



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- National Public Radio reports that thieves cut a hole in the roof of an Enfield, Connecticut warehouse, rappelled inside, and stole about \$75 million in antidepressants and other prescription drugs. The pills — stolen from pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly & Co. — are believed to be destined for the black market, perhaps overseas. (See item [38](#))
- According to Justice News Flash, a chemical explosion at Olympia Resort and Conference Center in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin left an employee with multiple fractures and minor burns Tuesday after the worker mixed chlorine with another chemical while in the laundry room of the resort. As a safety precaution, over thirty people also reported to hospitals. (See item [60](#))

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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 17, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Tanker crash and fuel spill close I-15 in Roy.** Interstate 15 in Roy is closed the morning of March 17 as crews work to clean up

after a fiery wreck involving a semi-trailer hauling two tankers. Northbound and southbound traffic is being diverted at 5600 South in Roy as crews mop up more than 7,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Utah Highway Patrol says it may take six to eight hours to clear the mess completely. A semi pulling two fuel-filled tankers northbound crashed on the 5600 South overpass around 5 a.m. One tank went over the median and caught fire. The other tanker rolled and leaked fuel. The fire is out. Two large tow trucks will move the tankers after the remaining fuel is pumped out of them. Preliminary reports indicate the semi's driver may have fallen asleep. He was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. Northbound traffic is being forced off the freeway at 650 North in Clearfield. Southbound traffic is being diverted off at 5600 South in Weber County. Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=10043073&autostart=y>

2. *March 16, Connecticut Mirror* – (Connecticut) **3-day power outages spurs Rell to launch investigation of utility companies.** Thousands remain without power following the weekend of March 12 storm, and the Connecticut governor announced on March 16 that the state is investigating the response from the two largest electric companies. “I’m concerned about the response in the first hours of the storm,” he said during a press conference, noting that almost 40,000 customers remain without power. He said fire, police and other emergency officials have told her utility companies have been slow to respond. “It is flatly unacceptable for a fire or police official to be unable to reach a real person at a utility company in the middle of an emergency. We need to know what went wrong.” He has asked the state’s Department of Emergency Management and Department of Public Utility Control to investigate the reaction to the storm by Connecticut Light & Power and United Illumination. Source: <http://www.ctmirror.org/story/5180/3-day-power-outages-spurs-rell-launch-investigation-utility-companies>
3. *March 15, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Reno police seek info about propane tank thefts.** Reno police are seeking information about the theft of 186 propane tanks between November 2008 and late February from a North Virginia Street propane facility. Detectives say 23 tanks were stolen from the Ferrellgas storage facility in three incidents in 2008, 117 were stolen in nine incidents in 2009 and 46 have been stolen in three incidents this year between Jan. 8 and Feb. 27. The propane tanks have a “Blue Rhino” label. Reno police ask anyone with information to contact the Secret Witness Program, which offers rewards for information from the public leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime. Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/mar/15/reno-police-seek-info-about-propane-tank-thefts/>
4. *March 12, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **ONG to investigate pipeline blast.** On March 11, a major natural gas line exploded near Chandler, and gas company workers are trying to figure out what caused it. The blast sent flames hundreds of feet into the air, but did not cause any injuries. Residents living around the area said the explosion shook their homes. Officials with Oklahoma Natural Gas said the 26-inch pipeline is monitored daily and thoroughly inspected every few years. They said it is a mystery to them why it exploded. “We are working with the Oklahoma Corporation

Commission and other authorities,” said a spokesperson for ONG. The pipeline was built in the 1950s and is owned by ONEOK, a sister company of ONG. Over the year, it has been maintained and had parts replaced. The ONG spokesperson said every few years, it has checked to make sure the line can handle the high pressure generated to transport gas. He said the safety record of natural gas companies is very good. ONG said only about 40 people lost gas service after the explosion and those customers all lived near the pipeline.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/news/22827400/detail.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 16, WWJ 950 Detroit* – (Michigan) **Derailment on Detroit’s westside.** Two railroad cars were off the tracks on Detroit’s westside early Tuesday afternoon, but the derailment is not posing any health threats. Detroit fire officials say the derailment happened around 11:30 a.m. near Joy and Freeland Roads. It is unclear what caused the railcars to go off the tracks. Because the cars were carrying sodium nitrate and sulfuric acid, hazardous materials crews from the Detroit Fire Department were sent to the scene. However, they were not needed because there were no leaks. The railroad company was working to put the cars back on the tracks. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.wwj.com/Derailment-On-Detroit-s-Westside/6587616>

6. *March 15, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Plant officials promise to call 911.** The plant behind last month’s toxic orange cloud in Pasadena, Texas said Monday they will call 911 if it ever happens again. An orange cloud rose from the Air Products plant on Highway 225 last month. It took more than a half hour for plant operators to speak with Pasadena dispatchers. Pasadena’s fire chief said from the beginning the company should have called 911 right away. The chief with the Pasadena Fire Department said, “If it’s going to affect the public, we need to know and the fastest way to make that happen is to call 911.” “If it’s a matter of two calls or three calls, we’ll be sure the calls are made,” promised a spokesperson with Air Products. “The calls will be made.” The damaged part of the plant is still shut down. Before it starts up again next month, the company will install surveillance cameras in the control center to spot leaks sooner.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7331785>

For another story, see item [64](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *March 17, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (New York) **NRC to hold public meeting on March 23 in Ontario, N.Y., to discuss efforts to improve performance of Ginna nuclear power plant.** Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, March 23 regarding the agency’s annual assessment of

safety performance for the Ginna nuclear power plant during 2009. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. at Ontario Town Hall. Prior to the meeting's conclusion, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the NRC staff regarding the plant's performance, as well as the agency's oversight of the facility. Overall, Ginna operated safely during 2009. However, at the conclusion of last year, and continuing into 2010, the facility has been in what is known as the "Degraded Cornerstone" column of the NRC's Action Matrix for plant performance, which is available at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/actionmatrix_summary.html. That categorization is based on the plant receiving two "white" (low to moderate safety significance) inspection findings and a "white" performance indicator, all in 2009. As a result of that designation, Ginna is receiving NRC additional oversight until the agency is satisfied that the root and contributing causes of the problems are fully understood by the company; in order for the NRC to independently assess the extent of the condition and determine if safety culture problems contributed to the issues; and to provide assurance that sufficient corrective actions have been implemented to prevent recurrences.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-007.i.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *March 17, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Autopilot fix ordered on Boeing 777s.** Air-safety regulators are ordering U.S. airlines to install new software on Boeing 777s to keep the jetliners from possibly running off the end of runways, a mandate that could ultimately affect more than 800 planes world-wide. In a safety directive released Tuesday, the Federal Aviation Administration ordered the fix to prevent problems when the autopilot system is inadvertently on while a Boeing 777 aircraft is rolling down the runway just before takeoff. When pilots try to climb under such circumstances without realizing the autopilot is engaged, they encounter greater than usual resistance in raising the aircraft's nose.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703734504575125890262354822.html>

9. *March 16, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **Honda recalling 410,000 minivans and trucks.** More than 410,000 Honda Odyssey minivans and Element pickups could have a braking problem and are being recalled, the automaker announced Tuesday. The recall includes 2007 and 2008 model vehicles. In a statement, Honda urged motorists who own the affected cars to take them to a dealer for repair, saying failure to do so could lead to problems stopping the vehicles. Officially, the recall is to modify the Vehicle Stability Assist modulator. Honda said it has received customer complaints of brake pedals that feel "soft" or that gradually exhibit a pedal height that gets lower (closer to the floor) before the vehicle stops. In affected vehicles, this condition tends to very slowly increase over time. "Some VSA modulators were assembled in a manner

that could allow air intrusion, making it possible for air to enter the modulator during the VSA self-check mode.,” Honda said in a statement. “While only a miniscule amount of air can enter the system during each check, over a period of months or years, the air will accumulate and can result in the soft brake pedal or low brake pedal condition symptoms associated with this issue. Although not all vehicles being recalled are affected by this issue, we are recalling all possible units to assure all customers that their vehicles will perform correctly.” Honda said it is announcing this recall to encourage all owners of these vehicles to take their vehicle to an authorized dealer as soon as they receive notification from Honda that their vehicle is affected. Notification to customers will start at the end of April.

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

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *March 16, Aviation Week* – (National) **After anomaly, NASA to test Shuttle.** NASA plans to test a pair of helium system regulators for space shuttle Discovery late this week, following an anomaly that occurred over the weekend during preparation for next month’s launch of STS-131. While Discovery’s aft fuel propellant tanks were being vented in preparation for fuel loading at Kennedy Space Center (KSC), pressure in the Right Reaction Control System (RRCS) fuel helium tank unexpectedly decreased in unison with the RRCS fuel propellant tank when it was vented, indicating that at least one of the two parallel helium isolation valves is leaking or stuck open, according to NASA. A primary and secondary helium system regulator will be tested to verify their function, according to NASA. Placed “downstream” of the isolation valves, the regulators help to maintain helium pressure to the fuel tank. Determining the health of the regulators is key to the decision whether it is safe to launch with the isolation valves behaving erratically.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=space&id=news/asd/2010/03/16/08.xml

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *March 17, Washington Post* – (National) **Financial reform would shift Fed’s authority away from regional banks.** In the details of the financial reform legislation introduced this week are fundamental changes to the Federal Reserve that would shift power from the regional Fed banks around the country and concentrate it in Washington and New York. By altering the traditional balance of power, the bill put forward by the Senate banking committee’s chairman would recast the workings of the Federal Reserve System, a unique structure set up a century ago to distribute authority and ensure the central bank was not dominated by the nation’s political and financial capitals. That is why the Senate bill is provoking dismay among many officials at the

regional Fed banks even as the Fed, on the surface, appears to be a big winner. The legislation allows the Fed to maintain its role in overseeing the country's largest banks while awarding it even more power to protect consumers and monitor the financial system for emerging risks. The central bank would also continue its most prominent job of managing the nation's monetary policy. The Fed, however, would be stripped of its role in regulating all but the few dozen largest financial firms. The oversight of almost 6,000 small and midsize banks, one of the major tasks carried out at the 12 regional Fed banks, would be taken over by other federal agencies.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/16/AR2010031604363.html?hpid=topnews>

12. *March 17, SC Magazine* – (International) **A UK-specific banking malware is hitting users and proving difficult to detect for anti-virus vendors.** Warnings have been made about a piece of banking malware that specifically targets UK banks. The CEO of Trusteer claimed that Silon works as a 'man-in-the-middle' attack and specifically targets the login page, and to date only one out of 41 anti-virus detections have been made. He said that it was able to target web pages 'on the fly' and collects login information, including one-time passwords. He said: "As an .exe file it looks different on each computer so it is hard for anti-virus to detect it. The bottom line is we are facing a very sophisticated piece of malware that is flying under the radar of anti-virus vendors and it is distributed to large customers and bypassing rules put in place. It is the ultimate piece of malware." Commenting on it specifically targeting UK banks, the CEO said that it will target two or three banks where it needs to recruit mule accounts, and once it is mastered its controller can commit a lot of fraud.
Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/a-uk-specific-banking-malware-is-hitting-users-and-proving-difficult-to-detect-for-anti-virus-vendors/article/165947/>

13. *March 17, Courthouse News Service* – (California) **'About that \$19 billion...'** The Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco demands \$19 billion from major banks and investment houses it accuses of lying about the quality of the subprime mortgage-backed securities they created and sold. The FHLB sued Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse, JPMorgan Stanley, UBS, Banc of America, Countrywide Financial and others in two Superior Court complaints. The FHLB claims the lending giants, including now-defunct Bear Stearns, Greenwich Capital Markets, RBS Securities and others failed to disclose material facts about the mortgages, such as how much equity the borrowers had in their homes, and that the omissions and misrepresentation led to much greater rates of foreclosures than promised. The firms used exaggerated property appraisals so the loan-to-value ratios of the mortgage loans in the securities' collateral pools understated the risks, according to the complaint.
Source: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/03/17/25635.htm>

14. *March 17, Omaha World-Herald* – (Nebraska) **Bank customers target of scam.** Some customers at a bank in Broken Bow, Nebraska, have been scammed out of their debit-card and personal-identification numbers after receiving automated phone messages alerting them to "problems" with their cards. A statement on the Nebraska State Bank & Trust Co. Web site says the scam involves an automated message sent to cell phones.

The message identifies the caller as Nebraska State Bank, notes a problem with the person's debit card and asks that the person respond either by calling a certain phone number or typing his or her debit card number and PIN directly into the cell phone. The bank asks that its customers not provide any numbers or account information.

Source: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20100317/NEWS97/100319635>

15. *March 17, Courthouse News Service* – (National) **Felon ran 200 million Ponzi, victims say.** Eighteen investment LLCs say they were taken for more than \$200 million by a recidivist felon who'd already served prison time for a \$5 million gold swindle. The suspect and his cohorts face 79 criminal charges in California after swindling 1,000 investors for \$200 million, allegedly to invest in tax-sheltered senior housing centers across the nation. The suspect set up Asset & Real Estate Investment Company (AREI) and more than 50 affiliates to run his Ponzi scam, according to the complaint in Shasta Superior Court. The scam went on for 10 years, during which the financial wrecking crew over-leveraged property, stripped it of assets and drove it into foreclosure, depriving investors of their ownership and equity, according to the complaint. Co-defendants Meecorp Capital Markets, Capital Resources Fund, and Shattuck Hammond Partners encumbered a senior housing facility, Colonnade of Schwenksville, in Pennsylvania, with undisclosed loans, preferred equity and fees to enrich themselves, according to the complaint. Still more defendants, title companies, failed to notify investors of all this, and allowed AREI to withhold title information, all to the plaintiff's detriment, according to the complaint.

Source: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/03/17/25626.htm>

16. *March 17, Courthouse News Service* – (National) **100 million Ponzi alleged; leaders vanish.** A Colombian couple took \$100 million from hundreds of investors in a Ponzi scam through their Florida-based company, FIT International Group, and when they were nailed for it, claimed to be distributing their remaining \$12,690.74 "for the 'benefit' of creditors," a RICO class action claims in Federal Court. The couple, whose last known addresses are the same apartment in Bogota, also used the name Forex International Team for their scam, according to the class, which is estimated at 600 victims. The FIT International Group was the main tool for their predations, though "No such company has ever been incorporated, as a corporation or limited liability company, in New York, however," the investors say. Foreign exchange markets trade roughly \$3 trillion a day, making it one of the largest markets in the world, according to the complaint. It's fertile ground for Ponzi schemes. The couple solicited clients through "social connections," particularly a dentist in Columbia, the complaint states. The dentist is not a party to this action. After taking more than \$100 million from investors over "the course of several years," the couple "never invested the money in Forex trading as they had promised, but merely siphoned it away to secret private accounts at HSBC, UBS, and others," the complaint states. As the scheme unraveled in December 2008, the dentist quickly pulled out, warning investors to withdraw their money.

Source: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/03/17/25625.htm>

17. *March 16, KRDO 13 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **‘Suspicious package’ at Wells Fargo blown up by bomb squad.** The Pueblo Police Department’s bomb squad blew up a suspicious package that prompted the evacuation of a Wells Fargo Bank and several local businesses on March 16. Employees of the Wells Fargo Bank on the 500 block of Main Street noticed a suspicious package in the front foyer and called the police department around 9:52 a.m. The Pueblo Police Department bomb squad created a small explosion to blow open the package after x-rays gave inconclusive results. Inside was literature for the Medical Marijuana Dispensary that is adjacent to the bank. Local businesses were closed for one and a half hours due to the police investigation. Source: <http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=12151033>
18. *March 16, The Register* – (International) **Feds sue Russian for stock pump and dump hack.** The US Securities and Exchange Commission accused a Russian man of earning more than \$255,000 in illegal stock sales by using hijacked brokerage accounts to artificially manipulate the price of shares in more than three dozen companies. The suspect used a legitimate account to buy positions in 38 thinly traded stocks, and then use compromised brokerage accounts to buy or sell huge numbers of the same companies, agency attorneys alleged. The 36-year-old resident of St Petersburg, Russia would then turn around and sell his holdings at a sizeable premium, according to a lawsuit filed in US District Court in Manhattan. The scheme earned at least \$255,532 from August to December at a cost of \$603,000 to broker-dealers, which had to reimburse customers. The suspect, who is the president and only officer of a company called BroCo Investments, has tried to withdraw \$310,000 out of his account at Genesis Securities and have the money wired to a bank in Cyprus. Genesis has not yet processed the requests. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/16/pump_and_dump_hacking/
19. *March 16, Associated Press* – (International) **US official warns EU that threat to ban naked credit default swaps would not work.** Europe’s threat to ban the sort of financial derivatives trading that some blame for worsening Greece’s debt crisis wouldn’t work, a senior U.S. official told EU lawmakers on March 16. German, French and Greek leaders have called on the EU’s executive to crack down on so-called naked credit default swaps, where an investor can profit by taking out insurance on a product he doesn’t own. Their call is a swipe at traders taking bets on a falling euro and a Greek default. Greece’s prime minister has blamed financial markets for intensifying his country’s debt crisis by hiking borrowing costs. He described the swaps as buying insurance on a neighbor’s house and then burning it down to collect. The chairman of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission said an outright ban would be “difficult to police” and would only encourage traders to seek other high risk and high return investments. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-eu-eu-us-swaps,0,2755285.story>
20. *March 16, WSVN 7 Miami* – (Florida) **Video of bomb scare at bank.** Police have released surveillance video footage of a suspected bank robber who caused a bomb scare in North Miami Beach. The robbery at the Chase Bank at 1201 NE 163 St. forced

the closure of 163rd Street during the evening rush on March 15, as Miami-Dade Police and Fire Rescue units responded to the scene. The bomb squad was even called out to investigate the alleged device. Authorities wound up finding a harmless bag of rocks. According to a police spokesperson, the man they are looking for was caught on video with a Macy's bag filled with the rocks to weigh it down and a car charger sticking out of the bag, which he had attached to his cell phone. He held the phone like it was a detonator and demanded money from a teller. The FBI has now opened an investigation into the robbery.

Source: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI146645/>

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Transportation Sector

21. *March 17, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **US Airways plane again causes illness.** A US Airways plane that caused onboard illness in December and January again sickened passengers and crew Tuesday, this time on a flight preparing to leave Charlotte for Jamaica. Nine people were taken to Carolinas Medical Center on Tuesday morning after complaining of symptoms consistent with exposure to toxic fumes, said a spokesman for Medic, Mecklenburg's emergency medical service. Two pilots, five flight attendants and two passengers — all with non-life-threatening injuries — were taken from Flight 985, which was scheduled to depart at 9:35 a.m., said a US Airways spokeswoman. Shortly after the plane pushed back from the gate, an electrical smell was reported in the cabin. The plane returned to the gate, and subsequent hazardous material tests showed no air-quality issues, the spokeswoman said. "We've taken it out of service until we resolve the issue," she said. The aircraft, a Boeing 767, experienced similar problems on flights December 28 and 30.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/03/17/1318481/us-airways-plane-again-causes.html>

22. *March 17, Associated Press* – (California) **LAX terminal briefly closed by security breach.** Los Angeles International Airport police say security screening at a terminal was halted for about 30 minutes by a security breach that was quickly resolved. A police officer says a woman in a wheelchair was being screened by security and was pulled aside for a secondary search at about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday because she had prescription medication. Before the screening could be completed, the woman left for the boarding gate. Security screeners notified airport police and screening was halted, although the officer says the terminal remained open. The officer says the woman was found inside the terminal, her screening was completed and nothing threatening was found.

Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/national/1110ap_us_lax_security_breach.html

23. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Texas) **UP train catches fire in Saginaw wreck.** A collision between a Union Pacific freight train and a military truck in Saginaw sparked a fire that damaged a locomotive and left an engineer slightly hurt. A UP spokeswoman said Tuesday that crossing lights and gates were operating at the time of the accident

Monday night. The cause of the wreck is sought. The spokeswoman told The Associated Press that the engineer was treated for minor injuries and released from a hospital. She says the locomotive, one of three as part of the 100-car train hauling wheat, has significant damage. She says the military truck was hauling a trailer with another military vehicle on it. The driver was not hurt. She had no further details on the military transport. Saginaw is about 10 miles northwest of Fort Worth.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9EFQGJO2.html>

24. *March 16, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Caltrans releases Bay Bridge docs.** The California Department of Transportation has released hundreds of pages of documents related to last fall's failed repair of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The documents are contained in 20 binders. They include inspection reports, photographs, contractor invoices and newspaper clippings. They were released Tuesday in response to a public records request filed by KCRA 3 and other news organizations. On September 5, as Caltrans was putting into a place a temporary detour on the Bay Bridge's east span, inspectors discovered a crack in one of the bridge's structural support beams. According to an inspection report dated the next day, "The fracture measured 3/4" wide at the pin hole to 1 11/16" wide at the outer edge and is 12" in length." Caltrans engineers designed an emergency fix for the crack and worked round the clock to install it. However, less than two months later on October 27, the repair failed, and a 5,000-pound piece of metal came crashing down on to the deck of the bridge during the evening commute. In a document dated October 30, Caltrans engineers wrote that they were only able to visually inspect about 75 percent of the repair mechanism's welds prior to installation.
- Source: <http://www.kcra.com/news/22860732/detail.html>

25. *March 16, Napa Valley Register* – (California) **Commuter trains moving again in San Diego.** Commuter trains are moving again in San Diego after crews repaired track damaged by a freight train derailment. North County Transit District says about a half-dozen empty boxcars derailed at around 10 p.m. Monday and several toppled onto their sides. Nobody was hurt but the derailment in a remote Sorrento Valley canyon damaged about 300 feet of track on the north-south line. Amtrak and the transit district say about 20 morning trains carrying more than 2,000 commuters were affected Tuesday morning. Amtrak says it resumed its service through the area about 2:30 p.m. Coaster service resumed about a half-hour later.
- Source: http://www.napavalleyregister.com/news/state-and-regional/california/article_209fffee-9cb7-5dde-ac5c-2fd620b5333b.html

26. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Crash of 2 freight trains kills 1 near Pittsburgh.** Two freight trains owned by a U.S. Steel subsidiary crashed near a Pittsburgh-area plant early Tuesday, killing one person and causing cars on one train to derail. The cause of the crash at the company's Edgar Thompson Works in Braddock, east of Pittsburgh, is being investigated. Both trains are owned by Union Railroad, which is part of Transtar Inc., a transportation subsidiary that hauls freight to and from U.S. Steel mills, a U.S. Steel spokeswoman said. The Allegheny County medical

examiner's office responded after the engineer of one train could not immediately be located. The spokeswoman said the victim worked for Union Railroad, but she did not describe the victim's job. She could not comment on news video showing that one train had been pulling empty cars from the plant while another hauled iron ore pellets to it. A hazardous materials crew was called because of diesel fuel leaking into Turtle Creek from a locomotive. An environmental contractor was working to contain the leak.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j6zxX-J5yZoGs8sAXpLKcd0R2w4QD9EFQ2BO0>

27. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Yakima, Wash., airport briefly evacuated.** To the security screeners at the Yakima Air Terminal, the device in the belongings of a departing passenger looked like a grenade. That prompted the brief evacuation of about a dozen people from the terminal Tuesday evening. Military bomb technicians from the Army's Yakima Training Center were called. A Yakima police sergeant says the item carried by a 23-year-old California man was actually a commercially purchased marijuana grinder. The man was arrested for investigation of drug possession. The sergeant says the grinder contained a substance that appeared to be marijuana.

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

28. *March 15, Kentucky Post* – (Kentucky) **Police: Pair stole copper from railroad switches.** Two Brown County men face charges after being accused of damaging more than 100 railroad switches that keep trains on the right track – and keep the trains from hitting each other. Prosecutors say the two men wanted copper coils that are inside railroad relays. Officers say the men sold the coils at recycling centers for cash. Prosecutors say the pair started their crime spree in September.

Source: <http://www.kypost.com/content/wcposhared/story/Police-Pair-Stole-Copper-From-Railroad-Switches/MktVKAah0yQmL8lRJ3XPw.csp>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

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Agriculture and Food Sector

29. *March 17, Dow Jones Newswires* – (International) **USDA chief sees US pork shipments to Russia within a week.** The first shipments of U.S. pork to Russia since a trade agreement was reached earlier this month should be shipped within a week's time, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture said Tuesday. USDA officials confirmed on March 5 that U.S. and Russian negotiators agreed to new rules for U.S. pork

exporters that wanted to sell products to Russian buyers. Those new rules require U.S. exporters to show that their meat is free of antibiotics that Russia has prohibited.

Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201003161652dowjonesdjonline000407&title=usda-chief-sees-us-pork-shipments-to-russia-within-a-week>

30. *March 17, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **Fungus-spreading beetle found near South Florida avocado groves.** A tiny beetle carrying a fungus deadly to avocado trees turned up in a trap only about 10 miles from Florida's commercial avocado groves in Miami-Dade County, which generate \$13 million a year. It is the first time the redbay ambrosia beetle has been found south of Martin County. Tests this week confirmed that the beetle, discovered in a state Department of Agriculture trap, carried the fungus that attacks native redbay trees in addition to avocados and others. The discovery of the beetle prompted the department to spread 100 additional traps along the northern edge of the prime commercial avocado groves in southern Miami-Dade, which contain 99 percent of the state's 6,700 acres of avocado groves. The beetle, native to Asia, first appeared in South Carolina in 2002 and spread through coastal counties in Georgia to Duval County by 2005. Since, it has been found in 22 Florida counties, mostly making its way south along the state's east coast. The beetle carries a fungus injected into the tree as the bug bores through the trunk into the tree's sapwood. Once in the tree, the fungus multiplies and becomes food for the beetle and its larvae.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/mar/17/fungus-spreading-beetle-found-near-s-florida-avoca/news-money/>

31. *March 17, Firehouse.com* – (Washington) **Blaze destroys Wash. bulb warehouse.** An agricultural warehouse was destroyed by fire on Friday, March 5, near the farming community of Outlook, Washington. The 7,200 sq. ft. steel warehouse was fully charged with smoke and fire when the first units arrived, prompting a defensive attack. Firefighters struggled to protect several propane tanks next to the building, while the owners pulled as much equipment as possible away from the structure. The warehouse was on a farm owned by second generation Dutch immigrant flower farmers and was used for storing bulbs as well as growing gourmet white asparagus. The building was estimated at a \$250,000 loss. Initial reports show the cause was accidental.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/showcase/photostory/blaze-destroys-wa-bulb-warehouse>

32. *March 16, KUCB 89.7 Unalaska* – (Alaska) **Catcher processor catches fire; all safe in Unalaska.** The American Seafoods Catcher Processor American Dynasty caught on fire Friday night when it was about 50 nautical miles northwest of Cold Bay. Specific details about the cause of the fire and where it started are not yet available, but crew members were able to extinguish it and no one was injured. The Coast Guard Cutter Munroe escorted the 272-foot vessel and its 120 workers back to Unalaska.

Source:

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kial/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1624637/Local.News/Catcher.processor.catches.fire.all.safe.and.in.Unalaska>

33. *March 14, Washington Post* – (National) **FDA targets processing of spices in bid to make supply safer.** The Food and Drug Administration is reexamining the safety of a culinary staple found in every restaurant, food manufacturing plant and home kitchen pantry: spices. In the middle of a nationwide outbreak of salmonella illness linked to black and red pepper — and after 16 U.S. recalls since 2001 of tainted spices — federal regulators met last week with the spice industry to figure out ways to make the supply safer. The FDA’s associate commissioner for food safety, said the government wants the spice industry to do more to prevent contamination. That would include using one of three methods to rid spices of bacteria: irradiation, steam heating or fumigation with ethylene oxide, a pesticide. Recent spice recalls have involved contamination with salmonella, a group of bacteria that live in the intestinal tracts of humans and other animals, including birds. Most healthy people infected with salmonella recover within days, but the illness can be serious and even fatal for small children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. Consumers often associate salmonella with poultry, meat and other moist foods. But microbiologists say that the bacterium can survive in dried spices for years and that it is tougher to kill in a dry environment. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/13/AR2010031301111.html>

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Water Sector

34. *March 17, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Water supply increases for Contra Costa; drought restrictions likely to end.** Contra Costa’s largest water district will likely end its drought restrictions next month because of good news in a federal agency’s water supply estimates. The announcement also relieved pressure on the part of the state hardest hit by the three-year drought, the farming region on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Those farmers saw their water supply estimate increase from 5 percent of their contracts to 25 percent, and they received assurances that federal officials will try to boost their share. The higher estimate is, in theory, worth as much as \$120 million to farmers in the nation’s largest irrigation district, according to one farmer in the Westlands Water District. The Contra Costa Water District, which received 65 percent of its contracted water last year, will almost certainly get 75 percent this year. And that could rise to 100 percent if rain and snow reach average levels this spring. Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/top-stories/ci_14687379
35. *March 16, Springfield News-Leader* – (Missouri) **Sewage leak hits Spring River tributary in Thayer.** An environmental field crew with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is on its way to Thayer to determine the effect a sewage spill has had on a tributary of the Warm Fork of the Spring River. Thayer city officials notified DNR that a piece of heavy equipment operating on the grounds of the city’s wastewater treatment plant broke a 12-inch sewer main Monday and that effluent had flowed into a

nearby dry watercourse. It is believed the effluent did make it into the Warm Fork of Spring River, according to DNR. The department immediately dispatched field staff from its Southeast Regional Office in Poplar Bluff to the site to observe cleanup efforts and document water quality.

Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20100316/BREAKING01/100316023/1007/NEWS01/Sewage+leak+hits+Spring+River+tributary+in+Thayer>

36. *March 16, News Link Indiana* – (Indiana) **Flooding causes trouble for wastewater treatment plants.** Melting snow, falling rain and flooding sewers. An additional 11 million gallons of water was filtered through the Muncie Wastewater Treatment Plant Tuesday because of the weekend rainfall. The plant superintendent said flooding from either melting snow or rainfall is their greatest weather hazard. However, the treatment plant, which is part of the Muncie Sanitary District, is designed to deal with flooding.
Source:
<http://www.newslinkindiana.com/index.php?src=news&srctype=detail&category=Headlines&refno=3639>
37. *March 16, San Bernardino Press-Enterprise* – (California) **The EPA is tracking tainted Rialto water and working toward cleanup.** Perchlorate-contaminated groundwater has spread beyond the boundaries of a Superfund cleanup project in Rialto, said environmental regulators who are trying to determine how fast the plume is moving and whether it is headed toward wells serving Riverside. The new findings come from samples at six monitoring wells installed in Rialto last year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the project manager said Friday. The wells are in the lower Rialto-Colton basin, beyond more than a mile-long strip where polluted water already is slated to be treated. Tests from various depths of the 900-foot wells showed concentrations above state drinking water standards for perchlorate, a rocket fuel ingredient that can impair thyroid function. Also found in levels above state and federal safety levels was the cleaning solvent trichloroethylene, or TCE, a likely carcinogen that may cause liver and kidney damage and impair fetal development. Once the direction of flow and extent of contamination is understood, the EPA will develop a plan for cleaning it up. Officials will know more after another round of testing in April and an analysis of other wells in the area.
Source:
http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_W_wells17.4876e33.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

38. *March 17, National Public Radio* – (Connecticut) **Brazen Conn. warehouse heist nets \$75M in pills.** Thieves cut a hole in the roof of an Enfield, Connecticut warehouse, rappelled inside, and stole about \$75 million in antidepressants and other prescription

drugs. The pills — stolen from the pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly & Co. in quantities big enough to fill a tractor-trailer — are believed to be destined for the black market, perhaps overseas. Experts described it as one of the biggest pharmaceutical heists in history. Other pharmaceutical warehouses have been hit with similar burglaries in recent years, but experts said the value of the Eli Lilly heist far eclipses any other prescription-drug thefts they have tracked. The thieves could easily net \$20 million to \$25 million. Enfield police would not say whether the building had surveillance video or whether employees are being investigated. The building is unmarked and unprotected by fences. The FBI was called in.

Source: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124728635>

39. *March 16, Batavia Republican* – (Illinois) **Hazmat spill leaves no injuries.** A formaldehyde spill occurred at a medical office building in Geneva Tuesday. A nurse practitioner was sent to the emergency room for a spill on her hand, but was released with no treatment. About 100 were evacuated from 16 medical practices in the building. The spill occurred on the third floor office of the Cornerstone Medical Group. Nearly 50 fire personnel were dispatched to the scene.

Source: <http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/batavia/newsnow/x427971995/Hazmat-spill-leaves-no-injuries>

40. *March 15, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) **Boise Fire haz mat crew cleans up small formaldehyde spill at St Luke's.** Two employees of St. Luke's Boise Medical Center appear to be OK after breathing some fumes from a small formaldehyde spill in a lab Monday morning. A Boise Fire hazardous materials cleanup team is in the process of cleaning up the small spill, which happened in a lab behind the ER building at St. Luke's, according to fire reports. No patients had to be evacuated from the building or were exposed to the spill, St. Luke's and Boise fire officials said. The spill was called into Ada County dispatchers just after 6 a.m. Monday. Two employees in the histology lab, where technicians study cell samples, were taken to the ER, where they were treated and released, according to St. Luke's officials. The lab was closed down and haz mat crews began the clean up and ventilation process, which should be completed by late Monday morning, officials say.

Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2010/03/15/1118022/boise-fire-haz-mat-crew-cleans.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

41. *March 17, Delaware News-Journal* – (Delaware) **Caller falsely reports bombs at 3 Sussex schools.** Someone sent several police agencies on a series of wild goose chases in Sussex County on Tuesday afternoon by claiming there were bombs in three schools. None of the calls turned out to be true. A spokesman said the first 911 call, naming Sussex Technical High School, came in just before 1 p.m. State troopers, along with bomb-sniffing dogs and police from other local departments, were dispatched to the school and immediately evacuated students and faculty. The spokesman said a second

call came in at 2:12 p.m. from the same caller saying there were bombs at Laurel and Seaford high schools. Again, units were dispatched and the schools were evacuated. “It appears that they are connected,” the spokesman said. “When you call 911 your number shows up, and the person who called about the first one used the same number for the second one.” Several agencies are investigating the incidents. Investigation and searches at the schools took two hours. Besides the state police, K-9 units were dispatched by the police departments of the Delaware River and Bay Authority, Dover, Capital and Dover Air Force Base, as well as Wicomico and Dorchester counties in Maryland.

Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100317/NEWS01/3170315>

42. *March 17, WFED 1500 Washington, D.C.* – (National) **New standards for federal building security coming.** An interagency committee is developing new physical security standards for all non-Defense agencies, totaling about 300,000 facilities. But the 45-member agency group, known as the ISC, is coming under fire for its lack of authority. Some House lawmakers are calling for new legislation to mandate minimum federal building security standards. And employee unions are requesting a major change to who protects federal buildings. All of this came to a head Tuesday during a House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, the Postal Service and the District of Columbia hearing. A Congressional delegate from the District of Columbia says the inconsistencies in applying physical security rules across the government is why the Interagency Security Committee needs to be replaced.

Source: <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=35&sid=1914142>

43. *March 17, 2theadvocate.com* – (Louisiana) **2 students arrested after ESJ school fire.** Two students were arrested for causing a fire at East St. John High School in LaPlace, Louisiana, on Tuesday, according to a news release from the state fire marshal. A female student, 17, was arrested and charged with aggravated arson and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. She was booked into St. John Parish Prison. Another unidentified juvenile was arrested and charged with aggravated arson. Both suspects are East St. John students and were apparently skipping school when the fire occurred. Surveillance cameras were used in the determination for making the arrests. A school bathroom was on fire but was being controlled by the automatic sprinkler system when the LaPlace Fire Department and St. John Parish Sheriff’s Office responded to a call at the school at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Students were evacuated without incident. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and deemed the building safe.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/88162507.html>

44. *March 16, WZVN 7 Fort Myers* – (Florida) **Hacker hits Cape Coral website again.** For the second time in a month, the city of Cape Coral’s website has been hacked. The work of the hacker is hurting more than just the city’s image. The message “You’ve been hacked” replaced Cape Coral’s main website page Sunday morning. It’s the second time in a month someone hacked into the city’s website, forcing the IT department to spend Sunday fixing the problem. “We’re protected right now we

believe, until we make this big change on Wednesday,” said the IT Director. The IT director says the city was getting ready to revamp the site’s technical framework, but not before the main webpage was changed. Fortunately, the hacker did not get access to any of the city’s databases.

Source: <http://www.abc-7.com/Global/story.asp?S=12144581>

45. *March 16, KPCC 89.3 Pasadena* – (California) **Bomb threat evacuates Bret Harte Elementary School for 2nd consecutive day.** A phoned-in bomb threat on March 16 caused students and staff members of Bret Harte Elementary School in Long Beach to be evacuated for the second consecutive day, and a person arrested in another case may be linked to the evacuations, police said. The March 16 call prompted the evacuation of 150 students and staff. Monday’s call resulted in more than 200 students and staff being forced to evacuate to a nearby church while police checked out the campus. Nothing was found. A woman taken into custody in an unrelated case may be linked to the bomb threats, a spokesman with the Long Beach Police Department said.

Source: <http://www.scpr.org/news/2010/03/16/bomb-threat-evacuates-bret-harte-elementary-school/>

46. *March 16, United Press International* – (Washington) **Vampire with possible pipe bomb arrested.** A man carrying what he claimed was a pipe bomb near a Seattle courthouse was taken into custody by the city’s bomb squad, authorities said. The man entered a mission on Seattle’s Second Avenue dressed in black and covered with duct tape threatening to “blow the place up.” He said he was “a vampire and wanted to eat people,” The Seattle Times reported Friday. Staffers removed him from the building and called police, the newspaper said. When officers arrived, they found the man across the street from the King County Courthouse with a pipe-like device taped to his body. Told by police to lie down, he accepted a pair of scissors from police and removed the device as ordered, the Times said. Police took the man into custody then used bomb-squad robots to inspect the device and remove it from the area. “At this point we don’t know what it is,” a police spokesman said. “It looked real enough to enough people.”

Source:

<http://media.www.thecandor.com/media/storage/paper1410/news/2010/03/16/News/vampire.With.Possible.Pipe.Bomb.Arrested-3890163.shtml>

47. *March 15, Associated Press* – (International) **Are cartels now targeting U.S. officials?** Three adults with connections to the U.S. consulate were killed, and two children were wounded. Mexico said U.S. intelligence pointed toward the Aztecas street gang, which is aligned with the murderous Juarez drug cartel. Authorities raised the possibility that only one of the families was targeted, while the other was chased because they both drove white SUVs. They offered no details of this theory. Authorities in both countries said they don’t know yet why the families were attacked. “There is a concern at the possibility of attacks specifically aimed at diplomats stationed in the country, and that would be very serious,” the Ciudad Juarez Mayor told a local radio station. The FBI joined the investigation Monday, working with U.S. State Department agents and Mexican authorities. After the slayings, the U.S. Embassy warned Americans to “delay unnecessary travel to parts of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua

states.” “As to whether this was a particular incident directed at U.S. diplomats, I think we’re not prepared to draw that conclusion yet,” a State Department spokesman said in Washington.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/15/world/main6301852.shtml>

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Emergency Services Sector

48. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Indiana state trooper leaves handgun in Lowe’s restroom; employee turns it over to Fort Wayne PD.** Indiana State Police say a trooper will remain on duty while officials review details of an incident in which he left his loaded handgun in the restroom of a Lowe’s home improvement store. A State Police spokesman says the off-duty trooper was still inside the store Saturday evening when he realized his 9mm Glock handgun was missing. The spokesman says the trooper retraced his steps and notified store managers, but an employee by then had found the weapon and turned it over to Fort Wayne police. Fort Wayne television station WANE says the review of the incident could take up to 15 days, but it isn’t clear what action might be taken. Indiana law allows off-duty troopers to carry their firearms. Source: <http://www.fox59.com/news/sns-ap-in--troopersgun-restroom,0,4149810.story>
49. *March 16, Muskegon Chronicle* – (Michigan) **911 emergency phone service restored in Oceana County.** The 911 service that was down for most of Monday in parts of Oceana County was restored completely some time after 6 p.m. The service was down due to a cut fiber-optic line in Whitehall, officials said. The 873 exchange in some parts of Oceana County, including Walkerville and much of the Crystal Valley area in Crystal Township, were without service nearly all day, according to an official from Mason-Oceana Central Dispatch. Service has been restored. Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2010/03/911_emergency_phone_service_re.html
50. *March 15, Gloucester Country Times* – (New Jersey) **\$448,000 to rebuild NJ fire station now missing.** At least \$448,000 of money meant to rebuild the burnt-out New Sharon Fire Company station is said to be missing. The Times has learned from sources outside the department that the matter is being investigated at the federal level. An attorney confirmed that he has been retained by the former New Sharon Fire Co. president and treasurer, who was expelled from New Sharon last month after its membership voted him out for breach of trust and misappropriation of funds. Source: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/771507-448-000-to-rebuild-nj-fire-station-now-missing/>
51. *March 14, Wenatchee World* – (Washington) **Wash. deputy finds bomb near station.** A bomb was found under the pick up truck of the fire chief at Fire District 3

station in Leavenworth, Washington, on Sunday. It had a metal smoking pipe attached to it “so I thought it looked like somebody had dropped their stash,” the deputy chief said. Explosives experts were called to the scene, and two Leavenworth men were arrested in connection with the incident. A 23-year-old was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an explosive device, unlawful possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and possession of marijuana under 40 grams. A 24-year-old, who was with the 23-year-old at the time of his arrest, was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). Deputies have no motive for the device being under the chief’s pickup, said the chief of administration with the Sheriff’s Office.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/wash-deputy-finds-bomb-near-station>

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Information Technology Sector

52. *March 17, Washington Post* – (National) **Measure would force White House, private sector to collaborate in cyber-crisis.** Key members of Congress are pushing legislation that would require the White House to collaborate with the private sector in any response to a crisis affecting the nation’s critical computer networks. The Cybersecurity Act, drafted by the Senate commerce committee chairman and a committee member, is an attempt to prod the the U.S. President’s administration and Congress to be more aggressive in crafting a coordinated national strategy for dealing with cyberthreats. It is to be unveiled on March 17. The Cybersecurity Act was introduced last year to jump-start the debate, but it proved so controversial that it was reworked three times. The new version deletes a provision that would have enabled the president to shut down portions of computer networks in an emergency. The so-called “kill switch” was seen by critics as giving the president authority to shut down the Internet. Instead, the bill would require the White House to work with the private sector in designating which industry networks are considered “critical” and to determine how those networks should be protected.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/16/AR2010031603811.html>

53. *March 17, Help Net Security* – (International) **20 critical Apple vulnerabilities to be revealed.** The security researcher renowned for hacking Apple products during many a hacking competition will be making public (at the CanSecWest security conference later in March) his latest research through which - he claims - he was able to find some 30 critical flaws in commonly used software. Having hacked in the past the MacBook Air and the Safari browser, he might seem bent of making Apple look bad, but his research encompassed testing of software from different vendors: Adobe Reader, Apple Preview, Microsoft PowerPoint and Oracle’s OpenOffice. Using a simple Python script in order to fuzz test the applications, he discovered more than a 1000 ways to crash

them. Of that number, 30 bugs allowed him to hijack the programs. And of those 30, 20 were found in Apple's Preview.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9035>

54. *March 17, Krebs on Security* – (International) **Researchers map multi-network cybercrime infrastructure.** Recently, security experts launched a sneak attack to disconnect Troyak, an Internet service provider in Eastern Europe that served as a global gateway to a nest of cyber crime activity. For the past seven days, unnamed members of the security community reportedly have been playing Whac-a-Mole with Troyak, which has bounced from one legitimate ISP to the next in a bid to reconnect to the wider Internet. But experts say Troyak's apparent hopscotching is expected behavior from what is in fact a carefully architected, round-robin network of backup and redundant carriers, all designed to keep a massive organized criminal operation online should a disaster like the Troyak disconnection strike. Security firm RSA believes Troyak is but one of five upstream providers that encircle a nest of eight so-called "bulletproof networks" – Web hosting providers considered impervious to takedown by local law enforcement. RSA said this group of eight hosts some of the Internet's largest concentrations of malicious software, including password stealing banking Trojans like Zeus and Gozi, as well as huge repositories of personal and financial data stolen by these Trojans and a notorious Russian phishing operation known as RockPhish.
Source: <http://www.krebsonsecurity.com/2010/03/researchers-map-multi-network-cybercrime-infrastructure/>
55. *March 16, The Register* – (International) **Waledac botnet 'decimated' by MS takedown.** Communications within the notorious Waledac botnet have been "effectively decimated," thanks to a novel takedown approach that combined court actions with a variety of technical measures, a Microsoft program manager said on March 16. "Operation b49," as Microsoft dubbed the takedown, has severed as many as 90,000 infected PCs from the master control channels that feed them updated malware, spam templates and other malicious data, a Microsoft spokesman wrote. He cautioned that security watchers can't yet claim victory, but said the initial success of the operation provides a guide for future takedowns. He went on to say that data from Microsoft and other researchers "indicate that our actions have effectively decimated communications within the Waledac bot network". He cited the analysis by the Shadowserver Foundation of honeypot PCs - which are infected and then quarantined so researchers can observe their behavior. It found "an effective cessation of commands to Waledac 'zombies'". The action has severed from 70,000 to 90,000 infected computers from the network, blocking all communication between them and the botmasters.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/16/waledac_takedown_success/
56. *March 16, DarkReading* – (International) **Flaw in Microsoft's Hypervisor lets attackers bypass DEP, ASLR.** Core Security Technologies has discovered a flaw in Microsoft's Virtual PC hypervisor that can be used by an attacker to cheat built-in, advanced security features in Windows. The flaw in the memory management function

of the hypervisor affects Microsoft Virtual PC 2007, Virtual PC 2007 SP1, Windows Virtual PC, Microsoft Virtual Server 2005, and the XP Mode feature in Windows 7. Microsoft's Hyper-V technology is not affected by the vulnerability. Core first reported its discovery of the vulnerability to Microsoft in August. Microsoft will fix the issue in future updates to the products, according to Core. For now, users should run mission-critical applications on native hardware and software platforms, or employ virtualization software not affected by the flaw. Microsoft says the attack is based on using existing vulnerabilities rather than an actual vulnerability itself: "It does this by rendering a number of protection mechanisms that are present in the Windows kernel less effective inside a virtual machine as opposed to a physical Windows machine. An attacker would need to abuse an already present vulnerability in order to leverage this technique," a Microsoft spokesperson says.

Source: http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223900141&subSection=Application+Security

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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

57. *March 16, ComputerWorld* – (National) **FCC plan calls for ‘minimal’ public safety fee for all broadband users.** The FCC's National Broadband Plan, released on March 16, calls for a new “minimal” fee on all U.S. broadband users to help pay for a new \$16 billion nationwide emergency response wireless network. Public safety officials have pleaded for such an interoperable network to aid their response to disasters and potential attacks since firefighters and police could not communicate effectively during the September 11 terrorist attacks and the response following Hurricane Katrina. In its 19-page section on public safety, the plan calls for creating the national wireless network for first responders and says that the cost of between \$12 billion and \$16 billion over 10 years could be paid with state and local contributions. But the plan also argues for a “nominal” fee on all U.S. broadband users to “ensure that this country’s emergency responders have access to critical communications capabilities when and where they need them.” The plan urges Congress to authorize the FCC to impose or require the fee or another funding means.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9171719/FCC_plan_calls_for_minimal_public_safety_fee_for_all_broadband_users

58. *March 16, Watertown Daily Times* – (New York) **Public Radio station off air after storm rips antenna.** North Country Public Radio has been off the air to listeners in Jefferson and Lewis counties since March 13, following a wind storm that knocked the antenna from a tower in Watertown. The chief engineer said listeners in Watertown, Cape Vincent, Clayton, Carthage, Lowville and Lyons Falls were affected. A team from Wells Communications checked the damage on the State Street hill tower on March 15. Service could be restored by March 16.

Source: <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20100316/NEWS05/303169980>

59. *March 16, Carbondale Southern* – (Illinois) **Telephone services restored for region.** Full telephone services throughout Southern Illinois were restored as of 3:30 p.m. on March 16, according to an announcement from Verizon. The restoration came after several hours of downed service that affected 911 service in areas throughout the region, as well as residential long-distance phone service. Several law enforcement agencies throughout Southern Illinois were without 911 emergency phone services. Verizon officials said crews working on road construction in the Carterville area damaged a line, causing the loss of service.

Source: http://www.thesouthern.com/news/local/article_3dfd1568-311c-11df-b268-001cc4c002e0.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

60. *March 16, Justice News Flash* – (Wisconsin) **Chemical explosion at Oconomowoc resort sent over 30 people to hospitals.** A chemical explosion at Olympia Resort and Conference Center left an employee with multiple fractures and minor burns Tuesday morning, March 16. The worker was reportedly mixing chlorine with another chemical while in the laundry room of the resort, prompting the blast. As a safety precaution, over thirty people, including other employees, police officers and fire rescue personnel also reported to area hospitals after the incident. None of the guests staying at the hotel at the time were reportedly affected by the small chemical explosion. HazMat teams were dispatched to the scene to aid in cleanup efforts. It was undisclosed if OSHA will be conducting independent investigations into the workplace explosion.

Source: http://www.justicenewsflash.com/2010/03/16/chemical-explosion-oconomowoc-resort-30-people-hospitals_201003163692.html

61. *March 16, Athens Banner-Herald* – (Georgia) **Land mine found in storage unit.** Employees of an Atlanta Highway self-storage facility found a land mine in a storage unit Monday while cleaning it out after the renter had been evicted, Athens-Clarke police said. The mine contained about a pound of C-4 explosive, a police spokeswoman said. Police called a military bomb squad to dispose of the mine by defusing it or safely setting it off, and they were scheduled to arrive in town late Monday, she said. The man who rented the unit was storing other military equipment as

well and appeared to have served in the military, the spokeswoman said. Federal investigators want to question the man who rented the unit, and he may face charges, she said.

Source: http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/031610/cop_591173711.shtml

62. *March 16, Torrance Daily Breeze* – (California) **Shoppers evacuated as police search Torrance Sears after bomb threat.** Police searched the Sears store Tuesday at Del Amo Fashion Center in Torrance following a telephoned bomb threat. Nothing was found. Shoppers and employees were forced to evacuate shortly after 4 p.m. No other stores at the mall were affected. Torrance police searched the store with dogs. People were allowed to return about 5:30 p.m. The Torrance Fire Department, along with police from Santa Monica and Los Angeles International Airport, assisted in the search. Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_14687971

63. *March 15, Loudouni.com* – (Virginia) **Bomb squad called to Redskins Park.** A suspicious man delivered an unknown, unexpected package to Redskins park in Loudoun County on March 12. Authorities at Redskins Park responded by issuing a call to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. Officials employed a bomb-detecting robot to assist in the detection, but they found the contents of the package to be safe. An administrative assistant at Redskins Park was immediately suspicious of the package. "The person who delivered the package didn't appear to be with a delivery company," a public information officer (PIO) for the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, said. "Someone just brought it in and left it with the administrative assistant." He said that they receive sporadic calls based on the different levels of threats. According to the PIO, this particular threat was large enough to prompt officials to bring a robot along to avoid risk of bomb-related injury. The package was determined to be harmless. Source: <http://www.loudouni.com/news/2010-03-15/bomb-squad-called-redskins-park>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

64. *March 17, Kentucky Post* – (Ohio) **HazMat called to old munitions factory.** A HazMat crew was called to the scene of a sulfur dioxide leak at the old Peters Cartridge Company factory near Kings Mills on the evening of March 16. Firefighters were dispatched to the site located in the 1400 block of Grandin Road above the Little Miami River around 5:30 p.m. Someone called to report what they thought was smoke coming from a business inside the old munitions factory. When Hamilton Township firefighters arrived, they quickly realized the smoke was actually a cloud of sulfur dioxide. The fire chief tells 9News that the chemical came from inside A&G Cylinder. They're a business that cleans empty compressed tanks. Three people who were walking by the building were reportedly exposed to the fumes. A total of seven people were transported to Bethesda Medical Center at Arrow Springs as a precautionary measure, including four firefighters from the Hamilton Township fire department. All seven have since been released from the hospital.

Source: <http://www.kypost.com/content/wcposhared/story/HazMat-Called-To-Old-Munitions-Factory/8JmKw2uiDkGOOxFkh1qGwQ.cspX>

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Dams Sector

65. *March 17, Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Officials keeping a close eye on local dams.** For the most part, dams on the South Shore appear to have weathered the torrential rain that fell Monday and over the weekend. Roads are a different story. Several South Shore communities were forced to close streets and motorists looked for alternate routes Tuesday as a result of flooding from all the rain – as much as 10 inches in places – the region received during the three-day period. “We have had some problems in areas,” said the deputy commissioner of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, talking about the state’s dams. “It’s safe to say we will continue to monitor the situation.” At the Great Pond Dam in Braintree, the Department of Conservation and Recreation helped minimize the flow of water over an embankment, he said. On Sunday night, a 6-foot-long breach opened in the earthen dam between the upper and lower Great Pond reservoirs, which provide water to Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook. The Braintree mayor said repairs were completed Monday. The agency’s Ponkapoag Pond dam in Canton was also watched, but there were no major problems to report. In another part of Canton, the overflow from a private dam at the Waterfall Hills apartment complex off Bolivar Street forced the evacuation of 25 to 30 people from one of the buildings. One side of the dam failed and it was completely washed out,” the Town Administrator said. “It also contributed to flooding in the area and forced the closing of the street.” He said health officials were concerned about sewage backup. He said residents might not be able to return to their homes for a week. Public works department employees used Jersey barriers and sand bags to shore up Shepherd’s Pond dam, the administrator said.

Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/news/x1514354434/Officials-keeping-a-close-eye-on-local-dams>

66. *March 17, Wall Street Journal* – (Midwest) **Midwest braces for floods.** A massive snowpack in the Upper Midwest and along parts of the East Coast have set the stage for potential record floods in the coming weeks, possibly pushing back the planting season in the Farm Belt and prompting intense preparations to reinforce levees and draw down reservoirs. The outlook is most dire in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Iowa, which together endured four times the average amount of precipitation in December. The Red River, which runs north between Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, crested about 23 feet above its “flood stage,” breaking a century-old record. The river is expected to crest 20 feet above flood stage on Saturday. The forecast is creating anxiety across the Farm Belt as growers try to recover from last year’s unusually wet growing season. Although farmers managed to harvest bumper corn and soybean crops despite spring planting delays and a rainy fall harvest, hundreds of thousands of acres of cropland went unpicked, and the quality of the corn and sugar beet crops suffered. On Tuesday in Fargo, trucks with police escorts delivered hundreds of thousands of

sandbags to vulnerable neighborhoods as neighbors built dikes around homes. Schools are expected to dismiss students from classes this week so they can help, said the Fargo City Administrator. In Iowa, ice dams caused the Des Moines River to flood several roads.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703734504575125670672385714.htm>
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67. *March 16, San Bernardino Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Public meeting will focus on Perris Dam work.** A two-year plan for seismic repairs to Perris Dam will be the topic of a town hall meeting March 24 sponsored by the state Department of Water Resources and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors chairman. State staff will explain the proposed design and construction plan, which includes injecting cement and soil into the dam's foundation and reinforcing it with a stability berm on top. A 2005 study by state engineers found that the earthen dam would crumble during an earthquake in the 7.5-magnitude range or greater and could release billions of gallons of water. In response, the state dropped the lake level 25 feet. State officials said there is no imminent threat to public safety. Plans for the retrofitting also include building a channel next to Ramona Expressway to move water away from neighborhoods in the event of a disaster. The dam repairs are expected to begin next year and be finished by 2013.

Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_W_sdam17.4874c6c.html

68. *March 16, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Construction of permanent pumps on drainage canals set to begin.** Construction of permanent pump stations at the Lake Pontchartrain ends of the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue canals in New Orleans, Louisiana, can move forward, after state and local officials signed an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers today guaranteeing that they will be built to accommodate future changes in the drainage system. The agreement requires the corps to build the stations so that they can be adjusted if state and local officials are able to convince Congress to financially support major changes in the New Orleans and Jefferson Parish drainage systems, including the addition of a "pump to the river" option that would divert some water from Old Metairie and other parts of Jefferson Parish from the 17th Street canal to the Mississippi River. As built, the new combination of gates and pumps at the end of each canal would be operated in tandem with existing interior pump stations during hurricanes to block surge from entering the canals and pump rainwater from the canals into the lake. The gates and pumps would not operate at other times. But the stations will be designed so they could accommodate options preferred by local and state governments that the corps says are too expensive.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/corps_state_local_officials_si.html

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