



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to Reuters, the U.S. government has warned ships sailing off Yemen's coast of the risk of al Qaeda attacks similar to a suicide bombing of the U.S. warship Cole in 2000 that killed 17 U.S. sailors. A Transportation Department statement said more sophisticated methods of attack in the waters could include missiles or projectiles. (See item [22](#))
- CNN reports that Democratic offices in at least three states have reported instances of vandalism that party members say possibly were tied to Sunday's historic vote on health care reform. (See item [40](#))

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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 23, Portland Press Herald* – (Maine) **Fire breaks out at Biddeford trash plant.** Firefighters from Biddeford and Saco were called on March 21 to fight a fire that broke out inside a trash shredder at the Maine Energy Recovery Co. on Lincoln Street. A fire lieutenant said the fire, which started at 7:41 p.m., was brought under control within an hour. The trash shredder is located inside an enclosed area of the

MERC facility. In the past, explosions have ignited fires, but on Sunday night there were no reports of explosions, he said. No one was injured.

Source: <http://www.pressherald.com/news/Fire-breaks-out-at-Biddeford-trash-plant.html>

2. *March 23, North Andover Eagle-Tribune* – (Massachusetts) **Police release photo in National Grid theft.** Police in North Andover have released surveillance photos in hopes of receiving help in finding the thieves who made off with approximately 4,000 pounds of copper wire from the National Grid yard off Route 114. The thieves broke into the National Grid facility around 2:20 a.m. on March 17 and filled the bed of a pickup truck with three, 1,300-pound spools of copper wire and smaller amounts of the metal, according to police. On March 22, a National Grid spokesman said the thieves stole about \$13,000 worth of materials altogether. The photos show two men in the yard. A detective said there might be others involved, but the two men are the only ones in the surveillance video. Police said they believe the thieves drove a pickup truck to the rear of an adjacent property and cut through a chain-link fence to enter the National Grid yard. When the truck became stuck in mud, police said the thieves broke into a National Grid bucket truck and used it to help free the vehicle.
Source: http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_081212204.html
3. *March 22, KTVU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **Power restored to 40,000 PG&E customers in East Bay.** Power has been restored to the estimated 40,000 PG&E customers who were affected by an outage the evening of March 22 in Alameda County, a utility spokeswoman said. The outage was reported at about 7:30 p.m. and affected customers in Fremont, Union City, Hayward and Newark, a PG&E spokeswoman said. PG&E restored power to about 7,000 of those customers just before 9 p.m., and all customers had regained power by 9:30 p.m. She said the outage was caused by equipment failure at PG&E's Newark substation.
Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/22915612/detail.html>
4. *March 20, New York Times* – (National) **Academic paper in China sets off alarms in U.S.** A military strategist told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on March 10: "Chinese researchers at the Institute of Systems Engineering of Dalian University of Technology published a paper on how to attack a small U.S. power grid sub-network in a way that would cause a cascading failure of the entire U.S." When reached by telephone, a graduate engineering student in Liaoning, China said he and his professor had published "Cascade-Based Attack Vulnerability on the U.S. Power Grid" in an international journal called Safety Science last spring. He said he had simply been trying to find ways to enhance the stability of power grids by exploring potential vulnerabilities. Independent American scientists who read his paper said his work was a conventional technical exercise that in no way could be used to take down a power grid. The student said that he was an "emergency events management" expert and that he was "mainly studying when a point in a network becomes ineffective." The paper notes the vulnerability of different types of computer networks to "intentional" attacks. The authors suggest that certain types of attacks may generate a domino-style cascading collapse of an entire network. "It is expected that our findings will be helpful

for real-life networks to protect the key nodes selected effectively and avoid cascading-failure-induced disasters,” the authors wrote. The paper cites the network science research of a physicist at Northeastern University, who has written widely on the potential vulnerability of networks to so-called engineered attacks.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/21/world/asia/21grid.html?pagewanted=1&src=me>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 22, Decatur Herald-Review & Lee News* – (Illinois) **Authorities investigating fire at Equistar Chemicals in Tuscola.** Employees of Equistar Chemicals are cooperating with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as they investigate the cause of an 8:45 a.m. fire on March 22 in the ethanol unit of the plant. No one was injured, the fire was extinguished in less than an hour, and production was only minimally impacted, according to company spokesmen. An on-site spokesman repeatedly characterized the incident as a fire, but a fire chief said the Tuscola Fire Department received multiple 911 calls reporting an explosion as well. The Tuscola mayor, whose office as human resources manager for Cabot Corp. is about a quarter-mile away, said he heard “a noise that didn’t sound right” around that time and when he went to take a look saw flames shooting up from the Equistar plant. The fire chief speculated that some of the flames witnesses saw were from flares ignited by first responders inside the plant to safely burn off excess product after shutting off the supply.

Source: http://www.herald-review.com/article_2dd50d9a-35da-11df-8e18-001cc4c03286.html

For another story, see item [25](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *March 23, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Davis-Besse tests find more cracks in nozzles.** Ultrasonic tests completed Sunday night show that 12 of the 69 nozzles on top of Davis-Besse’s reactor head developed some sort of crack, eight more than previously known. Those 12 are among 14 that FirstEnergy Corp. identified last week as having suspicious flaws or indications of a crack that needed further examination, a utility spokesman said. A company report the Nuclear Regulatory Commission made public on March 15 stated that FirstEnergy could confirm only four cracks at that time. But the utility also said it had not yet tested 17 of the 69 nozzles. The same report identified two of the nozzles as having developed cracks wide enough to leak radioactive coolant water. Further tests showed only one of those nozzles to be leaking, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://toledoblade.com/article/20100323/NEWS16/100329913/-1/NEWS24>

7. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Special inspection team sent to Neb. nuclear plant.** The malfunction of a water pump last month at one of Nebraska's two nuclear power plants has led the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to order a special inspection. The inspection at the Fort Calhoun plant began Monday. A written release from the federal commission says the pump is used to supply water to the plant's steam generators during some accident conditions. Officials say the pump started properly on February 17 but shut down 20 seconds later. Operators made some adjustments and were able to get the pump working again. But because it was the pump's third failure in the past year, a special inspection was ordered. The Fort Calhoun plant, 19 miles north of Omaha and southeast of Blair, is operated by the Omaha Public Power District.

Source: <http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=12183112>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *March 23, Trade Arabia* – (International) **GM to recall Chevrolet Captiva, Cruze models.** General Motors has announced a massive recall of its Chevrolet Captiva and Cruze and GMC Terrain models all over the Middle East region owing to a 'steering shaft defect.' The auto giant said it was recalling 5,262 Chevrolet Captiva models and 916 GMC Terrain vehicles to 'address a possible separation of the steering intermediate shaft from the steering column in certain driving conditions.' General Motors in the Middle East will also conduct a recall of 2,262 Chevrolet Cruze vehicles to rectify a 'potential leak in the fuel feeding hose.' A GM investigation found that the fuel feeding hose did not meet internal specifications which could potentially cause a fuel leak, the company said in a statement. The company, meanwhile clarified that there had been no reports of injuries or accidents due to this issue. 'The vehicle will be inspected and the steering column will be secured to the intermediate shaft if required,' the statement added.

Source: <http://www.tradearabia.com/news/newsdetails.asp?Sn=MTR&artid=176908>

9. *March 23, Helena Independent Record* – (Montana) **Man injured at mine by ammonium nitrate.** A malfunction with a piece of mining equipment caused small pellets of the explosive ammonium nitrate to spray onto the face of an employee at the Drumlummon Mine near Marysville the evening of March 21, sending him to the hospital overnight. The Drumlummon's operations manager said on March 22: "We phoned the mine inspector immediately last night and asked if we should shut down, and he said no, just go ahead and do a report in 10 days. If it was serious we would have had to shut down." The manager said the ammonium nitrate was in a pressurized container and the top popped off, spraying the miner. He added that the incident did not involve an explosion of any type. He said they are on line to begin production of the mine within the next few months.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/news/article_8adc316e-3632-11df-9ccd-001cc4c03286.html

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *March 23, Aviation Week* – (National) **MDA director: Poor contractor performance.** The director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency says he continues to be disappointed by a lack of performance by contractors developing and fielding missile defense systems and he is proposing that some industry leaders be fired to foster a more productive culture among companies involved in the program. The director also is withholding award fees on some missile defense contracts, though he declined to say which ones. He says that there is a lack of a “level of scrutiny and level of culture” needed to produce the highly precise systems required for the missile defense mission. This pertains to production, not specifically development. The missile defense program costs at least \$9 billion annually. The director gave the example of Lockheed Martin’s full redesign of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (Thaad) System earlier this decade as emblematic of a renewed attention to design and producibility. In the case of Thaad, the program suffered repeated flight test failures and in production there were too many blind assembly steps requiring employees to literally assemble components without being able to see their work. The system also had too many cables and connectors that introduced failures into the system. “What is the No. 1 problem that we have in quality control?” the director asked. “Connectors and cables, over and over again — interfaces. You guys know that. Yet, you still provide designs that have connectors and cables. Build them like Lego systems.”

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/asd/2010/03/23/01.xml&headline=MDA Director: Poor Contractor Performance&channel=space](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/asd/2010/03/23/01.xml&headline=MDA+Director:+Poor+Contractor+Performance&channel=space)

11. *March 22, Oak Ridger* – (Tennessee) **Energy secretary keynotes Y-12 ceremony.** The U.S. Energy Secretary offered the keynote address during the much anticipated dedication ceremony for Y-12’s Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, U.S. Energy Secretary reaffirmed the urgency of the security complex’s mission and stated that tools such as the HEUMF are needed and necessary. The \$549 million Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, a companion project to Y-12’s Uranium Processing Facility (UPF), is an ultra-secure uranium warehouse that replaces multiple aging facilities within a single state-of-the-art storage facility. With a storage capacity of 24,000 containers, the HEUMF measures approximately 300 feet by 475 feet and has areas for receiving, shipping and providing for the long-term storage of enriched uranium — as well as an adjoining equipment and administrative area. A neutron-absorbing material inside the storage boxes ensures nuclear criticality safety of the material within, and the HEUMF has oft been described as the largest construction project at Y-12 in more than 40 years.

Source: <http://www.oakridger.com/news/x1664770223/Energy-secretary-keynotes-Y-12-ceremony>

Banking and Finance Sector

12. *March 23, WCPO 9 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Fifth Third data breach means new debit cards.** Another week, another data breach affecting some Cincinnati area bank customers. This time, however, it's not PNC/National City customers affected, but rather some customers of Fifth Third bank. 9News has learned that Fifth Third is sending out new debit cards to what the bank says is a "limited number" of customers. It will not say if that means dozens or thousands. However, Fifth Third confirms to us a data breach at a third party vendor has put some of its debit card numbers at risk. As a result, the bank is sending new cards to affected customers. It says no one has suffered any losses, and there's no risk of identity theft.
Source: <http://www.wcpo.com/news/local/story/Fifth-Third-Data-Breach-Means-New-Debit-Cards/kK06tllO8kGM7vSFIUGwww.cspX>
13. *March 23, Washington Examiner* – (Virginia) **Thieves use ATM skimming device, steal \$60,000.** Thieves used a skimming device at an Alexandria bank's automated teller machine to steal account information and make more than \$60,000 in fraudulent charges, police said. The device was discovered last month by an engineer at a Wachovia bank. The engineer took photos of the skimmer and went inside the bank to notify security officials. When the engineer returned, the skimmer had been removed. Customers have reported more than \$60,000 in illegal charges on their bank cards.
Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/crime/Thieves-use-ATM-skimming-device--steal-60-000-88858032.html>
14. *March 23, Mansfield News Journal* – (Ohio) **Credit card scam targets Verizon users.** Local banks and the Bucyrus Police Department were flooded with weekend calls about a credit and debit card scam. Residents have reported receiving calls on their cell phones from unknown callers, asking for debit and credit card information to reactivate cards that have been deactivated because of suspicious activity. "We received several calls over the weekend from residents reporting the scam along with calls from United Bank, Firelands, Farmer Citizens and People's Savings and Loan," said a Bucyrus police dispatcher. "The scam seems to be targeting Verizon cell phone users. We have turned over the investigation to the (Federal Bureau of Investigation) at this point."
Source: <http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20100323/NEWS01/3230310>
15. *March 22, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **Bank bomb threat was result of international scam.** Federal investigators said on March 22 that a bomb threat at a downtown bank last week was part of an international fraud scheme that went dangerously awry. A 38-year-old Sunnyside man initially taken into custody Thursday at Bank of America was likely the victim of "a dangerous twist on an increasingly common fraud scheme," said the supervisory senior resident agent of the FBI's Spokane office. The man, who has since been released, apparently fell for a fraud that used text messages and cellular phone calls from a foreign country telling him that he'd won an international lottery or cash prize, the agent said. To claim the prize, he wired the callers money, supposedly for taxes, the agent said. On March 18, he went to the

bank to set up an account to receive his expected winnings, the agent said. While there, he handed his cell phone to a teller while the con artist was on the line. When the caller realized that bank employees suspected foul play, he made a bomb threat, possibly out of spite, the agent said.

Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2010/03/22/bank-bomb-threat-was-result-of-international-scam-gone-wrong>

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Transportation Sector

16. *March 23, Towanda Daily Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Bradford County Airport gets \$419,250 for safety improvements.** The Bradford County Airport has been awarded \$419,250 in state and federal funds to extend its parallel taxiway another 460 feet, which will make the airport safer for aircraft that are landing or taking off, state and county officials announced Monday. While aircraft at commercial airports as a rule do not travel over runways as they taxi to a position where they can begin their take-off, that is not the case at the Bradford County Airport, said the chairman of the Bradford County Airport Authority. Currently, aircraft parked in or near the airport's main hangar have to taxi down the airport's 4,300-foot runway before they can begin their takeoff, he said. "It's a big safety issue," he said. After the 460-foot extension is complete, those aircraft will be able to taxi on the airport's parallel taxiway to reach the northern end of the runway, where they could begin their take-off, he said. However, after the extension is complete, all aircraft at the airport will still have to taxi on the runway if, due to weather conditions, they must begin their take-off at the southern end of the runway. The airport's master plan, which was completed in 1983, calls for extending the parallel taxiway even further so that it will run parallel to the runway along the runway's entire length.

Source: <http://thedailyreview.com/news/bradford-county-airport-gets-419-250-for-safety-improvements-1.696331>

17. *March 23, WDBJ 7 Roanoke* – (Virginia) **Crews on scene of hazmat spill at Rockbridge Co. truck stop.** Authorities in Rockbridge County are on the scene of a hazmat spill at the Wilco Hess Truck Stop in Raphine. The local Emergency Management Coordinator says hazardous substances were leaking out of a box trailer. They do know the truck was carrying used oil, mercury and nitroglycerin. Cleanup is expected to take 5 to 6 hours. The truck stop is located off of Interstate 81 just before the Augusta County line. The truck stop has not been evacuated, but the area has been cordoned off.

Source: <http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=12186989>

18. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Suspicious device found near Iowa railroad tracks.** Authorities say a suspicious device was found near some railroad tracks in Mason City. A police sergeant says the device was spotted by a railroad employee around noon on Monday. The officer, who declined to describe the item, says it was found near the tracks in a city parking area between a sidewalk and a street. The device

was turned over to the state fire marshal's office. No other information was immediately released.

Source: <http://www.woi-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12187569>

19. *March 22, WTOP 1500 Washington* – (District of Columbia) **Metro's oldest rail cars will be rolling out of service.** Metro could take a huge step this week toward replacing the oldest rail cars in its fleet — the same rail cars that were questioned following the deadly Red Line crash in June. At a board meeting on Thursday, Metro officials will present a plan that will set in motion the procurement of hundreds of new, next generation rail cars, known as 7000 series rail cars. One Metro official describes the \$2 billion plan as the largest rail procurement in Metro's history. A total of 648 new 7000 series rail cars are expected to roll onto Metro's tracks over time — the first 64 of which will be used for the Dulles Rail expansion on Metro's Silver Line. Over time, the 7000 series rail cars are also expected to replace the oldest rail cars in Metro's fleet, known as the 1000 series rail cars. In an 18-page report issued in 2007, the NTSB classified Metro's reluctance to retire the 1000 series cars as "unacceptable. The entire six-car train that slammed into the back of a parked train in June was made up of 1000 series rail cars. Metro is not publicly identifying the contractor it has selected to build the new 7000 series rail cars, but sources tell WTOP a vendor has been picked and the procurement work to begin the process has been completed.

Source: <http://wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1917616>

20. *March 22, Eau Claire Leader-Telegram* – (Wisconsin) **Flooding closes bridge, brings warnings.** Seven western Wisconsin counties are under flood warnings as the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers rise. The situation is serious enough that the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced Monday it will close the Stillwater Lift Bridge as a result of high water and ice on the St. Croix. All lanes of the bridge, which connects with Highway 64 in Houlton on the Wisconsin side, will remain closed until further notice. During the closure, motorists may detour south to Interstate 94 at Hudson or north to Highway 243 at Osceola to cross the St. Croix River. Buffalo, La Crosse, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau and Vernon counties all are under flood warnings. A Wisconsin Emergency Management spokeswoman said the Mississippi and the St. Croix are expected to hit flood stage later this week or this weekend. She said only minor flooding is expected, and no homes should be threatened. She adds meteorologists expect dry weather for much of this week, which should help matters.

Source: http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily_updates/article_73cd9f58-360a-11df-b5de-001cc4c002e0.html

21. *March 22, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **US Senate passes aviation-safety bill.** The U.S. Senate easily passed an aviation bill Monday designed to boost airline safety and accelerate plans to modernize the nation's air-traffic control system. The legislation calls for tougher rules for pilot hiring and training and for mandatory scheduling changes designed to ensure pilots get adequate rest. It specifically requires the Federal Aviation Administration to re-evaluate pilot training standards and issue new, tougher ones. The legislation cleared the Senate by a 93-0 vote. But the bill's ultimate fate remained uncertain. The House version of the bill, approved last year,

contains several contentious provisions, including a measure that would make it easier for FedEx Corporation employees to unionize. In addition to the safety measures, the Senate bill would impose a three-hour limit for airplanes to sit on the tarmac. That would put into law a policy the Obama administration began this winter, after high-profile incidents of passengers being stuck on planes on the runway for hours. The Senate bill approved Monday would also raise the jet-fuel tax for private aircraft to about 36 cents per gallon from 22 cents per gallon. Airlines opposed several aspects of the aviation legislation, including the absence of federal funds to help pay for airplane navigation technology. The bills' aim move forward plans to move to a satellite-based air-traffic control system, which would reduce delays and allow for more efficient routes. But the bills contain no provisions to provide funds to install new aircraft equipment, which the industry estimates could cost \$1.5 billion or more annually through the middle of the decade.

Source: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/transportation/senate-passes-aviation-safety-bill/>

22. *March 22, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. warns ships off Yemen of possible al Qaeda attack.** The U.S. government has warned ships sailing off Yemen's coast of the risk of al Qaeda attacks similar to a suicide bombing of the U.S. warship Cole in 2000 that killed 17 U.S. sailors. The U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence said on its website that ships in the Red Sea, the strategic Bab al-Mandab strait between Yemen and Djibouti, and the Gulf of Aden along Yemen's coast were at the greatest risk. "Information suggests that al Qaeda remains interested in maritime attacks in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Yemen," the office said in a statement, citing an advisory by the U.S. Department of Transportation. "Although it is unclear how they would proceed, it may be similar in nature to the attacks against the USS Cole in October 2000 and the M/V Limburg in October 2002 where a small to mid-size boat laden with explosives was detonated," it added. The Transportation Department statement said more sophisticated methods of attack by Al Qaeda in the waters near Yemen could include missiles or projectiles. The U.S. advisory, dated March 10, said more sophisticated methods of attack by Al Qaeda in the waters near Yemen could include missiles or projectiles. "Although the time and location of such an attack are unknown, ships in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Yemen are at the greatest risk of becoming targets of such an attack," the statement said. "All vessels transiting the waters in the vicinity of Yemen are urged to operate at a heightened state of readiness," it said, adding that vessels were at greatest risk in areas of limited maneuverability or while anchored or at port.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62L11K20100322>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *March 23, WTVB 1590 Coldwater* – (National) **Supreme Court denies request to close canal.** Without comment Supreme Court Justices have denied a request to close the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal in an effort to stem off Asian Carp, for a second time. This despite new information that it appears Asian Carp DNA is closer to the big lake than anyone thought. The legal drama could still continue if more evidence of carp in the Great Lakes is found, or the court decides to reopen a 90 year old case, challenging Illinois's right to siphon water out of the great lakes. Briefs on that case were due yesterday, with ruling on whether they will hear the case comes April 16th. Source: <http://new.wtvbam.com/news/articles/2010/mar/23/supreme-court-denies-request-close-canal/>
24. *March 23, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Sioux County dairy agrees to fine for manure discharge.** A Sioux County, Iowa, dairy operation has agreed to pay a \$26,288 federal fine after sending manure to a tributary of Orange City Slough without a permit. Stoutjesdyk Dairy LLC of Maurice did not have the required permit when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspected the facility last April. In November, EPA inspectors documented an illegal discharge at the dairy operation. The firm agreed to the civil penalty in documents filed Monday in Kansas City, Kansas. The discharge permits are required for operations with 700 or more dairy cattle. The Stoutjesdyk Dairy had about 1,260 dairy cows during the inspection. Stoutjesdyk Dairy agreed to comply with the federal Clean Water Act in the future. Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100323/NEWS/3230355/-1/COMM07/Sioux-County-dairy-agrees-to-fine-for-manure-discharge>
25. *March 22, WCCO 4 Minneapolis* – (Minnesota) **Ammonia leak reported at General Mills.** An ammonia leak at the General Mills plant in Chanhassen closed down a short section of Audubon Road on Monday. The Carver County Fire Department's chief deputy said they received a call from General Mills regarding an ammonia leak at 1:30 p.m. at their facility on 8000 Audubon Road. The facility has numerous, large freezer units that use ammonia for a refrigerant on site. Staff from General Mills said they believed the leak was contained and under control but there could be a need for traffic control on Audubon. The chief deputy said a Carver County Hazmat team closed a portion of the road while they checked for dangerous ammonia gases but at this time, no significant levels have been detected. No injuries have been reported in the incident. Source: <http://wcco.com/local/ammonia.leak.chanhassen.2.1580928.html>
26. *March 22, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Thirteen N.C. counties disaster areas because of flooding.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Monday declared 13 North Carolina counties disaster areas because flooding late last year led to extensive crop losses. The 13 affected counties are Camden, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Durham, Granville, Green, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pasquotank, Pender and Washington. Farmers in 26 adjacent counties also can file for government assistance. North Carolina's Governor requested the disaster declaration on February 18 after farmers in the 13 counties reported a 30 percent or greater loss of at least one major

crop. Soybean, cotton and wheat crops were the hardest hit.

Source: http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/7280226/

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Water Sector

27. *March 23, Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Sewage spill contained to Denver airport property.** Officials say water-quality test results suggest that untreated sewage that spilled at Denver International Airport last week never flowed off airport property. Officials first feared that up to 1 million gallons spilled but later said about 330,000 gallons overflowed a manhole after a pump-station malfunction. Airport officials say employees did not notice a backup alarm. The sewage entered Third Creek, which leads to other waterways that flow toward Barr Lake, but officials said Monday that the sewage didn't go that far. A spokesperson of the Tri-County Health Department said Monday that tests for fecal coliform showed a level less than what would be allowed at a swimming beach.

Source:

<http://www.vaildaily.com/article/20100323/NEWS/100329893/1078&ParentProfile=1062>

28. *March 23, Flint Journal* – (Michigan) **Grand Blanc Township Police on lookout for vandals who opened two fire hydrants.** Police are looking for vandalism suspects who opened two fire hydrants in the Gemstone Valley subdivision in Grand Blanc township, Michigan, Sunday, causing a break in a water main and spilling thousands of gallons of water, police said. According to police, one fire hydrant on Amber Lane was open for about six hours, spilling enough water to fill a nearby retention pond. The other fire hydrant sprayed water across the street and was more quickly noticed and shut off by the township's department of public works. Police said there is no estimate yet on the damage done to the broken water main, fire hydrants and the cost of the water.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/grandblanc/index.ssf/2010/03/grand_blanca_township_police_on_1.html

29. *March 23, Inforum* – (North Dakota) **Fargo pumps lift station due to water from flood.** A sanitary-sewer station in the Orchard Glen subdivision south of Fargo had to be pumped out due to concerns about high water on Saturday, but it caused area homes little trouble, a Fargo sewer official said. Worried that floodwaters could overwhelm the lift station, crews put a pump at the lift station Saturday night, said the superintendent of Fargo's wastewater plant. The station serves about 10 homes in the area, none of which reported backup, he said. Floods often threaten the lift station, so most area houses have flaps installed that prevent sewer backup, he said. The station is outside of city limits, instead part of the Southeast Cass Sewer District, but he said it is

maintained by the city.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/273163/>

30. *March 23, Seacoastonline.com* – (New Hampshire) **Contamination at treatment plant traced.** Following a report by the sewer superintendent of high concentrations of toxic materials entering the waste water treatment plant in Seabrook, an investigation has begun to determine both the source and the amount of metals that have illegally been entering the facility. Last week, with the site of the contamination suspected to be a business condominium location at 95 Ledge Road, he shut off the sewer and water service to the seven condominium units, causing the town's health officer to evict all employees at that address. Later, business owners were able to remedy the situation by installing a portable toilet at the location and were allowed to reopen their offices. He said that there was a high concentration of metals in the pump at 95 Ledge Road, including zinc, copper, aluminum, chrome and nickel. The samples matched the percentages of those metals that were found at the treatment plant. He said the amounts were enormously higher than a permit would allow. "It is high enough to kill off the bacteria we depend on at the treatment plant." When those levels were discovered, waste water treatment plant officials contacted the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries. He said the question remains whether it will be the condo owner or the condo association that will be held responsible for the cost of cleaning the pump stations.

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20100323-NEWS-3230308>

31. *March 22, Wilmington News Journal* – (Ohio) **Sabina faces possible fine.** The village of Sabina faces a potential fine of \$75,000 levied by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). "The whole thing the letter points to is that previous councils didn't do what they were told to," said the mayor who received notice Friday from the OEPA. The possible fine was discussed during a special emergency meeting late Monday afternoon of Sabina Village Council. "I don't think there will be any deadline on the fine," he said. "Now we are fined \$75,000 for not doing things right in 2001 and 2004. There's stipulation in this letter that states if we spend \$60,000 here we don't need to send the EPA the fine." By "spend \$60,000 here" he means that \$60,000 must be spent in Sabina on creek cleanup. The remaining \$15,000 of the \$75,000 fine will need to be sent to OEPA. At this time Sabina has \$100,000 in the general fund set aside for storm sewer maintenance. From this \$100,000, \$60,000 can be used to satisfy the EPA fine stipulation. The plan of action, as it may be, is to clean the creek, known as Mary's Fork, from the 3C highway to the railroad, from the railroad to Polk Road, and then from Polk Road to the sewage treatment plant; a span of approximately three miles.

Source:

<http://www.wnewsj.com/main.asp?SectionID=49&SubSectionID=156&ArticleID=183001>

32. *March 22, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Virgin Islands) **Virgin Islands halts illegal sewage discharge on St. Croix; federal judge orders upgrades.** Acting on a motion from the U.S. Department of Justice, a U.S. chief district judge ordered that a pump at the Figtree Pump Station on St. Croix remain operational and that

additional pumps be installed at the station after equipment failure there led to the illegal discharge of millions of gallons of raw sewage over a two month period. The Justice Department, acting on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), filed an emergency motion on March 11 to have the discharges from the Figtree Station stopped. This followed an EPA order on March 2 requiring the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority to stop discharges from the Figtree and LBJ pump stations. The discharge from LBJ, which was pumped over Long Reef north of St. Croix, had been stopped on February 26, and the Figtree discharge was stopped on March 17 when a pump was moved from the LBJ station to the Figtree station. Equipment failure at the Figtree Pump Station on St. Croix led to a daily discharge of 300,000 to more than 1 million gallons of raw sewage from January 17 to March 17 into Cane Garden Bay or over Long Reef, both of which feed into the Caribbean Sea. The LBJ Pump Station was by-passed to reduce the raw sewage flowing to the Figtree Pump Station. Under normal operating conditions, sewage passes through the LBJ Pump Station, goes to the Figtree Pump Station, and then flows to the Anguilla Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8a79a6a990e16181852576ee006eac10?OpenDocument>

For another story, see item [24](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *March 22, Computerworld* – (National) **As health data goes digital, security risks grow.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set a deadline of 2015 for healthcare facilities to being using electronic health records (EHRs), thereby ushering in the digitalization of all patient information. As patient data is aggregated on health networks, it becomes a bigger target for those who want to steal it and exploit it on the Internet, experts say. It is not so much the quantity of information that could be a problem; it is the different sources of data, its diversity of data, and the various network infrastructures on which it resides that could overwhelm the U.S. health system and pose significant risks to privacy, according to the director of business development for security software vendor Axway Inc. According to a recent report by IDC's Health Industry Insights division, health care providers believe it will take a major security scandal to compel organizations to take security seriously. A major health care data breach is inevitable, said the chief medical officer with security software vendor Anakam Inc. Health care information is one of the trickiest types of data to exchange online — and encrypting it will not protect against Web attacks, according to the chief security officer at Axway. "The fact that you did encryption doesn't mean you've protected medical information, because access control is the real issue," he said. "New cybercriminals do not do what the old cybercriminals did. They realize you'll be encrypting the data and instead access the application and steal access rights."

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/idg/2010-03-22/as-health-data-goes-digital-security-risks-grow.html>

34. *March 22, CMIO.net* – (National) **VA beefs up security measures in response to stolen laptop.** The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) has put measures in place to prevent both malicious and accidental situations where personal information could be potentially compromised, the Chief Healthcare IT Strategist with enterprise infrastructure engineering at the VA's Office of Information and Technology said in an interview. In January 2009, the VA ended three years of litigation after a laptop was stolen in what is suspected to have been a routine burglary in 2006, with the VA agreeing to pay a \$20 million settlement to those whose personal information was on the laptop. After a thorough investigation, it was determined that the personal information contained on the laptop had not been accessed by the thieves. Since then, to protect against the potential loss of sensitive information, the VA mandates full-disc encryption on all VA-issued laptops. This means that for government-owned equipment, if a laptop does get misplaced or stolen, the hardware is protected not just by password protection but the hard drive is fully encrypted so "even if someone took out the disc and put it in another computer as a second disc, they still wouldn't be able to access its information."

Source:

http://www.cmio.net/index.php?option=com_articles&view=article&id=21352&division=cmio

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Government Facilities Sector

35. *March 23, Mid-Columbia Tri-City Herald* – (Oregon) **Officials confirm Umatilla Chemical Depot worker exposed to mustard agent.** Federal officials confirmed Monday that a worker was exposed to mustard agent, a chemical weapon, at the incineration plant on the Umatilla Chemical Depot near Hermiston, Oregon. It is the first chemical weapon exposure at the depot since incineration began and only the second one in the history of the nation's chemical demilitarization program, said a Army Chemical Materials Agency spokesman. Two workers were in an airlock as they were leaving a portion of the incineration plant about 4 p.m. Wednesday when an alarm sounded, indicating low levels of mustard agent. They had their protective clothing and other clothing removed and were decontaminated. But one worker developed first a red spot and then a 1-inch diameter blister on his skin. The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency believes that a drop of mustard agent may have seeped through protective clothing, which includes cotton coveralls, apron, gloves, and boots.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/03/23/1351551/officials-confirm-umatilla-chemical.html>

36. *March 23, Northland Press* – (Minnesota) **Bomb threat forces school lockdown in Remer.** The Cass County Sheriff's department was called to Remer on Monday, March 15 as a bomb threat at the Remer Elementary and High School campus forced a

lockdown and evacuation of the school. A sheriff's deputy said that the department responded to the call and he and another officer performed a thorough search of the school. "We questioned a juvenile who had presented the threat in the form of a note to staff following the search, and she later admitted to writing the note," said the Sheriff's deputy said. "They must practice for this because they did a good job getting the kids out," added the sheriff's deputy. He said the investigation is continuing and all information will then be turned over to the county attorney to determine if charges will be filed. The Northland Schools superintendent said Friday that two high school students were involved in the threat, and that a staff member was locked inside the school during lockdown. She added that the lockdown and evacuation process was reviewed by staff following the incident, and any confusion resulting in the staff member being locked in the school has been resolved.

Source: <http://www.northlandpress.com/RMschoolbombthreat32310.html>

37. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Ex-college student charged in bomb threat calls.** Federal prosecutors have charged a former University of Evansville student with calling in seven bomb threats to the school since October. Authorities say FBI agents had the 38-year-old student under surveillance when the last bomb threat was called in March 3. All the threats were made from pay phones and reported that bombs would explode within a half hour at the Koch Center for Engineering and Science. Court records say the suspect admitted making the threats because he wanted to delay tests since he was not doing well in school. University officials say he enrolled last year as a chemistry student and withdrew from school about two weeks ago. A message seeking comment was left for his defense attorney.

Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=12188737>

38. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **White powder found in envelope at Essex center not dangerous, Census officials say.** Census officials say a suspicious envelope received at a huge data processing center outside Baltimore turned out not to be dangerous. A Census bureau spokesman says the white powder inside the envelope turned out to be coffee creamer. The completed Census form in the envelope also had a coffee stain on it. He says the scare disrupted the workday for employees at the data center in Essex. As soon as the white powder was discovered around 9:20 a.m. Tuesday, the area around it was quarantined, and about 520 employees were moved elsewhere in the building. Workers returned to their posts after it was found to be safe, a process that took about two hours. The facility was never shut down or evacuated. The data center employs more than 2,500 people.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/bal-census-powder0323,0,7411723.story>

39. *March 22, DarkReading* – (International) **GAO: Uncorrected flaws in IRS security systems leave taxpayer data at risk.** With tax time rapidly approaching, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) still has not sealed up all of the holes that could allow insiders or external hackers to access taxpayer data, according to a new report. In a study issued last week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) states that the IRS has corrected less than one-third of the 89 security weaknesses identified in its

audit of the tax agency last year. Weaknesses in IRS systems “continue to jeopardize the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of financial and sensitive taxpayer information,” the GAO says. “IRS did not consistently implement controls that were intended to prevent, limit, and detect unauthorized access to its systems and information. “For example,” the report continues, “IRS did not always (1) enforce strong password management for properly identifying and authenticating users; (2) authorize user access to permit only the access needed to perform job functions; (3) log and monitor security events on a key system; and (4) physically protect its computer resources.” A key reason for the slow resolution of the vulnerabilities is that the IRS has not yet fully implemented its agencywide IT security program to ensure controls are appropriately designed and operating effectively, the GAO says.

Source:

http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/government/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=224000393

40. *March 22, CNN* – (National) **Vandalism reported at offices of three**

Democrats. Democratic offices in at least three states have reported instances of vandalism that party members say possibly were tied to Sunday’s historic vote on health care reform. Early Monday morning, a glass panel at the Tucson office of a U.S. Democratic Representative was shattered, a spokesman said. It was not clear how the window was shattered, but visitors have to go through a gated courtyard to enter the office, and staffers suspect someone may have shot a pellet gun at the glass, he said. Nothing was taken from the congresswoman’s office, he said, adding that staffers believe the incident was linked to the health care vote in Washington. In upstate New York, two similar incidents were reported before Sunday night’s vote, according to CNN affiliate WHEC. A brick was thrown through the window of the Monroe County Democratic Committee headquarters in Rochester, and another was tossed through a window of a Democratic Representative’s office in Niagara Falls early March 19. No one was injured in either incident in New York. The Representative told WHEC that her Niagara Falls offices have recently received threatening phone calls. Authorities investigating the incidents have not officially confirmed the link to the health care vote. Another incident was reported earlier in the weekend by the Sedgwick County Democratic Party in Kansas. The party executive director told CNN that a brick with anti-Obama and anti-health care messages was thrown at the headquarters sometime late March 19 or early March 20. Nothing was taken, and no one was injured, she said, adding that a bakery next door called police. The director mentioned that a recent post on a blog encouraged people to throw bricks at local Democratic offices nationwide. The Alabama-based blog, called “Sipsey Street Irregulars,” says it has launched a “window war” against Democrats and has kept a tally of the recent incidents of damage, including the ones in New York and Kansas.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/03/22/pols.dems.vandalized/>

41. *March 22, KUAM News* – (Guam) **Base security staff to undergo training**

session. The following news report was issued concerning U.S. military bases in Guam: As part of a nationwide anti-terrorism and fleet protection effort, a solid curtain exercise, also known as Citadel Shield 2010, will be conducted beginning Wednesday

through Friday. The annual exercise is designed to enhance the readiness of security personnel. Residents can expect to experience increased traffic around the base and delays to base access as a result. Additionally, the presence of increased security activity should not be alarming to residents.

Source: <http://www.kuam.com/Global/story.asp?S=12185369>

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Emergency Services Sector

42. *March 23, myMotherLode.com* – (California) **LAPD gets high-tech emergency training system.** The Los Angeles Police Department unveiled a new training system Monday aimed at helping commanders make the best decisions during emergencies. The series of computers is configured to simulate anything from a call about a missing child to a full-scale terror attack. Command decisions are logged and can be reviewed and analyzed to help trainees learn about the consequences of their actions. The system is the first of its kind in the U.S. and cost about \$370,000, the deputy chief said. There are about 50 such systems in use worldwide, and the results of the training exercises are shared with other law enforcement agencies to help learn about decision-making. Source: <http://www.mymotherlode.com/news/state/ap/903653/LAPD-gets-hightech-emergency-training-system.html>

43. *March 23, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Fire breaks out at Pasadena fire station.** Firefighters were called to their own fire station in Pasadena, Texas, overnight when something inside caught fire. There are three rooms that were damaged in the fire. The room where the fire began is one of the old so-called attendant rooms. Those rooms have not really been used for the last 10 years. So no one was inside those rooms at the time of the blaze. Firefighters actually used one of their own fire trucks to help put out the flames. None of the equipment was damaged in the fire. There is a police substation next to this fire station. There was one officer inside at the time of the fire. That officer was able to get out safely. Arson investigators are trying to determine the cause of this blaze. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7345060>

44. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **2 medics to be disciplined in Pa. snowstorm death.** At least two Pittsburgh paramedics will be disciplined in the death of a man who waited 30 hours for an ambulance during a powerful snowstorm last month. The Paramedics Union president said Monday two union members have received disciplinary notices in the death of a 50-year-old man on February 7. He died after he and his girlfriend placed 10 calls to 911 seeking help for his abdominal pain during a winter storm that dropped 20 inches of snow on the city. Three ambulances aborted calls to his home at the direction of dispatchers or EMS chiefs. The dispatchers' union says no members are facing punishment. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hk4AqpNPv42hQySi2em06Fym-WhwD9EKB31O0>

45. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **New police station awaits radio gear.** Franklin, Tennessee, Police are pushing back the opening of their new \$36 million headquarters on Columbia Avenue from April 17 until mid-May. The city spokeswoman said technicians need the extra time, in part, for final installation of Franklin's new 911 emergency and radio dispatch equipment inside the new headquarters. A ribbon-cutting event for the headquarters is now set for May 15. It's the latest delay in opening the building, which originally had been scheduled to be open late last year. Substantial completion of the 90,000-square-foot building should be finished by the end of this week and police will begin moving in equipment, files and personnel the week of April 5. The addition of the new emergency equipment represents a step forward for Franklin police and emergency services by giving them a complete set of modern equipment. Last year, Franklin agreed to pay \$1.45 million to upgrade its emergency radio and phone dispatch technology from analog to digital equipment.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100322/WILLIAMSON01/3220305/2023/WILLIAMSON/New+Franklin+police+station+awaits+radio+gear>

For more stories, see items [48](#) and [56](#)

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Information Technology Sector

46. *March 22, The Register* – (International) **Botnet pierces Microsoft Live through audio captchas.** The prolific Pushdo spam botnet has found a new way to penetrate Microsoft's Live.com by exploiting weaknesses in the audio captchas designed to prevent automated scripts from accessing the popular email service. A new version of the bot causes infected PCs to pull down Live.com audio captchas and return the correct response within 10 seconds, according to a researcher at anti-virus firm Webroot. The attack allows the zombie machines to send email through accounts with a Live.com address, which are whitelisted by many spam filters. The technique offers spammers an alternative to sending spam through open mail relays, which are often blacklisted. The attack is the latest to target captchas, the puzzles that websites use to ensure that email and forms are completed by humans rather than automated scripts. Captchas require a person to recognize a series of distorted characters that are hard for computers to read using optical character recognition programs. Audio captchas, which are available in the event the user is visually impaired, work in much the same way except that characters are verbally recited amid background static and other noise. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/22/microsoft_live_captcha_bypass/

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

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

47. *March 23, Sky News* – (International) **‘Twin terror threat’ to London Olympics 2012.** Terrorists could use a “blended attack” to simultaneously hit physical targets and cyber systems during the London Olympic Games, a security expert has warned. A cyber security expert professor of the London School of Economics warned that computer security would be extremely important during the Games. “There is what’s called a ‘blended attack’, so there is a physical attack but it’s made easier because someone is disrupting cyber systems at the same time, so that is the sort of scenario that people have got to worry about,” he said. Cyber security attacks are just one of the issues the man in charge of Olympic Security, the assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police will be looking at and investigating. He is in charge of a Â£600m budget to tackle a vast range of traditional threats to the safety of the Olympic Games. His brief includes all the ordinary security concerns, such as terrorism and petty crime, but also the danger of online ticket scams, potential protesters hijacking Olympic websites and also the more sinister criminals. He hopes his experiences will help him control one of the biggest policing operations the country has ever seen. There will be between 8,000 and 9,000 officers on the streets of London on the busiest days. They will also need 6,500 special officers, up from the current 2,000.

Source: <http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/UK-News/Olympics-Terror-Threat-London-2012-Security-May-Be-Hit-By-Physical-And-Cyber-Attacks-Expert-Warns/Article/201003415579707?f=rss>

48. *March 22, NBC Washington* – (Maryland) **Federal investigation of strip mall explosion.** Ineffective ventilation techniques and insufficient training contributed to the injuries of eight Prince George’s County firefighters last May, investigators said. The Fire and EMS team responded to a Forestville strip mall for the report of a gas leak. When they arrived, they found a fire along the roofline and on an electric meter. Rescuers successfully evacuated the civilians in the seven affected businesses before the blast sent fire and debris flying. Injuries ranged from third-degree burns to a sprained ankle. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) completed an investigation following the explosion. According to their report, an earlier explosion could have happened because of operational error. The team set up a positive pressure ventilation fan at the front of one of the stores. But according to the report, with that much natural gas present in the store, the fan could have actually caused an explosion. The fan, however, was not functioning properly. Investigators also reported that firefighters attempted to cut off power to the building by switching

individual breakers off. However, the report says they should have cut off the main disconnect.

Source: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local-beat/Federal-Investigation-of-Strip-Mall-Explosion-88873397.html>

49. *March 22, Grand Forks Herald* – (Minnesota) **Fire heavily damages 63-unit apartment building in Bemidji, Minn.** Firefighters from Bemidji, Bagley, Blackduck, Cass Lake and Solway, Minnesota, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry worked to extinguish a raging fire at the Regency Park Apartments south unit Monday afternoon. Bemidji's fire chief said he believes everyone was evacuated from the three-story 63-unit complex. "It took probably 20 minutes to clear the first and second floors with the master key," said a Beltrami County deputy. "Then the east and west wings. I couldn't get upstairs (to central third floor). The heat was too intense." He said he could see that the sprinkler and alarm systems had operated properly, and residents were helping each other out buddy-style. The complex was built in the late 1990s. He said within 20 minutes the fire had broken through the roof and the lower floors were collapsing. Firefighters said they expected to be on duty at the scene all night Monday. The evacuees from the apartment were given shelter in Bemidji School District buses in the Paul Bunyan Mall parking lot, according to the Beltrami County Emergency Management director. A shelter was made available at Mount Zion Church in the old Lincoln Elementary School.

Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/155220/>

50. *March 21, Daytona Beach News-Journal* – (Florida) **Hazmat responds to fire at Ocean Walk Resort.** A bucket of pool chemicals being mixed by employees at the Ocean Walk Resort on Sunday flared up and caught on fire, Daytona Beach fire officials said. The fire department's hazardous materials team responded to the pool deck at the hotel in the 300 block of North Atlantic Avenue and neutralized the chemicals in order to confine the fire to the pool deck area, said a Daytona Beach fire lieutenant. The chemicals, contained in a 5-gallon bucket, were being mixed by employees of a pool company. No resort guests were affected by the fumes released by the chemicals and the resulting blaze. However, two pool company employees were taken to Halifax Health Medical Center after they inhaled the fumes and were having trouble breathing.

Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/breakingnews/2010/03/hazmat-responds-to-fire-at-ocean-walk-resort.html>

51. *March 20, KFOR 4 Miami* – (Florida) **SOBE Street reopens after white powder scare.** A white powder scare that evacuated a building and shut down a street in South Beach is over, and both have since reopened. Hazmat crews descended on a Miami Beach building the afternoon of March 19 investigating a suspicious envelope filled with white powder inside a building at 1691 Michigan Ave. But by 8 p.m. officials determined the powder was not a threat and allowed citizens back into the building. The scare left many who work in nearby buildings frustrated because officials asked them to stay inside their offices. Officials did not confirm what the white powder was. A realtor in a building directly across the street from the incident said he saw four men

enter the building wearing white hazardous material suits. Police sent the powder to a laboratory to be analyzed.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/miami.beach.crews.2.1576328.html>

52. *March 19, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Mystery odor sends 3 office workers to hospital.** More than two dozen people were forced to evacuate a Mission Valley office building in San Diego March 19 after complaints of a strange smell. Emergency crews checked out 27 employees after many of them complained about a gas-like odor at work. “It was just nausea and bad headaches. The nose was kinda burning inside ... burning from the smell,” said a person who works inside the Aerofund Financial building in Mission Valley. Employees were forced to leave the building around 9 a.m., and authorities said the second and third floors were evacuated. Three people were taken to the hospital, according to authorities. One employee broke out in hives. Firefighters said the building has no gas service, and the hazmat team ruled out any toxic gases. The cause of the smell has not been released, but firefighters said it may be related to glue from new furniture inside the building. Employees were able to return to work just before 1 p.m.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/22893203/detail.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

53. *March 23, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Emergency levee construction halted in Jamestown.** The Army Corps of Engineers has halted construction of emergency levees in Jamestown, North Dakota. Officials say water content in the snow upstream of the Jamestown and Pipestem reservoirs above the city has been less than forecast, and melt conditions for the heavy snowpack have been ideal. The corps says the levee work that has been done will remain in place until the risk of heavy rain pushing up the level of the reservoirs passes. Clay and sandbag dikes were used to battle flooding last year in Jamestown. The city also had problems with its sanitary sewer system last spring.

Source:

http://www.wahpetondailynews.com/articles/2010/03/23/breaking_news/doc4ba8adf657350918633248.txt

54. *March 23, Inforum* – (North Dakota) **National Guard helps plug minor dike breach in Kindred.** A National Guard rapid response team is helping to plug a minor breach in an earthen dike at a farmyard on the southwest side of Kindred. Crews were called at 5:30 a.m. to the residence on the southwest side of Kindred, said the commander of

Cass County's Tactical Operations Center. Water leaked through the dike but did not threaten the home, she said. Some livestock had to be relocated.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/273187/group/home/>

55. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **Jurors to consider '04 dam failure.** Five years after an estimated 7.2 billion gallons of water swept through Lamar and Marion counties, a multimillion-dollar damage suit is going to court in Gulfport, Mississippi. The question before jurors will be only whether any negligence was involved in the collapse of the earthen dam at Big Bay Lake, said the attorney who represents 26 of more than 100 plaintiffs. He said that if the jury finds negligence, "there will be separate hearings set up for everybody's damage. That would probably be up here in Purvis." Though there were not any deaths or major injuries, the flood damaged or destroyed about 100 homes on March 12, 2004. It is believed to be the largest failure of an earthen dam in Mississippi. The dam's owner and its general partner, Land Partners Limited Partnership and Big Bay Lake Inc., and an engineer are defendants. The engineer will not be held personally liable.

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20100322/NEWS/3220318/1001/news/Jurors-to-consider-04-dam-failure>

56. *March 21, North Jersey Media Group* – (New Jersey) **False alarm of dam break could hone OEM's disaster response.** In the wake of the flooding that occurred last weekend, Butler, New Jersey officials have said that they wish to hold a review of the emergency management plans that deal with such disasters. A councilman, who is the chairman of the Public Safety Committee, brought the issue to the attention of the Borough Council during his report at the council's March 16 meeting. He said that the borough received a report that the Charlotteburg Reservoir Dam had broken on Sunday, and that though it was a mistake, it created a "scary and interesting" situation. Had the 56.9-square-mile reservoir's dam actually broken, the town would have been quickly inundated with water. Rumors on Sunday afternoon spoke of a "300-foot-high" wall of water coming down the Pequannock River and caused panic and the immediate evacuation of many residents in Butler, Bloomingdale, and Pompton Lakes. Regardless of the issues, however, he said that people were evacuated quickly when the news of the dam was heard, and he commended both the police and fire departments for their conduct. The township administrator said that he wanted borough officials to conduct a post-event training session where emergency officials could go over the procedures and look to improve them. The mayor agreed. The Butler Police chief later said in a phone interview that although there were nuances that could be worked on, overall he thought that emergency management was handled well. He said that the evacuation of nearly 1,000 people in about 30 minutes was "incredible." He said that an example of what could be done better would be something like providing Butler Police Department dispatchers with the contact number for Charlotteburg Reservoir so they could get first-hand information on the status of the dam.

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/88792097_False_alarm_of_dam_break_could_hone_OEM_s_disaster_response_.html

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