deactivated because of suspected fraud. The person asks for the card number and PIN over the telephone to fix the problem. Co-Vantage Credit Union says several of their members have received similar calls. Banks and credit card companies do not ask for PIN numbers over the phone. People who receive these calls should hang up and call police and their financial institution.

Source: <http://new.wsau.com/news/articles/2010/jan/28/credit-card-scam/>

16. *January 28, Bank Info Security* – (National) **Fed bank offers report on lessons learned from Heartland data breach.** The Payment Cards Center of the Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) of Philadelphia has published “Heartland Payment Systems: Lessons Learned from a Data Breach,” a discussion paper on the Heartland Payment Systems breach. The paper is a summation of a workshop held in August 2009 at the Philadelphia FRB, where the CEO of Heartland led a discussion of the events surrounding the breach and lessons learned as a result. Heartland Payment Systems announced on January 20, 2009 that it had been the victim of what is now thought to be the largest breach of card data, an estimated 130 million payment cards taken by hackers over a six-month period. In his presentation, the CEO shared details of the breach and what actions the company and industry are taking. Joining the CEO in the workshop was the former director of the Payment Cards Center, who now is a senior payments advisor to Heartland. They outlined Heartland’s post-breach efforts, which are directed to improving information sharing and data security within the consumer payments industry. The CEO introduced several technology solutions that are under discussion in payment security circles as ways to better secure payment card data as they move among the different parties in the card payment systems: end-to-end encryption, tokenization and chip technology.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2125

17. *January 28, eSecurity Planet* – (International) **Starwood a victim of credit card fraud.** Hotel chain Starwood has warned that anyone who stayed at its hotels in Germany may have been a victim of credit card fraud. “The New York-based company owns chains such as Sheraton, Westin, and Le Méridien, and believes that some customers who carry ‘Miles and More’ cards — a frequent flyer partnership between Lufthansa and Deutsche Kreditbank (DKB) — may have been the victim of illegal

charges during their stays, daily Financial Times Deutschland reported,” according to The Local. “The problem may be the result of electronic failures similar to the glitch that caused banks in Germany and Spain to recall some 250,000 bank cards between July and November of 2009,” the article states.

Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/headlines/article.php/3861286/Starwood-a-Victim-of-Credit-Card-Fraud.htm>

18. *January 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Man who made bomb threat at LA-area bank surrenders.** Monrovia police say a man who barricaded himself in a bank entrance and claimed to have a bomb has surrendered in the Los Angeles foothill suburb. The city spokesman says the man walked out and gave himself up on the afternoon of January 27. No bomb was found. Officials say hundreds of people were evacuated from Citizens Business Bank and nearby buildings after the man shoved a note under the closed door at around 10 a.m. claiming he had a bomb. The spokesman says the bank staff refused to open the bank door but the man barricaded himself in the foyer.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-bank-threat,0,4516737.story>

19. *January 27, DarkReading* – (National) **Identity thieves successfully targeting wealthy victims, study says.** According to a study issued on January 27 by Experian, a company that does both identity fraud protection services and marketing demographics services, the most likely victims of identity fraud are those with the most money. The study — which was created using Experian’s unlikely combination of identity fraud incidence statistics with basic consumer demographics — indicates that identity thieves are successfully targeting the wealthy and affluent, regardless of the systems and software they use. According to Experian, consumers in the “Affluent Suburbia” category — the wealthiest of the company’s 12 demographic categories - are 43 percent more likely to fall victim to identity fraud as the average credit applicant. Experian describes Affluent Suburbia as “the wealthiest households in the U.S., living in exclusive suburban neighborhoods and enjoying the best everything has to offer.” Individuals in the “Upscale America” category are 22 percent more likely to fall prey to identity fraud than the average credit applicant, Experian says. Upscale America is defined as “college-educated couples and families living in metropolitan sprawl, earning upscale incomes that provide them with large homes and very comfortable, active lifestyles.” The study offers a different perspective on identity fraud than more technical studies, which suggest that the most likely victims of identity fraud are those who don’t deploy security software or are ignorant of best practices.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/securityservices/security/privacy/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222600185>

20. *January 27, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **ATM hacked into at Forest Hills PNC bank.** Some customers of a PNC bank ATM located in Forest Hills have been the victims of a skimmer. A Pittsburgh couple discovered \$1,400 missing. The couple said they completed a fraud complaint with the bank and was expected to get the money

back in a few days. PNC is warning their customers and ATM users to look for signs of tampering on the machines before use. Users are also to check their statements monthly and report any activity they see as suspicious.

Source: <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/allegeny/22360755/detail.html>

For another story, see item [48](#)

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Transportation Sector

21. *January 28, NJ.com* – (Florida) **Suspended Hoboken cop caused disturbance in security area at Tampa Airport.** A Hoboken Police lieutenant, who is currently on a two-year paid suspension from the force following a 2007 SWAT team scandal in Hoboken, caused a disturbance at Tampa International Airport in Florida on January 18, police reported. According to a Tampa police log, two TIA police officers responded to a disturbance call when the man, who was in line for a flight to New Jersey, became irate when airline flight crew members were permitted to pass him in line at a Transportation Security Administration checkpoint. He took pictures of TSA agents' badges, police said.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/hoboken/index.ssf?/base/news-2/126466357070450.xml&coll=3>

22. *January 28, New York Daily News* – (New York) **TSA worker put on desk duty after she was spotted sleeping at LaGuardia Airport.** A Transportation Security Administration worker was put on desk duty after she was spotted sleeping in plain sight at LaGuardia Airport. A Brooklyn traveler said he had just arrived at his departure gate on Sunday when he saw the uniformed worker snoozing in a chair, head resting in her hand. The passenger snapped a photo of the worker, who woke up about 10 minutes later during an announcement that the Frontier Airlines flight to Denver was boarding, he said. After rising from her seat, the groggy employee immediately joined her colleagues who were performing secondary security checks at the gate, the passenger said. "To be fair, she could have been on a break. But you don't go to a precinct and see a police officer sleeping at their desk," he said. The passenger posted the picture on his Web site. Someone sent a link to TSA officials Tuesday and the worker was immediately interviewed, an agency spokeswoman said. The guard was put on desk duty pending the outcome of an investigation. "We recognize that our officers have very demanding jobs that require constant vigilance and hours on their feet," a TSA spokeswoman said. "But nonetheless, it was completely inappropriate for her to rest in a public area while on her break as opposed to a nearby break room." Critics of the TSA say the latest incident is minor compared with the other flubs, but revealing nonetheless. "These people are underpaid, overworked. They don't stay in the job long, which tells you a lot about job satisfaction," said a security expert. "It all makes sense that you would see this sort of thing, but there's so many egregious things that the TSA is doing that this doesn't even [bother me]."

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2010/01/28/2010-01->

[28 terrorist would have little trouble getting past tsa guard at lag bad snooze for.html](#)

23. *January 28, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Explosive device set off on Virginia train tracks, feds say.** Federal officials say they are investigating an explosive device that was set off on train tracks near a college campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia. A spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said local residents reported hearing a boom about 6:30 a.m. Thursday. He said local police have investigated and determined there was an explosive device on train tracks near the campus of James Madison University at Cheapeake Street and Cantrell Avenue. He said there were no injuries and terrorism is not suspected. He said ATF and the Harrisonburg police department have launched a criminal investigation. He said ATF has sent seven people to the scene, including two explosives experts.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,584155,00.html>
24. *January 27, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (National) **U.S.-bound ship cargo to get more scrutiny.** Though 100 percent screening of maritime cargo would be prohibitively costly and cause huge delays, the Department of Homeland Security announced today a security measure intended to improve knowledge about ship cargo headed for U.S. ports, such as Philadelphia. The Homeland Security Secretary said U.S. Customs and Border Protection had begun enforcing a cargo-reporting requirement that ocean carriers and importers submit additional details about U.S.-bound cargo 24 hours before it is loaded onto vessels in foreign seaports. The rule aims to help identify high-risk cargo, such as hazardous materials, but will not have an effect on local port operations. “It’s more of a clerical information flow required from shippers and brokers,” said the executive director of the Port of Wilmington. “We, at the port level, have nothing to do with that,” he said. “That’s between the steamship lines and Customs.” Since the September 2001 terrorist attacks, vessels with U.S.-bound cargo are required to send ship manifests to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement 24 hours before sailing. The manifest information is transmitted to a national center and analyzed, and high-risk cargo is inspected before leaving foreign ports. The new screening measure asks for details about where the cargo came from, who the shipper is, who the manufacturer was, etc. “From our perspective in the port here, it won’t be any different,” the head of Holt Logistics said. “This gives Customs a lot more time to screen the information that the exporters and shippers give them. And it also gives them additional information, different data elements, that will help them identify high-risk cargoes,” he said. “So when cargoes do get here, Customs can either put them aside for further scrutiny, or expedite cargo they may not have to inspect. The key is to get to a point that cargo doesn’t get on the ship unless it’s prescreened,” he said.
Source: http://www.philly.com/inquirer/breaking/business_breaking/82848082.html
25. *January 27, Rome News-Tribune* – (Georgia) **Police: Wooden bridge collapsed under propane truck, no leaks reported.** Floyd County emergency officials had Old Cedartown Highway blocked off for several hours Wednesday afternoon when a propane truck fell into a creek after a wooden bridge collapsed underneath it. According to the police, the propane truck, which was attempting to make a delivery at

1344 Old Cedartown Road, got stuck late Wednesday morning after the steel structure underneath the private wooden bridge gave way. Firefighters had safety lines in place just in case there were problems, but that no propane had leaked out from the truck. The Rome LP Gas truck, a 2004 Kenworth weighing more than 20,000 pounds, was turning from Old Cedartown Highway onto a private drive when the bridge gave way from the truck's weight. Police said the road was shut down around 11:30 a.m. as a precaution, and that another propane truck was called to get the load of material from the first vehicle. The road was reopened around 5 p.m.

Source: http://romenews-tribune.com/view/full_story/5675554/article-Police--Wooden-bridge-collapsed-under-propane-truck--no-leaks-reported?instance=news_page_secondary_local

26. *January 27, WPDE 15 Florence* – (South Carolina) **Jet makes emergency landing in Myrtle Beach.** A flight from New York to Charleston made an emergency landing in Myrtle Beach Wednesday afternoon. The Delta commuter jet with 19 people onboard landed after a smoky odor in the cabin. Delta says the plane was a Comair commuter jet. No one was injured. The passengers were taken by taxi to Charleston.
Source: <http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=408117>
27. *January 27, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **US looks to UN for new airline security standards.** The United States is looking to a low-profile UN agency to help set tough new global airline security standards, the Homeland Security Secretary and officials said Tuesday. Chastened by a Christmas Day plot to blow up a trans-Atlantic passenger jet, the US is looking to the International Civil Aviation Organization to rally countries toward new minimum security requirements. Following a meeting with European Union and airline industry representatives last week, the Secretary said there was now “a clear sense of urgency to take immediate action to strengthen security measures.” The Secretary said the ICAO had backed a series of regional meetings to discuss new rules, but did not go further. US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the ICAO could provide new global rules, with one source expressing hope that legislation could start to take shape by the middle of the year. The US is also pressing for quicker transfer of passenger information as it tries to address some of the intelligence failings of the Christmas Day attack.
Source:
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gqLgt_pywpJyhVxgPyQUO7snIBfA
28. *January 27, Aviation Week* – (International) **Feds remind pilots: screen Haiti passengers.** Business aircraft operators planning to assist directly in the Haiti relief effort are being alerted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that they are required to screen all passengers before boarding flights to the United States, as well as filing manifests and getting CBP permission before departure. That notification was issued earlier this week, in response to the ongoing airlift of supplies and medical personnel to the devastated island nation. Specifically, CBP says no rules have been suspended for the effort and thus pilots of private aircraft are required to electronically transmit passenger and crew manifest information for all flights arriving in to or

departing from the United States. Pilots of private aircraft are also obliged to take what the agency calls “reasonable steps” to prevent the boarding of improperly documented aliens at Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince and any other ports of embarkation in Haiti and third countries.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=busav&id=news/awx/2010/01/27/awx_01_27_2010_p0-200066.xml

For more stories, see items [2](#), [10](#), [48](#), [60](#), and [61](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

29. *January 26, WMTV 15 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **Sheriff’s department investigates mailbox bombs.** From the Grant County Sheriff’s Office: Resident in the 1800 block of Model Road in Cuba City notified the Grant County Sheriff’s Department that their mailbox had been damaged sometime Saturday evening, the 23rd, to Sunday morning, the 24th. It appeared someone had placed a plastic bottle, with some kind of chemical in it, that caused a small explosion and damaged the mailbox. Another mailbox was found with the same type of material in it on Slaats Road, but no damage was claimed. Source: <http://www.nbc15.com/news/headlines/82726052.html>
30. *January 25, WETM 18 Elmira* – (New York) **Postal threats.** An Elmira man could be facing federal charges after police say he made threats to Elmira postal workers Friday night. Police identified the man as a 50 year old from Elmira. The President of the Postal Union says the suspect made death threats over the phone to employees at the Sullivan Street facility. Elmira Police are not getting into specifics of those threats. But they have met with postal inspectors to see if federal charges could be filed. The suspect was arrested on January 22 in Elmira and charged with aggravated harassment. Police say the suspect has a connection with a person who is currently employed at the facility. But they would not say what that connection was. Source: <http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Postal-Threats/JJWo0q-jh0e1JIODNe4slw.csp>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

31. *January 28, Food Safety News* – (International) **Pepper tests positive, FSIS names retailers.** The black pepper used to coat the salami products on the 1.24 million pound recall list put out by Rhode Island’s Daniele Inc. have now tested positive for Salmonella, the company says. The specialty meat company declines to say who supplies its pepper. The recalled meat is associated with an outbreak involving at least 189 victims of multiple strains of Salmonella in 40 states. The January 23 recall is now spreading around the world. Hong Kong’s Center for Food Safety on January 26

ordered stores to stop selling Daniele brand Italian sausage products containing black pepper. It warned consumers to stop eating the ready-to-eat sausage products. Canada already took similar action and other countries are sure to follow.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/01/pepper-tests-positive-fsis-names-retailers/>

32. *January 27, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (National) **New Jersey firm recalls instant noodle products imported from an unapproved source.** Well Luck Co., Inc., a Jersey City, New Jersey establishment is recalling approximately 50,000 pounds of instant noodle products that were ineligible for import to the U.S., the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced. Well Luck Co., Inc., is recalling the instant noodle products because they do not meet product inspection or exemption requirements for poultry, beef, and pork. The foreign inspection system of the country where the beef, poultry, and pork ingredients originated, China, has not been deemed to be equivalent as required by federal regulations. The problem was discovered after FSIS identified the products in the marketplace. The instant noodle products were distributed to retail establishments nationwide. FSIS has received no reports of illness as a result of consuming these products.

Source:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_007_2010_Release/index.asp

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Water Sector

33. *January 27, WTVC 9 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Sewage shutdown problem identified and repaired.** The culprit has been pinpointed triggering an estimated 137 million gallon raw sewage spill into the Tennessee River. A high voltage line arced inside a switch box at Moccasin Bend's sewage treatment plant. That caused an arc into a metal panel and ungrounded high voltage surged out. That destroyed all the equipment on this power pole and two sections of line and effectively shut the plant down. It took about 19 hours to restore the plant. Raw sewage was unable to flow in and be processed during that timeframe. EPB crews worked deep into Tuesday night making the repair. Moccasin Bend had to rent a massive generator out of Knoxville to restore power. The director says a back-up generator for critical parts may be considered in the next budget. Another change is also planned. He explained, "We'll probably end up expanding our inspection program on all of our electrical stuff." He added the fluctuation of hot and cold temperatures over recent weeks may have contributed to this one line arcing. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation says because of all the rainfall and TVA's release of 80 billion gallons of water boat owners down river have nothing to worry about. The water level was too high for environmental officers to take samples Wednesday.

Source: <http://www.newschannel9.com/news/identified-988261-problem-repaired.html>

34. *January 27, Associated Press* – (Washington) **King County fined for December sewage spill.** King County, Washington, has been fined \$24,000 for a December sewage spill that the Department of Ecology says could have been prevented. The 8.7-million-gallon release of untreated sewage flowed nearly 3 hours into the Puget Sound off West Point. The December 14 spill had originally been estimated at 10 million gallons. An investigation found operators failed to follow the wastewater treatment plant's standard operating procedures and did not use a backup system that could have closed the gate within minutes. An ecology official says the backup system was tested and ready, but not used during the kind of incident for which it was designed.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_sewage_spill.html?source=mypi
35. *January 27, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Louisiana) **Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans agrees to reinstate program to improve sewage system damaged by Hurricane Katrina.** The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans has agreed to reinstate its comprehensive program — stalled for several years in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina — to make extensive improvements to reduce or eliminate sewage overflows into the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain, and its storm drainage canal system, the Justice Department and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Wednesday. According to a Clean Water Act settlement filed Wednesday that modifies a 1998-agreement, the Sewerage and Water Board has agreed to continue to repair its antiquated sewage collection system. Prior to 1998, the system had been overwhelmed causing overflows of raw sewage into waterways and streets of New Orleans. Those efforts were put on hold for several years due to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. As part of its ongoing remediation program, estimated to cost more than \$400 million from its inception in 1998, the board has agreed to repair all of its 62 pump stations damaged by the hurricane, as well as any other hurricane damage in the portions of the collection system served by those pump stations. By no later than July 2015, the board will complete additional studies required by EPA and make all necessary repairs and upgrades to its collection system, including measures designed to provide dependable electrical services at its treatment plant in the event of a future catastrophic event. The board will also design and implement a new preventive maintenance plan to inspect and clean its sewer lines and pump stations to prevent sewage overflows, and will continue efforts under its sewage overflow action plan designed to minimize the impact of such overflows on the environment. Now that the system serves only about 60 percent of people that it served before Katrina hit, the board has agreed to report each year on population changes and to evaluate any need for increased capacity for its pump stations, force mains, and treatment plant.
Source:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/6E81AF7CEB5C4516852576B800693FD>
[D](#)
36. *January 26, WTVY 5 Dothan* – (Alabama) **Sewage plant has tough time dealing with excessive rain.** The Beaver Creek Wastewater Treatment plant was designed to take in 6 million gallons of water a day max. But because of all the rain, they are seeing up to 12 million gallons come through. It is a problem that city officials have been dealing with for years. Beaver creek wastewater treatment facility is struggling to keep up. “I

think Beaver Creek sees 3 to 4 million gallons of sewage a day and then all of the sudden it rains heavy and the plant is asked to take in over 10 million gallons and the plant just wasn't designed to do that," said the city manager. When too much water comes in, the facility can not cope, meaning the quality of the water released back into the environment is lessened. "The waste coming into Beaver Creek can't stay in there long enough to be processed thoroughly and meet our permit requirements," he said. "Beaver Creek is the oldest treatment plant in the city it's in the fastest growing area of the city in growth in development." That is why in 2005, city leaders decided to spend tens of millions of dollars to build a new facility. "Sewer work is some of the most expensive work you'll do. The 45 million dollar project is the largest capital project the city has ever undertaken," he said. The little Choctawhatchee plant is being upgraded. Officials expect construction on the new facility to be complete by October 2011. The city manager says right now the city is being sued by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for several violations. He says before the lawsuit goes any further, he hopes ADEM takes into account that the city has taken progressive steps to fix the problem.

Source: <http://www.wtvynews4.com/news/headlines/82726797.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

37. *January 28, HealthLeaders Media* – (California) **California hospitals fined for alleged immediate jeopardy mistakes.** California health officials fined 13 hospitals a total of \$650,000 Wednesday for 16 "immediate jeopardy" medical mistakes that caused or could have caused patient harm, including at least three that may have led to patient deaths. "In issuing these administrative penalties, our goal...is to improve the quality of healthcare at all California hospitals," said the deputy director of the California Department of Public Health. "We want California hospitals to be successful in their efforts to reduce hospital acquired infections, decrease medical errors, and eliminate surgical errors." She said that money from the penalties eventually will be used on projects "to determine how these violations or deficiencies can be decreased and eliminated over time." Most of the hospital errors in this round of announced fines occurred in 2009, although several occurred in 2008.

Source: <http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/content/QUA-245624/California-Hospitals-Fined-for-Alleged-Immediate-Jeopardy-Mistakes>

38. *January 27, San Francisco Business Times* – (California) **UCSF says laptop with 4,400 patient records stolen, then recovered.** UC San Francisco said Wednesday that a laptop containing files with information on 4,400 patients was stolen from a UCSF School of Medicine employee on or about November 30. The university said January 27 that it is in the process of alerting affected patients that their health information "is vulnerable to access as a result of the incident." Information "potentially exposed" included name, medical record number, age, and clinical information, but the stolen

laptop did not contain any Social Security numbers or other financial data, officials said. “Although there is no indication that unauthorized access to the files or the laptop actually took place,” UCSF said, both UCSF and another affected medical center began sending out notifications to patients this month. UCSF’s police department began an investigation December 1, and the laptop was recovered in Southern California on January 8, nearly three weeks ago. The university said a review by UCSF Enterprise Information Security determined that the files contained “limited data” for some patients about treatment at the UCSF Medical Center in 2008 and 2009. In addition, the employee in question had uploaded some files from a prior employer, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, and these files also contained some Beth Israel patient data, according to UCSF.

Source:

<http://sanfrancisco.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/stories/2010/01/25/daily54.html>

39. *January 27, New York Times* – (Louisiana) **Louisiana wins fight for hospital.** Ending one of the longest-running disputes left by Hurricane Katrina, a federal arbitration panel ruled Wednesday that Louisiana would receive \$474.8 million — nearly all it had requested — to pay for the replacement of Charity Hospital in New Orleans, which has been closed since the storm. The ruling is a significant victory for state and city officials, and gives a major boost to plans to replace Charity, a state-owned hospital for the indigent, with a new \$1.2 billion academic medical center in the Mid-City neighborhood. The state argued that Charity met the federal standard for replacement because damages caused by the 2005 storm amounted to more than half its value.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/us/28charity.html?hpw>

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Government Facilities Sector

40. *January 28, The Register* – (National) **Congressional websites befouled by mucky-mouthed hackers.** A number of Congressional websites were defaced with abuse aimed at the U.S. President following the January 27 State of the Union address. Websites maintained by Congressmen from Texas, Alabama, and Washington were replaced with a one-line abusive message aimed at the U.S. President by the “Red Eye Crew” from Brazil in the early hours of January 28 morning. The affected sites are all hosted on the house.gov domain, but only a minority of sites resident on the domain were hacked to display digital graffiti. Some Congressional committee websites were also affected. At least some of the affected sites remain defaced on the morning of January 28. Praetorian Prefect reports that the common thread linking the defaced sites was use of the Joomla content management system. Even though many other Congressional sites based on Joomla remain unaffected, this still suggests that the long-active Red Eye Crew defacement gang used flaws in Joomla to pull off its latest hack. No site redirection or malware was involved in the assault.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/28/congress_website_defacement/

41. *January 27, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **2 teens in custody after school bomb scare.** Two 15-year-old boys suspected in a four-hour bomb scare at Tierrasanta middle school are in custody Tuesday, police said. The teens were caught on surveillance video attaching a suspicious looking device to a fence at Farb Middle School Tuesday afternoon, a San Diego police officer said. Someone called 911 to report the roughly foot-long cylinder with protruding wires about 4 p.m., and arriving officers alerted the San Diego Fire- Rescue Department’s Metro Arson Strike Team. The school was placed on lockdown and later evacuated, along with the Murphy Canyon Recreation Center, while experts examined the device, which turned out to be a fire extinguisher for putting out kitchen fires in restaurants. The boys said they found it in a nearby canyon. Police tracked down the teens using surveillance video and booked them into Juvenile Hall on suspicion of possessing a hoax device. Their names were withheld because they are minors.
Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/22352926/detail.html>
42. *January 27, MIT News* – (Massachusetts) **Phishing alert; MIT computer users may be receiving fraudulent alert e-mails.** Wednesday morning, many computer users at MIT noticed an e-mail in their inboxes with the following subject line: MADATORY SECURITY UPDATE - JANUARY 2010 [spelling error intact] The message goes on to ask the user to login to their e-mail account to ensure their account information is up to date, due to an upgrade to an “advanced server” to prevent spam from reaching their inbox. A link is provided, with a URL that has mit.edu included in it. This message is not from MIT. Many members of the MIT community are aware that such messages are fraudulent and will ignore them. But it is important to spread the word to those who may fall for such messages. If a user clicks the link, his or her username and e-mail password could be compromised. Within minutes, the hackers will be able to login to the user’s e-mail account and use it to send out the spam they claim in their message they are trying to prevent.
Source: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2010/phishing-alert.html>
43. *January 27, Foxnews.com* – (New York; District of Columbia) **Boehner: ‘No Way’ terrorist trials will be held in New York.** The top Republican in the House is vowing to prevent any trial of terror detainees at Guantanamo Bay from being held in New York City. The House Minority Leader said Wednesday that the Presidential Administration does not have the votes to change the law to move detainees to U.S. territory for trial or to spend \$500 million to refurbish the Thompson prison in Illinois to host the detainees who would be held there while awaiting trial in New York City. The New York City Mayor also said Wednesday that he’d be “very happy” if the administration moved the trials out of lower Manhattan. The Senate Minority Leader said the September 11 suspects should not be tried in civilian court, calling the idea of trying the alleged mastermind in New York City “stunning.” The Justice Department pushed back, though, defending its ability to “safely and securely” handle such international terrorism cases in Manhattan. “The Justice Department is confident that it can safely prosecute this case in the Southern District of New York while minimizing disruptions to the community to the greatest extent possible, consistent with security needs,” a spokesman said in a statement.

Source: http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/01/27/boehner-way-terrorist-trials-held-new-york/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+foxnews%2Fpolitics+%28Text+-+Politics%29&utm_content=Google+Reader

44. *January 26, Catamaran Media* – (New Jersey) **Scare, threat, wind force evacuations at EHT High School.** A gun scare, bomb threats and power outages that are unrelated have all plagued Egg Harbor Township High School in the last week and are causing school officials to review their emergency procedures. There was an unfounded gun scare January 20, a bomb threat made by a student January 21 and students went home at 12:30 January 25 after a power outage. “We review even when we have standard drills,” said the school superintendent. On Wednesday, January 27 the superintendent was already scheduled to meet with all district administrators. That meeting will also include a law enforcement official with the Egg Harbor Township Police Department to discuss policing issues and lessons that have been learned from the incidents at the high school.

Source: <http://www.shorenwstoday.com/news.php?id=6981>

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Emergency Services Sector

45. *January 28, SC Magazine* – (International) **Claim made that cyber crime investigation is not proper police work.** An overseas study has revealed a claim that cyber crime is not classed as proper police work. The study by the department of Criminology at the University of Leicester, England, questions whether cyber crime as a criminal activity is taken as seriously as it should be. The report ‘public policing and internet crime’ assesses the police’s ability and willingness to investigate cyber crime, and highlights problems of cooperation and law enforcement across geographical boundaries and legal jurisdictions. A professor from the University of Leicester commented: “Early optimism and idealism have given way to a darker, even dystopian prognoses, with the internet serving as a leitmotif for many and varied problems, dangers, risks and threats. There is resistance among individual police officers who do not see cyber crime as ‘proper’ police work, and inadequate resources to make an impact. “Some policing initiatives set up to investigate cyber crime have already failed and been dissolved, but others are showing more signs of success.”

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/claim-made-that-cyber-crime-investigation-is-not-proper-police-work/article/162541/>

46. *January 28, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Berks man charged in theft of police cruiser in Delco.** A Berks County resident was charged yesterday with stealing a police department cruiser in Delaware County. Ridley Township police had issued a man a summons on charges of disorderly conduct and possession of a small amount of marijuana and released him around 6:30 a.m. during a shift change, according to court

records. The man allegedly left the building, got into an unlocked police car in the back parking lot, found the keys in the visor, and took off. In the cruiser was a police-issued semiautomatic weapon, held in a locked mechanism accessible by activating a hidden button, police said. A half-hour later, Upper Darby police spotted the man at Baltimore Avenue and Church Road. He fled, police said, and was eventually stopped at Church and Clover Lane. The man was arraigned on \$500,000 bail and remanded to Delaware County prison.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20100128_Berks_man_charged_in_theft_of_police_cruiser_in_Delco.html

47. *January 27, CBS 8 San Diego* – (California) **Suspicious package addressed to President Bush found at Morena police substation.** A suspicious package addressed to the former President discovered at a police substation Wednesday was determined to not contain explosives, San Diego police said. The package was found at about 5:30 p.m. at the front door of the Western Division substation at 5215 Gaines Street. The building was evacuated and traffic and trolley service shut down in the area. The Secret Service was also notified due to the reference to the former President. A bomb squad technician determined the package was not dangerous. It was not known what was inside the package.

Source: <http://www.760kfmb.com/Global/story.asp?S=11891760>

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Information Technology Sector

48. *January 28, Network World* – (International) **DDoS attacks, network hacks rampant in oil and gas industry, other infrastructure sectors.** Massive denial-of-service (DoS) attacks and “stealthy infiltration” of corporate networks by attackers is a common experience for companies in critical infrastructure sectors, including financial services, energy, water, transportation and telecom, according to a new survey. Extortion schemes related to distributed DoS attacks are also rampant, especially in some parts of the world, according to the survey. The report, titled “In the Crossfire — Critical Infrastructure in the Age of Cyber-War,” was prepared by the Washington, D.C. policy think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). CSIS asked 600 IT and security professionals across seven industry sectors in 14 countries about their practices, attitudes about security, and the security measures they employ. A little more than half of the respondents (54 percent) said they had experienced “large-scale denial of service attacks by high-level adversary like organized crime, terrorists or nation-state (for example, like in Estonia and Georgia).” The same proportion, according to the report, also said their networks had been subject to “stealthy infiltration,” such as by a spy ring using targeted malware attacks to allow hackers “to infiltrate, control and download large amounts of data from computer networks belonging to non-profits, government departments and international organizations in

dozens of countries.” The oil and gas sector faces the highest rates of victimization, according to the CSIS survey. Overall, 71 percent of respondents in the oil-and-gas industry reported stealthy-infiltration, compared with 54 percent of respondents in other sectors. The CSIS survey also found distributed DoS attacks were “particularly severe” in the energy/power and water/sewage sectors, where attacks were usually aimed at computer-based operational control systems, like SCADA.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/012710-ddos-oil-gas.html?hpg1=bn>

49. *January 27, DarkReading* – (International) **Anatomy of a targeted, persistent attack.** A new report published on January 27 sheds light on the steps ultra-sophisticated attackers take to gain a foothold inside governments and company networks and remain entrenched in order to steal intellectual property and other data. The bad news is these attacks — including the recent ones on Google, Adobe, and other companies — almost always are successful and undetectable until it’s too late. The so-called advanced persistent threat (APT) attack model and case studies outlined in the report from forensics firm Mandiant are based on real-world attacks Mandiant has probed during the past seven years in the government and private industries. Though the report describes the brand of attack that hit Google, Adobe, and 20 to 30 other organizations, Mandiant would not comment on whether its forensics experts are involved in the so-called Aurora attack that allegedly came out of China. Most of the APT attack cases that Mandiant has worked on for the past few years have had ties to China: “The vast majority of APT activity observed by MANDIANT has been linked to China,” the report says. And existing security tools are no match for these attacks — only 24 percent of the malware used in the attacks Mandiant has investigated were detected by security software, the report says.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/database_security/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222600139&subSection=Attacks/breaches

50. *January 27, The Register* – (International) **IE Windows vuln coughs up local files.** If anyone uses any version of Internet Explorer (IE) to surf Twitter or other Web 2.0 sites, a security consultant at Core Security can probably read the entire contents of the primary hard drive. The security consultant said his attack works by clicking on a single link that exploits a chain of weaknesses in IE and Windows. Once an IE user visits the booby-trapped site, the webmaster has complete access to the machine’s C drive, including files, authentication cookies — even empty hashes of passwords. This is not the first time security researchers at Core have identified security weaknesses in IE. The company issued this advisory in 2008 and this one in 2009, each identifying specific links in the chain that could potentially be abused by an attacker. The security consultant said he has fully briefed Microsoft on his latest attack, which he plans to demonstrate at next month’s Black Hat security conference in Washington, DC. Microsoft’s “rapid response team” did not reply to an email, but a statement sent to other news outlets said the company is investigating the vulnerability and is not aware of it being exploited in the wild. The hole is difficult to close because the attack exploits an array of features IE users have come to rely on to make web application work seamlessly. Simply removing the features could neuter functions such as online

file sharing and active scripting, underscoring the age-old tradeoff between a system's functionality and its security.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/27/ie_file_disclosure_attack/

51. *January 26, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Google updates Chrome with 1,500 new features.** Google has released an update to its Chrome browser, promising improved security and more than 1,500 new features. The browser is now much more stable, according to the search giant, and is a whopping 400 times quicker than when first released. “We are excited to usher in the new year with a bundle of browser goodness for the stable version of Google Chrome,” said a product manager for Chrome, in a blog post. The extension tool lets users choose the applications they want to install, and helps manage how they are used. This may be particularly useful when it comes to navigating through the 1,500 new features. Bookmark Sync, a tool that lets users migrate bookmarks to another machine, has come out of beta, while web developers will see a number of new HTML5 APIs, including LocalStorage, Database API, WebSockets, and others. The new features relate only to the Windows release so far, but users of other systems will get the updates soon, according to the manager.
- Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2256780/google-updates-chrome>

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

52. *January 27, WTEN 10 Albany* – (New York) **Verizon employees evacuate man hole just before a small explosion.** The tree that fell on a power line in Amsterdam, New York, on January 25 is still causing problems. According to a fire chief at 9:30 a.m. on January 27 two Verizon workers were checking a junction box 10 feet underground in a man hole located on East Main Street just off of Vrooman Avenue. The two men saw that the air monitor alert system located next to the box was at a level indicating toxic gas or explosion possible. The two men quickly evacuated the man hole just before the box sustained a small explosion and fire. The fire chief says that's when the fire department was called in, but the chief says they could only monitor the fire as it burned because the Amsterdam Fire Department does not own any “confined space rescue equipment.” The chief called the New York State Office for Fire Prevention and Control who responded with the special equipment and two trained engineers. Amsterdam Fire assisted and the area was cleared at 12:16 pm. The chief says there were no injuries as a result of the incident.
- Source: <http://www.wten.com/Global/story.asp?S=11890628>

53. *January 27, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Vandals cut fiber optic cables to Selah.** The Yakima County sheriff's office says vandals cut fiber optic cables that carry phone, TV and Internet service to Selah, Washington. The damage was reported early on January 27 by Charter Communications. Repair crews found two cables cut at the railroad trestle that crosses the Naches River between Yakima and Selah.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010903931_apwafiberopticcables.html

For another story, see item [48](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

54. *January 28, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Grenade found at Naples condo.** A bomb squad was called to an upscale Naples, Florida condominium where a World War II grenade was found. Police say the condo's owner recently died, and a family member cleaning out the unit Wednesday morning found the grenade. The explosive device was brought outside the building, and none of the residents needed to be evacuated. The Collier County Sheriff's Office bomb squad removed the grenade from the scene.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/1450308.html>

55. *January 26, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Homemade explosive device destroys forklift at Vineland Walmart.** Police seek the public's help to identify whoever used a homemade explosive to destroy a forklift at Walmart Supercenter in Vineland, New Jersey. City police and firefighters responded to the West Landis Avenue store at 12:51 a.m. Sunday. The forklift was outside at the rear of the building, and firefighters extinguished the blaze. Police reported Monday a "homemade Molotov cocktail" was placed on the forklift's propane tank and ignited. The explosion destroyed the forklift, which was valued at \$25,000. The building was not damaged and no injuries were reported, police said. A Walmart manager declined to comment Monday. Crime Stoppers of Vineland is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the identity and apprehension of whoever was involved in the arson.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20100126/NEWS03/100126006/Homemade-explosive-device-destroys-forklift-at-Vineland-Walmart>

56. *January 26, Juneau Empire* – (Alaska) **Police investigate incendiary device near Mendenhall Glacier.** The Juneau Police Department Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team (EOD) investigated an incendiary device Monday morning at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. The police received a call at about 9:30 a.m. Monday that a Forest Service employee found a suspicious device on the property. The police determined it was three aerosol cans taped together with a marine flare used as a fuse to ignite the cans. The flare was not burning when the EOD officers arrived and the cans were determined to be flammable but not hazardous. The device was brought back to

the police station and processed for any evidence that it may contain.

Source: http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/012610/reg_554969002.shtml

For another story, see item [3](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

57. *January 27, WLOX 13 Pascagoula* – (National) **Firefighters say controlled burns may help endangered bird survive.** For years we have heard how prescribed burns help keep lives and property safe by reducing the underbrush that fuel wildfires; however, officials at the USDA Forest Service say there is yet another purpose which is to provide better habit for wildlife. In fact, the firefighters say some of the controlled burns underway now could be what keeps an endangered bird from going extinct. The key for firefighters is to figure out how to burn the brush but not the tree. Forest Service officials say the prescribed burns help other wildlife as well. Forest Service officials say they hope to hold controlled burns over 80,000 to 90,000 acres this year from Hattiesburg to the Coast.

Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=11891090>

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Dams Sector

58. *January 28, Idaho Press-Tribune* – (Idaho) **Security at dam sparks opinions.** Residents turned out with questions and strong opinions at a Bureau of Reclamation meeting Wednesday held to outline plans to beef up security at the Lake Lowell lower dam. Members of the public in attendance who spoke during a question and comment period at the meeting, hosted by Canyon County and Canyon Highway District No. 4, primarily fell into two camps. Some supported a proposal to widen the dam's downstream crest to improve its structural integrity, leaving Riverside Road, which runs across the dam, opened and unchanged. Others argued the bureau's basis for the discussion, a perceived security vulnerability at the dam, is so unlikely that any money spent for corrective action would be wasted. They ridiculed the idea that terrorists would target Lake Lowell or that any of the proposed alternatives would stop someone who truly wanted to blow up the dam. The Reclamation area manager said how to address the lower dam is a trickier question than Anderson Ranch, for example, where many thousands of lives would be endangered by a breach. He stressed that Reclamation does not have a preferred alternative, and that public comment will help guide the final decision. Alternatives identified and examined by the Bureau of Reclamation include dam crest closure, structural modifications, relocation of Riverside Road, and no action, which must be included as an option under federal rules.

Source: <http://www.idahopress.com/news/?id=29577>

59. *January 27, KFYP 5 Bismarck* – (Montana) **Releases from Fort Peck Dam in Montana increased.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Wednesday that releases from the Fort Peck Dam in Montana were increased over the weekend to help provide more electricity to the Upper Midwest. Ice storms over the weekend snapped transmission power lines in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Eastern Montana. The Corps' Information Office said releases through the dam may range from 4,000 cubic feet per second to as high as 13,000 cubic feet per second, depending on what is needed to cover power loads and prevent blackouts. The releases will continue until crews from the Western Area Power Administration can repair the downed transmission lines. Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=37337
60. *January 27, Associated Press* – (Kentucky; Ohio) **Ohio River closed at Greenup Locks and Dam due to gate problem.** The Ohio River has been closed at the Greenup Locks and Dam, where the Army Corps of Engineers reports a problem with a gate. The site is at Greenup County, Kentucky, and Lawrence County, Ohio, about 24 miles downstream from Huntington, West Virginia. The problem is with a miter gate on the lock's main chamber. The Corps of Engineers says there was a break in the anchorage that supports one of the gates on the lower end of the lock, forcing the corps to put a hold on all lockages in both the main and auxiliary chambers. Nothing will be able to pass through the locks until a team at the site completes its evaluation of the gate's condition. The corps says the auxiliary chamber will be available once the gate is stabilized. Source: <http://www.fox59.com/news/sns-ap-ky--ohioriverclosed,0,4568189.story>
61. *January 26, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Bid to buffer La. coast shuts down.** Six years after the Army Corps of Engineers hailed a land-building project near the mouth of the Mississippi River as a major step in saving coastal Louisiana, the project is being shut down after millions of dollars went into it. Over the objections of some scientists, a panel overseeing the effort to save coastal Louisiana voted last week to close a river diversion at West Bay, a spot about 75 miles south of New Orleans. The cut in the river was supposed to create 10,000 acres of land. However, after six years and \$33.3 million in work, it created little to no land. Directing the Mississippi's flow into Louisiana's sinking coast through diversions is one of the chief methods being looked at to restore the river delta, one of the fastest eroding coastal areas in the world. South Louisiana has lost more than 2,000 square miles of land since the 1930s, an area roughly the size of Delaware. The failure of the West Bay diversion highlights the problems federal and state governments face as they try to combat sea level rise and land loss. The project is being scrapped for reasons that have plagued other coastal restoration projects: the conflict between coastal restoration and maritime traffic, high costs, and untested scientific and engineering techniques. The West Bay diversion is being closed because it led to shoaling of an anchorage spot for ships bound for New Orleans near Pilottown. The Army Corps estimated that it would cost more than \$100 million to keep the anchorage free of mud; on Wednesday, a special task force said that cost was prohibitive. Scientists on Thursday said the move was wrong-headed. One scientist said closing the diversion was premature and that not enough time had passed to know for

sure whether the diversion might have worked.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35079001/ns/us_news-environment/

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