



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 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, Connecticut authorities say a freight train carrying liquid ethanol derailed Thursday morning in Windham, but none of the four tankers that came off the tracks is leaking. Local officials say they were not notified until about 7:30 a.m., more than three hours after the derailment. (See item [2](#))
- The Associated Press reports that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers suspended repair work Wednesday on an area of Wolf Creek Dam at Lake Cumberland in southern Kentucky after sensors picked up movement near the dam's foundation. (See item [62](#))

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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 11, Minnesota Public Radio* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota launching massive gas line safety initiative.** The state of Minnesota may launch one of the largest natural gas safety initiatives in the country, following last month's house explosion in St. Paul. The state fire marshal said Wednesday night that his office may order sewer inspections across the state to look for mislaid gas lines. The project could take more than two

years, and use sewer crews from across the country. Still, even that may not be enough. The fire marshall said Minnesota has more than 40 other gas distribution systems, and the Department of Public Safety may order all of them to check their systems for similar problems.

Source: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/03/11/gas-line-inspections/>

2. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Train carrying ethanol derails in eastern Conn.** Connecticut authorities say a freight train carrying liquid ethanol derailed in Windham, but none of the four tankers that came off the tracks is leaking and there is no public safety threat. A Providence & Worcester Railroad spokeswoman said no injuries were reported after the four rear cars of the 80-car train derailed early Thursday morning. The cause is not clear. Local officials say they were not notified until about 7:30 a.m., more than three hours after the derailment. Equipment is being brought in to put the cars back on the tracks or haul them away. The train was headed to Providence, Rhode Island from North Dakota. Seventy-one cars continued on to Providence. The rail line serves only freight so no passenger trains are affected.  
Source: <http://www.courant.com/community/windham/hc-ap-ct-contrainderailmemar11,0,5949319.story>
3. *March 10, Greeley Tribune* – (Colorado) **Northern Weld County fire burns 1,100 acres.** A brush fire, apparently started from a short in a power line from wind turbines in the area, burned 1,100 acres before firefighters were able to stop the wind-blown flames. The fire was reported about 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, near the intersection of Weld County roads 111 and 128. The Pawnee Fire District chief said they had to call for aid from several fire departments — New Raymer, Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, Carpenter, Wyoming, and the U.S. Forest Service. About 25 firefighters fought the blaze for nearly 5 hours. “The wind was a problem, but so were the draws (gullies) that go through the area, where it was hard to get to the fire,” he said. He said the fire was started by an electrical short in a line from one of the wind turbines in the area. It was the first time the department has fought a fire caused by the turbines. There was no property damage and no one was injured.  
Source:  
<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20100310/NEWS/100319992/1002&parentprofile=1001>
4. *March 8, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Man charged with stealing \$125K in copper.** A Toms River man remains incarcerated in the Ocean County Jail on charges of stealing copper valued at approximately \$121,000 from Jersey Central Power & Light sub stations in several communities. He was arrested at 3 p.m. on March 4 during a motor vehicle stop in Toms River. He was arrested for outstanding warrants for motor vehicle violations from Neptune and Lakehurst, which also charged with the theft of \$700 of JCP&L materials from a substation in Manitou Park in Berkeley Township on February 22 and for the theft of \$880 materials and \$315 of copper items on February 22 and February 23 at a sub station on Silverton Road in Toms River. He also received multiple theft of movable property charges in connection to the case which is part of a multi-jurisdictional taskforce involving detective bureaus in Toms River, Berkeley, and

Manchester townships.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20100308/NEWS/100308042/Man-charged-with-stealing--125K-in-copper>

For more stories, see items [38](#) and [57](#)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **Plant fire in Greenville.** The Mississippi fire marshal's office will join the investigation into a fire in a building at a herbicide plant in Greenville. WABG-TV reports that the fire broke out about 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Platte Chemical Co. after what authorities say was a small explosion. A nearby neighborhood was evacuated for a short time while Greenville firefighters put out the blaze. There were no reported injuries. Platte Chemical produces insecticides, herbicides and fungicides for agriculture use. The Riverside Volunteer Fire Department chief says the fire was put out in about 30 minutes.

Source: <http://www.wdam.com/Global/story.asp?S=12122839>

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

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

6. *March 10, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **VY pipe repairs planned for April.** Engineers are working on a plan to reroute or replace a leaking pipe at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon during a scheduled refueling outage in April and May, said a Vermont Yankee spokesman. Because it is near impossible, during plant operation, to get into the pipe tunnel where a leaking pipe is located, the repairs will have to wait until it is offline for refueling, he said. "We have a conceptual plan to do that," said the Vermont Yankee spokesman. Whether the new pipe will be placed above ground, instead of 15 feet below the surface where it is located now, will not be known until the conceptual plan is completed, he said. Yankee engineers also plan to assess other pipes in the system. "The whole purpose of the investigation is not only to find and stop the leak, but to also look at the condition of any piping in the area," said the Vermont Yankee spokesman. If other pipes are found to be corroded or leaking, they will also be replaced or rerouted, he said.

Source: [http://www.reformer.com/ci\\_14644347?source=most\\_email](http://www.reformer.com/ci_14644347?source=most_email)

7. *March 10, New Times SLO* – (California) **Supes say, 'Hold on, Diablo'.** During a SLO County Board of Supervisors meeting on March 9 the topic turned to Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. "I do realize that our view may be inconvenient for PG&E," a supervisor said. On a 3-2 vote, the board decided to ask the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to delay the re-licensing of Diablo Canyon until 3-D seismic

studies of multiple offshore fault lines are complete. (Two supervisors voted no.) PG&E representatives expect a seismic report to be completed by December. But PG&E reps protested that delaying the re-licensing process — the company applied in November to extend the license 20 years for each reactor — would cost ratepayers in the long run. The company applied with the Public Utilities Commission to spend \$85 million in ratepayer funds toward the studies. The PG&E government affairs representative said the company can not just put re-licensing on hold; it would have to restart the process. Additionally, the PG&E government affairs representative and other representatives said they operate on the assumption the plant won't be re-licensed and PG&E will need at least a decade to develop an alternative power source. The NRC has never denied a re-licensing application.

Source: <http://www.newtimeslo.com/news/4134/supes-say-hold-on-diablo/>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

8. *March 11, Avstop.com* – (National) **NTSB: Glass cockpits vs conventional no better safety record.** The National Transportation Safety Board adopted a study concluding that single engine airplanes equipped with glass cockpits had no better overall safety record than airplanes with conventional instrumentation. The safety study, which was adopted unanimously by the Safety Board, was initiated more than a year ago to determine if light airplanes equipped with digital primary flight displays, often referred to as “glass cockpits,” were inherently safer than those equipped with conventional instruments. The study, which looked at the accident rates of over 8,000 small piston-powered airplanes manufactured between 2002 and 2006, found that those equipped with glass cockpits had a higher fatal accident rate than similar aircraft with conventional instruments. The Safety Board determined that because glass cockpits are both complex and vary from aircraft to aircraft in function, design and failure modes, pilots are not always provided with all of the information they need – both by aircraft manufacturers and the Federal Aviation Administration – to adequately understand the unique operational and functional details of the primary flight instruments in their airplanes.

Source:

[http://avstop.com/news\\_march\\_2010/ntsb\\_glass\\_cockpits\\_vs\\_conventional\\_no\\_better\\_safety\\_record.htm](http://avstop.com/news_march_2010/ntsb_glass_cockpits_vs_conventional_no_better_safety_record.htm)

9. *March 11, US Money Talk* – (National) **Toyota recall blackbox info of great interest to Ford, GM and others.** The Associated Press reported today, after reviewing lawsuits and conferring with auto crash experts, that Toyota has been inconsistent in revealing what their black boxes actually record. What is known is that each Toyota vehicle has a device much like an airplane's black box; what is a mystery is what, exactly, they record. After the Associated Press reviewed information on specific lawsuits, they realized that Toyota's disclosures of whether the brake or accelerator pedals were depressed at the time of a crash in each case have been contradictory. The AP also found that Toyota has blocked the release of data stored in those black boxes

which could explain exactly what happened in each crash. An attorney for a lawsuit in Texas stated in court documents that Toyota may have deliberately stopped allowing its black boxes, or event data recorders (EDRs), to collect critical information. This would protect Toyota from being forced to reveal that information in court cases. Toyota released a statement on Thursday stating that the EDR system is an experimental device. They went on to state that it is not intended for accident reconstruction because it is not reliable. The only sources that can request that data are law enforcement, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or a court order, according to the statement. It should be noted that the automaker announced earlier this week that they will provide U.S. safety regulators the tools to read the “black boxes”. It should be noted that most other automakers allow open access to information from their EDRs. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration revealed that this week 52 more people have died in crashes linked to accelerator problems causing massive amounts of lawsuits.

Source: <http://www.usmoneytalk.com/business/toyota-recall-blackbox-info-of-great-interest-to-ford-gm-and-others-903/>

10. *March 11, WJRT 12 Flint* – (Michigan) **11 arrested in Buick City copper theft case.** Genesee County’s prosecutor has charged 11 people for their alleged roles in stealing \$1 million-worth of copper from the old Buick City complex. Four of the 11 face a racketeering charge. All face a wide array of charges. An important person in this, investigators say, is a man who once worked for a scrap yard, knew the value of the material and knew where to find it. “(They) went through the fence, walked through the woods, walked down the railroad tracks, went through a vent in the abandoned GM factory and then went back to the door, opened the door and let everybody else in,” the prosecutor says. Investigators say they would then put the copper on a flatbed railroad car, hand crank it out to the fence, load their items into a pickup truck, and then recycle it for cash — around \$284,000 total. This, police say, occurred over a period of months from summer to fall in 2009. As for the group, authorities say they systematically stole the copper, and were so organized that they broke off into crews working shifts. The county sheriff says these people hit Buick City more than 100 times, taking 152,000 pounds of copper. A General Motors’ spokesman says when it became apparent there was a problem, the company worked with local authorities to put an end to it.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/local&id=7325231>

11. *March 11, KRCG 13 Columbia* – (Missouri) **Spontaneous combustion causes fire at plant.** A pile of rags has spontaneously combusted at a Holts Summit business causing a small fire over Wednesday night. Around 2 a.m., the Holts Summit fire chief says firefighters came out in full force Thursday morning to knock down the small fire at the Doolittle Trailer Manufacturing Plant. He says the cloth rags were used in painting and could have been full of chemicals like paint thinner. He said if these rags sit long enough, they can heat up enough to ignite. The fire was contained to the rags and a 55 gallon paint drum near the back of the business’s property. No buildings were damaged and no one was hurt. More than a dozen firefighters responded and cleared the scene an hour later. There is still no official cause. The chief said he found no evidence that point to any other reason for the fire. He added that thanks to the six firefighters living

at the company's new fire station, crews got to the scene in record time.

Source: <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=428190>

12. *March 10, WREX 13 Rockford* – (Illinois) **Hazmat situation under control in Boone County.** A gas leak that sparked a fire inside a Boone County factory is under control. Hazmat crews were called to U.S. Chrome, 305 Herbert Road in Kingston late Wednesday morning. The original call said a yellow smoke was coming from a truck at the facility. Now, authorities say the smoke was actually from a tank inside the building. The chemicals sparked a small fire that was quickly extinguished. The building was evacuated for a short time, but it is now safe to go back inside. No one in the area was ever in any danger from the fumes. U.S. Chrome Corporation is a commercial hard chrome plating facility.

Source: <http://www.wrex.com/Global/story.asp?S=12116941>

13. *March 7, Occupational Health and Safety* – (National) **Outdoor lighting fixtures recalled for shock hazard.** American Electric Lighting, a division of Acuity Brands Lighting Inc. of Conyers, Georgia, in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, has issued a voluntary product safety recall for about 900 outdoor lighting fixtures because improper wiring in the light fixtures poses a shock hazard. CPSC says consumers should stop using the products immediately and contact American Electric Lighting to schedule a free inspection and repair. The recall involves model AVL outdoor lighting fixtures. The light fixtures are intended for use in parking lots, roadways, commercial environments, and office communities. "AVL" is printed on the reflector of each light fixture. The units were sold by electrical distributors and electrical sales representatives nationwide from September 2008 through September 2009 for between \$250 and \$800. The company has received no reports of incidents or injuries from the light fixtures.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/03/07/outdoor-lighting-fixtures-recalled-for-shock-hazard.aspx?admgarea=news>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

14. *March 10, Aviation Week* – (National) **NLOS-LS team plots new path forward.** After a disappointing test run earlier this year, the U.S. industry team pursuing the Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System (NLOS-LS) is mapping out a new path forward, according to Raytheon Missile Systems. Plans should be unveiled within the next 60 days. NLOS-LS is a joint program between the U.S. Army and Navy; the recent failure of four of six shots during an Army limited user test (LUT) of the system is being watched closely by all parties. Across the Pentagon's portfolio, problematic programs have been canceled or shelved as budget and performance pressures work their way down through the acquisition system. "I think one of the things we've learned is that we will never go into a LUT sequence again with new functionality or modes," said Raytheon's deputy vice president of land combat. The LUT should "be the graduation exercise. Where everything has been fully vetted." She said the underlying root cause for two of the four



misses has been identified and solved, while the other two failures are still being evaluated. A bright spot for Raytheon has been the recent evaluation of the NLOS-LS precision attack missile (PAM) price. The government estimated an average production unit cost of more than \$300,000. But Raytheon was able to get the cost down to \$198,000, which covers 9,942 missiles over the next 12 years.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/asd/2010/03/10/04.xml&headline=NLOS-LS Team Plots New Path Forward](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/asd/2010/03/10/04.xml&headline=NLOS-LS+Team+Plots+New+Path+Forward)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

15. *March 11, IDG News Service* – (International) **HSBC: Data theft incident broader than first thought.** HSBC said on March 11 about 15,000 accounts of its Swiss private banking unit were compromised after an employee allegedly stole data, some of which ended up in the hands of French tax authorities. The latest figure is sharply higher than the one the bank gave in December, when HSBC said the number of account records taken was less than 10. HSBC said it does not think the records could be used to access an account. The data was allegedly stolen by a former IT employee about three years ago, HSBC said. The employee left Switzerland, and French authorities ended up with the files, which were then passed to the Swiss Federal Prosecutor. French authorities had been investigating up to 3,000 people thought to be avoiding taxes.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/031110-hsbc-data-theft-incident-broader.html?hpg1=bn>

16. *March 11, Associated Press* – (International) **Greece hit by strikes, riots over austerity plan.** Serious street clashes erupted between rioting youths and police in central Athens on March 11 as some 30,000 people demonstrated during a nationwide strike against the cash-strapped government's austerity measures. Hundreds of masked and hooded youths punched and kicked motorcycle police, knocking several off their bikes, as riot police responded with volleys of tear gas and stun grenades. The violence spread after the end of the march to a nearby square, where police faced off with stone-throwing anarchists and suffocating clouds of tear gas sent patrons scurrying from open-air cafes. Rioters used sledge hammers to smash the glass fronts of more than a dozen shops, banks, jewelers and a cinema. Youths also set fire to rubbish bins and a car, smashed bus stops, and chopped blocks off marble balustrades and building facades to use as projectiles. Some private bank branches were open despite calls from the bank employees' union to participate in the strike.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iXUJvBknZVGqsBenIusBgBvWj5WQD9ECFIJ81>

17. *March 10, Bloomberg* – (National) **Turkish bond scam funded cryogenics, porn, SEC says.** Executives at an Illinois estate-planning firm raised more than \$20 million for Turkish Eurobond investments, while diverting clients' money for a stamp

collection, Internet pornography and cryogenically frozen umbilical cords, U.S. regulators said. USA Retirement Management Services, which also has offices in California, and the managing partners were sued by the Securities and Exchange Commission today for operating a Ponzi scheme since 2005. A federal judge in Los Angeles froze their assets, the SEC said. At least 120 investors agreed to buy promissory notes guaranteed to generate 8 percent to 11 percent annual returns from investments in Turkish bonds, the SEC said. The managing partners also raised at least \$14 million through a variety of channels since 2006, the agency said. They allegedly sent some funds to bank accounts in Turkey and spent money on luxury cars, housing and vacations.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a.wzL0Ko8DfM&pos=6>

18. *March 10, Consumer Affairs* – (Mississippi) **Scam targets Mississippi credit union members.** A phishing scam targeting members of credit unions has emerged in Mississippi, and perhaps in other states. The Mississippi attorney general says his office has received a number of calls from potential and actual victims. The phishing attack targets mostly cell phones, with both calls and text messages. The messages warn victims that their credit union account has been frozen and instructs the victim to call a number to provide account information. If victims comply, the scammer steals their information. Several credit unions operating within the state have been targeted. “If you receive such a text, do not call that number,” Statewide Credit Union warns in a message on its Web site. “This is a “phishing” attempt to steal your member information and to try to steal funds from your account. We will not attempt to contact you through text messaging, or ask for your member information over the phone, since we already have it.”

Source: [http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/03/miss\\_phishing.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/03/miss_phishing.html)

19. *March 10, Miami Examiner* – (Florida) **Suspect threatens blowing up Miami bank.** Police are searching for a suspect who walked into the Miami Dade Bank of America located in the 200 block of SW 127 on Thursday afternoon and threatened to detonate an explosive device if not given cash. Police are still searching for the suspect. Two tellers at the bank were confronted by the suspect wearing a dark blue cap and sunglasses. He told one of the tellers in Spanish, “Give me the money or I’ll blow up the bomb.” According to Miami Dade Police, the other teller who was nearby hearing the suspect’s demands attempted to walk away and get help. The suspect noticed and ordered her to return. He repeated his demands and pulled out what appeared to be a detonating device and dynamite sticks. After seeing this, the first teller complied placing money in a plastic bag and handing it over. He was last seen fleeing on foot east on Quail Roost Drive.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-41025-Miami-Crime-Examiner~y2010m3d10-Suspect-Threatens-Blowing-Up-Bank>

20. *March 10, The Register* – (International) **UK plastic fraud losses fall for first time in 3 years.** A rise in online banking fraud losses took some of the shine off the overall fall in debit and credit fraud in the UK last year. Official figures from the UK Cards



Association, which represents UK credit and debit card providers, published on Wednesday show that fraud on debit and credit cards fell by 28 percent in 2009 to Â£440.3m in total, compared to Â£610m in 2008. The decrease in overall card fraud - the first since 2006 - is credited to the effects of Chip and PIN on retail fraud, improved fraud detection tools and law enforcement efforts. While other forms of fraud dropped online banking losses increased Â£59.7m in 2009, an increase of 14 percent on losses of Â£52.5m during 2008. Increasingly sophisticated malware attacks targeting bank customers and a 19 percent increase in phishing attacks in 2009 was blamed for the rise.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/10/uk\\_plastic\\_fraud/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/10/uk_plastic_fraud/)

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## **Transportation Sector**

21. *March 11, WTOP 1500 Washington* – (Virginia) **Jets remain under collapsed roofs at Dulles.** Nearly five weeks after the weight of snow collapsed the roofs of three of its four hangars, more than a dozen damaged business jets and other aircraft remain pinned under structural beams, roofing materials and still-melting snow that had been atop the Dulles Jet Center. The facility's co-owner says none of the business and personal jets housed in the facility has been recovered since the February 6 collapse. The collapse occurred when roofs caved in under the weight of nearly 3 feet of snow. The privately owned facility, completed in 2006, is located in the northeast corner of the Dulles International Airport grounds. "The planes are in varying conditions," he said. "Some of the planes are untouched, some are not." He estimates the stabilization process will take another two weeks before any of the aircraft can be extricated from the wreckage. After the planes are removed, much of the current facility will be demolished. "It won't be 'as good as new.' It'll be better. Look what happened when it was new."

Source: <http://wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1909688>

22. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Main DOT repairing Rockland sinkhole.** Maine Department of Transportation crews are working to repair a 65-foot sinkhole in Rockland that has been called by some the state's largest pothole. The sinkhole opened on Old County Road last month. The road was built over a tunnel between two limestone quarries. A spokesman for the Maine DOT says the hole will be filled in with large boulders that will act as a base before other material is placed on top of that. The Bangor Daily News says officials hope to have the road reopened by the end of the month. The project is expected to cost about \$200,000, which will be paid by the state.

Source: [http://www.wgme.com/template/inews\\_wire/wires.regional.me/20db9e3d-www.wgme.com.shtml](http://www.wgme.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.me/20db9e3d-www.wgme.com.shtml)

23. *March 11, CNN* – (National) **Toxic air flights.** On January 16, ambulances met US Airways Flight 1041 arriving in Charlotte, North Carolina from St. Thomas. Eight passengers received medical treatment at the airport. Seven crew members were rushed to the hospital. "Headaches, confusion, some disorientation, dizziness, nausea. These

are some of the symptoms that they've described," said the Association of Flight Attendants' industrial hygienist. All seven of the flight attendants and pilots have not flown for US Airways since January 16 because of their continuing symptoms. The crew of Flight 1041 fell victim to a "fume event," the third time in three weeks that the aircraft, a Boeing 767-2B7, tail number 251, suffered contamination of its cabin air. US Airways says there was a leak on a seal of the right engine of the Boeing 767 that allowed a toxic mist to enter the aircraft. US Airways' Service Difficulty Report filed with the Federal Aviation Administration says "a very strong odor smelling like wet socks and/or dirty feet circulated through the passenger cabin and flight deck" during Flight 1568 on December 28 from Charlotte to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Crew members reported trouble breathing, itchy eyes and stomach cramps. Two days later on the same route a "foul odor" entered the cabin. US Airways tells CNN hydraulic fluid —Skydrol — was released into the ventilation system on the two December flights. "These are rare occasions," said US Airways' vice president of safety and regulatory compliance. "US Airways takes these seriously. We do all we can to maintain the utmost in air quality, to maintain the safety of the passengers and crew."

Source: <http://amfix.blogs.cnn.com/2010/03/11/toxic-air-flights/?hpt=C1>

24. *March 10, Computerworld* – (Colorado) **Former TSA analyst charged with computer tampering.** A U.S. Transportation Security Administration analyst has been indicted for allegedly tampering with databases used by the TSA to identify possible terrorists who may be trying to fly in the U.S. The man, 46, was indicted by a grand jury today on two counts of damaging protected computers. According to the federal indictment, the man tried to compromise computers at the TSA's Colorado Springs Operations Center (CSOC) on October 22, 2009, seven days after being given two weeks notice that he was being dismissed. He was also charged with tampering with a TSA server that contained data from the U.S. Marshal's Service Warrant Information Network. The man "knowingly transmitted code into the CSOC server that contained the Terrorist Screening Database, and thereby attempted intentionally to cause damage to the CSOC computer and database," prosecutors said in a statement.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169019/Former TSA analyst charged with computer tampering](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169019/Former_TSA_analyst_charged_with_computer_tampering)

25. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Passenger removed from flight at Miami airport.** Authorities say a flight from Miami to the Dominican Republic had to return to an airport gate because of an unruly passenger. A Miami International Airport spokesman says American Airlines flight 683, bound for Santiago, made its way to the runway Wednesday. But shortly after leaving the gates, the pilot turned the plane around. An American Airlines spokeswoman said the passenger had refused to follow crew member instructions and was taken off the plane. In an e-mail, a Federal Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman said that the passenger won't face criminal charges.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/03/10/1522342/unruly-passenger-removed-from.html>

26. *March 10, New York Times* – (International) **Russia: Arrests in fatal train bombing.** A Moscow court on Wednesday approved the arrest of 10 suspects in the November 2009 bombing of the Nevsky Express passenger train, which derailed while en route from Moscow to St. Petersburg and killed 28 people. Nine of the suspects were arrested during a federal raid last week on a village outside Nazran, the capital of the republic of Ingushetia.  
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/11/world/europe/11briefs-russiabrf.html>
27. *March 9, WDAY 6 Fargo* – (North Dakota) **First security breach ever at Hector delays flights.** TSA was forced to shut down its security screening checkpoint at Hector Airport. The incident occurred after a passenger coming off a flight walked back through a door he just came through. A young passenger arriving here at Hector with his family, coming off the flight, and walking thru the exit and into the terminal, then he changed his mind and decided he needed to use the bathroom so he walked back thru the exit without being screened. According to passengers, TSA guards yelled “breach” and closed the gates. “Out of an abundance of caution, the restroom area was swept and the passenger was released with negative findings,” said a TSA spokesman. According to some passengers, TSA officials used mirrors to check beneath the screening equipment before allowing screenings to begin following the hour long delay. The breach shut down TSA screening leaving about 200 waiting in line and delaying two flights. Only Delta reported delays. United, Frontier, and Allegiant were not affected.  
Source: <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/30832/>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

28. *March 9, Tarentum Valley News Dispatch* – (Pennsylvania) **Mailbox explosions lead to New Kensington arrest.** A New Kensington man, 22, was arrested on March 5 by federal agents, state, and local police investigating the pipe-bomb destruction of two mailboxes in Upper Burrell. The suspect is facing a state charge of having weapons of mass destruction and a federal charge of illegal firearms possession. Under federal law, pipe bombs are classified as firearms and destructive devices. He was held in the Westmoreland County jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond. The charges are not directly connected to the mailbox bombings. Federal, state and local authorities said they found pipe, gunpowder and other pipe-bomb components in a basement cabinet when they searched the house where the suspect lives with his father. Authorities are trying to determine whether materials in that basement were used to make the mailbox bombs. According to the affidavit, pieces of iron pipe found in the basement match the type of pipe shards found near the blown-up mailboxes — one on February 25 and one on March 1 in Upper Burrell.  
Source: [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/lifestyles/s\\_670749.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/lifestyles/s_670749.html)

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

29. *March 11, Food Safety News* – (National) **CDC traces outbreak with shopper cards.** As of March 2, 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) counted a total of 245 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Montevideo in 44 states. Among the 2,500 serotypes of Salmonella, according to the CDC, Montevideo is in the top 10 most common serotypes. Because the main Salmonella Montevideo outbreak is so common in the United States, public health investigators had an extremely difficult time detecting the source of the outbreak. However, during its investigation, CDC employed a unique and novel technique that enabled it to trace the source of the bacteria—shopper cards used across the country by millions of Americans. Initially, CDC and public health officials were able to identify a possible source by conducting a study comparing foods eaten by 41 ill and 41 well persons. The results suggested salami as a possible source of illness, with data showing ill persons were significantly more likely to eat salami than well persons in the days before they became ill (58% v. 16%). From there, investigators sought permission from customers to track their grocery purchases using shopper cards, and then asked supermarkets and grocery stores about specific buying information. The trail led them to Daniele International Inc., a Rhode Island-based company manufacturing and distributing Italian-style salami.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/03/cdc-traces-outbreak-with-shopper-cards/>

30. *March 10, Associated Press* – (California) **Grape moth threatens Napa Valley growing method.** A voracious pest triggered a quarantine this week across much of Napa Valley — the nation’s premier grape-growing region — and it threatened more than the grapes themselves. The spraying of pesticides needed to control the European grapevine moth threatens to undo decades of low-impact farming practices that have elevated the quality of wines from the region. Growers of premium wine grapes have long believed that elegant flavors are tied to the soil. The general manager of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association, said the third invasive pest discovery in three years “raises the question of the long-term sustainability of organic and biodynamic practices.” Agriculture officials imposed a quarantine Tuesday restricting the transport of equipment, grapes and even the skins that are left when they are pressed after discovering the pest in at least 32 sites across Napa Valley. The moth was first detected in the U.S. last September in a vineyard in the center of Napa Valley. The bug managed to destroy the crop of an entire vineyard at peak harvest time before anyone recognized the new invader. “This is the worst of the invasive species, there’s no question about that,” said a manager of 400 acres of vineyards inside the 162-square-mile quarantine area. “It does real damage to the fruit, and it will be expensive to eradicate — if we can eradicate it.” Premium grape growers are now facing the prospect of spraying at least three times in the months ahead to deal with the three generations of grape-eating larvae that are produced each growing season. The spraying could cost at least \$200 an acre.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hH3jUIIESU1MGAIP7nOMpTdjZiIQD9EC38G04>

31. *March 9, Associated Press* – (New York) **Fire at upstate NY farm kills 30-40 dairy cows.** Authorities say a barn fire that killed more than two dozen cows at a central New York dairy farm does not appear to be suspicious. Firefighters and farm workers managed to rescue dozens of other cows after the blaze broke out Monday morning at the B&KFedor Dairy in Westmoreland, 40 miles east of Syracuse. Fire officials say 30 to 40 cows out of a herd of 110 cows died in the fire. It took firefighters about three hours to bring the blaze under control. Officials say the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=12107450>

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## **Water Sector**

32. *March 11, Silver City Sun News* – (New Mexico) **Silver City loses 3 million gallons in water leak.** A leak in a transmission line Saturday resulted in the loss of 3 million gallons of water, Silver City's utilities director told members of the Town Council on Tuesday. He said Wednesday that measures have been taken so crews will be notified sooner and can respond faster to such leaks. The leak occurred along a transmission line that runs to the Cemetery Zone tanks. The leak itself was located on the south side of Boston Hill near Truck Bypass over an open pit. The city recently installed a new supervisory control and data acquisition system, which monitors the water system. He explained that when the system detected the Cemetery water tanks were full early Saturday morning, it shut an automated valve to the tanks. The closure occurred in about 30 seconds, which caused a "water hammer" or shock wave that slammed back through the pipe. He said the weak point was located over the open pit where the water blew out a coupling. While the leak did not impact the Cemetery tanks, the Chloride tanks, near Chloride Flats, began to back drain through the leak in the transmission line. At about 6:30 a.m. Saturday, the city began to receive calls from residents about low water pressure. The city water department then noticed that the Chloride tanks — three 1-million gallon tanks that usually hold water at 18 to 20 feet deep — were down to about two or three feet of water. Crews started looking for the break and the transmission line was isolated.

Source: [http://www.scsun-news.com/ci\\_14653040](http://www.scsun-news.com/ci_14653040)

33. *March 11, Plant City Courier & Tribune* – (Florida) **TBO.com: Plant City to spend \$255,000 to protect sinkhole-threatened water tank.** The city of Tampa, Florida, will spend about \$255,000 to shore up the ground around a water tank that is threatened by a sinkhole. The city drained the 500,000-gallon tank off National Guard Drive in January due to unstable ground, including a large sinkhole to the north. The city

expects to have the tank back in operation this summer. The city manager said the city will spend the \$255,000 to use grout to form a curtain between the tank and the sinkhole, and fill in some smaller voids closer to the tank. The city has spent another \$57,000 on a study by a consulting engineer. The engineering firm presented the city with six options, the most expensive of which would have been to spend \$1.86 million to relocate the tank. The city chose the least expensive method. The city hopes to advertise for bids on March 29, and award the contract in late April. The city has been plagued with sinkholes and unstable soil ever since growers pumped millions of gallons of water to protect their crops from freezing temperatures in early January. Eight Plant City roads were damaged by sinkholes or depressions, including a section of Alexander Street, which has been fixed temporarily pending permanent repairs. The city has asked for state and federal help with the repair work but has not received any, officials said. Source: <http://plantcity2.tbo.com/content/2010/mar/11/plant-city-spend-255000-protect-sinkhole-threatene/>

34. *March 10, KHON 2 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **City wastewater treatment worker: “Someone dropped the ball on safety”**. There are growing concerns over mismanagement and repeat violations at the Kailua Wastewater Treatment Plant. As a result, the city has been fined several thousand dollars by the state department of labor and industrial relations. A city worker has come forward knowing it could lead to retaliation. The worker first noticed problems at the Kailua Wastewater Treatment plant last April. “A supervisor that was acting inappropriately violating confine space rules and regulations bringing me into a confined space one night while not filling out a permit while I wasn’t trained,” he said. “When I did speak up in a quiet way I was told to ignore it.” He understands the dangers of the industry having worked at the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, one of the largest plants in the country. “Me being in fear of the gasses I feel my life was in jeopardy at times doing these actions.” The latest fine came last month for four citations including one for a repeat serious offense. The penalties totaled \$17,500. “There’s methane gas there, besides the hydrogen sulfide gas we’re talking about in a confined space that is something that you just don’t play with it,” he said. The City Environmental Services director says, “When the issue was brought to our attention, we immediately moved to provide proper training to those individuals who would be subject to confined space entry.” The worker says he has been the target of retaliation since coming forward but will continue to speak out. There are no reports of anyone sickened as part of the latest fines. Source: <http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/City-Wastewater-Treatment-Worker-Someone-Dropped/4TKZyOg5iEWESgL77eoCUQ.csp>

35. *March 9, KWCH 12 Wichita* – (Kansas) **Wichita spends \$2M to fight zebra mussels**. The City of Wichita, Kansas, will spend \$2 million to keep zebra mussels from getting into the water system. The city council approved the funding Tuesday. Zebra mussels are a growing problem at Cheney Lake. They are a foreign species of clams that reproduce in large quantities and create issues for water systems. Wichita gets 60 percent of its water from Cheney. It wants to make sure the infestation of zebra mussels does not clog up the drinking water system. After much research, the city has decided to invest in a copper ionization process. The process uses two copper plates



with an electrical charge that releases copper ions into the water. The level of copper released stops the eating, breeding and settling of zebra mussels. The city says by doing this, it will protect 20 miles of piping to and from the pump stations for Wichita's water supply. The city says the level of copper will also be within drinking water standards. Source: <http://www.kwch.com/global/story.asp?s=12109625>

36. *March 9, Boulder Daily Camera* – (Colorado) **Boulder briefly violated state water treatment standard.** Boulder's water treatment system briefly violated state standards for turbidity early this year. All 23,000 water customers will be sent notices from the city later this month or in early April explaining the violation, which officials said lasted less than four minutes and did not present any danger to the public. According to a report from the city manager, the incident happened on January 29 when a filter valve did not close properly at the Betasso Water Treatment Plant, which filters a majority of Boulder's water supply. The stuck valve caused water passing through the system to be 30 times more cloudy than normal and 50 percent higher turbidity than state standards allow. But officials insist the unintentional lapse lasted only a few minutes and would not have even shown up in a regular report to the state, which typically includes turbidity levels as measured every four hours. "We do not see evidence of any contamination from this event, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water," the city manager wrote in her report to the City Council. Boulder's drinking water program manager said the city immediately notified state regulators. If there had been a threat to public health, the city would have sent out notices immediately, she said. Source: [http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci\\_14642393#axzz0htjbOsxL](http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_14642393#axzz0htjbOsxL)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

37. *March 10, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (National) **Study: Too many angiograms given.** A troublingly high number of U.S. patients who are given angiograms to check for heart disease turn out not to have a significant problem, according to the latest study to suggest Americans get an excess of medical tests. The researchers said the findings, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, suggest doctors must better determine who should be subjected to the cost and risks of an angiogram. The test, in which a thin tube is threaded up to the heart to check for blockages, carries a small but real risk — less than 1 percent — of causing a stroke or heart attack, and also entails radiation exposure. Angiograms are often given to patients who might be having a heart attack or have symptoms that suggest a serious blockage. They are also sometimes done on those with less clear-cut symptoms or no symptoms but some risky traits like high cholesterol. This group accounts for about 20 to 30 percent of angiogram cases. In the study, nearly two-thirds of the patients in this second group were found to have no serious blockages.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/87293002.html?elr=KArks7PYDiaK7DUHPYDiaK7DUiD3aPc: Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUr>

38. *March 10, NBC 4 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Transformer failure affects traffic, medical building.** The Columbus, Ohio, fire said a transformer blew in the area of Grant Medical Center, starting a fire in an underground facility. The situation was contained about 10 minutes later, according to CFD. Authorities said South 6th Street was closed between State and Town streets. It reopened before 10:45 a.m. Doctors, office workers and patients were evacuated Wednesday morning. Patients were transported next door to Grant Medical Center as fire crews put out the fire and started removing smoke from the building. About 100 people were evacuated from the building while at least 30 patients remained in the Greater Columbus Regional Dialysis Center on backup generators, according to the Columbus Fire Chief. Physician appointments and outpatient services scheduled for Wednesday in the Wilkins Building have been canceled or moved to other treatment areas. The interruption in electrical service has not impacted patient care in the main hospital, a Grant spokesperson said.

Source:

[http://www2.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/traffic/article/blown\\_transformer\\_causes\\_downtown\\_traffic-light\\_outages/33191/](http://www2.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/traffic/article/blown_transformer_causes_downtown_traffic-light_outages/33191/)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

39. *March 10, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Tanker plane makes emergency landing at NH base.** A tanker plane with a four-member crew has landed safely at Pease Air National Guard Base in New Hampshire after reporting a crack in the cockpit window. WMUR-TV reports authorities said the KC-135 made a smooth landing late Wednesday morning. Officials described it as a small crack, and the window did not shatter. It is not known what caused the crack. The base did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment. The plane burned off some fuel before making the landing as a precaution. There are no reports of injuries.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=12116860>

40. *March 10, Computerworld* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania fires CISO over RSA talk.** Pennsylvania's chief information security officer has been fired, apparently for talking publicly at the RSA security conference last week about a recent incident involving the Commonwealth's online driving exam scheduling system. A source close to the matter said the official was terminated for not getting the required approvals from the Commonwealth's authorities to talk publicly about the incident. Commonwealth rules explicitly require all employees to get approval from the appropriate authorities before they publicly disclose official matters, the source said. A spokesman for the state's governor confirmed Wednesday that he is no longer working for the Commonwealth. But he refused to say if the official had been terminated, citing privacy rules.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169098/Pennsylvania\\_fires\\_CISO\\_over\\_RS\\_A\\_talk](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169098/Pennsylvania_fires_CISO_over_RS_A_talk)

41. *March 10, United Press International* – (Indiana) **Grenade prompts evacuation of Ind. school.** Authorities in Kosciusko County, Indiana, say a school was evacuated during a fire alarm after a dummy grenade was found by a student. The Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department said the grenade found in a student's backpack Monday at Milford School in Milford, Indiana, was non-functional, The (Fort Wayne, Indiana) Journal Gazette reported Tuesday. Deputies said officials at the school learned of the grenade after the 14-year-old who owned the backpack showed the explosive device to a fellow student. The Milford School student that had the grenade was suspended for 10 days. The student, whose identity was not released, told authorities he was given the dummy grenade by a family member. The Sheriff's department spokesman said the teen will not face any criminal charges for possessing the grenade, the Journal Gazette reported. "There's no law about having an inert device like that," the spokesman said. "It's against the school policy."

Source: <http://www.globe-democrat.com/news/2010/mar/10/grenade-prompts-evacuation-of-ind-school/>

42. *March 10, KFFB 5 Helena* – (Montana) **UGF beefing up security following shooting near university housing complex.** The University of Great Falls (UGF) is beefing up security following a shooting near a university housing complex. UGF has moved all students out of the apartment where the shooting took place. They have also brought on additional security guards and increased patrols in the area. They were assessing the situation before they allow the students to move back in. A spokeswoman from the University of Great Falls says, "With different things that have happened nationwide, we've done what we can to prepare ourselves. Our student safety is very important to us. We just want to be vigilant in what we do and how we can help them and keep them safe." UGF does not have an emergency text message alert system but officials say the Emergency Task Force on campus is always looking for ways to improve safety measures.

Source: <http://www.kfbb.com/news/local/87285562.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

43. *March 11, Fort Myers New-Press* – (Florida) **Lehigh fire district asks Lee County for help with struggling ambulance service.** The Lehigh Acres, Florida, fire district is struggling to answer medical emergencies with three ambulances so it is asking Lee County to revise its license to provide the service. The district's current license or certificate of need lists five ambulances available for around-the-clock service. The proposed revision reduces that to two ambulances with the possibility of adding a third

when staff levels allow it, said the fire chief. The district took two of its five ambulances out of service Oct. 1 to help balance the district's budget. The district also has reduced its staff of firefighters from 111 to 74 and closed one station to cope with the loss of nearly 49 percent of its taxable property value. "It just needs to reflect current conditions. It's the license they operate under," said Lee County's public safety director. Lee County commissioners have to approve the change. No date for a vote has been set. The certificate expires March 30, 2011.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20100311/NEWS0103/100311009/1075/Lehigh-fire-district-asks-Lee-County-for-help-with-struggling-ambulance-service>

44. *March 11, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Big ax looming at the FDNY: Threat of 1,000 layoffs, closing of 62 fire companies.** The New York Fire Department (FDNY) will be forced to close a staggering 62 fire companies and lay off more than 1,000 firefighters if the bad-news state budget becomes reality, it's commissioner told the City Council Wednesday. "We would be very, very taxed," he warned. "Our operations would be impacted and every neighborhood in this city would feel the effect." Even if lawmakers in Albany - already facing an April 1 deadline and a \$9 billion budget gap - find a way to pump in more cash, the city's fiscal woes may still force the FDNY to shutter 20 companies, he warned. Sixteen fire companies were set to close last year until the Council restored funding for an extra 12 months. But those companies - which were never identified - are still slated to close this July, and an additional four are scheduled to be shut down later in the year, creating a savings of \$37.4 million. The department currently has 198 engine companies and 143 ladder companies.

Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/03/11/2010-03-11\\_big\\_ax\\_looming\\_at\\_the\\_fdney\\_threat\\_of\\_1000\\_layoffs\\_closing\\_of\\_62\\_fire\\_companies.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/03/11/2010-03-11_big_ax_looming_at_the_fdney_threat_of_1000_layoffs_closing_of_62_fire_companies.html)

45. *March 9, WHMI 93.5 Howell* – (Michigan) **Suspicious package at Hartland Fire Dept. is a false alarm.** A suspicious package that turned up at the Hartland Fire Station on Tuesday morning was someone's discarded trash. The Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority chief tells WHMI that Tuesday is garbage day and staff took out the trash at around 7:30 Tuesday morning. However, when they went back to take out additional items, they noticed a suspicious package next to the curb carts that looked like a bomb. It was about 3 inches in length and height and was wrapped with duct tape, which is commonly used by individuals to make home-made bombs. He says they immediately contacted authorities, and the Michigan State Police bomb squad was dispatched to the scene, which was cleared shortly before 9:30 a.m. He says the package contained common tobacco products and was taped with cans and a lighter and was packaged in a very deceiving manner. Hartland Road between Ore Creek and Dunham Road was also shut down due to the situation, and school officials in the area were notified.

Source: <http://www.whmi.com/news/article/9810>

## **Information Technology Sector**

46. *March 11, V3.co.uk* – (International) **ISP takedown hamstrings Zeus malware.** Security firms chalked up a victory on March 10 with the takedown of dozens of malware botnets. Kazakhstan-based service provider Troyak was shut down on March 9, crippling six smaller ISPs which were helping to run botnets based on the Zeus malware infection. A coalition of six anonymous security firms convinced host companies of Troyak to shut down the firm's systems, an act which took down the command and control servers for 68 of the 249 known Zeus botnets, including the network used to steal \$415,000 (£277,000) from Bullitt County, Kentucky. The takedown could deal a significant blow to the criminals running Zeus. The malware has become notorious among security firms owing to its ease of use and ability to inject code directly into otherwise legitimate files. Two Cisco ScanSafe security researchers said that while the takedown may not by itself have a long-term impact on numbers, the tactic of pressuring legitimate host companies to cut ties with shady service providers and botnet operators could pay big dividends in the fight against cyber crime. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259311/isp-takedown-hamstrings-zeus>
47. *March 11, The Register* – (International) **Bogus Playstation emulators pack Trojan payload.** Retro gaming fans are being targeted in a new con designed to infect computers with a Trojan linked to scareware scams. Downloads posing as Playstation 2 emulators that allow games designed for Sony's console to be played on PCs instead deliver only a Trojan. Emulators offered via Appzkeygen(dot)com, for example, come packing the CodecPack-2GCash-Gen Trojan, a researcher of Sunbelt software warns. So, apart from the dubious legality of emulators, gamers who search for the software packages risk being exposed to all manner of unpleasant scams. "In some cases, people have reported this particular attack resulting in rogue antivirus appearing on the compromised system – however, during testing nothing was downloaded onto the PC," the researcher explains. "This doesn't mean it won't happen, of course – and you'll still have the downloader onboard." Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/11/playstation\\_emulator\\_malware/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/11/playstation_emulator_malware/)
48. *March 11, Help Net Security* – (International) **File sharing networks open door to identity theft.** According to the Washington Post, in any given second, nearly 22 million people around the globe are on peer-to-peer file-sharing networks downloading and swapping movies, software and documents over the Internet. Unfortunately, these same networks also provide identity thieves an open door to consumers' personal information. LifeLock wants to warn consumers about one of the latest identity threats facing consumers today. Cyber thieves are targeting their newest identity victims through the use of file-sharing networks. Consumers and their family members need to be wary about with whom they share music, photos or documents online because criminals could be downloading the information stored on personal computers, including Social Security numbers, home addresses and even health information. Users of file-sharing networks can inadvertently expose the contents of entire hard drives containing personal information to others on the network. By simply searching for specific keywords, identity thieves are able to access and download personal

information of thousands upon thousands of individuals.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9005>

49. *March 11, The Register* – (International) **Password reset questions dead easy to guess.** Guessing the answer to common password reset questions is far easier than previously thought, according to a new study by computer science researchers. In the paper *What's in a Name? Evaluating Statistical Attacks on Personal Knowledge Questions* (pdf), a researcher of the University of Cambridge and two colleagues from the University of Edinburgh show how hackers stand a one in 80 chance of guessing common security questions such as someone's mother's maiden name or their first school within three attempts. The academics reached their conclusion after analysing 270 million first and last names pairs extracted from Facebook. Online research about a subject or a pre-existing relationship makes the chances of figuring out the answer to password reset questions still easier.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/11/password\\_reset\\_insecurity/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/11/password_reset_insecurity/)
50. *March 11, Help Net Security* – (International) **Employees continue to put data at risk.** According to a Ponemon Institute study, business managers continue to pose the greatest threat to sensitive company information such as customer records, health information and other private data. Despite the best efforts of IT departments, business managers continue to disengage, or turn off, their laptops' encryption solution - exposing company information to thieves should the computer go missing. The annual "Human Factor in Laptop Encryption" study tracks the perception of the effectiveness of encryption solutions and actions taken by IT and business managers to secure their laptops. This year's expanded study was conducted in the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany and Sweden, in addition to the United States. The study found that 15 percent of German and 13 percent Swedish business managers have disengaged their encryption solution. In contrast, 52 percent of Canadian, 53 percent of British, and 50 percent of French business managers have disengaged their encryption, while U.S. business managers are the most likely to circumvent company data security policy - topping the survey at 60 percent.  
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9004>
51. *March 10, SCMagazine* – (International) **India, Mexico, Brazil have most Mariposa bots.** An analysis of the dismantled Mariposa botnet has revealed that it consisted of 13 million infected PCs spanning 190 countries and 31,901 cities worldwide, according to anti-virus vendor Panda Security. The botnet, which took its name from the Spanish word for butterfly, infected PCs from almost every country around the world, stealing account information for social media sites, online email services, usernames and passwords, banking credentials, and credit card data, according to Panda. Compromised IP addresses included personal, corporate, government and university computers. The top five countries, by number of Mariposa-infected computers, were India, Mexico, Brazil, Korea and Columbia, according to Panda. The investigation into the botnet is still ongoing, but preliminary calculations of the losses through fraud, financial theft, data loss and cleanup costs are already estimated to be in the millions of dollars, a threat researcher at Panda told SCMagazineUS.com on March 10 in an email.



Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/india-mexico-brazil-have-most-mariposa-bots/article/165459/>

52. *March 10, DarkReading* – (International) **Top Google search items under siege.** Search engine optimization (SEO) poisoning continues to be alive and well, with an unusually large wave of these attacks spotted during the past seven days targeting 284 of the top Google search terms. SonicWALL found 6,600 malicious URLs attacking the top search terms, including “what time do the oscars start 2010” and “disney princess half marathon.” As many as nine of these terms are under attack at any one time. More than 60 malicious URLs for the princess query appeared on Google’s top 30 search results between March 7 and 8, and 34 malicious URLs for the Oscars query. Why the spike in malicious URLs? “Based on the search terms that we observed, this jump can be correlated with huge public interest in finding out news related to Oscar awards,” says the lead malware researcher for SonicWALL. “A major spike was observed during the weekend of March 6 to 7, 2010. At one point, there were 1,200 malicious URLs appearing in the first 30 search results for the top Google search terms — and close to 50 percent of those were related to Oscars-related search terms.”  
Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223400074>

53. *March 10, DarkReading* – (International) **Security pros say apps are vulnerable — and constantly attacked.** If an organization worries that its applications are vulnerable to attack, then it is not alone, according to study results released on March 9. In a survey at the RSA Conference 2010 in San Francisco recently, researchers from security vendor Fortify found that most security pros are stressed about potential attacks on their apps. In fact, 73 percent of respondents thought the applications in their companies had vulnerabilities that hackers could exploit. Most agreed it would be “ignorant” to say they didn’t. Twenty-six percent said they either did not know the answer or did not want to disclose the information. And hackers are seeking to exploit those vulnerabilities, attendees said. Forty-seven percent of respondents said their companies are targeted or attacked more than once a day; many said their organizations are attacked “hundreds of times a day” or “every moment.”  
Source: [http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability\\_management/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223500013&subSection=Application+Security](http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223500013&subSection=Application+Security)

### 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>

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## Communications Sector

54. *March 11, St. Joseph's News Press* – (Missouri) **Lightning knocks out broadcast.** FOX Channel 4 in Kansas City was knocked off the air for a period of time on March 10 when lightning struck the WDAF FOX 4 tower. The incident occurred roughly at 8:30 pm. The station came back on the air a little while later, with a local news broadcast.  
Source: <http://www.stjoenews.net/news/2010/mar/11/lightning-knocks-out-idol-broadcast/?local>
55. *March 11, Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* – (New York) **Time Warner service restored to Rochester-area customers.** Several thousand people in the Rochester region Thursday morning experienced problems with Time Warner Cable's Internet and digital phone service. A company spokeswoman said Time Warner Cable started experiencing "intermittent outages" just before 7 a.m. Thursday. Service was restored by 9:45 a.m. She said a faulty router temporarily affected Time Warner Cable's Road Runner Internet cable and digital phone services. Some customers experienced outages, others had extremely slow Internet access, and some experienced audio problems with digital phone service, she said. Several thousand customers scattered through Monroe County were affected by the problem.  
Source: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20100311/NEWS01/100311006/1002/NEWS>
56. *March 10, ComputerWorld* – (International) **T-Mobile explains BlackBerry outage, says it's fixed.** T-Mobile USA issued an explanation for the BlackBerry data outage affecting some nationwide users on March 8 and 9, saying it related only to Wi-Fi and not T-Mobile's network, directly contradicting what some users reported. A company spokeswoman said via an e-mail late on March 10 that the outage impacted some customers across all North America carriers, not just T-Mobile, and that RIM technical support teams had resolved the matter. "This particular issue occurred only when customers attempted to send/receive data, browse the Web or send PIN-to-PIN (Personal Identification Number) messages via Wi-Fi," she said. "Services over T-Mobile's network were operational throughout this time. T-Mobile instructed customers to turn off Wi-Fi and connect via our network." However, the moderator for BlackBerryforum.com heard from several BlackBerry users affected by the outage, and told Computerworld that T-Mobile's explanation of the problem was "almost opposite" of what happened. The moderator said that Wi-Fi-enabled BlackBerry devices, including his BlackBerry Storm, didn't work for data transmissions on various carriers' networks for some users for up to 24 hours on March 8 and 9 but did mostly work on Wi-Fi.  
Source: [http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169078/T\\_Mobile\\_explains\\_BlackBerry\\_outage\\_says\\_it\\_s\\_fixed](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9169078/T_Mobile_explains_BlackBerry_outage_says_it_s_fixed)

For more stories, see items [46](#) and [52](#)

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

57. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Homes damaged, 4 injured, in Arkansas tornadoes.** Tornadoes cut a path through much of Arkansas on Wednesday, destroying a handful of homes and injuring four people. Three people suffered major injuries in a tornado that destroyed a house near Pearson in Cleburne County on Wednesday night, said an Arkansas Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman. She did not know the exact nature of the injuries. She also said one person was injured when a tornado moved through Center Hill in White County. The National Weather Service said the person suffered a leg injury and was taken to the hospital. Nine houses in the county also were damaged, White County officials said. A police lieutenant with the Saline County sheriff's office said a dozen homes were damaged near Benton, but no injuries were reported. In southwest Arkansas, a tornado did minor damage to one building, snapped trees and downed power lines near Ozan in Hempstead County. Trees and power lines were down along a path from near Texarkana in far southwestern Arkansas to near Batesville in the northeast, as either high winds or tornadoes ravaged the countryside. The storms, which forecasters had been warning about since the weekend, missed most population centers.

Source:

<http://www.baxterbulletin.com/article/20100311/UPDATES01/100311002/1002/NEWS01/Homes+damaged++4+injured++in+Arkansas+tornadoes++>

58. *March 10, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Meth explosion outside Walmart results in arrests.** Two men attempting to make methamphetamine were arrested Tuesday evening after a small explosion outside a Nashville Walmart. Just before 5 p.m., shoppers reported a blast outside the store located along Murfreesboro Road in Antioch. Officers arrived and found a container in a pickup truck had exploded and was leaking anhydrous ammonia. One officer was treated at the scene after inhaling some of the gas. Another person was transported to the hospital but was released. Part of the parking lot was blocked off for several hours as authorities cleaned up what they are calling a mobile meth lab. Two men were arrested on drug and weapons charges. Investigators said that when the explosion happened, the two were inside the store shopping for other ingredients needed to make meth.

Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/news/22796270/detail.html>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

59. *March 11, MLive.com* – (Michigan) **Police investigating explosive device found in St. Joseph County park.** A sheriff's deputy conducting a routine patrol through a public park in northeastern St. Joseph County early Wednesday discovered what authorities are calling a live "improvised explosive device" in a parking area. St. Joseph County undersheriff said the deputy saw wires protruding from a "suspicious object" that had been left in the Olney Bridge Park, located a half-mile north of M-60, west of Leonidas. The 8 a.m. discovery resulted in a Grand Rapids-based Michigan state police

bomb squad being dispatched to the scene and the St. Joseph County Road Commission closing surrounding roads. The undersheriff said the device was presumed to be live and bomb experts used a procedure that shoots water through it to disengage it. He said he was unsure what type of explosives the device contained, but added “it was not your typical little pipe bomb.” Officers also found non-hazardous remnants of products used in the manufacture of methamphetamine near the device, he said. But officials are not speculating on whether the items are related. No motive or suspects have been developed in the incident so far, he said.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/03/explosive\\_device\\_found\\_in\\_st\\_j.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/03/explosive_device_found_in_st_j.html)

60. *March 11, Macon Sun* – (Georgia) **Flood warning posted for Ocmulgee**

**River.** Wednesday’s heavy rains of nearly a half-inch and the promise of more today will bring the Ocmulgee River out of its banks in Macon, Georgia. As of 5 a.m. the river was already at 17.25 feet and is expected to continue to rise to over flood stage of 18 feet sometime today, according to a Flood Warning issued by the National Weather Service. Although actual rainfall totals may alter projections, the warning calls for the river to crest at 18.9 feet some time on Friday which will only cause minor flooding along the river. At 19 feet portions of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail will flood north of the Otis Redding Bridge and the river trail will be closed.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/2010/03/11/1055114/flood-warning-posted-for-ocmulgee.html>

61. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colo county wants a say on federal grassland fires.**

The Weld County commissioners want federal officials to get their permission before igniting any prescribed burns on the Pawnee National Grassland. The grasslands cover 214,000 acres in Weld County. The National Forest Service, which administers the land, says springtime prescribed burns promote diverse vegetation, help wildlife habitat, and mimic natural fires. The commissioners have repeatedly questioned the cost, efficiency, and safety of the burns and say the Forest Service ignored concerns of nearby residents. On Monday, the commissioners unanimously approved a measure intended to require their approval for fires. Forest Service officials say they are consulting with attorneys to determine whether the measure is binding on them.

Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=12108345>

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## **Dams Sector**

62. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Repair work suspended on area of Wolf**

**Creek Dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has suspended repair work on an area of Wolf Creek Dam at Lake Cumberland in southern Kentucky. Work was suspended Wednesday after sensors picked up movement near the dam’s foundation. The project manager says the movement is near where grout was being injected underwater. He

says analysis of instruments, drilling and grouting data and the dam's stability could take four to six weeks, and after that, the Corps will decide how and when to continue repair work. Officials say work was halted on a 600-foot "critical area 1" where the earthen embankment meets the concrete dam, but work on non-critical areas will continue. The dam is 4,400 feet long and the rehabilitation project is expected to cost \$584 million.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2010/03/11/1177091/repair-work-suspended-on-area.html>

63. *March 10, KSTP 5 St Paul* – (Minnesota) **Newport not allowing reinforcement of flood levees.** The levee system in Newport, Minnesota, is in such poor shape, officials are not allowing residents to fortify it with sandbags. The city administrator said, "The levee became and is unstable so the last thing we want to do is put additional weight on the levee and have people standing out there on the levee." The levee system is the only thing holding the Mississippi River in its banks. It was built in 1971 as a temporary fix and has since deteriorated. He said the city is providing sand and bags for residents to use around their homes. And, the city is giving regular updates on flood stages. "From an operations management standpoint we are doing what we can. We are protecting the residents the best we can," said the administrator. Residents are hoping the city is right. But some still have concerns. Under one proposal, the city would purchase up to a dozen homes in the next few years and build a permanent levee system.

Source: <http://kstp.com/news/stories/S1460458.shtml?cat=206>

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