



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to Military Times, Naval Air Systems Command grounded 104 Navy and Marine F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets on March 12 after inspectors discovered the airframes were developing cracks much earlier than engineers had thought. (See item [11](#))
- The Associated Press reports that at least four incendiary devices have been found recently in mailboxes or postal processing facilities in eastern Texas. (See item [21](#))

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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 14, Midland Reporter-Telegram* – (Texas) **Tanker spills out crude oil into road, businesses evacuated because of gas.** A one-vehicle accident early morning on March 14 shut down one of Midland's busiest intersections until just before dark as road and haz-mat crews worked to clear the area of more than 2,000 gallons of spilled crude oil. The accident happened at 7:47 a.m., according to Midland police, when the driver of a Permian Crude Oil Transportation tanker truck overturned while trying to turn onto the Loop 250 access road from Big Spring Street. The tanker is believed to

have spilled an estimated 50 barrels — or 2,100 gallons — of oil down Big Spring Street which had oozed as far south as Crenshaw Draw. Police and TxDOT crews shut down the roadway from the loop to Veterans Airpark Lane until early evening. The Stripes convenience store at the corner of Loop 250 and Big Spring Street was evacuated as a precautionary measure against hydrogen sulfide exposure to employees and customers, though officials said no sickness had been reported from the potentially poisonous gas. Businesses in the nearby adjacent shopping center were also evacuated and remained closed for most of the day as road crews worked to clean up the area. No residences were nearby, so no homes needed to be evacuated, police said. Street and road crews spent several hours draining the oil from the roadway and laying dirt and sand to try to soak it up. Much of the oil had spilled on the street and into the drainage and gutter system, police said.

Source:

http://www.mywesttexas.com/articles/2010/03/15/news/top_stories/crude_oil_spill_big_spring_street.txt

2. *March 13, WTOL 11 Toledo* – (Ohio) **Fire breaks out in power plant on Bay Shore Rd.** A fire broke out inside the Bayshore Power Plant on Bay Shore Road in Oregon, Ohio on March 13. No one was injured. Crews from two stations rushed to the First Energy plant around 10 p.m. on March 13. A small electrical fire broke out in the break room. Crews found materials burning on a shelf. They were able to use fire extinguishers to put the fire out a little after 11. Crews took extra precaution to make sure the fire did not spark a bigger blaze. No word on an exact cause.

Source: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=12137935>

3. *March 11, iStockAnalyst.com* – (National) **‘Extreme’ hurricane forecast – Energy at risk.** The private forecasting firm AccuWeather predicts an “extreme” Atlantic hurricane season in 2010, and if true, that could have a significant impact on energy prices this summer. In fact, AccuWeather says 2010 will be look a lot like 2008 in terms of hurricane activity. In 2008, there were 17 storms big enough to get a name — the biggest was Hurricane Ike, which killed nearly 200 people and did more than \$6 billion in damage as it tore through Haiti and flattened Galveston Island, Texas. By comparison, last year was the mellowest hurricane season since the late 1990s — only two storms reached land along the Gulf Coast. The Gulf Coast is an important energy region; it accounts for a quarter of U.S. oil production, 15 percent of domestic natural gas, and 40 percent of the nation’s refining capacity. In 2008, dozens of offshore natural gas platforms were destroyed and production fell 98 percent during Ike — it took months to bring production back up. Many gas pipelines and processing plants were shut down altogether and others operated well below capacity. Oil prices spiked more than 15 percent and gasoline inventories slid to 40-year lows after refineries were halted due to lack of electricity. The prospect of a major hurricane season adds to other pressures on energy prices heading into the busy summer driving season. Gasoline prices in the U.S. are predicted to top \$3 a gallon this summer, and that number came out before the hurricane forecast.

Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewarticle/articleid/3940624>

For another story, see item [19](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 13, Brazoria County Facts* – (Texas) **Investigation under way after blaze at plant.** No chemicals were released early Friday after a fire broke out at a K-Bin production facility near Freeport, a company official said. Workers noticed smoke coming from the fifth floor of an enclosed work platform at 1:15 a.m. at the plant in the 5000 block of Highway 332, a Shintech Human Resources Manager said. The fire appeared to have been confined to the insulation covering the structure's interior walls. First responders from Freeport, Oyster Creek, Clute and Brazosport Industrial Community Awareness & Emergency Response put out the flames and had the fire extinguished at about 3 a.m., Interim Freeport Fire Chief said. "The difficulty was getting the access upstairs, laying the hose out and carrying it upstairs," he said. "It was just manpower-intensive because it was up high in the building versus being on the first or second floor." The structure's fire sprinkler system also was activated, the manager said. Company officials had not determined a cause of the fire Friday, but an investigation is under way, the manager said. K-Bin is an affiliate of Shintech Inc., which is the largest producer of polyvinyl chloride in the United States, according to its Web site.

Source: <http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=c3ff32d8a6243cad>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *March 13, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **NM congressmen push uranium cleanup bill.** Clean up of more than 130 old uranium mine and mill sites around New Mexico could be fast-tracked under federal legislation introduced by New Mexico's three congressmen. The three congressmen have proposed legislation that would make funds available under the Surface Mine and Reclamation Act for the remediation of uranium sites. If the bill passes, it would make more than \$14 million available for cleaning up the New Mexico sites. The U.S. Department of Interior says a state currently cannot use certain SMCRA funds for uranium site remediation until the state has certified that all coal remediation has been completed. The congressmen say uranium cleanup is a bigger need in the state.

Source: <http://www.kvia.com/Global/story.asp?S=12134970>

6. *March 13, Middletown Times Herald Record* – (New York) **Pipe to be checked after radiation leak at Indian Point.** A steam pipe apparently leaked and emitted a small amount of radiation at the Indian Point nuclear plant, officials said. The leak was noticed March 8 about noon when workers flipped a valve to send steam from Unit 3 through the pipe to Unit 2. An Indian Point spokesman said workers saw steam coming through the ground and immediately shut the valve. The Nuclear Regulatory

Commission said on March 12 that 2,200 to 2,400 picocuries per liter of tritium was released in the steam. The NRC said the emission did not pose a health or safety risk to plant workers. For perspective, the Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water limit for tritium is 20,000 picocuries per liter. The spokesman said Indian Point is not yet sure whether the pipe leaked or whether steam was created by the heat of the pipe. "The hot pipe could have heated up the moist soil around it and gave off steam," he said. Indian Point got a permit March 11 to excavate the pipe, which sits about 5 feet below ground. It plans to examine the pipe in the coming days.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100313/NEWS/3130319/-1/SITEMAP>

For another story, see item [37](#)

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *March 14, Bloomberg* – (National) **Toyota, U.S. can't replicate Prius acceleration.** Tests by Toyota Motor Corp. and U.S. regulators on a Prius hybrid whose driver said it sped out of control could not replicate his account, according to a report prepared for U.S. lawmakers. Officials from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Toyota sought to recreate the acceleration that a Prius owner reported to the California Highway Patrol in a 911 call as he drove on an interstate highway outside San Diego last week. The man said pressing on the brake pedal did not work. "It does not appear to be feasibly possible, both electronically and mechanically, that his gas pedal was stuck to the floor and he was slamming on the brake at the same time," according to a draft of the memo written by aides to Republicans on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. "These findings certainly raise new questions surrounding the veracity of the sequence of events that has been reported by [the man]," a spokesman for a Representative from California, the top Republican on the House oversight committee, said Saturday. The panel is one of three that has held hearings on Toyota's recalls and auto safety regulators' response. The man's Prius has brake override software, which cuts engine power "if the brakes are applied with moderate to heavy force," said a spokesman for Toyota's U.S. sales unit.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-14/toyota-u-s-can-t-replicate-prius-acceleration-correct-.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 15, Naval Open Source Intelligence* – (National) **Next-gen Burkes may push limit of DDG frame.** The Navy's next batch of workhorse destroyers will likely be larger, sport a different-looking superstructure and could carry a new set of weapons, according to a Navy official and congressional reports. Service officials committed the

Navy to a new variety of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer in appearances around Washington over February and March, even rolling out the term “Flight III” for a ship that will combine much of what sailors already know in today’s Flight I, II and IIA ships with advanced refinements that designers hope are ready in the next few years. We ultimately have to go beyond today’s level of missile defense capability that’s in the [DDG] 51 class, which is why we have continued to move forward development of the air and missile defense radar technology,” the Navy’s top weapons buyer said in a congressional hearing March 3.

Source: [http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/03/next-gen-burkes-may-push-limit-of-ddg.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3Ablogspot/fqzx+\(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence\)](http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/03/next-gen-burkes-may-push-limit-of-ddg.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3Ablogspot/fqzx+(Naval+Open+Source+INTelligence))

9. *March 15, Aviation Week* – (National) **USAF testers give nod to C-5M, Lockheed says.** Lockheed Martin officials say the U.S. Air Force has declared the newly re-engined C-5, the C-5M, is “effective, suitable and mission capable,” following a series of operational tests. This rating would be a step toward clearing the aircraft for operational use. Air Force officials declined to discuss their initial operational test and evaluation findings because they have not yet been briefed to Congress. The release of the report will be a major step forward for the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program (RERP), which has suffered setbacks, including fitful funding and swelling cost. RERP was designed to dramatically improve C-5 reliability, which had for years hovered between 50-60 percent. Company officials say they have proven an 81.6 percent mission capable rate with three test versions of the C-5M. All 111 C-5s are undergoing an avionics modernization program in preparation for RERP, but only one of the 59 C-5As in the fleet are expected to get the RERP upgrade (it was one of the test versions). The operational tests phase included several real-world type scenarios. One of them was a simulated 30-day surge, said Lockheed Martin C-5 program executive, during last month’s Air Force Assn. conference. This is the kind of operation that takes place when a humanitarian crisis pops up.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=defense&id=news/asd/2010/03/15/16.xml

10. *March 15, The Register* – (National) **Robot mini space shuttle is go for April, says US Air Force.** Long-delayed plans by the US to deploy a small robot space shuttle appear now to be approaching fruition, according to reports. The US Air Force has now stated that the X-37 unmanned spaceplane will be launched into orbit on April 19. The X-37 began life as a NASA project, intended perhaps to lead to a manned “lifeboat” re-entry craft for the crew of the International Space Station (ISS). In the event NASA did little more than get the ball rolling, and the ISS lifeboat is actually an ordinary Russian Soyuz capsule. But the X-37 project at Boeing carried on, passing from NASA into military hands and becoming a robotic spaceplane able to remain in orbit for substantial periods before re-entering the atmosphere and coming in for a runway landing automatically. It is now run by the US Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, which at one point hoped to make the first space flight as early as 2008. Now, according to written answers supplied by the Air Force to Spaceflight Now, the X-37 has been

shipped to Florida where it will be mounted atop an Atlas V launch rocket for dispatch into orbit next month. The air force spokesmen aren't revealing anything more about the X-37's mission - not even the date for its return to Earth, far less anything regarding the payload. According to the Rapid Capabilities Office the X-37B has the requirement to be on-orbit up to 270 days. Actual length for the first mission will depend on the meeting the mission objectives, which consists of checkout and performance characteristics of the spacecraft systems. Objectives of the OTV [Orbital Test Vehicle] program include space experimentation, risk reduction and concept of operations development for reusable space vehicle technologies.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/15/x_37_go_for_april/

11. *March 14, Military Times* – (National) **104 Hornets grounded after cracks discovered.** Naval Air Systems Command grounded 104 Navy and Marine F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets Friday after inspectors discovered the airframes were developing cracks much earlier than engineers had thought. The grounding order affects the first four varieties of Hornet — models A through D — and does not apply to aircraft now flying combat missions over Iraq or Afghanistan. The number of Hornets affected makes up 16 percent of the Navy-Marine A through D fleet. There have been no crashes or other mishaps related to the problem, said a Navy spokesman. Of the 104 grounded jets, 77 are in flight status. Of those, 23 are in Navy and Marine Corps fleet squadrons; five are forward-deployed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan; five belong to the Blue Angels flight demonstration team; and 44 are in fleet replacement squadrons. The other 27 Hornets are in a maintenance status. The grounding notice from NavAir covered a “high stress focus area” that engineers already knew about as part of the Hornets’ service-life assessment program, the spokesman said, so NavAir issued a set of instructions for affected aircraft. Squadrons have been ordered to perform a magnetic field inspection on jets included in the grounding. The spokesman said most of the problems had been reported on C and D model Hornets across the Navy and Marine Corps, although there was a potential for cracks on all versions of the jet. He said cracking was taking place at the “aft wing shear attach fitting” — approximately the seam where part of a Hornet’s wing joins to the fuselage. There are a total of 635 A- through D-model jets in the Navy and Marine Corps fleet.

Source:

http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/03/navy_hornets_grounding_031210w/

12. *March 14, Military Times* – (National) **Door latches a problem on M-ATVs, soldiers say.** Since getting the new vehicles in January, at least one external door latch has failed on all of 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment’s M-ATVs. “When we get out of the vehicle to shoot a rocket or something, we have to make sure the door stays open,” a Staff Sergeant said. If it closes, he said, the only way to get the door open is to have someone crawl through the vehicle and use the inside handle. On his truck, it is the driver’s side door, but other trucks have different flaws. Other members of the platoon were quick to confirm busted latches were a critical problem with the new trucks. The Pentagon has shipped more than 1,000 of the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicles to Afghanistan. Oshkosh Corporation won a \$1 billion contract last summer to produce up to 10,000 of the new M-ATVs for off-road use in

Afghanistan. MRAP Joint Program Office officials said they were aware of a problem with door latches on M-ATVs, but “not to the extent described” by 2-12 soldiers, a Marine Corps Systems Command spokeswoman said March 5. “Sticking doors have been identified as an intermittent discrepancy for a few months,” she said. The JPO’s Quality Team’s Corrective Action Board has been analyzing door latches for about a month, she said. Program officials in Afghanistan have received door adjustment instructions to correct the problem. Overall, the 2-12 soldiers are happy with the M-ATV. They like its smaller turning radius, as compared with the MRAPs, allowing them to make a U-turn to help other vehicles in an ambush, they said. The trucks do not get stuck and have protected the occupants from small-arms fire, soldiers said.

Source: http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/03/army_MATV_031310w/

13. *March 14, Reuters* – (National) **SpaceX says Falcon 9 rocket test fire is a success.** Space Exploration Technologies successfully test fired its Falcon 9 rocket this weekend, clearing a milestone toward the inaugural flight of a privately developed spaceship to fly cargo, and possibly astronauts, into orbit, the company said. Saturday’s 3.5-second ‘static’ firing of the Falcon’s nine kerosene and liquid oxygen-burning motors took place on a refurbished oceanside launch pad at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. It followed an earlier firing test aborted last week due to an improperly configured valve. The successful test by California-based SpaceX clears the way for Falcon 9’s debut mission — a demonstration flight which could take place as early as April 12 from the same launch site, just south of the space shuttle launch pads at the Kennedy Space Center.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=10099249>

14. *March 13, Naval Open Source Intelligence* – (National) **F-35B STOVL-mode flight.** The first Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter passed overhead of an audience at 40 knots (46 mph) prior to a slow landing at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, on Wednesday, March 10. The flight was one of the last missions before the aircraft’s first vertical landing, and confirmed the jet’s power and controllability at very low speeds. The aircraft’s short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) propulsion system generates more than 41,000 pounds of vertical thrust, and enables airspeeds from zero to Mach 1.6.

Source: [http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/03/f-35b-stovl-mode-flight.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+\(Naval+Open+Source+INTElligence\)](http://nosint.blogspot.com/2010/03/f-35b-stovl-mode-flight.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+blogspot/fqzx+(Naval+Open+Source+INTElligence))

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *March 15, WTTG 5 Washington, D.C.* – (Virginia) **Search continues for female bank bandit.** Police in Vienna, Virginia believe the same woman who has robbed three banks in Fairfax County could have been responsible for another robbery on March 13. Vienna police say officers responded to the HSBC bank at 214 Maple Avenue Saturday after a woman walked into the bank and handed the teller a note demanding cash.

Police dogs did pick up on the woman's scent but lost the scent in the rear parking lot. Police say the suspect's description in the case closely resembles that of an individual who is believed to be responsible for several other bank robberies in Fairfax County. Source: <http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/local/police-search-for-female-bank-bandit-fairfax-031510>

16. *March 13, Bank Info Security* – (National) **Four banks closed March 11, 12.** Four more banks were closed by state and federal regulators on March 11 and 12. These latest closings raise the year's tally of failed institutions to 34 banks and credit unions. The Park Avenue Bank, New York, New York, was closed by the New York State Banking Department, which appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$50.7 million. Old Southern Bank, Orlando, Florida, was closed by the Florida Office of Financial Regulation, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$94.6 million. Statewide Bank, Covington, Louisiana, was closed by the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$38.1 million. LibertyPointe Bank, New York, New York, was closed March 11 by the New York State Banking Department, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$24.8 million. Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2292

17. *March 12, KSTP 5 St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **Andover printing broker pleaded guilty to Ponzi scheme.** An Andover printing broker pleaded guilty on March 12 to a multi-million dollar Ponzi scheme. Investigators said the suspect admitted to scamming \$51 million from investors by selling contracts for materials that never existed. According to the complaint, he used investor money to pay bills to older investors. The suspect's attorney hopes the fact his client came forward about the scheme will work in his favor. A receiver is working to gather back assets for the victims and has already collected about \$10 million. The suspect will be sentenced in June. He could face six to 10 years behind bars. Source: <http://kstp.com/news/stories/S1464004.shtml?cat=206>

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Transportation Sector

18. *March 15, Associated Press* – (International) **FAA directs airlines to check tail flap of 737s.** The Federal Aviation Administration has issued an emergency airworthiness directive demanding that airlines check a mechanism that controls tail flaps on about 600 Boeing 737s. The directive was issued Friday and concerns flaps on the horizontal tails of the jets. On March 2, a Ryanair 737-800 en route from the Netherlands to Madrid, Spain, experienced severe vibrations in flight and had to make an unscheduled landing in Belgium. Inspection afterward found "extensive damage" to the left elevator, which is a movable flap on the horizontal tail that controls the pitch of the airplane, up

or down. The agency says some of the jets must be inspected within 12 days, and the rest within 30 days. An FAA spokesman said about half the affected airplanes are operating in the U.S.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-03-15-faa-directive-737s_N.htm

19. *March 15, Associated Press* – (Northeast) **Stubborn storm darkens, floods much of Northeast.** Torrential rains and high winds pounded the Northeast for a third day Monday, taking a heavy toll on people and property in a region that only recently restored power or finished digging out from the last of several major winter storms. The rain and accompanying wind have toppled trees, flooded roads, and forced hundreds of people to evacuate their homes. At least nine people have died in storm-related accidents, and nearly a half-million people lost power at the peak of the storm in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. In Boston, the storm threatened to overwhelm the wastewater system, forcing officials to begin a controlled release of untreated wastewater into Boston Harbor. In Rhode Island, state officials and engineers debated whether to open a dam in West Warwick that was close to breaking. In Boston, workers put up sand bags around the entrance to a subway station near Fenway Park on Monday morning as the Muddy River rose. The Massachusetts Port Authority said the weather was causing some delays and cancellations at Logan International Airport, and several roads and highway ramps in the state were closed. There also were road closures in southeastern New Hampshire due to flooding. In New Jersey, the governor declared a state of emergency. In low-lying Bound Brook, New Jersey, the mayor credited a \$100 million flood control project with sparing a six-block area of the town.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/03/15/general-us-stormy-weather_7436528.html

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [38](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *March 14, WHTM 27 Harrisburg* – (Pennsylvania) **Suspicious, ticking package found at post office.** Police closed streets and evacuated homes near a York County post office for more than two hours Saturday after the discovery of a suspicious package. The package was missing the proper labeling, shipping information and postage and was emitting an audible “ticking” sound when employees found it in the drive-up letter box outside the Spring Grove Post Office at around 3:45 p.m., according to Southwestern Regional police. Police and firefighters evacuated approximately 12 residences as well as a church and a VFW until a postal inspector responded and was able to render the item safe. Police said no explosive materials or related devices were found inside. Residents were allowed to return to their homes by 6 p.m. Police said they do not know who placed the package in the letter box or what their intentions were.

Source: <http://www.whtm.com/news/stories/0310/715893.html>

21. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Authorities: 4 incendiary devices found in mail in eastern Texas; public not threatened.** At least four incendiary devices have been found recently in mailboxes or postal processing facilities in eastern Texas, although none posed a danger to the public, authorities said. A U.S. Postal Inspector said on March 12 that one of the devices was discovered the night of March 9 at a processing site in Owentown, a town near Tyler 95 miles east of Dallas. The Postal Inspector declined to describe the device or to comment on reports of similar devices found in two nearby counties, but she said the public was never in danger. “If there was anything that was dangerous, we would certainly warn the public or our employees.”
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-mailbox-explosives,0,579987.story>
22. *March 12, WITI 6 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Suspicious package found at post office distribution center filled with clothing.** Investigators say a suspicious package found at the Post Office distribution center near 60th and Bradley on Milwaukee’s northwest side was filled with clothing and nothing more. The package, which was standing alone at that location, prompted an emergency response by Milwaukee police and the city’s hazardous devices unit.
Source: <http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-100312-post-office-suspicious,0,3759952.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *March 15, Canwest News Service* – (International) **U.S. forcing more meat inspections in Canada.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is scrambling to maintain an increased presence at dozens of large meat-processing plants after auditors from the United States Department of Agriculture found inspections were too infrequent to meet U.S. food-safety standards. News of ongoing resource problems at CFIA comes as public-health authorities are carrying out a high-profile listeriosis investigation involving tainted meat at a federally inspected Toronto processing plant. The ramped-up inspection cycle of at least one visit for every 12 hours of production was instituted last November so operators in Canada, including Siena Foods, could continue to export their products to the United States. Siena Foods has now been blamed for producing tainted salami and prosciutto dating back to last December that put two people in the hospital. Since then, Siena Foods Ltd. and CFIA has announced the recall of three additional Siena meat products for possible listeria-monocytogenes contamination. The company also stopped production at its facility this weekend and is working with CFIA inspectors to sanitize the plant. This is the first time a facility has shut down since Canada was rocked in the summer of 2008 with a deadly listeriosis outbreak linked to Maple Leaf Foods deli meats. “The USDA stepped in, and said, ‘What’s going on, it’s always been a requirement, why aren’t you doing it?’” Siena’s president said of a 12-hour inspection cycle.
Source:

<http://www.globaltvbc.com/entertainment/forcing+more+meat+inspections+Canada/2684445/story.html>

24. *March 15, Occupational Health and Safety* – (Delaware) **Poultry processing plant penalized for plethora of problems.** OSHA has cited the Allen Family Foods Inc. poultry processing facility in Harbeson, Delaware, for exposing workers to a variety of workplace safety hazards. Proposed penalties total \$182,200. The agency initiated an investigation on September 9, 2009, in response to a referral made by Maryland Occupational Safety and Health after numerous serious and willful violations were issued at a similar processing facility in Maryland. OSHA has cited the company with 45 serious violations and proposed a penalty of \$182,000, and two other-than-serious violations with a proposed penalty of \$200. The serious violations address hazards with industrial trucks, falls, personal protective equipment, machine guarding, electrical hazards, process safety management, respirators, and emergency response. “It is vital that the company abate these hazards as quickly as possible to ensure that safety and health of workers at that facility are not at risk,” said the director of OSHA’s office in Wilmington, Delaware.
Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/03/15/poultry-processing-plant-penalized.aspx?admngarea=news>
25. *March 15, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **State meatpackers say inspection cuts are shortsighted.** Indiana’s plan to lay off some meat inspectors to save money and reduce the time inspectors spend with small, independent processors has the industry and farmers fearing it could hurt what has been a growing industry. It is not clear how many of the state’s 52 inspectors will be let go, but meatpackers say any layoffs will prevent them from growing to meet demand for locally raised meat. And, if state inspectors are scarce or unavailable, small meatpackers who can’t afford to upgrade for federal inspections could cut back their operations or go under. Their fears highlight a dilemma lawmakers in many states face as tax revenues decline and they struggle to balance budgets: how deeply do they cut programs that are essential to growing segments of their economies and could generate new tax revenues? “We’re one of the small businesses in Indiana that showed growth in a recession year,” said the past president of the Indiana Meat Packers and Processors Association. “Now we can’t grow.” Industrywide figures for Indiana aren’t available, but the man said his payroll grew from 15 to 20 workers last year, and that is typical. At a recent meeting of 30 of the state’s roughly 130 meat processors, all said their revenues and hiring increased last year, he said. Federal inspection is required for meat shipped across state lines. A spokesman for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship said budget cuts have forced his agency to be more efficient in deploying inspectors, such as reducing the number of days each week they go to plants.
Source: <http://www.post-trib.com/business/2094898,314-meatpackers.article>
26. *March 15, Delta Farm Press* – (National) **Soy rust: waiting can be costly.** “This thing can move at lightning speed, given the right environmental conditions — and could make you gasp at how rapidly it can spread across a soybean field. It scared the heck out of folks from Iowa when I showed them photos and data on what it can do.” A

weed control mentality “is not the approach to take” in dealing with Asian soybean rust, says an assistant professor at the Delta Research and Extension Center at Mississippi State University. “If you find ASR in a soybean field and think, ‘Well, I’ll wait until I find more and then take care of it,’ you’re just asking for trouble,” he said at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association. “We need to respect this disease much more than we have in the past and not become complacent about its presence.” Had it not been for all the late-season rains last year and subsequent seed rot, he says, “I think we would have had more extensive losses from ASR.” In 2009, he notes, Mississippi had 2.2 million acres of soybeans, and all 82 counties in the state had ASR-infected plant material, whether on kudzu or soybeans. Statewide, in Mississippi he says, estimates of losses to ASR ranged from much less than 1 percent to 25 percent of total production in at least one field. Research has previously been conducted on the differential response of kudzu to infection by the ASR fungus.

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/soybeans/soy-rust-waiting-costly-0315/>

27. *March 13, Associated Press* – (California; Oregon; Washington) **NW farmers, researchers battle Asian fruit fly.** Farmers and researchers in the Northwest are racing to control an Asian fruit fly that first appeared last summer and ruined some late-season peach and berry crops. The fly is known as the spotted wing drosophila and appears to have migrated from California, where it appeared in 2008. Some growers in Oregon reported losing 20 percent of their blueberry and raspberry crops and up to 80 percent of late-variety peaches, and the pest has also been detected in Western Washington. Growers worry it could spread to the states’ valuable cherry crops as well as pears, prunes, and plums — not to mention wine grapes. Growers, working with crop consultants and university researchers, are trying to determine whether insecticides will control the flies. “The fruit looks great when you buy it, and it would totally disintegrate within three days,” said the head of a crash research project at Oregon State University. The fly is prolific, capable of producing 10 generations of pests per crop growing season, “which is absolutely phenomenal,” he said. The rapid reproduction could help the flies adjust to pesticides.

Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_or_fruit_fly.html

28. *March 13, Associated Press* – (Washington) **18,000 salmon fry released, killed in Mill Creek.** Someone broke into a fish hatchery in Mill Creek run by an Everett School District environmental education program and killed thousands of baby salmon. The Herald newspaper of Everett reports that it happened late March 8 or early March 9. Someone entered the Lively Environmental Center and used a small net to scoop out the tiny fry. They released about 13,000 into nearby Nickel Creek, even though they were only about the size of the last joint on an adult’s finger. About 1,000 fry appear to have been stomped to death on a wooden deck, and around 5,000 seem to have been taken away with a bucket and dumped in a pile on a path. The state has replaced the school district’s fish at no charge. Police in Mill Creek are investigating.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2011337523_apwafishkilling.html

29. *March 13, Food Safety Inspection Service* – (California; National) **California company recalls 9,400 pounds of enchilada products.** Fernando's Food Corporation, a Compton, California, establishment, is recalling approximately 9,400 pounds of enchilada products because they were inadvertently mislabeled and contain an undeclared allergen, milk, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. Milk is a known potential allergen, which is not declared on the label. The recall includes 9.84-pound cases of "CASA SOLANA BEEF CHICKEN AND TEXTURED VEGETABLE PROTEIN PRODUCT ENCHILADA." Each case contains 90 enchiladas and bears case code numbers "2103745" and "24947," as well as the establishment number "EST. 6492" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The enchilada products were produced on January 28, 2010, February 16, 2010, and February 28, 2010 and were sent to distributors in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Tennessee, and Texas. The problem was discovered by the company in a review of its inventory.
Source: http://eatdrinkandbe.org/article/index.0313_or_fernandos
30. *March 13, Hendersonville Times-News* – (North Carolina; South Carolina) **Thieves target farm equipment.** Several farmers in Henderson County, North Carolina have had farm equipment stolen recently, but no arrests have been made in what the farmers believe may be a large theft ring. A spokesperson for Odell Barnwell and Sons LLC packing house said in January he had two tractors stolen. "There have been several other farmers hit. Another farmer had several tractors stolen during the snowstorm." The Henderson County Sheriff's Office has not released any information about the thefts. In September the Polk County Sheriff's Office, along with the Spartanburg, South Carolina Sheriff's Office, arrested a suspect who was found driving a stolen Ford F-250 Super Duty pickup truck with a trailer containing a small tractor on I-74, said the Polk County sheriff. At that time, the Spartanburg County sheriff said more arrests would be forthcoming and investigators had only scratched the surface of the thefts that stretch across Spartanburg, Greenville, and possibly Cherokee counties in South Carolina, as well as Polk, Rutherford, and Henderson counties in North Carolina. The Polk County sheriff said some of the stolen equipment had been recovered in Jefferson Davis County, Georgia. He estimated the total losses to be worth about \$400,000, but expected that number to climb as the investigation continued.
Source:
<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20100313/NEWS/3131036/1042?p=1&tc=pg>
31. *March 12, WXII 12 Winston-Salem* – (North Carolina) **Crop damage cost NC farmers \$29.4 million.** Wildlife damage to North Carolina field crops last year was estimated at \$29.4 million, according to a statewide survey by the North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Division. Damage to soybeans was reported at \$19 million. Corn damage was estimated at \$5.6 million, with wheat, peanut, and cotton damage totaling \$4.8 million. "For some crops, animals can be as damaging as diseases, insects or the weather," the Agriculture Commissioner said. "And crop loss — regardless of how it occurred — can make a difference in profitability." Deer were the top gluttons. Ninety-two percent of soybean and cotton farms in the survey reported damage from deer. Deer caused damage on 75 percent of peanut farms and 60 percent of wheat farms. The survey used

a random sample of 1,200 North Carolina farmers.

Source: <http://www.wxii12.com/news/22820685/detail.html>

For another story, see item [34](#)

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Water Sector

32. *March 15, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **30M gallons of diluted sewage spill into Patapsco.** Baltimore County's Department of Public Works says 30 million gallons of diluted sewage overflowed into the waterway over the weekend. A Department spokesman says a dozen pumps at the Patapsco Pumping Station, which is undergoing renovation, were shut down Saturday to protect them from damage after melting snow and heavy rain raised water levels. He says the diluted sewage spilled into the river over 20 hours. Most of the pumps were running again by Sunday afternoon and the sewage overflow has stopped. People are being warned to avoid contact with water downstream from the pumping station in Halethorpe.

Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsmd/Baltimore.Co.warns.2.1562266.html>

33. *March 15, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Wis. officials propose new phosphorus limits.** State environmental officials have proposed new phosphorus limits for Wisconsin waters. Department of Natural Resources water experts say the limits will prevent algae blooms and protect fish and insect populations. The changes could be costly, though. The agency estimates more than 100 municipal wastewater treatment facilities may have to spend up to \$1.13 billion to add filtration systems to meet the new standards. They also estimate up to 35 paper makers and food processors may have to spend up to \$440 million. The Natural Resources Board, which sets DNR policy, is expected to vote on Tuesday on whether to send the plan to a public hearing.

Source: <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12142360>

34. *March 15, KWMU 90.7 St. Louis* – (National) **USDA to spend \$300 million to curb farm runoff.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it will spend more than \$300 million to improve water quality along the Mississippi River. The plan targets farm land in a dozen states including Missouri. The agency is trying to keep fertilizer and animal waste from draining into the river and its tributaries. The nutrients eventually wind up in the Gulf of Mexico, causing algae to flourish and reducing oxygen levels for fish. A USDA conservationist says the new funding should encourage farmers to adopt more sustainable practices. "We know that there have been some water quality problems over the years, in the Mississippi River, particularly, and so we're excited about providing this opportunity and moving forward so we can show that these tax payer dollars are benefiting the environment," he said. The initiative encourages applicants to include water monitoring as a part of their conservation plans.

Source:

[http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1623657/St..Louis.Public.Radio.News/USDA.to.spend.\\$300.million.to.curb.farm.runoff](http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1623657/St..Louis.Public.Radio.News/USDA.to.spend.$300.million.to.curb.farm.runoff)

35. *March 14, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Hazmat contains Cherry Creek fuel spill.** A mysterious fuel spill in Cherry Creek in Denver, Colorado, brought out fire authorities and hazmat crews to contain the scene before the waste washed through the heart of Denver. Authorities contained the spill in Cherry Creek near Dartmouth and Havana Sunday afternoon. Just before 1 p.m. the Denver Fire Department was sent to a fuel spill in the creek near the John F. Kennedy golf course. Firefighters put down long white absorbant pads in the water to contain the spill. They were unable to determine exactly where the leak was coming from.
Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-fuelspill-031410,0,4476843.story>
36. *March 13, Monroenews.com* – (National) **Lake Erie water quality worsening.** The water quality of Lake Erie could suffer due to persistent pollution and climate change, experts suggest. The lake, especially its shallowest western basin bordering Monroe County and northwest Ohio, is suffering from farm-related and other runoff that threatens to return its health to that of the 1970s when it was written off as dead. “We don’t want to be responsible for writing Lake Erie’s obituary again,” said a Ohio Environmental Protection Agency official. The group is studying ways to control phosphorus pollution that in recent years has led to bright green toxic algae blooms in the western basin during July and August. 50 environmentalists, watershed groups, government officials, scientists and others attended a public forum last weekend at the North Cape Yacht Club to discuss the challenges facing Lake Erie’s environment. The forum, coordinated for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the Ohio Environmental Council, ends at noon today and is part of the bi-national Lake Management Plan, a collaborative effort to address the waterway’s pressing problems.
Source: <http://www.monroenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100313/NEWS01/703139975>
37. *March 13, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **River water still tests negative for tritium.** Nine samples of water taken from the Connecticut River above and below Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon tested negative for tritium contamination on Friday, according to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. “The results ... again showed that tritium levels were below 500 picocuries per liter, which is the lower limit of detection for the (state’s) lab testing equipment,” stated a press release from the DHHS. Samples taken last week also tested negative for tritium. “These test results continue to confirm that tritium is not posing a public health threat in the Connecticut River,” said New Hampshire’s public health director. “We will continue to monitor the situation, however, until the issue is resolved and we are sure there is no risk to the citizens of New Hampshire from the leak at Vermont Yankee.”
Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_14668359

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

38. *March 14, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Phoenix deals with medical waste spill.** A truck carrying medical waste products crashed in north Phoenix on Sunday, spilling waste onto a road. A Phoenix Fire Department spokesman says the driver of a Casa Grande waste services truck hit a pole near 12th Avenue and Bethany Home Road, and waste spilled out. The driver continued for a few blocks before stopping. No one was injured. Crews cleared the debris off the road.
Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=12139810>
39. *March 14, Pierce County Herald* – (Wisconsin) **Outbreak of Legionnaire's disease in Cudahy.** Officials at Aurora St. Luke's South Shore Hospital in Cudahy, Wisconsin, say they have not identified the source of an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease. Eight patients at the Milwaukee-area hospital have been diagnosed with the disease in the last month. None has died and all are receiving treatment or have completed treatment. Legionnaire's disease is a form of pneumonia. A water-borne bacteria causes Legionnaire's. A hospital spokesman says all water sources in the hospital have been tested and treated — and the health department has cleared the facility of any health threat.
Source: <http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/24840/group/News/>

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Government Facilities Sector

40. *March 15, Steamboat Today* – (Colorado) **Routt County public Web site hacked.** Routt County's information systems director said no personal or sensitive information was accessed when hackers posted messages and logos on Routt County's main public Web site during the weekend. The county's director of information systems and GIS, said the hack occurred Friday evening. The hackers breached the county's Web site, www.co.routt.co.us, and placed items on the index page including a logo shaped like a two-headed eagle; an apparent moniker of "Road_Killer;" statements including "(expletive) Russia" and "(expletive) Serbia," and a message apparently directed to the county that read: "Admin Please Change Your Password, And Patch Your Bugs Don't Be Stupid." One of the groups appearing to take credit for the hack is the Kosova Hackers Group, which in the past has claimed responsibility for hacks into prominent Web sites of some Eastern European countries. The two-headed eagle is the national symbol of Albania, and the hack includes reference to "United States of Albania." Shortly after 10:30 p.m. Friday, the Routt County systems administrator sent an e-mail to county employees notifying them of the incident.
Source: <http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2010/mar/15/routt-county-public-web-site-hacked/>
41. *March 15, New York Times* – (International) **3 with ties to U.S. Consulate killed in Mexico.** Gunmen believed to be linked to drug traffickers shot an American Consulate worker and her husband to death in the violence-racked border town of Ciudad Juarez

over the weekend, leaving their newborn baby wailing in the back seat of their car, the authorities said Sunday. They also killed the husband of another consular employee and wounded his two young children. The shootings appeared to be the first deadly attacks on U.S. officials and their families by Mexico's powerful drug organizations. They came during a particularly bloody weekend when nearly 50 people were killed around the country in drug-gang violence. Even before the shootings, the State Department had quietly made the decision to allow workers at consular offices along the Mexican border to evacuate their families to the United States. In Washington, the U.S. President expressed outrage at the "brutal murders." The President of Mexico also expressed his condolences and said he would press forward with "all available resources" to control the lawlessness. The coordinated nature of the attacks, the weapons used and the location in a city where drug cartels control virtually all illicit activity point toward traffickers as the likely suspects, said Mexican and U.S. officials.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2010/03/15/MNLM1CFNF4.DTL>

42. *March 15, CNN* – (National) **Pentagon trains workers to hack Defense computers.** The Pentagon is training people to hack into its own computer networks. "To beat a hacker, you need to think like one," said the co-founder and president of the International Council of Electronic Commerce Consultants, or EC-Council. His company was chosen by the Pentagon to oversee training of Department of Defense employees who work in computer security-related jobs and certify them when the training is complete. The Department of Defense does not consider this hacking. "DoD personnel are not learning to hack. They are learning to defend the network against hackers," said spokesman. But the EC-Council calls the program "Certified Ethical Hacker certification." The purpose of the training is to teach Defense Department employees to defend their computer network. Almost 45,000 attacks on Defense Department computers were reported in the first half of 2009, according to a government report. The report estimated that for all of 2009, the number of attacks would be up 60 percent from the previous year. Fending off the attacks costs the Pentagon about \$100 million.
- Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/TECH/03/10/pentagon.hacking/>

43. *March 13, Victoria Advocate* – (Texas) **Homemade bomb explodes at Goliad ball field; no one hurt.** No one was injured Friday night after a homemade bomb exploded outside of the Goliad High School baseball field. The Head Coach was in the press box when he heard a loud boom. "I was told to evacuate, so I don't know any of the things behind it," he said. Five local juveniles confessed to detonating the bomb - a liter-sized plastic bottle containing explosive ingredients - outside the outfield fence, according to a Goliad County Sheriff's Department press release. The juveniles were released to their parents. The principal said at least three of the juveniles attend Goliad High School. High school administrators, as well as Goliad County Sheriff's Department officials, were still gathering information Saturday. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives field office in Corpus Christi also responded to the call, but because it was a chemical bomb, not classified as an explosive under federal law, the sheriff's department is handling the investigation.

Source:

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2010/mar/13/jv_goliad_basebomb_031410_88845/?news&goliad-county

44. *March 13, MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Bomb squad called to high school.** The state police bomb squad yesterday disposed of a suspicious cylinder found in the hallway at Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School in Marlborough. Authorities discovered what they described as a suspicious object about 3:31 p.m., after most students had already gone for the day. Police evacuated any remaining staff and students. Joining state police were agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Bomb squad members X-rayed the pipe-like object and then fired a charge at it to break it open, police said. Crews from the Fire Department determined that the object did not contain any hazardous material, police said. Police, with the help of scent-tracking dogs, searched the building and found no other suspicious objects, police said. The school reopened at 7 p.m.

Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/features/x90197956/Bomb-squad-called-to-high-school>

45. *March 12, Times of Trenton* – (New Jersey) **Princeton University bomb scare unfounded, officials confirm.** After completing a sweep of the area at about 4:40 p.m. Friday afternoon authorities determined conclusively that a bomb threat to a construction site on the Princeton University campus was unfounded. Nonetheless, several buildings near the site were evacuated as a precaution while authorities investigated the incident. According to a university spokeswoman, construction workers at the site of the school's new chemistry building received a written threat between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Friday morning. Citing that the school's investigation into the incident is ongoing, the spokeswoman would not confirm the nature of the written threat, whether it was found at the site, or whether it was delivered there. After notifying the school's department Public Safety, the 250 workers at the construction site were evacuated and officers began a sweep of the site with assistance from the Princeton Township Police Department, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, and the New Jersey State Police.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/mercerc/index.ssf/2010/03/update_princeton_university_bo.html

46. *March 11, Washington Post* – (National) **Use of private security guards at government buildings comes under scrutiny.** Poor job security and the potential dangers that come with protecting government buildings make it a risky line of work, said guards interviewed this week. Unlike officers with the Pentagon Force Protection Agency who gunned down a shooter John last week, most security guards at federal buildings in the Washington region are employed by private firms that have contracts with the Federal Protective Service. The FPS, part of the Department of Homeland Security, provides security at more than 9,000 federal buildings across the country and uses about 15,000 contract security guards to support about 1,200 officers, inspectors and administrative staffers, according to agency officials. A House hearing Tuesday will focus on the FPS's future and its response to a 2009 Government Accountability

Office investigation that exposed security gaps at 10 major federal buildings. The GAO report also faulted the FPS for inconsistent training and poor oversight of private guards. Next month a Senator plans to introduce legislation that addresses the agency's future and broader threats and security measures at all civilian and military facilities, aides said. FPS officials said in a statement that it has increased both overt and covert inspections of security posts, as well as its oversight of contract guards. In response to GAO concerns with the training and qualification of those guards, the agency said it has reviewed all contract guard certification and qualification records.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/10/AR2010031003955.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

47. *March 15, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Police: Car that hit police station was set on fire.** Police say a man drove his car into a police station in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, then set the vehicle on fire. It happened around 1:00 a.m. Sunday at the Quakertown Police Department. Investigators tell Action News a man who “had an issue” with the police department a few days prior is responsible. Exactly what that issue was has not been disclosed. The suspect, who has not been identified, drove his car into the police station then set it on fire according to police. The police station was not damaged by the impact of the car, and only sustained minor damage from the fire. The suspect is being evaluated for mental health issues. An arrest is planned on Monday. No one was hurt in this incident.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=7330913>

48. *March 13, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **St. Louis Police Department computer hacked in cyber attack.** A cyber attack targeting computers in the St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department compromised the personal information of two dozen people. Cybercrimes investigators said it appears only one department computer was compromised, although others were targeted. Personal information belonging to people involved in various crimes was stored on the computer that was compromised. 22 of them were people affected by crimes, such as victims or witnesses. Two are suspects. All 24 were involved in incidents in 2002, 2003 or 2005. The department said all of them have been contacted so they can take steps to prevent fraud. Their names, addresses and social security numbers were possibly taken. Investigators determined the attack was initiated via email.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2010/03/13/1172402/st-louis-police-department-computer.html>

49. *March 11, New York Times* – (National) **U.S. falters in screening border patrol near Mexico.** Federal anticorruption investigators continue to struggle to keep up with the screening of newly hired United States law enforcement officers working on the Mexican border and have fallen far behind in checking current employees as well, federal officials testified on Thursday. The testimony came during a hearing in

Washington before a subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security Committee on rising corruption among the ranks of federal law enforcement officers who patrol the border and guard ports of entry. Representatives from the F.B.I. and the Department of Homeland Security painted a grave picture of drug trafficking organizations trying to recruit federal officers to work for them and infiltrate the ranks. Although the vast majority of officers do not betray their jobs, the corruption problem, said an F.B.I. agent who helps supervise corruption investigations, “is significantly pervasive.” Internal affairs officials from the Department of Homeland Security said that the rapid post-9/11 growth of Customs and Border Protection — the agency has swelled in recent years to more than 41,000 frontline border agents and officers — has meant that not all new hires are thoroughly vetted.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/12/us/12border.html>

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Information Technology Sector

50. *March 12, DarkReading* – (International) **Hackers not playing games with gaming sites.** Cybersecurity is a serious issue for any online business, but for online gaming companies it’s doubly so. Beyond issues of data protection, which are similar for any company that handles customer data, Internet gaming companies can be damaged by cyber attacks in a broader variety of ways than other companies. Online retailers for example may suffer financially when they get hacked or hit with a denial of service attack, but damage to physical assets is likely to be insulated from online threats. For operators of online games, however, hackers threaten not only revenue and user trust, but user experience and the intellectual property — game source code — upon which the business is built. The ongoing exploitation of game bugs for fraud and cheating can be compared to altering Amazon.com so that links don’t work, pages don’t load, and recommendations don’t fit users — the result is a poor user experience that can drive customers away and limit both immediate and future revenue. It can also raise support costs as frustrated players call to recover stolen game items or to deal with in-game problems.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223800077>

51. *March 12, The Register* – (International) **Trojan armed with hardware-based anti-piracy control.** The latest version of the Zeus do-it-yourself crimeware kit goes to great lengths to thwart would-be pirates by introducing a hardware-based product activation scheme similar to what’s found in Microsoft Windows. The newest version with bare-bones capabilities starts at \$4,000 and additional features can fetch as much as \$10,000. The new feature is designed to prevent what Microsoft refers to as “casual copying” by ensuring that only one computer can run a licensed version of the program. After it is installed, users must obtain a key that’s good for just that one machine. “This is the first time we have seen this level of control for malware,” according to an

analysis of the latest Zeus version published recently by SecureWorks.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/12/new_zeus_features/

52. *March 12, eWeek* – (International) **IE attacks circulate as Microsoft updates advisory.** Ongoing attacks targeting a new zero-day bug in Internet Explorer and the presence of exploit code on the Web prompted Microsoft March 12 to update its advisory. According to Microsoft, the IE vulnerability in question is due to an invalid pointer reference being used within IE. It is only known to affect IE 6 and 7. To address the issue, the company has made a handful of workarounds available and updated the advisory today to add a Microsoft Fix It that automates a workaround for Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 users. Other workarounds include reconfiguring Internet Zone settings to High and modifying the access control list on iepeers.dll. Instructions for how to do both things are contained within the Microsoft advisory. Since Microsoft published the advisory March 9, exploit code for the IE flaw has gone public, triggering some concern that there will be a rise in attacks in the days ahead as users wait for a patch.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/IE-Attacks-Circulate-as-Microsoft-Updates-Advisory-766154/>

53. *March 12, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Apple issues Safari security update.** Apple has updated its Safari browser on March 12 with a range of security and stability patches. Safari 4.0.5 fixes 16 security holes mainly in the Webkit rendering engine, which is also used by Google's Chrome browser. The Windows version of Safari also includes updates for the ColorSync and ImageIO frameworks to stop attacks using maliciously crafted TIFF or BMP images. Apple said that the update is "recommended for all Safari users". The new software requires Macs running OS X 10.4.11, 10.5.8, or 10.6.1 or higher, or PCs running Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259391/apple-updates-safari-browser>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

54. *March 12, My Web Times* – (National) **AT and T experiences outage.** Interruption in telephone service provided by AT&T on March 12 impacted a "couple hundred thousand customers," according to a worker who did not want to be identified. An AT&T spokeswoman said in an e-mail the company was working on the problem that has impacted "business Voice over IP (Internet protocol) and teleconferencing services" for some customers. As of mid-afternoon on March 12, the problem appeared

to be resolved.

Source: <http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=399665>

55. *March 12, Rockford Register Star* – (Wisconsin) **Charter working to repair network outage.** A fiber-optic network outage has interrupted Charter Communications' service in Beloit, Wisconsin, as well as South Beloit, Rockton and Roscoe. The outage was caused by damage to one of Charter's main fiber-optic lines involving a garbage truck at the intersection of Willowbrook Road and Vesper Drive in South Beloit. Charter crews are on the scene, and repairs are under way. Local police are also on the scene to direct traffic in the area, near South Beloit High School. No estimate is available regarding the length of the outage.

Source: <http://www.rrstar.com/news/yourtown/x673417932/Charter-working-to-repair-network-outage>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

56. *March 14, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Damage to Walnut Creek lumberyard estimated at \$5 million.** A four-alarm inferno that decimated the Piedmont Lumber facility Saturday caused an estimated \$5 million in damages, the chief investigator said Sunday. The blaze, which sparked a series of explosions and sent charcoal black smoke into the air Saturday afternoon, is still under investigation, said the Contra Costa County Fire investigation unit supervisor. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigators joined firefighters in searching the large property at 2860 North Main St., which is common, the fire investigations supervisor said. The ATF arson and explosives supervisor who helped search the property Sunday with a four-person crew said his team would return Monday with heavy equipment to shore up portions of the structure that remained standing. "It was a very hot, long-burning fire, and there was significant structural damage," said an ATF's spokesman. "We haven't found anything yet that could've caused the fire. ... The scene is a lumberyard, so everything's a bit piled up at this point."

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14674966

57. *March 13, WMUR 9 Manchester* – (New Hampshire) **Electrical fire forces Mall of NH evacuation.** The Mall of New Hampshire was evacuated Friday because of an explosion and small fire in the electrical room. Officials said one person was transported to a hospital. A witness who works in the mall, said he was taking out the trash when he saw a man running out of the electrical room. The witness said part of the man's body, including the back of his head, was on fire, and he was patting himself to try to put it out. "He had a suit on, which he took off and was kind of stomping out, but the flames in the room were the worst part," he said. "I literally saw them come flying out of the room after him." Officials said the man suffered second- and third-degree burns but was expected to survive. "We had a worker from Interstate Electric that was taking some measurements in the electrical panel, and he incurred some sort of flash and received burns to the face, hands and maybe chest," a district chief said. The

electrical room fire was quickly extinguished. The large anchor stores in the mall were able to open later because they are on a separate generator. The mall says some stores close to the electrical room sustained smoke damage. By Saturday morning, the mall had been cleaned up and was cleared to fully open. The only significant damage was to the electrical room, the mall said.

Source: <http://www.wmur.com/news/22824558/detail.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

58. *March 15, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Corps recommends construction of emergency levees in Jamestown, LaMoure.** The Army Corps of Engineers is recommending that Jamestown and LaMoure build emergency levees similar to the ones put up last year. The corps has raised its estimate of releases from the Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs into the James River, after rain upstream of the dams last week. Clay and sandbag dikes were used to battle flooding last spring in Jamestown. The city also had problems with its sanitary sewer system. The Stutsman County Emergency Manager says residents should be aware of the situation but should not panic. He says it should be less of a challenge to prepare this year because of the work done last year. A public meeting is scheduled 7 p.m. on March 16 at Jamestown High School. A meeting is set in the LaMoure school the evening of March 15.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/272232/group/home/>

For another story, see item [19](#)

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