



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 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, 23 cars derailed Tuesday in the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. rail yard near Lincoln, Nebraska. A tanker car of chlorine tipped over, but hazmat crews determined that the tanker was not leaking. (See item [2](#))
- The Associated Press reports that officials are keeping a wary eye on rising waters at the crumbling Forge Pond Dam in Freetown, Massachusetts. WCVB 5 Boston reports that rains caused one side of the Bolivar Pond Dam in Canton to wash away, and the Moody Street Dam in Waltham was in danger of breaking until workers came in to release some of the pressure. (See items [59](#) and [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 15, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **More than 90,000 without power in NJ.** Officials say it may be March 18 before service is restored to some New Jerseyans who lost electricity during the storm. More than 90,000 customers statewide are without service Monday night. That is down from a peak of 235,000. The state's largest

utility, Public Service Electric & Gas, says about 70,000 customers remain without power, mainly in Bergen County. The utility says some repairs may take until March 18. JCP&L crews are restoring service to about 15,000 customers. Most are in Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties. JCP&L hopes to finish repairs by late March 16. Atlantic City Electric, which had 42,000 without service at the height of the storm, has about 1,500 customers without power. Most are in Ocean County. New York-based Orange and Rockland Utilities still has more than 4,000 customers without power in Bergen County.

Source: <http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20100315/UPDATES01/100315014/More-than-90-000-without-power-in-NJ>

For another story, see item [8](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

2. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **23 cars derail west of downtown Lincoln, Neb.** Officials have begun righting tankers and freight cars and repairing tracks after a derailment west of downtown Lincoln. Fire officials say 23 cars left the tracks in the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. rail yard early Tuesday morning west of downtown Lincoln. A tanker car of chlorine tipped over when it derailed, prompting the temporary closure of nearby U.S. Highway 77 and West O Street. But the Fire Battalion Chief says hazardous-materials crews soon determined that the tanker was not leaking. What caused the derailment has not been determined. There were no reports of injuries.

Source: <http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=12148022>

For another story, see item [44](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

3. *March 15, Cleveland Plain Dealer* – (Ohio) **Cracks found in critical reactor parts at Davis-Besse power plant.** Inspectors at the Davis-Besse power plant have found cracking in critical parts that is similar to what caused massive corrosion at the plant eight years ago. The FirstEnergy Corp. plant near Toledo, Ohio, has been down since February 28 for regular refueling, maintenance and safety inspections, including ultrasonic inspections of 69 control rod “nozzles” in the reactor lid. The problem parts are known as “nozzles” because of their shape. They are corrosion-resistant alloy steel tubes that penetrate the reactor’s heavy carbon steel lid. They allow reactor operators to adjust the nuclear fission by moving control rods into and out of the reactor core. The cracked parts pose no threat to the public. “There are indications of cracking in 13 of 54 nozzles checked so far,” a FirstEnergy spokesman said late Monday. The company will not restart the reactor until it repairs the nozzles, he said. “We will follow the standard industry-proven plan to make repairs,” the spokesman said. A similar condition has

been found at other reactors, and a repair plan has been developed with input from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Electric Power Research Institute, the spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/cracks_found_in_critical_react.html

For another story, see item [30](#)

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

4. *March 16, South Bend Tribune* – (Indiana) **Fire forces Walnut Street plant to evacuate.** In South Bend, a fire inside an air control system forced factory workers to evacuate Monday as firefighters worked to control a potentially dangerous dust fire. The fire at the Lock Joint Tube No. 2 plant was first reported shortly after 2 p.m., after workers in the plant saw flames coming out of a dust collection system. A fire battalion chief said a spark somehow ignited a fire inside a ventilation system that pulls aluminum particles from the air. He said flames were present both inside the building and outside, where the vent exited the building. Because of the high temperature at which aluminum burns, the chief said crews used dry chemicals, carbon dioxide extinguishers and water to battle the small blaze, which burned for at least 30 minutes. “It was sort of touch and go for a while,” he said, and added that crews had to make sure electricity in the building was turned off before fighting the blaze. The chief said no one was injured in the fire but that it was not immediately known how much damage the building sustained. “I know they’re going to have to clean out the air control system,” he said.

Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20100316/News01/3160353/-1/googleNews>

5. *March 16, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **2010 Jeep Commanders, Grand Cherokees recalled.** Chrysler Corporation is recalling 2010 model-year Jeep Commanders and Jeep Grand Cherokees. They may have been built with an improperly-manufactured rear track bar, the company said. Reduced vehicle stability could result, increasing the risk of a crash. Dealers will inspect the rear track bar and replace it if defects are found when the recall begins during April 2010.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/2010_jEEP.html

6. *March 16, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **2010 Toyota Tundra four-wheel-drive trucks recalled.** Toyota is recalling 2010 Toyota Tundra vehicles with four-wheel drive. There may be an improper weld at the union of the propeller shaft and yoke, the company said. The joint could separate, causing loss of control. Dealers will replace the defective shaft free of charge when the recall begins during March 2010.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/toyota_tundra.html

7. *March 15, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **Geneva's smelly situation nears an end in April.** The stinky situation that developed in the Geneva neighborhood surrounding the Burgess Norton Manufacturing Co. is expected to come to an end in early April. However, company officials say they are doing whatever they can to minimize and contain the odor that began seeping into the neighborhood last fall. Neighbors initially began complaining of an odor emitting from the Burgess Norton plant last October. An investigation by company officials determined that the odor was coming from an oil called Lubsoil Gundrill that is used in a newer piece of equipment at the facility. To mitigate the odor, company officials installed an odor removal system utilizing carbon absorption. They also enclosed every known area where odor was escaping from the plant. Although many neighbors have noticed that the frequency of the odor has decreased in recent months, it has not entirely been eliminated.

Source:

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/business/2102231.geneva_burgess_stinks_au031510.article

8. *March 14, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts; International) **Nantucket farm sues maker of faulty wind turbine.** With its new 100-foot-tall windmill still broken and idle, Bartlett's Ocean View Farm has sued its manufacturer and the company that installed the turbine, seeking \$1.5 million in damages. One of the windmill's 40-foot-long blades broke in half in moderate winds some time after dark Jan. 18, the broken piece plummeting to the ground where it landed nearly 175 feet away from the turbine. No one was hurt, but Bartlett's Farm now alleges in Nantucket Superior Court that the manufacturer of the windmill, Wind Energy Solutions (WES), of the Netherlands, knew of a design defect in the turbine model, and intentionally concealed the possible danger by negligently misrepresenting its product. Citing a similar incident at the University of Sheffield in England, where the same model WES turbine sustained a broken blade on two separate occasions in 2008, Bartlett's Farm claims in the lawsuit that the school's representative had urged the company to stop selling and operating the turbines until it had conducted an investigation to determine the problem. The lawsuit includes harsh criticism of WES, as well as Lighthouse Electrical Contracting, Inc., the Rockland firm that was hired to install the windmill. It also contains some curious details about what may have contributed to the incident, such as the farm's claim that WES shipped mismatched rotor blades to the island, which both the company and Lighthouse said could still be properly balanced and installed.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100314/NEWS/3140331/-1/newsmap>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 16, DarkReading* – (International) **Live data in test environments is alive and well — and dangerous.** Those charged with the care and feeding of database information stores, beware: A new statistic tucked into a comprehensive study of financial services firms' data protection policies shows that even at the most security-aware organizations, application developers still use live data in their development and test environments. The study, released earlier this month by the Ponemon Institute and commissioned by Compuware, showed that among 80 very large financial organizations, 83 percent use live data while developing and testing applications. That's a big risk to sensitive information, data security experts warn, and is a testament to the fact that DBAs and database security experts need to step up their efforts to work in tandem with their development colleagues to protect the data that these coders get their applications to tap into.
Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223900045>
10. *March 16, New London Day* – (Connecticut) **Mishap at Mystic bank.** Four employees at the Liberty Bank in Olde Mistick Village were evaluated by medics on March 15 after a dye pack exploded inside the bank's vault, releasing a tear gas-like substance into the building. The Old Mystic fire lieutenant said employees were preparing the bank for opening at 9 a.m. when a dye pack inside the vault burst, releasing the gas. The fire lieutenant said one employee in particular was affected, but four were being evaluated by Mystic River Ambulance medics. None of the employees were transported to the hospital. Old Mystic firefighters wearing air masks were inside the bank, ventilating it. The bank was closed on March 15 while a crew worked to clean the bank. The branch was expected to reopen on March 16, bank officials said.
Source: <http://www.theday.com/article/20100316/NWS01/303169893/-1/nws>
11. *March 16, WSVN 7 Miami* – (Florida) **FBI looking into bomb threat at bank.** Police evacuated a bank after calls about a suspicious package. Miami-Dade Police and Fire Rescue units responded to a bomb threat at the Chase Bank in the area of Northeast 163rd Street and 12th Avenue, at around 4:00 p.m. on March 15. The bank was shut down for the remainder of the day. Police were forced to close traffic to the area as the Bomb Squad searched the scene. It was unknown if the Bomb Squad found anything inside the bank, but authorities reopened the roads near the scene a few hours after the search. The FBI is currently investigating the incident.
Source: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI146521/>
12. *March 16, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Bank chief accused of TARP fraud.** A lifelong banking-industry executive was arrested on March 15 on numerous charges, including allegations of defrauding regulators in connection with what prosecutors said was his desperate effort to save his New York bank from failing. The suspect, the former president and chief executive of the Park Avenue Bank of New York, made

false statements to regulators in an effort to obtain about \$11 million from the U.S. government's Troubled Asset Relief Program, prosecutors said. He is the first person to be charged criminally with attempting to defraud TARP, the bank bailout program passed as the nation teetered on the verge of an economic meltdown in 2008, prosecutors said.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703909804575123672347495854.html>

13. *March 16, Wilkes-Barre Citizens Voice* – (Pennsylvania) **Banking scam hits area phones, e-mail.** First Keystone National Bank is warning customers about a series of fraudulent telephone calls and messages, cell phone text messages and e-mails. Scam artists have been calling and sending messages to customers and non-customers, attempting to trick them into giving out their personal and confidential account information, said a bank spokeswoman. The scam began a few weeks ago, she said. It has since spread to the local area. Some local residents reported receiving telephone calls late on March 14 and early March 15. According to an alert from First Keystone National Bank, fraudulent e-mails and text messages have been designed to look as if they came from the bank and often contain the bank's logos. The bank cautioned the messages are not legitimate and recipients should not click on any links in e-mails, call any toll-free phone numbers provided or respond with any confidential financial or personal information. The scam is the latest form of identify theft and is one of a number of scams popping up throughout the state, said the spokesman for the state attorney general's office.

Source: <http://citizensvoice.com/news/banking-scam-hits-area-phones-e-mail-1.683833>

14. *March 15, IDG News Service* – (International) **Trusteer rolls out malware forensic tool for banks.** Security vendor Trusteer's latest product will allow banks to remotely investigate their customers' computers if it is suspected the PC has been hacked. The service, called Flashlight, is designed to enable banks' security experts to quickly identify what types of malicious software programs customers are encountering in order to build better defenses, said Trusteer's CEO. Now if a bank wants to see if a customer's computer is infected, the computer usually has to be either physically taken to a lab or the hard disk has to be copied, he said. Flashlight detects malicious software programs on the computer and can send a report along with a copy of the suspicious program, the CEO said. The scenario under which Flashlight would be used is if a customer calls a bank to check on a possible fraud. The fraud investigation team would ask the person to install Flashlight, which can detect if the browser has been previously tampered with. The customer would be asked to send a log report, which can then be analyzed while the customer is on the phone, the CEO said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9170598/Trusteer_rolls_out_malware_forensic_tool_for_banks

15. *March 15, The Register* – (National) **Crooks plant fake payment card terminals at multiple stores.** Crooks planted bogus payment card processing terminals at multiple

locations operated by the Hancock Fabrics chain store that allowed for the theft of sensitive financial data from customers, the company warned. The personal identification number pads were stolen in August and September and “replaced with visually identical, but fraudulent PIN pad units,” Hancock Fabrics warned in a letter to customers. “As a result, certain account information and PIN numbers used at these locations may have been unlawfully acquired by third parties.” Intercepted information may have included the name printed on the payment card, the card number, the expiration date, and the PIN if it was entered into one of the fraudulent terminals. The company recommended that customers review their account statements and credit reports.

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

16. *March 15, Help Net Security* – (International) **European banks lack document security.** Financial services companies across Europe are unintentionally putting their confidential information at risk, according to research from Ricoh. At the heart of the issue is the lack of a centralized document governance strategy. The research also includes business leaders from the professional services, public services, telecommunications, utilities and media sectors. The findings show that the financial industry is the least likely to have a policy in place to restrict the printing of customer information with just 46 percent confirming that they have implemented a formal policy. Just 33 percent of public sector organizations have a fully implemented document security strategy. The number rises to 43 percent in Professional Services and 48 percent in Telecommunications/Utilities/Media. Overall, the results show that even the most regulated industries can be doing more to protect confidential information and govern their documents more effectively.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9017>

17. *March 9, NACS Online* – (National) **‘Skimming’ scheme larger than police believed.** Police believe that the Northern California skimming scam, where two men were arrested on suspicion of installing skimming devices at gasoline pumps, extends beyond the two men in question, the Sacramento Bee reports. Authorities said that the two were stealing \$20,000 a day from Northern California cardholders, and police have recommended to prosecutors that they file 32 counts of identity fraud, conspiracy and enhanced charges related to gang activity. Eleven skimming devices were found in the suspect’s car. The scam was uncovered when a 7-Eleven employee was changing receipt tape at a pump and spotted a device inside. He called detectives who replaced it with a decoy device, which led to the arrest of the suspects. Since their arrest, six additional skimming devices have been uncovered, and authorities in Washington, Oklahoma and Texas have reported similar cases. However, to date, no links have been established with the Martinez, California case. Security experts said that there’s no sure-fire way to prevent highly sophisticated skimming.

Source: <http://www.nacsonline.com/NACS/News/Daily/Pages/ND0309106.aspx>

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Transportation Sector

18. *March 16, Fort Scott Tribune* – (Kentucky) **Rural bridge beginning to collapse.** A bridge in rural Bourbon County is falling down. Nearby residents noticed a hole in the asphalt. According to the Bourbon County Emergency Manager, the hole in the bridge which passes over Cedar Creek, was a result of the underground structure collapsing. He said the freezing and thawing from the snow storms between December 22, 2009 and January 8, 2010 caused the supports — made of stone and mortar — to break loose. The area around the hole has only about 2 inches of asphalt remaining. In addition to the hole, the manager said the center support under the 12-foot bridge is leaning and is expected to collapse within the next few days. With many similarly constructed bridges across the county, he encourages all residents to keep their eye out for signs of damage and notify the Bourbon County Public Works Department. “This is a damage that unfortunately we are going to find more of,” he said. “It is probably going to happen in other locations.” The storms which are believed to have caused the damage were declared as a federal disaster last week by the President. The declaration lists 45 Kansas counties — including Bourbon, Crawford, Allen, and Linn counties — which will be eligible for public assistance for emergency work and the repair and replacement of disaster-damaged facilities.
Source: <http://www.fstribune.com/story/1618501.html>
19. *March 16, WTSP 10 St. Petersburg* – (Florida) **TSA inspectors in Tampa say it is not safe to fly.** Several Transportation Security Administration inspectors working at Tampa International Airport say there are huge problems and holes in airport security. One inspector said the security at Tampa International is like a “Three Card Monte” game. He says the system loses track of bags and there is no verification. He says on busy occasions, when the baggage belt is busy, about 15 percent of the bags that need to be screened for possible contraband never make it down to the search area. The inspector is talking about a \$124 million baggage screening system at Tampa International. The system runs a bag through what’s called an “L3 Explosive Device System.” If the machine picks up a potential problem, a Transportation Security Officer (TSO) hits an alarm and the bag is sent to another area to be hand searched. Another inspector says possible bombs are often not inspected by hand. According to these inspectors, as many as 500 bags a day that set off an alarm for a possible explosive device and are supposed to be hand inspected never make it to the second inspector. Instead, those bags go onto the airplane.
Source: <http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=127592&catid=8>
20. *March 16, Savannah Morning News* – (Georgia) **Train cars full of Mercedes burn near port.** Glynn County firefighters scrambled Monday afternoon to contain a fire that burned train cars loaded with luxury automobiles and a portion of the railroad trestle to the Georgia Ports Authority Colonel’s Island shipping terminal. It was the second time in nearly six years, fire has engulfed the trestle over the marsh and Fancy Bluff Creek in southern Glynn County. This time, the fire was on the opposite end and burned far less of the trestle. By 4 p.m., about 40 Glynn County firefighters had contained the fire to two automobile transport cars loaded with new Mercedes-Benz vehicles on top of the trestle. They had to haul in water and connect a series of hoses from pumper trucks to douse the flames. The fire burned so intensely it warped the

steel tracks beneath the train cars, preventing firefighters and railroad officials from unhooking and moving the other rail cars. The train was transporting the vehicles from the Mercedes-Benz manufacturing facility in Vance, Ala., to Colonel's Island for export, a ports authority spokesman said.

Source: <http://savannahnow.com/news/2010-03-16/train-cars-full-mercedes-burn-near-port>

21. *March 14, Galveston Daily News* – (National) **Web site lists hazardous train cargo in real time.** If a CSX Corporation train derailed, first responders have instant, real-time access to railroad manifests to learn whether the cars were hauling hazardous material. When Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific trains derailed recently in Santa Fe, first responders scrambled to find tanker placards and the engineer to learn the same information. The only immediate way to determine whether the BNSF derailment contained hazardous chemicals was to approach the overturned tankers with placards that describe what material was inside. "We did not know the totality of the cargo until we located the engineer and obtained a paper manifest from the train crew," the responder said. Electronic load manifest technology already exists, with CSX providing real-time tracking of its hazardous cargo transports to Chemtrec, the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, which was created in 1971 from the American Chemistry Council and designed to assist emergency responders with incidents involving hazardous material and dangerous goods. "It's a Web-enabled system that's highly secure, that allows Chemtrec to find a train number, tank car number and identify what's in those cars," the Chemtrec director said. "It allows real-time access in seconds on the Web." First responders call Chemtrec, which disseminates the real-time information about what's on any CSX train, the director said. BNSF provides Chemtrec manifest information only after a derailment, a company spokesman said. CSX, with the cooperation of state Department of Homeland Security officials, implemented the program in early 2007, and real-time tracking of hazardous cargo is available in seven of the 23 states in which CSX operates, a spokesman for the company said.
- Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=5364d8794f32f252>

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

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *March 15, KSLA 12 Shreveport* – (Texas) **5th incendiary device found in E. TX mailbox.** A fifth incendiary device has been found in an east Texas mailbox. The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is on the scene. The only information available at the moment is that the device is in a mailbox in Henderson, Texas. At least four other incendiary devices have been found in recent days in mailboxes or postal processing facilities in eastern Texas, although none posed a danger to the public, authorities said. U.S. Postal Inspector said Friday that one of the devices was discovered Tuesday night at a processing site in Owentown, a town near Tyler about 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,” the Postal Inspector said. The Tyler Morning Telegraph, citing a Smith County sheriff’s report, said the device found in Owentown consisted of a beer bottle filled with gasoline and topped with a wick. The Rusk County sheriff told the newspaper that two incendiary devices were found recently in his jurisdiction. He did not immediately respond to a phone message Friday seeking comment.

Source: <http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=12145272>

23. *March 15, Investigative Voice* – (Maryland) **Suspicious package clears building.** Baltimore City Hall was evacuated just after noon Monday when a suspicious package was discovered in the mailroom. A mail clerk found the package at 11:55 a.m. and reported it to a police officer at City Hall, who then summoned the Baltimore City Fire Department’s HazMat team. A fire department spokesman told Investigative Voice. “The HazMat team is performing assessments to determine” if the package poses a threat, the spokesman said just after the building was evacuated. He had no details about the package. Some City Hall staffers described the suspicions about the package as possibly involving anthrax, but no officials would confirm that. People were allowed back inside the building at about 12:30 p.m. Later in the day it was learned that at least four threatening letters were sent to the Mitchell Courthouse on Friday, according to an email sent by a Judge at week’s end. The email said the letters contained a bullet. The judge was allegedly upset and critical of the mail screening process because the letter had been opened by her clerk.

Source:

http://investigativevoice.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3192:city-hall-scare-suspicious-package-clears-building&catid=25:the-project&Itemid=44

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *March 15, Rapid City Journal* – (International) **Canadian cow tests positive for BSE.** A Canadian agency has reported that another case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy has been found, this time in a 72-month-old cow. It is the 18th such case in Canada, according to the United Stockgrowers of America’s Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund. The U.S. Department of Agriculture later verified the Canadian report. The group said Canadian officials had not notified the World Organization for Animal Health about the case as of last Wednesday. The 6-year-old infected animal would have been born in 2003 or 2004, making it the 18th Canadian-born case and the 11th animal diagnosed with the disease eligible to be exported to the United States. Also, the discovery of an animal born several years after Canada imposed a ban on high-risk animal parts from cattle feed indicates that the ban is not working or is not being enforced, said the president of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association. Canada banned such high-risk cattle parts from feed in 1997, the same year the U.S. feed ban went into effect. In November 2007, USDA implemented a rule

that allows Canadian cattle over 30 months to be imported into the U.S. as long as they were born after March 1, 1999.

Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_2300a8c0-30b2-11df-808b-001cc4c03286.html

25. *March 15, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Lax oversight of animal protection rules at slaughterhouses probed by lawmakers.** The knives at the slaughterhouse were not properly sanitized, a government investigator said, and employees at the meatpacking plant did not know how to test the carcasses of days-old veal calves for a dangerous pathogen. Food safety conditions were so poor at the Vermont processing facility that it should close before someone got sick, officials warned. Instead, the plant stayed open for months. It was not until an undercover video surfaced with images of calves being kicked, dragged and skinned alive that the federal government ordered Bushway Packing Inc. to close last November for the inhumane treatment of animals. The Agriculture Secretary at that time called the abuse “inexcusable,” and vowed to redouble efforts to enforce laws aimed at protecting farm animals. A report by the Government Accountability Office released last week, however, found that although stringent animal protections may be on the books, the federal government is doing a lax job of enforcing them. An Ohio Democrat who has held hearings on the issue, said animal treatment is key to food safety. “How can the public have confidence in the safety of the food they eat if inspections at plants aren’t consistent or in some cases, if they’re not happening at all,” the senator said. “There is a direct connection between humane animal handling and food safety.” Enforcement of humane slaughtering laws was so inconsistent that the two busiest meatpacking districts, in Chicago and Des Moines, Ill., did not suspend a single plant from 2005 through 2007, a period when 10 other districts together suspended 35, according to the GAO. The meatpacking industry has long opposed animal welfare advocates’ efforts to draw a link between the treatment of farm animals and public health. The industry contends that consumers should not be worried about eating contaminated meat.
- Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/unleashed/2010/03/lax-oversight-of-animal-protection-rules-at-slaughterhouses-probed-by-lawmakers.html>

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Water Sector

26. *March 16, Water World* – (New York) **Heading off potential hazards; State wants tighter water pollution standards at CWM landfill.** State environmental regulators want tighter water pollution standards at the Northeast’s only commercial hazardous waste landfill because of an ongoing risk that toxic contaminants could potentially move into area waterways. The state Department of Environmental Conservation has proposed five new testing points on the site of CWM Chemical Services, the facility in northwestern Niagara County that discharges stormwater into tributaries of Fourmile and Twelvemile creeks and treated wastewater into the Niagara River. New sampling points would, among other things, help pinpoint the source of contamination of PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, a toxic substance previously found on the site that is tied

to cancer and long banned in the United States, according to the agency. “. . . [N]ew internal monitoring points for PCBs are being proposed,” the agency said in a September report, “due to known upgradient contaminated soils, past violations and the concern for their migration to stormwater.” The tightened standards also are aimed at preventing dilution, which would effectively “mask the presence” of contaminants, the agency said. As part of the overall proposal, regulators want to lower the limits for the discharge of mercury from the site by 40 times, though CWM will have an interim period with a higher limit the first 18 months after the permit is changed. In addition to the three new testing points for stormwater, regulators have proposed two new on-site sampling points for the treated wastewater that is eventually released into the Niagara. Public comments on the proposed permit changes will be accepted by the state through April 30, a deadline extended from March 22.

Source: http://www.waterworld.com/index/display/news_display/142522802.html

27. *March 16, Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **MWRA pumps 8 million gallons of sewage into Quincy Bay.** About 15 million gallons of untreated wastewater was diverted into Quincy Bay on Monday in an effort to keep sewage from backing up into homes and flooding the Nut Island sewage facility, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority officials said. Twice on Monday workers redirected the plant’s surging inflow of rain and sewer water into the ocean through a discharge spout a half-mile off the city’s shore. The executive director of the MWRA said the first “controlled bypass” was ordered about 1 p.m. after sewage overflowed a pumping station in Houghs Neck and “came over the floorboards” at the Nut Island facility. The predicament brought on by the storm also is a reminder of the decaying state of regional sewer lines, which allow storm water to infiltrate cracked pipes, ultimately bogging down treatment facilities. The executive director of the MWRA said the facility had run at its 400-million-gallon daily capacity since late Saturday. He said 90 percent of the wastewater discharged Monday was rainwater. The Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency were notified. “The strategy is to protect the homes and neighborhoods and to protect the station,” he said, adding, “This is in the best interest of the public health and the environment.”

Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/news/x1514354134/MWRA-pumps-8-million-gallons-of-sewage-into-Quincy-Bay>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *March 16, Boston Globe* – (National) **Boston Scientific halts some sales.** Boston Scientific Corp. Monday said it has halted shipments and is recalling unused units of some of its best-selling products after determining it did not get approval from federal regulators for changes to its manufacturing processes. The move affected seven brands of defibrillators, implantable devices that deliver electrical pulses to the hearts of patients in danger of sudden cardiac death. Such devices — cardioverter and cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillators — represented an estimated 15 percent of Boston Scientific’s \$8.2 billion in 2009 sales. Company officials said the defibrillators

are safe, that there is no risk to patients, and there is no reason for anyone to have defibrillators removed. The problem, they said, is that Boston Scientific failed to meet a requirement to submit documents to the Food and Drug Administration outlining major production process changes.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/business/healthcare/articles/2010/03/16/stock_slides_as_boston_scientific_halts_sales_of_some_devices/

29. *March 15, North Jersey Media Group* – (New Jersey) **Despite power outage, evacuations unlikely at Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff.** Wyckoff, New Jersey's, mayor has been in contact with the governor's office regarding the power outage at the Christian Health Care Center. The CEO and president of the center said the facility, which cares for hundreds of elderly residents, had been operating with emergency generators since Saturday evening. "We've been in touch with the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management and Wyckoff officials. We've been told we're on a priority list," he said. "We've been assured that we'll see some significant attention by this [Monday] afternoon." Township officials reported that PSE&G was engaged at The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood and would resume work on returning power to the Christian Health Care Center after power at the hospital was restored. The CEO it was unlikely residents would have to be evacuated since generators and campus buildings have built-in redundancies.

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/87669992_Despite_power_outage_evacuati ons_unlikely_at_Christian_Health_Care_Center_in_Wyckoff.html

30. *March 15, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Patients exposed to dangerous levels of radiation.** Oversight questions are swirling after 76 cancer patients at a Springfield, Missouri, hospital were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation over a five-year period. The Springfield News Leader reported that the two national boards responsible for certifying medical physicists say they don't pull certifications after accidents like the one at CoxHealth. They say state licensing officials have the responsibility in these kinds of scenarios. But Missouri does not license medical physicists or anybody else responsible for radiation therapy. CoxHealth discovered in February that the excessive doses of radiation were delivered because of an improperly calibrated attachment on a linear accelerator. The name of the person responsible has not been released.

Source: <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=429898>

31. *March 15, Fierce Pharma Manufacturing* – (Pennsylvania) **Merck, GE, IBM collaborate on vaccine plant.** Plans are coming together for a major vaccine manufacturing plant intended for quick response to biological, chemical and radiological attacks. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center envisions an academia-industry-government collaboration, and it's drawing in some big names. Merck will provide drug development and bioprocess counsel in a planned consortium of biopharmas. R&D giant Battelle will provide pre-clinical research, as well as model development for infectious diseases and for evaluations of product safety and efficacy. Battelle's services extend to the licensing of vaccines and therapeutics. IT will be

provided by IBM. These big guns join GE Healthcare, already at work with UPMC, which sees the venture as a federally funded non-profit subsidiary.

Source: <http://www.fiercepharmamanufacturing.com/story/merck-ge-ibm-join-vax-plant/2010-03-15>

32. *March 15, WCPO 9 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **West Chester plant cited for ‘problems’ by FDA.** A report by The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says a manufacturing plant in West Chester, Ohio, has numerous problems. The FDA cites ten problems at Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. According to the report, “Procedures designed to prevent microbiological contamination of products purporting to be sterile are not established and followed.” The report also says, “Production and process control procedures are not followed in the execution of production and process control functions.” Amylin is based in San Diego and the West Chester plant makes a new formulation for a type 2 diabetes drug. The drug being manufactured will be a once weekly drug versus the older formula of twice-daily.

Source: http://www.wcpo.com/news/local/story/West-Chester-Plant-Cited-For-Problems-By-FDA/SygrEoq_V0mtDUzedV-h6g.csp

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Government Facilities Sector

33. *March 16, Monterey County Herald* – (California) **Suspicious package shuts down Naval Postgraduate School.** A package found on the campus of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey late Sunday prompted a call for help to the Monterey County Sheriff’s bomb squad. The package was removed and “rendered safe,” said a NPS spokesman. The spokesman would not specify whether an explosive or incendiary device was found, saying the incident is under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. A Sheriff’s commander referred questions about the incident to naval authorities. Neither the Navy nor the Sheriff’s Office would provide further details. The bomb squad was called immediately after the package was found, the spokesman said. Sheriff’s deputies finished disarming the device at 11:15 p.m., he said, and the NPS campus was locked down until 9:15 a.m. Monday. Portions of the NPS campus remain closed as the investigation continues.

Source: http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_14683130

34. *March 16, Concord Monitor* – (New Hampshire) **School aide charged with bomb threat.** A program assistant who taught fifth-graders at Bow Memorial School in Concord, New Hampshire was arrested Monday after she called in a bomb threat before coming to work, the police and school administrators said. It was to be her first day back from an extended leave of absence, Superintendent said. The leave was not based on disciplinary action, but he declined to elaborate because of privacy issues. When the threat was received, a handful of teachers were told to wait in their cars as the Principal and a school resource officer searched the building. Students had yet to arrive. The building was deemed safe, and classes began at their regular time. Using information from the 911 call, Bow police detectives tracked the threat back to the teacher. She was

arrested on school grounds after being interviewed by two officers.

Source:

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100316/NEWS01/3160355/1001>

35. *March 16, Memphis Commercial Appeal* – (Tennessee) **School board votes to check into operating security force without cops.** The Memphis, Tennessee, city school board voted late Monday to look into the feasibility of operating a school security force without officers from the Memphis Police Department. About 30 MPD officers are currently assigned to schools. In several weeks, the school superintendent is to report back on the cost of ramping up the number of security workers who now patrol schools and monitor after-school activities, including ballgames, but do not have authority to arrest. The resolution, offered by a board member, indicates the level of unrest on the board about police officers in the schools and its push to have a district-run police force. A bill, currently before state lawmakers, seeks a change in statute so all school districts could run their own police forces.

Source: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/mar/16/school-board-votes-check-operating-security-force/>

36. *March 16, Jackson County Chronicle* – (Wisconsin) **Second bomb threat at BRFHS puts school in lockdown.** A second bomb threat in two months at Black River Falls, Wisconsin, High School prompted another lockdown and more law enforcement presence Monday. The school was in lockdown mode the entire day after a bomb threat was discovered written on a bathroom wall Sunday — similar to a threat that put the school in lockdown January 18. This also is the second time in less than a week where a bomb scare put a Jackson County school on alert. Lincoln High School was in lockdown and searches were conducted March 10 when a note was found a week earlier warning of a bomb in the ventilation system. The Jackson County Sheriff's Department brought in additional personnel and a bomb search dog on Monday to conduct interior and exterior searches of BRFHS, and deputies monitored vehicles and pedestrians on the school campus. No evidence of a bomb was found but the threat remains under investigation. Entrance was limited to one location, and all students and visitors had to go through a security checkpoint. The sheriff's department made random checks at the school throughout the day. The sheriff said the threat was written in large letters and stated a bomb would go off on Monday in the school's red hallway. It is unknown how long the message had been there.

Source:

<http://www.jacksoncountychronicle.com/articles/2010/03/16/thisjustin/05bomb.txt>

37. *March 16, Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Washington Jr. High School students avert threat.** School officials are crediting students with tipping them off to a former pupil threatening to physically harm Washington Junior High School students. The former Manitowoc resident, a male juvenile, had attended Washington for several months earlier this year, according to a news release from the Manitowoc Public School District, before moving out of Manitowoc County. The release stated the threat came to light last week when several Washington students reported the rumored

threat to a staff member. Washington administrators immediately contacted the Manitowoc Police Department. A police spokesman said Tuesday morning his department's investigative report will be forwarded to the other county's law enforcement and human services department officials "for their pursuit of charges, hopefully, disorderly conduct." The police spokesman said the juvenile status of the alleged threat maker prohibits his disclosing where the male now lives. The reported threat was general in nature and did not target any specific students or groups, according to the school district. The Washington Principal stated she is proud of the student reporting the rumors. "We have worked hard to build a trusting relationship between the adults and students here at Washington."

Source:

<http://www.htrnews.com/article/20100316/MAN0101/100316035/1984/MANnews/Washington-Jr.-Hi-students-avert-threat>

38. *March 15, Glasgow Daily Times* – (Kentucky) **Bomb threat leads to evacuations.** A bomb threat led to the evacuation of the Barren County Courthouse and elementary schools within the county. Barren County sheriff said 911 received a call at about 9:30 Monday morning with a threat against two unnamed elementary schools and the courthouse. By 9:50 a.m. the courthouse was being evacuated and deputies and volunteer firefighters were being sent to schools to help remove students from the buildings, the Barren County sheriff said. At about 10:40 a.m., all schools and the courthouse had been cleared and schools and the courthouse were re-opened. A second call was received during this time, and law enforcement officials are still investigating the calls. "We were notified by the police, it was a vague threat, they didn't identify any specific schools," said the assistant superintendent of Barren County Schools. "We immediately implemented the district's standard operating procedure for bomb threats." The secretary to the superintendent at Glasgow Independent Schools said they were taking all precautions and dealing with the situation at hand. They were also unaware which schools were going to be affected, so they evacuated all of them.
Source: <http://glasgowdailytimes.com/breakingnews/x1897238565/Bomb-threat-leads-to-evacuations>

39. *March 15, WBAY 2 Green Bay* – (Wisconsin) **Social Security warns about phone scam.** The Social Security Administration says it's receiving an unusually high number of complaints from Wisconsin about suspicious phone calls. According to the complaints, a caller claims to work for the SSA and asks the person on the other end to "confirm" their Social Security number in order to reissue a Medicare card. Social Security officials says the department does not need to ask for that information. You are advised not to give personal information over a phone call you did not initiate.
Source: <http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=12145384>

40. *March 15, Yuma Sun* – (Arizona) **Guardsmen convicted of scrap metal theft.** A former Wyoming Air Guardsman was found guilty of theft of public property after selling scrap metal from a border fence project. After an investigation by the FBI and Air Force Office of Special Investigations, a federal jury found the defendant, 49, guilty of theft of public property after he sold scrap metal from a border fence project,

according to a news release Monday from the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona. Sentencing is set for May 24. A conviction for theft of public property carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. The Yuma Sun previously reported the defendant's story after his father contacted the paper to share his side of the story. Monday, he declined to comment. The defendant was assigned to Operation Jump Start, Task Force Diamondback, near Sonoita, Arizona. The defendant was the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of Air and Army National Guardsmen constructing a border fence on the international border between the U.S. and Mexico. Source: <http://www.yumasun.com/news/scrap-56994-kelley-project.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

41. *March 16, KTVU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **Lab technician investigated two months after theft reported.** Reports surfacing Monday of delayed investigations into drugs stolen from a San Francisco Police Department drug laboratory exposed the department to more criticism of its handling of evidence. On Monday, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that the police department took two months to follow up on reports of a drug lab technician taking vials of cocaine home with her. The article included criticism from San Francisco's public defender, who said that the abuse of evidence could jeopardize hundreds of drug cases. Police arrested the retired lab technician on March 3 after they discovered a gun and a small amount of cocaine in her house. The arrest came after a two-week long criminal probe but resulted only because possessing a firearm violated the woman's probation from 2008 misdemeanor domestic violence conviction. San Francisco's police chief said that he requested a criminal probe on Madden February 22, the day he learned that she was suspected of stealing cocaine from the lab. On February 26, she admitted to investigators that she ingested cocaine that had spilled from open packages. Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/22845161/detail.html>

42. *March 15, KIVI 6 Boise* – (Idaho) **Boise police looking for fire equipment vandals.** Boise Police are asking the public's help in finding those responsible for an estimated \$5,000 in damage to emergency vehicles and equipment belonging to the Boise Fire Department. The same suspects are believed responsible for setting fire to items stored inside the old armory. Boise Police investigators believe the damage was done Sunday afternoon, March 14th, inside the old armory building on the 700 block of Reserve Street. The armory building has been vacant for some time and is used for training and storage for city equipment. The damage was discovered about 6:00 p.m. Sunday when two passersby noticed smoke coming from inside the armory. The witnesses quickly alerted firefighters just next door at Boise Fire Station #1. When fire crews responded they found two small fires inside the building which were quickly extinguished. However, firefighters also saw other damage to fire equipment stored inside the armory. Damage includes a broken windshield and winch on a truck used to

pull a fire department dive rescue boat, one of the pontoons on the dive rescue boat had been deflated, and the back of the truck storage area had been opened and ransacked. Gas cans had been taken from the vehicles and believed used to start two small fires inside the building. The vandals burned desks and other items also stored inside the armory. Investigating officers found no signs of forced entry into the armory. How the vandals got into the building is still under investigation.

Source: <http://www.kivitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12145584>

43. *March 15, WNCT 9 Jacksonville* – (North Carolina) **3 Eastern NC men at center of Coast Guard S-O-S prank.** Three men in the east face heavy fines and possible jail time after pleading guilty to sending “false duress” messages to the US Coast Guard in Morehead City, North Carolina. The Coast Guard says the groups ring leader made at least two dozen fake S-O-S calls within a year. The words “Mayday-Mayday” are taken extremely seriously by members of the US Coast Guard—whether it’s real life distress or a hoax. “It takes us away from potentially responding to actual distresses and it needlessly puts our crews in harms wayâhoax calls are never acceptable,” said a Coast Guard official. When rescue crews hear of distress, they attempt to locate and spend money on resources to get search and rescue help on the water as quickly as possible.

Source:

http://www2.wnct.com/nct/news/local/article/3_eastern_nc_men_at_center_of_coast_guard_s-o-s_prank/119869/

44. *March 15, Joplin Globe* – (Kansas) **Chemical manufacturer contributes \$2,500 for Cherokee County reverse 911 system.** The Cherokee County Commission has the \$2,500 start-up cost to allow it to pursue a reverse 911 system, courtesy of a county manufacturer. The assistant plant manager with Evonic Industries on Monday presented the commissioners with a check for that amount. The Cherokee County emergency management director said the company’s donation clears the way to get the service started. She said the manager is on the county Emergency Planning Committee, so he was aware of the need. Cherokee County and Newton County, Missouri, are partners with Jasper County, Missouri, in offering reverse 911 service to residents. She said the service will call residents to alert them of emergencies. He said those may include approaching tornadoes, evacuation notifications, or informing residents of an area of a gunman at large. Unlike tornado sirens, she said, reverse 911 is targeted toward residents in a specific area. “Tornado sirens aren’t the answer,” she said outside the meeting. The goal is to have the system operational sometime next month. The Cherokee County Sheriff’s Department will provide updated information on its Web site as the start-up approaches. Home phones will automatically be loaded into the system, but residents also will be allowed to register cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses if they wish to be notified through those ways, too. Evonic is a chemical manufacturer with a plant north of Riverton. The county also will pay a \$1,400 annual fee for the reverse 911 service.

Source: http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local_story_074225935.html

For another story, see item [35](#)

Information Technology Sector

45. *March 16, The Register* – (International) **Anti-virus suites still can't block Google China attack.** The vast majority of consumer anti-virus products are still failing to block the Operation Aurora exploits used in the high profile attack against Google and other blue-chip firms last December, according to independent tests. NSS Labs evaluated the effectiveness of seven popular consumer endpoint security products to see which blocked variants of the Operation Aurora attack. The security testing firm reckoned that most, if not all, of the products would block the exploit and malicious code payloads associated with an ultra-high profile attack that has been a mainstay of talk in the information security biz for the last six weeks. However, only security software from McAfee out of all the seven tested products “correctly thwarted multiple exploits and payloads, demonstrating vulnerability-based protection”, NSS discovered to its surprise. Other tested security suites - AVG Internet Security, ESET Smart Security 4, Kaspersky Internet Security, Norton Internet Security 2010, Sophos Endpoint Protection for Enterprise and Trend Micro Internet Security 2010 - all failed. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/16/aurora_av_test_fail/
46. *March 16, SC Magazine* – (International) **Koobface worm continues its wrecking path with a new surge in command and control servers over the weekend.** Following evidence detected recently by Kaspersky Lab that the Koobface botnet is able to refresh itself and double its number of command and control (C&C) servers in a 48-hour period, new research saw an increase since March 12. The senior security research engineer at Zscaler said that on March 14, it detected a large number of Koobface worm transactions over the internet and an increase in network traffic of the worm to 122 unique C&C servers. A chart showing the number of unique domains used per day for last week went from one to zero between the 8th and 9th, up to 75 on March 10, back down to zero on March 11, 12, and 13 and a surge to 122 on March 14. Zscaler also showed that the USA hosts 57 percent of servers, 13 percent are in Germany and 8 percent are in the UK. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/koobface-worm-continues-its-wrecking-path-with-a-new-surge-in-command-and-control-servers-over-the-weekend/article/165856/>
47. *March 16, SC Magazine* – (International) **Microsoft releases workaround to patch Internet Explorer 6 and 7 remote code execution vulnerability.** Microsoft has released a workaround for a zero-day vulnerability in older versions of Internet Explorer. The senior security communications manager at Microsoft said that a workaround on security advisory 981374 has been released to cover the remote code execution vulnerability. Microsoft has confirmed that Internet Explorer 8 and Internet Explorer 5.01 Service Pack 4 on Microsoft Windows 2000 Service Pack 4 are not affected, but that Internet Explorer 6 Service Pack 1 on Microsoft Windows 2000 Service Pack 4, and Internet Explorer 6 and Internet Explorer 7 are vulnerable. The manager also confirmed that exploit code has been made public for this issue.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/microsoft-releases-workaround-to-patch-internet-explorer-6-and-7-remote-code-execution-vulnerability/article/165853/>

48. *March 16, Techworld.com* – (International) **Tighten up virtual server security, cautions Gartner.** It seems that those IT managers who said that virtualised servers were more insecure than physical ones may have had a point after all. According to a new report from Gartner, 60 percent of virtualized servers will be less secure than the physical ones they've replaced, thanks to bad practices by IT departments. The report, Addressing the Most Common Security Risks in Data Center Virtualization Projects, points out some of the pitfalls involved in moving to a virtualized environment. It's not that virtualized servers are inherently less secure, said the vice president and Gartner fellow, but "most virtualized workloads are being deployed insecurely. The latter is a result of the immaturity of tools and processes and the limited training of staff, resellers and consultants." In 40 percent of the cases, virtualization projects were rolled out without any reference to an organization's security team, said Gartner. The company said that while the underlying physical structure hadn't changed, there was an additional risk through the use of hypervisor software. According to Gartner, enterprises are failing to acknowledge that additional risk and should look to extend their security processes.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171258/Tighten_up_virtual_server_security_cautions_Gartner

49. *March 16, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Security experts warn firms of the higher risks of lower-risk flaws.** Security experts have warned businesses that hackers are moving their focus from flaws designated as high risk by software vendors to flaws normally seen as lower risks. Lloyd's of London chief information security officer said, "[Hackers] are not going for the normal high risk flaws, they're going for the medium risk ones. In the patch management cycle, the medium risk flaws are being patched later." That delay in patching is also being exacerbated by hackers combining the lower-risk flaws to create so-called blended threats, explained BT's global head of business continuity, security and governance practice. By combining two lower-risk flaws, hackers can cause high-risk threats to an organization.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/computing/news/2259522/security-experts-warns-firms>

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

50. *March 15, IDG News Service* – (International) **750,000-sq.-ft. data center opens in Wales.** One of the world’s largest data centers has opened for business in the U.K., protected by bomb-proof glass and powered by enough electricity to run a small city. The NGD Europe data center, just outside Newport in south Wales, has 750,000 square feet (70,000 square meters) of floor space, or enough to house about 19,000 server racks. It officially opened on March 15, and its operator hopes to sign up big customers that need to run busy Web sites and other computing services. The owner, Next Generation Data, invested about Â£200 million (\$301 million) to convert a former chip manufacturing plant on the site that never opened for business. The first two tenants, BT and Logica, started moving equipment in last month and have signed long-term contracts worth a combined Â£20 million, Next Generation Data said. The site has its own substation providing 90 megavolt-amperes of electrical power, or enough to supply a city of 400,000 people, the company said. To guard against terrorism and other attacks it has “triple-skinned walls, bomb-proof glass, prison-grade perimeter fencing, infra-red detection, biometric recognition and ex-special forces security guards.”
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171239/750_000_sq._ft._data_center_opens_in_Wales
51. *March 15, IDG News Service* – (National) **FCC wants 120MHz of spectrum from TV stations.** The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will seek to take back 120MHz of spectrum from U.S. television stations in the next five years and reallocate it to wireless broadband providers in a voluntary program that would allow the stations to share or keep spectrum auction revenues, under a national broadband plan that will be officially released on March 16. The FCC would seek approval from Congress to conduct “incentive auctions” of unused spectrum, including TV spectrum, and the agency could either act as a third-party auctioneer of the spectrum or share the auction proceeds with the sellers, according to the broadband plan, which the FCC released to reporters on March 15. The TV spectrum auctions are part of a goal to free up 500MHz of spectrum for wireless broadband over the next decade, one of the major goals of the 400-page broadband plan. If, however, the FCC doesn’t get enough volunteers to free up spectrum, it will look for other ways to take back the spectrum, but FCC officials said on March 15 they expect to get enough TV stations to give up their extra spectrum in exchange for auction proceeds.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171058/FCC_wants_120MHz_of_spectrum_from_TV_stations
52. *March 15, Congress Daily* – (National) **FCC unveils 360-page national broadband plan.** The FCC released its long-awaited national broadband plan Monday — a 360-page document that agency officials dubbed a “call to action” for extending low-cost, high-speed Internet service to all Americans by 2020, CongressDaily reported. The technology blueprint, required by last year’s economic stimulus package, outlines six long-term goals, including superfast connectivity to 100 million households and transforming the U.S. into a world leader in mobile broadband use and innovation.

“The National Broadband Plan is a 21st century roadmap to spur economic growth and investment, create jobs, educate our children, protect our citizens, and engage in our democracy,” the FCC Chairman said in a statement. The plan also recommends the development of standardized cable set-top boxes that would enable Internet surfing on televisions, and suggests the idea of a free, advertiser-funded wireless broadband service available regionally or nationwide.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20100315_8874.php

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Commercial Facilities Sector

53. *March 16, WFTS 28 Tampa* – (Florida) **Three-alarm Pasco fire causes millions in damage.** A three-alarm fire heavily damaged a warehouse and repair center for Harberson RV along Highway 19 in Holiday, Florida, late Monday night. The damage estimate is expected to run as high as three million dollars. Fire crews rushed to the scene as smoke caused an evacuation of several homes behind the facility. The warehouse stored propane tanks and had four RV's inside the 10,000 square foot building. One RV was parked near the building but it is not known the extent of damage to the recreational vehicles or building. When fire crews arrived, explosions could be heard from inside the building, probably from propane, acetylene tanks and exploding tires, fire officials said. At one point, a set of white metal doors were glowing red. Due to the number of fire crews dispatched to the scene, Highway 19 was closed in the 2000 block for hours. No reports of injuries and the cause is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.abcactionnews.com/content/news/local/pasco/story/Three-alarm-Pasco-fire-causes-millions-in-damage/gV56CDBNv0a2TSaeoP2U7g.csp>

54. *March 16, Manteca Bulletin* – (California) **Police destroy pipe bomb left in park.** A 5-inch-long pipe bomb located on a Yosemite Park picnic table Monday afternoon by a man and his grandson playing ball was destroyed by Manteca Police bomb squad members at about 6:30 p.m. two hours after it was found. A Manteca police bomb squad officer and an officer from the Stockton Police Department bomb squad set up a static shotgun device that destroyed the bomb-shaped copper cylinder with wires protruding from beneath duct tape. It was capped on both ends. Officers stood guard on both sides of the park for about an hour until the bomb squad could arrive on the scene making sure no one would enter the danger zone of the Yosemite Park grounds in the 600 block of El Portal.

Source: <http://www.mantecabulletin.com/news/article/12510/>

55. *March 15, Quincy Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Quincy opens emergency shelter as 100 evacuated from apartment building.** Firefighters evacuated about 100 tenants Monday from an apartment building near the expressway as heavy rains continue to swamp homes and buildings in Quincy. Around 4:30 p.m., emergency crews were using boats to evacuate tenants of the seven-story apartment building on Furnace Avenue. Elsewhere, seven homeowners on Alrick Road had been evacuated by mid-

afternoon. Since Sunday, firefighters have helped 30 to 40 homeowners abandon their flooded houses. “All hands are on deck,” the mayor said. “It’s been well-attended to all weekend. But Mother Nature is winning this one – big time.” With the toll of displaced residents rising, the city has opened the Kennedy Senior Center tonight as an emergency shelter. A spokesman for the mayor said volunteers will be preparing meals and cots will be provided. Police will be stationed at the center.

Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/topstories/x1514353800/Quincy-opens-emergency-shelter-as-100-evacuated-from-apartment-building>

56. *March 15, Morristown Daily Record* – (New Jersey) **Utility: Basement fire likely cause of Rockaway church explosion.** A small boiler-room fire and fuel-line leak likely caused the explosion that destroyed the classroom annex of the First Assembly of God Church in Rockaway on Saturday night, a gas company spokesman said. Authorities now believe it’s unlikely the explosion was caused by a separate, storm-related outdoor gas leak discovered Saturday night at the church as fire companies and utility workers attended to the scene, said a spokesman for New Jersey Resources, parent company to New Jersey Natural Gas. “Until the results of the investigation are complete, though, it is impossible to say, with certainty, what happened,” he said. The executive pastor said he and others inside the church smelled gas early Saturday evening. While looking for its source, one congregant found a small, “insignificant” fire in the basement boiler room. He said he extinguished the fire, then he and others left the building and waited for fire departments to arrive. “The fire department showed up, and the next thing we know, (there was an explosion),” he said.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20100315/COMMUNITIES/303150003/1005/NEWS01/Utility--Basement-fire-likely-cause-of-Rockaway-church-explosion>

57. *March 15, KHSL 12 Chico* – (California) **White powder brings out bomb squad in North Chico.** A hazmat team was investigating a potentially explosive powder on Three Sevens Lane in North Chico, California, Monday night. They fear it could be the same substance that left two children injured in an explosion at a Chico mobile home park on February 15th. A worker called 911 after noticing smoke and finding several small piles of white crystal powder on the ground in this industrial area Monday night. An initial inspection by members of the Butte Interagency Hazmat Team determined that the powder could be an explosive, shock-sensitive material so they called out the bomb squad. Investigators say, while it could have been a harmless spill, there were reasons to believe it might not be. “The fact that there was a situation where someone was trying to set some type of material on fire increased the suspicion level up a little bit,” said a Captain with the Chico Fire Department, “so we’re going to take the necessary precautions to go in there, have the bomb squad go in there take a sample.” Once that sample was collected the hazmat team planned to determine if the material was indeed explosive, and if so, safely remove it.

Source: <http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/White-Powder-Brings-Out-Bomb-Squad-in-North-Chico/q7EnJ0eWpkKg54kUd23E3A.csp>

58. *March 11, Cape Coral Daily Breeze* – (Florida) **Respiratory symptoms cause evacuation at lunch for homeless veterans.** The source of any substance that may have caused respiratory symptoms for veterans attending a weekly lunch at a North Fort Myers church on March 10 is undetermined, officials said. Fort Myers Fire Department Hazmat Team concluded its investigation into the scare and subsequent evacuation at All Souls Church without ascertaining a causing agent. More than 150 people were evacuated at approximately 11 a.m. after at least eight reported burning eyes, coughing, and other problems. No evidence of a specific substance or a person of interest could be determined, officials said. By 11:35 a.m., it was reported that eight people had been taken to an area hospital, but later in the day, officials said three had not been transported to the hospital because they said they felt fine after a brief period. There also were reports that a contaminant was on the grounds. “There was a suspicious white powder found in the building, and no one from the church could verify how it got there. We called in the City of Fort Myers Hazmat Team who tested the substance. It was determined that it was either a construction adhesive or a cleaning agent. It would not cause those symptoms,” said the North Fort Myers fire chief. Early on, there were also unconfirmed reports that someone someone had sprayed pepper spray or mace into the air ducts, but that theory was also ruled out. “We turned the church back over to the pastor,” the fire chief said.
Source: <http://www.cape-coral-daily-breeze.com/page/content.detail/id/515231.html?nav=5011>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

59. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Assonet dam holds as rain keeps falling.** The governor of Massachusetts declared a state of emergency Monday, and Freetown officials kept a wary eye on the rising waters at Assonet’s crumbling Forge Pond Dam as three days of relentless rain closed roads and spilled rivers and streams over their banks throughout the state. The governors of Connecticut and Rhode Island — where a West Warwick dam was being watched closely — also declared states of emergency. Although the situation at the Freetown dam had stabilized by 7 p.m. Monday and the water was still several inches below the dangerous levels reached last month, the Freetown selectmen chairwoman said officials decided to contact people at the nine properties considered at greatest risk if the dam gave away. They were not advised to evacuate. “We are erring on the side of caution,” she said, adding local officials are working closely with state officials on the ongoing situation. As the rain continued to fall Monday, sometimes in torrents, dam experts monitored the site throughout the day and will remain there until the storm departs. She said the town will

take new bids Tuesday on a new breach dam construction project.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100316/NEWS/3160318/-1/TOWN1001>

60. *March 16, WHO 13 Des Moines* – (Iowa) **Des Moines City leaders scramble to reinforce Birdland levee.** The Birdland levee failed during the floods of '93, it failed again in 2008, and now there is another reason to be concerned. Water is leaking from under the levee, and home owners nearby fear it will not hold. Neighbors in the Birdland area are packing up their things and heading to higher ground. City leaders say they should be ready and prepared for potential flooding. As the waters creep up on the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, city leaders call an emergency proclamation to give crews unlimited and immediate resources to prep for potential flooding. On the banks of the Des Moines River, crews dumped truckloads of rocks and sand to shore up an area that has been eroding for weeks. Over in Birdland, Des Moines' Public Works Director says at the bottom of levy, water is slowly leaking into the lagoon on the other side. Many nervous neighbors came to levee to see where disaster could strike for them, once again. The city says they'll build a 30 foot wide, 6 foot high and 6 foot deep reinforcement wall to shore up any problems. Neighbors are expecting a repeat of 2008 in just a few short days.

Source: <http://www.whotv.com/news/who-story-birdland-levee-leak-03152010,0,1900568.story>

61. *March 16, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Pawtuxet, Blackstone rivers cause much flooding.** A powerful weekend northeaster that brought record amounts of rain from Maryland to New England dumped more rain on soggy Rhode Island Monday, causing the Pawtuxet and Blackstone rivers to overflow and leaving as many as 500 cars submerged in one section of West Warwick. The storm that started bringing rain to Rhode Island early Saturday produced sporadic power outages (some of them ordered by National Grid as a precaution), and had state and local officials scrambling to make sure that the Arctic Mill Dam next to Factory Street in West Warwick was safe, given that the water on the Pawtuxet had already risen to 14.98 feet by mid-afternoon, nearly 6 feet above flood level, breaking the previous record of 14.5 feet set in 1982. Minor flooding was reported on the Blackstone on the Lincoln-Cumberland line. At a news conference Monday, the West Warwick Town Manager declared a state of emergency for the town, while the director of the state Emergency Management Agency said he had received assurances from engineers that the dam would hold.

Source: http://www.projo.com/news/content/Flooding_16_03-16-10_3DHPU2U_v21.3b3e59a.html

62. *March 16, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Severe flooding brings concerns about unsafe dams.** The severe flooding over the past few days caused two dams in Canton and Waltham to overflow. Team 5 Investigates reported two years ago on the number of unsafe dams in Massachusetts and the list has grown since then. The Bolivar Pond Dam in Canton is on the state's list of unsafe dams. Monday's fierce rains pushed the dam over the edge, and washed one side away. In Waltham, the Moody Street Dam was

in danger of breaking until workers came in to release some of the pressure. Late last month, the state stepped in in Freetown when the privately owned Forge Pond Dam became a public safety concern. By the end of the month, the dam will be destroyed. According to the state, the owner, now deceased, had neglected the dam for years. Team 5 Investigates asked the commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, who oversees dam safety, if the flooding might lead to the breach of more dams. “We will breach more dams if we have to,” said the commissioner. “We’re doing that at Forge Pond,” he said. Most of the unsafe dams are privately owned, including East Bridgewater’s Cotton Gin Mill Pond Dam and the Belair Dam in Pittsfield, whose owner can not be found. As for Freetown, the state plans to breach the Forge Pond Dam beginning next week. In the meantime, they are watching the weather very closely.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/mostpopular/22849488/detail.html>

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