



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 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 Wall Street Journal, a government watchdog faulted the FAA on March 18 for allowing Southwest Airlines to fly jets that had not undergone mandatory maintenance work, violating stipulated safety rules. (See item [16](#))
- The Associated Press reports that three booby-trap attacks on an anti-gang task force in Southern California prompted the arrests of about 30 members of California's largest motorcycle gang, prosecutors said on March 17. Members of the Vagos were arrested as part of the crackdown in California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah after the attacks on police in Hemet, California. (See item [41](#))

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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 18, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Man threatened to fly plane into Reliant Plaza.** An upset customer pled guilty to threatening a utility company employee in a building in downtown Houston. It is similar to what happened in Austin last month. It is the second threat of its kind against a Houston call taker and the threat specifically is

flying a plane into the Reliant building in downtown Houston. The district attorney's office prosecuted and their message was that even words are taken seriously. With 36 stories, Reliant Energy Plaza is by no means the tallest skyscraper in downtown. That title belongs to Chase Tower, but it is one of newest and the focus of a recent threat that landed the man in jail. According to Houston police, the man was on the phone with a Reliant Energy call center agent. He was angry that the electricity at his home on Capitol was about to be shut off because he had not paid his bill, and he told the female agent he was going to take a plane and fly it into the building. That building was the 1000 Main Street location. Though prosecutors decided he did not have the means to carry out the threat, he was arrested, was charged, and pleaded guilty to harassment for his words. "That would not be protected speech," said an attorney.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7338909>

2. *March 18, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Iowa; Kansas; Nebraska) **Texas pipeline company agrees to pay civil penalty to resolve Clean Water Act violations.** A Texas-based pipeline company has agreed to pay a \$450,000 civil penalty to the United States to settle allegations that it failed to prepare and maintain proper facility response plans to deal with spills and environmental accidents at eight of its oil storage terminal facilities in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership LP of San Antonio, Texas has also agreed to spend an additional \$768,000 on a supplemental environmental project to install and operate tank volume monitoring and alarm systems at several of its facilities, according to a consent decree filed March 18 in U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska in Omaha. Nustar's affected facilities include those in LeMars, Milford and Rock Rapids, Iowa; Hutchinson and Salina, Kansas; and Columbus, Geneva and Norfolk, Nebraska. The eight facilities have a combined storage capacity of more than 71 million gallons of oil. EPA initially discovered several Nustar facilities did not have facility response plans during inspections in 2006. The company subsequently prepared plans for each of the facilities after EPA initiated an investigation.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/March/10-enrd-289.html>

For another story, see item [27](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *March 19, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (West Virginia) **EPA orders DuPont Belle facility to take safety measures.** The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company to review environmental safety procedures at its industrial plant in Belle, West Virginia, where the release of phosgene gas in January led to the death of a DuPont employee. The order results from an EPA inspection of the facility following three releases in January, including the release that caused the death. Based on EPA's inspection and available information about the operation of the facility, EPA has determined that the facility has not satisfied Clean Air Act requirements that are designed to help prevent accidental releases and

minimize the consequences of releases that do occur. The alleged violations include: failure to identify hazards which may result from releases using appropriate hazard assessment techniques; failure to design and maintain a safe facility; and failure to minimize the consequences of accidental releases that do occur. EPA's order requires DuPont to, among other things, review all of the facility processes that may pose a threat of accidental releases, provide a report to EPA detailing the review, and implement any modifications to standard operating procedures that are warranted as a result of this review.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/e9c0e7a7219e5c99852576eb004fbfee?OpenDocument>

4. *March 18, Maine Public Broadcasting Network* – (Maine) **Six Maine facilities pose chemical threat, Greenpeace claims.** As part of a national campaign to raise awareness about chemical security issues, the environmental group Greenpeace today warned that six industrial facilities in Maine each pose a disaster risk to 10,000 or more local residents. The group is hoping those facilities will either choose, or be forced, to switch to safer chemicals, and adopt new processes that would be less vulnerable in the event of a terrorist attack. A member of the Boston office of Greenpeace says Greenpeace is asking a U.S. Senator to support legislation that would require some facilities to convert plants to safer chemicals or processes. He pointed the finger at six facilities in Maine for allegedly containing dangerous toxic chemicals that threaten 10,000 or more local residents. They include the Westbrook Energy Center in Westbrook; Domtar paper company Baileyville; Old Town Fuel and Fiber in Old Town; a Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Lewiston; and the Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation in South Portland. He was joined by the director of the Environmental Health Strategy Center in Maine, who says the largest high-risk plant in Maine is the GAC or Calpine facility in Searsport.

Source:

<http://www.mpbn.net/Home/tabid/36/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3478/ItemId/11458/Default.aspx>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *March 19, OC Watchdog* – (California) **San Onofre gets more time to ward off radiological sabotage.** San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station will get extra time to make significant security improvements to protect the plant against “radiological sabotage.” That, for the record, can be defined as a “malevolent act resulting in radiological dispersal that could affect the public.” Updating its post September 11-security requirements last year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered all nuclear power plants “to protect, with high assurance, against radiological sabotage by designing and implementing comprehensive site security programs” to ward off this type of thing. The NRC gave everyone a deadline of March 31 to get the work done.

Source: <http://taxdollars.freedomblogging.com/2010/03/19/san-onofre-gets-more-time-to-ward-off-radiological-sabotage/53499/>

6. *March 18, CFRA 580 Ottawa* – (International) **Isotope shortage looming.** Nuclear medicine experts are warning of a two to three week shortage of medical isotopes. The Society of Nuclear Medicine says there will be a shortage of Technetium-99 used in imaging tests for cardiac, cancer, and other patients starting March 21. The Chalk River Reactor in Canada had supplied a third of the world's medical isotopes until it was shut down last May for repairs. The U.S. National Isotope Development Center says three reactors have required outages for maintenance.

Source: <http://www.cfra.com/?cat=3&nid=71969>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Inspector finds hazardous material in western Ky.** The owner of a western Kentucky metal plating operation has been cited after an inspector found 20 drums of hazardous chemicals stored at the site. The Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection said Thursday that I-Brite's owner can either clean up the site in McCracken County or the state will do so and bill him for the cost. A state inspector found drums containing copper cyanide, sodium cyanide and nitric acid in seven storage units last week and noted that some of the chemicals had leaked onto the ground. The state fire marshal's office conducted an inventory of the materials and an environmental contractor separated the non-compatibles for safety assurances. I-Brite registered with the state in 2006, but later withdrew its hazardous waste registration.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2010/03/18/1187029/inspector-finds-hazardous-material.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 19, United Press International* – (National) **Navy laser weapon goes through early tests.** A new laser weapon designed for naval deployment has gone through initial design tests as one of the first steps before it is adopted for active service, most likely by the U.S. Navy before any other force. Laser weaponry now encompasses all branches of the military with a range of laser-based defense equipment already destined for the inventories of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. The Boeing Co., which developed Free Electron Laser Weapon System, said the FEL was still in a preliminary design review stage, indicating it would be some time before the weapon could see deployment. Laser weaponry packs in a huge amount of power and is seen likely to be more focused on the intended target than other kinds of weaponry using explosives. Boeing said the preliminary design review was a key step toward building a FEL prototype for realistic tests at sea. More than 30 U.S. government and National

Laboratory representatives attended the design review March 9-11 in Arlington, Virginia.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2010/03/19/Navy-laser-weapon-goes-through-early-tests/UPI-58861269004576/

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 18, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Wachovia settles money-laundering case.** Wachovia Bank reached a \$160 million settlement with the Justice Department over allegations that a failure in bank controls enabled drug traffickers to launder drug money by transferring money from Mexican currency-exchange houses to the bank. Under a deferred-prosecution agreement with federal prosecutors in Miami, Wachovia, which is owned by Wells Fargo & Co., “admitted failure to identify, detect, and report suspicious transactions in third-party payment processor accounts,” according to the Justice Department. Prosecutors said the bank processed \$420 billion in transactions without using proper money-laundering detection. Wells Fargo already had set aside money to cover the penalty. The currency- exchange houses, known as casas de cambio, serve as a legitimate method for immigrants to send money to relatives in Latin America. But authorities in the U.S., Mexico and Colombia have for years warned that drug-traffickers also use these exchange houses to launder the proceeds of their trade.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704059004575128062835484290.html>
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10. *March 18, Associated Press* – (National) **PNC Bank: National City Bank debit accounts hacked, hit with fraud.** PNC Financial Services Group Inc. said on March 18 it is investigating a system wide account breach that affects former National City Bank customers and their debit card accounts. The affected accounts are restricted to the Cincinnati area, and current PNC Bank customers are not affected, a PNC Financial spokesman told The Associated Press. Bank officials were made aware of the data breach recently, but the spokesman would not say how many customers’ accounts have been compromised or how much money was stolen. PNC Financial, which is based in Pittsburgh, said some customer debit cards were compromised shortly before the company acquired Cleveland-based National City Corp. in December 2008. All open accounts are “under an enhanced surveillance,” he added, and the security measures “should prevent any further access to them by any unauthorized individuals.” It was not immediately clear if the account breach could have been an inside job.
Source: <http://www.fox59.com/business/sns-ap-us-pnc-bank-national-city-data-breach,0,5730812.story>
11. *March 18, DarkReading* – (International) **Report: Phishing hits all-time high.** Phishing attacks increased more than 60 percent from 2008 to an all-time high as the number of attacks per organization hit nearly 600, a new report finds. MarkMonitor’s 2009 BrandJacking Index report, released this week, shows 565,502

phishing attacks last year, up 62 percent from 2008, and attackers have become more targeted given only 33 percent of the victims were first-time phishing targets. Attacks targeting social networks increased by 376 percent from 2008, with 11,240 attacks — about 2 percent of all phishing exploits last year. Most phishing attacks are hosted in the U.S. — 44.7 percent, an increase from 36.5 percent in 2008. “A lot of the attacks were on large financial organizations...we also saw that phishing targeting payment services grew,” says the CMO at MarkMonitor. Phishing against payment services firms grew 154 percent last year, and attacks on financial brands increased 36 percent, according to MarkMonitor’s report.

Source:

<http://darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=224000047>

12. *March 18, KNDO 23 Yakima* – (Washington) **One man in custody after threats made to bank in Sunnyside.** One man is in custody, but police are still trying to figure out his involvement with a bank threat made Thursday morning at the Bank of America. It happened around 11:40, the Bank of America in downtown Sunnyside received a threatening phone call, police believe it was someone inside the bank. When officers arrived on scene they took one man into custody without incident. Police haven’t released the man’s name, they’re stopping short of calling him a suspect. “He’s in custody, under investigation. Statements will tell us a little bit more about what happened,” said a spokesman for the Sunnyside Police Department. Police also have the phone they believe was used to make the threat. The FBI is taking over the investigation, which is common in bank threats. The bank was closed for the rest of the day, but employees were kept in the bank for questioning. No one was injured during the threat or arrest.

Source: <http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=12167302>

13. *March 16, WBOY 12 Clarksburg* – (West Virginia) **Phone scam targets Clear Mountain Bank.** A new phone scam is targeting the region using Bruceton Mills based Clear Mountain Bank as a cover. People have reported receiving a recorded message that the bank has flagged their debit or ATM cards for suspicious use. The message then says to select an option to speak with a representative and confirm their banking information. “Just hang up the phone,” said the president of Clear Mountain Bank. “No bank, our bank or any other bank will ever call a customer and ask for an account number, their social security number, your debit card number. We already have that information.” The president said Clear Mountain Bank tracked the calls, and found someone hacked into the phone system of a Massachusetts business to make the calls.

Source: <http://www.wboy.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=76877>

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Transportation Sector

14. *March 19, Inside-Lane.com* – (Colorado) **CDOT wants Homeland Security grants to harden targets at Interstate 70 tunnels.** The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) plans to compete for federal funds to help harden two strategic tunnel

complexes on the Interstate 70 Mountain Corridor against the impacts of a terrorist attack or other emergency. CDOT's applications for four projects — one at the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnels under the Continental Divide and three at the Hanging Lake Tunnels in Glenwood Canyon — total as high as \$3.12 million. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security administers the program, which deals with “prevention, preparedness, response to and recovery from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack, or a Pandemic Influenza outbreak based on a H1N1 (Bird Flu) model,” according to a CDOT memo from the manager of CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety. The projects center on fencing, video surveillance and emergency power capabilities. The applications are due in June and CDOT will develop more detailed cost estimates by then, but the Colorado Transportation Commission will decide today on proceeding with the applications. With the highway closed for almost four days between Gypsum and Glenwood Springs, the unavailability of the relatively short segment through the canyon forced a detour of up to 150 miles and three hours for through traffic. The grant applications were based on “vulnerability assessments” CDOT did at the locations. The program requires the state to put up matching funds and to be able to maintain the new infrastructure upon completion. Source: <http://www.indenvertimes.com/cdot-wants-homeland-security-grants-to-harden-targets-at-interstate-70-tunnels/?refresh=1>

15. *March 19, WBBM 780 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Red Line tracks catch fire after bike hits third rail.** Red Line trains were temporarily halted early Friday when a bicycle that came into contact with the electrified third rail caused a minor explosion-type fire at the Morse station in the Far North Side Rogers Park neighborhood in Chicago. Police do not know how the bicycle ended up on the tracks, a Rogers Park District Police lieutenant said. “A bicycle fell or was thrown or somehow ended up on the train tracks, and it hit the third rail and it caused an explosion-type fire,” he said. Crews temporarily removed power to the northbound Red Line tracks from the Howard station to the Thorndale station. Power was removed at 3:34 a.m. and was turned back on at 3:58 a.m., a spokesperson said. The power was turned off to allow firemen to put out the fire and perform track inspections. No trains were in the area at the time, and the fire did not damage the track, he said. Police are currently considering the incident non-criminal incident unless they receive information to indicate otherwise. No one was injured because of the incident, he said.

Source: <http://www.wbbm780.com/Red-Line-tracks-catch-fire-after-bike-hits-third-r/6613728>

16. *March 19, Reuters* – (National) **FAA faulted on Southwest Airlines.** A government watchdog faulted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for allowing Southwest Airlines Co to fly jets that had not undergone mandatory maintenance work, violating stipulated safety rules, the Wall Street Journal said. The Office of Special Counsel said on Thursday that the company failed to complete certain required maintenance involving rivets around the window frames of 55 of its Boeing 737 aircraft, the paper said, citing the counsel's documents. Southwest voluntarily disclosed the information to a senior FAA inspector who was also a supervisor in the local office charged with overseeing the airline, the Journal said. But the inspector did not determine why the

company had never completed the repair work or ensure that the necessary maintenance work was eventually completed, the paper added. The spokesperson told the paper that the airline officials “are confident that we have identified and remedied the issues.” “A second investigation has shown that some FAA managers continue their willingness to look the other way” rather than enforce strict compliance with maintenance requirements and voluntary disclosure rules, the paper said, quoting the associate special counsel.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62I16X20100319>

17. *March 18, Associated Press* – (International) **Warships take new strategy against Somali pirates.** An international fleet of warships is attacking and destroying Somali pirate vessels closer to the shores of East Africa and the new strategy, combined with more aggressive confrontations further out to sea, has dealt the brigands a setback, officials and experts said Thursday. The new tactics by the European Union naval force comes after Spain — which currently holds the EU’s rotating presidency, and whose fishing vessels are frequent pirate targets — encouraged more aggressive pursuit of pirates and the coalition obtained more aircraft and other military assets, said the force commander. The EU Naval Force attacked 12 groups of pirate vessels, which normally includes several skiffs and a mother vessel, this month, more than last year. Half of those attacks were on the high seas and half close to shore, reflecting the new strategy to intercept pirates before they reach deep water and international shipping lanes. With calmer waters, March is typically a busy month for pirate attacks. But only two ships have been taken in the first two weeks of the month, down from four hijackings over the same period last year, said a EU naval spokesman. The number of unsuccessful attacks also dropped. About half of last year’s 47 successful hijackings happened during March, April, and May. The commander said an improved level of co-operation between EU forces, NATO and U.S. naval forces based out of Bahrain is also helping. He said that while the aggressive tactics are not a long-term solution, they force pirates to find new vessels and weapons before they can launch more attacks. But until stability returns to Somalia, young men will continue to risk drowning or imprisonment for the multimillion dollar ransoms that ships can fetch, experts say.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2010/03/18/warships-new-strategy-somali-pirates/>

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

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *March 18, City of Midland* – (Texas) **White powder found in Midland neighborhood.** Midland Fire Department hazardous materials technicians have further identified the specific chemical compound discovered March 17 on N. Weatherford Ave. The chemical is identified as Monoammonium Phosphate, a compound commonly used in portable fire extinguishers. Basic field analysis of the chemical was limited to identifying the compound according to recognizable trace elements. Adenosine

Triphosphate Disodium Salt was the compound identified by this preliminary analysis. A more comprehensive lab analysis was able to specifically identify the chemical compound. Around 12:15pm, on March 17, 2010, dispatch received a call for assistance from a postal worker who had come in contact with the substance. He was transported with respiratory symptoms and has since been released from the hospital. The powder was discovered near a central mailbox area in the 1000 block of Weatherford, just north of Cuthbert. It was also found one block east in the 200 block of West Cowden. The substance had been placed on cars, mailboxes, and the roadway. U.S. Postal officials confirmed they will remove any residual chemical located inside the mail box.

Source: <http://www.cbs7kosa.com/news/details.asp?ID=18527>

19. *March 18, WLTX 19 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **Post office scare likely caused by pepper spray.** Emergency officials in Sumter, South Carolina, now say they believe a pepper spray released is likely to blame for a scare at the post office Thursday morning that led to the building's evacuation. Emergency officials in Sumter say the situation took place at the post office on Main Street. Around 8 a.m., employees went into the back supply room and opened a box. After it was opened, about 7 or 8 of them started coughing and feeling sick, and complained of respiratory problems. The building was then evacuated. The box was then removed from the building. Hazardous materials teams from DHEC, the City of Sumter, and Shaw Air Force Base are examined it, and they now believe that pepper spray was somehow released into the back room.

Source: <http://www.wltx.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=85233&catid=2>

20. *March 18, Highlands Today* – (Florida) **White powder scare evacuates Sebring printing shop.** Five employees of The Print Shop in Sebring were evacuated March 15 just before 1 p.m. after receiving a package containing a mysterious white powder that turned out to be meth. The store owner's wife said March 16 that she had been expecting photos from her brother in Ohio. According to authorities, what she found inside the package was not pictures, but a small baggie containing the white powder. The five people inside were evacuated as members of the Sebring Police Department, Sebring Fire Department, and Highlands County EMS came on scene. "They (emergency personnel) didn't seem too concerned because if it was anything really bad, they would have kept us inside the building," she said. The Sebring Fire Department's HazMat team suited up and went inside the building to collect the package, according to the incident report. The Sebring Police commander said the state Fire Marshal's office analyzed the powder and determined it was methamphetamine. Investigators from the SPD have since taken over the case. No arrests have been made. The mail carrier could not give any specific information about the package or where it came from. The store owner's wife said no one in her office sent it, despite the office's return address being in the upper left hand corner. The package had a North Carolina address listed, but was listed "return to sender," she said.

Source: <http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2010/mar/18/1a-white-powder-scare-evacuates-sebring-printing-s/>

Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *March 19, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (Texas) **TransPecos Foods faces OSHA fine for workplace hazards.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited TransPecos Foods in Pecos, Texas for alleged workplace safety and health violations following an inspection at the company's facility on East Palmer Road. Proposed penalties total \$69,650. OSHA's El Paso Area Office initiated its inspection on October 15, 2009. The investigation found that TransPecos Foods, which employs about 150 workers at its Pecos facility, failed to implement OSHA's process safety management procedures, exposing employees to unsafe working conditions. "This company exposed its workers to potential workplace hazards by not following OSHA's process safety management regulations," said the agency's regional administrator in Dallas. "It is fortunate in this case that no one was injured or became ill." OSHA has alleged 18 serious citations including failing to protect employees from exposed electrical wires, to provide forklift inspections, to protect workers from rotating parts on conveyor belts, to provide a wash station for employees during the use of corrosive chemicals, and to train employees on hazard communication.
Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/23510/TransPecos-Foods-faces-OSHA-fine>
22. *March 18, Syracuse Post-Standard* – (New York) **Investigators seek cause of fuel oil tank fire at Beak & Skiff in Onondaga.** Investigators are seeking the cause of a fire at Beak & Skiff Apple Farms that caused a fuel oil storage tank to explode early March 18, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office said. Emergency officials were called about 12:43 a.m. to the scene about a quarter-mile from Hitchings Road, said a spokesperson for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. There they found a 5,000-gallon tank about one-quarter full of fuel oil sludge on fire, he said. South Onondaga firefighters were able to keep the blaze from reaching a 1,500-gallon tanker truck next to it. He said he did not believe anyone was hurt battling the fire.
Source:
http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/investigators_seek_cause_of_fu.html
23. *March 17, Lehigh Valley Express-Times* – (Pennsylvania) **One still hospitalized from carbon monoxide poisoning at Giant Food Store in Forks Township.** One construction worker remained hospitalized March 16 after carbon monoxide sent nearly a dozen people to the hospital the night of March 15 at the Giant Food Store in Forks Township. The store was evacuated about 9:30 p.m. after carbon monoxide gas reached dangerous levels due to the use of a propane-powered tile cutter inside the store, authorities said. Eleven people were sent to the hospital after the incident, at least three with potentially life-threatening conditions, but 10 have since been treated and released, said the township's fire marshal. An OSHA spokeswoman said no information was yet available, and the investigation could take as long as six months. Fire officials previously said subcontractor Diplomat Demolition was improperly using propane-powered tools inside a confined area, which they compared with running a car inside a closed garage. A Giant spokesman said of the 11 originally transported to the hospital, three were members of a family who were shopping at the time. The other eight were a combination of construction workers and Giant employees, he said, but he did not

know a specific breakdown. Fire officials said in the most concentrated area around the construction, the carbon monoxide reached levels of 400 parts per million and 200 ppm is a threshold for it becoming life-threatening. About 35 people were evacuated from the store, and most were screened as a precaution. The store reopened shortly after 11 p.m.

Source: <http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/news/index.ssf?/base/news-1/126879875418330.xml&coll=3>

24. *March 16, Reuters* – (California) **Parched California to get more water.** California's drought-baked cities and farms will get considerably more water this year than last from federal officials, the Interior Secretary said on March 16, making good on forecasts issued in February after a series of strong winter storms. Irrigation districts south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, which represent farmers on the west side of the state's Central Valley, will get 25 percent of their contracted water allotment from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, he said, up from just 5 percent in February. The increase was issued ahead of schedule and comes at a critical time for the Central Valley, which is one of the country's most bountiful agricultural regions. California, the No. 1 farm state, produces more than half the fruits, vegetables, and nuts grown in the United States. But he said California — which has suffered through three years of drought that has prompted rationing, higher charges, and mandatory conservation measures — must work out long-term solutions to its ongoing water crisis.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62F5ZP20100316>

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Water Sector

25. *March 19, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Some in EPA fear nuclear emergency guide risks public safety.** Some officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have expressed concern that the last Presidential Administration's radiological incident response guide could jeopardize public health as it would permit the drinking of water with high contamination levels, Inside EPA reported on March 16. The current Presidential Administration put off issuing the protective action guide for radiological incidents not long before it was supposed to be published in January 2009. The document is meant to provide advice on dealing with the release of radiation from a terrorist attack or mishap at a nuclear power facility or industrial site. A draft of the document indicates that the public could drink water that has radiation levels thousands and even hundreds of thousands times greater than what the EPA typically would permit in crisis situations, Inside EPA found. Exposure levels allowed in the document for two particular radionuclides "may lead to subchronic (acute) effects ... such as vomiting, fever, etc.," one EPA Superfund office employee stated in a 2007 e-mail message. An official from the agency's General Counsel's Office (OGC) appeared to concur later. The head of the agency's Radiation and Indoor Air Office (ORIA), which produced the guide, disagreed. The office's "health physicists advise that this is not true and that OGC's comment to this effect is ill-founded," according to the ORIA director. Inside EPA obtained the e-mails through the

Freedom of Information Act.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100318_4393.php

26. *March 19, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Hazmat examines suspicious drum in Salinas.** A 55-gallon drum found in a drainage canyon about 1:30 p.m. Thursday near Hampton Inn & Suites on Calle del Adobe in Salinas, California, resulted in the call-out of a hazardous materials team. Representatives of the Salinas fire and police departments, California Highway Patrol and Central Coast Water Quality Control Board responded. An orange chemical had seeped from the drum and congealed near, but not in, water that drains into Markley swamp near Boronda School. The chemical proved harmless and was removed, said a local consultant biologist representing Hampton Inn. He said the drum had been dumped in the canyon on the boundary of the hotel's property. It contained an inert polymer, possibly a glue. "It could have been extremely dangerous had it been a phosphate pesticide," he said.

Source: <http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20100319/NEWS0101/3190337>

27. *March 18, New York Times* – (National) **EPA begins study of fracturing's effects on water supplies.** U.S. EPA announced the start today of a study examining the effects of a controversial oil and gas production technique known as hydraulic fracturing on water supplies. "Our research will be designed to answer questions about the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing on human health and the environment," the EPA assistant administrator said in a statement. "The study will be conducted through a transparent, peer-reviewed process, with significant stakeholder input." Hydraulic fracturing is a decades-old technology used by the petroleum industry to improve production at aging wells by blasting water, chemicals and sand or plastic beads into a wellbore at high pressure. The technique has grabbed public attention as the industry has used it to tap vast stores of domestic natural gas, and drillers have poured into Pennsylvania and New York to tap the potentially vast Marcellus Shale formation.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/03/18/18greenwire-epa-begins-study-of-fracturings-effects-on-wat-76992.html>

28. *March 18, Utica Observer-Dispatch* – (New York) **Village of Newport water violates state standards.** Newport, New York, in Herkimer County has secured the nearly \$2.2 million needed to correct its inadequately treated water, which is in violation of health standards. But until improvements are made, "there is an increased chance that disease causing organisms could contaminate the water supply," a state Health Department spokesman said Thursday. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants and some seniors might be at increased risk, according to the village. "We're going to be able to make the improvements needed to provide safe drinking water to our residents," the village mayor said. Village officials recently sent out information to residents — letting them know that no boil water orders were in effect and no immediate action needed to be taken. The village also posted a notice on its Web site about the history of the problem, which dates back several years. In February 2007, the state Department of Health's Herkimer district office determined the water being supplied from Skunk Hill and Furman Springs — the sources of the village's drinking water — were under the direct influence of surface water and not sufficiently treated.

The Health Department required the village to provide adequate treatment or replace the sources by August 2008 — but it failed to do so because the fix would have been too costly for the taxpayers. The village hopes to start construction on a project that will include a water storage tank by May 2011. Construction likely will take about six months.

Source: <http://www.uticaod.com/news/x1664765134/Village-of-Newport-water-violates-standards>

29. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Virgin Islands) **Judge orders repair of treatment plants in U.S. Virgin Islands after waste dumped into ocean.** Federal authorities won a court order March 17 requiring officials in the U.S. Virgin Islands to repair sewage plants that have dumped raw waste at beaches renowned for snorkeling and surfing. The islands' Waste Management Authority dumped more than 50 million gallons of untreated sewage into Cane Garden Bay and Long Reef off St. Croix since January, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Local officials said they had no option and blamed malfunctioning pumps at the two treatment plants. A federal engineer testified at a court hearing March 16 that crews had two choices: divert untreated sewage into the ocean or allow it to spill from flooded manholes in Christiansted, the main tourist town on St. Croix. Justice Department officials found out at the hearing that all pumps at one of the stations were not working. They also had underestimated the extent of the problem, having originally thought the spill amounted to between 300,000 gallons and 500,000 gallons a day, half the actual amount. By March 17, crews had installed a new pump at one of the plants and reported waste was no longer being routed to the ocean, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office said. The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Caribbean territory filed an emergency motion the week of March 8 seeking a court order to have crews repair and install pumps. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-cb-us-virgin-islands-ocean-sewage,0,4205004.story>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *March 19, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **State scrambles to keep man with TB in isolation.** A homeless man with a highly contagious form of tuberculosis was out of quarantine in Ala Moana Park in Hawaii last week but is back in isolation at a hospital and is not believed to have infected anyone, according to court papers and interviews. The Attorney General's Office filed paperwork yesterday at Circuit Court seeking authority to quarantine the patient, identified as a 52-year-old man. The Advertiser is withholding his name because he is back in quarantine and the threat to public safety is diminished. The deputy attorney general said she could not discuss the case because of medical confidentiality and added that the quarantine papers were supposed to have been filed under seal, unavailable to the public. The head of the Tuberculosis Control Program in the state Health Department, likewise said he could not discuss details of

the case but said no public health risk had been created. However, the seriousness of the case prompted the Health Department at one point to contact the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which contacted Homeland Security to keep the man from traveling by air.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20100318/NEWS15/3180336/State+scrambles+to+keep+man+with+TB+in+isolation>

31. *March 19, Las Vegas Sun* – (Nevada) **Hospital can't account for keys to bins of patient records for shredding.** After the Las Vegas Sun's revelations of patient-confidentiality leaks at Clark County's University Medical Center (UMC) in November, hospital officials scrutinized operations and declared they had tightened patient privacy controls. But state health authorities have discovered an unknown number of unidentified people have keys to locked bins at the hospital where patient information sheets are deposited for shredding. UMC officials did not know who had keys to the bins, nor how many had been issued, according to a state Health Division report. Inspectors found four instances where people had been issued multiple keys without an explanation. "In other words, there was no way to tell whether the additional keys were replacing lost or stolen keys or were simply a second set for those individuals, or passed on to someone else," the report said. UMC will need to appeal the report or provide a plan to address the violation. The hospital faces a fine of up to \$400, a state official said. A person who violates a patient's privacy with the intent to sell information can be fined up to \$250,000 and imprisoned for up to 10 years. The UMC's chief operating officer said a third-party vendor is responsible for the hospital's recycling bins and that UMC's key policy does not address outside vendors. He is not sure the hospital has done anything wrong with regard to the bins, he said.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/mar/19/hospital-cant-account-keys-secure-bins/>

32. *March 19, Winston-Salem Journal Reporter* – (National) **Breaches of patients' data raise questions on security methods.** The theft of a document containing the names and Social Security numbers of 554 patients at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center was hardly unusual. Federal health officials say that it was the 47th time since September 2009 that patient records of some sort had been breached from hospitals and health-insurance companies nationally. Such breaches raise questions about the security measures being used by health-care providers on sensitive financial and medical information, as well as the need for records to be removed from secure sites. In the Wake Forest Baptist case, a bag containing documents with the patient information was stolen February 15 from an employee's locked car in the parking deck of an off-campus outpatient clinic. Hospital officials publicly revealed the theft on March 4. The hospital arranged for free credit and financial monitoring for anyone who was listed on the stolen documents, and officials say that so far, no identity thefts have been reported, said a Wake Forest Baptist spokeswoman. Under federal law, Wake Forest Baptist reported the security breach to the Office of Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Of the security breaches at hospitals and health-insurance companies nationwide, 11 have occurred in the Southeast, affecting 914,234 patients.

Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2010/mar/19/breaches-of-patients-data-raise-questions-on-secu/>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

33. *March 19, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **VA man found guilty of threatening SC judges.** A Virginia man has been found guilty of e-mailing threats to kill white judges in South Carolina. The Acting U.S. Attorney says the 61-year-old suspect faces up to 15 years in prison after Wednesday's verdict. In 2003, a federal judge dismissed a civil suit the suspect had filed against the U.S. claiming he had been unlawfully arrested. When the judge did not reinstate the case, authorities say the suspect sent e-mails and letters to the court, including one that threatened to kill white judges in South Carolina. FBI agents arrested the suspect in July at his Alexandria, Virginia, home, a week after he was indicted by a grand jury in South Carolina. The suspect will face up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced in June.

Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2010/mar/19/va-man-found-guilty-threatening-sc-judges-ar-66424/>

34. *March 19, Associated Press* – (New York) **Upstate NY town recovers \$378G stolen from account.** Officials in a Hudson Valley town say they have recovered the \$378,000 in public funds that computer hackers stole from the municipality's bank account. The Town of Poughkeepsie supervisor announced Thursday night that the balance of the funds have been restored with the assistance of TD Bank and various law enforcement authorities. A total of \$95,000 was recovered from a Ukraine bank soon after the thefts occurred in January. Officials have said computer hackers raided a town account and wired \$378,470 to banks in Ukraine. Town officials, citing the continuing investigation, declined to reveal how the money was recovered and how it was originally stolen. The case is being investigated by town police, the Secret Service and the FBI.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=12169037>

35. *March 18, Main Justice* – (National) **Judiciary asks for \$22 million for terrorism trials.** The federal judiciary is requesting \$22 million in fiscal 2011 to cover expected costs associated with "high-threat" trials of suspected terrorists. The request, the first of its kind, acknowledges "certain security and logistical challenges" unique to terrorism trials but steers clear of the raging debate over whether suspected terrorists should be prosecuted in federal court or by military tribunal. Still, opponents of civilian trials could use the request to bolster arguments that prosecuting suspected terrorists in federal court is too pricey and endangers surrounding communities. The \$22 million is part of the federal judiciary's \$7.3 billion budget request, which was presented to a House Appropriations subcommittee on Thursday. A Judge, who chairs the budget committee of the Judicial Conference, the federal judiciary's policymaking body, said

the trial of a September 11 co-conspirator in Fairfax, Virginia, underscored the need for additional resources. During the 2006 death penalty trial of the convicted September conspirator, the city bogged down with armed guards, rooftop snipers, bomb-sniffing dogs, blocked streets and identification checks.

Source: <http://www.mainjustice.com/2010/03/18/federal-judiciary-asks-for-more-funding-for-terrorism-trials/>

36. *March 18, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Al-Qaeda still pursuing WMD, FBI chief says.** "Al-Qaeda remains committed to its goal of conducting attacks inside the United States," the FBI director warned a House Appropriations subcommittee, according to Newsmax. "Further, al-Qaeda's continued efforts to access chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear material pose a serious threat to the United States." Last month, a known al-Qaeda agent declared that terrorists could best sneak into the country through tunnels that run under the U.S.-Mexico border. "One person, with the courage to carry 4 pounds of anthrax, will go to the White House lawn, and will spread this 'confetti' all over them," the agent said on al-Jazeera television. "9/11 will be small change in comparison."

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100318_5942.php

37. *March 18, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **Gate 1 closed after bomb dog alerted authorities to unusual scent, nothing found.** Redstone Arsenal has temporarily closed Gate 1 at Martin Road, to incoming traffic after a bomb dog alerted authorities to a possible explosive device. A spokesperson for Redstone said no explosive was found and the dog is used for standard security measures. "We've had these kinds of things happen before," the spokesman said. "Once, a pallet had been previously used to transport ammunition and the dog alerted then, too." The spokesman said all commercial vehicles come through Gate 1, and bomb dogs are standard in searching vehicles. "We take all precaution and follow protocol," he said.

Source: http://blog.al.com/breaking/2010/03/gate_1_closed_after_bomb_dog_a.html

38. *March 18, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **Tax office evacuated after bomb threat.** The Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office was evacuated for about 30 minutes Thursday afternoon after someone called in a bomb threat into City Hall, authorities said. A Bexar County spokeswoman said the call was received about 1:10 p.m. Thursday at City Hall. She said employees at the Vista Verde Plaza Building were told to look for anything unusual around their work stations, and patrons were moved out less than an hour later. Authorities began to allow people back into the building at about 2:30 p.m. after no bomb was found.

Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/88452397.html>

39. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Foxborough police probe threats to town official.** Police are investigating alleged stalking and threats made against a Foxborough town official and her family. A Selectwoman said at a news conference with police officials on Tuesday that the intimidation attempts started last April when she was first running for office and she decided to go public now after a candidate for the board said he was anonymously threatened. The Selectwoman says the threats have

included photographs of her home and her son's school, and a letter threatening to run down her husband as he rode his bicycle. She says one photo showed her campaign sign in a cemetery. She said the writer "disagreed with my position on certain political issues." A Police detective told The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro that the FBI is helping analyze handwriting samples.

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20100317/APN/303179742>

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Emergency Services Sector

40. *March 18, New York Times* – (National) **FBI faces new setback in computer overhaul.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation has suspended work on parts of its huge computer overhaul, dealing the agency the latest costly setback in a decade-long effort to develop a modernized information system to combat crime and terrorism. The overhaul was supposed to be completed this fall, but now will not be done until next year at the earliest. The delay could mean at least \$30 million in cost overruns on a project considered vital to national security, congressional officials said. FBI officials said that design changes and "minor" technical problems prompted the suspension of parts of the third and fourth phases of the work, which is intended to allow agents to better navigate investigative files, search databases, and communicate with one another. Beyond the financial costs are concerns about the FBI's ability to handle its law enforcement and national security responsibilities with an information system still regarded as sub-par in some crucial areas. In a paper-driven culture, the agency's computers were so inadequate that many agents until several years ago could not send or receive e-mail messages, and had difficulty getting case histories and linking to other databases. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, agents in Florida had to send photographs of the hijackers by overnight mail to Washington because they could not send e-mail attachments. The current project, known as Sentinel, has fixed some longstanding problems, including difficulties with e-mail and database searching, auditors have found. But in examining recent work, officials realized that mundane problems — like slow response times, awkward display pages, and screen print that was too small — were cropping up.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/us/19fbi.html>

41. *March 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Authorities: Booby traps targeting police prompt arrests of biker gang members in West.** Three booby-trap attacks on an anti-gang task force in Southern California prompted the arrests of about 30 members of California's largest motorcycle gang, prosecutors said on March 17. Members of the Vagos were arrested as part of the crackdown in Riverside and Shasta counties in California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah after the attacks on police in Hemet, California. "In the last few months, they've gotten our attention. Today we gave them some attention back," Riverside County District Attorney said. "Our goal is to eliminate the significant threat to law enforcement that the Vagos represent." He declined to detail

evidence he said links the Vagos to those stealth attacks because the investigation was ongoing. But he described the ambush devices as insidious and cowardly. He said the Vagos specialize in methamphetamine sales, weapons trafficking, and violence, particularly toward law enforcement officers. About 400 heavily armed police, sheriff's deputies and federal agents visited 73 locations early on March 17 in search of 94 gang members. Officials said there are about 600 Vagos in the Western U.S., including about 200 in Riverside County, California, where the gang was started in the late 1960s.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-biker-gang-sweep,0,6554095.story>

42. *March 17, Reuters* – (National) **FBI cautious on rules for terrorism questioning.** The FBI Director on March 17 urged Congress to be cautious about imposing strict rules on how and whether law enforcement officials can interrogate terrorism suspects they detain. Some Republican lawmakers have questioned whether critical information was lost because the intelligence community was not present for interviews of a Nigerian man who tried to blow up a U.S. airliner on Christmas Day with a bomb hidden in his underwear. He said interviews often must happen quickly and getting the investigators who are specialists in certain subjects can take hours because they are hundreds of miles away, as was the case in the Christmas Day bombing attempt. Authorities at the time were concerned the Nigerian man might have been part of a broader plot involving additional people carrying bombs on other planes. Legislation has been offered in the Senate aimed at forcing the Presidential Administration to have “suspected unprivileged enemy belligerents” held in military custody, interrogated for possible intelligence and tried in a military court. A special team, known as the High-Value Interrogation Team, would recommend within 48 hours of detaining an individual whether the person would be placed in military custody, according to the legislation. He cautioned against tying the hands of law enforcement with more rules on interrogation.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62G51820100317>

43. *March 17, Appeal Tribune* – (Oregon) **Seismic work will help make city safer.** Should an earthquake like the Spring Break Quake of '93 shake Scotts Mills again, citizens may be safer thanks to a sturdier fire station. The Silverton Fire District's Scotts Mills Fire Station will soon undergo updates with funds provided by the Oregon Emergency Management Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program. The Silverton Fire District was awarded \$131,207 to update the Scotts Mills Station to ensure that emergency services remain functional in the event of an earthquake. “What this all boils down to is having a facility that will be seismically stable so we can respond as we are now to protect the community,” said the district spokesman. He said plywood sheathing will be added to the sides and roof of the structure as will anchor bolts and roof truss clips. Thirteen public education buildings and 11 emergency services buildings statewide were recently awarded grants totaling \$15 million. A 2007 report from Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries revealed 1,000 school and emergency services buildings were at high or very high risk for collapse during an earthquake. According to the Oregon Emergency Management public affairs coordinator, 49 applications and a total of 79 projects were submitted for this round of

grants.

Source:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20100317/COMMUNITIES/3170397/1132>

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Information Technology Sector

44. *March 19, The Register* – (International) **Energizer site still plagued by data-stealing trojan.** The maker of Energizer brand batteries is continuing to serve its customers a file laced with a data-stealing trojan more than 24 hours after the company was notified of the threat and almost two weeks after it promised to fix the problem. A spokeswoman for Energizer Holdings acknowledged receiving a voicemail on March 17 informing her the trojan was being offered for download on one of the company's European websites. She said she did not respond to the message because of the late hour at which it was left, and never saw an article reporting that two anti-virus firms had confirmed the site continued to offer the toxic file 12 days after the company promised to stamp it out. When The Register directed the spokeswoman to the precise page where the offending `UsbCharger_setup_V1_1_1.exe` file is being served, she said: "I can assure you it will be taken down immediately." But at time of publication, more than nine hours later, the file was still available for download.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/19/energizer_battery_trojan_remains/

45. *March 19, Computerworld* – (International) **Google patches Chrome days before hacking contest.** Google has patched 11 vulnerabilities in the Windows version of Chrome, including one that earned its finder the first \$1,337 check from the company's new bug bounty program. Like Apple, which updated Safari last week, Google beefed up the security of its browser just days before the Pwn2Own browser hacking contest was to kick off in Canada. The update to Chrome 4.1.249.1036 fixes six flaws rated "high," the second-most-severe ranking in Google's four-step threat system; plugs three "medium" holes; and quashes two "low" bugs. Danish vulnerability tracker Secunia rated the update as "highly critical." Although Google typically hides technical details of the most serious vulnerabilities when it issues an update — it blocks bug tracker entries to prevent attackers from using the information — all of the 11 bugs are behind the wall this time.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9173338/Google_patches_Chrome_days_befo
re_hacking_contest](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9173338/Google_patches_Chrome_days_before_hacking_contest)

46. *March 18, BBC* – (International) **Spammers survive botnet shutdowns.** Spam levels have not been dented by a series of strikes against controllers of networks of hijacked computers. Early 2010 has seen four such networks, or botnets, tackled via arrests, net access cutoffs and by infiltrating command systems. The successes have not inconvenienced hi-tech criminals who found other routes to send spam, say experts.

And, they add, despite falling response rates, spam remains too lucrative for criminals to abandon.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8570993.stm>

47. *March 17, IDG News Service* – (National) **FTC member rips into Google’s privacy efforts.** Several major U.S. Internet companies, including Google and Facebook, need to “step up” and better protect consumer privacy or face tougher penalties from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, a commissioner said on March 17. The commissioner, who is leaving the FTC next month, ripped into Google for the launch of its Buzz social-networking tool in February, and she complained that many other Internet firms, including Facebook and Microsoft, aren’t encrypting the consumer data that lives in their clouds. “I am especially concerned that technology companies are learning harmful lessons from each other’s attempts to push the privacy envelop,” she said during an FTC privacy workshop. “Even the most respected and popular online companies, the ones who claim to respect privacy, continue to launch products where the guiding privacy policy seems to be, ‘Throw it up against the wall and see if it sticks.’”

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/031710-ftc-member-rips-into-googles.html?hpg1=bn>

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

48. *March 19, V3.co.uk* – (International) **European Commission to improve onboard calling.** The European Commission has approved new rules that it said will make it easier for people traveling on ships in its waters to make and receive mobile calls and messages. The EC announced that the rules would harmonize the technical and legal environment for providing such services, while making sure that anyone out at sea had the opportunity to use them. The EU digital agenda commissioner said, “Tens of millions of people who travel and work on ships anywhere in European territorial waters will be able to use their mobile phones without problems of interference as a result of the new rules just adopted by the Commission.” While currently most ships use Picocell transmitters, which connect to satellites for their calls, the EC adopted the proposal that 900 MHz and/or 1800 MHz GSM radio frequencies should also be made available for passengers and workers. Also approved was the suggestion that mobile service providers should be able to provide their services in the territorial waters of countries in which they do not currently have a license to operate.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259831/european-commission-improve>

49. *March 18, Computerworld* – (National) **FCC launches broadband public safety Web page.** The Federal Communications Commission on March 18 launched a new “Broadband and Public Safety and Homeland Security” Web page to provide the public with information about a proposed \$16 billion national wireless network for emergency responders in the new National Broadband Plan. The site includes links to the FCC’s 360-page National Broadband Plan released on March 16 as well as recent public forums and workshops. One video link shows proceedings from a March 2 public forum in Washington on the creation of an Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC), which under the the National Broad Plan, would oversee technical considerations in creating a nationwide wireless broadband network for use by first responders.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9172798/FCC_launches_broadband_public_safety_Web_page

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Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **6 West Tenn. churches broken into, 1 burned, another had fire set, feds join probe.** Federal investigators have joined West Tennessee authorities in investigating a rash of church burglaries. The Jackson Sun reported the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is aiding Henderson and Chester County authorities after six churches were hit in an eight-mile radius late March 13 and early March 14. The New Beech Grove Baptist Church burned the morning of March 14. Investigators said someone broke into Mifflin Baptist Church, set a basket on a stove burner, and turned it on. The resulting fire burned itself out without spreading. Authorities said thieves took electronic equipment in break-ins. An ATF spokesman confirmed federal agents were aiding the investigation, but declined further comment.

Source: <http://www.wreg.com/news/sns-ap-tn--churchburglaries,0,5884600.story>

51. *March 18, Hemet Valley Chronicle* – (California) **Suitcases outside Hemet theater destroyed.** Hemet police closed down Florida Avenue between Buena Vista and State streets March 18 after two suitcases were left outside the Historic Hemet Theater. Police received a call about the suitcases, which turned out to be empty, at 1:30 p.m. Local business owners did not know who owned the suitcases, and a homeless woman often seen in the area said they were not hers, said a police lieutenant. The Riverside County Hazardous Device Team used a robot to explore the suitcases but was unable to open them, he said. About 4:20 p.m., a water impulse charge destroyed the suitcases. He said the suitcases were empty. Police cordoned off streets north of Florida to Latham Avenue and south to Acacia, and traffic was diverted to side streets. Some pedestrians tried to ignore the police tape but were turned away. In addition to the county bomb squad, the Hemet Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team assisted.
- Source:

<http://www.thevalleychronicle.com/articles/2010/03/18/news/doc4ba2bdf47cfda747648258.txt>

52. *March 18, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Search at NH mall yields nothing.** Authorities say nothing was found after a telephone call prompted police to search for a suspicious device at the Pheasant Lane Mall in Nashua. Police responded shortly after 4 p.m. on March 18. Mall security tells WMUR-TV that the Target store and a few small nearby stores were evacuated, but the mall remained open. Nothing was found during the search, and the stores reopened that evening. Police said they planned to interview the employee who took the initial call.
Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=12167581>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

53. *March 19, CNN* – (North Dakota; Minnesota) **Sandbags in place as Red River rises.** The Red River kept rising to dangerous levels Friday as those in the area hoped they had done enough to protect themselves. Though the river is in a major flood stage, folks in Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, said they were optimistic after filling more than a million sandbags and stacking most of them. “We’re in good shape, and we have a lot of things in place in case there are any problems,” the Fargo mayor said. He said the river is expected to crest in the next day or two at a level close to 3 feet below last year’s record flood level. In 2009, the Red River set a record 40.8 feet at Fargo. As of 12:15 a.m. ET Friday, the river was at 34.61 feet, more than 16 feet above the flood stage of 18 feet. Last week, warm weather and rain melted snow south of Fargo and Moorhead, causing the Red River to swell. Upstream, snow and ice have yet to melt, pushing water back toward the two cities. In Fargo, more than 700,000 sandbags had been placed around the city. But still, parts of Fargo were flooding Friday, city officials said. “The river is definitely well over its banks and has gone into adjacent city parks, different areas that are noncritical, not people’s backyards or businesses or anything like that,” a Fargo spokeswoman said. But in the rural town of Hickson, about 15 miles south of Fargo, the flooding was well under way Thursday.
Source:
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/weather/03/19/north.dakota.flooding/index.html?hpt=T2>

54. *March 19, Worcester Telegram* – (Massachusetts) **Trees being removed for safety of dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun removing trees near the

downstream edge of Buffumville Dam in Charlton. New engineering regulations require all woody vegetation be removed within 50 feet of the base of the dam. This is being done for dam safety. The park manager said, "The roots penetrate the earthen dam and as the roots penetrate, they create a pathway for water. So we have to remove the trees and the roots." Areas near the work are closed for safety reasons. As the logging is done, the area will be closed to visitors for several days until the removal is complete. Signs will be posted at areas being cleared. This work will affect a good portion of the disc golf course and adjacent parking lots.

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20100319/NEWS/3190320/1101/local>

55. *March 19, Monroe News-Star* – (Louisiana) **Corps assesses levee cave-in.** A day after a chunk of the earthen wall fell into the Ouachita River, the Army Corps of Engineers assessed the levee cave-in near Columbia, Louisiana. The executive director of the Tensas Basin Levee District said on Thursday the corps sent a team of engineers to measure and photograph the site, located near Louisiana 4 and U.S. 165 in Caldwell Parish. A Corps spokesman confirmed the assessment but said it would take days before the team is ready to make a recommendation. An inspection of the levee scheduled in the coming weeks also has been postponed indefinitely. He is holding out hope that the corps will recognize the cave-in, along with others in the last six months, is a result of flooding. Since the heavy flooding from November and December rains, he said he has recorded 11 cave-ins up and down the Ouachita River, which bends at spots most vulnerable to collapses. If the corps determines the collapses came about from the flooding, it could use its emergency powers to stabilize crumbling points in the levee, relocate the levee wall back several feet or both. If not, the district would be forced to find alternative funding for an expensive series of projects.

Source: <http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20100319/NEWS01/3190314>

56. *March 18, KCCI 8 Des Moines* – (Iowa) **Crews build new flood levee on MLK.** A construction crew is working to build a temporary levee Thursday morning across Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway north of Euclid Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa. The levee closes off MLK near Clarkson Ave. The closure will not affect most drivers who turn onto Euclid at MLK. City officials said that motorists are advised that the barricades are placed for their protection. Once barricaded, roadways remain closed until water is off the road, flood damage is assessed, repairs are made, and the streets are cleaned. The City of Des Moines' Public Works Department has filled sandbags available for residents and businesses that are affected by the rising rivers and streams. There is a limit of 25 bags per person.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/22876226/detail.html>

57. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Stillwater scrambles after new river forecast.** The latest forecast for the rise of the St. Croix (Saynt Croy) River during the spring floods could make for tense week in Stillwater, Minnesota. The Thursday afternoon update from the National Weather put the river at 83 feet, but also predicts a steady rise to flood stage of 87 feet by Tuesday and nearly 88 feet by Thursday. The city's public works director says that is a foot higher than the previous forecast and triggers an overhaul of the city's flood fighting plan. The city had already lined up

2,000 feet of concrete barriers to protect downtown, but he says now they will need to be covered with gravel to hold back more water. If the river reaches 88 feet, the Stillwater lift bridge will be closed, cutting off a well-traveled route to western Wisconsin.

Source: http://www.twincities.com/politics/ci_14699339?ncllick_check=1

58. *March 18, Kent Reporter* – (Washington) **Army Corps plans to extend grout curtain at Hanson Dam until permanent fix found.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers revealed plans Thursday to extend a grout curtain as a temporary fix for the next several years as engineers design and construct a permanent fix to stop a leak through a damaged abutment next to the Howard Hanson Dam. The corps still needs to acquire federal funds for the proposed \$44 million project that would add 650 feet in length to the grout curtain installed last fall to help protect the cities of Kent, Auburn, Renton and Tukwila from Green River flooding. The corps spent \$8.9 million last fall on the grout curtain. “We may be looking at another flood season or more before we complete this,” said the commander of the Seattle district of the Army Corps. He presented an update about the Hanson Dam to local elected officials and the media at corps district headquarters in Seattle. Local officials emphasized in a press conference after his presentation that Congress needs to act quickly to fund the extended grout curtain. The corps expects to have the design for a permanent fix, such as a concrete cutoff barrier, by the end of June in order to apply for funding from Congress in 2012 to start the project. He said the expanded grout curtain would allow the corps to store more water in the Eagle Gorge reservoir behind the dam and could return the odds of flooding in the Green River Valley to the 1 in 140 chance when the dam operates at full capacity. The risk of flooding this winter sat at a 1 in 33 chance because the leak in the abutment reduced the storage capacity behind the dam.

Source: http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/ken/news/88452317.html

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