



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

### Top Stories

- Reuters reports that health experts watching for signs of a malaria outbreak have noticed several cases of the mosquito-borne disease among people traveling back from Haiti. So far, 11 laboratory-confirmed cases of malaria have been reported among emergency responders and those traveling in the United States from Haiti, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on March 4. (See item [39](#))
- According to the Associated Press, an airman in training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas was in military custody Monday after toting a shotgun outside a dormitory. A spokesman for the base said no shots were fired and nobody was hurt during the incident Sunday night. (See item [40](#))

---

### 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. **March 8, KCCI 8 Des Moines** – (Iowa) **Crews work overnight to clear derailed train.** Authorities said a Union Pacific train loaded with coal derailed near Jefferson in

west central Iowa on March 7. A Greene County Sheriff said about 37 cars of a 140-car Union Pacific train went off the tracks at a crossing at 9:09 p.m. on March 7 about 5 miles west of Jefferson. He said the train was heading east when the middle of the train “lost it right at the crossing” for whatever reason. The sheriff said the derailment happened in a rural area, and no injuries were reported. He said some coal was spilled, but other cars remained upright and are still loaded. The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/22772681/detail.html>

2. *March 7, Newsday* – (New York) **Power lost when breakers trip at Coram substation.** Trouble at a Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) substation in Coram during the evening of March 7 left roughly 16,000 homes without power for nearly half an hour. An LIPA spokeswoman said circuit breakers at the substation opened at about 7:30 p.m. A downed power line at Nicolls Road and Horseback Place may have caused the breakers to open, she said, but the outage is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/long-island/suffolk/power-lost-when-breakers-trip-at-coram-substation-1.1798736>

3. *March 6, Log Cabin Democrat* – (Arkansas) **Gas well catches fire near Mount Vernon.** The Mount Vernon, Arkansas, Volunteer Fire Department responded to a natural gas well fire the evening of March 5 about two miles west of Highway 36 on Mt. Nebo Road. A Faulkner County road foreman said he believed that no one was injured in the explosion. A county judge said that he was not on the scene, but he was informed that it appeared the rig had hit an area of high-pressure gas in the sand formation, causing the well to catch fire. “It can be rather unsettling to neighbors, but there are safety protocols in place, and they worked. It’s not uncommon. We’ll probably have more of these as they continue drilling and hit more formations,” he said. Keen Energy Services LLC was drilling at the site.

Source: <http://thecabin.net/news/local/2010-03-06/gas-well-catches-fire-near-mount-vernon>

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [9](#)

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

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *March 6, Associated Press* – (International) **Norwegian ship hijacked off Madagascar.** A chemical tanker with 21 crew members has been hijacked by Somali pirates near Madagascar, the Norwegian owner said Saturday. It was not clear whether anyone in the crew, all from Myanmar, had been injured in the attack early Friday or whether any ransom had been demanded. The CEO and managing director of Norway’s Th. Broevigtank Shipowners said the UBT Ocean chemical tanker was on its way from the United Arab Emirates to Tanzania when it was hijacked about 300 miles from its destination. He said the 9,000-ton vessel is registered in the Marshall Islands and was carrying fuel oil. A spokesman for the vessel’s technical manager, Ship Management

Associates in Singapore, said attempts have been made to re-establish contact with the vessel, but it has so far been unsuccessful. The hijacking is one of the southernmost attacks the pirates have ever launched, and serves as yet another indicator that increased naval patrols in the Gulf of Aden are pushing the pirates' range further south and east into the Indian Ocean.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gB7YMEDuCwwY9ncDOtPAkEI4-H2wD9E983VO0>

5. *March 5, WISH 8 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Ammonia leak sends one to hospital.** A chemical leak on Indianapolis' southwest side has one person sent to the hospital. Wayne Township Fire personnel were called to Vertellus Chemical at 1500 S. Tibbs during the afternoon of March 5 due to a report of a chemical leak. Plant officials told firefighters that contractors were doing some maintenance on some lines that contained ammonia when a valve broke and briefly released a small amount of ammonia into the air. The valve was quickly shut off and personnel immediately began to check for any potential danger to the surrounding neighborhoods. Three employees were affected by the leak. One was transported by ambulance to Methodist Hospital. Two others signed medical releases after receiving treatment at the scene. There was no evacuation of the neighborhood.

Source: [http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/marion\\_county/ammonia-leak-sends-one-to-hospital-](http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/marion_county/ammonia-leak-sends-one-to-hospital-)

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

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

6. *March 8, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **San Onofre reactor restart hits more snags.** Problems continue to crop up at the San Onofre nuclear power plant's Unit 2 reactor, which operators wanted to restart in January after it was shut down for three months while two massive steam generators were replaced and the nuclear fuel restored. The reactor remains idle nearly six months after that job began in late September. Officials with Southern California Edison, which operates San Onofre's two reactors in northern San Diego County, say the delay has been caused by several unexpected issues connected with the steam-generator replacement, including the discovery of a bubble in the weld that joined one of the generators and the reactor. That weld was redone. Other less-serious maintenance chores that were scheduled during the outage have taken longer than expected, causing delays. "We have an obligation not only to the company but to the public that lives near the plant to make sure that when Unit 2 is brought back, it's in the best condition that we can make and we have a very safe operation," said the plant's chief nuclear officer. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission also issued its annual report card on the plant last week. The NRC assigned an extra resident inspector at the plant last year, saying it needed to improve its safety culture. It also issued a separate report last week saying that some workers fear retaliation if they report nuclear safety violations to their superiors or the NRC.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/mar/07/reactor-restart-hits-more-snags/>

7. *March 6, New Jersey Star Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Oyster Creek nuclear power plant gets passing grade after federal review.** The Oyster Creek nuclear power plant got a passing grade for safe operation from a federal Nuclear Regulator Commission performance review, a report in the Asbury Park Press said. In a March 3 letter to the owner and operator of the plant, Exelon Nuclear, the commission said the plant operated in a way that preserves public health and safety, according to the report. The commission also said the public was never in danger after three unplanned shutdowns, one in 2008, two in 2009, the report said. The finding comes just weeks after the NRC completed a performance review of the plant, the nation's oldest operating nuclear plant. During the process, NRC technical staff reviewed the plant's performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for 2009. "Overall, Oyster Creek operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives," the director of the NRC Division of Reactor Projects stated in a letter this week to plant owner Exelon Corp.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/oyster\\_creek\\_nuclear\\_power\\_pla\\_4.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/oyster_creek_nuclear_power_pla_4.html)

8. *March 6, Patriot News* – (Pennsylvania) **Three Mile Island nuclear plant back on-line.** Three Mile Island Unit 1 began producing electricity again at 7:30 p.m Friday when operators connected the plant to the regional power grid. The unit was taken offline on at 3:02 a.m. Thursday to perform maintenance on two reactor coolant pumps in the turbine building. The maintenance work involved repairing small oil leaks on both pumps and electrical work on a bus bar. The work has been completed. "We took advantage of being offline to do all the work necessary to ensure the plant is set up for a safe and reliable operating cycle," said the TMI site vice president.

Source:

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/03/three\\_mile\\_island\\_nuclear\\_plan.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/03/three_mile_island_nuclear_plan.html)

9. *March 6, Bloomberg* – (Louisiana) **Exxon must pay \$1.2 million for workers' radiation exposure.** Exxon Mobil Corp. must pay \$1.2 million to 16 Louisiana workers who claimed they were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation when they were cleaning used oil drilling pipes, a jury said. A state court jury in Gretna, Louisiana, yesterday awarded the men amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$175,000 each, finding that they face an increased risk of cancer as a result of their exposure to naturally occurring radioactive material in the used pipes between 1977 and 1992. The owners of the property where the men worked won a \$1 billion punitive jury verdict against Exxon in 2001 for radioactive contamination from the pipe-cleaning operation. The punitive judgment was reduced to \$112 million and paid, with interest, after Exxon's appeals failed. The workers, all former employees of Intracoastal Tubular Services (ITCO) at a site in Harvey, Louisiana, claimed that internal Exxon memos showed the Irving, Texas-based company had information about the risk beginning in the 1930s. The workers claimed Exxon delayed disclosing the radiation danger to

prevent federal authorities from reclassifying as hazardous waste the radioactive water it pumped from wells.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-06/exxon-must-pay-1-2-million-for-workers-radiation-exposure.html>

10. *March 6, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Hole found in VY pipe could be source of leak.** A hole discovered in a pipe in Vermont Yankee’s off gas building could be partly to blame for the leakage of tritiated water into the ground beneath the nuclear power plant in Vernon, said Vermont’s chief of radiological health. “I have been told by Entergy officials that the leak rate from the hole in this pipe is sufficient to generate the 100 gallons per day currently running through the floor drain to the off gas pit sump and to the radioactive waste building,” said the radiological health official. “I would assume that if the floor drain was clogged, as it was until February 14, that this 100-gallons-per-day leak rate is sufficient to have contributed at least partly to the groundwater contamination on site.” An inspection of the pipe tunnel conducted by a remotely operated vehicle on Friday revealed “a dime/quarter size hole” at an elbow in a 1 to 1.5 inch diameter off gas drain line, stated Yankee’s director of communications in an e-mail to the media. Using the ROV, technicians discovered water and steam coming from the hole, stated the communications official. “The visual inspection results will be used in conjunction with plant drawings to identify which of several pipes running through this area is at fault,” he stated. The plant diagrams will also be used to determine the pipe’s pathway within the pipe tunnel.

Source: [http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci\\_14523403](http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_14523403)

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

## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

11. *March 8, Aviation Week* – (National) **Spec Ops needs faster helos.** The Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment is feeling the need for speed to contend with the sprawl of Afghanistan, the unit’s commander told an Assn. of the U.S. Army aviation symposium in January. The “Night Stalkers” — so-called because most of their missions are flown in darkness — conduct raids to capture or kill enemy leadership. Flying from Bagram AB often puts their MH-6 Little Bird, MH-60 Black Hawk and MH-47 Chinook troop-carrying helicopters 2 hr. from targets. “We’re looking to go farther and faster and carry more stuff,” he said. The top cruising speed for military helicopters is usually 150-160 kt. One reason is the aerodynamic phenomenon of “retreating blade stall.” The only operational rotorcraft that overcomes it is the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor, flown by the Marines and Air Force Special Operations Command. By tilting its wingtip rotors forward after taking off vertically and flying like an airplane,

the Osprey escapes retreating blade stall to cruise at around 250 kt. and fly farther, unrefueled, than helicopters. The commander, though, said the V-22 does not seem to be the answer for the 160th because it can not hover as well as most helicopters.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/dti/2010/03/01/DT\\_03\\_01\\_2010\\_p26-206021.xml&headline=Spec Ops Needs Faster Helos&channel=defense](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/dti/2010/03/01/DT_03_01_2010_p26-206021.xml&headline=Spec Ops Needs Faster Helos&channel=defense)

12. *March 5, Pasadena Star-News* – (California) **Bomb squad determines package was harmless.** A sheriff's bomb squad was called to check out a report of a suspicious package at a security company Friday. Several agencies, including Pasadena police and fire, the FBI, and a Burbank fire haz-mat team responded at about 11 a.m., after the owner of Smiths Detection in the 70 block of Vinedo, California, reported the package. Bomb squad members determined the package was harmless. Police closed off the south side of Vinedo for about three hours. According to the company's Web site, Smiths Detection "provides government-regulated technology products and advanced services to security experts and governments worldwide, to detect and identify CBRNE material and other dangerous or illegal objects."

Source: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci\\_14521262](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_14521262)

13. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Va. contractor pleads guilty to false claims.** A defense contractor from Fredericksburg, Virginia, has pleaded guilty to making false claims and theft of government property. A U.S. Attorney says a 66-year-old man entered the plea Thursday in federal court in Richmond. He faces a maximum of five years in prison on the false claim charge and 10 years on the theft charge at his sentencing June 9. According to court papers, he used false names to conceal the fact that he had previously been barred from government contracting for 10 years. Operating under aliases, he received 16 contracts and was paid \$394,000 for the manufacture of military equipment.

Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsva/Va.defense.contractor.2.1538258.html>

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

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

14. *March 8, Bank Info Security* – (National) **Bank failures: 5 institutions closed.** Five banking institutions - four banks and one credit union - were closed by state and federal regulators on March 5. These latest closings raise to 30 the number of failed banking institutions so far in 2010. Sun American Bank, Boca Raton, Florida, was closed by the Florida Office of Financial Regulation, which appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$103.8 million. The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) liquidated Lawrence County School Employees Federal Credit Union (Lawrence FCU) of New Castle, Pennsylvania, and accepted New Castle, Pennsylvania, based First Choice Federal. Bank of Illinois, Normal, Illinois, was closed



by the Illinois Department of Financial Professional Regulation - Division of Banking, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. To protect the depositors, the FDIC entered into a purchase and assumption agreement with Heartland Bank and Trust Company, Bloomington, Illinois, to assume all of the deposits of Bank of Illinois. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$53.7 million. Waterfield Bank, Germantown, Maryland, was closed by the Office of Thrift Supervision, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to its Deposit Insurance Fund will be \$51.0 million. Finally, the FDIC approved the payout of the insured deposits of Centennial Bank, Ogden, Utah. The bank was closed by the Utah Department of Financial Institutions, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates the cost of the failure to its Deposit Insurance Fund to be approximately \$96.3 million.

Source: [http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=2270](http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2270)

15. *March 6, Detroit News* – (Texas) **Police arrest man who allegedly threatened to fly plane into bank.** A detention hearing is set for a Utica man arrested on March 3 after he allegedly threatened to fly an airplane into a Chase Bank building in Houston. “Chase Bank employees were frightened by this threat since several weeks ago, a plane had been flown into an Internal Revenue Service building in Austin, Texas,” an FBI special agent said in an affidavit that was attached to documents charging the suspect with making an interstate threat. The suspect, 40, a real estate appraiser also known by another alias, refused for nearly two hours to come to the front door when federal agents visited his home on March 5. He allegedly made the phone threat on March 4, the affidavit said. The suspect, who appeared in U.S. District Court in Detroit late on March 5 and was ordered held for a detention hearing on March 8, was reportedly upset about a real estate appraisal Chase Bank had conducted and told the operator at the bank’s Houston call center he was “ready to fly an airplane into your building.”

Source:

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100306/METRO03/3060356/1409/metro/Police-arrest-man-who-allegedly-threatened-to-fly-plane-into-bank>

16. *March 5, IDG News Service* – (California) **Westin hotel in LA reports possible data breach.** People who stayed at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles in 2009 and used their credit or debit card to eat there should keep a close eye on their bank statements. Hotel officials disclosed on March 5 that the hotel’s four restaurants, along with its valet parking operation, may have been hacked at some time between April and December, disclosing names, credit card numbers and expiration dates printed on customers’ debit and credit cards. The Westin Bonaventure is in Los Angeles’ downtown financial district, near the Los Angeles Convention Center and the Staples Center. The system that stores hotel guest information wasn’t affected, the Westin said. It offered few other details, including whether any credit card data had been misused, and a spokesman for the company’s public relations firm didn’t immediately return a call on March 5. Hotel computers have emerged as a major target for hackers of late. Recently, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts disclosed that 37 of its hotels had been hacked in late 2009 — the third such breach affecting Wyndham over the past year.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9166898/Westin\\_hotel\\_in\\_LA\\_reports\\_possible\\_data\\_breach](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9166898/Westin_hotel_in_LA_reports_possible_data_breach)

17. *March 5, Oklahoman* – (Oklahoma) **Oklahoma bomb hoaxes used by 4 bank robbers.** Within the past two months, bomb threats have been used during four bank robberies. Local and federal officials have varied opinions on whether this constitutes a trend. Here's a recap of the crimes: On Jan. 22, a homeless man from Texas went into an Oklahoma Fidelity Bank branch in Edmond and flashed a cylinder wrapped in aluminum foil and a napkin, which he called a "detonator," and robbed the bank. He was caught within minutes and the money was recovered. Three weeks later, a man carrying a pistol and a device he claimed was a bomb robbed a First Fidelity branch in Moore. A third bomb threat happened on February 22 in Tulsa when a robber entered a Food Pyramid, walked to the in-store bank and handed a teller a note stating that the robber had a bomb. The most recent bomb hoax robbery was about a week ago in Boise City, when a man walked into First State Bank and handed a note to the teller. He then placed a device on the counter of the bank and said there was a bomb at a local school. In each case, bomb technicians became part of the bank robbery investigations. In Boise City, technicians had to sweep the school and check the device left at the bank.

Source: <http://newsok.com/oklahoma-bomb-hoaxes-used-by-4-bank-robbers/article/3444541>

18. *March 5, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **FBI on watch for Limping Latex Bandit.** Local FBI detectives are looking for a limping man suspected of multiple bank robberies in the Denver metro area. The latest robbery happened Friday afternoon at the Key Bank at 185 Crown Crest Boulevard in Parker. The man, caught on surveillance cameras, appears to be limping and wearing latex gloves, earning him the name, "Limping Latex Bandit." He is described as a white man between the age of 40 to 50, about 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighing about 200 pounds. It is suspected he is connected to four other robberies since November 2009.

Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_14522105](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_14522105)

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

## **Transportation Sector**

19. *March 8, Detroit News* – (International) **Dutch reporter shows security loopholes on U.S.-bound jet.** A Dutch journalist transported as much as six liters of liquid on commercial flights from Amsterdam to the United States, a stunt he says proves security loopholes remain at international airports even after the December 25 terrorist attempt, he told The Detroit News on Sunday. In Sunday night's broadcast of a Dutch television program, "Undercover in Nederland," the reporter demonstrated how he and two associates smuggled bottles of water from Schiphol International Airport to London's Heathrow International Airport and onto Dulles International Airport in Washington. The bottles could have held liquid explosives, yet he managed to get them aboard easily, he said. A Metro Airport spokesman declined comment. United Airlines



officials could not be reached.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20100308/NATION/3080318/1020/Dutch-reporter-shows-security-loopholes-on-U.S.-bound-jet>

20. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Gas explosion to cause traffic woes.** Firefighters in Gwinnett County, Georgia, are using fans to get rid of the methane gas from underground vaults that caused an explosion that led to the closure of busy Lawrenceville Highway. The northbound lanes of the highway from Jimmy Carter Boulevard to Pounds Road reopened overnight. Southbound lanes remained closed. Gwinnett County's fire captain says the explosion on Sunday damaged three manhole covers and caused slight damage to southbound lanes of the highway. The methane apparently built up in an underground vault and in sewer and storm drains. Workers from AT&T were called out because the explosions damaged some of their underground equipment in the area.  
Source: <http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/Gas-Explosion-to-Cause-Traffic-Woes-030810>
21. *March 7, WSLs 10 Roanoke* – (District of Columbia) **A plane violates DC airspace, lands in Roanoke.** A private plane violated DC airspace and was forced to land in Roanoke. According to WSLs-TV's NBC affiliate in Washington, the FAA says two F-16s scrambled into action this morning when the small plane entered a no fly-zone. A spokesperson from the North American Aerospace Defense Command says the F-16s intercepted the plane and asked the pilot to change his frequency to talk to the FAA tower. The plane then landed in Roanoke where the FAA was expected to talk to the pilot. According to Roanoke Police, the local field office of the FBI is handling the investigation. No word if any arrests have been made. An FAA spokesperson says the incident does not seem like a threat.  
Source:  
[http://www2.wsls.com/sls/news/local/article/a\\_plane\\_violates\\_dc\\_airspace\\_lands\\_in\\_roanoke/85843/](http://www2.wsls.com/sls/news/local/article/a_plane_violates_dc_airspace_lands_in_roanoke/85843/)
22. *March 7, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Engine failure forces plane to land on I-25.** A small plane made a safe emergency landing on Interstate 25 in Los Lunas. The Valencia County Sheriff's Department says the plane had to land Saturday morning because of engine failure. The pilot was the only one on board and was not injured. I-25 was shut down for about an hour while the plane was moved off the interstate.  
Source: <http://www.kvia.com/Global/story.asp?S=12098069>
23. *March 7, CNN* – (National) **Bus company involved in fatal Arizona crash shut down.** A federal court ordered Tierra Santa Inc., the bus company involved in a wreck that killed six passengers last week, to cease interstate and international operations, the U.S. Department of Transportation said Sunday. The company had been operating illegally when its bus crashed south of Phoenix, Arizona, on Friday, the DOT said. The transportation department's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration had ordered the company shut down Friday, the department said, after the deadly early morning crash. In its complaint against the owner, the Department of Transportation said the

owner had tried to get operating authority under different company names and had never obtained the right to transport passengers across state lines or into another country. The company transported individuals between Mexico and Los Angeles, California.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/03/07/arizona.bus.wreck/?hpt=T2>

24. *March 7, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **TSA investigates security breach at DIA.** The day the United States experienced its most recent attempted terrorist attack, baggage at Denver International Airport was not scanned, violating federal rules, CALL7 Investigators learned. The Transportation Security Administration issued a statement, saying they are investigating the security breach. On December 25, the day of an attempted attack on a jet heading to Detroit, thousands of checked bags were diverted away from the scanner and on to United Airlines planes, records and interviews show. Airport officials said there was no danger to passengers because no one could have known their bags were not scanned.  
Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/22758364/detail.html>
25. *March 6, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Flight attendants union wants combat training.** The federal government has made clear its strategy for cracking down on potential terrorist attacks in airplanes: more sophisticated scanners and increased scrutiny of passengers at crowded airports. But now the nation's flight attendants say the government needs to ratchet up security measures inside airplanes. The Association of Flight Attendants has been lobbying Congress for the last month or so to adopt its strategy for stronger counter-terrorism measures. The group hopes that lawmakers will include money to put some of their ideas into action under an upcoming funding bill for the Federal Aviation Administration. The group, which represents more than 55,000 attendants at 20 airlines, wants to implement a four-point plan: Institute mandatory hand-to-hand combat training for all crew members; equip flight attendants with portable communications devices so they can speak to the pilots during emergencies; standardize the size of carry-on luggage so that flight attendants can look for suspicious passengers instead of struggling with oversized bags; shut down onboard wireless Internet during high-threat periods to prevent terrorists from communicating with collaborators on the ground.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-travel-briefcase6-2010mar06,0,6470983.story>
26. *March 4, Canwest News Service* – (International) **U.S. will determine who can board some Canadian flights.** Starting in December, some passengers on Canadian airlines flying to, from or even over the United States without ever landing there, will only be allowed to board the aircraft once the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has determined they are not terrorists. Secure Flight, the newest weapon in the U.S. war on terrorism, gives the United States unprecedented power over who can board planes that fly over U.S. airspace. Secure Flight applies to flights to, from or over the United States, from Canada to another country. Flights between two Canadian cities, that travel over U.S. airspace, are excluded, but about 80 percent of Canadian flights to the Caribbean and other southern points and to Europe fly over the U.S. The program,

which is set to take effect globally in December 2010, was created as part of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, adopted by U.S. Congress in 2004.  
Source:

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/gets+which+Canadians/2639893/story.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [4](#), and [31](#)

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

27. *March 8, WCF Courier* – (Iowa) **Four detained in Cedar Falls mailbox explosion.** Several houses were damaged Saturday night after teenagers detonated a homemade bomb in a mailbox in a western Cedar Falls neighborhood. Three 18-year-olds were arrested and a 17-year-old was taken into custody on arson charges following the event. The homemade device exploded inside a mailbox at 1029 Barrington Drive sometime between 10:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Saturday. The bomb, which Cedar Falls Police said was made with pellets and black powder, exploded inside the mailbox and sent shrapnel through the neighborhood. Five homes were damaged, including pellets through siding, one broken window and two garage doors that took significant damage. Some vehicles parked in the neighborhood were also damaged. Police said no one was injured in the blast. The incident was not reported until Sunday morning.

Source: [http://www.wfcourier.com/news/local/article\\_15db2380-2ace-11df-8136-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.wfcourier.com/news/local/article_15db2380-2ace-11df-8136-001cc4c03286.html)

28. *March 4, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Suspicious white powder sent to B’klyn judge forces evacuation.** A suspicious white powder sent to a Brooklyn judge Thursday forced the evacuation of the 24th floor of the Supreme Court building. The powder, which is still being tested, was sent to a Justice, the same judge who last week signed off on the controversial Atlantic Yards redevelopment project. On Thursday, the judge was presiding over the trial of a Staten Island doctor charged with peddling steroids. Authorities would not comment but sources say at least one person was “decontaminated” and court officers were not allowing anyone on the 24th floor. Dozens of emergency services vehicles and fire trucks lined outside the Jay Street building in downtown Brooklyn.

Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/03/04/2010-03-04\\_suspicious\\_white\\_powder\\_sent\\_to\\_bklyn\\_judge\\_forces\\_evacuation.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/03/04/2010-03-04_suspicious_white_powder_sent_to_bklyn_judge_forces_evacuation.html)

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

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

29. *March 8, American Agriculturalist* – (Nevada; National) **FDA initiates investigation that could lead to huge recall.** Officials at the Food and Drug Administration believe the public health risk is low, and no one is known to have fallen ill as a result of the contamination, but, manufacturers voluntarily recalled 56 products last week, and that

number is expected to balloon in the coming weeks into what could be one of the largest food recalls in U.S. history. A senior scientist at Consumers Union says over 10,000 products eventually could be affected. The FDA says thousands of types of processed foods, including many varieties of soups, chips, frozen dinners, hot dogs and salad dressings, may pose a health threat because they contain a flavor enhancer that could be contaminated with salmonella. Salmonella was detected early last month in one lot of the flavor enhancer hydrolyzed vegetable protein, or HVP made by Basic Food Flavors, as well as inside the company's Nevada manufacturing facility. The company is one of only a handful that make HVP. The additive is mixed into foods to give them a meaty or savory flavor. It is similar to monosodium glutamate, or MSG. The contamination is believed to date to September 2009, meaning millions of pounds of potentially tainted HVP, all of which the company has recalled, was shipped in bulk to foodmakers over five months. Federal officials say the public health threat is low because most products containing HVP are cooked during processing or carry cooking instructions for consumers, so any salmonella would be destroyed before the food was eaten. Ready-to-eat products, such as chips and other snack foods, would carry greater risks.

Source:

<http://mobile.americanagriculturist.com/index.aspx?ascxid=cmsNewsStory&rmid=0&ascxid=&args=&rargs=8&dt=634036218552906411&lid=a8yebu2d9qxnz7lo&adms=634036218546354369X3e07f6e40a&cmsSid=36028&cmsScid=8>

30. *March 8, WHEC 10 Rochester* – (New York) **Chemical situation at Zweigles, one person sent to hospital.** The Zweigles manufacturing plant was evacuated the morning of March 8 after chemicals were accidentally mixed by a maintenance worker, creating a dangerous gas. Twenty-five people were inside at the time but they all got out okay. They sat in an RTS bus outside of the building to stay warm until they were allowed to go back in. The maintenance worker was sent to Strong Hospital with a slight respiratory injury. A Rochester Fire Department Captain on the scene said, “Apparently there was a mild residue left in one container. He was transferring some of the product and put it into this container and that mild residue that was left mixed with the original product that they were using and created. There’s a couple of cleaning chemicals that you would use even in your own household type of products that if you mix the two together they’ll cause fumes that can be irritants.” North Plymouth from Smith to Lyell was shut down for about two hours.

Source: <http://www.whec.com/news/stories/s1454003.shtml>

31. *March 7, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Farmers confused about new transportation regulations.** In many ways, farmers have operated under fewer transportation regulations than the general public, but more rules are coming. Teens may not be allowed to drive a pickup pulling a hay wagon to help out on the farm. Farmers may have to do more vehicle inspections, get medical certifications and keep record of their time — similar to what commercial drivers must do. Pennsylvania state police and state Department of Agriculture say some of the rules, such as the need for a medical certificate, are not new — but some farmers were not aware of them. A Pennsylvania Bureau of Farming spokesman says the organization disagrees with that

interpretation. The new transportation rules, if adopted, will bring the state in line with the federal Motor Safety Carrier Administration's regulations for motor carriers, such as buses, tractor trailers and farm trucks. The agency audited the state three years ago and found deficiencies. "At the end of the day, I think farmers are better off with this," the special assistant to Pennsylvania's Agriculture Secretary said of the changes. More information on this issue is available at [www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us).

Source: [http://www.ydr.com/ci\\_14526036](http://www.ydr.com/ci_14526036)

32. *March 7, Fire Fighting News* – (Indiana) **Fire hits Tyson plant: fire shuts down slaughter area.** Slaughter operations of Logansport's Tyson Food plant were temporarily suspended following a Friday morning fire in the kill area. Damage assessments are underway, a Tyson spokesman said Friday night. "We expect to resume processing Saturday and Monday. ... We hope to resume slaughtering next week." Tyson employs 1,900 at the plant. Of that, the spokesman said 500 employees would be affected by the shutdown of the slaughter area. USDA inspectors will do a pre-inspection today before resuming processing. Those inspections occur daily, the spokesman said. Logansport firefighters were dispatched to the facility on the city's southwest side at 9:07 a.m. and found heavy black smoke coming from the southeast corner of the building on arrival. The fire department responded with its ladder and rescue trucks and three engines. An assistant chief immediately called for all off-duty firefighters to respond. Mutual aid was requested from Monticello and Peru and both sent their ladder trucks. Monticello also sent an engine. In all, there were more than 40 firefighters, including 30 from Logansport, and eight pieces of equipment on the scene. The fire began in the hog singer area of the kill room and blew up to the roof, some of which went through smokestacks and roof vents. The cause is not yet known.  
Source: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-us.cfm?articleID=76853>
33. *March 5, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association* – (Texas) **TSCRA special ranger arrests Hubbard man for cattle theft.** A Hubbard, Texas man was arrested for allegedly stealing 22 head of cattle from a rancher in Limestone County. A Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) special ranger and a captain with the Hill County Sheriff's Department made the arrest. A captain with the Limestone County Sheriff's Department assisted in the investigation. The man allegedly stole the cattle and transported them to the Hubbard Livestock Auction where they were sold for approximately \$15,000. He used the proceeds to purchase a 2002 Ford Pickup truck. The truck was seized by investigators upon arrest. If convicted, he could face up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. TSCRA has 29 special rangers stationed strategically throughout Texas and Oklahoma who have in-depth knowledge of the cattle industry and are trained in all facets of law enforcement.  
Source: [http://www.texascattleraisers.org/newsdesk/2010/2010\\_0305.html](http://www.texascattleraisers.org/newsdesk/2010/2010_0305.html)
34. *March 5, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **Food Safety: FDA Should Strengthen Its Oversight of Food Ingredients Determined to Be Generally Recognized as Safe.** On March 5, GAO released the report, "Food Safety: FDA Should Strengthen Its Oversight of Food Ingredients Determined to Be Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS)," dated February 2010. GAO found that FDA's approach to regulating

nanotechnology allows engineered nanomaterials to enter the food supply as GRAS substances without FDA's knowledge. While some uses of engineered nanomaterials have the potential to help ensure food safety, uncertainties remain about how to determine their safety in food. After reviewing the uncertainties, FDA has decided that it does not need additional authority to regulate products containing such materials. Because companies are not required to identify nanomaterials in their GRAS substances, FDA has no way of knowing the full extent to which engineered nanomaterials have entered the U.S. food supply as part of GRAS substances. In contrast to FDA's approach, all food ingredients that incorporate engineered nanomaterials must be submitted to regulators in Canada and the European Union before they can be marketed. GAO recommends that FDA take steps to better ensure the safety of GRAS substances, including developing a strategy to require any company that conducts a GRAS determination to provide FDA with basic information about it. FDA generally agreed, while raising concerns about certain aspects of several of the recommendations.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d10246.html>

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

## **Water Sector**

35. *March 8, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Water distribution set after main break; 11 schools closed.** Baltimore County residents who are still without water after Saturday morning's main break that cut off service to 100,000 customers can pick up water at the Reisterstown Sportsplex from noon to 9 p.m. Monday, according to county fire officials. Eleven Baltimore County schools were closed Monday due to the lack of water. As the water stoppage dragged on over the weekend, and as Baltimore's Department of Public Works was unable to say when the water would be turned on. Of the 100,000 who lost water when a pipe burst at 2 a.m. Saturday, nearly half were expected to remain without water until some time after the workweek begins on March 8. Residents reported many restaurants in the area were closed, while other businesses tried to operate without water. Everyone wanted to know when they would see water gushing out of their spigots. Crews struggled throughout the weekend to refill the large above-ground water tanks that emptied when the pipes burst. At 6 p.m. Sunday the tank was filling at a rate of one foot per hour, and the level in the tank had to rise another eight feet. But how fast the tank filled depended in some measure on how little water the residents in surrounding communities used, particularly during the evening. But some water restrictions might be in place for the community for quite some time because it is likely to take several weeks to repair the 36-inch cement pipe that burst below a stream bed in the Gwynns Falls watershed. In order to fix the pipe, crews will have to reroute the stream and then dig out and replace the 54-year-old pipe.  
Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/bal-water0308,0,6098628.story>

36. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **1.2 million gallons of sewage spills in Fulton.** Cleanup was under way after more than 1 million gallons of raw sewage was



released into a Callaway County waterway. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said Friday that the 1.2 million gallons of untreated sewage was released Thursday into Smiths Branch, a tributary to Stinson Creek in Fulton. The department the release occurred after a sewage lift station malfunctioned. A Fulton city official notified the department of the release Friday. DNR crews were on hand observing the cleanup. The department says such discharges can cause serious water quality problems.

Source: [http://newstribune.com/articles/2010/03/07/news\\_state/nt300state12spill10.txt](http://newstribune.com/articles/2010/03/07/news_state/nt300state12spill10.txt)

For another story, see item [20](#)

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

37. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Feds: 68 fatal ODs linked to scheme at Kan. clinic.** A new federal indictment implicates a Kansas doctor and his wife in nine additional patient deaths, bringing to 68 the number of fatal overdoses the government contends are linked to illegal prescription writing and a moneymaking conspiracy at their clinic. The doctor and his wife, who is a nurse, and unnamed others are accused of scheming to illegally dispense prescription drugs and defraud health insurance programs and patients through their Haysville clinic. They also are accused of money laundering. The couple are directly charged with contributing to 21 deaths. The government alleges that from 2002 through 2007, Schneider Medical Clinic patients who died of drug overdoses accounted for 18 percent of all such deaths in Sedgwick County and surrounding areas.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gAjXN2uqKGDVJ8719IZmOvutZHggD9E8R3RO0>

38. *March 5, Reuters* – (National) **Biggest swine flu regret for U.S.: vaccine chaos.** First, people were clamoring for H1N1 vaccines, but there were not enough to go around. By the time vaccines were available in any quantity, most of the public had lost interest. And no one knew just how unpredictable the production of vaccines would turn out to be, top U.S. public health leaders agreed on Friday. Getting the U.S. public to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated was definitely one of the biggest challenges to managing the pandemic of H1N1 swine flu, speaker after speaker agreed at a conference on influenza regrets. “The truth is for this pandemic we had about the longest warning we might ever have for a potential biothreat,” said the head of preparedness at the Health and Human Services Department. The CDC estimates H1N1 has killed about 12,000 Americans, and possibly as many as 17,000. It put 250,000 into the hospital.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6244LN20100305>

39. *March 4, Reuters* – (International) **Travelers from Haiti bringing malaria to U.S.** Health experts watching for signs of a malaria outbreak have noticed several cases

of the mosquito-borne disease among people traveling back from Haiti, where an earthquake in January killed as many as 300,000 people. So far, 11 laboratory-confirmed cases of malaria have been reported among emergency responders and those traveling in the United States from Haiti, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday. Haiti already had a problem with malaria, which is spread by mosquitoes that will have more places to breed in the cities and towns wrecked by the giant quake. Each year, Haiti reports about 30,000 confirmed cases of malaria to the Pan American Health Organization, but the CDC estimates as many as 200,000 may occur each year. Three cases the CDC cited occurred among Haitian residents traveling to the United States and one case involved a U.S. resident who was visiting Haiti. All are expected to recover fully.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6234BU20100304>

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

## **Government Facilities Sector**

40. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Airman with shotgun disarmed at Sheppard AFB.** An airman in training at Sheppard Air Force Base was in military custody Monday after toting a shotgun outside a dormitory. A spokesman for the base said no shots were fired and nobody was hurt during the incident Sunday night. Base security forces received a call shortly after 9 p.m. about a man with a weapon outside a barracks that houses male and female personnel, he said. The spokesman said security confronted the airman and he dropped the shotgun. The spokesman declined to release the airman's identity or say why he armed himself. However, he said investigators determined that there was no overall threat to base security, and the airman was to receive "psychological counseling and help." The base was shut down shortly after the incident, but the spokesman said it reopened shortly before midnight and there was no impact on the training. The base is home to the 82nd Training Wing and the 80th Flying Training Wing.

Source: <http://www.statesman.com/news/texas/airman-with-shotgun-disarmed-at-sheppard-afb-329816.html>

41. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Lawmakers focus on seismic safety of schools.** Utah schools would be sized up to see how they would fare in the event of a major earthquake under a bill passed by the state House. The House sent House Bill 72 on a 50-18 vote Friday to the Senate for consideration in the waning days of the 2010 session. The measure sponsored by a state representative calls for volunteers from the Structural Engineers Association of Utah to inventory schools for seismic safety. The state representative, a building inspector whose bill is backed by the Utah PTA, sponsored successful legislation four years ago to inventory state buildings for seismic safety. An informal survey four years ago found that 58 percent of about 800 school buildings were constructed before modern seismic standards took effect in the 1970s.

Source: <http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=12095652>

42. *March 6, KTNV 13 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **Man's threats bring out bomb squad at Nellis Air Force Base.** A man made a threat at the front gate of Nellis Air Force Base, forcing part of the base to go on lockdown for a few hours Friday. A man is in FBI custody, being questioned for making those threats. Action News was there all of Friday afternoon and evening as a bomb squad worked to keep airmen and civilians safe. The main gate at Nellis Air Force base was closed for several hours after Air force officials say an elderly man made a verbal threat to the gate guard around 3pm Friday. "The security forces responded according to established procedures. They took the individual into custody, and then investigated the scene," reported an official with Nellis Air Force Base. Part of that investigation included the base's Explosive Ordinance Disposal or EOD. The EOD robot did its part to inspect the vehicle, shaking out anything that might look dangerous, and dogs sniffed for other explosives. The man responsible for the threats was handed over to Metro Police. Once in custody, Metro says the man now calls the threat a joke.

Source: <http://www.ktnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12094540>

43. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Guard: 35,000 soldiers impacted by data theft.** The Arkansas National Guard now says 35,000 current and former soldiers are at risk of identity theft because of a missing computer hard drive. The Guard had initially thought the hard drive contains information on soldiers in two battalions of the 39th Infantry Brigade. But in a statement released Thursday the Guard now says the device has information all soldiers who have served in the Arkansas National Guard since 1991. An information management team is putting together a list of those affected so they can be notified. Letters are expected to be mailed early next week. A base spokesman says an investigation is under way into how the hard drive was lost - but says there is no evidence it was stolen.

Source: <http://www.katv.com/news/stories/0310/712689.html>

For another story, see item [28](#)

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

## **Emergency Services Sector**

44. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Police cruiser left unlocked, running stolen.** New Carrollton, Maryland, police say a cruiser left unlocked and running was stolen while a sergeant helped another officer serve arrest warrants. An officer called for backup while trying to serve two arrest warrants left the car unlocked, and a man jumped in and drove off. Every officer in the agency, about a dozen, was called in to search for the cruiser. It was found an hour later between two buildings a block from the apartment building and nothing was missing.

Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsmd/New.Carrollton.police.2.1544703.html>

45. *March 8, Raleigh News and Observer* – (North Carolina) **Outsiders will review SBI lab.** Two former FBI agents will comb through the work of North Carolina's crime lab, a massive undertaking prompted by mounting concerns about lab's integrity. The

attorney general asked for the outsiders' help Friday to review cases and practices from the early 1990s to the present. The request came less than 24 hours after a team of criminal defense lawyers called for an external inspection. Problems at the State Bureau of Investigation's forensic science lab surfaced last month during a hearing for an innocent man who was imprisoned for 17 years after a flawed police investigation and trial. A veteran SBI agent reported to prosecutors in 1991 that a substance found on the man's truck showed indications of being blood. In fact, additional testing proved that wasn't the case, but the investigator failed to disclose the further testing and negative results. Prosecutors repeatedly told jurors in the accused's 1993 trial that the truck was stained with blood. The review, which will be released to the public, promises to be a major undertaking. The lab has been responsible for forensic analysis on major crimes for decades. Thousands of cases must be pulled out of storage or reviewed on microfilm. The investigators must also get a handle on the lab's culture, which some say encouraged questionable acts.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/03/06/372985/outside-will-review-sbi-lab.html>

46. *March 7, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Brazen robbers target fire stations.** While firefighters were sleeping at Station 82 in Houston, someone stole a flat screen TV and mount. A few miles away, while no one was around at Station 48, someone stole a printer and computer monitors. "Our fire stations are places where people go in emergency," an HFD spokesperson said. HFD says locking doors is at the discretion of captains. They often do not do it to save valuable response time.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7317008>

47. *March 6, San Bernadino Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Third attack attempted on gang officers.** A Hemet gang officer's vehicle was booby-trapped Friday with a device that police described as "designed to kill" — the third assassination attempt since New Year's Eve against task force officers. A member of the Hemet-San Jacinto Gang Task Force parked at an am/pm convenience store at Sanderson and Acacia avenues in Hemet about 8 a.m. Friday and went inside to buy coffee. When he came out, he saw a suspicious device on the pavement next to his car and called for help, a Hemet police lieutenant said. Police declined to describe the device but said it was designed to kill the officer when he approached the car and got in, or when he got out. Police are not sure whether the device was attached to the plainclothes officer's black, unmarked Crown Victoria at his home or some other place where it was parked. The device was on the car when he drove to the am/pm market, and it fell off there.

Source:

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/hemet/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_W\\_webtaskforce.228f173.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/hemet/stories/PE_News_Local_W_webtaskforce.228f173.html)

48. *March 6, Park Rapids Enterprise* – (Minnesota) **County chooses VHF digital radio over state ARMER plan.** After nearly three years of meetings and study, Hubbard County, Minnesota, voted Wednesday to move forward on the purchase of VHF digital radio equipment for emergency personnel, not align itself with the expensive state radio system called ARMER. The sheriff said the VHF digital equipment makes the best

fiscal sense for the county. He would delay his recommendation, he said, “but there’s grant monies out there and we need to move forward.” The decision caps months of wrangling between emergency personnel on whether to purchase the state system or VHF. The national conversion to narrowband radio, to accommodate more emergency channels, was a directive of the 9/11 commission in the wake of the World Trade Center bombings. Hubbard County began purchasing some VHF equipment gradually a few years ago. It was the unanimous recommendation of engineers consulted to weigh in on what would work best for the region. The county used nearly \$141,000 in Homeland Security grant funds to begin upgrading its equipment. The sheriff said the engineers concluded, “ARMER (the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response) was the better choice for densely populated areas and the VHF worked better for rural areas.”

Source: <http://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/event/article/id/22520/>

49. *March 5, WSBTV 2 Duluth* – (Georgia) **Firebomb hurled at parole office.** An Atlanta parole center was set on fire after someone threw a Molotov cocktail late Thursday night. Fire officials said someone broke a glass door at the South Metro Parole Center and tossed the firebomb inside. The fire damaged an office area where parolees met parole officers. The building was closed at the time of the incident. The center reopened Friday despite the fire damage. Authorities are currently investigating the incident.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/22752566/detail.html>

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

## **Information Technology Sector**

50. *March 8, The Register* – (International) **Botnet takedowns ‘don’t hurt crooks enough’.** The takedowns of the Mariposa and Waladec botnets recently were victories for the good guys, but security experts warn that although cybercrooks suffered a bloody nose they collectively retain the upper hand in their ongoing conflict with law enforcement and its security industry allies. “We have had significant victories against several botnets in the past but that hasn’t stopped the growth in malware or the growth in spam or in information theft,” said a security consultant at Trend Micro. “So, while we continue to win significant battles, winning the war will need closer cooperation between governments [and] law enforcement agencies on an ongoing basis rather than on an operational basis.” The consultant thinks that white hats remain outgunned by cybercrooks. He called for harmonisation of e-crime laws, to get rid of safe havens, and closer international cooperation in fighting internet crime. He added that ISPs have a vital role to play in curbing the botnet scourge.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/08/botnet\\_takedown\\_analysis/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/08/botnet_takedown_analysis/)

51. *March 7, Computerworld* – (International) **Energizer Bunny’s software infects PCs.** The Energizer Bunny infects PCs with backdoor malware, the Department of Homeland Security’s US-CERT said on March 5. According to researchers at US-CERT (United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team), software that

accompanies the Energizer DUO USB battery charger contains a Trojan horse that gives hackers total access to a Windows PC. The Energizer DUO, a USB-powered nickel-metal hydride battery recharger, has been discontinued, said Energizer Holdings, which late on March 5 confirmed that the software contains malicious code. The company has not said how the Trojan made its way into the software, however. “Energizer is currently working with both CERT and U.S. government officials to understand how the code was inserted in the software,” Energizer said in a statement. Energizer’s DUO was sold in the U.S., Latin America, Europe and Asia starting in 2007.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/030810-energizer-bunnys-software-infects.html?hpg1=bn>

52. *March 6, Techworld* – (International) **Wave of ransom malware hits internet.** Criminals reused an attack from 2008 to hit the Internet with a huge wave of ransomware in recent weeks, a security company has reported. In the space of only two days, February 8 and 9, the HTML/Goldun.AXT campaign detected by Fortinet accounted for more than half the total malware detected for February, which gives some indication of its unusual scale. The attack itself takes the form of a spam e-mail with an attachment, report.zip, which if clicked automatically downloads a rogue antivirus product called Security Tool. It is also being distributed using manipulated search engine optimisation (SEO) on Google and other providers. What’s new is that old-style scareware has turned into a default ransom-oriented approach. The former assumes that users won’t know they are being scammed, while the latter assumes they will but won’t know what to do about it. The technique is slowly becoming more common but what is also different is the size of this attack, one of the largest ever seen by Fortinet for a single malware campaign.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/article/190967/wave\\_of\\_ransom\\_malware\\_hits\\_internet.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/190967/wave_of_ransom_malware_hits_internet.html)

53. *March 6, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Phishing reaches record high in January.** January marked a record high for phishing attacks, seeing a 21 percent increase over the month before, according to the latest figures from security vendor RSA. The firm’s monthly Online Fraud Report (PDF) showed that recorded phishing attacks reached 18,820, more than double the figure a year ago. Fast-flux attacks, in which phishing and malware delivery sites are hidden behind a constantly changing network of compromised host PCs, accounted for 24 percent of phishing incidents in January, up four per cent on December. Standard phishing attacks, meanwhile, showed a 12 percent increase compared with December. The number of attacked brands climbed by just two percent compared to December, but 35 new organizations suffered their first attack in January, more than triple the number reported in December.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259037/january-sees-phishing>

54. *March 5, DarkReading* – (International) **Smartphone weather app builds a mobile botnet.** A pair of researchers has amassed nearly 8,000 iPhones and Android smartphones in an experimental mobile botnet that demonstrates the ease of spreading potentially malicious applications on these devices. The security researchers with



TippingPoint's Digital Vaccine Group demonstrated how their seemingly innocuous weather app — called WeatherFist — gathers information on the users who downloaded it, including their GPS coordinates and phone numbers. The researchers wrote the app, which links to the Weather Underground Website and provides local and other weather forecast information to its users, and submitted it to app clearinghouses that offer apps for Androids and jailbroken iPhones. So why the WeatherFist experiment? The researchers say it's to prove how such an app could steal or modify a user's contacts, read his files, and access his Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as email and passwords.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/insiderthreat/security/client/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223200001>

55. *March 5, The Register* – (International) **Opera says bug probably can't commandeer machines.** A security vulnerability identified in Opera can be exploited to crash users' browsers, but probably can't lead to the remote execution of malware, a company spokesman said. The buffer overflow bug was disclosed by Vupen Security on March 4, and the report has since been picked up by others, including Secunia and Sans. The advisories have said the vulnerability is critical because it can be exploited to remotely execute malicious code on end user machines. Vupen officials didn't respond to emails seeking details. But Opera isn't so sure. "We believe that the bug primarily causes a crash, and that exploiting the vulnerability to execute code is extremely difficult, if not impossible," a spokesman told The Register. He went on to say that users should be sure to enable a security feature known as DEP, or data execution prevention.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/05/opera\\_vulnerability/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/05/opera_vulnerability/)

56. *March 5, SC Magazine* – (International) **Microsoft will cover eight 'important' vulnerabilities on Patch Tuesday, as it gives dates for the end of support for Windows 2000 and Vista RTM.** Microsoft is to address eight vulnerabilities on its monthly Patch Tuesday, with no critical flaws expected to be addressed. The vulnerabilities are in Windows and Microsoft Office and are remote code execution problems. The senior security communications manager at Microsoft, recommended that customers review the advance notification web page and prepare to deploy these bulletins as soon as possible. He said: "To provide additional guidance for deployment prioritization, customers should note that both bulletins will address issues that would require a user to open a specially crafted file. There are no network based attack vectors."

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/microsoft-will-cover-eight-important-vulnerabilities-on-patch-tuesday-as-it-gives-dates-for-the-end-of-support-for-windows-2000-and-vista-rtm/article/165124/>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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

## Communications Sector

57. *March 8, V3.co.uk* – (International) **ITU launches satellite interface standard for mobiles.** The International Telecommunication Union has released a new standard which it claims will boost mobile services in the areas of roaming and compatibility. The standard will be added to the IMT-2000 (3G) satellite interface to improve common mobile tasks such as international roaming, high-speed data transfers and compatibility. “Recommendation ITU-R M.1850 identifies satellite radio interface specifications for IMT-2000 systems which, by means of one or more radio links, provide access to a wide range of telecommunication services,” the organization said. The ITU added that the update would support the main IMT-2000 standard, and there would be no negative impact on existing specifications. The ITU secretary-general welcomed the new standards, explaining that they would increase broadband access for remote areas or those not covered by conventional wired connections. The secretary-general said that they would not have been possible without the input of government and industry experts.  
Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259069/itu-launches-mobile-standard>

58. *March 5, Network World* – (National) **Data centers tackling cyber terrorism, slowly.** The data center is receiving more public scrutiny than ever before, with IT managers facing a range of challenges from making systems run more efficiently to protecting computers from cyber terrorism, says the AFCOM chief executive. The 30-year-old organization for data center managers is holding its twice-yearly Data Center World show from March 7-11 in Nashville, Tennessee, where IT folks will learn about the most pressing issues facing data centers today and share their own experiences. Cyber terrorism is one of the topics the chief executive is looking forward to examining further. AFCOM’s recent survey of more than 400 data center pros found that only one-third have included cyber terrorism in disaster recovery plans, only one-quarter have addressed cyber terrorism in policies and procedures manuals, and only one-fifth provide cyber terrorism employee training. These low numbers were recorded despite the fact that 61 percent of data center managers said they recognize cyber terrorism as a threat they need to address.  
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/030510-afcom-data-center-trends.html?hpg1=bn>

For another story, see item [20](#)

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

59. *March 7, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Floor collapses at Marco Polo resort; two injured.** An elderly woman and her daughter were hospitalized Sunday night after a floor collapsed under them in the subterranean mall of the Marco Polo Beach Resort in Sunny Isles Beach. The 15-foot-wide hole, seven feet deep, opened into an empty area under the hotel structure. The resort passed a building inspection recently, according to the property manager. Authorities were investigating whether the collapse was potentially a sign of more-serious structural problems with the building. A city of Sunny Isles Beach building inspector checked the resort late Sunday, but a district manager of the firm that manages the resort, said he was told the building was secure and that the wooden floor simply gave way. The Marco Polo, with 509 condominium units and 109 hotel rooms, was not evacuated. But Sunday night no one was allowed to enter the lower floors where the shops are located, Sunny Isles Beach police said. Forty Miami-Dade firefighters in 10 units arrived at the Marco Polo about 5 p.m. Four technical rescue teams were on the scene to pull the women from the hole and to assess the damage.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/03/07/1517953/floor-collapses-at-marco-polo.html>

60. *March 6, Floyd County Tribune* – (Indiana) **Electrical failure ruled cause of Silver Creek Plaza fire.** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has ruled that an electrical failure in a junction box caused a fire that destroyed at least half of Silver Creek Plaza in Sellersburg, according to the Sellersburg Fire Department. A spokesperson for the Sellersburg Fire Department and Clark County EMS said the box was located between the ceiling and the roof of the Alley Cat Lanes bowling alley. “We’re not sure how long it was burning before someone discovered there was a fire,” the spokesperson said. No one was injured in the fire, but eight people living in five apartments were displaced, according to the Red Cross. There are still plenty of questions surrounding the response time and how the fire spread so quickly throughout the South Indiana Avenue strip mall.

Source: <http://news-tribune.net/floydcounty/x1029314885/Electrical-failure-ruled-cause-of-Silver-Creek-Plaza-fire>

61. *March 5, BusinessWeek* – (New Jersey) **Md. man gets 25 years in ‘07 NJ casino bomb threat.** A Maryland man who hijacked a shuttle bus in 2007 and threatened to blow up a New Jersey casino unless he was paid \$3 million has been sentenced to 25 years in federal prison. The Crofton, Maryland, man was sentenced Friday in federal court in Trenton after he pleaded guilty in August, admitting he caused an overnight standoff with police outside the Showboat Casino-Hotel in Atlantic City in November 2007. The man used a pellet gun and fake explosives to take several hostages and keep 100 police officers at bay for six hours before surrendering. About 2,000 patrons were evacuated from the Showboat because of the bomb threat.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9E8PKTG2.htm>

For another story, see item [63](#)

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

## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

62. *March 4, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **Forest Service: Information on Appeals, Objections, and Litigation Involving Fuel Reduction Activities, Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008.** On March 4, GAO released the report, “Forest Service: Information on Appeals, Objections, and Litigation Involving Fuel Reduction Activities, Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008.” Increases in the number and intensity of wildland fires in the national forests have led the Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service to place greater emphasis on thinning forests and rangelands to reduce the buildup of potentially hazardous vegetation that can fuel wildland fires. GAO found that in fiscal years 2006 through 2008, the Forest Service issued 1,415 decisions involving fuel reduction activities, covering 10.5 million acres. Of this total, 1,191 decisions, covering about 9 million acres, were subject to appeal and 217 — about 18 percent — were appealed. Another 121 decisions, covering about 1.2 million acres, were subject to objection and 49 — about 40 percent — were objected to. The remaining 103 decisions were exempt from both objection and appeal. Finally, 29 decisions — about 2 percent of all decisions — were litigated, involving about 124,000 acres. Critics have asserted that such challenges to agency activities are stopping or unnecessarily slowing the decision-making processes of the Forest Service and its efforts to reduce fuels on federal lands.  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/htext/d10337.html>

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

## **Dams Sector**

63. *March 7, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Marina won’t be protected by Morganza levee system.** Pointe-aux-Chenes Marina has been the launch site for thousands of fishermen annually during its 15-year history. It includes a block of about a dozen camps and a 12-room inn. On the property next door, immediately north of him, Levee District contractors have started clearing a path for a soon-to-start Morganza-to-the-Gulf levee project. Crews plan to raise and connect two existing levees. The business will not be included within the hurricane-protection system’s protective walls. Levee District officials said they have been meeting with the marina owner since 2004 to find a solution. It is impossible to wrap the levee around his entire business, they said, because there is not enough space. “The marina has to be on the outside. The levee needs a certain amount of space, or footprint. It would have had to go somewhere in the middle of his property,” said a former Terrebonne Levee director who now works in the state Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration. The new levee plan will leave giant “coves” of open water on either side of Fanguy’s land that he says will result in serious flooding and erosion. The marina is not the only one in this situation. Those who live on the rapidly disappearing Isle de Jean Charles were

long ago left out of the Morganza alignment. Residents of lower Cocodrie are also going to be omitted. And lower Dularge will be protected with beefed-up parish drainage levees, not Morganza.

Source:

<http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20100307/ARTICLES/100309466/1211/NEWS01?p=all&tc=pgall&tc=ar>

64. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Work wrapping up on OR's Foster Dam.** Army Corps of Engineers officials say repairs on four spillway gates at Foster Dam should be completed by the end of the month. A corps operations superintendent, tells the Albany Democrat-Herald that the \$5 million project has been highly successful. Crews are replacing the huge beams on the massive steel arms that lift or lower the dam's gates. Repairs began in January 2009 after deformities were found in some of the arms. He says the gates themselves are OK. The dam on the South Santiam River near Sweet Water produces electricity and irrigation water, and holds back Foster Reservoir, a popular recreation area.

Source: <http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=12097178>

65. *March 6, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Corps to release more water at Saylorville.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to let extra water out of Saylorville Lake beginning Monday to help prevent floods later. Des Moines officials asked for the release to keep the lake at its normal level. Currently, it is about an inch high. The extra water will raise the Des Moines River by two feet at Southeast Sixth Street, but won't flood private property the city public works director said. Corps officials regularly hear from people questioning if they are letting too much, or too little, water out of the lake. On Friday, the staff noted that when the lake is at normal level, only 11.5 percent of the flood-storage space is used. The Corps added that even if the lake had been nearly drained in 2008, the most recent year when a major flood hit, the lake would have refilled in less than a day with the massive runoff at the time. So the crews keep the lake at 836 feet above sea level to protect the shoreline, prevent ice jams, and store backup drinking water for the Des Moines area. The change will send water up the levee, but will not flood private properties, he said. The idea is to keep the water close to the normal level as long as possible, to reduce the odds of the lake running down the spillway, he said. The river will be above flood stage downtown but within the levees. The public will not notice much change, he said. The increased flow is scheduled to run from Monday through April 20, as conditions permit. At that point, Saylorville will return to its normal plan, which also was negotiated with the city. That could include holding water back as usual during the spring rain season. The Corps said releases at Lake Red Rock will not increase at this point.

Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100306/NEWS/3060331/-1/SiteMap/Corps-to-release-more-water-at-Saylorville>

[[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 [NICCRReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRReports@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://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.