



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 1 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- NBC News and the Associated Press report that a windy winter storm knocked out power to more than 1 million homes and businesses in the Northeast on Friday, fanned a hotel fire in coastal New Hampshire, and disrupted travel. (See items [1](#) and [53](#))
- WHDH 7 Boston reports that Freetown, Massachusetts officials declared a state of emergency after a storm caused heavy water to pour over the top of the 300-year-old Old Forge Pond Dam. Seven homes and two businesses near the dam were voluntarily evacuated Thursday. (See item [57](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
 - [Emergency Services](#)
 - [National Monuments and Icons](#)
-

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. **February 26, NBC News and Associated Press** – (Northeast) **1 million lose power as storm slams Northeast.** A windy winter storm knocked out power to more than 1 million homes and businesses in the Northeast on Friday, fanned a hotel fire in coastal New Hampshire, and disrupted travel. High winds combined with heavy snow were helping bring down power lines. About 330,000 homes and business have lost power in

New Hampshire alone. Even the state Emergency Operations Center in New Hampshire was operating on a generator. A total of nearly 800,000 more customers were in the dark in states from Maine to Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Officials were also blaming the wind for fanning a hotel fire in Hampton, New Hampshire, and destroying an entire block of businesses. Farther south, snow is clogging roads and airport runways. Thousands of flights have been canceled, including more than 900 which were due to leave New York airports. In upstate New York, the storm left some 150,000 homes and businesses without power. Vermont had more than 10,000 outages. Nearly 4,900 utility customers in New Jersey were without electricity, and there were about 2,000 customers without power throughout Pennsylvania. National Guard forces rescued about 70 people on a ski trip in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania when their buses got stuck on Route 374. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation banned motorcycles, recreation vehicles, and commercial traffic on interstates 380 and 84 — with the exceptions of school buses and tow trucks responding to accidents. There was also a tractor-trailer ban on the Pennsylvania Turnpike's Northeast Extension.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35557603/ns/weather>

See item [53](#)

2. *February 25, Colusa Sun Herald* – (California) **Brief power outage in region.** About 30,000 residents from Glenn and Tehama counties experienced a brief power outage February 25, the cause of which remains unknown, according to PG&E. The brief outage was reported at 4:36 p.m. and lasted for less than five minutes in all areas, said a PG&E spokesman. “It was a momentary outage that affected several of our substations,” he said. The outage was reported from Princeton to Red Bluff and from Vina to Elk Creek, he said. It was the second outage in Willows in less than a week. On February 25, Willows was in the dark for nearly five hours after a power line snapped on the 400 block of West Birch Street. That failure reportedly caused a transformer to fail about nine blocks away in the 200 block of South Sacramento Street, authorities said. He said on February 24 that the cause of both outages are still under investigation. Source: <http://www.colusa-sun-herald.com/news/outage-4391-brief-power.html>
3. *February 25, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Gas build-up led to deadly Connecticut plant blast.** An industrial practice that involved the widespread release of natural gas at a Connecticut power plant shortly before it exploded is “inherently unsafe,” and should be curbed to prevent similar incidents, a federal safety investigator said February 24. Six people were killed in the February 7 explosion at the Kleen Energy Systems plant, where workers were cleaning pipes in a common procedure known as a “gas blow.” The 400,000 cubic feet of natural gas blown through the pipes was released into the air in tight quarters, creating an explosive mixture large enough to fill a professional basketball arena, said the lead investigator for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. With the United States building more natural gas power plants, he said, it is important to develop standards and new methods — such as cleaning pipes with air, steam or other substances — to prevent similar accidents. Exactly what sparked the blast has not been determined, though the investigator said there were “several” potential ignition sources nearby. He would not say what they were, but said that in general, natural gas can be sparked by anything from welders’ tools and electrical

devices to static electricity. He said the board is examining how the accident could have been prevented; determining exactly what ignited the gas at the Middletown plant is not a major focus of the its investigation.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,587413,00.html>

4. *February 25, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **NH propane leak prompts evacuations.** There were no injuries reported in the 9 a.m. truck rollover and subsequent evacuation in Lyndeborough, but the slow leak of propane from the 3,000-gallon truck required firefighters to blanket the truck with curtains of water as a precaution. Fire officials said the ordeal was expected to last well into the night, after an attempt to off load the propane from the rolled truck to another one failed. Homes on two roads were evacuated. The remote neighborhood bordering a pond has a total of 17 homes. Once residents walked far enough to be beyond the danger zone, police and fire personnel drove some of them to Citizens Hall, the town's administration building. A resident said other neighbors went to friends' houses. The cause of the rollover was not known. A portion of the truck landed in a brook, forcing some officials working the scene to don diving suits to examine the Suburban Propane truck. A supervisor at Suburban Propane in Milford did not immediately return calls.
Source: <http://wbztv.com/wireapnewsnh/NH.propane.truck.2.1519960.html>
5. *February 25, WBRZ 2 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Barge hits Sunshine Bridge support piling.** A barge being pushed downriver by a towboat Thursday hit the center support piling of the Sunshine Bridge in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, authorities said. The 3:22 a.m. incident did not shut down the bridge, hinder maritime traffic or cause any injuries, said a U.S. Coast Guard spokeswoman. The two barges being pushed by the towboat Natalie Alexander were loaded with fuel oil, the Coast Guard reported. The barge that struck the piling did not leak any cargo into the river after the collision, said the director of Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. He said the bridge piling was not damaged. The initial investigation indicates that a misjudgment combined with wind caused the accident.
Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/85432802.html>
6. *February 24, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **'Sabotage' leaves oil slick in Italy's Po River.** Environmental campaigners warned of a pending disaster Wednesday as a massive oil slick flowed down Italy's Po River after saboteurs broke into a disused refinery and released the spill. Some 159,000 gallons of oil moved downstream along the Lambro river, passed three barriers that had been placed to block and absorb the slick, and flowed into the Po near the northern city of Piacenza, officials said. Teams were desperately trying to stem the flow by erecting barriers but campaigners feared that their efforts would not be enough to avert an environmental catastrophe. The spill has already killed dozens of birds and animals and a state of alert has been declared on some stretches of the river, one of the longest in Europe. On the banks of the river near the small town of Calendasco, northeast of Piacenza, a small army of firefighters, environmental protection workers and civil protection volunteers battled to stem the tide of oil, as the first sparse traces flowed past them. The spill was triggered in the early hours of Tuesday after the alleged saboteurs broke into the depot of the former

Lombardi Petroli refinery in Villasanta and opened the valves, according to the ANSA news agency. “The event was almost certainly the result of a criminal act,” the Milan prefecture said in a statement, adding that an inquiry was under way.

Source: <http://www.france24.com/en/20100224-sabotage-leaves-oil-slick-italys-po-river>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

See item [9](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *February 25, Chattanooga Times Free-Press* – (Alabama; Tennessee) **TVA considering using plutonium from scrapped atomic weapons as plant fuel.** According to the Chattanooga Times Free-Press, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will consider using weapons-grade plutonium as nuclear fuel in its Sequoyah and Browns Ferry plants. The National Nuclear Security Administration announced today that it has signed an interagency agreement with TVA to evaluate the use of mixed oxide (MOX) fuel made from U.S. surplus weapons plutonium. TVA still must study the concept and get licensing approval from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission before the plutonium-rich fuel may be burned at any of its plants. But the pact moves the federal utility closer toward turning old nuclear warheads into an energy source for making electricity.

Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9020910>

For another story, see item [32](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *February 26, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* – (Indiana) **GE plant coolant spills in river; no threat seen.** More than 300,000 gallons of coolant water spilled into the St. Marys River from General Electric’s Taylor Street plant this week, but company and state officials said it should pose no danger to residents or the environment. GE employees discovered a water tower line break at 4 a.m. on February 22, according to a company spokesman. The leak was stopped by 10 a.m., but not before an estimated 377,000 gallons of the coolant spilled into the river, according to records from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Environmental Remediation Services of Fort Wayne handled the cleanup. An IDEM spokeswoman said water samples were taken in the St. Marys River both upstream and downstream from where the stormwater pipe empties into the water. The break occurred on an older

line at the Taylor Street plant and the company was trying to correct the problem, possibly by bypassing the old line altogether. The line that broke was a 16-inch pipe below a concrete floor, according to the state. The coolant came out of the break and ran partly to the plant's basement, or pit, and partly out a side garage door to the loading dock and into the storm drain. The spill caused no damage to the rest of the plant.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20100226/LOCAL/302269971/1002/LOCAL>

9. *February 26, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **Chemical cloud prompts evacuation, 4 hospitalized.** A crane punctured a chlorine gas cylinder at an Indio scrap yard the morning of February 25, sending a chemical cloud into the air that hospitalized four people and prompted the evacuation of about 100 others, fire officials said. At 7:38 a.m., firefighters were called to US Metals Inc., 84-481 Cabazon Road, Cal Fire reported. "We got a report of a cloud or some type of smoke," said a Cal Fire spokesman. "It was a colorful cloud of a yellowish-greenish tinge." He said a crane at the scrap metal and recycling center likely punctured a 1-ton pressurized chlorine tank like those used at municipal swimming pools and water treatment facilities. The tank had been at the center for an unknown period of time, officials said. "The claw was going to pick up the vessel to move it to another location," he said. Because some chlorine remained in the tank, chlorine vapor was released into the air when the container was punctured, he said. Cabazon Road was expected to be shut down indefinitely. Seventeen workers were nearby when the tank was punctured, officials said. Four were taken to John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio with inhalation injuries. The other workers were decontaminated at the scene, officials said. The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration was called in to investigate the incident. The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health will investigate who owns the tank, how it got to the scrap yard, and if anyone knew the tank was not empty, the Hazardous Materials Branch Program Chief said.

Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100226/NEWS0804/2260310/1026/news12/Chemical-cloud-prompts-evacuation-4-hospitalized>

10. *February 25, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Industrial building damaged by fire.** Paint fumes may have led to a fire that damaged an industrial building Thursday morning, authorities said. Firefighters were called to Kenco Engineering's facility in Tulsa, where a fire had started in a painting booth, a fire chief said. A sprinkler system doused the flames about 6:40 a.m. but left water pooled in parts of the building. Firefighters left the scene about two hours after the blaze was reported. The chief said fire damage was limited, but a damage estimate was not immediately available. The building had concrete floors and many of the products were stacked on pallets keeping them out of the water. Kenco Engineering makes gauges and other measuring devices, according to its Web site. The facility had just opened for the day when the fire began, and there were only a handful of workers inside, the chief said. No injuries were reported.

Source:

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *February 26, Space-Travel.com* – (National) **Final shuttle motor test completed.** NASA's Space Shuttle Program conducted the final test firing of a reusable solid rocket motor February 25 in Promontory, Utah. The flight support motor, or FSM-17, burned for approximately 123 seconds - the same time each reusable solid rocket motor burns during an actual space shuttle launch. Preliminary indications show all test objectives were met. After final test data are analyzed, results for each objective will be published in a NASA report. ATK Launch Systems, a unit of Alliant Techsystems Inc., in Promontory, north of Salt Lake City, manufactures and tests the solid rocket motors. The test - the 52nd conducted for NASA by ATK - marks the closure of a test program that has spanned more than three decades. The first test was in July 1977. "These tests have built a base of engineering knowledge that continued engineering development of the reusable solid rocket motor system and the continued safe and successful launch of space shuttles," the program manager said. The final test was conducted to ensure the safe flight of the four remaining space shuttle missions. A total of 43 design objectives were measured through 258 instrument channels during the two-minute static firing. The flight motor tested represents motors that will be used for all remaining space shuttle launches.
Source: http://www.space-travel.com/reports/Final_Shuttle_Motor_Test_Completed_999.html

12. *February 26, The Register* – (International) **Supersonic stealth jumpjet makes 'short landing'.** The F-35B Lightning II, world's first supersonic stealth jumpjet and successor to the famous Harrier, has carried out its first "short" landing. Test pilots are currently making slower and slower flights with the aircraft, progressing gradually towards hovering vertical landings. Video of the jet coming in for a rolling runway landing with its central lift fan shaft and downward-swivelling tailpipe in action was posted yesterday by Pratt and Whitney, the firm which makes the F-35B's F135 engine. Shorter rolling landings, in which lift is provided both by the wings and the vertical-thrust machinery, are planned to be the main mode of operation for the F-35B in British service, where it is to replace the Harriers now operated by the RAF and Royal Navy. The so-called "rolling vertical landing" has already been tried out by British engineers and test pilots using the Harrier, and is expected to allow a jet to get down onto a carrier deck at sea while carrying more weight than it could in a vertical hover landing. It should also lessen wear and tear on the engine, which has to run at quite destructive power levels and temperatures in the hover.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/26/f35b_short_landing/

13. *February 25, CBS* – (National) **Caught on tape: Selling America's secrets.** "60 Minutes" has obtained an FBI videotape showing a Defense Department employee

selling secrets to a Chinese spy for cash. The video, which has never been made public before, offers a rare glimpse into the secretive world of espionage and illustrates how China's spying may now pose the biggest espionage threat to the United States. A "60 Minutes" correspondent's report will be broadcast this Sunday, February 28, at 7 p.m. ET/PT. China may be the number-one espionage threat now. "The Chinese are the biggest problem we have with respect to the level of effort that they're devoting against us, versus the level of attention we are giving to them," says one of America's top counter-intelligence officers who coordinated the hunt for foreign spies from 2003 to 2006. "Definitely, without a doubt," the Chinese focus most of their espionage on the United States, says a Chinese national who once recruited spies for China's Ministry of State Security and is now in the United States seeking asylum. The Chinese, says the counter-intelligence officer, have had the designs to all of the nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal for years and they have been after a lot more lately. "Virtually every technology that is on the U.S. control technology list has been targeted at one time or another by the Chinese," she tells the CBS reporter.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/25/60minutes/main6242498.shtml>

For another story, see item [25](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

14. *February 26, The Register* – (International) **Latvian hacker tweets hard on banking whistle.** A hacker has become a popular hero in the Baltics, and scourge to the authorities, by leaking information on the finances of banks and state-run firms to Latvian TV. The whistle-blowing hacker, who calls himself Neo, is feeding embarrassing information such as the pay of managers who work for a Latvian bank that received a credit crunch bail-out to the media via Twitter. The information reportedly came from tax documents filed with Latvian authorities by 1,000 firms and hacked into by the whistleblower, who may in fact be from Britain, and his confederates over the course of three months, the BBC reports.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/26/latvian_hacker_whistleblower/

15. *February 26, USA Today* – (New York) **Madoff Securities ex-operations chief charged in scam.** The former operations director for a Ponzi scheme architect's investment business was granted \$5 million bail on February 25 after he was charged with cooking the company books to help hide the multibillion-dollar scam that victimized thousands of investors worldwide. The 63 year old suspect was released after a preliminary court appearance at which a U.S. Magistrate Judge ordered the bail secured by \$2 million in assets. The judge set a March 29 hearing for the suspect, who was arrested by the FBI early on February 2 at his Manhattan home. Along with conspiracy, the suspect is charged with securities fraud, falsifying books and records, making false filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission and filing false tax returns. From 1997 until the scam collapsed in 2008, more than \$750 million in investor funds were funneled to support the market-making and proprietary trading

business, the criminal complaint charged. But false ledger entries allegedly made by the suspect hid the true source of the funds. Prosecutors also charged that the suspect helped the Ponzi schemer weather a 2005-06 liquidity crisis caused by clients seeking withdrawals. He allegedly got \$145 million in loans by using \$154 million in bonds from a client as collateral.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/brokerage/2010-02-25-madoff-exec-arrested_N.htm

16. *February 25, WEAU 13 Eau Claire* – (Wisconsin) **Russian cyber-hackers blamed for theft attempt.** Eau Claire County says a worker in the treasurer's office and a local bank prevented computer hackers from stealing almost \$800,000. Eau Claire County says the incident happened in late January, and that it has since revised its rules for transferring money electronically. Alliance Bank protected the county against what it says could have been a six-figure loss. It called the county treasurer's office about some suspicious wire transfers. The staff there told the bank it only requested one transfer, and it called off the others. Now it says the FBI thinks Russian cyber-hackers are to blame. A county board member says the FBI took a computer that the county used for wire transfers. Those transactions were suspended. The county later restored them under its new rules.

Source: <http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/85432692.html>

17. *February 25, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Feds: Ny exec stole \$12 million from Webster bank.** The president of an ATM management company has been charged with defrauding Connecticut-based Webster Bank out of \$12 million. Federal prosecutors in New York City say the 64-year-old suspect of Bedford Corners, New York, president of Mount Vernon Money Centers, was charged February 8 with conspiracy to commit bank fraud. He is free on a \$10 million bond. Prosecutors say the suspect's company, based in Mount Vernon, New York, had a deal to restock about 160 of Webster's nearly 500 automatic teller machines. Authorities say the suspect's company put in new "canisters" of money and kept money left in the old ones.

Source:

http://www2.wjtv.com/jtv/ap_exchange/business/article/FedsNyExecStole12MillionFromWebsterBankCt/106766/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

18. *February 26, Williamsport-Sun Gazette* – (New Jersey) **Police defuse explosive device attached to street sign.** Police bomb squads from outside the Jersey Shore area were summoned Thursday after authorities found explosive devices attached to two traffic signs in a rural area just north of here. One street sign was damaged and another destroyed, but no injuries were reported, according to the local fire chief, who described it as a potentially dangerous situation. "If it would've gone off when somebody was driving by or standing at the signs or handling the devices, there was aluminum shrapnel that could've hit them," the chief said. The chief said an explosive

chemical, unconfirmed as Tantalum, was placed inside a small jar attached to both signs. “The contents of the container were unknown but believed to be a binary explosive type material,” he said. It appeared the plan was to detonate the explosives from a distance using a rifle.

Source: <http://www.sungazette.com/page/content.detail/id/539868.html?nav=5011>

19. *February 26, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Disruptive passenger forces jet’s return.** A passenger’s disruptive behavior forced a USAirways flight out of Charlotte to return to the airport late Thursday night, according to the FAA and Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. Flight 1402 left Charlotte/Douglas International Airport about 10:15 p.m., bound for Houston. The FAA says the flight was forced to return, because of a disruption aboard the flight, and it landed in Charlotte about 11 p.m. Police say a man aboard the flight was taken off the jet and taken to a hospital for observation. Local tv outlets are reporting that a man aboard the flight began demanding to be let off the jet — while it was in the air. Several passengers restrained the man while the jet returned to Charlotte.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/02/26/1274443/disruptive-passenger-forces-jets.html>

20. *February 26, Progressive Railroading* – (District of Columbia) **WMATA to outfit cars with door control, rollback protection devices.** Yesterday, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s (WMATA) board approved plans to spend more than \$3.4 million to repair door control units and install rollback protection software on rail cars. The agency will spend \$2.6 million to repair door control units on 546 cars — or about half of the Metrorail fleet — by spring 2011. The units will enhance passenger safety after WMATA resumes automatic train operations. Trains have been functioning in manual mode since June 22, 2009, when a fatal train collision occurred. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is investigating the accident. In addition, several trains that were operating in automatic mode in 2008 had their doors open on the wrong side of the tracks at station stops. WMATA also will spend about \$813,000 to install rollback protection software on all 182 of its 5000-series cars. To be installed by summer’s end, the software is designed to prevent trains from rolling backward while operating in manual mode. WMATA’s 2000, 3000 and 6000 series cars (totaling 546 units) already feature rollback protection software. The agency now is installing rollback protection on all 288 of its 1000-series cars and soon will equip all 100 of its 4000-series cars with the software. The installations will enable the agency to comply with a NTSB recommendation that all passenger-rail cars feature rollback protection. The NTSB issued the recommendation because of a Nov. 3, 2004, accident during which a WMATA train carrying no passengers rolled back and struck a train stopped at the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan Metrorail station.

Source: <http://www.progressiverailroading.com/news/article.asp?id=22666>

21. *February 26, Gothamist* – (New York) **Man in wheelchair put bomb in 125th St. Metro-North Station.** A legless man in a wheelchair planted explosives in the 125th Street Metro-North station yesterday in Manhattan, according to police. Trains were rerouted and the Harlem station was evacuated while officers tried to make sure that the

“pyrotechnic” device, which consisted of M-80 fireworks and shotgun shells, did not detonate. The Daily News reports that a wheelchair-bound 57-year-old is accused of putting the explosives next to a waiting room bench in the station. One or two other men are believed to have wheeled the man around the station while he carried the bomb, which was made from a laptop, wires, shotgun shells, paper, and lug nuts taped to fireworks. The device was concealed inside a laptop bag, which was covered by a black bag. The bomb could not have been triggered remotely, but “if it was lit, someone could have been hurt pretty bad,” a law enforcement source said. “We don’t know if it was a planned prank. If it was, it would have been a dangerous one.” The man was arrested after putting the bomb in front of a ticket window. He is reportedly under observation at Bellevue Hospital Center. One of the men accused of pushing his chair was questioned and released, while police continue searching for a third suspect. Source: http://gothamist.com/2010/02/26/man_in_wheelchair_put_bomb_in_125th.php

22. *February 25, KTVX 4 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Gun accidentally discharged at SL International Airport.** A Salt Lake International Airport official says a passenger dropped a hand gun that fired and injured a sky cap worker on Thursday. An airport Operations Supervisor said the passenger was loading luggage at the outdoor sky cap location near Terminal 1 at SL International when the passenger dropped a semi-automatic hand gun on the pavement. “He was going to declare (the weapon) with the sky cap,” the supervisor said. The gun discharged one round, and a bullet fragment hit a sky cap worker in the foot. “At that point I don’t know if he fumbled with it or dropped it but the semi-automatic pistol discharged,” he said. “We’re calling it an accidental discharge.” The supervisor said he did not know if criminal charges would be filed against the owner of the gun. He said guns can be shipped but they must be declared. Source: http://www.abc4.com/content/about_4/links_numbers/story/Gun-accidentally-discharged-at-SL-International/iQeUPUti2EmOhbYoIy_IaW.csp
23. *February 24, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Airport vandals cause \$17K in damage.** Vandals targeted a local airport, causing thousands of dollars in damage, but they are lucky the prank did not cost their lives. The Baytown Airport General Manager first noticed it on February 21 when he saw one of his runway lights was missing. The next day, he saw more than a dozen of his runway lights had vanished. The wiring to 5000 volt strobe Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL) was cut. The criminals who cut them could have been electrocuted. “It appears to be vandalism to me because it was just a select area of the runway,” the General Manager said. “They didn’t go down the whole runway. They could have taken every light. They didn’t.” There were no broken bits of glass left behind. The vandals picked that up. But there is a lingering sign vandals could not hide — two distinct sets of footprints along with motorcycle tire tracks. “There’s no question there’s two people,” he said. “Most of the prints are all along the lighting system off the runway. You can actually see where they crossed over and jumped the ditch.” The airport was not shut down. There were enough replacement parts to reactivate the lights. The light globes are unique, and it is a distinction the manager hopes will lead to an arrest. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7295350>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [4](#), [5](#), [28](#), and [29](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *February 26, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **House passes bill demanding further probe of anthrax mailings.** The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation on February 26 that would require continued investigation of the 2001 anthrax letter mailings, despite the Justice Department's decision last week to formally conclude the case, the Baltimore Sun reported. The newly released Justice Department summary of the anthrax investigation found that a former Army microbiologist acted alone in producing and mailing the anthrax letters that killed five people and caused a national scare not long after the September 11 attacks. The FBI contended that the suspect, who worked at a biodefense facility at Fort Detrick in Maryland, was motivated by a desire to secure more public funding for his anthrax vaccine research. A Republican congressman, whose district includes Fort Detrick, and a Democratic congressman from New Jersey, who represents the area from which the anthrax letters were sent, added a mandate to the fiscal 2010 intelligence authorization bill. They want the national intelligence director to probe possible foreign ties to the mailings. "Many questions remain" regarding the FBI investigation, the Democratic congressman said in a prepared statement, including the possibility that foreign involvement was "overlooked, ignored or not pursued."

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100226_1991.php

25. *February 25, Bedford Minuteman* – (Massachusetts) **Mitre Corporation evacuated.** Employees at the Mitre Corp. in Bedford, Massachusetts were evacuated as a precautionary measure early Thursday after an envelope with a white substance was delivered to the building, fire officials said. According to WCVB Channel 5, no one was reported injured in the incident at the facility, which is located at 202 Burlington Rd. The company describes itself as a "not-for-profit organization" that applies "our expertise in systems engineering, information technology, operational concepts, and enterprise modernization." Mitre manages four federally funded research and development centers for the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/bedford/news/x593976686/Mitre-Corporation-is-evacuated>

26. *February 25, KFMB 8 San Diego* – (California) **FBI investigating anthrax scare at Kearny Mesa business.** The FBI is investigating an anthrax scare at a business in Kearny Mesa. Firefighters and Hazmat crews were called to the Industrial Metal Supply Company on Ronson Road at noon Thursday. An employee apparently opened a letter that had a device inside it that caused white powder to puff up into the air, setting off fears of an anthrax attack. The building was evacuated. Two workers were taken to a hospital as a precaution. It turns out it was just talcum powder. "Definitely

puts a dent in the day, if the person wanted nothing more than commotion they got that at a minimum,” a spokeswoman said. “That’s a weapon of potential mass destruction, it certainly causes a lot of fear and the legislature has deemed that a felony and something we take very, very seriously,” a San Diego Police Department spokesman said. The FBI will be testing the letter to find out who mailed it.

Source: <http://www.760kfm.com/Global/story.asp?S=12047399>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

27. *February 26, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **U of Minn. awarded \$20 million food-security grant.** The University of Minnesota’s National Center for Food Protection and Defense has been awarded a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The center is a multi-disciplinary group that works on addressing potentially catastrophic threats of intentional contamination of the nation’s food supply. The university says in a news release that it expects the center to receive the money over six years. It has been funded by Homeland Security in the past. The center was launched in 2004 and has found ways to close vulnerabilities within the agriculture system and devised methods to recover from widespread contamination.

Source: <http://www.wxow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12048977>

28. *February 26, Honolulu Star-Bulletin* – (Hawaii) **Grease fire at airport eatery forces evacuation of Interisland Terminal.** Hundreds of travelers were evacuated from a section of the Interisland Terminal at Honolulu Airport yesterday after a grease fire at Burger King sent billows of smoke into the hallways and ticketing area. Passengers and employees were evacuated after a fire broke out at a food concession stand. A Hawaiian Airlines spokesman said the check-in area of the terminal was closed for 45 minutes, prompting the company to push back the timetable for several flights to U.S. cities and to Kauai. Smoke was visible billowing outside the building, then inside, and then officials decided to evacuate people as a precaution. Several visitors said while the evacuation went calmly, they were not told why they were being forced to leave the terminal and only learned later about the fire at Burger King. The evacuation meant some of the travelers had to go to security again, causing longer lines. State Air Rescue firefighters stationed at the airport put out the blaze in the grease vent at Burger King by the time city firefighters arrived, a state transportation spokeswoman said.

Source:

http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20100226_Grease_fire_at_airport_eatery_forces_evacuation_of_interisland_terminal.html

29. *February 25, NJ.com* – (New Jersey) **Train car strikes truck at glass plant in Salem, 1 person injured.** One injury was reported Thursday afternoon following a collision between a train and a tractor trailer on the grounds of the Anchor Glass facility in Salem County, New Jersey. The Salem City police chief said late Thursday that officers were dispatched to one of the loading areas at Anchor Glass after a report of an accident between a train and a tractor trailer was called into police. While the incident

is still under investigation, the police chief said authorities believe the train was pushing train cars into the Anchor Glass facility when it struck the cab of a Freightliner truck that was being loaded near the tracks. After the accident, a member of the train's crew reported chest pains and numbness and was transported to Christiana Hospital in Newark, Del. The 18-mile train line brings raw material into the Anchor plant for glass making. Anchor Glass produces glass containers primarily for the beer, food, beverage, liquor, and consumer product industries.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2010/02/train_strikes_truck_at_glass_p.html

For another story, see item [55](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

30. *February 26, New America Media* – (California) **Farm worker communities drinking contaminated water in Riverside.** Dangerously high amounts of arsenic have been found in dozens of tanks that provide drinking water to farm workers in Riverside County, according to a report by Spanish-language daily La Opinion. The arsenic problem has been confirmed in 23 motor home settlements, occupied primarily by Hispanic laborers, where at least 10,000 to 15,000 residents have been consuming the tainted water. The water tanks are connected to underground wells, that have been found to obtain elevated levels of arsenic, aluminum, iron and other metals. Riverside health officials say that connecting these communities to the county water supply would cost at least \$20 million and take several years, although to close the settlements would leave hundreds of families abandoned. The Los Duros settlement, comprised of more than 400 families, have experienced an outbreak of skin problems and dental issues.

Source:

http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=6b122bed9ebaeae737b3d0f6e0481a2c

31. *February 25, Science Daily* – (National) **How US industry uses scarce water resources.** Checking the amounts of water it takes to make a \$1 worth of sugar, cat and dog food or milk is part of a comprehensive study by Carnegie Mellon University researchers to document American industry's thirst for this scarce resource. The researchers said the study shows that most water use by industry occurs indirectly as a result of processing, such as packaging and shipping of food crops to the supermarket, rather than direct use, like watering crops. The study found it takes almost 270 gallons of water to produce a \$1 worth of sugar; 140 gallons to make \$1 worth of milk; and 200 gallons of water to make \$1 worth of cat and dog food. One of the researchers, who is the co-director of Carnegie Mellon's Green Design Institute, said the team is trying to help industries track and make better management decisions about how they use water. The study, featured in the February 23 edition of the journal Environmental Science and Technology, reports that a lot of water consumption is hidden because companies

do not use all the water directly. “We discovered that among 96 percent of the sectors evaluated, indirect use exceeded direct uses throughout the supply chain,” he said. But the researchers are quick to report that their data are national findings and do not apply regionally. In addition, they could only track withdrawals, and were unable to determine how much water was returned to the system or recycled.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100225140908.htm>

For more stories, see items [6](#) and [8](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

32. *February 26, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Medical scan makers to install radiation controls.** A medical imaging trade group said Thursday that manufacturers of CT scanners would begin installing safety controls to prevent patients from receiving excessive radiation. The dosing checks, which will begin rolling out before the end of the year, will alert operators whenever the machine’s settings exceed recommended levels. Hospitals and clinics also will be able to set maximum dosing levels for their machines. The announcement from the Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance came two weeks after the Food and Drug Administration said it would begin cracking down on excessive radiation scanning. The changes will be implemented by the five makers of CT scanners: General Electric Co., Siemens, Toshiba Corp., Royal Philips Electronics and Hitachi. The group’s director said manufacturers had been working on the changes for months, though their unveiling came one day before a congressional hearing on the safety of imaging scanners. Last year three California hospitals reported hundreds of acute radiation overdoses from CT scanners, with many patients reporting lost hair and skin redness. The average American’s total radiation exposure has nearly doubled in the last three decades, largely because of next-generation imaging tests, the FDA said.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-ctscan26-2010feb26,0,133233.story>

33. *February 26, St. Louis Globe and Democrat* – (Missouri) **Four injured after business roof collapses.** St. Louis emergency crews were called to the scene after the roof of a south St. Louis dentist’s office collapsed Thursday morning. St. Louis Metropolitan Police said staff and patients were inside the brick business when the roof collapsed. According to the St. Louis Fire Department, four people were injured, including a teenager, and were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The cause of the collapse is not yet clear, but police said St. Louis building inspectors are at the scene.

Source: <http://www.globe-democrat.com/news/2010/feb/25/one-injured-st-louis-building-collapse/>

34. *February 25, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Medical device manufacturer Guidant charged in failure to report defibrillator safety problems to FDA.** Medical device manufacturer Guidant LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Boston Scientific

Corporation, was charged with criminal violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act related to safety problems with some of its implantable defibrillators. Guidant LLC formerly did business as Guidant Corporation. The Justice Department filed the criminal information today in connection with an agreement with Guidant to resolve the charges. A formal guilty plea agreement is expected to be filed with the court at a later date. Boston Scientific previously announced in a November 2009 press release that the company would pay \$296 million on behalf of Guidant in connection with these charges. According to the information filed today in federal district court in St. Paul, Minnesota, Guidant concealed information from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding catastrophic failures in some of its lifesaving devices. The charges were filed following a four-year investigation into Guidant's handling of short-circuiting failures of three models of implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs): the Ventak Prizm 2 DR (Model 1861) and the Contak Renewal (Models H135 and H155). Guidant issued safety advisories regarding the failures in June 2005. Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/February/10-civ-202.html>

35. *February 24, CIDRAP News* – (National) **Emergency departments see rise in flu-like illness.** Some of the nation's emergency departments are noting increases in flu-like illness cases that appear to be pandemic H1N1, and colleges are reporting the first increase in flu-like illness since the end of November, but it is not clear if these are early signs of a third pandemic flu wave. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) said today in a Twitter post that some of its members were anecdotally reporting a new wave of pandemic H1N1 patients coming to emergency departments and asked if other physicians were seeing similar patterns. A professor of emergency medicine at the University of California at Irvine told CIDRAP News that the increase in the number of influenza-like illnesses appears to be real, but he cautioned that many of the cases have not been confirmed as the pandemic H1N1 strain, because many departments stopped specifically testing for it because of low flu activity. Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/feb2410flu-jw.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

36. *February 26, CNN* – (International) **With violence rising, U.S. Consulate closes office in Reynosa, Mexico.** The U.S. Consulate in the border city of Matamoros, Mexico, temporarily closed its Consular Agency in the nearby city of Reynosa because of heightened drug-related violence in recent days. A "Warden Message" was issued by the consulate "to advise U.S. citizens of recent gun battles in Reynosa, Mexico, and cities surrounding Reynosa in the last week." The mayor of Reynosa, located across the border from McAllen, Texas, told a Mexican newspaper that recent shootings have not been between authorities and drug cartels, but between two drug trafficking organizations operating in the region, the Gulf cartel, and the Zetas. In response, the U.S. Consulate has restricted travel of American officials to Reynosa and closed its office there until further notice, the letter says. "The Consulate General in Matamoros

advises U.S. citizens to take the above information into consideration when making any decisions concerning traveling to or within Reynosa,” the letter says. Details of the confrontations and numbers of injured or killed are hard to come by, as local media often self-censor out of fear of retaliation.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/02/25/us.mexico.consulate/>

See item [44](#)

37. *February 26, Mycameronnews.com* – (Missouri) **Phone call causes some concern.** A phone call from Cameron Schools in Missouri on Friday caused some concern for parents. The automated phone message most commonly used to alert parents if school is going to be in session during bad weather, spoke of a nationwide alert from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The alert, which went from the FBI to local law enforcement agencies on Thursday morning came from a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Center had received a picture of a white male holding an automatic weapon towards a target with a message that read, “his score was the number of bullets he was going to take to school,” said the Cameron police chief. According to a St. Joseph News-Press story in the Friday morning edition, three area schools went into lock down as a result of the threat: King City, Savannah and Nodaway-Holt. Cameron did not go into lock down. According to the News-Press story, the Missouri Alert Network (which is operated by the Missouri School Board Association) issued an alert to schools at 11:50 a.m. on Thursday, and said that the threat targeted a Missouri School. According to the story, the Network issued a second alert at 12:45 p.m. saying there was no threat, and that’s when Savannah went out of lock down. The police chief said Friday that the threat did not target a Missouri School specifically, but it was a national alert. “The FBI received that information and they felt that it was a credible enough, yet general enough that they needed to send it out,” the police chief said. “The threat is general in nature. It does target schools, but it’s not a specific school. There’s no credible information of an immediate threat, that’s why we’re not locked down. The threat is still there. The FBI felt it credible enough to send it out from Washington D.C. to law enforcement agencies.”

Source: [http://www.citizen-](http://www.citizen-observer.com/articles/2010/02/26/news/doc4b87e01d0b266006658322.txt)

[observer.com/articles/2010/02/26/news/doc4b87e01d0b266006658322.txt](http://www.citizen-observer.com/articles/2010/02/26/news/doc4b87e01d0b266006658322.txt)

38. *February 25, KGET 17 Bakersfield* – (National) **Police say Bakersfield man threatened President.** A Bakersfield, California man filled his Facebook page with threats to kill the U.S. President, police say. That led to the evacuation of two dozen homes, criminal charges, and a mental examination. The 24 year-old suspect was arrested Saturday for allegedly attempting to make an explosive device. The incident evacuated 25 homes in Southwest Bakersfield. “Tell the ATF, NSA, CIA, FBI, and DHS they can consider me a threat to homeland security,” said a message on the suspect’s Facebook page. It surprised a neighbor. “He didn’t seem like he would be sitting in his bedroom making bombs at night,” she said. Instead of being booked in jail, the suspect was sent to the Memorial Center for mental competency evaluations. However, his attorney says the suspect fled the facility after being left alone in the waiting room. The suspect was found by police on Monday. No bail is set while the suspect is undergoing mental evaluations. The suspect will be back in court for that

evaluation hearing on March 24. 17 News also spoke with the Secret Service, which is working with the Bakersfield Police Department on this case. Secret Service investigators say they take every threat seriously and even if the suspect meant this as a joke, it is not a laughing matter.

Source: <http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Police-say-Bakersfield-man-threatened-President/0c5Npkm4TUerHWrE-wwH8Q.csp>

39. *February 24, West Virginia Metro News* – (West Virginia) **Parent arrested after school threat.** A Charleston, West Virginia, man faces charges after he allegedly made violent threats against the staff of a Kanawha County school. The 33 year-old suspect was arrested Wednesday morning at Anne Bailey Elementary School in St. Albans. A Kanawha County Sheriff's department spokesman says the suspect called the school Wednesday morning enraged over his child being placed on the wrong bus Tuesday afternoon. "He was yelling and screaming at the school personnel," said the spokesman. "He also made a comment along the lines that if he had known what happened yesterday, he would have made it to school and shot some of the personnel there." The threatening call prompted school officials to notify law enforcement. Deputies arrived at the school and a short time later, the suspect showed up. "He was still irate and was arrested for disrupting school process." The spokesman stresses no weapons were found in the suspect's possession when he was taken into custody. It is unclear if the suspect will face additional charges related to the alleged verbal threat over the phone.

Source:

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=35426>

For another story, see item [13](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

40. *February 26, Akron Beacon Journal* – (Ohio) **Norton fire station is rotting.** The Norton, Ohio, Fire Department station is in danger of collapsing. "The firefighters were standing in the [vehicle] bay and heard a loud crack" on Wednesday, said the station's administrative officer. After checking out the rafters, it was discovered that most of the trusses had snapped. A structural engineer said dry rot had invaded the trusses. And within 30 seconds of hearing the crack, the drywall inside of the station at 3230 Greenwich Road began splitting. "When we saw how bad it was, we moved all of our ambulances out," the administrator said. Firefighters and city workers have begun moving out all of the equipment and supplies. The city is looking at the possibility of renting space to house the department's rescue units and equipment. The trucks and equipment must be kept in a heated building so water on the trucks and medicine on the rescue squads do not freeze. The department has three ambulances, a rescue truck, two fire engines, a water tanker and a grass-fire truck.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/news/85455812.html>

41. *February 26, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Inmate leaves prison by impersonating cellmate.** Authorities in Maryland were searching Friday for an inmate serving three life terms who walked out of a Baltimore prison after impersonating his cell mate. Law enforcement agencies are leading the hunt for the New York man, according to a Division of Correction spokesman. The man, who was serving three life sentences for attempted murder, was mistakenly released from the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center on Thursday afternoon. The Maryland commissioner of correction said the investigation into how the man was mistakenly released is in its preliminary stages. But he said that at 11 a.m., he was placed in a cell with an inmate who was scheduled to be released. Prison officials said the man was convicted of 3 counts of attempted murder in 2005, but declined to release further details of the case.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,587450,00.html?test=latestnews>
42. *February 26, CNN* – (International) **U.S. says agents won't embed with Mexican police.** Increased cooperation with the United States in the fight against Mexican drug cartels is vital, but American agents will always be limited on their actions in the country, Mexico's interior ministry said Wednesday. The statement was part of a flurry of reaffirmations of where the United States and Mexico stand with each other in relation to anti-drug operations in Mexico, spurred by a Washington Post report that U.S. agents would be embedded with Mexican law enforcement units. The newspaper, citing unnamed officials from both countries, posited that the unprecedented levels of violence in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, is pushing the neighboring nations to cooperate ever closer. Military and municipal police spokesmen in Juarez said they had read the report, but they officially had no comment on coordinated efforts. Diplomatic officials denied there are plans to have American intelligence officials embedded with Mexican units.
Source:
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/02/24/mexico.us.agents/index.html>
43. *February 25, FOX News* – (National) **Two DHS agencies reportedly lose 1,000 computers in one fiscal year.** Two agencies within the Department of Homeland Security reportedly lost nearly 1,000 computers in fiscal year 2008, costing taxpayers approximately \$13.3 million. According to documents obtained via the Freedom of Information Act by a researcher at the Independence Institute, inventories of lost, stolen, and damaged equipment indicate that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) lost at least 985 computers combined. CBP's total inventory of lost and stolen equipment, or 1,975 pieces, totaled \$7.5 million; ICE's inventory, meanwhile, was 1,547 items, equating to a loss of \$5.8 million. "When I look at these inventories with my own eyes, page after page, I still think there's a good chance that we're dealing with some significant security breaches, and possibly insider theft," said the president of the Independence Institute. CBP reportedly insists that none of the lost computers contained sensitive or classified data. Other losses, according to the Independence Institute, include 235 night vision scopes by CBP officials and an "international harvester vehicle truck" — valued at \$116,349 — on behalf of ICE officials.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/02/25/dhs-agencies-reportedly-lose-computers-fiscal-year/>

44. *February 25, KGBT 4 Harlingen* – (International) **Reynosa Police Department attacked.** City officials have confirmed that the Reynosa, Mexico, Police Department was attacked with an explosive device. Reynosa city officials sent out a press release about the attack on Thursday. The El Universal newspaper reported that the attack took place at the police department building off Bulevar Morelos at 10:55 p.m. Wednesday. The newspaper reported that the occupants of a motor vehicle launched an explosive device in the direction of the police department. El Universal reported that the device exploded on the street and damaged three cars. Nobody was injured in the attack. Source: <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=422118>
See item [36](#)

For another story, see item [49](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

45. *February 25, The Register* – (International) **Scareware scams ride the back of killer whale tragedy.** Supposed footage of the February 24 fatal Sea World killer whale attack in Florida actually points at sites distributing scareware. The 40 year old trainer at Sea World in Orlando lost her life on February 24 after a killer whale attack. Miscreants have wasted no time is exploiting the tragedy, as so many before it, by setting up malware traps designed to ensnare the unwary. Black hat search engine trickery is once again being used to drive traffic to these sites, by planting links to malware portals in Google results for searches terms related to the tragedy, such as “killer whale video pictures”. Users who follow poisoned links will be warned of supposed security risks on their PCs in an effort to persuade them to try and then buy fake anti-virus software of little or no utility, as explained in a blog posting by Sophos. In related news, Twitter profiles compromised by a run of phishing attacks earlier this week have begun pushing out links to fake anti-virus portals. Because of this malign activity, users of Twitter search need to be especially careful, warns a Sunbelt Software security researcher.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/25/killer_whale_scareware/
46. *February 25, SCMagazine* – (International) **IBM report: Vulnerabilities fell in ‘09, attacks rose.** The 2009 cybersecurity landscape had its peaks and its valleys – the number of new and unpatched vulnerabilities decreased compared to 2008, but attack volume grew substantially, according to a research report from IBM ISS released on February 26. There were 6,601 new vulnerabilities discovered last year, an 11 percent decrease compared to 2008, according to the annual “X-Force Trend and Risk Report.” In addition, the number of vulnerabilities in web browsers and document readers with no patch also decreased last year compared to 2008. And, the number of unpatched “critical” vulnerabilities is significantly lower than years past, indicating that software

vendors have become more responsive when dealing with security issues, the report stated. “The computer industry is getting better at building secure software and being responsive to vulnerabilities,” the manager of IBM X-Force Research, told SCMagazineUS.com on February 25. “But the volume of attack activity is expanding at a very rapid pace.” For example, the number of new malicious websites increased by 345 percent in 2009 compared to 2008, according to the report. Spam and phishing volumes also rose dramatically during the second half of the year.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/ibm-report-vulnerabilities-fell-in-09-attacks-rose/article/164547/>

47. *February 24, DarkReading* – (International) **Attackers improving their aim against top brands, study says.** Online criminals are becoming increasingly successful in circumventing enterprise defenses and executing targeted attacks on leading Web brands, according to a study released on February 24. Phishing remains one of the Web’s most popular attack methods, according to Cyveillance’s 2H 2009 Cyber Intelligence Report. While some research indicates the volume of phishing email has been decreasing, the bad guys are successfully targeting more varied industries and hitting bigger brands in order to gain better financial results, Cyveillance says. “While banks and credit unions continue to be the top targets of phishers, governments and the technology and energy industries are now seeing growing numbers of attacks,” the company says. Cyveillance determined that during the second half of 2009, 399 brands were first-time targets of phishing attacks, nearly double the amount of first-time targets than in the first half of the year. Averaging more than 36,000 confirmed, unique attacks per month in the same period of 2009, phishing attacks continue to succeed, the report says. In a test of 14 of the top antivirus vendor offerings, less than half of malware was detected, leaving users susceptible to infection, Cyveillance says. Even after seven days to adjust to a new malware threat, AV software averages achieved only a 50 percent detection rate.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/antivirus/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223100622

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

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>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

48. *February 26, WKTV 2 Utica* – (New York) **WKTV off air due to power failure.** WKTV has been off the air for several hours due to a weather-related power failure in Middleville where the WKTV transmitter is located. National Grid estimates that power should be restored in that area by the afternoon of February 26. Viewers can still watch WKTV on Time Warner Cable. Keep checking WKTV.COM for the latest closings and cancellations, as well as news and weather.
Source: <http://www.wktv.com/news/local/85490777.html>
49. *February 25, IDG News Service* – (National) **FCC to ask Congress for \$18B for public safety network.** The U.S. Federal Communications Commission will ask Congress for \$16 billion to \$18 billion to pay for building and maintaining a nationwide mobile broadband network for emergency response agencies, including police and fire departments. The FCC will also recommend, in a national broadband plan due to be released next month, that mobile carriers that paid billions of dollars for spectrum in the 700MHz band be required to share their spectrum with public safety agencies, the agency chairman said on February 25. A grant program of up to \$18 billion over 10 years is needed to get a nationwide, interoperable public safety network built, the chairman said in a press briefing. Public safety officials and U.S. lawmakers have been calling for a nationwide mobile broadband network since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S., during which the multiple public safety agencies responding to the attacks couldn't talk to each other. Asked if Congress might balk at spending \$16 billion or more on a public safety network, the chairman said the network is necessary.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9162541/FCC_to_ask_Congress_for_18B_for_public_safety_network
50. *February 25, KOB 4 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Antenna falls on Sandia Crest, knocks out power to stations.** A TV tower's antenna belonging to a local Christian TV station toppled over on February 24, knocking down power lines on Sandia Crest for two TV stations and several radio stations. Another brief signal outage occurred early on February 25. It lasted about 25 minutes and power was restored by 9:15. KOB-TV experienced a signal outage from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and planned to air Olympic highlights of missed events in the 10:30 p.m. newscast. KOB-TV was one of two television stations which, along with several radio stations, were knocked off the air when KNAT channel 23's antenna fell. DirecTV and Dish Network were also affected.
Source: <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S1434464.shtml?cat=516>
51. *February 25, IDG News Services* – (National) **Guilty plea for hacker who took Comcast off Web.** A member of a telephone hacking group known as Kryogeniks has pleaded guilty to taking Comcast's Web site offline in May 2008. The suspect pleaded guilty on February 24 to one count of conspiracy to intentionally damage a protected computer system, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. That charge could lead to a five-year prison sentence and a \$250,000 fine. The suspect, who used the hacker name EBK, is one of three men charged with a hacking incident that disrupted Comcast's Web page for two days. He was charged in November, along with two

alleged co-conspirators. All of the men were part of a “phone phreaking group called ‘Kryogeniks,’” according to one of the suspect’s plea memorandum.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9162539/Guilty_plea_for_hacker_who_took_Comcast_off_Web

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

52. *February 26, KRMG 740 AM Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Early morning fire at East Tulsa mall injures two firemen.** Two Tulsa firefighters were injured while battling a blaze at a shopping mall. Firemen were called to the Planta Santa Cecelia in Tulsa on February 25. The News On Six’s says, “Turned out the fire was inside the east edge where there is a bar and tavern and also a stage.” Several firefighters fell off of the stage while battling the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://krmg.com/localnews/2010/02/early-morning-fire-at-east-tul.html>

53. *February 26, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Fire at beachside N.H. hotel engulfs entire block.** A fire that started in an unoccupied oceanfront hotel was fanned by winds of near hurricane force and spread to adjacent buildings, engulfing and destroying an entire block of businesses, firefighters said. No injuries were reported. The glow from the flames could be seen from miles away, a witness said. The ferocious blaze started late Thursday or early Friday at the three-story Surf Hotel in Hampton, a densely populated community along the Atlantic coast an hour’s drive north of Boston, a fire captain said. The block of five wood-frame buildings, including a games arcade, a storage facility and a building that housed a gift shop and apartments quickly caught fire. Most of the businesses in the area, including the Surf Hotel, are only open in the summer so no one was in any of the buildings. It took firefighters several hours before they could put out the fire while battling the winds and the cold, but by then the buildings couldn’t be salvaged, a fire chief said. No cause of the fire had been identified.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,587456,00.html?test=latestnews>

See item [1](#)

54. *February 26, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **New storm evacuation guidelines issued for mudslide areas.** As Los Angeles County braces for another storm, new evacuation protocols have been established for foothill neighborhoods threatened by mudslides, officials said as of 5:30 a.m. Thursday. Color codes will be used to designate danger levels, and residents will now have to sign liability forms if they refuse to heed evacuation orders or try to return to their homes, said a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. The guidelines apply to areas of La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta and Acton that were affected by the Station fire in August, officials said. When the level is green, residents will be advised to monitor weather conditions. A yellow level indicates mandatory evacuations. Residents who evacuate in yellow conditions will be allowed to return to their homes before the order

is lifted but will have to sign liability waivers, she said. Under a red level, residents who leave their homes will not be allowed to return until the evacuation warning is lifted. Residents who refuse to heed evacuation orders will also have to sign waivers, according to the spokeswoman. The storm is expected to move into Southern California late Friday with an intense period of rain likely early Saturday, according to the National Weather Service.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/02/new-storm-evacuation-guidelines-issued-for-mudslide-areas.html>

55. *February 26, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Possible explosive device prompts evacuations.** Authorities discovered what appeared to be a possible explosive device at an Alamogordo Quality Inn and evacuated the hotel and a nearby restaurant. Experts from nearby Holloman Air Force Base investigated and determined the device was part of a spent launcher motor from a Stinger missile. Alamogordo Department of Public Safety spokesman says the device posed no danger to the public. It was discovered at the Quality Inn on White Sands Blvd. Thursday morning and the hotel and an Applebee's restaurant were evacuated as a precaution. Authorities do not know how the device got there and are investigating the incident.

Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/dona_ana_news/ci_14475974

56. *February 26, Washington Post* – (International) **Suicide bombers attack central Kabul, killing at least 17.** A crew of suicide bombers attacked a central commercial area dotted with guesthouses frequented by foreigners, setting off an hours-long gun battle with Afghan police early Friday and killing at least 17 people. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the dramatic raid, which began around daybreak and wounded at least 32 people. The assault was the latest in a string of attacks to rock the capital city, whose residents generally feel a world away from the raging rural insurgency that U.S.-led forces are seeking to contain in a new push in southern Afghanistan. The attack began with a car bombing that left a swimming pool-sized crater outside a small hotel, where most guests were Indian, said the head of criminal investigations for the city police. Three suicide bombers then entered another nearby guesthouse, the Park Residence, which is often used by Americans. There, two bombers detonated their explosives, while a third holed up as green-uniformed Afghan security forces descended and a firefight ensued. The final bomber was killed by police about four hours after the attack began, authorities said. Among the dead civilians were Italians and several Indians, he said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/26/AR2010022601543.html>

For another story, see item [26](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

Dams Sector

57. *February 26, WHDH 7 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Freetown dam in danger of breach.** One of Massachusetts' oldest dams is in danger of failing in Freetown. The storm caused heavy water to come pouring over the top of the 300-year-old Old Forge Pond Dam. City officials declared a state of emergency as seven homes and two businesses near the dam were voluntarily evacuated. About half of the area homeowners decided to leave Thursday night. City leaders said they have been concerned about the dam for years, and Freetown's Emergency Management Director said if the dam failed, it could set off a chain reaction. "This is one of three dams in a row, so if this one goes, it releases all that water. A tremendous force, which puts a severe strain on the second dam, which could possibly fail as well, which in turn will then go down to the Elm St. Bridge, which has had weight reductions because of problems with that bridge, which now puts all this water into Stony Village," the Freetown Emergency Management director said. River flooding was also a big concern on Friday. Water from the Shawsheen River began flowing onto a roadway in Billerica on Thursday night, rushing over Whipple Road and Brown Street. As of Friday morning, the river was upgraded from minor flood stage to moderate flood stage. Crews planned to be back out at the Old Forge Pond Dam on Friday morning to check for any weak spots during the daylight.

Source: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO136503/>

58. *February 26, International Water Power and Dam Construction* – (International) **Russia starts 640MW turbine at Sayano-Shushenskaya.** The Russian prime minister officially restarted the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydro power plant on February 24 by launching on-grid operation of the 640MW unit No 6. The project had been shut down following an incident on 17 August 2009, when, as a result of damage to hydro power unit No. 2, water ejected from the turbine's crater. The water flooded the machinery hall; power and auxiliary equipment were damaged and the frameworks of the machinery hall building collapsed. All the ten hydro power units were damaged and the accident killed 75 people. With the industrial operation of unit No. 6, and the planned launch of unit No. 5 in March, the project will have a base capacity of 1280MW enabling it to minimize the risks of handling seasonal floods and ensure guaranteed water supplies to households, industrial and social facilities located in the hydropower plant's tail bay. As part of the restoration, work was carried out in full at hydro power units Nos. 5 and 6 to repair the generator equipment, and also the turbines' basic and auxiliary equipment. Work is continuing on unit No. 5 for equipment assembly. The first stage of an additional spillway capable of handling up to 2000m³/sec will be commissioned on 1 June 2010. The plant is expected to be fully restored in 2014.

Source:

<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=130&storyCode=2055572>

59. *February 26, Spartanburg Herald-Journal* – (South Carolina) **Neighbors scramble to repair weakened dam.** Water leaking from a burst pipe has eroded an earthen dam in a Spartanburg County subdivision, causing damages for which homeowners are scrambling to fund repair work. Concerned residents of the Chestnut Lake subdivision off John Dodd Road near the Cunningham community met for more than an hour Thursday night. The group debated what should be done and how the estimated \$30,000 should be raised. Many residents began writing checks by the end of the night. The resident who was filling in for the homeowners' association president, told attendees that about one-third of the dam's structural integrity has been compromised, creating the threat of a "very serious" situation. He said if the dam gives way, it could spill the lake toward Palmetto Drive, a state road, and a Norfolk Southern rail bed and wash out parts of both. He said Hyder Construction Co. will be able to lower the 35-acre lake's water level with a temporary syphon system until a "smooth pipe syphon system" can be installed. The Spartanburg County Emergency Management director said zero residences or structures are believed to be in danger. His office is concerned anytime a dam, dike or levee is compromised. He said he met with residents of Palmetto Drive homes to explain the situation and has met with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, which regulates permit dams such as the one in the subdivision. The former pipe will be filled with concrete, trucks of red clay will be hauled in to deposit the core of the dam, and the new syphon system will be installed.

Source:

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20100226/ARTICLES/2261035/1127/NEWS07?p=al1&tc=pgall&tc=ar>

60. *February 26, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Utility repairing retention pond wall after break drenches New Port Richey lawns.** A Pasco utility company is repairing the wall of a reclaimed water pond after a Thursday night breach sent 35 million gallons of water gushing across lawns and roads in the Seven Springs area, officials said. The break happened when the berm of a pond owned by the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) on Seven Springs Blvd., loosened about 11 p.m., said the Pasco County Emergency Management operations coordinator. The water crossed over several roads on its way downstream and into ditches before it leveled out after about 90 minutes, he said. No one reported property damage, he said. The pond holds treated wastewater, which FGUA sells to the public for irrigation, said a spokesman. An engineer will investigate what caused the berm to break, he said. The company has made a temporary repair so it can continue its service, but he said it will lose about 1,200 gallons an hour until the repair is finished in a few days.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/article1076031.ece>

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the reports - The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421

Subscribe to the Distribution List:

Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List:

Send mail to support@govdelivery.com.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.