



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to internal Department of Energy documents obtained by Dow Jones Newswires through a Freedom of Information Act request, the Energy Information Agency faces shortcomings in producing its oil-inventory data. The documents expose several errors in the EIA's weekly oil report and a weak security system that leaves the data open to being hacked or leaked. (See item [6](#))
- Reuters reports that Corning Inc. was resuming production at its Wilmington, North Carolina optical fiber plant on Monday after it was disrupted by a fire Sunday. The fire, the result of a malfunction with a piece of glass-making equipment, forced the evacuation of 150 employees. (See item [13](#))

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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 22, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Chemical spill reported south of Pittsburgh.** Cleanup crews are on the scene of a chemical spill on March 22 at a

Marathon Oil station south of Pittsburgh. There have been no reports of injuries or any evacuations. Allegheny County 911 dispatchers say the spill was reported about 5:20 a.m. on March 22 at the Marathon Petroleum plant in Jefferson Hills. Officials say about 1,000 gallons of a water-based emulsion product comprised of water, soap and hydrochloric acid leaked from a storage tank. Dispatchers say the leak has been located and fixed, and that a contractor is working with Marathon officials to clean up the mess.

Source: <http://www.wfmj.com/Global/story.asp?S=12180608>

2. *March 20, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Fire damages building in Galax.** The brakes of a tank truck carrying 8,600 gallons of gasoline caught fire in Botetourt County the evening of March 19, a fire chief said. The Deputy Chief of the Buchanan Volunteer Fire Department said once the brakes caught fire, the tires and the backside of the vehicle were soon covered in flames. The incident occurred about 7:30 p.m. near mile marker 162 when the driver was stopping at an Exxon station. He said the fire was out in about 10 minutes, but crews stayed for about two and a half hours as the vehicle cooled to make sure it was safe. U.S. 11 was closed while the vehicle was burning, and there were no injuries.
Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/240585>
3. *March 19, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **2 workers burned in explosion at Wise County gas well.** Two workers received first-degree burns the morning of March 19 when an explosion blew a large tank 50 feet off its foundation at a gas-well tank battery in rural Wise County. The explosion was reported at 11:30 a.m. at the site in a cow pasture near Hlavek Road, about six miles west of Decatur. The men, contract workers for Devon Energy, were welding near the tank battery when the blast happened, said a Wise County fire marshal. He said the workers' injuries could have been a lot worse. "It was quite an explosion," he said. The cause of the blast was still under investigation. He noted that the workers were welding a line inside a pit next to a gas separator when something went wrong. One of the tanks, which hold natural gas byproducts, caught fire, but another tank was dislodged in the blast. The tank landed on its side 50 feet from its foundation. One worker drove himself to a nearby hospital, but the other worker complained of respiratory problems so he was taken by helicopter ambulance to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.
Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/03/19/2053649/2-workers-burned-in-explosion.html>
4. *March 19, Colorado Springs Gazette* – (Colorado) **De-icer suspected in utility-pole fires.** Colorado Springs Utilities is investigating whether magnesium chloride, a de-icing liquid, might be the culprit behind recent utility-pole fires, including one March 8 that sent a power line onto Interstate 25, backing up rush hour traffic for miles and leaving the Air Force Academy without power for an hour. The Utilities CEO told City Council members at a board meeting March 17 that the utility has not positively pinpointed the cause of the March 8 pole fire. "What we're doing is an after-action investigation to confirm if there is an issue with magnesium chloride," he emphasized. Since January 1, the city-owned utility has experienced eight pole fires. A

spokesperson said the poles fires typically occur in drizzly weather. Passing vehicles can churn the magnesium chloride into a fine mist that rises and settles on the poles and insulators, Utilities officials theorize. As the solution builds up, it can cause electricity to arc across the insulator to other equipment on the poles. A spokesperson for the Colorado Department of Transportation said the department has “no reason to believe” magnesium chloride is the cause of pole fires. A spokesperson for Xcel Energy is also skeptical of the link. A Utilities spokesperson emphasized that the utility is not asking the transportation department to stop using magnesium chloride on roads.

Source: <http://www.gazette.com/articles/hour-95953-power-leaving.html>

5. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Tanker carrying 2,600 gallons of diesel overturns.** Baltimore County fire officials say 500 gallons of diesel fuel that spilled from an overturned tanker truck have entered a waterway leading to Northeast Creek. Fire officials say they are using absorbent materials to try to prevent the fuel from reaching the creek. The tanker was carrying about 2,600 gallons of diesel when it overturned the afternoon of March 18, and fire officials say they believe all or most of it spilled. No injuries were reported, but the accident snarled Route 40 traffic, closing eastbound lanes near Rosedale and bringing westbound traffic to a standstill.
Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsmd/Tanker.carrying.2.2.1573178.html>
6. *March 18, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **Shortcomings exposed in oil data.** The U.S. government faces shortcomings in producing its oil-inventory data, according to internal Department of Energy documents, obtained by Dow Jones Newswires through a Freedom of Information Act request. The documents expose several errors in the Energy Information Agency’s (EIA) weekly oil report, including one in September that was large enough to cause a jump in oil prices, and a litany of problems with its data collection, including the use of ancient technology and out-of-date methodology, that make it nearly impossible for staff to detect errors. A weak security system also leaves the data open to being hacked or leaked. Moreover, problems with EIA data underscore the hazards of depending on companies or other firms to self-report data. Many of its systems have not been updated for 30 years, and much of the data input is done manually, according to one report commissioned for the EIA, prepared by consultants SAIC Inc. The internal documents cataloged several instances in the past three years in which companies misreported the amount of oil they had in storage, sometimes by over two million barrels in each weekly survey over the course of a year. The agency faces an uphill battle just to maintain its current level of accuracy, SAIC said. The security of the weekly report also has become a bigger issue as the oil market has begun to treat the data’s release as a major event. SAIC consultants also said security surrounding the data was too lax. EIA staff should be put on “lock down” prior to release, the SAIC said, to prevent information from leaking. The EIA is implementing several security changes, and moved the weekly report to a dedicated server, said the director of the EIA’s office of oil and gas.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703523204575130141392493862.html?mod=WSJ_Commodities_LeadStory

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *March 21, Taunton Daily Gazette* – (Massachusetts) **Employees evacuated in fire at Freetown chemical plant.** The Fire Department responded to a fire in a chemical manufacturing facility at International Specialty Products Inc., 238 S. Main St., March 20. Four employees working in the building at the time were safely evacuated. “Upon arrival, fire crews found a smoldering fire in the insulating jacket of a large chemical mixer,” the Fire Chief said. “The fire was intense enough to activate the facility’s sprinkler system, which darkened down most of the fire.” He said the fire was caused by heat from the high temperature mixing process that ignited the insulation jacket of the mixer. The three-story-high vessel normally operates at 350 degrees and was being used to produce a skin care product. There was no stoppage in production and damage was estimated at \$6,000. Three engine companies with 12 fire personnel remained on the scene for about three hours to completely extinguish the fire and ensure that the sprinkler system was back in service, he said.
Source: <http://www.tauntongazette.com/news/x1526475285/Employees-evacuated-in-fire-at-Freetown-chemical-plant>
8. *March 20, Aurora Beacon-News* – (Illinois) **1 hurt as acetylene tanks explode in Aurora.** A spate of blazes around the Fox Valley kept firefighters busy March 19. Aurora firefighters responded to an acetylene explosion around 4 p.m. at Cyl-Tec Inc.’s warehouse, 950 Industrial Drive, in the Landmark Industrial Park off Sullivan Road. Fire officials said that there were about 100 acetylene cylinders involved in the explosion, which did roughly \$15,000 in damage to the facility. One Cyl-Tec employee was injured in the fire, but drove himself to Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, the deputy fire chief said. The investigation is centering around this man, he said, since he was working with the acetylene canisters when they exploded. Firefighters allowed the chemicals to burn themselves out, rather than risk another explosion. A local woman saw the eruption from her home across Sullivan Road. She said the flames were very high, and the floor of her house shook. She heard several loud pops, and called police a number of times. Cyl-Tec is a one-stop service center for compressed gas and cryogenic cylinders.
Source: <http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/2112496,Aurora-acetylene-explosion-AU031910.article>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Nuclear leak appears to be stopped.** The main source of radioactive tritium leaking at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant appears to have been stopped, and levels measured in a nearby monitoring well have been

dropping for weeks. But plant, state and federal officials say the story is far from over. A 30-foot-wide alley between two buildings at Vermont's lone nuclear plant has been the focal point as engineers have used a high-pressure stream of water to dig around underground pipes and expose a concrete pipe tunnel. The result now is a trench, 15 to 17 feet deep and crowded with pipes. Once the concrete pipe chase was exposed, engineers put a small robot equipped with a camera into it and soon found the triple failure believed to have led to the leak first made public January 7. Among the pipes housed in the concrete enclosure were two connected to Vermont Yankee's advanced off-gas building, where impurities are removed from steam so it can be condensed back to water and routed back for another trip through the reactor. The pipes were connected to two redundant systems, meant to back one another up. Both deteriorated during the plant's 38-year life and leaked.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20100322/NEWS02/3220336/1003/NEWS02>

10. *March 22, Middletown Times Herald Record* – (New York) **Indian Point has funds to decommission reactors.** Federal regulators say Indian Point has proven it will have enough money to decommission two of its nuclear reactors when their lives end decades from now. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Thursday that Indian Point has proven it has the \$1.1 billion it would take to tear down Unit 1 and Unit 2 and reclaim the sites. That's unlikely to happen until about the year 2064, but Indian Point was required to prove it will have the funds available. The plans also showed that Indian Point will spend some \$181 million managing spent fuel at the site. The nuclear plant is currently seeking a 20-year renewal of its operating license.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100321/NEWS/100329988/-1/NEWS>

11. *March 22, Chattanooga Times Free Press* – (Alabama; Tennessee) **Nuclear waste piling up in region.** Three nuclear power plants along the Tennessee River near Chattanooga are storing 3,013 metric tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste. By mid-century, the waste volume stored in Soddy-Daisy and Spring City, Tennessee, and Athens, Alabama, could more than double if no permanent solution for storing or reducing spent nuclear fuel is found, government studies show. The program director for high risk energy choices at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy said reactor sites never were intended to be "mini Yucca Mountains." Spokesmen for TVA's nuclear program said the spent fuel rods in pool storage are closely monitored and removed to dry cask storage as they cool. That is because at both Sequoyah, in Soddy-Daisy, and Browns Ferry, in Alabama, the pool storage capacity is maxed out. At Sequoyah, about 20 casks sit on a concrete pad inside a fence. Armed guards man checkpoints nearby. A similar scenario is in place at Browns Ferry. TVA officials insist the stored wastes are safe where they are. "We have back-ups after back-ups," said Sequoyah's operations superintendent and senior reactor operator. In the meantime, TVA has paid \$923 million to the Nuclear Waste Fund for an eventual permanent repository — about \$50 million a year, said one of the spokesmen for TVA's nuclear program. He said TVA eventually will run out of storage space for the spent fuel. Browns Ferry will reach its

storage room capacity in 2018, and Sequoyah will run out of room in 2028, he said. Watts Bar's storage pool will reach capacity in 2015. With a storage rack modification, that date can be stretched to 2020, he said.

Source: <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/mar/22/nuclear-waste-piling-up-in-region/?local>

12. *March 21, WNCN 32 Montgomery* – (Alabama) **Feds want to discuss Farley Nuclear Plant.** Federal regulators say they want to discuss the safety performance of a southeast Alabama nuclear power plant. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a meeting March 30th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Dothan to talk about the record of the Farley Nuclear Plant. The plant has come under fire after an inspection in February found failures in an emergency warning system that's supposed to help nearby residents. The meeting is open to the public.

Source: <http://www.wncn.com/localnews/88755002.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

13. *March 22, Reuters* – (North Carolina) **Corning restarting production at Wilmington plant.** Specialty glass maker Corning Inc. was resuming production at its Wilmington optical fiber plant on Monday after it was disrupted by a fire Sunday, a company spokesman said. Corning, the largest maker of optical fiber and glass for liquid crystal displays, said it does not expect any disruption in its ability to meet customer demand as a result of the incident. The blaze was brought under control more than an hour after it started and work to resume operations began Sunday evening, the spokesman said, adding that the plant was expected to be fully operational by late Monday. The plant has the largest optical fiber manufacturing capacity in the industry, according to Corning's website. Telecommunications companies such as Verizon Communications typically use optical fiber for their fiber-to-the-home cable and wireless networks. There were about 150 employees at the factory when the fire broke out, the plant manager told the Wilmington StarNews, adding the employees were evacuated and no one was injured. He said the fire was the result of a malfunction with a piece of glass-making equipment, which produces intense heat. The company spokesman said Corning would move quickly to repair ductwork damaged by the "relatively minor" fire in the newest part of the plant located on the north side of Wilmington. The company declined to discuss how much production was lost.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2220364420100322?type=marketsNews>

14. *March 22, State Journal* – (Ohio) **Massive fire shuts down road, causes concern.** State Route was shut down in Steubenville, Ohio, for almost two hours as fire crews battled a huge fire that got out of hand, at a local scrap yard March 21. The fire began at Van's Iron Metal, Inc. An assistant fire chief said that the department was worried about explosives because there were tanks filled with propane gas in the massive heap, and hydrants weren't getting fire fighters enough water. The fire was

extinguished without any injuries or much damage.

Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=77125>

15. *March 20, Seattle Post Intelligencer* – (National) **Boeing 787 Dreamliner completes flutter, ground effects tests.** Boeing has completed flutter and ground effects testing on its 787 Dreamliner, key steps in the airliners certification program. Flutter is natural vibration that can amplify and damage the jet. Flutter tests verify that the airplane will dampen the effect even when an oscillation is introduced, ensuring it is not subject to flutter when flying within normal parameters, the vice president of Marketing for Boeing Commercial Airplanes noted on his blog Friday. During flutter testing, the first flight-test 787 flew above 43,000 feet and, in dives, as fast as Mach 0.97, with calibrated airspeeds as high as 405 knots, the executive wrote. “The technical team has made an initial assessment of the data and we couldn’t be more pleased with the performance of the 787. The damping was as predicted and the pilots report that the airplane responded as expected. “Based on this data, the 787 test fleet has now been cleared to fly throughout its full flight envelope.” Once the Federal Aviation Administration validates this and other test items, it will send technical teams for certification testing, which looks at the extremes of the flight envelope, heat and cold, high altitude, over-speed conditions, hard landings and engine-out conditions.
- Source: <http://blog.seattlepi.com/aerospace/archives/198786.asp>

16. *March 19, CNN* – (National) **Investigation points to driver error in Prius wreck.** Early evidence points to driver error as the reason a 2005 Prius sped into a stone wall on March 9, according to federal investigators. “Information retrieved from the vehicle’s onboard computer systems indicated there was no application of the brakes and the throttle was fully open,” according to a statement from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The statement suggests the driver may have been stepping on the accelerator, instead of the brake, as she told police. Investigators from Toyota and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration inspected the wrecked 2005 Prius on Wednesday and extracted data from the car’s event data recorder. A housekeeper who was driving the car told police it accelerated on its own as she eased forward down her employer’s driveway, causing her to crash into a stone wall on the other side of the road.
- Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/03/19/prius.investigation/index.html?hpt=T2>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

17. *March 22, The Register* – (International) **Russian FSB quizzes 3 over \$9m RBS WorldPay scam.** Three men suspected of orchestrating a massive \$9m cyber-raid on RBS WorldPay involving cloned payroll cards and hacking have been arrested by Russian's FSB internal security service. The alleged ringleader, and two accomplices, were arrested on suspicion of masterminding the \$9m hacking and subsequent looting of payment systems run by RBS WorldPay in November 2008, the Financial Times reports. The high profile cyberblag involved the use of cloned payroll cards to take out money from an estimated 2,100 cash machines in 280 cities worldwide during an audacious 12 hour overnight cash-out operation. It involved breaking into RBS WorldPay systems and extracting data needed to create forged cards after "reverse engineered personal identification numbers (PINs) from the encrypted data", according to a November 2009 indictment on the case, as previously reported. Authorities allege one of the suspects identified a flaw in RBS WorldPay systems that allowed him to carry out the hack in conjunction with the two other suspects and another as-yet-unidentified hacker.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/22/rbs_worldpay_fsb_arrests/
18. *March 22, KGW 8 Portland* – (Oregon) **Police warn of text msg bank scam.** Salem, Oregon, Police sent out a warning on March 20 after several officers received a bogus text on their department cell phones. The message was from a con artist pretending to act on behalf of the Bank of the Cascades. It read:BOTC Alert: Your CARD starting with 42665* has been DEACTIVATED. Please contact us at 800-780-1851 to REACTIVATE your CARD. The presumption was that people call that number and then are asked to provide account access information. The Bank of the Cascades told police they have no such text messaging plan in place. The Salem officers received messages on their cell phones as they sat together in a room. They acted quickly to determine that the message was a hoax. People who receive such texts should not call the number back, which often hook up to phony phone centers.
Source: <http://www.kgw.com/news/local/Police-warn-of-txt-msg-bank-scam-88728772.html>
19. *March 22, Courthouse News Service* – (Missouri) **8 million Ponzi alleged in Missouri.** A suspect and his Quintero Business entities took \$8 million in a real-estate Ponzi scheme, investors say in Jackson County Circuit Court. A family who is pressing charges claims that the suspect took loans in exchange for promises of reduced prices on real estate. For example, one of the family members claims she loaned the suspect one million dollars in November 2000 in exchange for a \$300,000 reduction off of any selected Quintero real estate. In reality, the family says, the suspect was looting his Quintero entities to pay off previous investors and other obligations. They say he lied to investors about Quintero's financial health from 2005 to 2009, while continuing to borrow. The scheme started to unravel in October 2007, when Hillcrest Bank canceled letters of credit on the suspect's real estate projects in Arizona, the plaintiffs say. They say the FDIC eventually sanctioned Hillcrest Bank for unsound lending practices.
Source: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/03/22/25745.htm>

20. *March 21, Peninsula Daily News* – (Washington) **Phone scam hits Jefferson County; still targeting credit union.** A phone scam in which customers are asked to give their personal banking information seems to have moved from Clallam County to Jefferson County in Washington. Hundreds of Jefferson County residents have received automated phone calls since March 18 to both land lines and cell phones in which an automated recording states that their Quimper Community Federal Credit Union ATM cards were compromised. The message urges customers to call a number and provide their account information. The calls are not from Quimper Credit Union, said the Port Townsend branch manager of Quimper Credit Union. She said that customers and non-customers alike have reported these calls to the credit union.

Source: <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20100321/news/303219977>

21. *March 20, Bank Info Security* – (National) **7 banks closed March 19.** State and Federal regulators closed seven banks on March 19, and one federal credit union was placed into conservatorship. These latest failures raise to 42 the number of failed institutions so far in 2010. American National Bank, Parma, Ohio was closed by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$17.1 million. Century Security Bank, Duluth, Georgia was closed by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, with FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the DIF will be \$29.9 million. The FDIC approved the payout of the insured deposits of Advanta Bank Corp., Draper, Utah. The bank was closed by the Utah Department of Financial Institutions, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates the cost of the failure to its Deposit Insurance Fund to be approximately \$635.6 million. Appalachian Community Bank, Ellijay, Georgia was closed by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the DIF will be \$419.3 million. Bank of Hiawassee, Georgia was closed by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the DIF will be \$137.7 million. First Lowndes Bank, Fort Deposit, Alabama was closed by the Alabama Banking Department, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the DIF will be \$38.3 million. State Bank of Aurora, Aurora, Minnesota was closed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the DIF will be \$4.2 million. The National Credit Union Administration placed into conservatorship Tracy Federal Credit Union of Tracy, California.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2324

22. *March 19, Bank Info Security* – (National) **20 banking breaches so far in 2010.** There have been 171 reported data breaches so far in 2010, and 20 of these involve financial services companies. This means that in less than one quarter of the year, financial institutions already have seen nearly one-third of the 62 banking-related breaches reported in all of 2009. The numbers are slightly skewed, says a spokeswoman of the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC), the organization that tracks data breaches, because some of the 20 incidents actually occurred in 2009 but are just now being brought to light — particularly in Maryland, where the state's attorney general's office

reported a slew of 2009 incidents on March 1 of this year. But the new year's breaches are enough to convince observers that last year's trends are continuing. If the breach trends do continue as they did in 2009, then financial service companies will continue to experience malicious hacking and insider theft. The challenge for organizations such as the ITRC is that many organizations fail to report their breaches. Of the breaches reported thus far in 2010, financial services breaches add up to 11.7 percent of the 171 incidents — the second lowest percentage on the list. The remaining incidents break down as: Business/Retail at 44 percent, Medical/healthcare at 23 percent, Government/military at 15 percent, and Education at 7 percent.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2321

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Transportation Sector

23. *March 22, Savannah Morning News* – (Georgia) **Oil spill shuts down Savannah River.** A fuel tank ruptured late Sunday morning on a ship at Georgia Ports' Ocean Terminal, causing what was described as a "significant" oil spill on the Savannah River just west of the Talmadge Bridge, closing the river to vessel traffic and filling the air with pungent diesel fumes. A U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer said late Sunday the river would remain closed as cleanup efforts continue overnight. The 625-foot Liberty, owned by American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier LLC, was damaged as it was departing the port facility about 11:30 a.m, puncturing its hull and rupturing its starboard fuel tank. By nightfall Sunday, an estimated 7,000 gallons of diesel had spilled. A Coast Guard Lieutenant said, "We have spill-containing booms as far down river as Fort Jackson and along River Street. We have a unified command center set up with industry and inter-agency partners. We have a lot of equipment deployed and more on standby." He added: "It's red dye diesel, which is low-sulfur, so it's not a hazmat situation. Still, it's never good when you have that much fuel in the river." Coast Guard Air Station Savannah conducted a flight to assess the environmental impact, and Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Savannah was coordinating cleanup efforts, conducting shoreline assessments and investigating the cause of the incident.

Source: <http://savannahnow.com/news/2010-03-22/oil-spill-shuts-down-savannah-river>

24. *March 22, WHAM 13 Rochester* – (New York) **Big rig crunches under RR overpass in Canandaigua.** A Texas man, 33, drove a tractor trailer underneath a railway overpass that was too low for the rig in Canandaigua, New York. The trailer, which was higher than the 10 foot 10 inch requirement of the overpass, was heavily damaged. The contents of the trailer had to be off loaded before the tractor and trailer could be removed, which caused closure of a section of West Avenue for several hours Sunday afternoon, starting around 3 p.m. The man received six traffic citations including failure to obey a traffic control device, operating a tractor with an improper fuel line, operator log books not current, periodic inspections of both the tractor and trailer not current and exceeding clearance requirements of an overpass. There was no apparent damage to the bridge.

Source: <http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story/Big-Rig-Crunches-Under-RR-Overpass-in-Canandaigua/bAiZyhT3k0mJiYBIiVaNgA.csp>

25. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **No injuries in emergency landing at O’Hare.** Chicago officials say there were no injuries after an emergency landing at O’Hare International Airport. A Chicago Department of Aviation spokeswoman says there was “a pressurization problem” on the American Airlines flight 2363, which landed around 10:30 a.m. Sunday. According to American Airlines’ Web site, flight 2363 was headed from O’Hare to the Yampa Valley Regional Airport in Colorado. A Chicago Fire Department spokesman says there were 119 people aboard the Boeing 737. An American Airlines spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=10163372>

26. *March 20, Jacksonville Journal Courier* – (Illinois) **Bridge hit by barge, closed to traffic.** A towing vessel collided with the Florence Bridge on Saturday, according to the public affairs officer for the United States Coast Guard in St. Louis. The Florence Bridge was closed Saturday to all vehicular traffic and a half-mile stretch of the river to water traffic. The incident is under investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard, the officer said. The cause of the collision and the damage done to the bridge is unknown. The concrete of the pier was scraped but the damage was not sufficient to raise major concerns from the Illinois Department of Transportation. “This is usually the time something bad happens,” said a bridge engineer. “We just kind of have to deal with it when it comes each spring.”

Source: <http://www.myjournalcourier.com/news/bridge-25994-river-saturday.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

27. *March 19, Fresno Bee* – (California) **1m fire at Huron processing plant.** A fire caused more than \$1 million in damage to a vegetable seed processing plant Friday morning in Huron, Fresno County fire protection district said. The fire was reported at 5:30 a.m. on the 15000 block of Dorris Avenue. A fire spokesman said crews saved the rest of the facility, which he valued at \$10 million. He did not release the name of the business but said it primarily processes seeds from tomatoes. Fire broke out in three places. The cause was electrical, he said.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/03/19/1865269/1m-fire-at-huron-processing-plant.html>

28. *March 19, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (Indiana; National) **Indiana firm recalls Fresh Sweet Italian Turkey Sausage products due to an undeclared allergen.** Perdue Farms, Inc., a Washington, Indiana establishment, is recalling approximately 10,368 pounds of fresh sweet Italian turkey sausage products because they contain an undeclared allergen. The product was prepared using an ingredient blend that contained milk, a known potential allergen, which was not declared on the label, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced. The product subject to recall includes: 16-ounce packages of “PERDUE, Sweet Italian, Lean, Turkey Sausage.” Each package bears a use by date of “USE BY 03/30/10” or before, a UPC Code “72745-10301,” and the establishment number “Est. P-286” inside the USDA mark of inspection. The fresh sweet Italian turkey sausage products were produced between March 3, 2010, and March 15, 2010, and were distributed to retail establishments in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The problem was discovered by the company. The company and FSIS have received no reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products.

Source:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_021_2010_Release/index.asp

29. *March 19, Associated Press* – (Minnesota; North Dakota) **Fargo floods turn farms into sprawling lakes.** As the cities of Moorhead, Minnesota and next-door Fargo, North Dakota nervously wait for the Red River to crest on Sunday at 19.5 feet above the flood stage, some of the region’s farmland is already under water after smaller rivers, swollen with melting snow, overflowed. Even fields that are not buried in water are so saturated that they look like vast expanses of squishy black mud. At this point it’s mostly an inconvenience, growers say. Spring planting is a month or more away for crops such as corn, soybeans and sugar beets. If the rain holds off and unusually warm temperatures don’t melt the remaining snowpack too rapidly over the next few weeks, the waters could recede, enabling a decent or even good growing season. But a worst-case scenario — heavy spring rains and prolonged flooding well into April — could spell trouble for this year’s crops, while also causing problems for livestock producers during the crucial calving season. The region’s fertile soils yield an abundance of grain and beets. About 500,000 acres in Cass County — which includes Fargo — are planted in soybeans, more than in any other county in the nation.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35944685/ns/weather/>

For another story, see item [33](#)

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Water Sector

30. *March 19, Water Technology Online* – (Colorado) **Denver Water responds to asbestos dumping claims.** Denver Water has released a response to former employees' claims that 20 years ago they buried cement-asbestos (CA) pipe on the Foothills Treatment Plant property. The response said that these allegations are the latest in a series of accusations raised by these former employees who first surfaced with claims in August 2008 when they threatened to "go public" unless Denver Water paid them substantial amounts of money. Denver Water did not give in to their demands, but did agree to conduct an investigation if they provided details about their claims, which they failed to do, according to the response. The response also stated that asbestos in CA pipe is not friable and is therefore not a hazardous waste. Additionally, Denver Water said that air and drinking water tests have not detected any asbestos contamination and that the groundwater near the alleged dumping site is safe because asbestos is not water soluble and does not move in soil. "We want the community near Foothills Treatment Plant to know the air is safe, the drinking water is safe and the ground water is safe," the response stated.
Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=73706
31. *March 19, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **AG: Pa. water plant worker falsified safety tests.** A worker at a troubled western Pennsylvania water authority plant has been charged with faking water safety tests by providing samples from the plant's sink instead of customers' faucets. The Northern Cambria plant worker was charged Thursday with fudging the tests from 2004 to 2009 so its water would appear safe. The authority 60 miles east of Pittsburgh issued a boil water notice in July because it was not promptly reporting E. coli contamination. Another worker faces a hearing later this month on charges he allegedly stole money while managing the plant. The tests he faked were allegedly to determine whether chlorine levels in water were safe and effective.
Source: <http://www.wfmj.com/Global/story.asp?S=12169435>
32. *March 19, University of Cincinnati News Record* – (Ohio) **Water main breakage floods Clifton.** A water main breakage on Clifton Avenue flooded the surrounding area Thursday night at approximately 11 p.m. Clifton Avenue has been closed until further noticed, said a Cincinnati Police officer. The water has flooded the area around Good Samaritan Hospital, but the hospital is still accessible from Ludlow Avenue. Some students vehicles were flooded. Other students have had their water shut off in apartments and houses. The flooded water should mostly run into the sewer system, the police officer said. Once the main is cut off, the water should dissipate quickly.
Source: <http://www.newsrecord.org/news/water-main-breakage-floods-clifton-1.2195726>
33. *March 18, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **S.F. asks eateries to trap grease, save sewers.** There are plenty of undesirable things in San Francisco's sewers. But one, in particular, has grabbed the attention of city officials: FOG. Not to be confused with the city's weather element, this FOG is a sewer-industry acronym for fats, oils and grease. Every year, about 4 million gallons of FOG is discharged into the city's wastewater system, costing the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission roughly

\$3.5 million. Of the 6,000 sewer blockages the agency responds to annually, almost half are related to grease. In a city with more than 2,500 eateries packed into 47 square miles, the restaurant industry is a major contributor to the problem. In response, the agency wants to make what essentially has been good-faith compliance with grease-trapping rules mandatory for restaurants that produce the sewer-blocking compounds. The goal is to have full compliance by mid-2012.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/03/17/MNQ61CHD79.DTL>

34. *March 18, Salisbury Daily Times* – (Maryland) **Sludge spills from water plant.** Another spill occurred at the wastewater treatment plant, but this time the embattled upgrade is not the culprit. About 36,000 gallons of lime/potassium-hydroxide stabilized sludge — waste that has already gone through the plant — spilled from one of two lagoons at the plant. The lagoon ruptured just 15 days before the city's planned release of a request for proposals to have it replaced. Despite contentions and a lawsuit surrounding the more than \$80 million upgrade to the plant — designed to reduce nutrients entering the Wicomico River — the mayor said the lagoons are an independent issue. But the 36,000 gallons that spilled, which spread to an adjacent farm field, are in addition to about one million gallons of wastewater that have erupted from various pipes in the city's wastewater system since the upgrade of the plant began in 2005. After heavy rains, the system would typically overflow, the first time dumping 400,000 gallons of sewage into the Wicomico River. None of the sludge mixture from the lagoon spill entered the river or any body of water, but Ireton says this recent incident was likely caused by recent rains that overloaded the lagoon. In response to the Tuesday afternoon spill, Public Works employees were dispatched to the site immediately for containment and clean-up. The adjacent property owner was notified. The city also called in a consultant and the Maryland Department of the Environment to evaluate the site after the incident. The lagoon structure has been temporarily reinforced to prevent further spillage.

Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20100318/NEWS01/3180356>

35. *March 17, KWMU 90.7 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Missouri officials warn of bacteria in flood waters.** It is flood season again in Missouri, and a Department of Natural Resources spokesman says those flood waters may be full of disease-causing bacteria. The contamination builds up as water moves across the floodplain, picking up bird and animal feces, flushing stagnant ponds, and inundating trash dumps. Flood waters can also overwhelm sewage systems, bypassing treatment plants and carrying raw sewage straight into rivers and streams. He says people who get their water from private wells need to be especially careful.

Source:

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1625190/St..Louis.Public.Radio.News/Missouri.officials.warn.of.bacteria.in.flood.waters>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

36. *March 21, Reuters* – (National) **Nanotech robots deliver gene therapy through blood.** U.S. researchers have developed tiny nanoparticle robots that can travel through a patient's blood and into tumors where they deliver a therapy that turns off an important cancer gene. The finding, reported in the journal *Nature* on Sunday, offers early proof that a new treatment approach called RNA interference or RNAi might work in people. RNA stands for ribonucleic acid — a chemical messenger that is emerging as a key player in the disease process. Dozens of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies including Alnylam, Merck, Pfizer, Novartis and Roche are looking for ways to manipulate RNA to block genes that make disease-causing proteins involved in cancer, blindness or AIDS. But getting the treatment to the right target in the body has presented a challenge. A team at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena used nanotechnology to create tiny polymer robots covered with a protein called transferrin that seek out a receptor or molecular doorway on many different types of tumors.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62K1BK20100321>

37. *March 21, Baltimore Examiner* – (National) **C difficile infections surpass MRSA as a serious hospital threat.** *Clostridium difficile*, commonly referred to as C diff, is a bacterium that can cause symptoms ranging from diarrhea to inflammation of the colon that can be life-threatening, and it appears to be on the rise in hospitals, nursing homes, and long term care facilities. MRSA, or methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, was once considered to be a serious infectious threat in hospitals and health care facilities, causing approximately 18,000 deaths annually. While MRSA still presents a huge problem, C diff is on the rise, and like MRSA, is drug-resistant to some antibiotics. Additionally, C diff is showing up in people who have not been hospitalized. An infectious diseases specialist at Duke University Medical Center presented results from a research study on Saturday at a medical conference on infection in health care facilities. The 2008 and 2009 study conducted at community hospitals in four states showed hospital-acquired C diff infection rates 25 percent higher than MRSA rates. Complications of C diff include dehydration, kidney failure, a bowel perforation, a ruptured colon due to toxic megacolon, and even death.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-29099-Grand-Rapids-Public-Health-Examiner~y2010m3d21-C-difficile-infections-surpass-MRSA-as-a-serious-hospital-threat>

38. *March 21, Los Angeles Times* – (International) **TB rate down in U.S., but drug-resistant cases rise elsewhere.** Even with tuberculosis cases falling sharply in the United States to historic lows, strains of drug-resistant disease are gaining ground elsewhere in the world. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last week that TB prevalence in this country dropped 11.8% last year, the largest yearly decline since the government began monitoring the disease in 1953. But on the same day, the World Health Organization reported that an estimated 440,000 people worldwide had multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in 2008, and a third of them died. Nearly half of the cases were in China and India, which have been hit hardest by the outbreak. But in some areas of the world, especially three provinces in Russia, more than 1 in every 4 cases of tuberculosis result from the hard-to-treat strain. Overall, there

were 9.4 million new TB cases in 2008 and 1.8 million deaths, so the drug-resistant strains are a relatively small problem. But experts fear they will displace conventional strains of the TB mycobacterium, complicating treatment. Conventional TB treatment costs about \$20 and takes six months. Drug-resistant strains can cost as much as \$500 and take as long as two years to treat.

Source: <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/mar/21/science/la-sci-tb21-2010mar21>

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Government Facilities Sector

39. *March 22, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Avondale High students searched after another threat.** For the second straight week, police and authorities at Avondale High School searched student backpacks and purses after finding a threat at the school. According to Detroit News reporting partner WXYZ-TV the response came after a school employee found a message stating that a bomb would be at the school on March 22. On March 15, authorities were called to search the school after a note was found warning that a weapon would be brought to the high school on that date. Nothing was found on the 22 morning or the morning of March 15. “We have to take it seriously,” the superintendent said. “The safety of the students is first in everyone’s minds. The searches have gone very well; students and parents have treated it with tolerance.” He said there would be increased security at the school today with restrictive travel for students, particularly in hallways and restrooms. The person responsible for the note could be charged with making a false bomb threat, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

Source:

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100322/METRO02/3220371/1026/Avondale-High-students-searched-after-another-threat>

40. *March 22, Computerworld* – (National) **DOD seeks big penalties for IT errors.** The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has seen repeated instances of paying for critical war zone supplies that were not delivered, or double billed. At fault are, in many cases, underlying business, according to a U.S. commission that investigated these problems. To fix this, the DOD has proposed a new rule allowing the government to withhold payment for goods and services starting at 10 percent for each deficiency that’s identified in a business system. But the proposed rule is raising alarm with some industry groups, including the largest IT industry group, TechAmerica, which says the move is unfair and excessive. The problems with double billing and missing order was raised by Commission on Wartime Contracting, a group formed by Congress in 2008 to look at the more than \$800 billion that has been spent to fund operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, money which pays the salaries of 240,000 contractor employees. Orders for body armor, rifle scopes, and water purification systems are just a few of the things that have been affected. The commission reported that many internal business systems used by contractors were inadequate and without “proper incentives” some contractors may

not improve them. Some of the business system deficiencies remain despite repeated audits, the commission reported last year.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9173855/DOD_seeks_big_penalties_for_IT_errors

41. *March 21, Daily Finance* – (National) **The Secret Service is investigating a conservative's Obama assassination Tweets.** As Congress entered the final round of debate Sunday over the controversial health insurance reform bill, a self-described conservative blogger used his public Twitter account to urge the assassination of President Barack Obama. A U.S. Secret Service spokesperson confirms to DailyFinance: "We are aware of the actual posting and are actively investigating." A request for comment from a Twitter spokesperson hasn't been returned. As the blog Jezebel has reported, the suspect, apparently enraged by the impending passage of the health insurance reform bill, used his Twitter account to call for the assassination of the U.S. President, while also tweeting that since the country survived the assassinations of Lincoln and Kennedy, "we'll surely get over" this one, too. But the suspect later recanted his apparent threats. "I have no intent, desire or motivation to harm the POTUS," he told DailyFinance by email. "I can't imagine why you're interested in my recent tweets," he added. "Oddly enough, they've caused more of a stir than they were designed to." With the Secret Service now investigating the Tweets, it remains to be seen if charges will be brought in this case.

Source: <http://www.dailyfinance.com/story/the-secret-service-is-investigating-a-conservative-bloggers-oba/19408303/>

42. *March 19, Seattle Times* – (Oregon) **Worker apparently burned by mustard gas at Oregon weapons depot.** A worker prepping chemical weapons for destruction at Oregon's Umatilla Depot appears to have been burned by a mustard agent in what may be the first exposure-related injury since the depot began incinerating its chemical-weapons stockpile in 2004. The Army is still investigating the incident, but officials "feel pretty certain at this point that it was mustard," said a spokesman for the depot. Another worker likely was exposed but hasn't shown any telltale skin blistering. The Army says no chemicals were released into the environment and the public was not at risk. The injured employee already is back at work. The incident began Wednesday afternoon when a pair of workers in masks, gloves, boots, aprons, and cotton coveralls were inside an air-locked industrial plant weighing a propane-tanklike canister filled with mustard gas before an upcoming test of the Army's latest incineration process. The men finished and moved to leave when the Army's sensitive sampling monitors warned a chemical agent was in the air. The men were rushed to doctors, where they were watched until a small blistering rash appeared on one man's back. The worker's exposure appears to have been slight, and Army officials have sent blood samples to a lab to make sure they identified it correctly. Investigators are reviewing videotapes of the incident to understand what happened, though it's expected to be weeks before they know for certain.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2011392845_gas20m.html

43. *March 19, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **Have agencies scrubbed the Conficker worm from their systems?** A company that has been tracking the scanning activity of the prolific Conficker worm says that traffic from infected government systems has dropped off significantly in recent months, which could indicate a successful effort to remediate infections. “We started to notice a decrease over the last two or three months,” said the senior vice president and technologist at Neustar Inc., a directory services provider that administers the domain name registry for the .US country code top level domain for the Commerce Department. The number of infected government systems dropped from a peak of tens of thousands. “Now they are down to less than 40 systems in the entire U.S. federal network,” he said. He said the apparently successful eradication of a worm that has proved to be surprisingly resilient for more than a year is good news, even if the government has not yet said how it was done. Source: <http://fcw.com/articles/2010/03/19/conficker-cleanup-031910.aspx>

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Emergency Services Sector

44. *March 21, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (National) **Police in Hemet, San Jacinto on alert after threats.** Law enforcement officers in Hemet and San Jacinto remained on high alert over the weekend after receiving an anonymous tip that a police car would be blown up in retaliation for police raids aimed at an outlaw motorcycle gang, it was reported. The bomb threat was reported at 5:45 p.m. Friday when an anonymous caller dialed 911 and told an operator a police car would be blown up within the next 48 hours in retaliation for the “Operation Everywhere” raids conducted Wednesday. The raids were executed in Riverside County, as well as other California counties and throughout Arizona, Utah and Nevada and targeted members of the Vagos Motorcycle Club, Hemet’s police chief told reporters. About 30 Vagos gang members were arrested. Most of those taken into custody were due to parole and weapons violations. The police chief said there was a sense of urgency since three attempts were made in recent months on the lives of members of a local multi-agency gang task force which included a rigged gas line, a homemade zip gun hooked to a gate and a deadly device attached to a patrol car, it was reported. Source: <http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100321/NEWS0801/3210344/1006/news01/Police+in+Hemet++San+Jacinto+on+alert+after+threats>
45. *March 20, San Diego News Network* – (California) **Squad checks suspicious package in Hillcrest.** A suspicious tube left outside a Hillcrest fire station Saturday, prompting traffic detours for 90 minutes, proved to be a harmless Australian noise-maker, a fire official said. Firefighters found the foot-long tube, about 3 inches in diameter, about 12:10 p.m. outside the doors of Station 5 on Ninth Avenue just west of state Route 163. An attached, unsigned note “was written like it was something for them to have,” said San Diego’s fire-rescue department spokesman. The note trailed off into incoherent musical references and names of musicians, and the firefighters were concerned about the item. San Diego police set up a command post and shut down Ninth Avenue

between University Avenue and Washington Street.

Source: <http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2010-03-20/local-county-news/bomb-squad-checks-suspicious-package-in-hillcrest>

46. *March 19, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **S.F. crime lab staffers reassigned during police investigation.** San Francisco's police chief Friday announced a personnel overhaul of the department's crime lab that he said would facilitate the ongoing investigation into the lab's practices. In a prepared statement this morning, he said the changes were not punitive but intended to enhance the transparency of the investigation. Both the commanding officer of the crime lab and the lab manager are being temporarily reassigned to other duties. Last week the police chief ordered drug testing at the lab temporarily halted after revelations that a former civilian lab supervisor have taken small quantities of cocaine from evidence jars. She has not been charged, but an investigation is ongoing. Drug testing has been outsourced to other crime labs pending the results of an internal police investigation into lab policies and practices, and an external audit led by the forensic services divisions of the state Department of Justice and the Sacramento District Attorney's Office.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/crime-courts/ci_14710271

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Information Technology Sector

47. *March 22, The Register* – (International) **Sophos sorry for blog comment spam campaign.** Sophos has apologized after a third-party marketing agency hired by the anti-virus and anti-spam specialist sprayed link spam on the blog of a security expert. Multiple auto-generated comments submitted to the expert's technicalinfo.net blog containing hyperlinks to the anti-malware portal on the Sophos website. The posts were made by tools designed to automate spam and SEO attacks. The blog spam tactic was an attempt to boost the search engine ranking of the Sophos site. Although the expert caught the messages before they made it onto his site he was understandably unimpressed by the ruse. Sophos distanced itself from the blog spamming tactics. The approach was the idea of a marketing agency hired by Sophos, which the security firm promised will be taken to task over its tactics.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/22/sophos_agency_blog_spam/

48. *March 22, SC Magazine* – (International) **Phishing attack seen on Twitter over the weekend, as new messages claiming to be password resets for Facebook hit users on a large scale.** A fresh phishing attack has appeared on social networking site Twitter that again used direct messages. F-Secure's CTO said that the messages are similar to those seen last month. In the latest detected, the recipient receives a message asking 'did I tell you that ur here' or 'you should change ur photo u took here' with a link given. Following this link takes the user to a fake Twitter page. The CTO said: "If you mistakenly give out your credentials, the attackers will start sending similar direct messages to your contacts, posing as you. The ultimate goal of the attackers is to gain access to a large amount of valid Twitter accounts, then use these account to post

tweets with URLs pointing to malicious websites which will take over users; computers when clicked.” He claimed that Twitter is already filtering these messages from being posted, although it was unclear if they are also removing already-delivered direct messages. Also, the Twitter built-in link shorteners (twt.tl and bit.ly) are detecting the URLs as malicious.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/phishing-attack-seen-on-twitter-over-the-weekend-as-new-messages-claiming-to-be-password-resets-for-facebook-hit-users-on-a-large-scale/article/166213/>

49. *March 22, IDG News Service* – (International) **Bad BitDefender update clobbers Windows PCs.** Users of the BitDefender anti-virus software started flooding the company’s support forums on March 20, apparently after a faulty anti-virus update caused 64-bit Windows machines to stop working. The company acknowledged the issue in a note explaining the problem, posted on March 20. “Due to a recent update it is possible that BitDefender detects several Windows and BitDefender files as infected with Trojan.FakeAlert.5,” the company said. The acknowledgment came after BitDefender users had logged hundreds of posts on the topic. Some complained of being unable to reboot their systems. In its note on the issue, posted around 4 pm Pacific Time, the company said it had issued a fix for the problem and offered instructions on how to repair the damage, saying that customers should remove files from quarantine and reboot.
Source: <http://www.infoworld.com/d/security-central/bad-bitdefender-update-clobbers-windows-pcs-296>
50. *March 20, The H Security* – (International) **Exploit’s new technology trick dodges memory protection.** A hacker who goes by the name “JDuck” has discovered the first malicious PDF files which use the relatively new Return Oriented Programming (ROP) technology to bypass Data Execution Prevention (DEP). This means that the days for providing reliable protection via DEP are numbered even before this technology has become a mainstream feature. Initially, JDuck only intended to integrate the PDF exploit into his metasploit vulnerability testing platform. When doing so, he noticed that the exploit worked flawlessly against Adobe Reader 9.3 although DEP is enabled by default in this version. Further examination revealed that the exploit contained a list of memory addresses that each pointed at the tail end of a function — that is, at a few machine code instructions followed by a return command. This characterises a rather cunning new exploit technology which has so far not been observed in the wild.
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Exploit-s-new-technology-trick-dodges-memory-protection-959253.html>
51. *March 19, IDG News Service* – (International) **To fight scammers, Russia cracks down on .ru domain.** In a bid to cut down on fraud and inappropriate content, the organization responsible for administering Russia’s .ru top-level domain names is tightening its procedures. Starting April 1, anyone who registers a .ru domain will need to provide a copy of their passport or, for businesses, legal registration papers. Right now, domains can be set up with no verification — a practice that has allowed scammers to quickly set up .ru domains under bogus names. The changes will help

Russia align its rules with international best practices, said the informational projects manager with the Coordination Center for the .ru top-level domain, in an e-mail interview.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9173778/To_fight_scammers_Russia_cracks_down_on_.ru_domain

52. *March 19, ComputerWorld* – (International) **Mozilla confirms critical Firefox bug.** Mozilla on March 18 confirmed a critical vulnerability in the newest version of Firefox, and said it would plug the hole by the end of the month. Although the patch will not be added to Firefox before next week's Pwn2Own browser hacking challenge, researchers will not be allowed to use the flaw, according to the contest's organizer. "The vulnerability was determined to be critical and could result in remote code execution by an attacker," Mozilla acknowledged in a post to its security blog late on March 18. "The vulnerability has been patched by developers and we are currently undergoing quality assurance testing for the fix." Firefox 3.6, which Mozilla launched in January, is affected, Mozilla said, adding that it would be patched in version 3.6.2, currently slated to ship on March 30.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/031910-mozilla-confirms-critical-firefox.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

53. *March 19, Search Cloud Computing* – (Florida) **Terremark vCloud Express outage raises red flag.** In what looks like a knock against claims that VMware and vCloud Express services are enterprise-ready, VMware partner and global hosting provider Terremark suffered an inexplicable outage on March 17. It lasted for almost seven hours and left affected users wondering what was going on. Software vendor Apparent Networks, which runs a global monitoring service for public clouds, was caught in the outage and issued an advisory that stated, "Terremark experienced connectivity loss, which caused an outage in Terremark's vCloud Express services in their Miami data center. This impacted eight customers," said a Terremark spokesman. One of those affected was probably Apparent Networks, which runs virtual machines in different clouds and measures communication between them for its benchmarks, he said. The trouble was restricted to a single network device that either failed, became unreliable or overloaded, and it affected about 2 percent of Terremark's vCloud user base, the spokesman said.

Source:

http://searchcloudcomputing.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid201_gci1506446,00.html

54. *March 19, Iceland Review Online* – (International) **Bombs placed in Reykjavík telecommunications masts.** An attempt was made to paralyze an important part of the telecommunications system in Iceland's capital on the evening of March 17. It appears that three gas bombs were placed in telecommunications masts in Oskjuhlid near the Icelandic Meteorological Office and that two went off. The third bomb was found intact. Police were notified of fire in cables of two telecommunications masts in Oskjuhlid at 4:42 am, one of which is owned by telecom Fjarski and the other by Mila, mbl.is reports. The fire was easily distinguished, yet it caused considerable damage. For example, the signal for television channel Stod 2 and for the telecom Og Fjarskipti went dead. The damage could be repaired quickly, according to the information officer of Vodafone. The microwave broadcast of Og Fjarskipti in southwest Iceland through the Digital Island system was interrupted from 4:30 am to 7:15 am yesterday morning but there were no disturbances to the GSM network. The Capital Region forensics department investigated the scene of the fire and its source is under continued investigation. The attempt to damage the capital's telecommunications system is considered serious.

Source:

http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=40764&ew_0_a_id=359600

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Commercial Facilities Sector

55. *March 22, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (Nevada) **Carbon monoxide leak forces Reno motel evacuation.** Residents of a downtown Reno, Nevada, motel were evacuated about 11 a.m. Sunday, and five people were taken to a hospital after firefighters detected a carbon monoxide leak in the building. A fire battalion chief said the concentration of the gas was as high as 200 to 240 parts per million in one room of the Keno Motel at on North Arlington Ave., which he said was a "pretty serious" level. About 25 people live at the motel, authorities said. The five residents who had complained of nausea and headaches were taken by ambulance to Renown Regional Medical Center, where they were given oxygen to reduce the level of carbon monoxide in their blood. The battalion chief said the leak was traced to the motel's boiler. A metal exhaust flue that runs from the basement boiler and extends through the roof apparently was shaken loose by high winds. Residents returned to the motel later, but the boiler will not be turned back on until it is inspected today and cleared by Reno and NV Energy inspectors, he said.

Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20100322/NEWS/3220322/1321/news>

56. *March 22, My News 4* – (Nevada) **Fire burns grasses near book warehouse in S. Reno.** The Reno Fire Department is looking into a small brushfire that occurred in south Reno March 21 near a bookstore warehouse. The blaze broke out at about 4 p.m. south of the Barnes & Noble warehouse on Old Virginia Road. A number of fire trucks arrived on scene and smothered the flames in a matter of minutes, and the fire ended up burning about half an acre of grass. Officials say no buildings were damaged. Officials have not yet determined the cause, but fire officials believe it was human caused. Source: <http://www.mynews4.com/story.php?id=13493&n=122>
57. *March 20, Santa Monica Daily Press* – (California) **False alarm: no bomb under pier.** Police reopened the Santa Monica Pier around 7:30 p.m. Saturday after determining that two suspicious packages found near the finish line of Sunday's Los Angeles Marathon did not contain explosives. A Santa Monica Police sergeant said police officers found a duffel bag and a cooler underneath the pier during a routine sweep in preparation for the marathon. The pier was evacuated around 6 p.m. and a 1,000-foot barrier was established as a precaution while the bomb squad investigated. After about two hours it was determined that the packages did not pose a threat and the pier was reopened. Thousands are expected to flock to the pier Sunday for the marathon. The "Stadium to the Sea" route begins at Dodgers Stadium, funneling the 25,000 runners through Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and Santa Monica. The finish line is Ocean Avenue just before the pier. A party is expected to take place following the race's conclusion at the parking lot north of the pier. Source: http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2010-03-20-69279.113116_False_alarm_no_bomb_under_pier.html

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

58. *March 19, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Feds investigate possible hazardous dumping at state park.** There is a federal investigation into possible illegal dumping of hazardous materials at Reed Bingham State Park in Adel, Georgia. The Georgia State Park Region manager says two empty, corroded metal drums about 55 gallons each were dug up at the site. The EPA collected samples from the park to be processed. "We're cooperating with them to sample the sites that were reported and they've taken soil and water samples and some other sampling," said a Georgia State Parks Region Manager. Georgia State Parks will now await results of the tests to find out if the ground was contaminated. Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=12172597>

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Dams Sector

59. *March 22, CNN* – (North Dakota; Minnesota) **Red River crests; FEMA director to visit.** Officials in North Dakota and Minnesota are catching their breath Monday, if

only briefly, after the Red River crested over the weekend. Despite the river peaking at 36.99 feet — 19 feet above flood level — Sunday morning, the region will still have to contend with high water for a while. “It’ll be about a week, so we’re just going to continue to monitor things and kind of wait as that water very, very slowly goes down,” said a spokeswoman for Fargo, North Dakota. “We are just continuing to maintain our dikes and just continuing the dike patrols. It is expected that we will stay well above major the major flood stage of 30 feet for about the next week or maybe a little bit longer.” Overall, the situation in Fargo looked good, the mayor said Sunday. The FEMA director was expected to tour Fargo on Monday to survey the area’s response to the high waters. When the river recedes to 30 feet, Fargo can begin removing dikes, a city official said. The waters are expected to begin their retreat Sunday evening at a rate two to three times slower than it rose.

Source: <http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2010/03/22/red-river-crests-fema-director-to-visit/?hpt=T2>

60. *March 20, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Tiny N.D. town warily eyes dam.** Almost a year after worried authorities went door-to-door warning residents to flee as water carved through a nearby dam, the tiny North Dakota town of Kathryn is facing the possibility of having to evacuate again because of flooding. Fueled by runoff from a winter of heavy snow, water is swiftly rising behind the Clausen Springs Dam. And Kathryn’s 55 citizens are frustrated that nothing has been done to repair or replace the damaged dam that threatens to break and inundate this community, about 60 miles southwest of the state’s biggest city of Fargo. “We’re just an itty-bitty town and we don’t carry any clout,” the mayor said. “If that dam was above Fargo, there would be some concern and definitely something would get done.” Flood worries extend far beyond Fargo and other North Dakota and Minnesota communities along the north-flowing Red River. Few of those places, though, are as worried as Kathryn. The problem with the dam near Kathryn is that it was built before state safety standards were in place. The Clausen Springs Dam, which is tucked within rare wooded rolling hills in the area, is fed by a creek that collects runoff from 100 square miles of mostly flat farmland in southeast North Dakota. The earthen dam is about 50 feet high and about 700 feet long and holds back a lake about the size of 50 football fields. It was built in 1967 for fishing and recreation — not for flood control, said a Barnes County commissioner. The town, founded in 1900, never had a flood threat until last year.
Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/20/national/main6317368.shtml>
61. *March 17, Homer Tribune* – (Alaska) **Winter storms continue to breach sea wall.** For years, homeowners along Ocean Drive Loop have battled the punishing surf that crashes into the sea wall stretching out along the west side of the Homer Spit. The 1,800-foot seawall, constructed of a plastic composite covered with wood at a cost of nearly \$1 million, was built in 2002 as the bluff began losing land at an alarming rate. However, engineering flaws and the use of questionable materials in building the wall hasn’t stopped surging storms from causing erosion. And while the sea wall continues to provide some buffer against the churning sea swells, one homeowner says it is not enough. “It’s just a matter of time, because it’s already broken open another hole in the wall.” Winter storms have taken their toll on the sea wall since 2004, when a November

storm swell breached the wall, and steel panels were installed to “mend” the hole. Subsequent heavy storms continued to pound at the wall, and 2006 ordinance established a special tax to fund operation and repairs of the sea wall. In 2006, the City Council amended the operating budget by appropriating \$20,000 from the General Fund Reserves to the Public Works Reserves for the purpose of providing for immediate and short- term maintenance and repair on the Ocean Drive Loop Erosion Control Project (Seawall). Ocean Drive homeowners continue to work on forming an association to help decide how to proceed, such as adopting guidelines for grants to help with the eroding seawall. So far, however, contention among homeowners surrounding the association has stymied much progress. Even so, all seem to agree that the ultimate solution to the problem is to install armor rock along the base of the sea wall. Still, despite taxes raised from property owners under the special service district, the \$10,000 per year would not be enough to generate the necessary millions to install the armor rock.

Source: <http://homertribune.com/2010/03/winter-storms-continue-to-breach-sea-wall/>

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