



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 3 March 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, General Motors said Monday that it will recall 1.3 million Chevrolet and Pontiac compact cars sold in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to fix power steering motors that can fail. (See item [11](#))
- WSPA 7 Spartanburg reports that sheriff's deputies caught and arrested two men on February 28 for stealing over 500 railroad spikes from railroad tracks belonging to Norfolk Southern Railroad in Henderson County, North Carolina. According to the sheriff, "This act of theft could have easily had catastrophic consequences had a train derailed in this area." (See item [18](#))

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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. *March 2, Morristown Daily Record* – (New Jersey) **Morristown officials want to know why explosions keep blowing manhole covers into air.** Morristown, New Jersey, officials said Monday that they want more information from JCP&L about an underground explosion that caused two manhole covers to blow into the air on South

Street Sunday evening. The mayor has asked for a meeting with officials from the electric company. The Morristown library was closed Monday as a JCP&L crew fixed a faulty cable that company officials say might have overheated or sparked to cause compressed air in an underground vault to blow the manhole covers. A similar incident occurred in December when a manhole cover was blown into the air near the Morristown Green. In 2005, a series of more widespread explosions caused a power outage.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20100302/COMMUNITIES/303020002/1005/news01/Morristown-officials-want-to-know-why-explosions-keep-blowing-manhole-covers-into-air>

2. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Scrubber problem shuts down Gillette power plant.** Problems with a scrubber forced the temporary shut down of the Wyodak power plant near Gillette, Wyoming. The scrubber is 1 of 3 140-foot-tall silo-shaped scrubbers at the Wyodak plant, which is operated by PacifiCorp. Scrubbers capture and pull sulfur dioxide out of the power plant's exhaust before it is released out of the stack. A PacifiCorp spokesman says a section of 1 of the scrubber vessels failed and sustained structural damage last week. He says corrosion is a possibility, but he did not yet have complete details on the incident. He says the plant was shut down as precaution so the other two scrubbers could be inspected. The 335-megawatt Wyodak Power Plant opened in 1978.

Source: <http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=12066255>

3. *March 1, WKBT 8 La Crosse* – (Minnesota) **Vandals shoot at Stockton electric station, Winona Co. residents lose power.** Nearly 900 Winona County, Minnesota, residents were without power Sunday after vandals shot and damaged an electric substation. Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TEC) says residents in Winona, Stockton, Lewiston and Rollingstone did not have power for about two hours Sunday. Vandals shot several insulators at the Stockton substation at around 5:00 p.m., damaging a transmission line operated by Dairy Land Power Cooperative, TEC's wholesale power provider. The Winona County Sheriff's Department is investigating the vandalism.

Source: <http://www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12063467>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 2, Chicago Southtown Star* – (Illinois) **Chemical spill closes part of downtown Lockport.** A leaking semi tanker truck spilled a toxic chemical in the middle of a busy intersection in downtown Lockport, Illinois, on Monday afternoon, closing the area for several hours but injuring no one, authorities said. The Lockport Township Fire Protection District Assistant said the truck had left a terminal and was heading south on State Street when it began leaking the flammable chemical xylene at State and Ninth streets. Xylene is a clear, colorless liquid that presents a danger because it can burn at temperatures as low as 63 degrees. Firefighters estimated that about 100 gallons

escaped the tanker before the leak was stopped, but the xylene spread over an area of about 300 feet, causing one building on State Street to be evacuated. Police blocked State Street from Seventh to Ninth streets during the evening rush hour, and the Joliet Fire Department's hazardous materials team was called to the scene to assist. They said exposure to xylene, even for short periods, reportedly can cause irritation of the skin, eyes, nose and throat, difficulty in breathing and other lung problems and stomach discomfort.

Source: <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/2078040,030210lockportleak.article>

5. *March 1, Nashville Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **I-65 in Williamson reopens after chemical spill.** Emergency officials reopened Interstate 65 in Williamson County, Tennessee, after a chemical spill from a tractor-trailer. A Franklin Police officer was taken to the Williamson Medical Center for evaluation after reporting a possible exposure to the chemicals. No other injuries were reported. Earlier Monday, a tractor-trailer carrying flammable liquids from Louisville, Kentucky, to Hueytown, Alabama, swerved to avoid colliding with another vehicle that had changed lanes into its path, Franklin police said. Around 5:15 p.m., an officer noticed materials leaking from the tractor-trailer and pulled the driver over. The driver initially believed that several containers of at least three different combustible liquids may have been damaged during the swerving incident, police said. About 250 to 300 gallons were confirmed to have leaked onto the roadway, said the deputy fire chief in Franklin. The tractor-trailer was carrying at least three chemicals, including phenol, naphthalene, and phenolic urethane, Franklin police said.

Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100301/NEWS01/100301091/I-65+in+Williamson+reopens+after+chemical+spill>

6. *March 1, WDSU 6 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Hazmat crews called to methanol leak.** Hazardous materials crews were called to a chemical leak Monday in Port Fourchon. Louisiana State Police said an 18-wheeler carrying methanol flipped over. Some methanol did leak, but police did not immediately specify how much. Authorities evacuated the immediate area around the port while hazmat crews decontaminate the scene.

Source: <http://www.wdsu.com/news/22709842/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *March 2, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Yankee: Source of leak remains uncertain.** Entergy Nuclear said Monday it is continuing to search for a radioactive tritium leak and didn't have "conclusive evidence" that two cracked underground pipes associated with the advanced offgas system were the source of problems at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. The Vermont Department of Health has confirmed that two broken underground pipes in the advanced off-gas system at Vermont Yankee were tested successfully over the weekend to reveal a pathway to groundwater, according to release from the department. But Entergy voiced caution

whether the source of the radioactive leak is resolved. “It is important to again note that no active process leakage has been observed,” said an Entergy spokesman. “We still don’t have conclusive evidence,” the spokesman said, while acknowledging the Department of Health’s stand, but noting the company was being “very, very prudent and cautious.” The radiological health chief for the Department of Health said that one source of the tritium leak had been identified. The Health Department noted that since a steam leak had been found and capped February 14, the levels of tritium in the contaminated groundwater wells near the off-gas system have steadily declined, although they still are very high.

Source: <http://www.timesargus.com/article/20100302/NEWS/100309993>

8. *March 2, Morris Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Safety risk from valve malfunction lower than thought.** Concern over an incident involving a valve malfunction last summer at Braidwood Generating Station has been downgraded by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The station does not face a federal fine stemming from the event. The valve has since been repaired. The incident involves the June 24 failure of a valve outside the containment area, which controls the sump pump to drain water from the reactor, should it become necessary. In November, the NRC issued a preliminary yellow finding to the station, indicating the incident with the valve was of substantial importance to safety. On Friday, basing the change on information turned over to the agency in January of this year, the NRC lowered its finding from yellow to white. “The white finding means the station gets additional inspections, but is also considered to be low to moderate safety significance,” a Braidwood spokesman noted Monday.

Source: <http://www.morrisdailyherald.com/articles/2010/03/01/73139330/index.xml>

9. *March 1, Bloomberg* – (Georgia) **Georgia seeks \$2.5 billion for first nuclear plants in 30 years.** Georgia’s Municipal Electric Authority plans to borrow more than \$2.5 billion this week to help finance its share of two nuclear reactors, which would be the first licensed in the U.S. since the Three Mile Island reactor accident in 1979. The authority will borrow almost all of the money through the U.S. Treasury’s Build America Bond program, which subsidizes 35 percent of the interest cost on taxable securities sold for public purposes.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=atGvkzuKcDzg>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *March 1, New York Times* – (International) **Data shows Camrys not recalled also had problems.** Toyota has recalled six million cars in the United States over concerns about sudden acceleration. But an analysis of government documents shows that many Toyota Camrys built before 2007, which were not subject to recalls, have been linked to a comparable number of speed-control problems as recalled Camrys. While owners of all makes of vehicles have filed complaints with the government about speed control problems, the analysis — based on a review of 12,700 complaint records in the United States over the last decade by The New York Times — reveals that Toyota had more

complaints involving crashes than any other carmaker. Many of the complaints were about vehicles not covered by recalls. The 2002 Camry, for example, had about 175 speed-control complaints. Roughly half of those involved crashes. By comparison, the 2007 Camry, which was recalled, was the subject of about 200 speed-control complaints, with fewer than a quarter of those resulting in accidents. In all, federal safety regulators said they had received complaints alleging that unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles caused 34 deaths. All told, from 2000 through 2009, Toyota had one speed-control crash complaint per 20,454 vehicles sold in the United States. Ford had one complaint per 64,679 vehicles. Honda had one per 70,112 and G.M. one per 179,821. Asked about The Times's findings, a Toyota spokesman said on Monday that pre-2007 Camrys had been investigated and cleared of defects in three previous inquiries by the safety agency. "At the conclusion of these investigations, no specific evidence of a trend regarding safety issues was found," said the spokesman. Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/02/business/02toyota.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

11. *March 1, Associated Press* – (National) **GM to recall 1.3 million cars.** General Motors said Monday that it will recall 1.3 million Chevrolet and Pontiac compact cars sold in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to fix power steering motors that can fail. The recall affects 2005 to 2010 Chevrolet Cobalts, 2007 to 2010 Pontiac G5s, 2005 and 2006 Pontiac Pursuits sold in Canada and 2005 and 2006 Pontiac G4s sold in Mexico. The automaker said the vehicles are still safe to drive and never lose their steering, but it may be harder to steer them when traveling under 15 mph. A GM spokesman said it will notify car owners when the parts are available. He said the failures are rare, and the cars can still be driven until motors can be replaced by dealers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began an investigation into 905,000 of the models January 27 after getting 1,100 complaints.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/03/01/2006738/business-briefs-gm-to-recall-13.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *March 2, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **Raytheon cleanup may take 78 years.** Homeowners surrounding the now-shuttered Raytheon defense plant in St. Petersburg may not live long enough to see their neighborhood rid of the industrial pollution that has been creeping under parks, playgrounds and homes for decades. In a new report, Raytheon's environmental consultant Arcadis says it will take as long as 78 years to clean up the last of an underground mess that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has known about since 1991. Neighbors were already angry when the company said last year that it would take more than 25 years to clean up the toxic waste plume that has polluted dozens of irrigation wells in their neighborhood. "Some people are so frightened and disgusted they've literally walked away from their homes and their mortgages," said the president of the Azalea Homeowners Association. One of the sore spots for residents is that no one bothered to tell most of them until

after a local news outlet revealed the spreading pollution in March 2008. A Raytheon spokesman said most of the pollutants under residential properties will be gone long before the 78-year figure quoted in the Arcadis report to state regulators. “We’re going to do this thoughtfully with people’s health and safety in mind,” he said. “We’re going to take an aggressive approach.”

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/mar/02/na-raytheon-cleanup-may-take-78-years/>

13. *March 1, Military Times* – (National) **EFV has MRAP-level protection, Conway says.** The Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle has cleared an important obstacle, proving in tests that it can sustain the blast of an improvised explosive device as well as a mine-resistant vehicle, Marine officials said. The Marine Commandant told the House Armed Services Committee last week that he was “very pleasantly surprised” with how the EFV fared in the testing, conducted at Aberdeen Test Center, Maryland, in late January and February. The EFV performed “about the same” as a mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle when faced with explosions under its belly and tracks, but better against direct fire and indirect fire, he said. The step is significant. Critics, including some in Congress, have questioned the wisdom of fielding the EVF in an era in which many combat vehicles are designed with a V-shaped hull that deflects IED blasts. In order to reach speeds of up to 40mph on water, the EFV was designed with a flat bottom. The tests showed the EFV is as resistant to IED blasts as a Category-2 MRAP, the Commandant said.

Source: http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/03/marine_efv_030110w/

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *March 1, DSNews.com* – (National) **FDIC selling \$610M in seized loans.** The FDIC is preparing to auction off a portfolio of loans it acquired from 19 failed bank takeovers. According to a preliminary announcement regarding the sale, the portfolio consists primarily of residential real estate acquisition, development, and construction loans with unpaid principal balances totaling approximately \$610 million. About 80 percent of the loans are past due and classified as nonperforming – 78 percent are at least 90 days overdue, and 2 percent are between 30 and 90 days delinquent. The majority of the loans were originated in 2007. All are from Colorado, California, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Georgia, and Washington. The bulk of the package comes from Greeley, Colorado’s New Frontier Bank, which was shut down last April – 187 loans totaling just over \$220 million, of which 91 percent are at least 90 days past due.

Source: <http://www.dsnews.com/articles/fdic-selling-610m-in-seized-loans-2010-03-01>

15. *March 1, KRCG 13 Columbia-Jefferson City* – (Missouri) **Phone scam targets bank customers.** A telephone scam is making its way across mid-Missouri. Police say the scam preys on customers of local banks. The pre-recorded messages target cell phones with a 573 area code. The scam tells listeners there’s a problem with their debit or credit card. It’s unclear if they are targeting customers of a specific bank but many who

got the calls say it mentions Montgomery Bank. The message asks for credit and debit card and PIN numbers. The calls originate from an 866 number, which is traced to a debt collection company in Boca Raton, Florida. Their office says the scammers are fooling caller IDs to display their phone number and that they are victims as well. Montgomery Banks says they have been inundated with calls about the scam on March 1.

Source: <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=423634>

For another story, see item [31](#)

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Transportation Sector

16. *March 2, Associated Press* – (International) **RAF jets scrambled after disruption on AA flight.** Two Royal Air Force fighter jets were dispatched after reports a passenger was trying to get into the cockpit of an American Airlines jet bound for Heathrow Airport, airline and military officials said Tuesday. The ministry of defense said the Typhoon fighters were scrambled from the RAF Coningsby base in central England on Tuesday morning. They were recalled to the base after the incident was found not to be terrorism-related. Police say the Boeing 767 jet — AA Flight 78 from Dallas/Fort Worth — carrying 161 passengers and 12 crew members landed safely, and a woman was arrested on suspicion of endangering an aircraft. American Airlines said the woman “became distressed during the flight and reportedly attempted to gain access to the flight deck.” “She was calmed by flight attendants but, as a precaution, a priority approach to London was requested and police were asked to meet the aircraft,” the airline said in a statement. The woman’s age, nationality, and name were not released.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/03/02/general-eu-britain-jet-alert_7399130.html?boxes=Homepagebusinessnews

17. *March 2, Orange County Register* – (California) **No one knows where grenade came from.** Officials are searching for fingerprints on a military grenade that was found on the I-5 freeway in San Clemente last week. They are hoping the prints may yield a clue as to how the grenade ended up there. Traffic came to a halt on both sides of the busy freeway for more than an hour February 26 as deputies with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department rendered the grenade safe. A robot was used to inspect the grenade, which was found to be inert, said a police sergeant. But how the grenade ended up in the middle of traffic is still unknown, officials said. No one has come forward to claim the grenade. “We’re waiting for fingerprints,” he said, adding that bomb squad units rendered the grenade safe, but it was not detonated. The grenade was described as a Mk 2 grenade, also known as a pineapple grenade. There were wires protruding from the handle of the device, but there were no explosive materials inside it. Authorities with the California Highway Patrol, Sheriff’s Department, Orange County Fire Authority, and Marines from Camp Pendleton responded to the freeway February 26 when the grenade was first reported by commuters before noon.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/grenade-237032-freeway-officials.html>

18. *March 1, WSPA 7 Spartanburg* – (North Carolina) **Men arrested for stealing railroad spikes.** Sheriff's deputies caught and arrested two men February 28th for stealing railroad spikes from railroad tracks belonging to the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The local sheriff praised the work of the two deputies who apprehended the suspects while investigating suspicious activities on the tracks near West Blue Ridge Road in the Flatrock area of Henderson County. During the course of their investigation, deputies found the suspects in possession of over 500 spikes that had been taken from a stretch of active rail road track. According to the sheriff , "This act of theft could have easily had catastrophic consequences had a train derailed in this area. A spillage of chemicals or other hazardous materials as a result of a derailment certainly puts our citizens at risk, as well as the emergency services personnel that would be required in such an incident. Of course rail transport is a safe and effective method of transporting these products as long as the rails aren't tampered with." The men, both of whom appear to be illegal aliens, gave no address of residence. They were each placed under a \$25,000 dollar bond and ordered held on ICE detainers pending deportation proceedings.
Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2010/mar/01/men-arrested-stealing-railroad-spikes-ar-47938/>
19. *March 1, WKRG 5 Mobile* – (Alabama) **Shots fired at cars.** Someone is firing shots at cars in Baldwin County. The Sheriff's Office says two cars were hit Saturday night. The first shooting happened around 11:30 in Spanish Fort near the Eastern Shore Center. About 10 minutes later, another round was fired at another car on the I-10 Bayway. The Sheriff's Office says it could be just kids with an air rifle or BB gun but they are taking this case very seriously. No one was hurt. "Be aware of people that are going to pass you or slow down to try to get parallel with you. Anytime when you stop at a red light be sure to look over at the person stopped beside you, you know, keep your doors locked and if you perceive a danger call 911," said a Baldwin County Sheriff official. The Sheriff's Office is looking for a maroon, newer model Ford truck. It could be an F-250 or even a Chevy with an extended cab and chrome plating on the bottom.
Source: http://www.wkrg.com/alabama/article/shots_fired_at_cars/762960/Mar-01-2010_6-12-pm/
20. *March 1, KSAZ 10 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Hazmat situation at Sky Harbor Airport's Terminal 3.** While TSA agents were screening bags at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix Monday morning, they saw a puff of smoke from a piece of luggage. The fire department was called and found the item to be medical equipment. Firefighters found it was a type of bottle of chloride used for medical testing. It broke and caused the vapors. Crews evacuated the immediate area, but not the entire terminal. "We've traveled with it before but it's never broke in the container, so this has never been a problem," says the suitcase owner. Airport authorities say it was not hazardous and no airport operations were affected.
Source: http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/local/phoenix/hazmat_phx_sky_harbor_030110

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [6](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *March 1, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Deputies seeking anonymous caller in hoax bomb threat.** An anonymous call prompted a search and evacuation of the New Carlisle Post Office Monday, March 1, but Clark County Sheriff's deputies did not find anything suspicious, according to a press release. "We're looking at it as a prank call," said a police spokesman. At 9:20 a.m. Monday, an anonymous caller told a 911 dispatcher there was a bomb in the post office, located at 107 W. Lake Ave. "There's a bomb in the New Carlisle Post Office," the caller said. "I put it there. Boom." The caller then hung up; the call could not be traced, according to the sheriff's office. "Once we reviewed the tape a few times we realized that it was probably a young person and at that time we started treating it like a prank call," he said. Deputies performed an "extensive search" of the building's exterior — including vehicles in the lot, mail boxes and Dumpsters — and inside the post office, including the building and its contents. Nothing suspicious was found, according to the release, and deputies had left the scene by 10:30 a.m. The Clark County Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation into the threat.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/crime/deputies-seeking-anonymous-caller-in-hoax-bomb-threat-573486.html>

22. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Official: Substance at Utah IRS bldg not hazardous.** An official with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service says a suspicious substance found at an IRS building in Odgen, Utah, is not hazardous. The FBI's Salt Lake City division said Monday that hazardous materials crews were called to the IRS building about 35 miles north of Salt Lake City to respond to a possible hazardous material threat. Parts of the building were evacuated. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service national spokesman told The Associated Press the "matter was non-hazardous." The FBI says some people had medical emergencies but that they did not appear related to the incident.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h-jWmAd7lmAzNcxUE9gDXq9c3BCwD9E653380>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Oct. freeze brings disaster aid for Mont. counties.** Farmers in 10 Montana counties could qualify for federal disaster aid, under a declaration announced by federal agriculture officials in response to a crop-killing deep freeze last October. Yellowstone and Stillwater counties were named primary natural disaster areas Monday because of widespread sugar beet losses during the freeze, which came before many farmers had harvested their crops. Farmers in eight contiguous

counties also qualify for assistance: Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Park, Rosebud, Sweet Grass and Treasure. The disaster designation makes farmers eligible for low interest emergency loans through the federal Farm Service Agency. Loan applications must be submitted by late October.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9E60C780.htm>

24. *February 28, Associated Press* – (Delaware) **Suspicious package prompts evacuation of DE homes.** Delaware State Police say a suspicious package found in a Wilmington doughnut shop parking lot has prompted the evacuation of about 30 homes. State police say the package was found in the parking lot of a Dunkin Donuts on Kirkwood Highway about 3 p.m. Sunday and the store and the parking lot have also been closed until the package can be deemed safe. State police say Saint James Drive at Old Capitol Trail has been closed and they are asking motorists to take alternate routes around the scene.

Source:

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cId=delmarvanow&sParam=32919485.story>

25. *February 26, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (Texas; New York; Massachusetts) **American Pecan Co. recalls pecans because of possible health risk.** The FDA released the following statement: American Pecan Co. of Yancey, Texas, is recalling 1 lb. bags of Pecan Pieces, small, medium, and large sizes, because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. The 1 lb. bags of pecans were sold to walk-up customers at their Yancey, Texas location, as well as to mail order customers in Texas, New York, and Massachusetts. The bagged pecans consist of Ziploc-type bags labeled with “PECAN PIECES (Small, Medium, or Large) Ingredients: Shelled Pecans: Repacked by: American Pecan Co. P.O. Box 151 Yancey, Texas. 78886 Net weight 1-Lb. (16 oz.) 454 g. Might contain Pecan shells..” There are no codes associated with the products. No illnesses have been reported to date.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm202292.htm>

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Water Sector

26. *March 2, Washington Post* – (National) **Study: Weedkiller in waterways can change frogs’ sex traits.** A new study has found that male frogs exposed to the herbicide atrazine — one of the most common man-made chemicals found in U.S. waters — can make a startling developmental U-turn, becoming so completely female that they can mate and lay viable eggs. The study, published online Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, seems likely to add to the attention focused on a weedkiller that is widely used on cornfields. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which re-approved the use of atrazine in 2006, has already begun a new evaluation of its potential health effects. Its manufacturer, Swiss agri-business giant Syngenta, says research has proven that the chemical is safe for animals and for people, who could be exposed to trace amounts in drinking water. The new study examined a

group of 40 African clawed frogs, all of which carried male chromosomes. When they were tadpoles, the researcher put them in water tainted with 2.5 parts per billion of atrazine — still within the EPA’s drinking water standards. About 10 percent of the frogs that developed in the water became “functionally female,” he said. The eggs they produced after mating hatched; the offspring were all male, because both parents contributed male genes. The other 90 percent of the exposed frogs retained some male features, he said, but often had lower testosterone levels and fertility. He said the problem could be that atrazine is absorbed through the frogs’ skin and turns on a gene that, in male frogs, should stay off. He said the findings should raise alarms about human health.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/01/AR2010030102331_pf.html

27. *March 1, XETV 6 San Diego* – (California) **North Park homes evacuated by water main break.** A large water main ruptured in North Park Monday morning, flooding the neighborhood and leaving residents along two blocks without functional plumbing through the day. The broken 30-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe began inundating Polk Avenue near Utah Street about 4:30 a.m., according to the San Diego Water Department (SDWD). The failed main sent a “tremendous” overflow through the neighborhood, flooding a number of residential properties, a SDWD spokesman said. It took repair personnel more than three hours to shut off the pipeline, he said, adding that a main of that size has to be taken off line slowly so as not to cause other mains in the area to rupture. The city sent in two “water wagons” for the affected residents. Crews hoped to have service restored to the area by late Monday evening and the roadway repaired and reopened by early Tuesday morning, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/story/North-Park-water-main-break-Polk/VPUBmCxFU0W2kurHtbnIwQ.csp>

28. *February 28, KCBD 11 Lubbock* – (Texas) **Lubbock fined for environmental violations at wastewater plant.** Environmental violations will cost Lubbock City Hall a \$50,580 fine. Public records say the city’s waste water treatment plant at Southeast Loop 289 and Southeast Drive exceeded the limits of its state permit several times in late 2008 and continuing through mid-2009. The city denies any wrongdoing but agrees to pay the fine. The city manager signed an agreed order with the Texas Commission on Environmental Policy on Wednesday February 24th. The order gives the city 730 days to correct all violations which the city believes is enough time to finish construction on certain upgrades to the wastewater plant. The Southeast Water Reclamation Plant is undergoing a \$50.9 million capital improvement project.

Source: <http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=12060322>

29. *February 28, New York Times* – (National) **Rulings restrict Clean Water Act, foiling E.P.A.** Thousands of the nation’s largest water polluters are outside the Clean Water Act’s reach because the Supreme Court has left uncertain which waterways are protected by that law, according to interviews with regulators. Some businesses are declaring that the law no longer applies to them. And pollution rates are rising. Companies that have spilled oil, carcinogens, and dangerous bacteria into lakes, rivers

and other waters are not being prosecuted, according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulators working on those cases, who estimate that more than 1,500 major pollution investigations have been discontinued or shelved in the last four years. The Clean Water Act was intended to end dangerous water pollution by regulating every major polluter. “We are, in essence, shutting down our Clean Water programs in some states,” said an E.P.A. lawyer in Atlanta. “This is a huge step backward. When companies figure out the cops can’t operate, they start remembering how much cheaper it is to just dump stuff in a nearby creek.” The court rulings causing these problems focused on language in the Clean Water Act that limited it to “the discharge of pollutants into the navigable waters” of the United States. For decades, “navigable waters” was broadly interpreted by regulators to include many large wetlands and streams that connected to major rivers. But the two decisions suggested that waterways that are entirely within one state, creeks that sometimes go dry, and lakes unconnected to larger water systems may not be “navigable waters” and are therefore not covered by the act — even though pollution from such waterways can make its way into sources of drinking water. The court did not define which waterways are regulated, and judicial districts have interpreted the court’s decisions differently.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/01/us/01water.html?pagewanted=print>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *March 2, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Suspicious briefcase found empty at Bellingham Health Center.** A suspicious briefcase left at Interfaith Community Health Center Tuesday, March 2, was found empty by Bellingham Police. Officers from the Hazardous Devices Unit had evacuated the building, located at 220 Unity St., after the suspicious briefcase was found with an attached note. The note, which was quite lengthy, did not issue any threats but instead expressed displeasure with Interfaith and its services, said a Bellingham Police spokesman. Officers are working to gather suspect information.

Source: http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/03/02/1318288/bellingham-health-center-evacuated.html?storylink=omni_popular

31. *March 2, The Daily of the University of Washington* – (Washington) **UWMC patient financial information compromised.** In early February, an employee of the National Collection Office (NCO) Financial Systems Inc., a debt-collection agency that UW Medicine contracts with, violated security and compromised at least 50 confirmed contacts, and as many as 80 more are being investigated. “UW Medicine was informed by law enforcement in early February that records containing Social Security numbers and credit-card information for a number of UW Medicine patients were found on a person who was arrested for an unrelated crime,” the director of the Health Sciences Center wrote in an e-mail. She stressed that no medical records were involved but that patients whose personal information was compromised could be victims of identity

theft.

Source: <http://dailyuw.com/2010/3/2/uwmc-patient-financial-information-compromised/>

32. *March 1, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Shands HealthCare notifies 12,500 patients that a laptop containing medical information was stolen in January.** Shands HealthCare has notified about 12,500 patients that a laptop containing their medical information was stolen in January. The unencrypted laptop contained information about patients referred over the past three years to the Shands at the University of Florida gastroenterology clinical services department. The information includes names, addresses, medical record numbers and medical procedure codes of the patients, as well as the Social Security numbers of about 650 people. There is no evidence that any of the information has been used for fraudulent purposes, according to Shands. A Shands employee who deals with the gastroenterology clinic's patient referral database downloaded the information under the belief that the laptop was encrypted, said a Shands spokeswoman. The hospital-owned laptop was reported stolen January 27 as part of a burglary of the employee's northwest Gainesville, Florida, home.
Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100302/ARTICLES/3021003/1002>

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Government Facilities Sector

33. *March 2, Wenatchee World* – (Washington) **Brewster police arrest teen, seize guns after Facebook conversation.** Police arrested a Brewster, Washington, High School boy Saturday and seized guns after investigating a tip that he wrote about plans for a school shooting on Facebook. The 17-year-old boy was booked into the Okanogan County Juvenile Detention Center on suspicion of conspiracy to commit first-degree assault. The "shooting spree" was being planned for sometime in 2011, according to the news release from the Brewster Police Chief. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the tip came from parents of a 14-year-old girl from Port Alberni, British Columbia, who had contact with the Brewster boy on Facebook. "We initially thought she was a suspect, but we've eliminated her as a suspect at this time," said a spokesman with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Port Alberni, about 100 miles west of Vancouver, British Columbia. He said the Brewster teenager asked the girl in a Facebook conversation to attend his high school and shoot people. The boy indicated he had a date set, and already had the weapons. The spokesman said he did not know what school was being targeted. Brewster police did not determine what school the boy may have been planning to target, but "the administrations of possible schools involved have been notified," the Brewster news release stated.
Source: <http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2010/mar/01/brewster-police-arrest-teen-seize-guns-after/>

34. *March 1, WHIZ 40 Zanesville* – (Ohio) **Suspicious package found in Athens.** All is clear in the City of Athens after a suspicious package was reported in the city parking garage this morning. The Athens Police Department received the call around 9:30 a.m.

and a press release indicates the incident forced the evacuation and closure of the Athens City Law Director's office and the Athens City building. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic also was blocked on several streets surrounding the parking garage. The Columbus Bomb squad was called in to examine the package and found that it did not pose a safety threat. Everything was re-opened around 1:30 p.m. The City of Athens indicates it does not know where the package came from. The incident remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.whiznews.com/content/news/local/2010/03/01/suspicious-package-found-in-athens>

35. *March 1, New Haven Independent* – (Connecticut) **Bomb threats clear schools.** Coop High students took an unplanned field trip to the Shubert Monday, as police cleared two New Haven schools — one of them twice — after someone called bomb threats into 911. The first call came in around 10 a.m. The caller said “the new high school” would blow up within the hour. Cops converged on Co-op, on College Street. The school sent the kids a block away to the Shubert theater to hang out until cops cleared the building. The kids swarmed back into the building around 11. Police also checked the New Haven Academy building on Bradley Street, just in case. Officials did not clear NHA to conduct the check. Meanwhile, police received a second similar threat, about New Horizons School for Higher Achievement on Hallock Avenue in the Hill. The kids were cleared out, the building checked. The kids were returned to the building without incident, according to schools spokeswoman. But the kids had to go back out an hour later. Another bomb threat was called in. At press time police were checking the building again. According to a police spokesman all the calls came from the same cell phone number. Police Monday afternoon were in the process of tracking down the caller.

Source:

http://newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/bomb_threats_clear_schools/id_24101

36. *February 26, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Threat closes 4 Stockton schools.** Four Stockton-area schools were shut down Friday as a safety precaution after a bomb threat that police said did not appear to be credible. Parents received automated calls stating that a threat had been made against a handful of schools and Delta College. A caller phoned in the threat to police at about 3 a.m. Lincoln Unified School District said the threat did not appear to be credible, but “out of an abundance of caution” the district released students at 8:15 a.m. from the following campuses: Lincoln High School, Sture Larsson High School, John McCandless Center, and Sierra Middle School. About 3,000 students at those schools were sent home. Classes continued at other Lincoln Unified campuses. Stockton Unified School District also assessed the threat, but classes went on as usual.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/news/22682304/detail.html>

37. *February 26, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **Tacoma Public Utilities evacuated for hazmat.** The Tacoma Fire Dept said a customer came into the lobby of Tacoma Public Utilities building at 2:45 p.m. Friday afternoon with an envelope containing a

disconnection bill. The envelope also contained cash and white powder, which spilled out of the envelope. The lobby and part of the building was evacuated, and fire and hazmat crews are waiting to go inside in the lobby to investigate.

Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/22687621/detail.html>

For another story, see item [22](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

38. *March 2, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Sirens malfunction yet again.** Warning sirens across the Islands continued to malfunction during yesterday's regular monthly test — just as they had during Saturday's tsunami scare — but state officials are working on adding new ones and repairing old ones. Out of the state's 364 warning sirens, at least 24 failed to work. On O'ahu alone, 15 of the island's 176 sirens were silent yesterday. On average, eight to 10 sirens are reported to malfunction during each month's tests, said the deputy director of the city's Department of Emergency Management. City officials theorized that more people were paying attention to yesterday's test and were more likely to report problems, he said. At the same time, city officials were still trying to determine exactly how many sirens malfunctioned during Saturday's tsunami warning.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20100302/NEWS04/3020329/Sirens+malfunction+yet+again>

39. *March 1, Northescambia.com* – (Florida) **Police impersonator arrested; had badge and Crown Victoria with lights.** A Pensacola, Florida, man allegedly pretending to be a cop was busted by the real thing Sunday at a Pensacola Taco Bell. He was charged with impersonating a police officer and unlawful use of a police badge. Escambia County Sheriff's deputies responded to a Taco Bell on Fairfield Drive Sunday morning in reference to a suspicious individual wearing a police insignia and driving a Ford Crown Victoria. "When deputies arrived, they observed [the man] driving a green Ford Crown Victoria as described by the caller and wearing a green police style jacket with Dixie County Sheriff's Office patches and a silver police style badge. A search of the suspect's vehicle revealed a toggle switch that operated strobe lights on the front of the vehicle," according to an Escambia Sheriff's Office press release.

Source: <http://www.northescambia.com/?p=15032>

40. *March 1, CNN* – (National) **When is a state of emergency over?** Elected officials declare emergencies with relative ease. But declaring them over is another matter. Some 880 emergencies remain "open" on government books — 61 of them more than a decade old — as federal government workers attempt to reconcile money allocated for the disaster with money actually spent. In some instances, the accounting books remain open because it takes years to rebuild roads, bridges and buildings destroyed by fires, floods and earthquakes. But in other cases, disasters remain open because of unyielding

bureaucratic rules, according to a report by Department of Homeland Security Inspector General. Auditors found 45 “open” disasters in which the amount of money to be reconciled was less than \$10. “FEMA reconciles all disaster financial activities to the last dollar,” it says. “The reconciliation of disaster activities to the exact amount, particularly when the outstanding amounts are relatively small, is not a cost-effective use of FEMA resources,” the report said. Blame for needless delays in closing disasters resides with virtually every level of government and with organizations that receive emergency agency grants, the report says. Regional officials said it was “politically unacceptable” to remove programs established in the wake of disasters. Staff shortages at various levels of government contribute to delays, as do new disasters, which get priority attention. The report looks at a snapshot in time: September 30, 2008. At that time, there were 880 “open” disasters. Of that number, 744 were open because of obligations that had not yet been paid totaling \$16 billion. The remaining 136 disasters were delayed for other reasons, such as appeals or because of other priority work. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/03/01/fema.disasters/>

41. *March 1, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **Vandals steal utility truck, set it ablaze.** Vandals in Brevard County set fire to a utility truck, damaged several vehicles, and broke into a county maintenance facility. Investigators are looking for the vandals Monday who trashed the Brevard County Fire Rescue’s maintenance yard at the center on Wenner Way in Cocoa. Vehicles from other county departments were also vandalized. The fire department just got hit the hardest. It was a 911 call around 7:00 a.m. from a Cocoa resident that led to the discovery of the vandalism. A county fire rescue utility truck was stolen from the fleet maintenance yard, taken on a joy ride, and then set on fire. The State Fire Marshal said it appears someone ignited something on the inside of the cab and let the truck burn, probably hoping to destroy evidence. About the same time the burning truck was found, workers were arriving at the maintenance yard and discovering more vandalism. Investigators said it appears someone broke into the compound and tried to steal the fire department’s four-wheelers. One was backed into a county SUV; compartments were opened and equipment was tossed around the yard. Authorities said the keys to the stolen fire truck had been left inside and the gates opened automatically when the thief pulled up to leave. Source: <http://www.wftv.com/countybycounty/22705593/detail.html>

42. *March 1, KERO 23 Bakersfield* – (California) **Inmate walks away from correctional institution.** On Sunday around 10 p.m., while conducting the official count, staff at the Taft Correctional Institution discovered one inmate was missing from the Institution’s Satellite Camp facility. The Satellite Camp is a minimum-security facility that houses approximately 550 federal inmates. There is no security fence around the facility, which is common for a minimum-security facility within the federal prison system. Minimum security is the lowest security level in the federal prison system. Taft Correctional Institution immediately contacted all appropriate law enforcement agencies including the Taft Police Department, Bakersfield Police Department, Kern County Sheriff’s Department, California Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Maricopa Police Department, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and United States Marshals Service. The 35-year-old inmate was sentenced on July 24, 2006 to 188

months in federal custody for conspiracy to import controlled substances.

Source: <http://www.turnto23.com/news/22706331/detail.html>

43. *February 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Iris scans may prevent mistaken release of inmates.** A Baltimore inmate who bluffed his way out of prison probably would not have tricked guards if they had eye-scanners such as those being installed at dozens of jails nationwide. The federal government is paying for the scanners as part of an effort to build a nearly foolproof identification system to put a stop to such escapes. “After this occurrence, we will be studying whatever we can do to make sure this kind of thing doesn’t happen again,” including iris scanners, said a spokesman for the Maryland Division of Corrections, which oversees the facility that mistakenly released the inmate, who was serving three life sentences for shooting his ex-girlfriend and her two teenage daughters. He impersonated his cellmate Thursday and was released. He was arrested the following day in West Virginia. The eye-scanning program looks to put an end to such deception. The U.S. Justice Department has given a \$500,000 grant to the National Sheriff’s Association, which is doling out the money through \$10,000 grants to about 45 agencies across the country that will create a national database that better identifies, registers and tracks inmates. Eye-scanners have been used for years by a few jails, the U.S. military, some European airports and private companies, but they remain rare, primarily because of the cost.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jK9gdx6fpLmqLb-7Gle0JAr-5LUAD9E4DHUG0>

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Information Technology Sector

44. *March 2, The Register* – (International) **WoW authenticators bypassed by middlemen hackers.** Crooks have developed a man-in-the-middle-attack designed to circumvent authentication kit used by dedicated World of Warcraft gamers. The ruse relies on tricking gamers into installing Trojans disguised as gaming ad-ons. Once applied the malware allows hackers to capture and relay authentication commands next time a victim logs on to Blizzard’s servers. The hackers divert and then relay authentication commands before looting gaming accounts for virtual gold, presumably for resale. Meanwhile the results of a failed login are played back to victims, effectively locking them out of their compromised accounts for at least the time needed to pull off the scam. Trojans targeting online gaming accounts are commonplace, especially in east Asia, but attempts to circumvent two-factor logins to online gaming accounts represent a new twist of added sophistication.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/02/warcraft_account_hack/

45. *March 2, IDG News Service* – (International) **Sony blames leap year glitch for PlayStation troubles.** Sony has restored service to the PlayStation Network by resolving a glitch in the internal clock of some PlayStation 3 consoles that recognized 2010 as a leap year and wrongly added a February 29 to the clock. The glitch, which harkens back to the Y2K bug, affected millions of users around the world, preventing

many from accessing Sony's PlayStation Network. People with the new, slim PS3 consoles were not affected by the problem. The PlayStation Network boasts over 40 million registered users, according to the site.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9164059/Sony_blames_leap_year_glitch_for_PlayStation_troubles

46. *March 2, SC Magazine* – (International) **Spam continues to surge as URL filtering fails to spot malicious sites.** Spam has continued to surge in the early months of 2010, as pornography remains the most prevalent threat vector. In Symantec's February 2010 MessageLabs Intelligence Report, analysis revealed a surge in spam levels in February to 89.4 percent, an increase of 5.5 percent from January. It put this down to an increase in spam emanating from the Grum and Rustock botnets, with the former's output increasing by 51 percent to make it responsible for 26 percent of all spam, up from its usual 17 percent. Fortinet's threatscape report for February revealed that pornography was the highest message tactic used in spam campaigns, with 63.6 percent of messages using this vector. It also detected that of threat traffic detected, 84 percent was malware, 15 percent spyware and only one per cent was phishing. As to who was behind these attack campaigns, it said that it knew that the engine driving the record-breaking spam runs was Cutwail, as some of the more prevalent spam campaigns driven by Cutwail distribute scareware/ransomware and it is popular because of the high amounts of profits available to cyber criminals.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/spam-continues-to-surge-as-url-filtering-fails-to-spot-malicious-sites/article/164820/>

47. *March 2, SC Magazine* – (International) **More than half of applications are vulnerable to security breaches, as Microsoft confirms it is looking into an issue regarding malicious content hosting.** More than half of the internally developed, open source, outsourced and commercial applications are vulnerable to security breaches. A report by Veracode claims that of the 1,600 applications analyzed when first submitted, 58 percent contained vulnerabilities similar to those exploited in the recent cyber attacks on Google and others. Despite the claim about vulnerabilities in open source software, the report did find that it 'has comparable security, faster remediation times and fewer potential backdoors than commercial or outsourced software'. However it found that 40 percent of all applications submitted at the request of large enterprises were from third-parties, and more than 30 percent of all internally developed applications also included identifiable commercial, open source and outsource code.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/more-than-half-of-applications-are-vulnerable-to-security-breaches-as-microsoft-confirms-it-is-looking-into-an-issue-regarding-malicious-content-hosting/article/164818/>

48. *March 2, CNET News* – (International) **Report: Aurora attack was tested last summer.** The attacks on Google and others late last year weren't as sophisticated as initially believed and appears to have cropped up last summer, according to a report to be released Tuesday by security firm Damballa. Damballa is just the latest company to analyze the attacks and offer an opinion. McAfee dubbed the attacks "Operation

Aurora” and said they were highly complex and advanced. “While ‘Aurora’ was a very damaging attack that breached some of the most sophisticated networks in the world, it is a ‘garden variety’ botnet and can be traced back to July 2009 when the criminal operators first began testing,” Damballa said in a release. Damballa analyzed the command-and-control activity used in the attacks, whereby compromised PCs receive instructions from outside servers, allowing them to be remotely controlled. While the techniques used in the attack are “old school,” according to Damballa, the scope of the attack—targeting so many high-profile companies simultaneously—is significant. The report also concluded that the attack can be traced back to last July with what appears to be the first testing of the botnet by its operators. In addition, the botnet appears to have made use of e-mail services to extract stolen data from breached organizations and there is evidence that there were multiple operators involved, Damballa found.
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-27080_3-10461935-245.html

49. *March 1, IDG News Service* – (International) **Microsoft warns of new bug affecting IE users.** Steer clear of the F1 key while surfing the Web, at least for a little while. Microsoft warned on March 1 of a new vulnerability that affects Internet Explorer users, saying that it could be exploited by hackers to install malicious software on a victim’s computer. The flaw lies in the way Microsoft’s VBScript works with Windows Help Files in Internet Explorer. But for an attack to work, the victim must press the computer’s F1 key, Microsoft said. “Our analysis shows that if users do not press the F1 key on their keyboard, the vulnerability cannot be exploited.” This type of attack is considered harder to pull off because of this F1 key requirement, but Web-based attacks have emerged as a major source of malicious software over the past few years.
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/030210-microsoft-warns-of-new-bug.html?hpg1=bn>
50. *March 1, International Business Times* – (International) **Resembling ‘cartels,’ hackers become more industrialized.** Hackers are more “industrialized” than ever before and hacking communities now resemble an organized “drug cartel”, according to a report released on March 1. Imperva, a data security company, found that today’s cybercrime industry has transformed and automated itself to mimic the 19th century industrial revolution, which accelerated assembly from single to mass production. “The roles and responsibilities within the hacking community have developed to form a supply chain that resembles a drug cartel,” the report noted. There are three major roles within the industrialized hacking model. Firstly, the researcher searches for vulnerabilities in applications, frameworks, and products and then gives this information to malicious organizations for the sake of profit. Secondly, a farmer maintains and increases the presence of botnets in cyberspace through mass infection. Lastly, the dealer distributes the malicious content.
Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/9195/20100301/resembling-cartels-hackers-become-more-industrialized-imperva-report.htm>
51. *March 1, TechCrunch* – (International) **Gmail security enhancements expected Tuesday.** Google will roll out a number of security enhancements to Gmail the week of March 1, and perhaps as early as March 2, says a source with knowledge of the new

features. The changes are specifically designed to cut down on phishing and hacking attacks on Gmail accounts. There are two specific changes that Google is implementing. The first is a secondary line of defense when a user has lost his or her password. If a Gmail account is accessed from a new computer, the user will have the option of receiving a text message with a new one time use pass key. They then enter that pass key into Gmail to authenticate themselves and lock out any bad users with access to the account. Google is also possibly implementing a different version of OAuth for its contacts exporter (something often used by other services to import Gmail contacts). It's likely to be OAuth Wrap, an easier to implement version of OAuth. If developers can be convinced to use it instead of harvesting and storing user credentials, there's less of a security hole.

Source: <http://techcrunch.com/2010/03/01/gmail-security-enhancements-expected-tuesday/>

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. *March 2, Provincetown Banner* – (Massachusetts) **Storm knocks out phone service on Outer Cape.** An electric wire tangled in trees apparently broke after a early morning storm and came in contact with a main Verizon line to the Outer Cape along Route 6 in Wellfleet near the Truro line late on March 1 afternoon causing the line to burn up. The result was a nearly town-wide power outage in Wellfleet and parts of Truro and phone and DSL service in Provincetown, Truro and parts of Wellfleet were knocked out. Many landlines and cell phones along with DSL and even 911 service were affected. Emergency 911 calls were automatically rerouted. The line also feeds the Truro cell site, meaning cell calls could not be relayed back to the central station. Local police and fire were using backup radios as the 800 trunking system at the Truro site was also apparently being affected because the phone line feeding it to the main state control point went down. Verizon repair crews were working late into the evening to replaced the damaged section of cable.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/truro/news/x1121873578/Storm-knocks-out-phone-service-on-Outer-Cape>

53. *March 2, White Hat News* – (International) **Xynthia: more than 120,000 customers affected in SFR.** The storm has devastated Xynthia Western France, SFR as France Telecom took stock on March 1 of the damage to its infrastructure. By late afternoon, the operator indicated that about 125,000 mobile subscribers and 13,000 fixed subscribers (telephone or DSL) were still likely to experience disruptions caused by the

storm due to power failures that occurred in Center, Champagne-Ardenne, Lorraine, Pays de la Loire and Poitou-Charentes. On the morning of March 1, a spokesperson of France Telecom explained that there were disturbances on a thousand relay antennas, and the cutoff of 100,000 lines in fixed telephony and ADSL.

Source: <http://whitehatfirm.com/news/xynthia-more-than-120000-customers-affected-in-sfr/1728.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

54. *March 2, Corvallis Gazette-Times* – (Oregon) **Timberhill bomb scare closes stores.** A suspected box of ammo left outside a store led to the evacuation Monday morning of two stores in the Timberhill Shopping Center in Oregon. The incident began about 9 a.m., when an employee at Sears found a wooden crate on the sidewalk in front of the business. Printing on the crate indicated it contained artillery ammunition, according an officer of the Corvallis Police Department. Officers evacuated the nearby Sears and Blockbuster Video stores and taped off an area of the parking lot about 250 feet around the box. The Eugene Police Bomb Squad came to the scene and used a robot to open the crate, which turned out to be empty. Police were at the scene for about three hours. He said police did not know how the crate, which measured about 1.5 feet wide, 3 feet long, and 8 inches deep, ended up on the sidewalk.

Source: http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_bc3ad50e-25c4-11df-bc5c-001cc4c03286.html

55. *March 1, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Authorities trying to dispose of sodium in Chandler field.** A hazmat team and bomb squad are in a field behind the Chandler auto mall devising a plan on how to dispose of about two pounds of sodium, a metal that combusts when it comes in contact with water. A man called the police department from a pay phone, explaining that he purchased the material from a gun store, said a detective. When he exposed some of the sodium to water and watched it explode, he became scared and dumped the remaining substance in the field near Willis and Gilbert roads, south of the San Tan Freeway. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives is also on the scene to determine the safe way to dispose of the material, especially since the field is wet.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/03/01/20100301sodium0303.html>

56. *February 28, Island Packet* – (South Carolina) **Bomb scare hits Sea Pines, but it was a fake grenade.** The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad was called out Sunday after a security guard found an item resembling a grenade on Lighthouse Road near Sea Pines Center on Hilton Head Island, said a sheriff's captain. It turned out to be a fake, he said. Officers reopened Lighthouse Road and Sea Pines Drive near the Sea Pines Center after the area was shut down for almost two hours. The bomb squad secured the area and determined the item was fake. "It looked like a grenade," he said. "It was lying on the ground under a bush. You just never know. That's why we have

the bomb squad come in and handle the device.” The item was made of metal and looked like a novelty toy. Officers do not know where it came from or who put it there, he said.

Source: <http://www.islandpacket.com/2010/02/28/1155681/bomb-scare-hits-sea-pines-but.html>

57. *February 28, WLUK 11 Green Bay* – (Wisconsin) **Fond du Lac mall reopens after fire.** Forest Mall in Fond du Lac is back open after an electrical fire Saturday night. The Fond du Lac Fire Department said the fire started around 6:30 in a chandelier that began dripping fire. Officials said the flames were out by the time fire crews arrived, but smoke and chemicals from the fire extinguisher made the building unsafe. Authorities said they evacuated about 100 people, and blocked off stores to prevent the spread of smoke and chemicals. Firefighters said no one was injured. The mall was closed the rest of the night for clean up, but reopened Sunday morning.

Source: <http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/fond-du-lac-mall-reopens-after-fire>

58. *February 28, Associated Press* – (New York) **Witness: Glass ‘everywhere’ in NYC atrium collapse.** Authorities say ice broke through a glass atrium at the Sony Building in New York City and 10 people sustained minor injuries. City building officials say ice fell from the 32nd floor Saturday night. Two glass panels in the lobby were shattered. A guest at the party said she heard “what sounded like some plates breaking.” She says she then heard a pop, “looked up and there was glass flying everywhere” and that it looked like a hail storm. Fire officials say no one was seriously hurt. The injured were taken to area hospitals. A spokeswoman at Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan says four of the injured were taken there with minor injuries. The Buildings Department issued a violation on Sunday to the property’s owners for failing to maintain the Madison Avenue building.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/02/28/entertainment-us-glass-atrium-collapse_7394106.html

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

59. *March 2, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Forge Pond waters recede; removal of dam planned.** Water levels at Forge Pond in Freetown have dropped about 17 inches since Friday, alleviating stress on a 200-year-old dam that showed signs it might fail and unleash devastation downriver. The swell, caused by recent rainfall, had been so much of a concern last week that state officials working with the town evacuated about a dozen residents and characterized a worse-case scenario as “catastrophic,” likely to

cause millions of dollars in property damage and the loss of life. Authorities with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), after monitoring the dam over a 24-hour period, decided Friday evening to tear it down. The DCR said last week that the demolition would be carried out in days, not weeks, but yesterday a spokeswoman said the entire project would probably take about two or three weeks. The department's engineers are developing plans for the breach project, said a spokeswoman. Those plans are expected to be finished by the end of the week, and then the project will be put out for bid, with the demolition work to begin immediately after a contractor is chosen. Town officials and residents have complained for years that the dam is no longer suitable. The dam was privately owned, but the owner died last year. A Freetown selectman said that while breaching the dam is the best alternative, "the downside is that we would be losing a nice wildlife refuge because it will narrow the pond down to a small river."

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/03/02/forged_pond_waters_recede_removal_of_dam_planned/

60. *March 2, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Residents: Levee failure puts us at risk.** Neighbors in Black Canyon City, Arizona, are upset over Yavapai county's response to a levee failure they fear puts them in possible danger. The 30-year-old levee system along the Agua Fria River was mostly washed away during January's storms. The Agua Fria is low enough to walk across. In 1979, a massive flood moved through the area and washed away the Interstate 17 bridge, killing six people. According to documents CBS 5 News obtained dating back to that time, county and federal officials made it clear they did not want a repeat episode in the future. It took the Army Corps of Engineers \$1 million and three years to construct a three-mile levee to channel flood waters. With rain in the forecast this weekend, residents said they have been told it will not take much to wash them away.

Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/22688817/detail.html>

61. *March 1, BBC* – (International) **Weak sea walls blamed for France storm disaster.** Blame is being laid on weak and aged sea defenses after violent storms left at least 50 dead and thousands homeless along France's Atlantic coast. Many died after the sea wall off the coastal town of L'Aiguillon-sur-Mer was breached, allowing 8m-high (26ft) waves to crash through the streets. A local governor said the walls dated back to the time of Napoleon and needed to be replaced with taller barriers. The French president has pledged 3m euros in emergency aid. He was touring the worst-affected western coastal regions of Vendee and Charente-Maritime after declaring a national disaster, and promised to channel recovery funds quickly. While many L'Aiguillon-sur-Mer residents were trying to be stoical about the situation, there is some anger in the town that not enough had been done to maintain its sea defenses, says a BBC reporter on location. Poor planning was also being blamed for constructing a mobile home park so close to the old sea wall. "The sea wall that broke dated from [the era] of Napoleon," said a former presidential candidate who heads Vendee's regional government. "Either we build [new] sea walls, in which case they need to be taller and taller... or we have to build further inland," he told France-Info. The French prime minister said flood

prevention dikes would be strengthened. Nearly 10,000 emergency staff were working on the west coast on Monday morning, searching for and helping survivors.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8544002.stm>

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